

W. Secret 461

Chapter 461: The Whirlwind Lord

“Sir Wizard Merlin!”

Lady Phillie’s voice of came from beyond the door outside.

“Come in.”

Merlin replied leisurely. Lady Phillie gently pushed open the door and entered. The room was filled with an exotic fragrance, creating a refreshing atmosphere.

“Lady Phillie, what’s the matter?”

“Wizard Merlin, here’s the thing. Dara City is about to hold a grand auction, and I’ve discovered that there are a few premium auction items in the auction. One of them will be a Hallucinatory Heart!”

Merlin’s face changed slightly as he echoed softly, “Hallucinatory Heart? What’s a Hallucinatory Heart?”

Since Lady Phillie had come forward to report this matter so seriously, Merlin knew that this Hallucinatory Heart must not be that simple.

Lady Phillie was not surprised as well. She now knew of Merlin’s identity as a Spell Caster from beyond the heavens. He might not know what a Hallucinatory Heart was, so she explained in detail, “A Hallucinatory Heart is extremely precious. It’s a crystal from the body of a creature called a hallucinatory beast. This type of Hallucinatory Heart has a most remarkable function, which is to boost Mind Power! Treasures that purely increase Mind Power are really far too rare, and the Hallucinatory Heart is one of those. Therefore, once a Hallucinatory Heart appears, it’ll cause fierce competition among Spell Casters.”

Merlin's eyes brightened. He had instructed Lady Phillie that he wanted potions or treasures which would increase Mind Power but did not expect that he would come across any. There was no Hallucinatory Hearts in the Glorious Land.

In the Glorious Land, other than divinity, items which purely increased Mind Power did not exist at all. Back then, Merlin had by chance obtained a strand of divinity, which was why his Mind Power had undergone an immense upgrade.

Nevertheless, divinity was extremely difficult to acquire. In general, one would only discover it through sheer luck. It was essentially impossible to hope for the acquisition of more divinity. However, he did not think that there would be such a mystical treasure like the Hallucinatory Heart in this new dimension.

"When will the auction commence?"

Merlin's interest in this auction was already piqued.

"Three days later, in Dara City!"

Merlin nodded, following which he looked at Lady Phillie. "After three days, bring all the elemental crystal stones you can lay your hands on with you. Remember, do it at all costs. Begin gathering elemental crystal stones now, as many as you can. I don't wish to lose the Hallucinatory Heart during bidding just because I don't have enough elemental crystal stones!"

Upon seeing Merlin's cold gaze, Lady Phillie shivered within her heart, and nodded solemnly. Thereafter, she took her leave respectfully.

"The Hallucinatory Heart... I must get it!"

Merlin inspected his Mind Power which had not grown by much. He was determined to obtain the Hallucinatory Heart, no matter what the cost!

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Outside the bustling Dara City, people passed to and fro, and many powerful Spell Casters went in and out of constantly. Many of these Spell Casters had a fearsome force about them, causing some ordinary Spell Casters to feel alarmed.

“Look quickly, it’s the Whirlwind Lord!”

A pitch-black whirlwind appeared in the sky, whistling as it flew toward Dara City. It had uncommon might but as soon as it reached Dara City, the whirlwind stopped. A Spell Caster who was covered all over in tattoos, including his face, appeared on the road, bearing a menacing appearance.

Many Spell Casters knew the identity of this extraordinary Wizard. He was the infamous Whirlwind Lord, a formidable Eighth-level Wizard who dominated a massive mountain range that stretched a thousand miles. He was a master of mighty forces.

Nonetheless, the Whirlwind Lord was savage by nature. Every few months, his murderous nature would flare up, and he would slaughter a few Spell Casters who were at odds with him. His external reputation was a terrible and notorious one. Therefore, most Spell Casters upon seeing the Whirlwind Lord’s arrival, quickly hid far away, not daring to approach.

“Humph!”

The Whirlwind Lord eyed Dara City icily. With two beautiful, alluring female Wizards behind him, he stepped bluntly into Dara City. He must have come here for the auction in Dara City.

“Today, powerful Wizards such as the Whirlwind Lord, Wizard Balata, the Black Tower King, and so on, had arrived. Tsk tsk, is there some significant item up for auction this time in Dara City?”

“No one can say for sure. The previous auctions organized by Dara City had attracted many Spell Casters too, but not as many powerful Spell Casters as this time. An extremely significant auction item must’ve appeared. Who knew how many more formidable Spell Casters will come?”

A few Spell Casters outside the city gates were already feeling numb. They had witnessed too many powerful Spell Casters coming today, including the Whirlwind Lord, who was merely one of them. No matter whether it was an overlord of a certain group or Wizards with fearsome reputations, all of them came to Dara City one after another.

“Swish swish.”

