

W. Secret 331

Chapter 331: Making Contact

The eighth prince's fingers lightly tapped the surface of the table while a gracious smile remained on his lips.

After a long moment, the eighth prince slowly said, "That's right. Naturally, I sent Snake Elder not without a reason. I've been hearing about the famed Wizard Leo of the Dark Magic Region, but never had an opportunity to meet him. Wizard Merlin, you're his prized student, so I thought that through Wizard Merlin, I could invite Wizard Leo to be my guest here in the Imperial City!"

As expected, it was for the sake of enticing Wizard Leo!

Although Merlin had guessed as much, it felt strange to hear the eighth prince declaring it himself. Wizard Leo was powerful indeed – as a Sixth-level Spell Caster, he traversed a long distance to hunt down and kill Osseus, who was a Seventh-level Spell Caster of Ozmu.

This matter had created a stir among many spell casters' organizations, but to the eighth prince, what he needed was precisely a powerful Wizard who could conquer everything and defeat all rivals.

Of course, Great Wizards would not possibly come forward to pledge allegiance to the eighth prince. However, there should be a slight chance of getting a Ninth-level Spell Caster or even an Eighth-level Spell Caster. Why did the eighth prince consider Wizard Leo?

Nevertheless, Merlin kept these thoughts to himself and did not inquire further. After a moment of consideration, he said in a low voice, "Your Royal Highness the eighth prince, may I be bold to pose a question – I'm afraid my lord doesn't seem to be in too well of a situation. Will Wizard Leo choose to come here now?"

Merlin phrased it tactfully, but the eighth prince should understand what he meant. Before this, Merlin had been asking around in an indirect manner, in addition to his own conjecture, and he knew that the eighth prince was not in a favorable situation.

Otherwise, the fourth prince would not send ninth Wizard Oden to kill Snake Elder and the rest so blatantly. The struggle between the princes was completely ruthless. In the event that one failed, there would be no chance of recovery.

Now, the eighth prince wanted to summon Wizard Leo simply by extending an invitation. Merlin would not even help to pass on the message. Wizard Leo, with his apathetic disposition, would not leave the Dark Magic Region at all.

The eighth prince drew in a deep breath, his face still keeping its genial expression. He nodded slightly. “You’re right, Wizard Merlin, you’ve guessed correctly. At the moment, my situation isn’t a good one indeed. The fourth prince is tightening his grip, whereas the ninth prince and the thirteenth prince has left the Imperial City to avoid confronting the fourth prince directly. Only I am left to hold off the force of the fourth prince!

“Still, I was able to hold off the fourth prince for so long, and he still hasn’t made his move until now – how did I do it? I have my forces too, mighty forces, to the point where even the fourth prince would be apprehensive. What I lack are powerful Spell Casters, Spell Casters who can help me withstand any threat!

“Lately, the fourth prince has begun to reveal small indications that he’s going to attack. You encountered this along with Snake Elder and the rest. The fourth prince has persuaded two Eighth-level Spell Casters by promising them attractive benefits. Heh, at this rate, that Fourth Brother of mine won’t be able to wait to make his move against me... Alas, this is my fate ever since I’ve chosen to fight for the throne!”

After a pause, the eighth prince stood up abruptly, and his face glowed fervently as he continued. “I have no way of finding Ninth-level Spell Casters, and the fourth prince could not enlist any Ninth-level Spell Casters either! As for Eighth-level Spell Casters, I couldn’t find them too. You can count the number of Eighth-level Spell Casters in the Kingdom of Blackmoon on one hand, and the fourth prince has made his bid for them long ago. There are Eighth-level Wizards in spell casters’ organizations, and you may mock me if you like, but I don’t have much to offer that would be able to tempt them.”

“Thus, I’ve searched for Spell Casters everywhere and have finally found someone suitable. That’s Wizard Leo, the possessor of the true Darkness Eye, Wizard Leo! Others might not know what sets Darkness Eye apart, but I, being from the royal family, would know of even the most hidden secrets. I know very well how powerful the genuine Darkness Eye can be. It’s just a shame that Darkness Eye is cursed...”

It turned out that the eighth prince knew the true Darkness Eye, and like Wizard Bammou, even knew that Darkness Eye was cursed. Perhaps it was natural that the eighth prince would select Wizard Leo after considering his cultivation of Darkness Eye and his valiant accomplishment in hunting down Osseus.

Merlin sucked in a deep breath, and said softly, “Your Royal Highness the eighth prince, I can help you get in touch with Wizard Leo, but I have no way of influencing his decision.”

“That’s to be expected. Since I’m about to ask for Wizard Leo’s assistance, naturally I’ve already made fool-proof preparations. Others might not regard this item as something significant, but to Wizard Leo, it would be something of utmost importance!”

The eighth prince appeared very confident that whatever he offered would surely tempt Wizard Leo.

The Blackmoon royal family had a powerful heritage. The eighth prince might really have some treasure that would persuade Wizard Leo. Nonetheless, before Merlin contacted Wizard Leo, he had some requests.

“Your Royal Highness the eighth prince, I have two small requests. I wonder if my lord would be able to fulfill them?”

“Wizard Merlin, you’ve taken so much trouble coming all the way from Prakash City to the Imperial City, and you’ve saved Snake Elder and the rest. What are two small requests in comparison?”

The eighth prince spoke impassively.

Merlin nodded and spoke bluntly. This had always been a transaction. The eighth prince had his use for Merlin, so naturally, Merlin had his own requests. Thus, Merlin said in a low voice, “First, this is a list of potion materials. If Your Royal Highness the eighth prince could get these materials for me, please do so as much as possible.”

With that, Merlin took out from his ring the list of Mokra Potion materials he had prepared beforehand and handed it to the eighth prince.

The eighth prince looked over the list carelessly before handing it to Snake Elder and commanded, “Snake Elder, get ready all the materials on this list. Bring all the materials, as long as they are on

the list, from all the shops in the Imperial City. Also, the royal treasury as well – if it's on the list, then bring all of it here!"

The eighth prince gave an organized and thorough command, causing a jolt in Merlin's heart. The eighth prince had not specified the quantity but gathered the resources of the entire city instead.

With a place as prosperous as the Imperial City, if he really gathered everything, the potion materials that Merlin would receive in the end would be an inconceivably large amount.

Merlin did not understand the eighth prince very well. He only knew that Snake Elder, Wizard Sacra, and Wizard Hasbro had deep, genuine respect for the prince, following him willingly.

Leaving aside other factors, this manner of the eighth prince by itself was already something to which most people could never compare.

"There was a second request – please speak, Wizard Merlin."

The eighth prince smiled as he asked.

"My second request is this – I've heard that the royal family has a Spell Library. I would like to visit it and pick a few spells. I wonder if the eighth prince could fulfill this request?"

After he spoke, Merlin fixed his gaze upon the eighth prince. This was the real reason Merlin had come to the Imperial City – to enter the royal family's Spell Library.

The heritage of the Blackmoon royal family could be compared to any large spell casters' organization. In particular, the royal family's Spell Library had plenty of spells. If Merlin could go in and scan it with the Matrix, he would certainly be able to populate the database of the Matrix.

At that point, Merlin would be able to try using the data integration process to derive new spells. This was extremely crucial to Merlin, so the eighth prince's current attitude would be key.

"Enter the Spell Library?"

The eighth prince eyed Merlin suspiciously. However, he did not inquire about Merlin's reason for wanting to enter the Spell Library, but instead said reservedly, "The Spell Library is an important place for the royal family. Besides the few members of the royal family, no outsiders are allowed inside at all. Although I can enter, it won't be that easy for me to bring in outsiders!"

Merlin's heart leaped. The eighth prince had only said that it would not be that easy to bring in outsiders, which implied that it was possible to do so, only it would be very troublesome.

Still, this depended on the eighth prince's decision. Merlin was in no rush and waited silently for a reply.

The eighth prince seemed torn between his choices. He stood up and paced around incessantly as his face shifted uncertainly. If he did not grant Merlin this request, then there was no doubt that it would be impossible for him to meet Wizard Leo.

No matter how confident the eighth prince was in enticing Wizard Leo, if he was not even able to meet with Wizard Leo and had no way of communication, then how would he even entice Wizard Leo?

Whether he could enlist Wizard Leo was linked to whether he would succeed in taking the throne. It was a crucial part of his plans, and every other matter depended on this one crucial point.

As he thought about this, the eighth prince arrived at a decision.

"Wizard Merlin, it would be rather troublesome to enter the Spell Library, especially since the fourth prince is in the Imperial City. However, if Wizard Leo could help me resolve the problem of the fourth prince, then the fourth prince would no longer be in the Imperial City. Without all these apprehensions, I can bring Wizard Merlin into the Spell Library."

This was the eighth prince's reply, which was conditional at the same time. It would not be simple to resolve the matter of the fourth prince. Firstly, they would need Wizard Leo's agreement.

Nevertheless, as long as there was a chance it could work, Merlin was willing to give it a go. Thus, he said to the eighth prince, "I can contact Wizard Leo, but whether or not he would be influenced is dependent on the eighth prince's sincerity."

"That goes without saying!"

The eighth prince's tone of voice revealed faintly a trace of excitement.

Merlin thought about Wizard Leo's personality. Other than the one time when he left the Dark Magic Region to hunt down Osseus of Ozmu, it seemed that Wizard Leo had not left the Dark Magic Region in a very long time.

Therefore, Merlin did not know what the eighth prince could offer to sway Wizard Leo. However, he saw that the prince appeared full of confidence, so Merlin raised his right hand and stimulated the Dark Magic ring on his finger with his Mind Power.

“Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!”

Mysterious runes instantly floated up into the air. As Wizard Leo's most prized student, Merlin naturally had a way to personally contact Wizard Leo, which was through the mysterious runes of the Dark Magic ring.

The runes in mid-air formed into a simple Magic Circle, following which the air itself trembled and gradually expanded. Slowly, a terrifying face, full of wrinkles, appeared with a blood-red third eye on the forehead.

“Merlin, it's the first time you've contacted me. What happened?”

Chapter 332: The Tear of God

The runes on the Dark Magic ring flickered constantly as if they would disappear at any moment. Runes like these could only be sustained for a short while, so Merlin did not dare delay and instead told Wizard Leo right away, “Teacher, there's something I have to report. This is regarding His Royal Highness the eighth prince of the Blackmoon royal family. He wishes to invite you to the Imperial City for a discussion!”

The terrifying blood-red third eye on Wizard Leo's forehead opened slightly and flickered with crimson light. It followed Merlin's gaze and looked toward the eighth prince.

Even though the eighth prince knew that this was only an image formed by runes, and was not Wizard Leo himself in person, he still felt a chill, and could only force a smile. “Wizard Leo, I sincerely hope that you would come to the Imperial City for a discussion!”

“Heh heh, I’m not interested in the royal family’s mess!”

Wizard Leo laughed coldly as he declined neatly and decisively. It looked like he understood the eighth prince’s intentions. The matters of the royal family were not that simple, and many powerful Spell Casters did not want to get involved.

As soon as Wizard Leo spoke, the runes began to distort and disperse in mid-air, and Wizard Leo’s image was fading quickly as well. Merlin shook his head powerlessly as he looked on. As expected, based on what he knew of Wizard Leo’s personality, he would not come to the Imperial City, what more if it was to help the eighth prince.

“Wizard Leo, I have the Tear of God! It was passed down from the Church of Light...”

In the instant that Wizard Leo’s image was about to vanish, the eighth prince suddenly cried out. Moreover, a transparent glass box had appeared in his hand at an unknown time. Inside the box, a small piece of white crystal lay quietly. It looked like a grain of salt, only it was much larger.

“The Tear of God... It really is the Tear of God!”

The crimson third eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead flashed with a chilling blood-red glow, and for the first time, an expression of astonishment appeared on Wizard Leo’s pale face.

Following that, Wizard Leo’s image dispersed instantly, but right before that, Wizard Leo’s voice could be heard saying, “After ten days, I’ll arrive at the Imperial City in person!”

“Buzz.”

Wizard Leo’s image disappeared rapidly. In the great hall, the eighth prince was unable to hide his excitement as he paced around constantly, muttering, “I’ve finally succeeded. Once Wizard Leo arrives, there’s hope for me. Hehe, Fourth Brother, we still don’t know who’ll emerge as the winner...”

Merlin looked thoughtfully toward the “Tear of God” in the eighth prince’s hand. Something that could affect Wizard Leo so much, making him agree to come to the Imperial City without the slightest hesitation – this Tear of God must be significant.

When he was in the Dark Magic Region, Merlin had never seen Wizard Leo as impatient and hurried as he was just now.

