

W. Secret 421

Chapter 421: Glacier Country

Becoming a Fourth-level Spell Caster was a significant point of divergence. If he was in the Dark Magic Region, he would have been able to build his own Wizard Tower and teach his own students. On the career path of Spell Casters, he would have become a highly qualified Wizard!

However, for Merlin, the benefits he sensed from becoming a Fourth-level Spell Caster was much more than these. The moment the last two Fourth-level spells were successfully constructed, a shockwave rippled through his entire Awareness. The Spell Models, which had been tilted dangerously, were restored to perfect balance and became as still as a pond.

All the Spell Models in his Awareness came together as a whole, which released an impressive level of Mind Power. With the current level of Mind Power, Merlin could even try to construct a Fifth-level spell!

Furthermore, Merlin discovered that the spells he cast now seemed to have a holistic feeling to them. All six elements, Fire, Wind, Ice, Earth, Thunder, and Darkness were wildly pervading his body, whereas Merlin's body was like a black hole that engulfed these elements hungrily.

Upon leveling-up to Fourth-level, all the Spell Models within his Awareness underwent a subtle change. It seemed like the limits of the Spell Models had been expanded and thus, they were able to accommodate more Magic Power. This transformation was experienced by all Fourth-level Spell Casters, and not only to Merlin.

It was no wonder, then, that Fourth-level Spell Casters were fundamentally different from those below Fourth-level. Upon leveling-up to Fourth-level, their abilities were increased many folds, and in all aspects, their powers exceeded Spell Casters below Fourth-level.

After Merlin became a Fourth-level Spell Caster, he did not immediately construct Fifth-level spells. Although the balance in his Spell Models finally allowed large amounts of Mind Power to be released and he could actually construct Fifth-level spells, he knew that if he constructed the Fifth-level spells, the Spell Models in his Awareness would lose its balance once again. Then, he would have to consume large amounts of Mind Power to stabilize the Spell Models.

In that situation, it would have been hard to determine whether there would be enough Mind Power left to activate spells in a fight. Although it was not usually a noteworthy point of consideration, Mind Power was actually a crucial component. Without Mind Power, a Spell Caster would face problems to even cast a spell.

This was because in order to cast a spell, Mind Power is involved to activate the Spell Model, and from there, the spell is released.

After leveling up to a Fourth-level Spell Caster, Merlin began to cultivate the special Demon Ability, Glacier Country. Since he had already constructed his Fourth-level Ice-type spell, Arctic Realm, he was able to cultivate Glacier Country.

The biggest hurdle in cultivating Glacier Country was the physical transformation. It was the tipping point for most as it was very difficult to achieve. Most of the Spell Casters were unable to successfully transform their bodies.

Those who wanted to cultivate special Demon Abilities had to undergo the challenge of physical transformation. Once the transformation was successful, they would possess a powerful ability. On the other hand, if the physical transformation was unsuccessful, they would only face certain death.

Merlin had relied on the impressive regenerating powers of the mysterious relief sculptures to succeed in his physical transformation, thus, it was no longer difficult for him to cultivate the Glacier Country.

“Hum”.

On Merlin’s body, a mysterious symbol appeared. This mysterious symbol glowed with an ice-cold aura, drawing a chilling shudder. Endless Ice Elements began to accumulate around Merlin’s body.

The first step of cultivating the Glacier Country was to successfully carve out the mysterious symbol. Following that, he had to use his Mind Power to stimulate the symbol and follow the instructions of the Glacier Country to make it descend.

“Boom”.

Merlin's Mind Power was already sufficiently strong, coupled with his success in carving the symbol and stimulation of his Mind Power, the ice-cold sensation reappeared. Then, an invisible freezing space suddenly descended.

“Crack crack”.

Since Merlin was in the center, he could feel the invasion of the frigid blasts, but his body was now able to withstand the invasion and as a matter of fact, even felt a sense of familiarity.

An invisible ice-cold power enveloped the entire area. Merlin knew that this was the Glacier Country. If anyone was trapped within it, a mere thought from Merlin would be able to freeze the person or stir up a snowstorm, allowing infinite Ice Elements to rage throughout.

This was the horror of the Glacier Country. Once the Glacier Country descended, any Spell Caster who was trapped in it would be suppressed. In some instances, the Spell Caster would not even be able to wield half of his power.

The most important function of the Glacier Country was to suppress, limit and bind!

However, this was only the first form of the Glacier Country. Its binding ability was not too strong, and its effect on an average Seventh-level Spell Caster was also mediocre.

The Glacier Country also had seven forms. As the Demon Ability belonged to the Legend of Ice, its power was naturally formidable. Nevertheless, it would not be easy to cultivate its second, third, or more powerful forms.

Merlin's Darkness Eye was already cultivated by Wizard Leo to its fourth form, except that Wizard Leo had sealed the third and fourth forms. 1

Later on, Wizard Leo passed it down to Merlin, hence Merlin being able to wield the third form of the Darkness Eye. In fact, if Merlin resisted the backlash of the Darkness Eye in the future, he would immediately be able to wield the fourth form of the Darkness Eye.

The Glacier Country, on the other hand, was different. Merlin had to cultivate it step-by-step, from its first form onwards. The cultivation of Glacier Country was similar to other special Demon Abilities, which required an understanding of 'ice'.

Merlin's understanding of 'fire' was truly comprehensive. Since he had a Fire-type Maxim, he always had a profound understanding of 'fire'. In contrast, Merlin's understanding of Ice-type spells was no different from a beginner.

If he had to understand the essence of 'ice' in order to improve the Glacier Country to its second and third forms, it would take an indefinite period of time.

It could possibly take years, or maybe even decades. After such a long time, Merlin was not sure if the Glacier Country would still be useful to him.

Thinking along those lines, Merlin became frustrated. However, when he sensed the Ice Maxim that was being fully suppressed by both the Flame Maxim and his Mind Power, he had a stroke of genius.

If it was an understanding of 'ice' that he needed, there was no one who was more profound than the Ice Maxim itself. After all, it was the ultimate Maxim that belonged to the Legend of Ice and was the strongest Maxim of its element!

Thus, Merlin wielded the Glacier Country again, and the invisible Glacier Country descended. This was just its first form, so it was invisible and had a very small range. Naturally, its power was not very strong.

Once the Glacier Country descended, Merlin used all his strength to push the Ice Maxim, which had been 'driven away' by the Flame Maxim until only a small smidgen was left, directly into the Glacier Country.

"Boom."

The Ice Maxim gradually seeped into the Glacier Country, and it changed in its entirety rapidly. Since Ice Maxim had been the strongest technique of the Legend of Ice, its understanding of ice was almost at its peak. As a result, the Glacier Country was changing rapidly.

The originally invisible Glacier Country began to turn slightly transparent, enough to be faintly visible to the naked eye. This was the second form of the Glacier Country. Merlin could also clearly sense that its binding power had increased in strength.

Nevertheless, the Glacier Country was still evolving. Soon, it became translucent, and the landscape of the Glacier Country became apparent to the naked eye. It was like a realm of ice and snow, with draughts of frigid blasts whirling in the air. Its binding power was strong enough to suppress any Spell Caster.

Even the powers of special Demon Abilities would be weakened inside the Glacier Country. This was the third form of the Glacier Country. Merlin could clearly sense that the Ice Maxim was being consumed rapidly as if it would be completely exhausted quickly enough.

This was Merlin's limit, the third form of the Glacier Country!

"Retract!"

Merlin immediately activated the Flame Maxim to drive the Ice Maxim out of the Glacier Country. Without the Ice Maxim, the Glacier Country stopped changing its form.

"The third form!"

Finally, Merlin's Glacier Country stopped changing. He was now able to maintain the third form of the Glacier Country for about an hour. It was considered a long time; enough to kill any enemy that could cross his path.

Of course, this was also Merlin's limit. If it was the fourth form, Merlin might not even be able to support it, or perhaps his Magic Power would be depleted in the first instance and his Spell Models would collapse. The evolution of every form of special Demon Abilities was onerous and worsened substantially with each subsequent evolution.

The evolution from its first form to its third form took only a very short period of time, but it was not due to Merlin's cultivation. Instead, it had occurred by deception, because Merlin used the Ice Maxim to 'deceive' the Glacier Country into unlocking its third form.

Nevertheless, this 'deception' would only be made possible if a Spell Caster had, like Merlin, accidentally obtained the Ice Maxim, as well as was been eligible to cultivate the Glacier Country. If any of the two requirements had not been fulfilled, then it would not have come to fruition.

In reality, Merlin was the only person who relied on the Ice Maxim to 'deceive' the Glacier Country and cultivate its third form.

“I see. The Ice Maxim has such properties. In that case, I better save it.”

Merlin did not expect that the Ice Maxim, which was being forcefully suppressed by the Flame Maxim to prevent it from creating chaos in his Awareness, had such properties. It was actually able to help cultivate the Glacier Country quickly 2 . Therefore, he should preserve the Ice Maxim and not exhaust it, so that he could use it again when he was ready to cultivate the fourth form of the Glacier Country.

The translucent state of the Glacier Country was big enough to cover an area of a few hundred meters. Moreover, Merlin could also condense it further and reduce its coverage area, but it would consume significant amounts of Mind Power. If the coverage area of the Glacier Country was reduced, its power would be increased.

After successfully cultivating the Glacier Country, Merlin opened his eyes. He had been in the Frost Lord’s area for three months now. It was time to take a break.

Thus, Merlin stood up, opened the door, and calmly walked outside.

Chapter 422: Sorrow

On the other side of the door, Wizards Ernie and Watson were still standing respectfully as they remained vigilant to their surroundings. As Merlin’s slaves, they did not dare defy any of his orders.

Since Merlin requested them to stand guard, it must have been important. However, in contrast to Wizard Ernie’s careful diligence, Wizard Watson’s attitude appeared to be more slipshod.

From inside the house, Merlin was able to observe all the happenings outside. Within this period, he also developed a certain understanding of both Ernie and Watson.

Although Wizard Ernie was quite old, his personality was cautious and adaptable. Upon becoming Merlin’s slave, he fully discarded all his pride as a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

People like Ernie might not become high achievers, but in Merlin’s eyes, these were the type of people he needed. Watson, on the other hand, though he could not disobey Merlin, he was ultimately unable to discard his pride as a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

Wizard Watson's attitude could be considered to be normal. After all, he was a high-level Spell Caster and held a certain level of dignity associated with being a Seventh-level Spell Caster. Therefore, despite becoming a slave, he upheld his dignity.

In Merlin's eyes, Watson's usefulness was limited because he was quite normal. If they were ever faced with a highly dangerous situation, Merlin would choose to sacrifice Watson instead of Ernie.

Wizard Ernie was similar to Wizard Banmou in the sense that Merlin could use them as an extension of himself, and thus, they were able to help him solve a lot of problems.

"Master!"

When Merlin walked out of the house, Wizard Ernie immediately noticed and acknowledged him respectfully.

Wizard Watson hesitated slightly but came to Merlin's side.

Merlin nodded slightly. "Throughout this time, did the Frost Lord come?"

"Master, the Frost Lord never came," Wizard Ernie replied after pondering for a while.

Merlin was slightly surprised to hear that the Frost Lord did not come at all in the last three months. After all, before Merlin entered the Frost Pond, he signed a contract with the Frost Lord to defeat another snow sprite. Now three months had passed, yet the Frost Lord had not initiated any action. It was very strange indeed.

"Come, let's go out and see."

With both Ernie and Watson by his side, Merlin exited the isolated courtyard and headed towards the outside world.

The palace of the Frost Lord was extremely luxurious. The main color scheme was white, yet it seemed perfectly spotless, so it was obvious that the snow sprites cleaned the palace quite often.

Moreover, Merlin could also see a large number of snow sprites scurrying in and out of the palace complex. Ordinarily, there were very few of them outside.

They were similar to flame sprites, who were also extremely rare. Merlin had only ever encountered one flame sprite, and it was inside the ancient monuments. Even then, the flame sprite had been captured by the Great Wizard Dowland, the owner of the ancient monuments, who then imprisoned it for thousands of years.

Flame sprites and snow sprites were both elemental sprites, but inside the Frost Lord's palace complex, the number of snow sprites was unexpectedly bountiful. Their population was so dense that they seemed to be everywhere.

Wizard Ernie stole a look at Merlin and seemed to notice the look of disbelief on his face, so he carefully explained. "Master, one of the reasons there are so many snow sprites here is because they don't have a limited lifespan, so they could live for more than tens of thousands of years. Therefore, as time passes, it is not impossible for the number of snow sprites to slowly accumulate to its current population size in the Frost Lord's palace."

"Additionally, Subzero Snowfield is covered in thick snow all year long, so it's like a wonderland for Ice-type Spell Casters. With the high concentration of Ice Elements, more snow sprites are born here compared to anywhere else."