A few figures gradually flew toward Dara City from the distant sky. At their lead was a black-robed Wizard.

“The Whirlwind Lord is really tyrannical. No one knows if he would be just as tyrannical after the auction!”

The black-robed Wizard emanated an icy force all over, especially as he glared at the Whirlwind Lord who had just entered Dara City. A murderous light flashed in his eyes.

“Wizard Merlin, being outside Dara City, it’s best not to cause any extraneous trouble!”

Lady Phillie hurriedly reminded Merlin from behind. These figures were Merlin and Lady Phillie as well as Wizard Darknight and the rest. They had encountered the Whirlwind Lord on their way here.

The Whirlwind Lord had been rude and overbearing, charging around violently, and paid no attention to Merlin and the rest. He had even caused Wizard Darknight to be somewhat injured, so Merlin felt a desire to slay the Whirlwind Lord.

It was just that they were outside Dara City, and the auction had not begun. In order to prevent any mishaps, Merlin could not cause any extraneous trouble. Thus, he did not attack.

“Be rest assured. I know how to act!”

Merlin retracted his gaze, following which he flew into Dara City with Wizard Darknight, Lady Phillie and the rest.

Dara City was prosperous because of the well-known auction managed by Wizard Dara. It was held once every three years, and the items of every auction were very precious.

Moreover, Wizard Dara was a Wizard at the peak of the Eighth-level and had even gone against a Ninth-level Spell Caster of the Glorious Palace, undefeated. Therefore, with him overseeing things, Dara City was one of the most secure cities.

As Merlin strolled in the streets of Dara City, he sensed its bustling atmosphere. Although the trading scenario in Bisque City had greatly improved under Lady Phillie's administration, and many merchants were willing to go to Bisque City, there was still a significant disparity when compared to Dara City before their eyes.

There were also the Elemental fluctuations of many powerful Wizards in Dara City. Merlin, after merely passing one street, had felt the Elemental fluctuations of seven or eight Seventh-level Spell Casters at the very least.

Therefore, Merlin's expression gradually became grave. It looked like this auction was not that simple. Fortunately, he had brought enough elemental crystal stones this time, and was unafraid of competition!

Very soon, Merlin's group came before a lavish building. Before the doors, there were a few Sixth-level Spell Casters who were respectfully receiving the incoming Wizards.

It was a grand maneuver to use Sixth-level Spell Casters to receive Spell Casters outside the doors. No matter where one was, Sixth-level Wizards held a high position.

When Merlin and the rest were about to enter, they were blocked by a Sixth-level Wizard, who broke into a smile, saying mildly, "O' Wizards, please present your invitation."

"Invitation? I don't have an invitation!"

Merlin furrowed his brow. He had truly not received an invitation.

Upon hearing that Merlin had no invitation, the Sixth-level Wizard's expression did not change, yet the tone became rather cold. "I'm sorry, but if you have no invitation, you're not allowed to join the auction."

"We have no invitation but we have this. Would this allow us the right to enter?"

Behind Merlin, Lady Phillie immediately handed over a dark red metal plaque which was inscribed with complicated runes. However, when the Sixth-level Wizard saw this dark red metal plaque, a

great change crossed this Wizard's face, who said conscientiously, "Ah, you're distinguished guests. Please, come in. As long as you're distinguished guests, you don't have to present an invitation."

Merlin's face was full of puzzlement. He did not know what this metal plaque was.

It was after they entered the building that Merlin opened his mouth to ask, "Lady Phillie, what's that in your hand?"

"Wizard Merlin, this was left behind by Tambert back then. Tambert was a frequent attendee of the auction in Dara City. After cumulatively attending for a few times, he received a plaque for distinguished guests. Anyone who holds this plaque can join the auction as they wish. Furthermore, there are luxury suites prepared for distinguished guests."

Lady Phillie explained in a respectful tone.

"Oh? Looks like we've stolen Tambert's spotlight."

Merlin grinned casually. He did not mind what method they used, as long as they were able to enter.

Soon enough, after flashing their plaque for distinguished guests, gorgeous maidservants with alluring features and revealing attire led Merlin and the rest to a luxury suite which was numbered twenty-eight.

"Honorable, distinguished guests of number twenty-eight, this is your luxury suite. If there's anything you need, call out at any time. I'll be right outside. The auction will only begin in two hours."

Merlin narrowed his eyes and did not allow the maidservant to leave. Instead, he pointed at the other luxury suites and asked, "Tell me, which is the suite of the Whirlwind Lord?"

"This... Apologies, according to the rules of the auction, we aren't allowed to divulge the identities of distinguished guests."

"Is that so?"

Merlin glanced at Lady Phillie, following which Lady Phillie retrieved a few elemental crystal stones from her ring, smiling as she said, “You’re just telling us which suite the Whirlwind Lord is in. What’s the big deal?”