Thus, Merlin took two light steps forward and fixed his gaze upon the Tear of God in the eighth prince’s hand. He asked softly, “Your Royal Highness the eighth prince, can you tell me about the Tear of God? I’m curious as to why this Tear of God could excite Wizard Leo in this manner.”

The eighth prince gave Merlin a deep look, then looked toward the Tear of God in his hand. A smile tugged at the corner of his mouth as he said slowly, “Wizard Merlin, you’re not an outsider, so there’s no harm in telling you! The Tear of God is a name given by the Church of Light, but in reality, the Tear of God had another name in ancient times – God Crystal! It’s crystallized from the divine energy of the gods. There are gods in this world, who are very different from us, Spell Casters. However, the great Spell Casters of the ancient past had banished the gods long ago, leaving only the powerful God of Light, which is the god that the Church of Light worships.

“The God of Light controls Light Element. He controls all Light Element wherever he is. And the God Crystal is formed of endless Light Element by the God of Light through extraordinary techniques. It’s the crystallization of divine energy from the God of Light and differs in essence from elemental crystal stones. Initially, this crystallization of divine energy was only a symbolic artifact even to the Church of Light, without any practical function whatsoever. For Spell Casters, it was the same and served no purpose. However, this God Crystal is immensely useful for Spell Casters who had cultivated Darkness Eye, and might rectify the defects in spell construction caused by the cultivation of Darkness Eye...

“To put it simply, one who bears the curse of Darkness Eye could only use the God Crystal of the God of Light to somewhat alleviate the curse of Darkness Eye...”

Merlin now understood why Wizard Leo would be in such a hurry. Wizard Leo’s cultivation of Darkness Eye had an inherent flaw, resulting in him being unable to become a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

Now the Tear of God from the legends was in the hands of the eighth prince. With the Tear of God, there was a possibility of rectifying Wizard Leo’s defect. Even if it was a slim hope, Wizard Leo would not let it pass.

“Alright, Wizard Leo would only arrive in the Imperial City after ten days. I shall take my leave first then.”

Merlin bowed slightly and prepared to leave.

The eighth prince shook his head, breaking out into a warm smile. “Wizard Merlin, although I’m unable to let you enter the Spell Library for now, I have some Spell Models with me. With your current ability to construct Third-level spells, I believe that these spells would be of some help to Wizard Merlin.”

With that, the eighth prince retrieved from his ring a thread-bound book that was about two fingers thick. Merlin flipped through the book. It contained Third-level Spells of three different types and even included Third-level Darkness-type spells. Furthermore, these were no ordinary spells, but first-rate ones. These must be unique spells which only members of the royal family, like the eighth prince, were entitled to construct. It was not inferior to the Dark Magic Region in the slightest.

“This...”

Merlin looked toward the eighth prince with a hint of suspicion. He had only asked to enter the Spell Library and did not request to obtain Third-level spells immediately, all of which Merlin could use, for they were as good as the Dark Magic Region’s. If he had exchanged for these spells in the Resource Tower of the Dark Magic Region, he would need to spend a large number of contribution points. This was indeed a significant gift.

However, the eighth prince waved his hand charitably, smiling as he said, “It’s just a few spells, nothing much. Wizard Merlin, you’ve traveled a great distance to reach the Imperial City – would I be stingy with a few spells? That’s enough, you must be tired. My manor is huge, and it’s very safe. Wizard Merlin may reside here in peace!”

In the end, Merlin accepted the spells. Average people would not be able to match this manner of the eighth prince. Even Merlin was beginning to form a favorable opinion of the eighth prince. It was not surprising that Snake Elder and the rest would be so steadfast and loyal.

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In a quiet room of the manor, Merlin’s Mind Power examined his surroundings once more. It was quiet all around, and there was no one else but him in the entire spacious residence.

What was even rarer was that Merlin had not felt any Mind Power spying on him this entire time. This indicated that the eighth prince trusted him now.

There was still ten days before the arrival of Wizard Leo in the Imperial City. In this period, Merlin had two choices. One was to continue taking Mokra Potion.

However, even though this was the eighth prince's manor, a place without any apparent danger, no one could say for sure what would happen in the future. Consuming Mokra Potion in an unfamiliar place would place him into a deep sleep. Once he was in a deep sleep, Merlin would not be able to put up any resistance.

Therefore, it was far too dangerous to consume Mokra Potion here.

Besides taking Mokra Potion, the other thing Merlin could do was to use this time to construct a Third-level spell!

Back in Wilson Castle, Merlin had taken eleven batches of Mokra Potion consecutively. Thereafter, during the journey to the Imperial City, Merlin fused again with the Mind Power duplicate in the Bell Space.

Therefore, he had accumulated a tremendous amount of Mind Power. Even after he constructed the Third-level spell Darkness Vortex, his remaining Mind Power was sufficient to construct another Third-level spell.

Merlin took out the spells given to him by the eighth prince from his ring. The various types of Third-level spells were unique and powerful indeed, completely on par with the Third-level spells of the Dark Magic Region.

At the moment, spells which could quickly boost Merlin's abilities were Fire-type, Wind-type, and Earth-type spells in tune with his Pandora Demon Abilities.

He would not consider Wind-type spells for now. After all, Merlin's Flash Wind was enough to counter most threats he faced. There was no need to waste a precious chance to construct a Third-level spell on a Wind-type spell.

With that, only Fire-type and Earth-type spells remained. Under both spell types were Pandora Demon Abilities which could be merged with the spells. No matter which type of spell he constructed, it would effectively improve his powers.

Fire-type spells had Fiery Collapse. Once a Third-level spell was constructed, its offensive strength would become even more powerful, enough to even harm a Sixth-level Spell Caster.

As for Earth-type spells, there was Pandora Demon Ability, Fuse Earth. Once a Third-level spell was constructed, its defensive strength would undergo a significant upgrade. In a hostile environment like the Imperial City, it would adequately defend against dangers from all sides.

After weighing both options for a long time, Merlin selected a Fire-type spell at last. He knew that if Wizard Leo agreed to help the eighth prince ten days later, a violent conflict between the fourth prince and the eighth prince would erupt in the Imperial City. The struggle for the throne would be ruthless, and there would be no compromises.

Even if it was just to prepare for the upcoming battle, Merlin needed to be equipped with the strength of a Sixth-level Spell Caster as soon as possible. Thus, constructing a Fire-type spell became Merlin's only option.

Among the spells the eighth prince had given, there was a Third-level Fire-type spell called Condensed Fire. It was very different from the Second-level Sea of Purgatory Fire. Condensed Fire was not a wide-ranging spell. At best, it would be a small ball of flames. In fact, it was similar to the Zero-level spell, Fireball.

However, Condensed Flame was innately distinct from Fireball, being formed from the constant suppression of flames. Although it was just a small fireball, it contained a terrifying power that was over a hundred times stronger than Fireball.

If it was merged with Fiery Collapse, Merlin believed that it would have the destructive power of a Sixth-level spell.

“Matrix, begin analyzing the Spell Model of Condensed Fire!”

Since Merlin had decided to construct the spell, he did not waste any more time. He started up the Matrix immediately, which began analyzing the Spell Model of Condensed Fire from scratch.

Chapter 333: An Assassination Attempt on a Full Moon Night

In the northwest corner of the Imperial City, there stood a luxurious manor full of classical charm. Outside the manor were guards dressed in silver armor who patrolled the area in a thorough manner. This showed that the master of the manor must be of noble status.

Those who were familiar with the situation in the Imperial City knew that the master of this manor was the fourth prince of the royal family, who was most likely to take over the throne five years later.

However, the fourth prince was currently not in a great mood. Beside him were five mysterious Wizards, all dressed in uniform colors. Most of them had a deadpan look, and only one of them was kneeling on the ground with one knee, bowing to the fourth prince.

“Your Royal Highness the fourth prince, I didn’t complete what you asked this time. Please punish me, my lord!”

The fourth prince was tall and large in build, and his appearance was somewhat similar to the eighth prince’s, only he had a head of short hair as red as flames, and looked as if he was filled with a strange kind of magic.

“Wizard Oden, get up. It wasn’t your fault this time. It was my own insufficient planning – I didn’t expect this Merlin of the Dark Magic Region to surpass my expectations. To think that not even Wizard Oden is a match for him.”

The fourth prince wrinkled his brow slightly. Oden was the ninth Wizard and was one of the strongest Wizards under his command. He thought that by sending Oden he would be able to kill off Snake Elder and the rest, thus eliminating a portion of the eighth prince’s forces. Nonetheless, he did not expect the sudden appearance of the stranger Merlin, resulting in Wizard Oden’s defeat.

Ninth Wizard Oden raised his head slowly, saying in a careful manner, “Your Royal Highness the fourth prince, Merlin’s powers aren’t that strong in reality. At best, he’s equivalent to a Fifth-level Spell Caster, and this is by relying on the might of Pandora Demon Ability! He must’ve quite a few Pandora Demon Abilities. To be able to enhance Darkness-type spells to such a powerful stage – only the Pandora Demon Ability, Darkness Heart of Abyss Fort can do that... If one has formidable Mind Power and doesn’t fear his Darkness-type spells, then Merlin is no one to be afraid of!”

On his way back, Wizard Oden thought about it carefully. Merlin's strength lay in his Darkness-type spells. Moreover, the illusory effects of Darkness-type spells were nothing to be scared of, in fact. Spell Casters with powerful Mind Power would be able to overcome it.

Once Merlin's Darkness-type spells were overcome, any Sixth-level Wizard would be able to suppress Merlin!

The fourth prince raised an eyebrow and paced around without stopping.

"Wizard Oden, have you found out why the eighth prince had sent Snake Elder and the rest to such a backwater place like Prakash City?"

Oden trembled inwardly, and said solemnly, "Honorable fourth prince, I've investigated the matter. The eighth prince had sent Snake Elder and the rest to Prakash City in order to locate Merlin. Merlin is Wizard Leo's most prized student in the Dark Magic Region. The eighth prince's true objective is self-evident..."

The fourth prince blurted out, "It's to enlist Wizard Leo?"

After a pause, a cold smile stretched across the fourth prince's lips. "Hehe, that awful younger brother of mine is so naïve. It's only Leo by himself – so what if he's killed a Seventh-level Wizard? Ultimately, he's only a Sixth-level Spell Caster, whereas I have the promises of Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston. These two Wizards are powerful Eighth-level Spell Casters..."

"Your Royal Highness the fourth prince, the eighth prince had no way of enticing a powerful Spell Caster, so at best he could only enlist Leo... However, his forces are still enormous, and he's still the biggest threat to my lord in the Imperial City. My lord, don't hesitate anymore – it's better to make a move as soon as possible!"

One of the mysterious Wizards spoke in a low voice.

"There's no rush. Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston need a few days to reach the Imperial City. Attacking with these two Wizards would be a safer bet! Still, this Leo – just because he killed a Seventh-level Spell Caster, he thinks he can interfere with the matters of the royal family? Humph, I'll kill his favorite student first. If he learns his place and retreat, it'll save us some trouble. If he still insists on helping that naïve younger brother of mine, then I can only kill him as well!"

The gaze of the fourth prince swept across the Wizards, following which a slight smile tugged at the corner of his mouth. He focused his gaze and spoke to a Wizard who was wearing terrifying earrings in the shape of tiny snakes, “To eliminate Merlin, I’ll have to trouble the seventh Wizard this time!”

The seventh Wizard said respectfully, “Els is willing to serve Your Royal Highness!”

With that, seventh Wizard Els turned around quickly and instantly vanished from their sight.

Wizard Oden looked at the disappearing figure of the seventh Wizard Els and heaved a small sigh of relief. “Wizard Els’ Mind Power is powerful enough, comparable to a Spell Caster at the peak of the Seventh-level. The Darkness-type spells of that Merlin would have no way of affecting Wizard Els no matter what!”

The fourth prince nodded as well, evidently having the utmost confidence in the seventh Wizard.

“Oh, naïve younger brother of mine, why did you bother challenging in the start? It’s all worked out now, and you only have a few days to live...”

A smile tugged at the corner of the fourth prince’s mouth, but his eyes were filled with a piercing cold!

...

“Hum.”

Merlin shook all over, following which endless Fire Element surged into his surroundings quickly as if a huge expanse of flames had engulfed Merlin.

The Fire Element was frantically absorbed by the Spell Model of Condensed Fire, which he had just successfully constructed, into his Awareness, and then quickly transformed into Magic Power.

Due to the Flame Maxim, Merlin’s rate of Fire Element absorption was rather astonishing. Although it was not as fast as using elemental crystal stones to transform Magic Power, it was not too far behind.