"However, the real reason behind the incredible population of snow sprites is the Frost Lord's influence. With the Frost Lord's protection, these snow sprites would not be captured by other Spell Casters and can live peacefully. Otherwise, no matter how many snow sprites there were, the Spell Casters would not cease their actions."

Listening to Wizard Ernie's explanation, Merlin nodded darkly. It was true that no matter how many snow sprites there were, their population would not be enough to cater to the level of demand from Spell Casters.

The power of the Frost Lord protected a large population of snow sprites and provided a stable environment for them to grow.

The snow sprites in this palace all possessed the skills of a Fourth-level Spell Caster and above. However, as opposed to Spell Casters, the differences in the snow sprites' level of abilities were determined based on their control over the Ice Elements.

Newborn snow sprites, on average, were already powerful enough that their control over the Ice Elements were comparable to a First-level Spell Caster. They were born naturally powerful and could progress up to Fourth-level rapidly with no problem.

Nevertheless, since God granted them such an advantage in the early stages, their progress would not be as smooth-sailing in the later stages. At Fourth-level, they would encounter a difficult hurdle, where many of the snow sprites would be required to undergo their first transformation.

If their transformation was successful, their control over the Ice Elements would be a cut above the rest. The Ice-type spells that they wielded would be much more powerful than Spell Casters of the same level. This was an attribute derived from their natural predispositions.

However, should the transformation be unsuccessful, these snow sprites would disappear completely and return to the air and the earth.

Moreover, this was far from over. From Fourth- to Sixth-level, snow sprites did not face any difficulties and were able to progress smoothly, but Seventh-level posed an even bigger hurdle.

Among all the snow sprites inside the palace complex, only the Frost Lord alone had succeeded in the transformation to achieve Seventh-level. Similarly, if this transformation was successful, then the snow sprites' abilities would be on par with Seventh-level Spell Casters with Fusion Demon Ability.

However, the specifics of how the snow sprites could undergo their transformation were not known by Ernie, Watson or even Merlin. It appeared to be a closely-guarded secret.

All the snow sprites in this palace were Fourth-level and above, which also meant that they were the ones who had undergone a successful transformation. The snow sprites below Fourth-level, who were yet to experience their first transformation, were not eligible to enter this palace.

“Bang.”

A massive crashing sound rang out, and Merlin stopped in his tracks. He raised his head to look around.

In the open space ahead of them, two powerful snow sprites appeared to be fighting. Judging from the elemental fluctuations emitted from their bodies, their controls over Ice Elements were extremely strong. These were Sixth-level snow sprites.

These two powerful Sixth-level snow sprites must have been fighting for a long time, and it was not a training spar, but a life-or-death battle!

Merlin frowned slightly and began to quietly observe the scene.

A few other snow sprites also gathered around these two snow sprites, but they did not seem to care about the public scrutiny and focused only on the intense battle between them. They controlled the Ice Elements and released a litany of powerful spells, wildly attacking each other.

Time and time again, both snow sprites injured themselves causing their body to turn slightly translucent. Once they turned completely transparent, they would collapse into nothing.

The collapse of a snow sprite was equivalent to its death!

The fight was a battle of death, but the other snow sprites surrounding them seemed like they were witnessing a common routine. They did not act other than simply observing the vicious battle between these two snow sprites.

“Gulp...”

Finally, one of the snow sprites seized the opportunity while its opponent’s attention was diverted. It cast an Ice Freeze to freeze its opponent, and then with a wide-opened mouth, it violently devoured its opponent.

Yes, devoured, as in a snow sprite just swallowed another snow sprite whole. This was Merlin’s first time witnessing this scene, so his jaw fell open with an expression of disbelief.

Like Merlin, Wizard Ernie and Wizard Watson, too, were astonished. Sixth-level snow sprites were considered powerful even in the outside world, and there were not that many of them in the palace to begin with.

The fact that the Frost Lord allowed the snow sprites to engage in a life-or-death battle was already hard to believe, but now they even devoured one another. It was incomprehensible.

Nevertheless, the other snow sprites did not seem at all surprised at the ending. Their expressions were resigned as they had already expected for it to happen. In addition, their focuses were transfixed on the snow sprite that had just devoured its companion.

Standing in a distance, Merlin's eyes were still shining with disbelief. However, a flicker of understanding had begun to dawn on him when he sensed a change in the elemental fluctuations emitted by that snow sprite.

The elemental fluctuations on the snow sprite intensified, like a pot of boiling water that reached its boiling point.

“Boom.”

The snow sprite exploded in an instant, blowing away the snow sprites around it. With that, the snow sprite that had earlier devoured its companion collapsed.

“Another failure!”

A gentle sigh resonated behind him, and Merlin promptly turned around. Apparently unbeknownst since when, the Frost Lord had appeared behind him.

The Frost Lord's gaze was locked on the snow sprites in a distance, its face riddled with a complicated expression. Merlin contemplated for a while and slowly spoke up. “Is this the real reason you're protecting the snow sprites? Just so that they can devour one another to boost their abilities?”

From Merlin's short observation, he understood that the two snow sprites were actually trying to devour one another. In order to boost their abilities, they would have to defeat their opponent to be able to swallow them.

The fact that they were able to devour their own companions in public without any fear of repercussion meant that the practice was endorsed by the Frost Lord. In the outside world, the Frost Lord had a praiseworthy reputation, but it seemed like there was a cruel side that was hidden from the public eye.

“You realized it?”

The Frost Lord’s expression did not waver. With a single glance at Merlin, the Frost Lord casually replied, “Correct. The population of snow sprites used to be extremely few in numbers, and our abilities were pathetically weak. We used to be captured by Spell Casters to boost their own powers, and there was nothing we could do. However, later on, I was fortunate enough to undergo the transformation. Through lots of experience, I found out that there was only one way for snow sprites to transform to Seventh-level, which is to devour a snow sprite of the same level.

“It’s so cruel to devour your own companions to transform! Regardless, it is our only option. Right now, the snow sprites only have me to fend-off the Spell Casters, but if I’m no longer around, the remaining snow sprites would revert into vulnerable prey for the Spell Casters once again. Therefore, more snow sprites must achieve Seventh-level, and for that purpose, they must transform!”

“Thus, I built the Frost Kingdom, so that the snow sprites will be protected in this place! Large numbers of snow sprites throng this place upon hearing the news because they would enjoy some peace for a while. However, if they want to transform and become stronger, they would have to devour their companions. It’s just that, over such a long period of time, I’m still the only snow sprite that had managed to transform after devouring a companion. The rest have all failed.”

The Frost Lord looked at the snow sprites in a distance, unconcealed sorrow on its face.

Chapter 423: Wizard Blackmurk!

Merlin kept silent. Apparently, it was truly arduous for snow sprites to transform themselves and to enhance their abilities. It was also inexplicably cruel that they had to devour their own companions to have a chance at transformation.

The flame sprite that Merlin was currently suppressing had not undergone any transformation despite surviving countless years in the ancient monuments. As such, its abilities did not grow. Perhaps it was because there were no other flame sprites around for it to devour, thus it could not transform.

In the entire kingdom of the Frost Lord, the only snow sprite that was comparable with a Seventh-level Spell Caster was the Frost Lord alone. All the other snow sprites, despite their attempts to transform, had not succeeded.

Merlin suddenly recalled that the Frost Lord had made him sign a contract to defeat another snow sprite that was also equivalent to a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

Previously, Merlin had wondered why the Frost Lord would want to defeat such a powerful snow sprite, but now he realized the Frost Lord had a very important purpose.

“Frost Lord, you’re thinking of devouring a companion in order to transform further?” Merlin asked in a low voice, his gaze unwavering from the Frost Lord.

Besides this, Merlin could not think of another reason why the Frost Lord would spend so much effort to defeat a similarly-skilled Seventh-level snow sprite.

The Frost Lord replied after a long pause, “You’re right. Right now, I can only protect these snow sprites temporarily. There are many Spell Casters in Subzero Snowfield who are much more powerful than I am. Perhaps they could not be bothered, or do not bear any bad intentions towards the snow sprites, therefore they had never acted against my kingdom. Nonetheless, entrusting our safety to the will of others will not last forever. We snow sprites have to control our fate in our own hands! Therefore, I need to become more powerful, and the only way is for me to transform is to devour a companion!”

A steely look of determination rose in the Frost Lord’s eyes.

“Frost Lord, how long will it be until we can depart? I cannot afford to spend a few years here!”

Merlin was referring to the contract. No matter for what reason the Frost Lord wanted to defeat the other Seventh-level snow sprite, Merlin was only concerned about discharging his obligations under the contract and to leave this place. He did not want to be confined in this place for a long time.

“Soon, just wait for a bit. Once Wizard Blackmurk is ready, we can move.”

Once the Frost Lord mentioned Wizard Blackmurk, Merlin’s heart thumped, and he glanced expectantly at Ernie. Wizard Ernie quietly replied, “Master, Wizard Blackmurk is a Seventh-level Spell Caster, but his reputation in Subzero Snowfield is savage. He has an Alchemy Creature that is completely venomous all over. He excels at concocting venoms so deadly that even Seventh-level Spell Casters have to be careful. Even the slightest contamination from his venom would corrode all defensive spells. In Subzero Snowfield, Wizard Blackmurk is so fearsome that even the Eighth-

level Wizards are unwilling to provoke him. I wonder what price the Frost Lord paid to persuade Wizard Blackmurk to come.”

Just the mere mention of Wizard Blackmurk revealed a trace of trepidation on Wizard Ernie’s face, which shed light on his infamy in Subzero Snowfield. Additionally, most of it constituted villainy, that even Wizard Ernie felt terrified of him despite being at the same level.

Actually, upon achieving Seventh-level, the gap between Spell Casters becomes more pronounced. The comparison between an average Seventh-level Spell Caster and a top Seventh-level Spell Caster could be as different as heaven and earth. Merlin and many other Spell Casters might be able to cross-levels and vanquish average Seventh-level Spell Casters, but the top Seventh-level Spell Casters had an arsenal of powerful spells and were also supported by Fusion Demon Abilities. This league of top Seventh-level Spell Casters were truly formidable that even Merlin was not a worthy opponent.

Wizards Ernie and Watson were considered average Seventh-level Wizards. They had neither powerful spells nor Pandora Demon Abilities, so in comparison, they were far from the powerful Seventh-level Spell Casters.

This Blackmurk was obviously not an average Seventh-level Spell Caster, so much so that even Wizard Ernie was terrified of him.

“Hum”.

Suddenly, a gentle breeze whooshed past, then immediately followed by vortex forming in the sky. Its effects were so distinctive that even a First-level Spell Caster would be able to sense that the change was brought about by someone controlling the Wind Elements.

Merlin squinted slightly. Someone was coming!

The Frost Lord looked at the vortex in the sky and its lips curled into a mysterious smile. It said slowly, “We just mentioned Wizard Blackmurk, and he’s here! Looks like we don’t have to wait too long, we can depart soon!”

The Wizard Blackmurk mentioned by the Frost Lord was apparently arriving now. Someone who was specially invited by the Frost Lord would surely be quite outstanding, in addition to Wizard Ernie’s trepidation at the mere mention of his name, Blackmurk must be extraordinary. Hence, Merlin also expanded his Mind Power to observe his surroundings

Soon, a small black dot appeared in the distant sky. Amidst a vortex with unparalleled force stood a blue-robed old man looking down in disdain.

“Whoosh”.

The old man landed in just one stride. Every step he took seemed to be shrouded by black smog. At the same time, behind him was an indistinguishable monster that was three-meters tall and dark as night. A nasty stench lingered after every step, and its body was covered with a strong corrosive venom.

It was the Alchemy Creature that was covered in venom. The venom even made Merlin feel threatened.

“Skrr-skrr-skrr”.

Wizard Blackmurk led the Alchemy Creature forwards, and wherever they stepped was filled with a foul stench. Looking bizarrely creepy, it was accompanied by a trace of black smoke. A pitch-black, tar-like sticky substance oozed out and rapidly corroded the pure white ice crystals.

“Hehe, Frost Lord, I came as promised!”

Blackmurk grinned slightly as he led the Alchemy Creature to stand before the Frost Lord. His glance swept over Merlin and the others but did not stop on them, his attention fully tuned to the Frost Lord.

The Frost Lord’s face twitched slightly as it threw a repulsive gaze at the Alchemy Creature behind Blackmurk. In a deep voice, the Frost Lord said, “Wizard Blackmurk, let me introduce to you the Dark Fire Incarnate who recently sent waves in Subzero Snowfield, Wizard Merlin! This time, I’ve invited Wizard Merlin to join us in challenging Paolo.”

“The Dark Fire Incarnate?”

Blackmurk was momentarily stunned, then he shifted his gaze onto Merlin.

Blackmurk's gaze was aggressively penetrating as if he was trying to see through Merlin's entire body. Nevertheless, Merlin was not at all afraid of Blackmurk, so both their gazes met and began to challenge one another mid-air.