“There really is a rule in the auction that we mustn’t divulge this simply.”

The maidservant’s expression remained firm.

“Take more!”

Merlin did not seem to care in the slightest, letting Lady Phillie take out a huge sum of elemental crystal stones. Instantly, the maidservant’s face flushed red. She would not get so many elemental crystal stones even after working in this auction for ten years.

Therefore, she allowed her gaze to drift to suite number thirteen, and did not say a word. However, Merlin had understood her implicit meaning, and dismissed her with a wave of his hand.

“Luxury suite number thirteen! Darknight, I want you to watch that suite very closely. If anyone comes out, report to me!”

Merlin’s eyes revealed a frosty, deadly glint.

Chapter 462: The Thunder Stone

There was an increasing number of Wizards who came for the auction, and the Elemental fluctuations of each Spell Caster who entered a luxury suite were frightening. The time of the auction drew nearer.

Merlin sat quietly in his suite. He had a good view here and was able to see the auction podium clearly. If an auction item was displayed on the podium, one was best able to see it from the luxury suites.

Time passed minute by minute, and soon the auction began. Down below, it was a black sea of Spell Casters. Any Spell Caster who was qualified to join the auction must be rather competent. At the very least, they would have prepared a large sum of elemental crystal stones, ready to display their wealth in full during the auction.

“My fellow Wizards, welcome to Dara City! In the history of all our auctions, this auction has the greatest number of distinguished guests. I believe that this auction will surely satisfy all of you as well!”

It was a female Spell Caster, sporting an alluring figure in a blue robe, who walked onto the podium. However, no one paid attention to her looks for they were observing the Seventh-level Elemental fluctuations that wavered indistinctly around her. She was a powerful Seventh-level Spell Caster!

After the female Wizard walked onto the auction podium, the entire venue fell silent. Everyone fixed their unwavering gazes upon the podium because the first auction item was about to emerge.

The female Wizard gave a charming smile, following which she waved a hand lightly. Instantly, a few Wizards who had been waiting below gently carried a silver tray to the podium before settling it down just as gently.

This silver tray seemed imbued with mystery as it twinkled with a silver light. It was a feast for the eyes.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the first auction item of today is extraordinary. In this auction, it can be considered a relatively rare treasure! Therefore, it shall be our first auction item. Please take a look, everyone.”

With that, the female Wizard uncovered the silver tray with a flourish, and a soft glow came from within. It was a short, tiny rod that seemed to be made of silver.

However, this was no mere short rod. As the female Wizard tapped the rod lightly, it glowed with a soft light instantly and mysterious runes quickly flew from it. Following that, the short rod lengthened rapidly, becoming larger, turning into a unique scepter in the blink of an eye!

This scepter was a very special casting tool!

“Everyone, watch carefully. Perhaps many of you haven’t seen this scepter before but you’re surely not a stranger to its name. It’s called Kellen’s Scepter!”

As the female Wizard announced the name of this scepter, many Spell Casters cried out in shock.

“It’s Kellen’s Scepter. How did Dara City manage to obtain this scepter?”

“This is a famed scepter indeed. It’s a casting tool used by a noble Wizard named Kellen in the past. Thereafter, Wizard Kellen joined the Glorious Palace, and there was even news that he had become a Great Wizard of the Glorious Palace!”

“This scepter has an even greater symbolic meaning. Back then, Wizard Kellen was full of ambition and even tried in vain to unify the entire continent. Although he didn’t succeed in the end, he still founded a massive nation. Kellen’s Scepter is the sole keepsake of that nation. I didn’t expect that it would appear here.”

Many Spell Casters seemed to have heard of Kellen’s Scepter before and were even more familiar with the master of Kellen’s Scepter, Wizard Kellen.

In the luxury suite, Lady Phillie explained in detail the origins of Kellen’s Scepter. When he heard that Wizard Kellen was in the Glorious Palace and had become a Great Wizard, Merlin could not hold back his astonishment.

Regardless of whether it was in the Glorious Land or this new dimension, a Great Wizard was a lofty, powerful Wizard. During the golden years of the Dark Magic Region, there had only been the emergence of one Great Wizard.

Kellen’s Scepter was rich with symbolic meaning, but putting that aside, it had a unique function as a casting tool as well. Naturally, it would attract the attention of some Spell Casters.

The female Wizard waited until the crowd of Spell Casters below had had their fill of discussion before she spoke slowly, “Kellen’s Scepter has the ability to enhance spells below the Ninth-level. As for the extent of enhancement, it depends on the Spell Models constructed by the Wizard. If the power of the Spell Model is too great, then the enhancement would not be much. Starting bid is at a hundred thousand elemental crystal stones. Every subsequent bid must raise the price by a thousand elemental crystal stones at least!”