Based on this speed, Merlin would only need to consolidate the spell for one or two days. He did not even need to use elemental crystal stones to accumulate sufficient Magic Power in the Spell Model of Condensed Fire.

These were all benefits of the Flame Maxim! Moreover, although Merlin was still a long way from creating his own Flame Maxim, his constant awareness of the Flame Maxim had allowed him to deepen his understanding of fire. This was also highly useful to his casting of spells.

“Condensed Fire!”

Merlin waited for a moment. When he had accumulated enough Magic Power in the Spell Model of Condensed Fire for him to cast the spell a few times, he quickly cast the spell.

Instantly, a blaze the size of a fist materialized in the air. Under Merlin’s control, it hovered steadily. It did not look astounding, and its temperature was not high, but Merlin, who was using his Mind Power to observe, knew very well that the might contained in this small ball of flames was nearly inconceivable.

This was especially so since the flames were white, which indicated that this was Fiery Collapse, compressed many times over. Once it landed on an opponent, the destruction it would wreck was hard to imagine.

The flame burned for a while, after which Merlin put it out. Although the power of Condensed Fire was great, the Magic Power it used up was astounding as well. He would need to accumulate sufficient Magic Power to cast continuously.

Merlin observed the Flame Maxim in his Awareness once more. He realized that ever since he entered the Imperial City, the Flame Maxim did not change in general, despite perpetually being suppressed faintly by a mysterious force in the Blackmoon Tower.

Since the Flame Maxim did not undergo any changes, Merlin did not further consider the issues of its suppression. He stayed on in the room, accumulating Magic Power in the Spell Model of Condensed Fire.

...

Five days later, a bright moon rose up high in the night sky.

“Swoosh!”

Merlin’s eyes opened abruptly. He seemed to feel a restless, uneasy force surrounding his body, especially the Fire Element which swirled around ceaselessly, appearing very lively.

“What’s happening? The suppression of the Flame Maxim has increased.”

The uneasy feeling that Merlin had was the Flame Maxim in his Awareness. Compared to how it was a few days ago, the Flame Maxim seemed to have changed tonight, emitting a surprising force of the flames. This even caused the surrounding Fire Element to come alive, and such Fire Element was unfit to be turned into Magic Power.

“Snake Elder had said that on a night of the full moon, the Blackmoon Tower would be even more mystical... Could it be that the changes of the Flame Maxim are linked to the Blackmoon Tower under a full moon?”

Merlin looked toward the bright moonlight beyond the window and finally stood up. In a single motion, he vanished like the wind from the residence.

Having left the eighth prince’s manor, Merlin wore a black Wizard robe and silently walked toward the Blackmoon Tower alone. The Blackmoon Tower was a landmark building of the Imperial City. No matter where one was in the Imperial City, one would be able to see it.

Merlin raised his head and looked toward the Blackmoon Tower – indeed, it had changed. The entire tower glowed in crimson light as if it had been dyed with blood. Furthermore, anyone would be able to feel that there was a strange source of magic in the tower, which could cause anyone to become mesmerized by it unwittingly.

“A full moon night...”

Merlin had a better understanding of what Snake Elder meant. The Blackmoon Tower, under a full moon, underwent a peculiar change. The blood-red light spilled from the Blackmoon Tower and shrouded most of the night sky. From a distance, even the pure bright moon in the sky seemed to turn the color of blood.

Although the Blackmoon Tower was very strange, the people of the Imperial City seemed to have gotten used to this common sight. There was even a night market, and a boisterous one at that, with countless people coming and going.

No one expressed concern about the Blackmoon Tower's fantastic appearance. The voices of the crowd bubbled over, making for a lively scene.

Merlin moved through the crowd and did not attract anyone's attention. There were far too many people who were dressed like Merlin, most of which were Spell Casters. In the Imperial City, many people have even gotten used to the sight of alpine Beast People, who would not be seen as odd.

Suddenly, Merlin stopped in his tracks. The closer he went to the Blackmoon Tower, the more the Flame Maxim in his Awareness seemed to stir restlessly. It even began to pulse gently.

In the past, no matter how much Merlin tried to stimulate the Flame Maxim, he could not induce such a change. However, the Blackmoon Tower, under the full moon now, seemed to have a mysterious power which affected the Flame Maxim.

Merlin frowned and looked carefully at the Blackmoon Tower in the distance. He did not approach any closer. After all, the Flame Maxim in his Awareness had become somewhat unstable. If he went closer, who knew what would happen?

If he had a chance, Merlin would like to take a good look around inside the Blackmoon Tower. Nonetheless, this was probably impossible. Great Wizards lived in the Blackmoon Tower, and no one would dare to break in.

"Forget about it. Even if there was some power or treasure in the Blackmoon Tower that's even greater than the Flame Maxim, I have no chance of getting it."

Merlin shook his head lightly, following which he turned and hurried back toward the eighth prince's manor.

However, after taking a few steps, he began shuddering all over, and an acute sense of danger welled up within him.

“There’s danger ahead!”

In his peripheral vision, Merlin noticed that there was a tall, thin, unremarkable-looking man in the crowd, who was smirking in a strange manner...

Chapter 334: The Seventh Wizard!

“Retreat!”

Merlin did not hesitate in the slightest. In an incomparably nimble movement, he leaped back instantly. His physical attributes were far superior to an average Spell Caster’s, and he reacted fast, too. In a leap, he had quickly put a good distance between him and the tall, thin man in the crowd.

In addition, while he was leaping backward, Merlin had cast Flash Wind. In the blink of an eye, Merlin’s speed was greatly boosted once more.

“Seamless Net, bind!”

The tall, thin man in the crowd did not seem concerned about how fast Merlin was. In the instant he raised his hand lightly, streams of Wind Element rapidly converged.

“Hoo... Hoo... Hoo...”

Wild gusts of wind quickly formed into a large invisible net. Merlin was just fleeing backward when he had to stop in a hurry. If he had gone back just a bit more and touched the net of wind, he would have been crushed into pieces immediately.

This was a Sixth-level Wind-type spell. Its twisting power was unparalleled and had binding properties as well. No matter how fast Merlin was, it would not matter!

“Darkness Vortex, engulf!”

Merlin drew in a deep breath and knew that he could not escape now. Thus, he did not hesitate and stretched out his fingers. Under the gleaming moonlight, a pitch-black vortex opened like a large mouth.

“Chi-chi-chi.”

A formidable pulling force grew in Darkness Vortex, attempting to suck away the tall, thin man’s Mind Power while causing powerful illusive effects as well.

The figure of the tall, thin man could not help but pause. However, following that, Mind Power fluctuations burst from him even more fiercely.

“Boom!”

This Mind Power fluctuation was like a tsunami as it swelled up violently. It was so powerful that even Merlin’s Darkness Vortex was defeated instantly.

This Mind Power was too strong to the point where even a Darkness-type spell like Darkness Vortex was unable to withstand it. After all, it was only a Hallucinating spell, and any Mind Power that was formidable enough could dispel it quickly.

“Hmm? What powerful Mind Power, I’m sure it’s at the peak of the Seventh-level! Who are you really?”

Merlin trembled deep inside. All this while his Darkness-type spells had been invincible and almost no one was able to withstand them. Even powerful ninth Wizard Oden was previously frightened away by his Darkness-type spell.

However, faced with this mysterious Spell Caster now, Darkness Vortex was of no use at all, being dispelled so easily.

The mysterious Wizard raised his head and looked at Merlin, saying icily, “I’m the seventh Wizard, Els!”

“It’s the fourth prince!”

In fact, Merlin had already guessed this, based on how such a powerful Spell Caster had been sent out in the Imperial City. In addition, Merlin had just arrived in the Imperial City. Other than facing

off against the ninth Wizard sent by the fourth prince to kill Snake Elder and the rest, Merlin did not know anyone else in the Imperial City. Therefore, it could only be the fourth prince, and this was merely a further confirmation.

The nine core Wizards under the fourth prince were each more powerful than the other. The weakest one among them would be ninth Wizard Oden, and now seventh Wizard Els had been sent to kill him. With a higher rank than Oden, Els was clearly stronger than Oden as well.

However, Merlin could still tell that seventh Wizard Els was ultimately a Sixth-level Spell Caster, only his Mind Power was strong, reaching the peak of the Seventh-level. Merlin's Darkness-type spells would be of no use at all against Els.

Seventh Wizard Els took one step after another, walking toward Merlin leisurely. Wisps of icy coldness emerged around him, and the ground crunched under every step he took. From there, thick ice crystals were formed.

"Your strongest Darkness-type spell is useless against me. Die!"

Els shook his head slightly, after which his eyes flashed with a fierce light. With a push from both his hands, the surrounding temperature seemed to drop to the extreme. Layers of ice crystals appeared in mid-air and the frost quickly sped toward Merlin.

The frost of these ice crystals had powerful might, and it was a Sixth-level spell. Merlin did not dare to use Earth Veil to forcefully resist it. Earth Veil, even with Pandora Demon Ability, Fuse Earth, could only compare to a Fifth-level Defensive spell and was unable to hold back a Sixth-level spell at all.

Thus, Merlin could only evade.

"Flash Wind!"

Merlin's figure shuttled back and forth incessantly in the narrow space. Flash Wind had great speed as well, and it was easy to dodge seventh Wizard Els' spell.

"Heh heh, Seamless Net, confine! Let's see where you'll hide now? You're a goner!"

Seventh Wizard Els, seeing that Merlin was evading constantly, did not panic, but instead began to constrict his Wind-type spell. Its range became more and more narrow, leaving less and less space for Merlin to dodge.

When the Wind-type Binding spell had finished constricting, along with the pincer attack of a few spells, Merlin would have nowhere to hide no matter how fast Flash Wind was.

“Die, die, die!”

Wizard Els’ eyes widened and glared, turning a faint blood-red as he appeared extremely worked up. The Wind-type spell encircling Merlin began to constrict at an even greater pace. In a flash, Merlin was trapped in an incomparably narrow space.

Merlin’s situation had quickly turned into one of imminent doom!

“Humph. Els, if you think you can kill me like this, you’ve underestimated me!”

Merlin drew in a deep breath and decided in an instant. He had no way of retreat hence he could only use everything he had in this fight. He still had his greatest power. If he succeeded, it would be enough to greatly injure or even kill seventh Wizard Els!

“Kill!”

Like an arrow fired from a bow, Merlin’s entire being flew toward Els in a flash with an astonishing force.

However, Els was not concerned as he knew that Merlin was fighting to the death. Still, he had a Sixth-level Defensive spell, and an Earth-type spell appeared before him instantly, protecting him securely. He did not think that Merlin would be able to break through his Sixth-level spell.

After casting his Earth-type spell, Els raised a hand toward the incoming Merlin. A blast of icy air flew out. This was a Sixth-level spell too, which would immediately freeze Merlin into ice crystals.

Nonetheless, Merlin did not evade this time but dashed face-first into the chill.

“Very well, you’re asking for it!”

Els saw that Merlin was still rushing forward recklessly and his heart filled with glee.

“Condensed Fire, kill!”

Merlin stretched out both hands. With a quick flash of firelight, a few balls of white flames the size of fists appeared in his hands.

“Go!”

Merlin pushed forward slightly as his eyes glinted sharply. The few balls of flames quickly flew into the icy air.

“Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!”

In normal conditions, when the flames met the icy air, the ice crystals should turn to water and extinguish the flames, especially since this was a Sixth-level spell of Wizard Els.

However, not only were Merlin’s flames unextinguished, but they swelled up in force instead and began burning the surrounding air. The few balls of flames quickly merged together, and their speed increased a few times over as they sped toward Els.

Seventh Wizard Els narrowed his eyes slightly. The moment the balls of white flames had appeared, he was instantly on his guard, sensing danger.

Wizard Els’ Mind Power had reached the peak of the Seventh-level. Mind Power was something intangible, and other than stabilizing Spell Models and casting spells, it had miraculous functions – one of which was to assess the level of danger. It was through this that Wizard Els perceived that these balls of flames were not ordinary.

Nonetheless, even if he had sensed the danger, Wizard Els had no way of evading because the balls of flames were far too quick. Moreover, Merlin was too close to him. The flames sped toward him in the blink of an eye, colliding heavily with the Defensive spell on the surface of his body.

Wizard Els was now glad that he had cast a Defensive spell earlier. Otherwise, he would have fallen for Merlin's trick.

"Merlin, is this really the last of your careful scheming? It's only..."