"Hmph. What is this Dark Fire Incarnate nonsense? He's naught but a mere dark wizard, how dare he call himself an incarnate? Frost Lord, I don't care whom you invite along, but people who aren't powerful enough should not be weighing us down, it will only embarrass us!"

"Bang".

The Alchemy Creature behind Blackmurk took a violent lurch backward, and its huge body broke the ice layer. Following that, accompanied by a foul stench, it leaped forward like a flash of lightning straight at Merlin.

On the other hand, Blackmurk stretched out a scarlet tongue and licked his dry chapped lips with a cruel glint in his eyes.

Merlin's eyes narrowed but did not panic. Instead, he gently extended a finger and made a small tapping gesture.

"Roar".

Flames, endless flames, formed a wall of fire and blocked the Alchemy Creature from advancing. When black venomous substance was shot out of the Alchemy Creature, it would immediately be burned to ashes by the pale white flames without a trace.

"Oh? Interesting!"

This was the first time Blackmurk had met Merlin. Although he had previously heard of Merlin, they were all rumors. Apparently, rumors about the Dark Fire Incarnate was already widespread in Subzero Snowfield.

In Subzero Snowfield, there were many Spell Casters with fierce reputations like Merlin, so Blackmurk did not care to know. However, the one thing that caught his attention was the rumor that Merlin had obtained the second volume of the Neverending Book.

In the second volume of the Neverending Book, he would be able to find the third volume of the Neverending Book. The reason Blackmurk had not pursued it back then was because he was entangled in another matter, but now that he met Merlin here, he would not hold back any further. Thus, he directly ordered the Alchemy Creature to attack.

Half of Blackmurk's abilities actually rested upon the Alchemy Creature. As long as a single dab of venom managed to contaminate Merlin's body, Blackmurk believed that it was enough to induce a headache for any Seventh-level Spell Casters.

This was also the reason why Blackmurk had been able to have such a fearsome reputation in Subzero Snowfield. The venom-covered Alchemy Creature inspired fear among the Seventh-level Spell Casters.

"Knock it down!"

Blackmurk snorted. He had injected so much effort into this Alchemy Creature that it was almost invincible. Regardless of what attack befell the Alchemy Creature, it did not cause too big of an impact.

The same was true of Merlin's flames. Despite his flames already achieving the ultimate limit of a Seventh-level spell, its power was not fully utilized to attack the Alchemy Creature but was used as a means of defense. Therefore, the Alchemy Creature was not afraid. Despite being covered in a blanket of raging flames, the Alchemy Creature continued its sprint towards Merlin.

Merlin could not help but frown. An Alchemy Creature that was not afraid of death was truly troublesome to deal with. Regardless, he would not allow the Alchemy Creature to come close to him.

Moreover, Merlin also had Flash Wind, so he was only a mere thought away from leaving, and the Alchemy Creature would no longer be able to harm him. Nevertheless, since he was being tested by Blackmurk, he refused to budge!

"Hoo".

Merlin pointed a finger towards the sky, and in an instant, all the snow sprites in the palace were staring vacantly at the sky. They saw concentrated Darkness Elements gathering in the sky, and the formerly bright sky turned dark.

Subsequently, the sky would turn even darker and eventually pitch-black, to the point that it would not be possible to see their own fingers stretched out in front of their faces!

This was Merlin's Darkness Illusory Death spell that had been further enhanced by the Darkness Heart. In fact, it was even more intimidating than those powerful Fusion Demon Abilities!

In the blink of an eye, darkness descended!

Blackmurk's face changed when he felt the presence of a strong illusion. It would not affect him, but his Alchemy Creature was not an inanimate monster. It possessed a tiny sliver of awareness that was deliberately left behind by Blackmurk himself. Otherwise, an inanimate Alchemy Creature would not be able to grow and become stronger.

Now, the tiny sliver of awareness that he left behind in the Alchemy Creature would be threatened by Merlin's darkness spell, as the Alchemy Creature might very well be entrapped by the illusion.

For the first time, Blackmurk sensed that the rumored 'Dark Fire Incarnate' was truly powerful!

"Crack".

At this very moment, the Frost Lord acted. With a wave of the Frost Lord's hand, strong Mind Power pierced the darkness and a thick ice wall blocked the Alchemy Creature's way, separating Merlin and Blackmurk.

"Both of you are my esteemed guests, so please stop. Your respective techniques and strengths will be useful when the time comes!"

The Frost Lord could see that Merlin and Blackmurk were equally matched as long as they did not use their trump cards. This actually impressed the Frost Lord because Blackmurk's notorious reputation had prevailed in Subzero Snowfield for such a long time that even Eighth-level Wizards dared not provoke him. This was mostly due to the strength of his Alchemy Creature.

The fact that Merlin was able to restrain Blackmurk's Alchemy Creature was already a testament to his abilities.

“Dark Fire Incarnate Wizard Merlin, I’m very interested in the second volume of the Neverending Book in your hands. We’ll battle again at the next opportunity!”

Blackmurk said with a smirk, his tone laced with deadly venom.

Chapter 424: Paolo I

On the snowy horizons, there were some occasional dome-shaped igloos. The characteristics of these houses were very unique because it was put together using blocks of ice. Most of them were built by Spell Casters.

At this moment, two Spell Casters, a male and a female, stood before the dome-shaped igloos. The female Spell Caster was young, perhaps fourteen or fifteen years old. Her face was pure and innocent, and her big eyes were transfixed on the tall man dressed in a long white Wizard’s robes.

“Brother Paolo, my father asked you to explain some of the things that I need to pay attention to regarding the First-level Wind-type spells, but your explanation just now was a little too complicated, so I didn’t understand. Can you repeat it again?”

The tall, white-robed Wizard had handsomely chiseled features, and his smile was exceptionally dazzling, like a bright ray of sunshine that made everyone feel warm.

The female Wizard liked the white-robed Wizard’s smile so much, that she even told a small lie to see him for a little longer. Using her lack of understanding as an excuse, she requested the white-robed Wizard to repeat himself.

The white-robed Wizard appeared to be very patient as he smiled. “Alright, I’ll explain it to you again.”

Following that, the white-robed Wizard started to share some knowledge about First-level Wind-type spells in a simplified manner. His explanations were very detailed, which showed that his understanding of First-level Wind-type spells was very profound.

The female Wizard listened intently, but more attention was paid to the white-robed Wizard in front of her. She was very fond of Brother Paolo as he was kind and talented. Her father once mentioned that it was only a matter of time before Paolo would become a Fourth-level Spell Caster.

A Fourth-level Spell Caster was the strongest person the female Wizard had ever seen. She seldom went out in Subzero Snowfield and had only met a handful of people, so from her limited exposure, a Fourth-level Spell Caster was already very powerful.

Once the white-robed Wizard finished explaining, the female Wizard suddenly asked, “Brother Paolo, do you know if there are more powerful Wizards outside?”

“Outside?”

The white-robed Wizard paused slightly, and his smile faltered. Then, he nodded his head. “Of course there are more powerful Spell Casters on the outside. Besides Fourth-level, there are also Fifth, Sixth, and even Seventh-level Spell Casters!”

The female Wizard was enthralled to hear that. Naturally, she did not understand what Seventh-level Wizards were like, because the most powerful Spell Caster she had ever met was only her father, who was a Fourth-level Spell Caster.

“Whoosh”.

Right there and then, an old Wizard returned from Subzero Snowfield. Upon seeing the old Wizard, the female Wizard smiled and rushed forward to welcome him. “Father, you’re back. Brother Paolo was just telling me about the outside world.”

“Oh, the outside world? You’ll see it one day.”

The old Wizard cast an unfathomable look at the white-robed Wizard. For some unknown reason, his gaze was faintly filled with awe.

“Teacher!”

The white-robed wizard also came to the old Wizard and greeted him respectfully. If the old Wizard was the white-robed Wizard’s teacher, then the ‘awe’-filled gaze was all the more incomprehensible.

Nevertheless, the awed look in the old Wizard's eyes was fleeting and was soon replaced with a calm expression. He nodded. "Paolo, you..."

Before he could finish, however, Paolo's expression changed drastically. The old Wizard seemed to realize what was happening and quickly raised his head. The previously clear sky had suddenly turned dark.

Moreover, the darkness seemed to be condensing even further. Concentrated Darkness Elements seemed to be gathering in frenzy.

"My, my, my, how unexpected. The Seventh-level snow sprite Paolo is actually hiding here as a teeny-weeny Spell Caster!"

From the infinite darkness, a figure slowly emerged. The figure was dressed in a black robe and his features were child-like. He looked very young, except for a pair of harrowing, battle-scarred bottomless eyes that caused people to be involuntarily spellbound.

"Who are you?"

After a lengthy pause, the white-robed man stood up abruptly, and the smile disappeared from his face. Instead, it was replaced by an icy look. The old Wizard, on the other hand, was now hunched behind the white-robed man as he murmured in a low voice. "Master."

Just a moment ago he was the white-robed Wizard's 'teacher', but in the blink of an eye, the 'teacher' had become a slave. This abrupt change was quite puzzling, but the white-robed man seemed unperturbed. He nodded. "Retreat now. The matter at hand is not for you to be involved in!"

The old Wizard took a deep look at the mysterious figure that emerged from the darkness and swiftly retreated. Seventh-level fluctuations flashed on his body. Apparently, he was a Seventh-level Spell Caster too!

The mysterious Wizard who emerged from the darkness only glanced placidly at the retreating old Wizard. Calmly, he said, "Who I am is not important. What's important here is, today you won't be able to escape!"

“Really? With just this darkness spell? Let me guess, the Frost Lord invited you to come, and besides you, there are also others in hiding to ambush me. Come out then, Frost Lord, I’ve already smelled your aura, you know very well that neither of us can fool the other.”

The white-robed Wizard, Paolo, had his hands clasped behind his back. There was not a single trace of fear. Instead, he spoke calmly as his eyes swept around the vicinity.

“Sigh.”

A deep sigh resounded in the air, followed by a gust of white cold air. The cold air gradually condensed into a figure, and it was the Frost Lord.

The Frost Lord glanced at the white-robed man with a troubled expression. In a low voice, it said, “Paolo, we meet again!”

Paolo seemed to be filled with regret as he replied, “Yes, we meet again. This time, you’ve made the decision to devour me?”

Paolo seemed to be mocking himself as he stared unblinkingly at the Frost Lord.

The Frost Lord did not react. Quietly, the Frost Lord said, “Paolo, we were born together and grew up together. Then, we were forced to devour our companions to finally become Seventh-level snow sprites! In order to protect more snow sprites, I need to build a stronger force to stand against the Spell Casters, so that the snow sprites will no longer be captured. I needed your help, but instead, you chose another path. You chose to wander around and be free, but you have neglected your mission! Nevertheless, it’s still not too late, Paolo. Besides me, you are the only snow sprite in Subzero Snowfield that had managed to transform. As long as you agree to follow me back to the kingdom and help the other snow sprites, it’s still not too late.”

“And if I don’t agree?” Paolo asked in a frosty tone.

“Don’t agree...”

After a moment of silence, the Frost Lord raised its head fiercely with a look of determination and said, “If you don’t agree, then don’t blame me. In order for snow sprites to become stronger, we can only devour our companions. I’ve reached the bottleneck, so in order to transform, I can only

devour you. Since you are unwilling to help me voluntarily, then you will contribute your strength to help me transform, in order to protect the snow sprites!”

The look on the Frost Lord’s face was maniacal.

“Haha.”

Paolo laughed. “Your so-called mission is nothing but shackles that you have placed upon yourself. No one forced you to shoulder the burden. That is their destiny as snow sprites and a part of nature. The fact that you and I managed to escape that destiny was merely a stroke of luck, it does not make it a mandatory requirement! If there was any use to force it to happen, and if your method was correct, then tell me, why is it that after so many years, not a single Seventh-level snow sprite has emerged from within your kingdom?”

Paolo sneered. He was well acquainted with the Frost Lord. After all, they were born together and grew up together, and they even devoured their own companions together and transformed into Seventh-level snow sprites. In the entire Subzero Snowfield, it was a very rare occurrence.

Later on, due to the clash in their ideologies, these two snow sprites went their separate ways.

“Too late, whatever you say now is useless! Wizard Merlin, Wizard Blackmurk, attack!”

The Frost Lord took a deep breath and its expression turned indifferent once again. The main purpose of coming here today was to surround Paolo and devour him in order for the Frost Lord to embark in its transformation.

Wizards Merlin and Blackmurk had both signed a contract with the Frost Lord. Thus, they could only attack as per the Frost Lord’s command and help the Frost Lord suppress Paolo.

“Darkness Illusory Death!”

With a sweeping command from Merlin, the surrounding became pitch-black to the extent that it was impossible to see one’s outstretched fingers. Even Paolo would not be able to sense his entire surroundings.

This was a very dangerous situation because there could be unknown threats lurking in the darkness. Since the Frost Lord had deliberately planned this trip to confront Paolo, there must be a detailed strategy.