The starting bid for Kellen’s Scepter was a hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, as expected of the auction in Dara City. It should be known that a hundred thousand elemental crystal stones would be considered an immense amount of wealth to most Spell Casters. Here, it was merely the starting bid for a casting tool with rich symbolic meaning.

There were still Wizards who bid for it. From one hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, it soared smoothly to one hundred and eighty thousand elemental crystal stones. At last, it went to a slightly overweight Spell Caster.

Merlin observed carefully. Previously, not one distinguished guest from the luxury suites had made a bid for Kellen's Scepter. This meant that these guests had no interest in a casting tool with symbolic meaning such as Kellen's Scepter. Like Merlin, they were silently waiting for the auction item that they needed most.

After the first item was smoothly auctioned off, the following auctions gradually became livelier. There were precious potion materials, a powerful Runic Magic Disc, and even a few alchemy puppets, all of which astounded Merlin.

Those alchemy puppets possessed strength which was in no way inferior to Seventh-level Wizards, and were even immune to certain spells. It looked like in this dimension, puppet transfiguration had been developed to its peak, far surpassing the Glorious Land.

Even alchemy itself was rare in the current Glorious Land, to say nothing of puppet transfiguration, which became extinct long ago. Merlin himself had a puppet which was comparable to a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

However, although these puppets amazed Merlin, he did not bid for them, and neither did the other distinguished guests.

"The following auction item needs no extraneous introduction. It's called the Thunder Stone. It's a type of alchemy material as well as a precious treasure. This is something you can only come across by sheer luck. Bidding opens at two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, and every subsequent bid must raise the price by no less than a thousand elemental crystal stones!"

Initially, Merlin was merely observing the crowd because the Hallucinatory Heart he was hoping for had not appeared yet. Nonetheless, when the female Wizard presented this Thunder Stone as the next auction item, Merlin was briefly stumped. The Thunder Stone was precisely something he required to cultivate the Pandora Demon Ability Thunder Fury. Initially, he had asked Lady Phillie to keep an eye out for it, and did not expect that it would show up in this auction.

This was an extremely precious treasure, and most Spell Casters would choose to utilize it for transfiguring puppets. The Thunder Stone served a great purpose in the transfiguration of Thunder-type puppets.

“Two hundred and ten thousand elemental crystal stones!”

“Two hundred and thirty thousand elemental crystal stones!”

“Two hundred and forty thousand elemental crystal stones!”

As the price rose constantly, there were fewer bids. Finally, the price was pushed to two hundred and sixty thousand elemental crystal stones, and still, no one from the luxury suites had bid.

“Two hundred and seventy thousand elemental crystal stones!”

Suddenly, luxury suite number twenty-eight had made a bid. Although it was not a high bid, it still attracted the attention of many because this was the first time a distinguished guest from the luxury suites had made a bid.

A sweet smile appeared on the female Wizard’s face. In reality, they were not concerned about most auction items. What they cared about were the Wizards in the luxury suites.

Only the Wizards in the luxury suites were able to offer elemental crystal stones by the million. This was the true, crucial point of the auction. It was a good sign that a distinguished guest of the luxury suites had finally quoted a price.

“Huh? It’s luxury suite number twenty-eight. Isn’t that Tambert’s suite?”

“To think that Tambert is interested in a Thunder Stone. Is he unsuccessful in transfiguring a Thunder-type puppet?”

Amongst the luxury suites, there were many Spell Casters who knew of luxury suite number twenty-eight. After all, it was not the first time Tambert had been in the suite nor was it his first time attending the auction.

The news that Merlin had killed Tambert had only spread to the periphery. Spell Casters from more distant lands did not know of this development, and they thought that it was still Tambert in that luxury suite.

“Two hundred and seventy-five thousand elemental crystal stones.”

A Spell Caster hesitated for a moment before ultimately making a higher bid.

“Three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!”

In a flash, a higher price rang out from number twenty-eight. This time around, the Spell Casters who had been stirring with desire, planning to bid, now lost all inclination to do so. They all shook their heads. Based on the bid of luxury suite number twenty-eight, it was the driving force of someone determined to get something. Therefore, Spell Casters who did not urgently require the Thunder Stone were unwilling to bid further.

“Very well. Three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, to the distinguished guest of number twenty-eight!”

The female Wizard gave a syrupy smile. Soon enough, someone covered the tray, and brought the Thunder Stone directly to luxury suite number twenty-eight.

“Distinguished guest of twenty-eight, here’s your Thunder Stone.”

The maidservant placed the Thunder Stone in the suite. Merlin nodded to Lady Phillie, who immediately handed over three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones to the maidservant.