Before Wizard Els could finish speaking, he noticed in horror that the Defensive spell covering him had begun to vibrate violently. Moreover, the small balls of flames abruptly exploded with incomparable strength. The flames spread along the surface and quickly turned into a wide-ranging and furious fire, engulfing him as it began to burn turbulently.

"Boom!"

In an instant, Els' figure was submerged in the white blaze...

"Hoo..."

A breeze passed by, and the white flames gradually began to die out. Merlin's face was slightly pale and drained of blood. Earlier, he had encountered a situation of utmost danger. If Els had not been so careless, it would be hard to tell who would ultimately die.

"My capabilities are still inadequate!"

Merlin grumbled softly. He had initially thought that by constructing the Third-level spell Condensed Fire, in addition to Fiery Collapse as well as Darkness Vortex enhanced by Darkness Heart, his powers could be considered rather formidable.

However, Els' appearance had alerted Merlin. If his opponent had Mind Power that was strong enough and was unafraid of his Darkness-type spells, then his other techniques were not even worth mentioning.

Even though he might be able to explode with the peak strength of a Sixth-level spell, being equipped with Fiery Collapse combined with the Third-level spell Condensed Fire, Merlin himself had no way of defending against Sixth-level spells.

At best, he could only rely upon Flash Wind and dodge constantly. If he encountered a Binding spell, his Flash Wind would be ineffective.

He was only able to kill Els this time by a fluke.

Furthermore, Els was merely the seventh Wizard. Above him, there was still the sixth, the fifth, and so on, Wizards who were more powerful. This time, he had taken advantage of Els' carelessness. Next time, he would not be so lucky.

"Looks like it's time to construct an Earth-type spell as soon as possible. Otherwise, things aren't going to be good!"

Merlin glanced at the ground where Wizard Els had been burned by the flames. There was only a ring left. Merlin grabbed the ring and kept it immediately without taking a closer look.

"Who dares to cast spells in the Imperial City?"

As this was the city center, Law Enforcement Guards hurried over soon enough. Although these Law Enforcement Guards comprised of Elemental Swordsmen, no Spell Caster would dare scoff at these guards.

This was because these Law Enforcement Guards represented the entirety of the Blackmoon royal family!

Chapter 335: Tense Situation

These Law Enforcement Guards with black armors had a strong murderous breath on them. They walked straight to Merlin and ordered coldly, "Come with us."

Merlin frowned but he was unmoved. These Law Enforcement Guards sneered at him and immediately pointed to the sky. With a calm voice, they said, "We know you're a Spell Caster, but the Runic Magic Circle in the Imperial City doesn't differentiate who you are. Sir Wizard, I believe you're aware of the power of the Runic Magic Circle. So, if we find someone who dares to resist and cast spells in the Imperial City... Heh heh, I'm sure you're very clear what's going to happen."

"Runic Magic Circle..."

Merlin lifted his head to have a look. Indeed, there was actually a huge Runic Magic Circle covering the entire sky. This Runic Magic Circle was light white in color and somewhat translucent. It would be easily missed if not looked at carefully.

Moreover, Merlin also felt a terrifying force from the Runic Magic Circle. If it descended upon him, there was no way he would be able to resist it. Let alone him, even a Seventh-level Spell Caster could not resist it.

This Runic Magic Circle was centered around the Blackmoon Tower and spread in all directions. If he intended to destroy the Runic Magic Circle, he must first destroy the Blackmoon Tower.

Merlin regained his focus and looked at these Law Enforcement Guards. Thus, he took out a decree from his ring directly and proclaimed calmly, “I’m a Spell Caster from the eighth prince’s manor!”

“Spell Caster from the eighth prince’s manor?”

Moments earlier, the Law Enforcement Guards had treated Merlin as if they were a world above him and were virtually fearless. Yet, at the sound of the eighth prince, their expressions changed slightly. They had clearly started hesitating.

The Law Enforcement Guards were directly affiliated with and controlled by the royal family. Therefore, within the Imperial City, these Law Enforcement Guards would not fear even the most powerful Spell Casters or aristocrats.

However, if it involved members of the royal family, especially the eighth prince himself, these Law Enforcement Guards would no longer be so emboldened. The reason was that the eighth prince recently rallied a lot of support and remained a top candidate for the throne.

“Captain, we’ve already inquired clearly. This Sir Wizard was fighting with another Sir Wizard. However, the Sir Wizard who died was not any layman. He was the seventh Wizard under His Royal Highness the fourth prince!”

Another member of the Law Enforcement Guard quietly pulled the captain aside and said.

The captain of the Law Enforcement Guard looked at Merlin once again. This incident involved the fourth prince and the eighth prince, so it was far from his jurisdiction. Hence, he pondered for a

moment and returned the decree to Merlin respectfully. He then apologized, “Sorry for disturbing you, Sir Wizard!”

News of the competition between the fourth prince and the eighth prince had already circulated in the Imperial City for a while now. Even His Majesty the King had not taken any action, let alone these Law Enforcement Guards. Everyone knew that the future king was most probably one of either the eighth prince or the fourth prince.

Merlin did not stay in the street any longer. No one knew for sure whether or not the fourth prince would send his people here. In his current state, it was already very lucky for him to have killed seventh Wizard Els. He could not afford to face a stronger Spell Caster.

Therefore, he quickly rushed back to the eighth prince’s manor, his figure gradually disappearing into the night...

...

In the spacious castle hall, the fourth prince was sitting on the chair, but his fair face reflected a gloomy disposition. A few of the Spell Casters around him were holding their tongue and dared not speak.

“The seventh Wizard is dead. What do you think we should do now?”

The fourth prince’s tone seemed calm, but everyone knew that there was infinite rage hidden behind the calmness.

The many Wizards present turned to face one another. None of them spoke.

After a long moment, the fourth prince spoke, “Very well. It seems like that naive younger brother of mine has really recruited extraordinary people this time. Even that Merlin alone was capable of killing the seventh Wizard. Oh, I’m afraid his teacher Leo must have an ace up his sleeve!”

After a moment’s hesitation, Wizard Oden looked at the fourth prince, who indeed did not look too well. He whispered, “Your Royal Highness, we should send people to wait outside the eighth prince’s manor. Once Merlin shows up again, we can seize the opportunity to kill him right away, thus preventing any more trouble in the future!”

“There’s no need to do so. In a few days time, Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston will arrive. During this period, we shouldn’t let any new problems crop up. As for the seventh Wizard’s death, surely there’ll be a chance to avenge it!”

The fourth prince shut his eyes gently as he came to a decision. When Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston arrived, they would launch a strike and completely remove the fourth prince’s threats.

...

Merlin bumped into Snake Elder the moment he entered the manor.

Snake Elder walked toward him quickly. There was a faint excitement in his voice as he said, “Wizard Merlin, you’ve done well. You’ve actually killed seventh Wizard Els! Heh heh, His Royal Highness the eighth prince is very happy. He invites Wizard Merlin to go inside and have a chat!”

Merlin gave a slight nod. In the Imperial City, nothing could escape the eighth prince’s radar.

In the great hall, besides Snake Elder, there were a few other unfamiliar Wizards. Among them were three aged Wizards. It seemed that even the eighth prince himself was very respectful to them, so they were certainly not ordinary people.

“Wizard Merlin, His Royal Highness the eighth prince has paid a huge price to recruit these three Wizards, and they’re all Seventh-level Spell Casters! Only by acquiring these three Wizards can the eighth prince slightly counter the nine core Wizards under the fourth prince!”

Snake Elder whispered into Merlin’s ear as he explained.

Seventh-level Wizards, this was the true ultimate strength of the eighth prince! However, among these Seventh-level Wizards, there did not seem to be one powerful Wizard who could take on the entire battlefield on his own.

The fourth prince was in the midst of recruiting Eighth-level Wizards. The eighth prince knew that he was at a disadvantageous position because he could only depend on these Seventh-level Wizards. It was not surprising that he was so anxious to find Wizard Leo.

When Merlin entered the great hall, the three Seventh-level Wizards turned their gaze to Merlin, taking a close look at him. One of the Seventh-level Wizards even had a slight indifferent look.

“Haha, Wizard Merlin, I really didn’t expect that you could kill seventh Wizard Els! This Els was one of the nine core Wizards under the fourth prince. They’re really powerful and have on several occasions, killed a few of my Wizards. This time, Wizard Merlin has finally brought me some justice, haha!”

The eighth prince seemed extremely excited. The nine core Wizards under the fourth prince were his very own right-hand men. They were very important and were really powerful. It would be incredibly difficult to kill one of the nine core Wizards.

With one dead now, the eighth prince would naturally be delighted.

After a pause, the eighth prince continued. “Wizard Merlin, be rest assured that the fourth prince dare not do anything in my manor. You can go and have a good rest, and quietly await the arrival of Wizard Leo!”

Merlin nodded and gave a slight bow. Then, he turned around and left. After a huge battle with Els, he really needed a good rest and some closure.

After Merlin left, the eighth prince turned his gaze to the three Seventh-level Wizards next to him and whispered, “My three Wizards, what do you think of Wizard Merlin?”

“Merlin? Not bad. If I’m not mistaken, he’s just a Second-level Spell Caster. He might have constructed some Third-level spells, but as a Six-Elemental Spell Caster himself, Merlin shouldn’t actually be a Third-level Spell Caster yet... However, this isn’t important. The crucial thing is that he has some very powerful Pandora Demon Abilities!”

An aged Wizard with gray hair and wrinkles on his face said with a hoarse voice.

The eighth prince nodded and said, “Pandora Demon Abilities... Having said that, even if Merlin has more Pandora Demon Abilities, I’m afraid he still can’t match his teacher’s Darkness Eye!”

Upon mentioning Wizard Leo, a hopeful look appeared in the eighth prince’s eyes.

The aged Wizard with gray hair looked a little hesitant. It seemed like he wanted to say something, but he did not. Nonetheless, in the end, he slowly said, “Your Royal Highness, Darkness Eye is indeed powerful, but Darkness Eye is a Pandora Demon Ability with a curse. No one could cultivate it successfully. Even Leo himself had only cultivated a part of Darkness Eye. Moreover, this Osseus that he had been hunting down for so long, was at best only a Seventh-level Spell Caster. Besides, the fourth prince has acquired the support of Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston, two Eighth-level Wizards. If Leo loses to these two Eighth-level Wizards, how will you react, Your Royal Highness?”

“Lose?”

The eighth prince turned around sharply and looked oddly resolute. One word at a time, he said, “Winner takes all. If the fourth prince is indeed superior, what else can I do even in the face of death? From the moment I prepared to fight for the throne, I’ve already made such a preparation!”

The gray-haired aged Wizard nodded gently. He revealed a hint of helplessness and regret in his eyes. He knew that the eighth prince had harbored all hopes on Leo. It was merely a last resort. The fourth prince had several great aristocrats secretly supporting him, so he had an endless supply of all kinds of resources and treasures. Indeed, the eighth prince was at fault in offending the several great aristocrats at the very beginning. Now, in the entire Imperial City, there were almost no great aristocrats who would support the eighth prince!

“Since Your Royal Highness has made up his mind, then an old one like me can only stay with Your Royal Highness’ cause until the very end!”

The gray-haired aged Wizard slightly bowed to the eighth prince, expressing his resolution. Then, he turned and left, leaving only the eighth prince alone in the hall, immersed in deep thought.

...

“If I hadn’t constructed the Third-level spell Condensed Fire previously, which was capable of breaking a Sixth-level spell, I’m afraid my fate would have turned ill rather than well!”

Merlin carefully reminisced the battle with Els in the quiet room.

In that fierce battle, Merlin’s situation was actually very perilous. If it was not for Els’ carelessness, he would never have been able to kill Els so easily. The worst case scenario would then be a tough fight, and it would be difficult to determine who would come out on top.

Moreover, through Els' sudden attack this time, Merlin also noticed that it was really not enough for him to only have Flash Wind because that alone would not enable him to face all kinds of threats. If the other party had a Binding spell, Merlin would then be put in a very dangerous situation.

Therefore, it was imperative to construct a Third-level Earth-type spell as soon as possible.

However, after the construction of Condensed Fire, Merlin's current Mind Power was insufficient. It was necessary to consume Mokra Potions to increase his Mind Power.

Before this, Merlin was worried that it would be very dangerous to take Mokra Potion and then fall into a deep sleep in this unfamiliar place. However, the situation was tense, and conflicts may arise between the fourth prince and the eighth prince at any time. Hence, he could not worry too much now.

From his ring, Merlin took out a Mokra Potion. He took a deep breath, then gulped it down directly. After a moment, the Mokra Potion began exerting its effect. Merlin also gradually fell into a deep slumber...