Thinking along those lines, Paolo dared not regard the attack lightly. He frantically activated his Mind Power, because it was the most direct way to break through the illusion.

“Boom”.

An enormous Mind Power rose into the sky. Merlin’s darkness spell was unable to counter Mind Power above Seventh-level, so Paolo was immediately able to observe his surroundings.

However, by looking clearly at his surroundings, Paolo found himself in grave danger!

A huge, gangly, pitch-black Alchemy Creature that was emitting a foul stench was headed straight towards Paolo, its hands outstretched to smash him to death.

The Alchemy Creature’s speed was unmistakably fast, and because of Merlin’s Darkness-type spell, Paolo did not notice it until now. It was too late for him to escape, he could only face it head-on.

“Ice Freeze!”

Paolo extended a finger and a thick wall of ice appeared before him. When it came to the control over Ice Elements, Spell Casters of the same level were still far from comparable to the elemental sprites.

Therefore, despite being cast in a hurry, Paolo’s Ice-type spell was still quite powerful.

“Crash”.

The Alchemy Creature slammed its palm onto the thick wall of ice, and there was a ‘hissing’ sound. It was the venom eating away at the ice crystals, and soon enough the ice crystals corroded away and revealed a gaping hole. The venom-covered Alchemy Creature reappeared on the other side, and its crimson gaze was locked on Paolo.

Paolo's face paled. He remembered rumors of a Spell Caster who was similar to the Alchemy Creature in front of him.

"Wizard Blackmurk!"

With Paolo's gasp, Wizard Blackmurk showed himself. He was controlling the Alchemy Creature from afar as it battled Paolo. Even Merlin had to admit that compared to any Spell Caster, the venom-covered Alchemy Creature was much tougher to defeat.

Any Spell Caster would be hard-pressed to fight a venom-covered Alchemy Creature because even the slightest contamination from the venom would land them in a place of no return!

Chapter 425: Paolo II

"Rumble rumble rumble".

The Alchemy Creature's steps were so fast that it seemed to be flying. Despite its huge stature, all that could be seen was a slight blur and the residual black smoke left in its wake. This smoke was extremely poisonous, and the slightest contamination would be a disaster.

Paolo's face was completely serious now. With a slight push of both his hands, endless streams of cold air began to pour out. His control of the Ice Elements was equally matched with the Frost Lord, but far exceeded Spell Casters of the same level.

"Crack crack crack".

The ground was almost entirely frozen by ice crystals, but in the blink of an eye, the white ice crystals turned black again. This was because the Alchemy Creature flew forward swiftly, and with a single step from the monster, venom spurted out and corroded the ice crystals.

"Blackmurk, I'm actually eager to see, how strong is your Alchemy Creature?"

Paolo was relatively passive. After being forced to retreat multiple times by the Alchemy Creature and forced into a corner, only then did he react in anger. With a leap backward, his body began to expand rapidly.

Just like the Frost Lord, Paolo swiftly revealed its true form. Its body began to swell rapidly and became even taller and bigger than the Alchemy Creature. In addition, Paolo's body was covered with rippling muscles and was surrounded by a brutal aura.

Upon revealing its true form, Paolo's control over the Ice Elements grew even stronger. With a clutch of his hands, a huge ice rod appeared in the air. It was as thick as a pillar, and it swung heavily towards the Alchemy Creature.

“Thud”.

The Alchemy Creature who was initially having the upper hand flew and slammed heavily onto the ground. Fortunately, the Alchemy Creature had been transfigured by Wizard Blackmurk with meticulous effort, so its ability to recover was extremely strong. This small injury would heal quickly and would not cause much damage to the Alchemy Creature.

Nevertheless, this was far from the end. It also proved that Paolo in its true form had a terrifying control of the Ice Elements. In fact, Paolo might even be slightly more powerful than the Frost Lord. Beside Paolo, countless Ice Elements had gathered together, enough for Merlin and the others to distinctly sense the gradual accumulation of Ice Elements around them.

Paolo looked at Merlin and the others with a frosty gaze and spoke up. “Frost Lord, back then, you and I grew up together. Do you think I don't know what you're thinking? Your noble-sounding words can only fool the snow sprites. Hehe. You've gathered so many snow sprites in your kingdom, but all you really dreamt about is for them to transform into Seventh-level snow sprites so that they can be devoured by you! It's too bad that none of them had been able to transform, so now you can only hunt me down. Do you think that by bringing along these two Spell Casters, you can suppress me? Dream on!”

Towards the end of his rant, Paolo was almost growling in anger. In the air around them, a storm began to brew; a storm that was filled with large amounts of ice crystals.

“Crack”.

Finally, the ground and even the air began to freeze. One of the first targets to be frozen was Wizard Blackmurk's Alchemy Creature, so it appeared that Paolo was also repulsed by this Alchemy Creature.

Thick ice crystals were keeping Wizard Blackmurk's Alchemy Creature's frozen. Although the ice layers were quivering rapidly and cracked open one after another, new ice layers were forming at a faster rate. Paolo's control over the Ice Elements was truly formidable. Despite the rate at which it was being consumed, it did not seem to affect Paolo. In fact, Paolo was still able to divert its attention to battle other Spell Casters.

It was no wonder then, despite the Frost Lord being no less powerful than a peak Seventh-level Spell Caster, it saw the need to invite Merlin and Wizard Blackmurk along to defeat Paolo. It was true that Paolo was very hard to beat.

"Hehe, you think that without the Alchemy Creature, I would be left vulnerable?"

Wizard Blackmurk's face changed slightly and turned bright red. He waved a large hand and a strong gale gushed out. However, this gale was very ominous as it was black in color.

The gale was black because it was filled with a venomous substance. All of Wizard Blackmurk's spells carried some form of venom, and the strength of his spells were considerably formidable. Although they did not contain any Pandora Demon Ability, the strength of his spells was impressive enough.

Merlin narrowed his eyes slightly. He knew that it was not true that Wizard Blackmurk did not have any Pandora Demon Ability, but his Pandora Demon Ability was Defensive-type. Hence, Wizard Blackmurk used his powerful Pandora Demon Ability to first and foremost to protect his life. He used the Alchemy Creature to complement his Seventh-level spells, which made him almost invincible and matchless.

"Chi chi chi".

Controlled by Paolo, countless ice flakes fluttered in the air and flew directly towards Merlin and the Frost Lord. With just his own capabilities, Paolo was fighting against Merlin, the Frost Lord, and Wizard Blackmurk all at once.

The Frost Lord also roared and revealed its true form. In an instant, the temperature dropped further, that even Merlin felt a slight chill.

The ferocious battle between the Frost Lord and Paolo, with the help of Wizard Blackmurk but without the Alchemy Creature, was still not enough to suppress Paolo.

On the contrary, Paolo's strength seemed to be growing. The scattering range of his ice crystals seemed to stretch further and further, almost threatening Wizard Blackmurk who had retreated far away. Moreover, despite the Alchemy Creature struggling to break free of Paolo's Ice Freeze, the ice layers seemed to be freezing one layer on top of another continuously. The Alchemy Creature was completely frozen and would not be able to break free within a short time.

It would be difficult to only rely on Wizard Blackmurk and the Frost Lord to suppress Paolo.

"Dark Fire Incarnate, are you planning to just be a bystander?"

Wizard Blackmurk was getting enraged. Since he had an existing rift with Merlin, he could not allow Merlin to just watch the fight unfold while he fought tooth and nail with Paolo.

The Frost Lord also growled. "Wizard Merlin, act now, don't forget the contract!"

Merlin stared into space. In fact, he was already feeling a slight pressure from the contract. If he did not act now, the force of the contract would descend. This type of power would appear anywhere at any time, as long as a contract had been signed, and could not be defied even by the strongest Spell Casters.

"Incinerating Fire!"

Merlin took a deep breath, and pale white flames began to pour out from his body. As opposed to his Darkness spells, the Fire-type spells would have a greater effect on snow sprites like Paolo.

As expected, the raging flames began to melt the ice crystals and turned them into water vapor, disappearing without a trace. With the gradual spread of the flames, it greatly reduced Wizard Blackmurk and the Frost Lord's burden.

However, that was not all. Merlin also guided the flames towards the ice crystals that was keeping the Alchemy Creature frozen in place. With the help of Merlin's flames, the Alchemy Creature was able to break free from its bindings in an instant. There was a loud roar as the Alchemy Creature leaped out of its bindings.

Seeing that the Alchemy Creature had escaped its bindings, Wizard Blackmurk was overjoyed. Immediately, he took control of the Alchemy Creature and joined in the siege on Paolo.

With the addition of the Alchemy Creature, Paolo was instantly at a disadvantage. Considering Merlin's flame spell, Paolo was already vaguely suppressed. He could only fight back but could no longer attack.

The Frost Lord was the most aggressive of the lot and was almost going all-out. It was eager to devour Paolo, and perhaps transform to Eighth-level, then it would become one of the most powerful forces in Subzero Snowfield!

It was important to note that once the Frost Lord achieved Eighth-level, it would not be on par with an average Eighth-level Spell Caster, but instead comparable to the top Eighth-level Spell Casters with Fusion Demon Ability. A Spell Caster like that, even during the golden era of Spell Casters, would be considered a truly powerful one.

During the most glorious era of Spell Casters, all of them possessed spells of unimaginable power at a snap of their fingers. This was because the Spell Casters back then were all cultivating Pandora Demon Abilities, and also fused it into their spells.

Only Spell Casters of that level were considered a normal Spell Caster. Otherwise, they would be considered as weak Spell Casters or Spell Casters without potential. Regardless of their levels, they would not be respected.

Once the Frost Lord managed to break through to Eighth-level, it would be equivalent to those Eighth-level Wizards with Fusion Demon Abilities. Its power would be unrivaled; thus, it was no wonder that it was so eager, and almost spared no cost in conscripting Wizard Blackmurk and Merlin to defeat Paolo.

"Whoosh..."

Suddenly, a wild gust of wind appeared, and the old Wizard just now materialized beside Paolo. The old Wizard's face was anxious as he whispered, "Master, you better go, you're not their opponent. I'll hold them off."

"You..."

Paolo suddenly saw the female Wizard behind the old Wizard, and its gaze softened. Back then, Paolo had found this old Wizard when it was wandering Subzero Snowfield alone. Paolo saved the old Wizard's life and, in return, used him to hide its identity.

However, the old Wizard continued to regard Paolo as his master, volunteering himself as its slave. Right now, he had come to fend off the attacks from the Frost Lord and the Alchemy Creature to protect Paolo.

"Leave? I'm afraid there's no chance!"

Wizard Blackmurk grinned sinisterly. With a stretch of his hand, a large black fog came into view and shrouded the old Wizard. In an instant, the old Wizard's body began to wither rapidly. His Seventh-level defensive spell was unable to resist the corrosion of the venom.

Soon, there was no longer any trace of life on the old Wizard. An ordinary Seventh-level Wizard was not worth mentioning in the books of Wizard Blackmurk. It did not matter how many Seventh-level Spell Casters came to Paolo's aid, as long as they did not possess any Demon Ability.

Paolo's face suddenly etched into a smile and a frightening aura flared up from his body. The Ice Elements seemed to be even more aggressive than ever before.

"Frost Lord, I initially did not want to devour a companion, but you forced my hand! Haha. You wanted to devour me, but let's see, in the end, who will devour the other?"

Paolo's body actually swelled up again and became more than five meters tall. It turned into a fierce, horrifying monster that was covered with a thick layer of icy armor. No matter how much the Alchemy Creature tried, it was unable to break the defense.

Without breaking the icy armor, it did not matter how venomous the substance on the Alchemy Creature was because it was unable to harm Paolo.

In addition to the spell attack from Wizard Blackmurk, every single attack from the Alchemy Creature packed a great force, but still, Paolo chose to resist them face-on. Obviously, Paolo was wielding a mysterious ability that was able to resist such a powerful siege.

Nevertheless, there must have been some repercussions because Paolo seemed to turn crazy. His eyes were bloodshot and were focused on the Frost Lord alone. With a giant lurch, it came in front

of the Frost Lord. Then, with a grasp of Paolo's hand, the entire surrounding was instantly frozen. Comparing their control over the Ice Elements, the Frost Lord was not as formidable as Paolo.

Therefore, once Paolo turned savage and managed to withstand the Alchemy Creature and Wizard Blackmurk's attacks, it smoothly caught the Frost Lord in its hand.

"Paolo, you want to devour me?"

At this moment, the Frost Lord was terrified. It did not imagine that it would face the fate of being devoured. The Frost Lord was born together with Paolo, and they grew up and became Seventh-level snow sprites together, yet the Frost Lord had always been more ambitious and more cunning compared to Paolo. The Frost Lord was the one who dreamt of ruling over Subzero Snowfield one day.

However, the Frost Lord's plans and dreams had been crushed into pieces! Just as it could devour Paolo, so can Paolo devour the Frost Lord.