Three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones were a huge sum to most Spell Casters. However, for Merlin who controlled Bisque City, and after so many days of extraction from that gigantic mine, it was nothing much. This time, the number of elemental crystal stones he had asked Lady Phillie to bring even reached the level of ten million.

It was because he had his heart set on the Hallucinatory Heart!

Although Lady Phillie was somewhat curious as to Merlin's use for the Thunder Stone, she did not question him further. She merely needed to manage the elemental crystal stones, and did not need to intervene in other matters.

Merlin picked up the Thunder Stone and turned it over and over in observation. The surface of the stone was rough and uneven. Terrifying Thunder-type power was contained deep within, requiring guidance in order to be unleashed.

However, this was a top-notch treasure for cultivating Thunder Fury. Perhaps it might be hard to find it in the Glorious Land, but in this dimension, a Thunder Stone was not a scarce treasure, even though it was still precious.

“With this Thunder Stone, cultivating Thunder Fury would not be a problem!”

Merlin was highly satisfied. By joining this auction, even before the Hallucinatory Heart had appeared, he had already gained such a prize. He was now anticipating the following auction items.

Chapter 463: Vying for the Hallucinatory Heart I

Surprises were everywhere. At the start, Merlin's main goal was to seize the Hallucinatory Heart, yet unexpectedly, during the auction, he came across a Thunder Stone which could be used to cultivate the Thunder-type Pandora Demon Ability Thunder Fury.

Moreover, other than the Thunder Stone, Merlin discovered a frigid ice bone marrow as well. This was the primary treasure needed to cultivate an Ice-type Fusion Pandora Demon Ability.

These two treasures would allow the successful cultivation of Merlin's remaining two types of Pandora Demon Abilities, establishing a solid foundation for when he became a Great Wizard, and merged them with his spells.

These were both unexpected prizes. Moreover, there were not many who competed with Merlin for these two treasures. He merely spent a few hundred thousand elemental crystal stones to acquire them.

Besides these two treasures, Merlin did not bid on anything else. He had no interest in the casting tools, Runic Magic Discs, and the like. He was waiting for the final few premium auction items, particularly the Hallucinatory Heart, which Merlin was determined to get!

The auction went on for over three hours. Although it was a long time, almost all the Spell Casters were in high spirits. Every single auction item, even if it did not tempt everyone, would at least attract every single eye.

“I believe many have been waiting a long time for the following auction item. It’s one of our premium items in this auction!”

The pretty and charming Seventh-level female Wizard swept her gaze across all the Spell Casters and especially paid even more attention to the Wizards in the luxury suites.

Premium items had always gone toward the distinguished guests. It was rare for average Spell Casters to be able to contend against the distinguished guests in the luxury suites in terms of financial resources.

Therefore, the auction was geared toward the distinguished guests and was beyond the abilities of most Spell Casters. It might be that the profits of a few dozen auction items could not even surpass the profits of one premium auction item.

The female Wizard did not immediately announce the name of the premium item. After giving her pitch, she clapped her hands softly. Instantly, a full-figured maidservant came forward with a crystal tray, full of mystery and opulence, in one hand.

“I believe that everyone is curious about this auction item. In fact, once the crystal tray is uncovered, everyone should be able to recognize it!”

The female Wizard took off the lid with a flourish. In that instant, a burst of soft, colorful light shone into the eyes of the watching Wizards, following which peculiar fluctuations of energy seemed to spread from the delicate, crystalline object that was lying on the tray.

“Hmm? The Hallucinatory Heart has finally appeared!”

Upon sensing the mystical fluctuations, a white-haired Spell Caster in a luxury suite reacted with elation in the eyes, his gaze fixed firmly upon the treasure on the tray.

This was one of the premium auction items of this auction, the Hallucinatory Heart which was able to purely increase Mind Power!

The Hallucinatory Heart was not a potion nor was it a divinity. Rather, it was a crystal found all over the body of a hallucinatory beast which was unique in this dimension. It was the essence of this beast. This species of the hallucinatory beast was very powerful, and the natural strength of each adult beast was frightening, comparable to a Spell Caster at the peak of the Eighth-level.

There were even some formidable hallucinatory beasts which were on par with Ninth-level Spell Casters. Not even Merlin, who obviously knew that these beasts existed, would dare to provoke them.

It was still manageable if they were only comparable to an Eighth- or Ninth-level Spell Caster. By relying on the fourth form of Darkness Eye, using the power of Maxim at most, Merlin would surely be able to slay a few of these hallucinatory beasts.

However, the difficulty was that these creatures lived in groups. There was no hallucinatory beast which lived by itself. Therefore, not even Merlin would dare to provoke these terrifying hallucinatory beasts.

He did not know how this Hallucinatory Heart was obtained.