Chapter 336: Successive Arrival!

After taking the Mokra Potion, Merlin would fall into a deep slumber for at least three days.

When Merlin slowly came to, his first action was to check on his Mind Power. He could feel the surge of power all over his body, especially his Mind Power, which had indeed grown by a huge margin.

Merlin had experienced the effect of Mokra Potion before. This time, it was his twelfth dose of the potion, but the effect of the potion still had not weakened. By taking another two or three more Mokra Potions, his Mind Power would be enough to support the construction of a Third-level spell.

"Hmm? Is somebody there?"

Merlin was too busy checking the growth of his Mind Power after he had awakened that he did not realize when there was another person in the room.

“Swoosh!”

Merlin immediately cast Earth Veil, shielding his entire body. Then, he opened his eyes and looked around the room.

There was a person sitting quietly not far away from the place where Merlin was sleeping. After seeing that Merlin had awoken, the mysterious man slowly turned around and asked calmly, “Are you awake?”

“Teacher Leo?”

Merlin was astonished. The mysterious man in his room was actually Wizard Leo. It also seemed that Wizard Leo had been there for a long time.

Seemingly noticing Merlin’s astonishment, Wizard Leo stood up and said slowly, “I’ve only arrived at the Imperial City yesterday. I found that you were in a deep sleep, so I stayed here to help guard you.”

After a pause, Wizard Leo’s expression suddenly became serious. He said slowly, “Merlin, what you took must be the potion Wizard Hall had given you to increase your Mind Power. I’ve heard about his potion too. I figured that after his many years of experiments, this potion must be effective to a certain degree too. One concern, however, was that you have to fall into a deep sleep after taking the potion, and this is very dangerous. Whatever the reason, you should never take such a risk in an unfamiliar place like this!”

Wizard Leo had already guessed that Merlin was taking the potion given by Wizard Hall. After all, Wizard Hall’s every move in the tower was scrutinized by Wizard Leo.

Naturally, Merlin knew of the danger too. Fortunately, the stranger in the room that he noticed earlier was Wizard Leo. Otherwise, if someone with ulterior motives came in stealthily, Merlin’s fate would have bode ill rather than well.

Thinking of this, Merlin could not help but feel a little scared. He could only give a nod and replied, “I won’t take such risks in the future. Thank you, Teacher Leo, for safeguarding me.

“Right, Teacher Leo, have you agreed to the terms laid out by the eighth prince?”

Merlin figured that Wizard Leo's visit this time was to obtain the Tear of God from the hands of the eighth prince. However, the eighth prince would not easily give it away. Yet, the eighth prince also needed Wizard Leo's help to defeat his biggest threat – the fourth prince.

Wizard Leo nodded and said, "I've already agreed on the eighth prince's terms. I'll be staying in the Imperial City for a while to help His Royal Highness the eighth prince deal with the fourth prince's threat."

It seemed that the Tear of God was really important for Wizard Leo. Otherwise, Wizard Leo would not have agreed with the terms set by the eighth prince.

Merlin did not follow up on the function of the Tear of God. After all, this involved the secret of Wizard Leo's Darkness Eye.

"Alright, Merlin. If you want to continue taking the potion, it's fine with me. I'll be in another house in the courtyard. No one should be able to bother you."

After Wizard Leo had finished speaking, he pushed the door open and went to another house in the yard.

Deep down, Merlin was secretly grateful too. He really needed to continue taking at least two more Mokra Potions to increase his Mind Power and construct a Third-level Earth-type spell.

With Wizard Leo's protection, Merlin was no longer afraid of the dangers he would encounter during his sleep.

Hence, Merlin felt relaxed as he continued taking the Mokra Potion...

...

"Your Royal Highness, Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston have arrived!"

In the spacious hall, ninth Wizard Oden reported respectfully to the fourth prince.

The fourth prince's expression abruptly changed. He then smiled and said, "Good. Hurry and invite the two Wizards in!"

Soon, Wizard Oden led two Spell Casters in from outside the manor. They each had a large cloak over their heads and wore blue Wizard robes.

After the two Spell Casters arrived in the hall, they gently took off the wide cloak on their heads.

"Tsss..."

When the fourth prince saw the faces of the two Spell Casters, he could not help but inhale sharply. So much for being well-informed and a self-proclaimed calm person. The face that was originally full of smiles had now stiffened.

The two Spell Casters had sallow faces. There was also a layer of white dander on their faces, which was constantly peeling and looked especially disgusting.

In addition, there were dense yellow meat bags with the size of rice grains. These small meat bags would crack from time to time, oozing yellow liquid.

In face of such ugly and horrible looks, the fourth prince's face flinched. Still, he resisted the churning of his stomach as he smiled and said, "Welcome to my manor!"

"Heh heh!"

The chunkier Spell Caster looked at the fourth prince and smiled. "Your Royal Highness the fourth prince, the two of us didn't journey a thousand miles just to appreciate the prosperity of the Imperial City! Just spit it out – when do you want to do it? We don't want to stay in the Imperial City for too long. The oppressive aura here makes us feel very agitated!"

This plump Wizard raised his head and looked up at the roof. His gaze seemed to have passed through the thick roof aimed towards the sky. The fourth prince naturally knew what he meant – it was the aura of the Runic Magic Circle which was set up with the Blackmoon Tower as its center.

Any Spell Caster who entered the Imperial City would feel that suppressive force. It was as though a devastating power would drop down from above their heads at any time. Therefore, no one would

feel comfortable, especially the more powerful Spell Casters as they were unable to withstand the constant feeling of threat.

“Wizard Morston, things have changed this time. Initially, that naive younger brother of mine didn’t have any powerful ally by his side. However, I caught wind that my adorable little brother had recently recruited a powerful Spell Caster. So, this time, I’m afraid that things would be rather troublesome.”

The fourth prince said hesitantly.

“Hmm? Powerful Spell Caster? Heh heh, tell me more, Your Royal Highness. To be considered powerful by Your Royal Highness, this person must certainly be extraordinary!”

The chunky Wizard Morston squinted and looked at the fourth prince.

The fourth prince nodded with a dignified look. “That’s right. This Spell Caster is indeed unusual. I believe you two Wizards should’ve heard of a certain Wizard Leo from the Dark Magic Region?”

“Leo? That Leo from Dark Magic Region who has Darkness Eye? The one who hunted down the Seventh-level Spell Caster, Osseus relentlessly?”

An indescribable expression suddenly flashed across Wizard Morston’s squinted eyes.

“Yes, that foolish little brother of mine was able to recruit the services of Wizard Leo!”

Hearing that it was Wizard Leo, the plump Wizard Morston began to laugh instead. Their faces were even filled with excitement. “Haha, this Leo possesses Darkness Eye. Tsk tsk, this is no ordinary Pandora Demon Ability. How could a mere Sixth-level Spell Caster like him harness the true power of Darkness Eye? Your Royal Highness the fourth prince, hurry up and arrange things as quickly as possible. This time, even you wouldn’t stop us from dealing with Leo!”

The two Wizards started showing an interest in Wizard Leo’s Darkness Eye. They did not even try to conceal the greedy looks on their faces.

However, this was precisely the fourth prince's motive. There was a smile on his face as he said, "Since you two can't wait to deal with Leo, then in ten days time, His Majesty will call upon the royal family to go on a hunting trip together. This is our chance!"

"Ten days? That's fine too, but I hope that after ten days, once we kill Leo and help Your Royal Highness defeat the eighth prince, Your Royal Highness will deliver the things that were promised to us earlier!"

Wizard Morston looked at the fourth prince with a sly smile.

The edge of the fourth prince's mouth twitched slightly. Facing Wizard Morston who showed a hint of threat, he could only forcefully assure them. "Don't worry, I've long since prepared the things that I've promised you two!"

Wizard Morston nodded and led Wizard Tanin, who had not spoken a word throughout, to retire for the evening.

The fourth prince looked at the departing figures of Wizard Morston and Wizard Tanin, his eyes gradually revealing a hint of coldness too...

...

Six days later, when Merlin had awakened from a deep sleep again, he felt a strong gush of Mind Power. Thus, his face revealed a hint of satisfaction.

In the span of six days, he took two more Mokra Potions. From the original twenty-eight portions of potions, only fourteen were left now.

However, the effect was quite obvious. His Mind Power had greatly improved. There would not be a problem even if he were to construct another Third-level spell.

"It's time to construct a Third-level Earth-type spell."

Merlin had continuously consumed the Mokra Potions to increase his Mind Power with the aim of speeding up the construction of a Third-level Earth-type spell. This was so that in the upcoming battle between the eighth prince and the fourth prince, he would be able to protect himself.

Next, Merlin took out some of the Third-level spells given to him previously by the eighth prince. Among them was a Third-level Earth-type spell called Perfect Armor. Once cast, a large number of Earth Elements would form armor on the surface of one's body. It was claimed to have perfect protection. As long as the power of the strike did not exceed a Sixth-level spell, it could be maintained for a long time.

With the protection of Perfect Armor, it would basically be impossible for even a powerful Sixth-level spell to break through Perfect Armor. Only a force which completely surpassed a Sixth-level spell, otherwise, a force comparable to a Seventh-level spell or Pandora Demon Ability could penetrate Perfect Armor.

“It appears that Perfect Armor couldn't be found even in the Dark Magic Region. Only the Blackmoon royal family and very few large spell casters' organizations have this spell!”

Merlin recalled carefully. Back then, he had also searched for some Third-level spells in the Resource Tower of the Dark Magic Region but he did not find Perfect Armor.

A spell which even the Dark Magic Region did not have but was given so “freely” to Merlin by the eighth prince – this had evidently proved the eighth prince's sincerity!

“Matrix, reanalyze the Spell Model of Perfect Armor!”

Merlin took a deep breath and quickly activated the Matrix. With Perfect Armor, such a powerful Third-level Earth-type spell, he had no reason to hesitate further. He began constructing the Spell Model right away!

Chapter 337: Perfect Armor

Currently, there were many Spell Casters in the hall of the eighth prince's manor. It was seemingly the greatest force that the eighth prince could possibly assemble.

All these Spell Casters looked solemn. They had very dignified expressions.

The eighth prince gently tapped his fingers on the table, his gaze swept over the many Spell Casters present. He then said with a low voice, “My people, I’ve just got news that two Spell Casters – Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston – have arrived at the fourth prince’s manor!”

Upon hearing this news, some of the Spell Casters in the hall showed indescribable expressions on their faces. Apparently, they were familiar with these two Spell Casters.

“I can’t believe it’s actually those two old monsters, Tanin and Morston!”

“These two must be at least three hundred years old already. Tsk tsk, they’ve never joined any spell casters’ organizations, not even Spell Caster clans, living their lives without any kind of attachment. They’re ruthless beings. Once, they wiped out five Spell Caster clans just because of a minor conflict. Spell Caster clans with up to thousands of people – all killed!”

Many Spell Casters knew the notorious reputations of the two Spell Casters. Besides, they were Eighth-level Wizards. They were powerful, had no attachments, and were utterly cruel. Any general spell casters’ organizations would never seek to recruit these two Wizards.

It came as a surprise now that the fourth prince had actually managed to recruit them.

Noticing the crowd’s reaction, the eighth prince’s expressions sank slightly. He continued. “There’s worse news. The fourth prince has prepared to strike us in a few days’ time, right when His Majesty gathers everyone in the royal family for a hunting trip!”

“Boom!”

This news was like a booming thunder, stunning the faces of many Spell Casters pale.

Some of these Spell Casters had willingly pledged allegiance to the eighth prince for various perks, while others were forced to serve under him by various means deployed by the eighth prince.

Though they all knew that a final showdown between the fourth and the eighth prince was inevitable, they did not expect to see it play out so quickly.

However, if you stand in the perspective of the fourth prince, the best time to strike was indeed in a few days’ time. Besides the few great core Wizards under his command, the fourth prince had

acquired two Eighth-level Spell Casters – Tanin and Morston too. So currently, it seemed that the fourth prince was close to the peak of his strength. Naturally, he would want to seize this opportunity to battle it out with the eighth prince and to take control of the situation in the Imperial City.

After all, apart from the eighth prince, his only other competitors for the throne were the ninth prince and the thirteenth prince, who were both far away from the Imperial City. Hence, they would not pose that much of a threat to the fourth prince.

Seeing that the many Wizards did not utter a single word, the eighth prince's voice became more melancholic. "My Wizards, what are your thoughts?"

The fact that the fourth prince had gathered the forces of two Eighth-level Wizards had made many Wizards feel faint despair as they knew exactly the extent of the eighth prince's forces.