"Disappear with all your dreams..."

Paolo's eyes were bloodshot, and his face was streaked with insanity. Then, his mouth opened wide and a huge bloody mouth appeared. It was big enough to directly devour the huge body of the Frost Lord.

Chapter 426: Greed

At this point of time, Paolo was already unstoppable. With a single swipe, it grabbed and froze the Frost Lord. They were both snow sprites and thus should have the same level of control of Ice Elements. However, for some unfathomable reason, Paolo seemed to be more powerful in its control of Ice Elements than the Frost Lord.

Therefore, Paolo was able to completely suppress the Frost Lord while the latter was not even able to control a single Ice Element.

Once Paolo devoured the Frost Lord, there were two possibilities. If Paolo failed, it would not be a problem. On the other hand, if Paolo succeeded, it could potentially become a powerful Eight-level Wizard. Moreover, it would become one of the top Eighth-level Wizards who were so powerful that they were acknowledged even during the Spell Casters' most glorious era.

Facing such a powerful Spell Caster, both Merlin and Wizard Blackmurk dared not think that they would be able to emerge triumphant. On the contrary, it might be difficult for them to even escape, so they would be in great danger.

“Shit, we mustn’t allow him to devour the Frost Lord!”

Wizard Blackmurk’s expression paled, and controlled his Alchemy Creature to rush forward. Nevertheless, despite the speed possessed by the Alchemy Creature, it would not arrive in time to stop Paolo from devouring the Frost Lord!

Paolo’s big mouth was stretched open like a blood-filled basin and began to sink its teeth into the Frost Lord. In that brutal face, there was no trace whatsoever of the previously kind-looking handsome man.

“Glacier Country, descend!”

Right at this moment, Merlin acted. The spell he chose to use was the newly-cultivated Glacier Country, a special Pandora Demon Ability which could completely suppress and bind everything within it. When Glacier Country descended, there was a translucent light ray flashing continuously.

Wisps of cold air began to condense rapidly, and despite Paolo stretching his big mouth a little wider, he was unable to swallow the Frost Lord. In other words, his motions became incomparably slow.

This was the exact purpose of Glacier Country as everything would be suppressed and every ability would be bound. Although Paolo had unparalleled control over Ice Elements, he was not able to control Ice Elements within Glacier Country.

“Boom!”

Merlin wielded Glacier Country to slow down Paolo’s devouring progress, and then with a flick of his finger, raging flames began to burn and engulf Paolo.

Despite the thick layers of ice crystals protecting Paolo, he was unable to resist the two-pronged attack from Merlin’s Glacier Country and Incinerating Fire.

Since Merlin succeeded in mastering Glacier Country, he could now rely on its powers to suppress and bind his opponents while he used other attacking spells to complement his strategy. Basically, he no longer had any problems dealing with opponents below the Seventh-level because very few Wizards under the Seventh-level would be able to pose a threat to him.

Even Paolo, a snow sprite who was naturally gifted with unparalleled control over Ice Elements, was no longer a worthy opponent once Merlin wielded Glacier Country.

While Merlin's raging flames would not inflict any harm on Paolo within a short period of time, Paolo would not be able to withstand it longer.

"What power is that?"

Feeling anxious, Paolo asked. Presently, the Frost Lord had recovered its free will once again but was regarding Merlin with certain disbelief. The Frost Lord could not believe that Merlin was able to defeat Paolo just by himself.

"What power it is doesn't matter. What's important here is that you've lost!"

"Crunch!"

Just as Merlin finished speaking, the ice crystals on Paolo's body melted completely, and the raging flames began to burn its body. Paolo's life force became weaker and weaker like it would soon disappear.

"Wizard Merlin, that's enough!"

The Frost Lord waved its hand and stopped Merlin from releasing more flames. A cold draft extinguished Merlin's flames. Paolo's body had gone limp; he was a hair's breadth away from death.

At this moment, the female Wizard suddenly rushed forward to Paolo's side. With a pleading look, she said to Merlin, "Sir Wizard, please let my Brother go. He's not a bad guy and had never harmed anyone. Please let him go..."

Merlin's expression did not change at all. He could already see Paolo's true nature when he chose to hide. Although Paolo was obviously much stronger than the Frost Lord, it never intended to devour the Frost Lord, which spoke volumes of his character.

The Frost Lord carefully approached Paolo. This was the best opportunity for the Frost Lord to devour Paolo.

Paolo looked at the female Wizard with a smile on his lips. He whispered, "It's too bad I didn't have the chance to bring you to see the outside world but you know what? There's nothing beautiful about the outside world, unlike this idyllic place..."

The female Wizard gazed at Merlin and the others with rage and hatred.

Suddenly, Merlin felt as if he had become the anti-peace anarchist. Nevertheless, the Spell Caster universe would never be able to accept such a peace-loving person like Paolo, snow sprite or not...

"Crack..."

With a wave of the Frost Lord's hand, the female Wizard was frozen in place. Then, it opened its mouth wide, and without a trace of hesitation, swallowed Paolo's entire body.

A violent gust of Ice Elements began to gather wildly around the Frost Lord, causing a terrifying storm to rage around them. Even the thick layers of ice appeared to be breaking apart.

The condition of the Frost Lord after devouring Paolo was extremely unstable. An ominous aura seemed to be brewing in the air. Simply because the Frost Lord managed to devour Paolo did not mean that its transformation would be successful.

There was another possibility, which was a failure! Snow sprites who failed to devour their companions would completely disappear and die.

"The journey of the snow sprites is much harder than the Spell Casters'!"

Merlin mumbled under his breath. In the Frost Lord's kingdom, Merlin had witnessed many snow sprites devouring each other but none of them had succeeded. Even at the Frost Lord's level, it still had to rely on devouring another to grow stronger.

Moreover, even after devouring, its fate was still unknown!

The journey of Spell Casters was already filled with all kinds of danger, but compared to the snow sprites, they were considered much more fortunate.

“Hehe. Isn’t the journey of Spell Casters also filled with danger? Now, I don’t know whether I should call you Dark Fire Incarnate or Wizard Merlin?”

Beside Merlin, Wizard Blackmurk spoke with a strange expression on his face, his gaze unwavering from Merlin.

Merlin ignored Wizard Blackmurk but kept his eyes vigilant on the latter’s movements, especially the Alchemy Creature. This Alchemy Creature had left a deep impression on Merlin when it fought against Paolo.

Truly, to deal with this Alchemy Creature was no easy feat for any average Spell Caster. It was very resilient and almost half of Wizard Blackmurk’s abilities rested entirely on this Alchemy Creature.

“Why? Does Wizard Blackmurk have a word of advice for me?”

Merlin knew that the Wizard Blackmurk before him was extremely dangerous, so he did not dare lower his guard. His entire body was tensed and ready to counter any sudden attacks from his opponents.

Wizard Blackmurk stood behind the Alchemy Creature, and his eyes squinted slightly. In a sinister tone, he said, “Rumors have it that the Dark Fire Incarnate obtained the second volume of the Neverending Book. It’s very simple. I’m interested in the second volume of the Neverending Book, so I would like to read it. What do you say, Dark Fire Incarnate?”

“You want the second volume of the Neverending Book?”

Merlin’s blood ran cold. He did not expect that after he had demonstrated such powerful abilities, it still did not deter Wizard Blackmurk’s greedy heart.

“Go!”

A murderous glint flashed across Wizard Blackmurk’s eyes, and with the pointing of a finger, the Alchemy Creature in front of him began to sprint toward Merlin at full speed. Everywhere it stepped left a foul stench, and the venom-filled air was also rushing toward Merlin.

Merlin dared not come into contact with this black venomous substance, so he wielded Flash Wind to retreat backward. Then, he cast a wall of fire in front of himself so that any venom that passed through the wall would be burned to ashes.

“Hehe, respectable Dark Fire Incarnate, why are you running away?”

Wizard Blackmurk sneered. He was not the least afraid of Merlin’s flames, so he made the Alchemy Monster continue to chase after Merlin, which turned Merlin’s face even gloomier than before.

Subsequently, Merlin decided not to retreat anymore but to face Wizard Blackmurk’s Alchemy Creature head-on.

“Glacier Country!”

Merlin wielded Glacier Country. In an instant, it descended, along with its all-suppressing, all-binding powers. The all-encompassing power made the Alchemy Creature’s movements become extraordinarily slow, and its venom turned useless when met with Glacier Country.

Once any venom was spilled, it was immediately frozen into ice crystals, so it could no longer bring any harm to Merlin.

“Hehe, my baby isn’t so easily suppressed!”

Wizard Blackmurk snickered, seemingly unalarmed that his Alchemy Creature had been bound by Glacier Country. A few crimson rays burst forth from his palm, and violently pierced into the Alchemy Creature’s body.

“Roar...”

The Alchemy Monster released a massive aura filled with incomparable viciousness, and its body seemed to be surrounded by a thin layer of blood mist. The originally three-meter-tall creature grew even taller and turned into a horrifying monster with long black fur and harsh snorting noises, just like a wild beast.

This was Wizard Blackmurk's real trump card and his true strategy. Facing Paolo earlier, Wizard Blackmurk did not wield his strongest power. This was the true strategy that Wizard Blackmurk relied upon to defeat the powerful Eighth-level Wizards.

After the Alchemy Creature changed its form, both its speed and strength increased greatly. Moreover, the layer of blood mist on his body seemed to possess strong recovery abilities. While the Alchemy Creature was being suppressed by Glacier Country, Merlin had managed to score some attacks against the Alchemy Creature. However, under the effects of the blood mist, it recovered quickly as good as new.

In addition, the Alchemy Creature was roaring as it continued to rush toward Merlin, albeit at a slower speed. If this was the Alchemy Creature's speed under the suppression of Glacier Country, how much faster would its actual speed be without any suppressing or binding powers?

Looking at the Alchemy Creature drawing closer, Merlin's gaze also flashed steel.

"It's just an Alchemy Creature, why can't it be killed?"

Thus, Merlin extended his right hand and revealed his palm. Inside, a blood-red demonic eye was blinking gently, emitting a faint crimson glow. It was a peculiar sight!

Chapter 427: Where Did They Come From?

"Darkness Eye, dispel!"

Darkness Eye in Merlin's palm immediately emitted a crimson light, which quickly shot out and engulfed the Alchemy Creature.

At the same time, a huge ghostly face appeared above Merlin's head, letting out a dim, sinister laugh. The frantic, onrushing momentum of the Alchemy Creature came to an abrupt halt. It seemed to have suffered a great blow and began trembling like a leaf.

Moreover, the skin all over its body began to ulcerate, and a great force seemed to tear it apart.

The third form of Darkness Eye was extremely frightening, especially in addition to the suppression of Glacier Country. It was a simultaneous attack from two special Pandora Demon Abilities, and not even Kleis would have been able to withstand it!

Upon seeing the gigantic ghostly face above Merlin's head, Wizard Blackmurk's face changed slightly as he growled, "The legendary accursed power, Darkness Eye?"

Wizard Blackmurk knew of Darkness Eye as well. It was a special Pandora Demon Ability, a formidable ability created by the Great Legend of Darkness, Wizard Oflas, who possessed unfathomable powers. He did not expect that Merlin would possess Darkness Eye.

Wizard Blackmurk was overjoyed at this unexpected discovery. In truth, he was named Blackmurk because he was a Darkness Wizard. However, since his Alchemy Creature was too powerful, many Spell Casters had forgotten that he used to be a fearsome Darkness Wizard.

With his Alchemy Creature around, Wizard Blackmurk rarely used Darkness-type spells in front of anyone. He would be able to cultivate Darkness Eye as well!

"Haha, Darkness Eye, the fabled Darkness Eye! Not only do you have the Neverending Book but you also have Darkness Eye as well. Hand them both over for you won't be able to escape!"

Wizard Blackmurk seemed untroubled in the slightest that Merlin possessed Darkness Eye. Seeing that his Alchemy Creature was no match for it, he did not panic but instead unleashed a blood-red mist which rapidly submerged the Alchemy Creature.

"Roar..."

The Alchemy Creature gave another majestic roar and stubbornly endured the strength of Darkness Eye. It rushed toward Merlin once again. With every step it took, the skin upon its body was further torn apart. This was the power of Darkness Eye.

Carmin blood flowed out from the splits in the Alchemy Creature's skin, which was a ghastly sight.

However, the injuries on the Alchemy Creature were healed soon enough. The layer of blood mist surrounding it had incredible regenerative powers. As long as the Alchemy Creature was not dealt with a single, fatal blow, small injuries like these were of no concern to it. This was a nearly indestructible creature!

“Incinerating Fire!”

The huge ghostly face above Merlin’s head seemed to become more distinct as it howled noiselessly. The third form of Darkness Eye was unable to cause much harm to the Alchemy Creature.