However, no matter how it was obtained, one could tell that this was the genuine article solely based on its special fluctuations. Therefore, the numerous guests of the luxury suites were silently gathering their forces, waiting for the bidding to begin to start vying for the Hallucinatory Heart.

This Hallucinatory Heart was the first premium auction item of this auction, so it was bound to produce the fiercest contest in the auction thus far!

Upon seeing the reactions of the Spell Casters below, the lovely, charming Seventh-level female Wizard gave a faint smile. "I believe everyone knows what this is. That's right, it's a Hallucinatory Heart! As for the benefits of the Hallucinatory Heart, everyone should know it very well, so I'll save any unnecessary explanations. Bidding starts now, opening at five hundred thousand elemental crystal stones. Each bid must increase the price by at least ten thousand elemental crystal stones!"

Five hundred thousand elemental crystal stones were considered a colossal amount of wealth. None of the previous treasures managed to exceed a price of five hundred thousand.

Nonetheless, for a treasure like a Hallucinatory Heart, five hundred thousand elemental crystal stones were far too little. Still, this was merely the starting bid, for the auctioneer had the utmost confidence in the Hallucinatory Heart.

Indeed, as soon as the female Wizard spoke, it was not even a distinguished guest who spoke but a Spell Caster who sat in the common area, immediately yelled, "Eight hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!"

At that moment, the entire auction hall fell silent. It was not that eight hundred thousand elemental crystal stones were earth-shattering but that someone from the common area was competing for the premium auction item too.

The one who bid eight hundred thousand elemental crystal stones was a chubby Spell Caster who looked just like an infant. Only his pair of abstruse eyes prevented people from looking down on him.

Furthermore, based on his manner, this chubby Spell Caster seemed to have prepared additional resources to be able to bid against the distinguished guests from the luxury suites.

"Eight hundred and ten thousand elemental crystal stones!"

At last, someone from the luxury suites made a bid but it was not a high one. Still, there was a note of determination.

"Nine hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!"

"Nine hundred and ten thousand elemental crystal stones!"

Each time that chubby Spell Caster made a bid, the guest in that luxury suite increased the price by ten thousand, which sounded like they were simply playing tit-for-tat.

However, no one was under this impression because the distinguished guest sounded very resolute. This was a strategy of bidding in an auction, making one's opponent feel like there was no end to this. It was as if no matter what the price was, they would raise it by ten thousand.

This was a psychological battle and was one of the tactics used in auctions.

“One million!”

At last, that chubby Spell Caster yelled out one million. His eyes had slightly reddened by now, and one could see that one million elemental crystal stones were his limit. He was incapable of paying any more than that.

However, no matter how much that chubby Spell Caster prayed and hoped, no miracle happened.

“One million and ten thousand!”

The same faint yet steady voice came once more from the luxury suite. The chubby Spell Caster turned pale but did not shout out a higher price in the end.

“The distinguished guest in number forty-three had bid a million and ten thousand. Is there a higher bid?”

A small smile tugged at the corner of the female Wizard’s mouth as if she knew how this would end up. However, a million and ten thousand were still insufficient by far. She knew that this was only the beginning, and there were many distinguished guests who still had not bid.

As expected, after she spoke, the guest in number five finally yelled a quote.

“Two million elemental crystal stones!”

When this price was quoted, the entire venue was full of sharp intakes of breath. All at once, the price had jumped up by a million elemental crystal stones. It was then that those ordinary Spell Casters truly understood the power of a distinguished guest.

The chubby Spell Caster who had made the first bid wore a deathly pale complexion. He now understood that when those distinguished guest in the suites saw him making his bids earlier, he must have thought of him as naïve and ridiculous.

“Three and a half million!”

“Four million!”

“Five million elemental crystal stones!”

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After a series of competing bids, the guests in the luxury suite had now entered a fervent phase. The price had risen incessantly, and was now ten times more than the starting price of five hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!

“Master, are you not going to bid? I’ve observed earlier that the one with the highest bid is luxury suite number thirteen. It must be the Whirlwind Lord!”

Wizard Darknight whispered into Merlin’s ear. He was sent by Merlin to keep watch over every movement of luxury suite number thirteen. Naturally, he would notice the bid of that suite.

“Oh, it’s the Whirlwind Lord? There’s no rush for it’s not yet time to make our move. Based on my appraisal, this Hallucinatory Heart would fetch at least eight million elemental crystal stones, more or less!”

Merlin appeared to be brimming with confidence. He had brought enough elemental crystal stones this time and could be considered relatively wealthy amongst these distinguished guests. Moreover, he had his heart set on this Hallucinatory Heart!

“Six and a half million, calling once. Six and a half million, calling twice. Is there a higher bid? Suite number thirteen made the bid of six and a half million...”