After a long moment, there was a Wizard who stepped forward and said, "Your Royal Highness, no matter what, we must make early preparations!"

"Yes, we really must prepare early!"

The eighth prince paused and then stood up abruptly. His face revealed a surge of self-confidence. He declared in a loud voice, "The fourth prince is already prepared, so how can I not be? Of course, someone will deal with Tanin and Morston. As for the rest of you, you must go and make the necessary preparations. We cannot afford to have the slightest dependence on luck alone. Go and wait quietly for the ultimate battle in a few days' time!"

"Ultimate battle!"

Everyone in the room could feel a slight tremble in their hearts. The eighth prince and the fourth prince had competed for so many years, and it was the very first time that such resolute words were used.

However, the confident tone of the eighth prince also made some of the Spell Casters feel relieved. Since the eighth prince was able to compete with the fourth prince for so many years, would he not be prepared? Perhaps he had long since recruited a powerful Spell Caster to deal with Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston.

Thus, many Spell Casters began to slowly leave the hall, making the necessary preparations, quietly waiting for a possible showdown after a few days.

After many Spell Casters had left, only three Seventh-level Wizards remained, and they all looked at the eighth prince.

“Your Royal Highness, we’ve heard that Wizard Leo has arrived?”

The eighth prince nodded and said, “Yes, Wizard Leo has arrived. I’m afraid I’ve to rely on Wizard Leo with regards to Tanin and Morston!”

Hearing that the eighth prince intended to hand over two Eighth-level Spell Casters Tanin and Morston to Wizard Leo, these three Seventh-level Spell Casters frowned slightly. A worried look appeared on their faces as Wizard Leo was merely a Sixth-level Spell Caster.

“Your Royal Highness, having to deal with two Eighth-level Spell Casters – won’t this be a difficult task for Wizard Leo? Does Your Highness have the confidence?”

“Confidence?”

The eighth prince looked away and gently shook his head. “I don’t have any confidence but at this point, I can only give it a go. Besides Wizard Leo, which one of you is willing to deal with Tanin and Morston?”

The three Seventh-level Spell Casters were naturally aware of Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston’s power. Hence, they all gave a slight shake of their heads.

“Alright, we’ll now go look for Wizard Leo and discuss with him about the upcoming battle. Let’s go, you’ll all follow me to meet Wizard Leo!”

As soon as the eighth prince finished speaking, he left the hall with the three Seventh-level Spell Casters.

...

“Hum...”

Merlin's Awareness was shaken slightly. Immediately, rich Earth Elements rushed into his Awareness, and a new Spell Model swiftly started forming, transforming the Earth Elements into Magic Power.

“Third-level Earth-type spell, Perfect Armor! The construction is finally successful!”

Merlin let out a long sigh of relief. After taking two portions of Mokra Potions consecutively, he had indeed increased his Mind Power. However, the simulation of Perfect Armor took a long time.

At this time, in Merlin's Awareness, various colors of lights were twinkling. If it could be seen with the eyes, one would be surprised to find that each of these colorful lights represented a Spell Model.

From Zero-level spells to Third-level spells, there were already twenty Spell Models in total!

Merlin was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. Six Zero-level Spell Models, six First-level Spell Models, and six Second-level Spell Models, plus the newly constructed Third-level spells – Darkness Vortex, Condensed Fire, and Perfect Armor. Precisely twenty-one spells!

Unknown to many, Merlin had evolved from the newbie Wizard back then to the Wizard he was now, of whom had constructed twenty-one Spell Models. A large number of Spell Models silently laid in his Awareness like building blocks that piled up layer by layer, looking extremely spectacular.

In particular, many Spell Models were still absorbing elements and transforming it into Magic Power, which was then stored in the Spell Models. Twenty-one Spell Models absorbing elements all at once, almost forming a mini elemental storm.

However, in the Awareness, these elements were absorbed and transformed by various Spell Models methodically and in an orderly fashion.

There were indeed many Spell Models in his Awareness. In the future, there would be Fourth-level spells, Fifth-level spells, and Sixth-level spells, all the way up to Ninth-level spells. By that time, the number of spells would be so large that it would be unimaginable.

Spell fusion was the specialty of a Great Wizard. These spells in the Awareness could also be merged. Even if a Spell Caster had not reached the stages of spell fusion, its difficulty could also be roughly imagined...

“It was not surprising that there are so few Great Wizards!”

Merlin shook his head gently. The level of a Great Wizard was still too far away from him. Therefore, he immediately threw these thoughts out of his mind.

After waiting for a moment, Merlin looked at the Spell Model of Perfect Armor in his Awareness. It could already be released once or twice, so Merlin quickly cast Perfect Armor.

Merlin had a high expectation of Perfect Armor. By acquiring Perfect Armor, he would be provided a great assurance of safety.

“Perfect Armor!”

A khaki-colored light flashed rapidly. In the blink of an eye, an armor quickly condensed over the surface of Merlin’s body.

This armor seemed extremely heavy. It wrapped Merlin’s body in entirety. It might be called an armor, but in actuality, it was an illusory light without any dead angles. Attacks from any angle would be blocked by Perfect Armor.

Merlin gently stood up, savoring the power of Perfect Armor. This Perfect Armor was originally a Third-level spell. Although its defensive power was extremely great, it was difficult for it to be deemed “perfect”. Nonetheless, no matter how strong a Third-level spell was, it still had a limit.

However, with the addition of Pandora Demon Ability, Fuse Earth that Merlin had cultivated, things would be very different. It could enhance the strength of Perfect Armor by multiple folds, and also greatly improve its defensive power. Only a force almost beyond that of a Sixth-level spell would stand a chance of breaking the defense of Perfect Armor.

In a sense, this Perfect Armor now was seemingly Merlin’s current most powerful move. Any force under the seventh-level would have virtually nil chance of hurting him.

Of course, if his opponent was a Spell Caster who had Pandora Demon Ability such as Wizard Leo who had Darkness Eye, it would be futile even if Merlin's Perfect Armor had the enhancement from Pandora Demon Ability, Fuse Earth.

After Merlin felt the power of Perfect Armor, he had a new discovery. It turned out that the Magic Power consumed by Perfect Armor was very low. Except for the need to release immense Magic Power during the beginning stages of casting Perfect Armor, it would only require little Magic Power for maintenance.

This could also greatly prolong the combat time between Spell Casters as it did not involve consuming too much Magic Power.

"Now, I dare to face any Spell Caster under the seventh level!"

Merlin was full of confidence. Now that he had completed the construction of Perfect Armor and guaranteed his own safety, he had just only begun unraveling his true strength.

Now, he could truly be deemed a powerful Spell Caster!

In addition, after he became a Fourth-level Spell Caster, he was capable of fighting Seventh-level Spell Casters. Maybe he could be like the legend Nikola, who killed a Seventh-level Spell Caster while still holding the status of a Fourth-level Spell Caster!

"Eh? Someone's here!"

Merlin had already woken up, and his Mind Power was constantly monitoring the situation outside. He noticed some strangers outside the courtyard. Thereafter, Merlin pushed the door open and saw four people walking into the yard.

"His Royal Highness, the eighth prince!"

Merlin scanned around and recognized that the person walking in front was the eighth prince while the three Spell Casters behind him were the three Seventh-level Spell Casters that Merlin had met before.

The eighth prince had brought along three Seventh-level Spell Casters. Surely, something huge had happened.

Chapter 338: Destiny!

The eighth prince heard the voice and lifted his head. Upon seeing Merlin, he quickly flashed a smile. “Wizard Merlin, you were still sleeping the last time I came.”

Merlin was somewhat surprised. It turned out that the eighth prince had visited before. It was indeed very dangerous when he was in a deep slumber for he did not know what would happen.

The eighth prince seemed to have noticed Merlin’s surprise as he continued. “Last time, I came here with Wizard Leo. Right, where’s Wizard Leo?”

Merlin felt relieved. Nonetheless, he also secretly made up his mind that in the future, he would never take Mokra Potions again in an unfamiliar environment as it was just too risky. This time, he was lucky to have Wizard Leo. He might not be so lucky next time.

“Your Royal Highness has come to see Wizard Leo? Please come with me!”

Merlin glanced at the three Seventh-level Spell Casters behind the eighth prince. Their expressions were solemn. It seemed that something huge had really happened. Otherwise, the eighth prince would not be bringing three Seventh-level Spell Casters to seek for Wizard Leo.

Thus, after a brief moment, Merlin led the eighth prince and his men to Wizard Leo’s residence. He called out softly, “Teacher Leo, His Royal Highness the eighth prince is here!”

“Come in!”

There was a swift response from inside the house. Then, Merlin directly pushed the door open and walked in with the eighth prince and his men.

“Wizard Leo!”

When they just entered the house, the eighth prince saw the ugly and horrible appearance of Wizard Leo but he kept a straight face. His tone was very respectful instead.

“What’s the matter, Your Royal Highness?”

The vertical bloodshot eye in Wizard Leo’s forehead opened slightly. It looked haunting.

His Royal Highness the eighth prince took a deep breath and then said, “In a few days, His Majesty will gather the royal family for a hunting trip. I’ve received word that the fourth prince will strike on that day!”

Merlin could not believe that they were actually going to battle so soon, so his heart shuddered slightly. One should not be deceived by the calmness of the eighth prince’s tone. In fact, this was a key event that would determine the future of the throne.

After all, among the royal family members who had the ability to compete for the throne, only the fourth prince had such qualifications and forces. Among all, the fourth prince and the eighth prince stood the best chance.

After a long moment, Wizard Leo suddenly spoke, “Who do I need to deal with?”

Wizard Leo had already guessed the purpose of the eighth prince’s trip this time so he asked directly.

The eighth prince hesitated for a moment, then said with a heavy tone, “The fourth prince recruited two Eighth-level Spell Casters – Tanin and Morston. I hereby request Wizard Leo to help contain these two Wizards!”

“What? Two Eighth-level Spell Casters?”

Merlin’s expression sunk slightly. He immediately turned his gaze toward Wizard Leo. He knew Wizard Leo’s Darkness Eye was extremely powerful as he once hunted down and killed one of Ozmu’s Seventh-level Wizards, Osseus. Besides, the only price he paid was his arm.

Even so, having to deal with two Eighth-level Spell Casters was an extremely daunting task.

The eighth prince fixed his gaze on Wizard Leo. It could be seen that he was extremely nervous. If Wizard Leo did not agree, he would then have zero chance at beating the fourth prince in a few days' time.

After a long moment, the vertical bloodshot eye in Wizard Leo's forehead shut slowly. Then, Wizard Leo calmly said, "After everything is done, I'll need the Tear of God!"

There was a look of ecstasy on the eighth prince's face, and he laughed. "Haha, that's for sure. Apart from the Tear of God, just fire away if Wizard Leo has any other requests. Even if I can't fulfill it now, but when I become king of the Kingdom of Blackmoon in the future, I'll do my very best to fulfill it!"

The eighth prince's expression was extremely dignified. This promise of his was also very serious. There were not many who could make him make such a promise.

However, Wizard Leo did not ask for anything else. His only purpose of visiting the Imperial City this time was to obtain only the Tear of God. Nothing else could arouse his interest.

Merlin was left with his mouth agape, but eventually, he did not say anything. Since Wizard Leo had made up his mind, no one could change his decision.

Merlin had a deep understanding of Wizard Leo's personality. Hence, he could only remain silent. In addition, since Wizard Leo had agreed, it meant that he had a certain degree of confidence.

"Your Royal Highness, with Wizard Leo holding back the two Eighth-level Spell Casters – Tanin and Morston, our greatest threat will then be dispelled. However, there's still the nine core Wizards under the fourth prince."

A thin-looking Wizard behind the eighth prince stepped forward and said. When he mentioned the nine core Wizards, he paused and looked at Merlin. He then smiled and said, "Of course, because Merlin has killed the fourth prince's seventh Wizard, now there are only eight core Wizards left. The first, second, and third Wizards are all Seventh-level Spell Casters, so they can be handed over to us three old men. Still, the remaining fifth, sixth, eighth, and ninth Wizards are all Sixth-level Spell Casters, and they are very difficult to deal with."

Nobody knew how many times the nine core Wizards of the fourth prince and the Wizards of the eighth prince had fought each other, both in secrecy and out in the public. The two sides clearly knew each other very well.

It could be claimed that even without Wizard Tanin and Wizard Morston, the overall strength of the Spell Casters under the fourth prince was still stronger than that of the eighth prince.

The most powerful among them were the nine core Wizards!