Any Spell Caster at the Seventh-level would have no way of withstanding the third form of Darkness Eye. Nonetheless, the Alchemy Creature was not a Spell Caster but an indestructible monster with terrifying regenerative abilities. There was no end to its extraordinary strength, and it was fast too. Without the suppression of Glacier Country, Merlin would have been in grave danger.

Still, despite the suppression of Glacier Country, and even with Darkness Eye along with Incinerating Fire which he had just cast, his opponent’s Alchemy Creature was still not dead, rushing ferociously toward Merlin.

As he watched this bulldozer-like, colossal mass rushing at him furiously, a fiery viciousness flared up in Merlin. It was not that he was incapable of handling this Alchemy Creature or that he did not have the ability to kill Wizard Blackmurk. Once he unleashed that kind of strength, he himself would be in danger. It was not quite worth the price.

Darkness Eye in his palm seemed to be swept up in wrath as well. Within Darkness Eye, a vague force was vehemently pounding as if it wanted to break the seal. This was the fourth form of Darkness Eye which had been sealed by Wizard Leo before his death.

This was Merlin’s greatest power. Once he released the fourth form of Darkness Eye, neither the Alchemy Creature before his eyes or Wizard Blackmurk would be a match for him. He would be able to dispose of them with no difficulty.

Nevertheless, this was a double-edged sword. Merlin knew very well that since he currently did not have the ability to control the fourth form of Darkness Eye, there was a chance that it would instantly swallow him up.

Perhaps Merlin could momentarily suppress the fourth form of Darkness Eye with the strength of the Maxim, but there was not much power left in there. If he continued using it to suppress the fourth form of Darkness Eye which could cause exhaustion, Merlin would be at risk as well.

He had witnessed Wizard Leo's deathbed condition. Even Wizard Leo, having wielded Darkness Eye for so long, was unable to hold off the backlash of the fourth form of Darkness Eye. How could Merlin possibly do it?

Therefore, if it was not a last resort, and if the situation was not thoroughly desperate, Merlin would not dare to release the fourth form of Darkness Eye.

"Retreat!"

Merlin did not hesitate in the slightest. At this point, even if he was unwilling to retreat, he had no choice. Faced with a seemingly indestructible Alchemy Creature which clearly possessed the strength of the Seventh-level, and being unable to harm it, Merlin still could not release the seal of the fourth form of Darkness Eye. He could only withdraw for now.

"Swish."

Merlin possessed Flash Wind which had unparalleled speed. Thus, in one flash, he transformed into a rainbow beam, shooting off into the distance. He was rather inconspicuous in the white expanse of Subzero Snowfield.

"He's escaped?"

Wizard Blackmurk was briefly taken aback but he reacted quickly. He immediately led his Alchemy Creature with a cold smile on his face. Wind Elemental fluctuations emerged around him, and he instantly gave chase.

At the moment, there were only three of them left – the Frost Lord who had just swallowed Paolo, Wizard Ernie, and Wizard Watson. The Frost Lord was currently in an unstable state. No one knew whether it would be successful in swallowing Paolo, for it needed a period of time to merge.

However, regardless of its success, the Frost Lord's contract with Merlin and Wizard Blackmurk had ended, and there was no connection left between them.

As for Wizards Ernie and Watson, they exchanged a glance and seemed to be at a loss.

Naturally, they had their own residences in Subzero Snowfield but they were now Merlin's slave, and could only follow behind Merlin. However, now that Merlin had fled, they did not know whether to chase after him.

Just as both of them were deliberating, a message flashed across their minds, sent by Merlin through the contract paper.

"Both of you, follow behind me but don't alert Blackmurk. After I've shaken him off, I'll join you!"

Upon receiving Merlin's message, Ernie and Watson could only fly toward Merlin powerlessly.

...

In the pure white expanse of the snow plain, three Spell Casters dressed in long, blue Wizard robes were cautiously approaching a small hill. At their lead was a middle-aged man with fine scars on his face.

"Phew..."

The middle-aged man let out a long sigh. He squinted slightly at the small hill before him and retrieved a map from his ring. Following that, he said while feeling moved, "Found it, I've finally found it! This is where the ancient monument is. I've searched for it for over thirty years in Subzero Snowfield, and I've finally found it today, haha!"

"Gustin, you're sure the ancient monument is here?"

Behind the middle-aged man, a Spell Caster with a full beard asked doubtfully.

"Hehe, look at the map. This is really where the ancient monument is. I got this map more than thirty years ago, and have dreamed of finding this ancient monument every day to obtain the treasure within. Haha, I shall become a lord of a region in Subzero Snowfield. The endless

resources are enough for me to become a great Spell Caster! Rest assured for if you follow me, you'll surely become a formidable Spell Caster as well!"

These few Spell Casters were here to search for a fabled ancient monument. They had relied on that old map in Gustin's hand.

Gustin had received this ancient map over thirty years ago. At that time, he was still an Entrance-level Spell Caster and did not have the abilities to search for the ancient monument. Now, he had become a Third-level Spell Caster, and could finally look for it.

Therefore, with two of his best friends, he began on a journey to locate the ancient monument. After much trials and tribulations, they had come across the general vicinity where the ancient monument was, in this wasteland.

"Gustin, since we've found the ancient monument, let's go in quickly. Let's see if the path stated on the map is real or not?"

The other two Spell Casters were still half-doubtful even now. In Subzero Snowfield, maps of ancient monuments, like the one in Gustin's hand, were a dime a dozen. There was a constant supply of these maps, most of which carelessly manufactured by Spell Casters with ulterior motives in order to swindle some elemental crystal stones.

If Gustin had not been so persistent, they would not have been willing to go on this crazy trip with him.

Now that they had finally found the place where the ancient monument was on the map, they wanted Gustin to have no more illusions about this. Thus, they urged Gustin to follow the method on the map to access the ancient monument.

Gustin's heart burned fervently. He took a few steps forward and came to the place where the ancient monument was marked on the map. He began to mutter as fluctuations of Ice Element gradually materialized around him.

"Open up, Ecuador's Door!"

Gustin's face flushed red due to his excitement. As soon as he spoke, the group of three directed their gazes at the plain of white snow before them.

“Rumble.”

Soon enough, the entire snowfield began to quake, and a terrifying force seemed to awaken beneath the thick blanket of snow. The fallen snow began to rise to a peak. A gigantic, ancient castle rose from the depths in the initially vast and empty snowfield.

At the only entrance of the castle, there was a mysterious large door covered completely in runes. On the door, the word “Ecuador” was written in the ancient Molta language.

“It’s the secret treasure of Ecuador, haha, it really is the secret treasure of Ecuador. Are you guys seeing this? I, Gustin, have finally found Ecuador’s secret treasure!”

Gustin was incomparably excited. He pointed at the ancient castle which had appeared out of thin air, and babbled incoherently, “Ecuador’s secret treasure was left behind by a great Spell Caster. There are powerful guardian puppets within, but these have been fossilized. As long as we don’t touch them, we won’t trigger them. So, we’re able to enter the depths of the castle and obtain the secret treasure of Ecuador!”

Gustin pointed at the lofty stone statues deep within the ancient castle. These statues were scary guardian puppets, but they have been fossilized by a mysterious spell. As long as the Spell Casters did not touch them, they would not be activated, and the Spell Casters would be safe.

These details were all the same as what was recorded on the map. Seeing the truth before their eyes, Gustin’s two companions could not deny that Gustin was right. There really was Ecuador’s fabled secret treasure.

Now, they had discovered Ecuador’s secret treasure. Upon thinking about the various benefits that they were about to receive, their hearts surged with an excitement that was beyond words.

“Come on, let’s go in. Remember, no matter what, don’t touch those stone statues!”

Gustin carefully warned them as he did before. However, just as they got ready to step into the ancient castle, a black cloud suddenly appeared in the distant sky, blustering mightily as it flew toward where they stood.

Behind the black cloud, there was a vague outline of a terrifying human figure that was burly and sinister, who extended one large hand and hit the cloud greatly. The resulting Elemental fluctuations were shocking, to say the least, causing them a great amount of alarm.

“Bang!”

After a loud crash, the black cloud dispersed, and a figure dropped in a straight line toward the ground, right in the direction where Gustin and the rest stood.

“No, no, no... Oh my god, please don’t touch the stone statue at all cost...”

Gustin had begun to yell in terror. The map stated that the guardian puppets of Ecuador possessed frightening powers. Once they were awakened, they would kill all intruders.

That figure who had been smacked down was falling toward those stone statues.

“Boom!”

A massive crash rang out as the figure dropped pathetically to the ground, immediately sending those statues flying. The entire snowfield seemed to quake all at once.

“Swish.”

The figure who had dropped to the ground did not seem to be hurt, leaping up suddenly. It was a young Wizard dressed in a black robe but his eyes had abnormally unfathomable depths. At the moment, his face was incomparably icy and filled with rage.

“Blackmurk, do you really think I won’t dare to kill you?”

The black-robed young Wizard extended one fair palm. In his palm was a blood-red eye which blinked incessantly, producing an eerie sight.

At the same time, an enormous, hazy, ghostly face gradually materialized behind the young Wizard. The hazy ghostly face grew more solid and clear, accompanied by bursts of sinister laughter which echoed all around.

“We’re done for. The legendary unrivaled guardian puppets of Ecuador will wake up, and we’ll all die!”

Gustin was trembling all over. He looked at the stone statues which had been knocked all over the place, and his face turned purple. He was gripped by dread. The map had clearly stated that once Ecuador’s guardian puppets were awakened, no one would be able to defend themselves against the merciless and powerful guardians. All intruders would be killed.

Now that the stone statues were sent flying by the crash, how could they not have been touched?

Gustin appeared to be brimming with resentment as he glared at that fearsome young Wizard. The enormous ghostly face above the young Wizard’s head seemed to indicate that it would not be wise to provoke him.

It was just that Gustin had no idea – where did these people come from?

Chapter 428: The Guardian Puppets Awakened

High up in the clouds, a gigantic Alchemy Creature which was pitch black from head to toe softly landed on the ground. Standing behind the Alchemy Creature was Wizard Blackmurk, whose cold and pacifying gaze fixed onto Merlin as he laughed mirthlessly. “Wizard Merlin, after fleeing for so long, surely you understand that you have no way to escape? Hand over Darkness Eye and the Neverending Book!”

These two Wizards were Merlin and Wizard Blackmurk. Merlin had cast Flash Wind, and his speed was incredible. However, he did not expect that Wizard Blackmurk was not slow as well, and he seemed to possess a special Speed casting tool.

By relying on the casting tool, Wizard Blackmurk was merely marginally slower than Merlin and was able to catch up in the end. Throughout this period, not even Merlin knew how long he had been fleeing. He did not even know where he was going and flew aimlessly until he reached this place.

Even since Merlin had obtained Darkness Eye, he had never fled so desperately as he had done now, hunted down by someone. Now it looked as if he could not shake off Wizard Blackmurk. Even

if he would pay a certain price for releasing the seal on the fourth form of Darkness Eye, he did not care about that now.

“Cackle cackle.”

The giant ghostly face above Merlin’s head suddenly became clear and distinct as it unleashed bursts of sinister, petrifying laughter. The crimson eye in Merlin’s palm began to glow with an eerie, blood-red light, shrouding half the sky, and lighting it up in blood red.

The ghostly face above Merlin’s head became clearer and clearer, and one could see faintly that it was a crimson apparition with disheveled hair. Although its outline was clear, its features were still hazy, which was to say that it was shifting constantly as the appearance of the ghostly face was transforming every second.

If one looked closely, one would see that these faces belonged to those who died due to Darkness Eye. Among them was Wizard Leo’s face.

Merlin had now descended into an extraordinary state. He felt a power – a formidable power he had not felt in a long time. The strength of this power made him feel as if he could deal with any threat.

Merlin had experienced the power of a Legend for a brief time when he controlled the Ship of Nikola. Only then had he felt so powerful. Of course, when he had used the Flame Maxim to control the Ship of Nikola, his capability far surpassed his current state, but that feeling of immense power was similar.

Besides this feeling of power, there was also a sort of brutality in him that wanted to wipe out everyone he saw. This was the negative energy that accompanied the unleash of the fourth form of Darkness Eye. Merlin was currently incapable of suppressing it effectively and could only let it out.

“Your Alchemy Creature is unafraid of dying?”

A peculiar smirk appeared over Merlin’s lips. He gradually rose into the air, after which he pointed at the Alchemy Creature in the distance.

“Bam!”

At the start, the tenacious Alchemy Creature could not be killed no matter what. Merlin's Incinerating Fire in addition to the force of Glacier Country was unable to deal with the Alchemy Creature. However, after Merlin pointed, it now grimaced in pain.

The huge ghostly face above Merlin's head was transforming at an increasing speed, followed by bursts of menacing laughter. A tremendous force seemed to tear the Alchemy Creature apart.

"Rip."

The Alchemy Creature was viciously torn into two by an unseen force yet Merlin still felt that there was not enough bloodshed. He pulled furiously with both hands, and the imposing bulk of the Alchemy Creature was immediately ripped into shreds. The spray of blood splattered all over the ground, emitting a pungent, horrid smell.