“Seven million!”

Soon enough, an unfamiliar voice rang out, raising the price to seven million. Instantly, the face of the Whirlwind Lord in luxury suite number thirteen turned stiff as he growled softly, “There’s still someone who’s bidding? I recall that there are only a handful of Spell Casters who were determined to get this Hallucinatory Heart, and those old fellows had all stopped bidding. Who else is bidding?”

Quickly, the gorgeous female Wizard standing beside the Whirlwind Lord leaned in and spoke into his ear breathily, “It’s luxury suite number twenty-eight!”

“Luxury suite number twenty-eight? Isn’t that Tambert’s suite? What, he’s going against me now?”

The Whirlwind Lord gave a nasty laugh, and immediately snatched that alluring female Wizard by his side. His brutish hands, crammed with tattoos, brazenly rubbed the female Wizard’s body. The female Wizard grunted softly a few times and stoically stopped struggling. Instead, she closed her eyes in pleasure. For a moment, the room was filled with a salacious, indulgent air.

“Go, make another bid. Seven million and ten thousand. If that Tambert makes another bid, it’s clear that he’s going against me. In that case, there’s no need to bid further. I’ll wipe out his Bisque City at a later date!”

The Whirlwind Lord was savage by nature and was ruthless. Knowing that it was Tambert in luxury suite number twenty-eight who was competing with him, his heart flared with a murderous spirit. He would have let it go if it was some other Eighth-level Spell Caster but as for Tambert, the Whirlwind Lord did not think much of him.

“Seven million and ten thousand!”

The Whirlwind Lord made another bid, raising the previous price by only ten thousand. This clearly indicated what his attitude was. Therefore, some Spell Casters seemed to sense that something was not right, and fell silent. Their eyes gathered upon luxury suite number twenty-eight.

Chapter 464: Vying for the Hallucinatory Heart II

In the luxury suite, Wizard Darknight, Lady Phillie, and the rest did not speak. They held their breaths in rapt attention, and the mood was tense.

Merlin’s eyes were shut lightly, but a chill still pervaded the room, causing them to tremble.

“Go and make a bid of seven million and twenty thousand!”

There was an icy edge in Merlin's voice. He was clearly meeting his opponent measure for measure, countering the Whirlwind Lord's bid. Merlin did not care whether his opponent would fly into a rage because the Whirlwind Lord was already a dead man in his eyes.

"Seven million and twenty thousand. The distinguished guest in number twenty-eight has bid seven million and twenty thousand. Is there a higher bid?"

The beautiful and charming female Wizard swept her gaze across the crowd of Spell Casters. She predicted that this was the final outcome. If the Whirlwind Lord had not made a bid of seven million and ten thousand elemental crystal stones which carried a clear sense of "threat", the Hallucinatory Heart might fetch an even higher price.

However, with the tit-for-tat conflict between the Whirlwind Lord and the guest in number twenty-eight, the price could not go any higher because no one else would bid further.

Otherwise, they would have to face the furious retaliation of the Whirlwind Lord after the auction. The Whirlwind Lord was this sort of person, where slaughtering was second nature to him. If one provoked him without having the adequate capabilities, it was akin to a death wish.

"Very well, seven million and twenty thousand. Congratulations to the distinguished guest in number twenty-eight for obtaining the Hallucinatory Heart!"

Finally, the Hallucinatory Heart was won by Merlin but many Spell Casters did not think that the guest in number twenty-eight was lucky. Conversely, they shook their heads one by one.

"What a shame. Having offended the Whirlwind Lord, they're in danger!"

"Number twenty-eight – I've heard that it's the suite of Wizard Tambert of Bisque City. Tsk tsk, we're about to get a good show... Although killing is second nature to the Whirlwind Lord, his powers are too fearsome. Based on the Whirlwind Lord's past behavior, the entire Bisque City is facing misfortune now."

Most Spell Casters knew that suite number thirteen was the room of the Whirlwind Lord who was savage by nature. This time, Tambert had provoked the Whirlwind Lord, and things would surely not end well for him.

Of course, there were those who were puzzled as well. In the past, Tambert was not someone who was flashy or excessive, much less someone who would make unwise decisions. Could Tambert really contend against the Whirlwind Lord?

Within luxury suite number thirteen, the Whirlwind Lord's face was ashen. He did not bid any further and instead allowed "Tambert" to get the Hallucinatory Heart.

"Heh heh, Tambert's really bold now... Very well, I've not slaughtered an entire city for a long time. This time, I'll go to Bisque City!"

Tyrannical energy flickered all over the Whirlwind Lord, and the flirty female Wizard who was lying in his embrace frowned faintly as if she was suffering.

...

In luxury suite number twenty-eight, the maidservant of the auction carried a tray and came into the room.