The eighth prince frowned too as he said, “There are still five Sixth-level Spell Casters. Plus, they’re not ordinary Sixth-level Spell Casters! We still have four Sixth-level Spell Casters, so we’ll barely be able to cope. Yet, there are two Sixth-level Spell Casters left, of whom would be handled by me personally!”

Perhaps many people had forgotten that the eighth prince himself was a Sixth-level Spell Caster. In addition, as a member of the royal family, the eighth prince was not an ordinary Sixth-level Spell Caster. His strength was unfathomable, and he even had powerful Pandora Demon Abilities!

Even after Merlin had constructed Perfect Armor and possessed Fiery Collapse, he did not dare to say that he could defeat the eighth prince either. Merlin was confident that he could cope with any power under the seventh level, but that was only with regard to spells.

If any Pandora Demon Ability, especially those powerful ones, had attained the second stage, the power that could be released was likely to reach or even surpass Seventh-level spells.

With the foundation of the Blackmoon royal family, it was impossible for them to not have such powerful Pandora Demon Abilities. If the eighth prince had also cultivated such Pandora Demon Abilities, Merlin’s Perfect Armor would not be able to withstand it.

Therefore, if the eighth prince himself came out for battle, much less two Sixth-level Wizards, even three or four Wizards would not cause him any trouble.

“Your Royal Highness, your opponent is the fourth prince! If you engage in this battle, who else will deal with the fourth prince?”

The Seventh-level Wizards behind the eighth prince shook their heads helplessly. The strength of the eighth prince was indeed strong, but the fourth prince was not far behind.

“Let me take on the fourth and fifth Wizards under the fourth prince!”

When everyone was at their wits' end, Merlin spoke calmly out of the blue.

“Wizard Merlin, you're going to deal with the fourth and fifth Wizards? They're all peak Sixth-level Spell Casters, and they have all kinds of moves. Although they did not cultivate Pandora Demon Abilities, they're still very difficult to deal with. They're stronger than the seventh Wizard...”

The eighth prince looked at Merlin doubtfully. The hidden message of his words was that he had little faith that Merlin could cope with the fourth and fifth Wizards.

However, Merlin displayed a confident smile and replied, “Your Royal Highness, please be rest assured that I have a sense of propriety! However, once everything's settled, I humbly request Your Royal Highness to quickly arrange for me to enter the royal family's Spell Library, so I can look at the spells there.”

Merlin would naturally not take the initiative to shoulder the heavy responsibility of the fourth and fifth Wizards, these two powerful Sixth-level Spell Casters without any specific reason. His aim was to get into the Spell Library sooner.

The eighth prince pulled a straight face. He then forcefully gritted his teeth, seemingly setting his mind on a decision. He said with a heavy tone, “Don't you worry, Wizard Merlin. When we're done, I'll find a way for you to enter the Spell Library!”

In order to win the decisive battle against the fourth prince in a few days' time, the eighth prince could not care less. As long as he could increase the chances of winning, he would not be bothered even if he had to pay a huge price.

Subsequently, the eighth prince left the courtyard with the three Wizards.

“Your Royal Highness, you really believe Wizard Leo can handle Tanin and Morston?”

Though they had just left the courtyard, the Seventh-level Wizard behind the eighth prince had already asked impatiently.

The eighth prince's footsteps gradually slowed down. He gently shook his head and said, "Whether or not he can handle them, this is our only choice... Come on, there are only a few days left. We still need to prepare properly so there's no room for any mistake!"

The three Seventh-level Wizards glanced at each other. They could only helplessly follow behind the eighth prince and leave the place.

...

The spring drizzle did not stop. In these few days, gloomy and rainy weather loomed above the Imperial City's horizon. There was a moist and sticky feeling in the air, which felt very unpleasant.

The streets were still rather slippery. Nevertheless, at the break of dawn, the Imperial City started bustling, especially the Palace. There was a madding crowd. Many maids and guards appeared to have their hands full.

Today was the day of the royal family's annual hunting trip. During this time, all the aristocrats, princes and princesses of the entire Imperial City would go hunting in the forest, also known as Kingswood, not far from the Palace.

The reason it was so important was that His Majesty the King would come and watch it personally. By the time, If any prince, princess or aristocrat had emerged victorious in the hunting, he or she would be granted a generous reward.

Therefore, many aristocrats or princes and princesses had already begun their preparations.

Fortunately, today's weather seemed to have turned for the better. The entire Imperial City basked in the warm sun. The moisture in the air had disappeared too. Instead, there was a faint sear of heat.

"Wizard Merlin, His Royal Highness the eighth prince has called for you!"

Suddenly, the voice of the guards sounded outside the house.

Merlin slowly opened his eyes. In the past few days, he had been using elemental crystal stones to accumulate Mind Power for the several Third-level spells in his Awareness. He did it so that he was adequately prepared.

“Time’s up!”

Merlin could feel his heart twitch. Then, he rose to his feet slowly. When he pushed the door open, there was a guard in silver armor standing outside. Upon seeing Merlin, he greeted him respectfully.

“Lead the way!”

Merlin ordered in a composed manner. He knew that the time for the eighth prince and the fourth prince’s showdown had arrived. The two princes had competed with each other for so many years. Today, the victor would finally be decided. Who would be more worthy of ascending onto the pinnacle of power over the entire Kingdom?

As a member of the royal family, this was destiny!

Chapter 339: The Encounter I

“Hum hum hum...”

Suddenly, there was a storm in the quiet sky. It was so fast that it was beyond comprehension. When it swept through the sky, it even blew the woods below into a mess.

Some unfortunate wild beasts were also swept by the gust of wind up into the sky, vanishing without a trace.

“Boom!”

Then, the storm landed straight into the forest below, giving off a dull sound. The initially dense Kingswood was immediately smashed by the wind. Out of the blue, a relatively empty field suddenly appeared in the woods.

Right in the middle of the open field, a figure gradually emerged from within the smoke and the dust-filled air. This person looked somewhat disorganized as he slowly picked up his feet from the ground.

“Damn, my Mind Power had exhausted so surprisingly quick... Gosh, the Mind Power that I’ve accumulated for so long ran dry just like that! Damn that Merlin, how dare he demand me to reach the Imperial City within four days... Four days is such a short time that I can only keep using Flash Wind to speed up my journey. The elemental crystal stones that I’ve so diligently collected has now been entirely consumed!”

Wizard Bammou kept on ranting as he walked out of the smoke. His undulating chest moved in a rhythm as he panted for fresh air. A few days ago, he had just received a message from Merlin. It was an order that was directly conveyed via the slave contract demanding that Wizard Bammou must arrive at the Imperial City within four days.

Wizard Bammou was originally in Wilson Castle, recovering his Magic Power very leisurely. Ever since he became a slave to Merlin on the Ship of Nikola, he had never had a chance to restore his Magic Power. He had come across the rare opportunity of settling in Wilson Castle, so he naturally would want to focus all his energy on restoring Magic Power. The comforting environment was just another surplus for him.

It never occurred to him that the good days would come to an end so quickly. Even if he was a Seventh-level Spell Caster, he could not reach the Imperial City within four days just by relying on ordinary Flying spells alone.

Therefore, Wizard Bammou had no choice but to drain his Magic Power and cast Flash Wind. It was a pity that the Magic Power that he had accumulated through various means was exhausted in just one or two days.

After his Magic Power was sapped, Wizard Bammou could only replenish it with elemental crystal stones. During the time when Merlin was not around, he obtained a lot of elemental crystal stones from some roaming Wizards near his place by using various ways. However, they were almost completely used up by now. Thus, Wizard Bammou’s heart was filled with a sense of helplessness.

Still, he did not dare to delay even a little. He had signed a servant contract with Merlin. Hence, if he did not rush to the Imperial City within four days, he was very clear how serious the consequences would be...

“The elemental crystal stones were used up just like that. It’s really distressing!”

Wizard Bammou took out hundreds of elemental crystal stones from his ring with grimace written all over his face.

“Ka-chak.”

Then, Wizard Bammou crushed the elemental crystal stones directly. Shortly after, his body became like a bottomless pit, producing a ferocious suction force.

“Buzz buzz buzz...”

This suction force was extremely terrifying, emitting bursts of whistling sounds. The infinite elements in the surrounding woods had been drawn toward him too, gradually forming a massive whirlwind around Wizard Bammou.

“Snap!”

With a soft sound, Wizard Bammou stopped absorbing elements. He looked up at the sky and muttered, “I can still travel some distance. My Magic Power has recovered by half too. Go!”

Thereafter, Wizard Bammou’s figure ascended into the sky again. His body was then surrounded by a violent storm, shrilling as he flew to the far side...

...

There were many forests in the Imperial City but the largest one belonged to the royal family. It occupied an area of approximately one thousand acres with countless rare exotic beasts residing in it. Occasionally, some members of the royal family would go hunting in this piece of woodland.

Nevertheless, today’s occasion was a special one. It was still early morning, but this forest was already surrounded by numerous guards – three troops inside and another three outside. All the guards wore solemn expressions and exuded a murderous aura. As a result, city folks did not dare to go near them.

Not just the guards but a Spell Caster should also be able to realize that there was an infinite amount of powerful Mind Power in the forest too. Anyone who was close to Kingswood would be detected by the Mind Power. There was really nowhere to hide.

Such fortified security would naturally only mean that this forest was about to welcome an utmost honorable person, of whom held the highest power of the entire Blackmoon Kingdom. The great King Bhutto XVI was about to arrive at Kingswood. His Majesty had gathered all the aristocrats of the Imperial City and members of the royal family to hunt in this forest.

The Kingdom of Blackmoon was different from the Kingdom of Light. The royal family of the Kingdom of Light did not hold such great power as they were controlled by the Church of Light, which represented theocracy. Even the heir of the Kingdom of Light required the consent and blessing of the Church of Light to be crowned king.

In contrast, the Blackmoon royal family held absolute power. Any member of the royal family can become a Spell Caster as long as they possessed Spell Caster Quality. The entire royal family itself was equivalent to a large-scale spell casters' organization with an incredibly rich heritage. They even had several legendary Great Wizards.

Therefore, the king of the Kingdom of Blackmoon, in name, was the true supreme ruler of the entire Kingdom of Blackmoon. In a certain sense, even those spell casters' organizations would not escape the royal family's rule.

Of course, this was only in a nominal sense. Spell casters' organizations were after all, different from the typical city-states. The royal family had no ability to include all spell casters' organizations in the scope of their rule either. Hence, they basically leave spell casters' organizations to their own devices. As long as they do not cause too much trouble and do not violate the fundamental interests of the royal family, the royal family would not pay extra attention to them.

Not long after, as time went by, Kingswood gradually became more and more lively. Many aristocrats were on their carriages, their hands holding invitation letters. Once they arrived outside and passed the inspection of the guards, they would proceed to enter Kingswood.

Those who were able to receive an invitation from the king were aristocrats who had a certain influence in the Imperial City. Otherwise, they could be powerful Spell Casters in the Imperial City.

After another period of time, several luxurious carriages drove from the street and slowly stopped outside the forest.

Many people alighted from the carriages. At the front of the line was a handsome man with a face that radiated natural dignity, but at the same time, appeared to be a people person.

The guards who were originally guarding outside of Kingswood were neither supercilious nor obsequious to any aristocrats and treated them with propriety. However, after seeing the invited guests alighting from the carriages, some of the guards hurried off to welcome them.

Among them, the guard leading the line knelt on the ground and greeted respectfully, "My Honorable Your Royal Highness the eighth prince!"

It turned out that the guests who alighted from these carriages were the many Spell Casters and guards from the eighth prince's manor.

The eighth prince gently nodded and said, "Get up, how many people have arrived at Kingswood?"

The guards did not dare to conceal as he whispered, "Your Royal Highness, there aren't many people in Kingswood. You're the first member of the royal family to arrive."

"Oh? It seems that I'm early, but it's good too. We shall enter first and wait inside."

After he finished speaking, the eighth prince brought his entourage into the forest directly. The guards did not dare to stop him either. Everyone knew that the eighth prince and the fourth prince were the most promising candidates to be the next king. Hence, no one would dare to offend them.

In the forest, there was exotic flora everywhere, which exuded mesmerizing fragrance. It was a scene of exuberance, much like spring. Yet, none of the eighth prince's men had the interest to admire the idyllic scenery in the forest. Each of their expression was tense. Even the eighth prince who had always been sanguine looked edgy too, losing his usual poised demeanor.

Soon, the eighth prince had led his entourage into an empty square. Many aristocrats were already seated at the square. After seeing the eighth prince, the aristocrats stood up and showed their respect to the eighth prince.

The eighth prince only responded with a courteous nod and did not say anything. He went straight to the square and sat on the first seat on the first row of seats on the left. Then, he closed his eyes and remained still.