"No, no, how could this be?"

Seeing that the Alchemy Creature was easily killed without any resistance by Merlin's hands, Wizard Blackmurk was struck by momentary disbelief. He had transfigured the Alchemy Creature himself, so naturally, he knew that without the peak of the Eighth-level strength, one would be incapable of causing his Alchemy Creature any harm.

However, his Alchemy Creature was ripped apart alive by Merlin in a cruel and bloodthirsty manner. It was unable to put up any resistance at all.

Even though he was astounded to his core, Wizard Blackmurk reacted very quickly. Fluctuations of Wind Element appeared over his body, following which he pointed and a wild gust of gale roused a windstorm. The storm rumbled toward Merlin while he quickly escaped at the back.

"Trying to escape?"

The unfathomable depths of Merlin's eyes turned crimson. He raised his palm, with the eerie blood-red eye pointed in Wizard Blackmurk's direction. Then he commanded softly, "Control! Deprive!"

"Hoo...."

The gale vanished and the Wind Elements quietened down. Wizard Blackmurk suddenly felt as if he could no longer mobilize a single shred of Magic Power. No Element would comply with his command.

“The power of control is so formidable!”

Merlin was currently drunk on the power of the fourth form of Darkness Eye. He was able to control the power of Elements, and Elements themselves in addition to stripping the power of Elements too.

Therefore, even Eighth-level Spell Casters, when faced with the fourth form of Darkness Eye, would have no way of controlling the Elements. Back then, Wizard Leo had relied on the fourth form of Darkness Eye to exterminate two Eighth-level Wizards.

At last, Merlin now tasted the greatness of the fourth form of Darkness Eye for himself – the power to control Elements! Under the “control” power of the fourth form, Wizard Blackmurk could not put up the slightest bit of resistance. He was now a prisoner of Merlin’s for Merlin to deal with as he wished.

“Fire!”

Merlin’s expression was icy as his body brimmed with a murderous force. He pointed an effortless finger at Wizard Blackmurk. Instantly, Wizard Blackmurk’s body was caught in raging flames. In the midst of frantic, pitiful wails, the troublesome Wizard Blackmurk of Subzero Snowfield was reduced to ashes just like that.

However, the tyranny in Merlin’s heart had not yet faded. He directed his furious gaze at the three strangers on the ground.

Gustin and the rest watched with their mouths agape, trembling all over as they fixed their eyes upon Merlin in mid-air. The fearsome battle between Merlin and Wizard Blackmurk had far surpassed their framework of understanding.

Moreover, now that Merlin had disposed of Wizard Blackmurk through merciless methods, his attention had shifted to them. Naturally, Gustin and the rest were filled with dread.

“Screech screech screech...”

Suddenly, a peculiar, disturbing sound came into their ears. It was abnormally ear-piercing in the vast snowfield.

Gustin saw that the stone statues, lying about in disorder, had begun to vibrate. He suddenly recalled the warning of Ecuador's secret treasure. Once someone touched those stone statues, the fossilized guardian puppets would be awakened.

At that point, the unrivaled guardian puppets would wipe out all intruders. Evidently, the transformation of the stone statues had occurred because those terrifying guardian puppets were awakening.

"Oh no, the guardian puppets are waking up. We're all going to die!"

Gustin bit his lip furiously. He was more afraid of the legendary guardian puppets than he was of Merlin. People were usually more fearful of the unknown, and Spell Casters were no exception.

Those stone statues were an unknown entity. No one knew how terrifying the guardian puppets would be after the stone statues had been transformed.

"Swoosh."

Merlin's attention was attracted to the peculiar sounds coming from the stone statues. However, his consciousness was slightly sober now. He had been affected by the intense negative emotions and had descended into a brief frenzy.

"Oh no, the fourth form of Darkness Eye had produced a huge amount of negative emotions. I have no way of suppressing it effectively, and will face its backlash soon!"

Merlin seemed able to perceive the glee of Darkness Eye. He had no wish to become a second Leo, dying from the backlash of Darkness Eye. Although he had broken the seal on the fourth form under inescapable circumstances, things were not at their worst yet.

"Flame Maxim, suppress!"

Merlin mobilized and gathered all his Mind Power. At the moment, he had no way of activating the Ice Maxim. Only the Flame Maxim, under the full force of his Mind Power, could be shifted slightly in his Awareness.

Fortunately, the Flame Maxim seemed to have made Merlin's Awareness its "territory". The invasion of Darkness Eye promptly induced the suppression of the Flame Maxim.

The tremendous power of the Maxim immediately suppressed the backlash force of the fourth form of Darkness Eye. In that instant, the large, ghostly face above Merlin's head was still there but it seemed to let out a series of miserable shrieks.

Merlin was still able to wield the power of the fourth form of Darkness Eye but now he could control it completely. It was just that he would have to consume the power of the Maxim at all times. This was the price he had to pay for unleashing the fourth form of Darkness Eye.

"Screech screech."

The stone statues were still making that strange noise. Merlin stared at them. Only now did he carefully observe his surroundings. He noticed that this mysterious ancient castle had something mystical about it as if an enigmatic force was hidden within.

"Boom!"

The statues exploded and rock fragments flew everywhere. From within the shattered stone, a few large and imposing puppets, each with two horns, appeared.

"Hahahaha, freedom at last. Master had sealed us for thousands of years. Today, some fools have finally touched us, setting us free!"

These stone statues all looked the same, and there were many of them. The only different one was a statue in the middle, which was dark red all over. It looked extremely agile, and the guardian puppets which emerged from the statues all gathered by the side of this dark red puppet.

"Puppet?"

Merlin shot a baffled look at these stone puppets. He recalled some ancient books he had seen in the Dark Magic Region. Some of which mentioned that during the Spell Casters' most glorious era, when alchemy was developed to its pinnacle, many techniques of transfiguring puppets were discovered, using all sorts of materials.

Among these, one could use the most common materials to transfigure powerful puppets. For instance, rock, wood, and so on, could be turned into powerful puppets in the hands of a Great Alchemist.

These puppets were built completely from stone and were clearly puppets described in the ancient books. However, that sort of alchemy technique was lost to the ages.

"We're goners. The unrivaled Ecuador's guardian puppets have awakened. We'll all be killed by them!"

Gustin could only mumble this over and over, his eyes filled with despair as he looked at the stone guardian puppets.

"Not bad, not bad. There's still someone who knows of our power. We're the great guardian puppets of Ecuador. All of you intruders must die!"

The dark red stone puppet let out a sharp hiss, following which it directed the army of stone puppets to press down Merlin like a raging flood. The ensuing tremor was not a small one for it seemed to make the vast snowfield quake. The thick blanket of snow melted, revealing the black floor beneath.

"The unrivaled guardian puppets of Ecuador?"

An odd expression crossed Merlin's face. As far as he could tell, there were many of these guardian puppets indeed, but they were far too weak...

"Glacier Country, descend!"

A burst of light flashed, and an icy chill engulfed the entire ancient castle. The translucent Glacier Country descended in an instant.

Chapter 429: Dimension

“Crack crack.”

Bursts of freezing noises sounded. The white sweep of frost was easily frozen in place where the guardian puppets had been transformed from stone statues. Moreover, as Merlin’s Glacier Country was in its third form, its might was comparable to the peak of the Seventh-level. It was an extreme chill. The guardian puppets were merely made from ordinary stones, so when they were frozen by the ice crystals, many guardian puppets were unable to withstand it. Cracks ran over the surface of their bodies, splitting them apart.

“Fire.”

Merlin stretched out a palm. In that instant, a colossal palm of pale white flames appeared out of thin air in the midst of the white chill in the sky, then smacked down with a whistling noise.

“Boom.”

A tremor made the land and distant hills quake. Merlin’s spell was now extremely terrifying. A single gesture of his was similar to those powerful Great Wizards during the Spell Casters’ most glorious era, filled with fearsome might.

If this palm had smacked down upon a city, it would have been easily destroyed!

Gustin watched with mouth agape as these so-called “unrivaled” guardian puppets were smashed to smithereens under one strike from Merlin’s flame palm, turning into a pile of rubble.

“Hmm, not yet dead?”

Merlin stood in mid-air and saw that among the devastation on the ground, the giant puppet with dark red all over was still intact. However, it was scorched black entirely, and its gaze toward Merlin revealed its utmost fear.

Merlin had no wish to leave behind any of these puppets and prepared to attack once more, killing off the last of them. The dark red guardian puppet seemed to understand Merlin’s actions and immediately yelled, “O’ mighty Sir Wizard, I’m a puppet transfigured by the Great Legend Ecuador. If you’re willing to keep me with you, I’ll tell you many secrets of my previous master, the

Legend Ecuador. What's more, Sir Wizard, if you happen to leave the Glorious Land, I know of a vast dimension that the Legend Ecuador had once occupied. You may enter that dimension and obtain all that the Legend Ecuador had left behind!"

Upon hearing what the dark red puppet said, Merlin was somewhat stupefied.

Perhaps Gustin and the rest beside him were not clear about the meaning of the dark red puppet's words, but Merlin had obtained the Flame Maxim of the Legend Nikola and knew much about the Spell Casters from the past era of the Molta Empire.

The Glorious Land that the dark red puppet spoke of referred to the entire vast continent. During the era of the Molta Empire, it was the land where Spell Casters peaked in their glory. Powerful Spell Casters, under the leadership of Legendary Wizards, exiled the gods, traveled beyond the Molta Empire, and stepped into other dimensions. Furthermore, they began to conquer one dimension after another, leading to the era of the Spell Casters' unmatched glory.

The Legend Ecuador must be a Legendary Wizard from the Spell Casters' most glorious era who had even occupied a vast dimension.

"Swish."

Merlin gradually landed and began his queries with the dark red puppet. He had many questions regarding the Spell Casters' most glorious era and might as well obtain some answers from this puppet.

"This ancient castle was left behind by Wizard Ecuador?"

Merlin raised his head and eyed the ancient castle as he spoke.

"That's right. This ancient castle was a place where Master used to live but after he occupied the Ecuador Dimension, he stayed there. He sealed the ancient castle and never came back."

The dark red puppet rolled its eyeballs, and it appeared very "intelligent" at one glance. At this point, it would answer in detail whatever questions Merlin posed, and dared not conceal any information.

Suddenly, Merlin turned around and stared at the three Spell Casters beside him. Up until now, Merlin had been gradually figuring out the entire story. These three Spell Casters had searched for the “hidden treasure” for many years, yet unexpectedly they had encountered him.

As he looked at them, a murderous intent rose up in Merlin’s heart.

“Crack.”

With a wave of his hand, the three Spell Casters were frozen instantly, completely losing their chance to survive.

“That’s not right!”

Merlin frowned. Normally, he would not kill people senselessly, but now he seemed to have no feelings regarding slaughtering them.

An icy force had slowly burrowed into his palm. Merlin raised his hand. The crimson Darkness Eye faintly transformed into a ghostly face and seemed to be mocking Merlin.

“It’s Darkness Eye!”

Merlin’s face gradually darkened. Even he himself had not realized that he was unwittingly affected by Darkness Eye. He did not have the slightest scruple about slaughtering and was even caught up in the thrill of it.

The more he killed, the more negative energy Darkness Eye would absorb. Darkness Eye would thus grow stronger, and it would be harder for Merlin to suppress Darkness Eye.

“It looks like I’ll have to be wary from now on. However, since the seal of the fourth form of Darkness Eye had been broken, I can only use the Maxim to suppress it temporarily. I’ll have to use my time wisely and search for a new Maxim!”

Countless thoughts flashed across Merlin’s mind in an instant but his expression did not shift. Thereafter, he walked straight into the ancient castle.

In the ancient castle, the dark red puppet led the way. Merlin was still secretly wary of this puppet. Who knew what would happen in the castle?

“What’s your name?”

In the pitch darkness of the ancient castle, Merlin asked the dark red puppet.

“I have no name, only a code name. Sir Wizard may address me as Number Three.”

“Number Three, since you’re a puppet, can you really disobey your master as you wish?”

Merlin felt that it was odd. Wizard Ecuador should by right be the master of a puppet like this but the puppet’s current words and actions did not seem to be controlled by Ecuador.

Number Three did not stop walking, and said in a calm tone, “As a puppet, of course I’m bound by Master’s control. However, many years ago, I had sensed that Master had died! The control mechanisms he left behind had all vanished along with his demise. Therefore, I’m now under no one’s control.”

“He’s dead?”

Merlin was slightly taken aback. Nevertheless, a few thousand years have passed. No one knew what would happen in the end. Perhaps something unexpected had happened to Wizard Ecuador in the Ecuador Dimension. That would not be surprising.

Since Wizard Ecuador was dead, did that not mean that the entire dimension he occupied was now a dimension without a master?