Those who followed behind the eighth prince had their own seats too. Nonetheless, only Wizard Leo and the three Seventh-level Spell Casters were entitled to their own seats. The others, including Merlin, could only stand nearby.

Wizard Leo wore a huge cloak over his head, which made him look inconspicuous and appeared very mysterious. Even Merlin could feel that many people in the square frequently turned their gaze to Wizard Leo, seemingly exchanging whispers about something.

Merlin was unmoved by that. Deep down, he was quiet and calm too. Still, he frequently felt Wizard Bammou's location through the slave contract.

Earlier, Merlin had used the slave contract to inform Wizard Bammou that he must be at the Imperial City within four days. He did that a few days ago at the moment he heard that the eighth prince would battle it out with the fourth prince on this very day.

With Wizard Bammou, his mysterious new aid, it might just be a decisive factor in the final outcome!

However, Prakash City was a long distance away from the Imperial City. Back then, Merlin, Snake Elder, and the others had traveled on foot for a good whole month to reach the Imperial City. Merlin was not really sure whether Wizard Bammou could arrive on time either.

Therefore, Merlin would pay attention to any movement of the slave contract at all times. Once Wizard Bammou arrived at the Imperial City, Merlin would sense it.

“However strong Teacher Leo's Darkness Eye is, it would still be very strenuous for him to deal with these two Eighth-level Spell Casters... However, with Wizard Bammou, he can perhaps relieve some of Teacher Leo's burden!”

Merlin's plan was to let Wizard Bammou deal with one of the two Eighth-level Wizards Tanin and Morston. Doing so would also ease the pressure on Wizard Leo and increase the eighth prince's odds of winning.

Merlin had naturally hoped that the eighth prince would prevail too, so his wish to enter the royal family's Spell Library could be fulfilled.

As for Wizard Bammou's safety, it was never one of Merlin's worries. He had seen Wizard Bammou cultivate his Flash Wind until the third stage. With that kind of Flash Wind, there would be extremely few Spell Casters who could kill Wizard Bammou.

Even if Wizard Bammou was not good enough, he could still at least restrain one of the Eighth-level Wizards. This was precisely Merlin's plan anyway. Nevertheless, Wizard Bammou had to be a hidden force. Only by showing up when he was most needed could he possibly present an element of surprise.

"The fourth prince is here!"

A guard hurried to the eighth prince's side and whispered.

"Swoosh!"

The eighth prince opened his eyes abruptly. His eyes gleamed with energy, peering at the distance. The entire bustling square turned silent in an instant.

Chapter 340: The Encounter II

The fourth prince took a leisurely pace into the square. Unlike the eighth prince, the fourth prince had a composed smile on his face. Even when he saw the eighth prince, his expression remained unchanged.

Two mysterious Wizards with cloaks followed behind the fourth prince. Like Wizard Leo, nobody could make out the appearance of the two mysterious figures either. Nevertheless, to be able to walk behind the fourth prince, and even in front of the nine core Wizards, their identities were already quite obvious.

"Tanin and Morston!"

Merlin muttered under his breath. From the very beginning, his gaze had been placed on the two Wizards. As Eighth-level Spell Casters, and rather well-known ones too, they would surely attract attention wherever they went.

"Swoosh!"

Suddenly, Merlin felt a burning gaze fixated onto him. Following the path of that gaze, he saw a familiar face in the crowd behind the fourth prince.

“Ninth Wizard Oden?”

Merlin could feel a cold murderous intent in Oden’s gaze. Yet, Merlin did not bother. He turned to look at the fourth prince instead.

As the eighth prince’s toughest competitor, the fourth prince’s appearance looked somewhat similar to him. Nonetheless, the fourth prince seemed slightly more majestic. Though there was always a smile on his face, he was still able to instill fear in those around him.

The fourth prince went straight to the first row on the right and sat down on the first chair. He turned his gaze to the eighth prince, just in time to meet his eyes.

There was pin-drop silence in the entire square. Everyone turned to look at the fourth prince and the eighth prince. The two of them locked eyes. Although they both had smiles on their faces and seemed calm, everyone present knew that danger lurked beneath the still waters 1 .

Neither the fourth prince nor the eighth prince spoke. They only looked at each other quietly. The Spell Casters behind them showed their prowess too as their immense Mind Power scanned the place unscrupulously.

At that moment, the entire square was encompassed by various forms of Mind Power. These Spell Casters’ Mind Power were mostly higher than the seventh level, so they were extremely powerful. Once these swept past someone, even a Spell Caster would feel like they had no more secrets left on their bodies as though everything was laid bare for viewing.

The atmosphere of both sides was tense, and everybody had readied themselves, all set for the showdown 2 . Just then, the sound of horseshoes rang outside the forest. It seemed that a large troop had arrived, and there appeared to be a commotion.

“His Majesty has arrived!”

A sharp voice sounded. Then, a group of silver-armored guards quickly entered the square, and they stood in two rows. They were followed by a group of Spell Casters wearing gray robes. There were about a dozen of them, and they flew directly into the sky, surrounding the entire square. The enormous Mind Power swept through everyone at the square unbridled.

These gray-robed Spell Casters had extremely great Mind Power. The life force on their bodies were very daunting too as they were all Seventh-level Spell Casters! All of them were Spell Casters in charge of protecting the king.

There were more than a dozen Seventh-level Spell Casters. This was a number which was nearly equivalent to all the Seventh-level Spell Casters in some spell casters' organizations. However, these were just a part of the king's Spell Caster bodyguards. It sufficiently showed the heritage of the Blackmoon royal family. It was beyond what the general spell casters' organizations could compare with.

King Bhutto XVI, holder of the utmost supreme power of the Kingdom of Blackmoon, would only slowly emerge once the guards and the Spell Casters determined that there was no danger.

Clustered around by many maids, King Bhutto XVI slowly embarked onto the high platform of the square, arriving at a golden throne. Only the king could sit up there.

Everyone rose to their feet and bowed slightly to Bhutto XVI. Many of the crowd who only met Bhutto XVI for the first time were silently scrutinizing the king.

Bhutto XVI seemed to be only in his forties. His body was slightly plump, and there was a kind smile on his face, which could make people feel very affable.

In fact, Bhutto XVI had inherited the throne at the age of forty-two. He had been king for twenty-five years now and was already sixty-seven years old. However, an age less than seventy could only be considered very young for a Spell Caster like him.

Nonetheless, the most shocking discovery for Merlin was the life force on Bhutto XVI. It seemed that there was no Spell Caster life force at all as though he was just an ordinary person.

If there was anything special at all, it was definitely the purple gold crown on his head. It was almost certain that anyone who saw Bhutto XVI would be mesmerized by this purple gold crown.

The purple gold crown exuded a golden radiance. It looked extremely beautiful and seemed to radiate a natural elegance. Anybody would be fascinated by the purple gold crown.

“The Crown of Kings, one of the most precious alchemy treasures of the legendary Molta Empire royal family! Even a Great Wizard couldn’t break the protection of the Crown of Kings in a short time!”

Wizard Leo, who had not uttered a single word, suddenly spoke. His voice was extremely low-toned and sluggish. Only a few people who were closest to him could hear it.

“It’s actually an alchemy treasure inherited from the Molta Empire royal family!”

Merlin’s heart trembled. To his surprise, this brilliant-looking purple gold crown actually held such a shocking origin. The period of Molta Empire of three-thousand and six-hundred years ago was also the most glorious era of Spell Casters. As the dictators of the entire world, the prosperity of the Molta Empire had naturally been out of this world.

Meanwhile, the royal family that controlled the empire had countless treasures. This Crown of Kings could be regarded as one of the most precious treasures in the eyes of the Molta Empire royal family. Hence, it was sensible that it was deemed extremely powerful. Even if Bhutto XVI was a Spell Caster of the lowest level, possessing the Crown of Kings would still enable him to withstand a Great Wizard’s attack.

This was the most powerful effect of the Crown of Kings. As a result, the Crown of Kings could only be worn by the kings of the Kingdom of Blackmoon. If Bhutto XVI was abdicated, he must also pass on the Crown of Kings to the next king.

The current holder of the Crown of Kings, Bhutto XVI, was also very formidable. Yet, Merlin had no idea why he could not sense the true life force of Bhutto XVI, and how powerful he really was.

A strange look appeared in the eighth prince’s eyes as he looked at the figure of Bhutto XVI, who gradually stepped onto the high platform and sat on the golden throne. There was also some faint excitement in between his expression as he stared at the golden throne on the high platform. He muttered under his breath, “It hasn’t been more than twenty years since His Majesty had ascended the throne, but he’d already broken through many ranks. He turned from a Sixth-level Spell Caster into a Ninth-level Spell Caster he is now. In addition, he has the Crown of Kings, so even if he has to face a Great Wizard, he won’t be afraid either!”

This was the heritage of the Blackmoon royal family. If a Sixth-level Spell Caster constructed spells in a step-by-step manner, it would have taken at least several decades or even centuries to gradually become a Ninth-level Spell Caster.

However, if one became king, one's strength would grow really quickly, at a speed that ordinary people could hardly imagine. That was because a king could rely on the unimaginable heritage accumulated in the royal family, coupled with the supreme power of being a king.

Hence, it would not be difficult to figure out why the fourth prince, the eighth prince, and the other members of the royal family would compete for the throne. Anyone of them who had the slightest ambition would certainly not let go of the opportunity for the treasures that one would have after ascending to the throne.

The benefits of becoming a king were so great. Which royal family member would not be tempted?

Apart from the eighth prince, the fourth prince, who was opposite him, also looked at Bhutto XVI. He too, had a lingering eagerness in his eyes. In about four or five years, Bhutto XVI would be abdicated. By that time, the best among the members of the royal family would be chosen to become the new king!

"Everyone, please have a seat."

After Bhutto XVI had sat down, he said slowly as he pressed both his hands down slightly.

One after another, the crowd on both sides of the square sat down. The eighth prince's expression had returned to his usual calmness.

"His Royal Highness, the eighth prince!"

He had just only sat down when a lady donned in palace attire walked out of the garden. She wore a white mopping dress and was surrounded by several maids. After bowing to Bhutto XVI, she went straight to the eighth prince's side.

The eighth prince revealed a gentle smile too. "Princess Chyne, you're late."

This elegant, beautiful woman who beamed with extravagance was a royal princess.

Princess Chyne sat next to the eighth prince. Thereafter, she looked at the fourth prince opposite her, revealing a dignified expression between her looks. She mumbled, “Your Royal Highness the eighth prince, you have to be wary of the fourth prince today.”

Princess Chyne seemed to be in the eighth prince’s camp as she was closer to the eighth prince. In fact, the entire royal family had broken off into several camps. However, there were already several princesses or great aristocrats on the fourth prince’s side. While on the eighth prince’s side, there was only Princess Chyne.

It was also evident that the fourth prince’s force was much larger than that of the eighth prince’s. The royal family members or the great aristocrats would naturally choose the fourth prince, who seemed to be more likely to inherit the throne.

As for Princess Chyne’s kind advice, the eighth prince nodded in response, but he did not really care. He smiled at Princess Chyne as he replied, “Don’t worry, I’ve prepared adequately this time!”

Princess Chyne seemed to have understood the eighth prince’s arrangement. She turned her head and gave a slight nod to both Leo and Merlin.

The annual royal family hunting was not just any simple hunting event. Instead, it was required to have a grand ceremony before the start of hunting.

This grand ceremony needed to be presided over by the king personally. The process was very cumbersome, and many Spell Casters were bored by it as they began showing drowsy looks.

Merlin was no exception. He was not interested in these cumbersome rituals. So, he closed his eyes to rest.

“Hum hum hum...”

Suddenly, Merlin noticed that the slave contract he had signed with Wizard Bammou was quivering slightly.

“Is Bammou here?”

Merlin was delighted. Although he strictly ordered Wizard Bammou to arrive in four days, he was not really sure if he could arrive on time.

Now that there was a change to the servant contract, it had obviously sensed Wizard Bammou's arrival. The contract would respond only in the Imperial City or places within a relatively close distance.

Thinking of this, Merlin hurriedly stood up and said to the eighth prince, "Your Highness, I need to step out for a moment. There's a private matter that I must attend to!"

The eighth prince did not inquire further as he waved his hand. "Go, but the hunting grand ceremony is coming to an end, so you need to come back as soon as possible."

Merlin nodded. With the slave contract, he was able to find Wizard Bammou easily. It would not take him a long time.

Thus, Merlin bid farewell to everyone and turned around, making his way out of the forest.