Merlin knew what a dimension was. It was an enormous world. Currently, the entire continent including the Holy Light Empire, the Kingdom of Blackmoon, and many other large and small nations in addition to Subzero Snowfield, the endless ocean, and other mysterious places – all these combined to form one complete continent. This could be referred to as one dimension.

Wizard Ecuador had occupied a dimension, which meant he was nearly equivalent to a god, and a sole god at that, who was able to reap all the resources of that dimension.

Even Legendary Wizards longed and hoped to possess an entire dimension. This was the fundamental reason the Spell Casters, after banishing the gods, had traveled beyond the Glorious Land to conquer one dimension after another.

Merlin's desire began to burn fervently. A dimension without a master – just the thought of it made one felt extremely excited.

As if it knew what Merlin was thinking, Number Three turned around to say, “Sir Wizard, I believe you understand well the value of a dimension. In order to occupy this dimension, Master had battled against the gods of the dimension for a hundred years before finally wiping them out and occupying the entire dimension. What's more, I know the exact coordinates of this dimension. If Sir Wizard is able to leave the Glorious Land and reach the Ecuador Dimension, you might be able to obtain a prosperous dimension with no master!”

“How does one leave the Glorious Land?”

Merlin asked in a low voice. This was a crucial question. The Glorious Land they spoke of was the entire continent. Even with the position Merlin was in, he had never heard of how to leave this continent and travel into other dimensions.

Nonetheless, the seemingly all-knowing Number Three now shook its head. “I don't know how to leave the Glorious Land either. After all, I'm just a puppet transfigured by my Master to guard the castle. However, I've heard Master inadvertently mentioned that in order to leave the Glorious Land, one had to be a Great Wizard at least. Otherwise, one would not be able to leave the Glorious Land and set foot in other dimensions.”

“At least a Great Wizard, huh?”

Merlin was rather disappointed but it made sense after careful thought. Even during the Spell Casters' most glorious era, many Spell Casters had to become Legends and had exiled the gods before they learned of the many dimensions. Only then could they travel beyond the Glorious Land and set foot in other dimensions.

Therefore, it was surely not a simple matter to set foot in other dimensions after leaving the Glorious Land. Perhaps only by becoming a Great Wizard could one find a way to do so.

Even though Merlin was disappointed about this, he was not too sorry about it. He was currently just a Fourth-level Spell Caster and was still a long way from becoming a Great Wizard.

“Hold on!”

Merlin suddenly stopped in his tracks and his eyes flickered ceaselessly. He glared at the dark red puppet before him. “Number Three, what do I do to control you? You should know that without control over a puppet, I have no way of trusting your words. In that case, I only have one choice – which is to destroy you!”

Merlin extended one hand which shone with pale white flames, illuminating the pitch-black passage as if it was daylight.

The dark red color of Number Three was now lighted up by the pale white firelight, and it appeared incredibly weird. It wore no expression, and a red glow twinkled in its eyes.

After a long moment, Number Three answered slowly, “O’ powerful Sir Wizard, it’s easy enough to control me. You just have to engrave a Mind Branding and you’re done!”

“Engrave a Mind Branding? Just like signing a contract?”

Merlin had no experience in controlling puppets.

“That’s right, just like signing a contract. After engraving the Mind Branding, you can control me completely. However, I plead that Sir Wizard don’t destroy me upon controlling me. Although I’m just a puppet, I long to see the outside world!”

This puppet appeared to be rather sentient, unlike the dead stiffness of other puppets.

Merlin nodded. He had no intention of destroying this puppet. With it around, he could learn much more about the matters of the Spell Casters’ most glorious era.

Furthermore, Merlin had set his heart on the Ecuador Dimension that Number Three had mentioned. If he really became a Great Wizard one day, he would not let a prosperous dimension slip through his grasp.

With that, Merlin began to fan out his Mind Power which promptly extended toward the place where Number Three's heart was. Its control core should be where its heart was located.

Chapter 430: Divinity

Merlin was already greatly experienced in signing contracts. Controlling Number Three was just the same. When his Mind Power extended into the part where the puppet's heart was, he perceived a crystal-like, transparent sphere.

"Hum."

After Merlin's Mind Power entered the crystal sphere, the dark red puppet lightly trembled. Merlin could also immediately feel a sense of connection to the puppet.

This was a mystical feeling. Merlin was able to discern a powerful wisp of consciousness occupying the crystal sphere. However, he could now completely control the puppet and was able to stifle that burst of consciousness in the crystal sphere.

If Merlin wanted to, he could even extinguish the consciousness of the dark red puppet. Still, this would be of no benefit to Merlin. The dark red puppet knew many secrets and could be a great help to Merlin. Now that he could control Number Three, naturally, it was not necessary to exterminate it.

"Very well, Number Three. What's in the ancient castle?"

Since he had arrived at the ancient castle, he thought that there was sure to be something valuable in a place where a Legendary Wizard had lived. As a guardian of the castle, Number Three should have intimate knowledge of what was inside.

Number Three thought for a moment before shaking its head lightly. "Master, this was merely one of the residences of my previous master back then. In the Glorious Land, my previous master had many other residences like this. In addition, when he moved to the Ecuador Dimension, he had moved everything from the ancient castle. Thus, there's nothing precious left in this castle."

"It's all been taken with him?"

Disappointment washed over Merlin's face. He had thought that he might obtain something good from this castle but did not consider that it had been moved.

"Hold on, my previous master had sealed some items in the ancient castle. I wonder if he brought them along with him? Master, I'll take you for a look. If he hadn't moved them with him, it might be something good!"

The dark red puppet's mysterious look aroused Merlin's curiosity, so he simply followed behind Number Three and walked deeper into the castle.

As no one had moved about in the ancient castle for a long time, there was a dry, unpleasant smell of dust. There were also cobwebs in the passageway, and everything appeared to be in ruins.

Merlin followed Number Three past a few passages and through a few stone doors. At last, they stopped in a spacious hall. The design of the hall was very unusual but it was just as Number Three had said. Most items were gone, taken away by the master of the castle, leaving only empty and hollow space behind.

"Number Three, what are you looking for?"

Merlin was somewhat puzzled. Number Three seemed to be searching for something in the hall. In this ancient castle, was there something Number Three did not know about?

"I've found it. Let's hope my previous master didn't take it with him."

A trace of a smile grew on Number Three's lifeless face, following which he approached a wall and pressed down gently.

"Rumble."

The wall rose up gradually, revealing a small room behind. Merlin followed behind Number Three curiously and entered the room as well.

As soon as he stepped in, Merlin saw dense runes which seemed to be suppressing something at the front. A peculiar wave of energy fluctuations was emitted from there.

“As I thought, he didn’t take it. Master, look, this is what the previous master had left behind in the ancient castle. Perhaps he overlooked it back then, so it was left behind.”

Number Three pointed to the mysterious, white thread of light that was suppressed by the runes. Merlin had never seen anything like this, and his heart brimmed with curiosity.

“Number Three, what’s this? Why does it need to be suppressed by runes?”

“Master, this is a strand of divinity extracted from a god whom Wizard Ecuador had waged a war against. Wizard Ecuador initially wanted to study it, and I don’t know what he found. Yet, he left this strand of divinity behind. This is a divinity that was painstakingly manifested by a god through the power of faith. It’s the most precious and wondrous strength of a god! Even if it’s just a strand, it possesses inconceivably miraculous effects. Divinity can be used to heal any injuries or even sharpen one’s sensitivity toward some Elements... In short, this divinity is all-powerful. Even those Great Honored Legends had studied this divinity of gods.”

Merlin fixed a firm gaze upon that white thread suppressed by runes. It was divinity, the divinity of the legends?

Gods drew upon the power of faith of living beings to consolidate this divinity. This was a power that belonged only to the gods. Gods who had divinity were extremely fearsome and were indestructible. Without eliminating their divinity, a god would not die!

The Ice Goddess that Merlin encountered had still possessed divinity. Therefore, even the Great Legend of Ice could only temporarily suppress her and slowly drain her of her divinity. This was enough to show how marvelous divinity was!

Merlin had come across such a mystical power in this ancient castle. Although it was just a strand, it was still the wonderful power of divinity.

“Master, in order to get this divinity, you have to get past the Runic Magic Circle that my previous master had hastily set up. Although he had set up this Runic Magic Circle offhandedly, it won’t be easy to break.”

In fact, Number Three did not need to tell him this. Merlin saw that the complexity of these enigmatic runes far surpassed any Runic Magic Circles he had previously seen.

Even a Rune Wizard would need to exhaust all efforts to unravel runes which had been set up hastily by a Legendary Wizard.

“I can give it a shot!”

Merlin appeared very solemn. The Runic Heartprint emerged between his brows. The complicated Runic Magic Circle, under the effect of Merlin’s Runic Heartprint, gradually revealed all its intricacies.

“I can break through it but I’ll need time!”

Through the power of the Runic Heartprint, Merlin discovered that although this was a complex Runic Magic Circle, it could still be broken. In terms of attainments in runology, the Great Wizard Fidel was terrifying indeed. Many Legendary Wizards including Rune Wizards were even unable to compare to the Great Wizard Fidel in runology.

As for the Runic Heartprint, it was the lifework of the Great Wizard Fidel, condensing comprehensively his understanding of runology. Therefore, even a Runic Magic Circle set up by the Legendary Wizard Ecuador could be broken.

Merlin positioned Number Three to stand guard outside. In the room, he began to slowly unravel the Runic Magic Circle through the power of the Runic Heartprint. This was a process that demanded great effort and attention. Merlin’s Mind Power was nearly exhausted, and he had to recover quickly to continue breaking the Runic Magic Circle.

In this manner, after repeating this for a few days, and the final rune had vanished under the effect of the Runic Heartprint, that white, thread-like strand of divinity was finally no longer under the suppression of the Runic Magic Circle.

The divinity hovered in mid-air, emanating waves of peculiar fluctuations. Without the suppression of the Runic Magic Circle, the mystical fluctuations of the divinity grew more intense.

“Swoosh.”

With a swoop of his hand, Merlin grabbed the divinity. This strand of divinity did not look very special, and there was merely a very faint trace of the “godly might”.

However, this trace of “godly might”, after a long passage of time, had faded to nothing long ago, and was of no threat to Merlin. Looking at the strand of divinity in his hand, countless ideas flashed across Merlin’s mind.

According to rumors, divinity was all-powerful, and even gods attached great value to divinity. Wizard Ecuador had used this divinity only for study because even though it was miraculous, the extent of its benefits to a Legend was limited. Perhaps only a great amount of divinity would serve a purpose for a Legendary Wizard.

Nonetheless, to Merlin, there were many functions for this. The current matter of importance was to increase his Mind Power!

Merlin’s Mind Power had just reached the Sixth-level. As the effects of Mokra Potion had gradually diminished, it was somewhat unrealistic for Merlin to rely upon Mokra Potion to quickly boost his Mind Power in the future.

Therefore, with this strand of divinity, Merlin could try and see if this all-powerful divinity would increase his Mind Power.

It was simple enough to use divinity – one just had to wrap one’s Mind Power around it. According to rumors, it was all-powerful, but rumors were rumors after all. How it was really like – whether it could increase Mind Power – these were all unknown.

What Merlin wanted to do now was to test it out!

As he thought of this, Merlin drew in a deep breath and mobilized his Mind Power to promptly surround the divinity. Using just his thought, the strand of divinity disintegrated into spots of lights which quickly burrowed into Merlin’s body.

Merlin immediately shut his eyes and carefully sensed for the effects of divinity.

“Why is there nothing?”

After a moment, Merlin did not feel anything different. His Mind Power did not grow in the slightest. Was the divinity ineffective?

However, the divinity had disintegrated indeed. This was a sign it had been used. Once it was used, it would disappear. Although it was merely a strand of divinity, it should still serve some function for Sixth-level Mind Power no matter what.

Just then, Merlin suddenly felt as if he had been completely submerged in hot water. A cozy, warm feeling diffused throughout his body, following which his mind became dazed. During this hazy period, his Mind Power was like a sapling, rapidly growing at a speed that was mind-boggling.

“It’s working!”

Merlin had only this one thought in his head.

From the exterior, one could see that Merlin was shrouded in a warm, white glow. He wore a serene expression, and a smile stretched across his face. He could distinctly feel his Mind Power fluctuating vigorously. With every fluctuation, his Mind Power would grow even greater.

The white light persisted over Merlin’s body for a time. After some time, Merlin’s Mind Power was still increasing, but the white light covering his body had gradually faded.

Following the disappearance of the white light, that full-body warmth vanished as well. His conscious mind gradually sobered up, and his Mind Power stopped growing.

He calculated the time. From the moment that divinity had vanished until the recovery of his consciousness, it was not even an hour. In such a short time, how much could his Mind Power grow?

“Let’s see how much my Mind Power has grown?”

Merlin still harbored some doubts. After all, it was too short a time. He was not clear regarding how much growth that strand of divinity would bring to his Mind Power.