"Honorable distinguished guest, here's your Hallucinatory Heart!"

"Swoosh."

Merlin's eyes fixed upon the crystal tray instantly. In one swipe of his hand, he grabbed the crystal tray from the maidservant's grasp, after which he uncovered the tray. It really was the Hallucinatory Heart, so he indicated to Lady Phillie to hand the elemental crystal stones to the maidservant.

Lady Phillie immediately retrieved a ring and said, "The seven million and twenty thousand elemental crystal stones are inside, please check and see it's correct!"

The maidservant smiled demurely. "There's no need for we have faith in our distinguished guests! However, as for the distinguished guest in number thirteen, there may be a bit of trouble. Our president has asked me to convey to you that as long as we're in this auction, no one would dare make any attacks."

Merlin discerned the implicit meaning of her words. During the auction, Wizard Dara was able to guarantee Merlin's safety because this was Wizard Dara's home turf. No one was allowed to fight during the auction, and even the Whirlwind Lord would take note of that.

After all, Wizard Dara was a powerful Wizard who could escape unscathed from the attacks of Ninth-level Glorious Wizards!

This was a kind reminder, and Merlin nodded. "Give my thanks to your president. I'll keep this in mind."

Having finished speaking, the maidservant respectfully took her leave. There were only Merlin, Darknight, Lady Phillie, and the rest in the luxury suite.

Darknight, Lady Phillie, and the rest paid no mind to that Whirlwind Lord. In their perspective, even Wizard Dara was not a big deal. Perhaps only the Glorious Wizards would rouse Merlin's serious attention.

After all, in their eyes, Merlin was a Spell Caster from beyond the heavens, a being comparable to a Great Wizard. Even if he was slightly inferior to a Great Wizard, he was on par with those Ninth-level Glorious Wizards!

Merlin was currently focusing all his attention on this Hallucinatory Heart which gleamed with vivid colors. It was mesmerizing indeed, especially in the darkness. Its beauty was breathtaking, almost making one unwilling to absorb it.

This item had a hallucinatory effect, which was one of the natural abilities of hallucinatory beasts. Even a Hallucinatory Heart which had been excavated would still carry its natural hallucinatory properties. Spell Casters who had weak Mind Power and wobbly willpower might actually become enthralled.

Nevertheless, to Merlin, this bit of hallucinatory effect was not of much use although this Hallucinatory Heart was not a Darkness-type treasure. It meant that his Darkness Heart served no purpose in this sense, and his tremendous Mind Power could still easily resist this minor hallucinatory effect.

Merlin was more focused on the peculiar fluctuations within the Hallucinatory Heart. It was these mystical fluctuations of energy which made him feel uncommonly pure as if his soul was about to be purified.

This was the wondrous power which could increase Mind Power, the core of those formidable hallucinatory beasts!

“Master, you’re going to absorb the Hallucinatory Heart now?”

Darknight saw that Merlin was staring unwaveringly at the Hallucinatory Heart, and asked cautiously.

“Oh? In fact, I’m in no rush for now!”

Merlin raised his head and kept the Hallucinatory Heart. Absorbing the Hallucinatory Heart was not that simple. Although the power of the Hallucinatory Heart was very pure, and having almost no side effects, it would still take some time. Although Merlin was highly satisfied having accomplished his objective in coming to Dara City, he still wanted to see the treasures which were even more precious than a Hallucinatory Heart in this auction.

After the explosive round of competitive bidding over the Hallucinatory Heart, many Spell Casters were looking forward to the next treasure up for auction. The Hallucinatory Heart was merely the first premium auction item. Following that, there were even better, more mystical treasures!

“Creak creak.”

Soon enough, a puppet that was about two meters high and incomparably sturdy slowly walked onto the podium.

This was an alchemy puppet which had a blank face as if it was controlled to walk onto the podium. Many people were mystified. Were they auctioning off this alchemy puppet?

Although this alchemy puppet looked extremely formidable, it was rare to see puppets in the auction. Furthermore, most alchemy puppets could only reach the level of Seventh-level Spell Casters. This was nearly their peak, and there were very few puppets that could break through past the Seventh-level.

Just as all the Spell Casters were steeped in puzzlement, intense Fire Elemental fluctuations flared up around the female Wizard. This was a Seventh-level spell, and the blaze further contained a trace of white light, indicating that it was merged with a Pandora Demon Ability.

With this spell combined with Pandora Demon Ability, its might would increase many times over and become frightening. The wide-ranging flames immediately engulfed the puppet, beginning to rage and burn.

After a long moment, the female Wizard withdrew the flames, allowing the audience to look. The puppet's clothes had been reduced to ashes by the flame, thus revealing the puppet's sturdy frame.

However, if one took a closer look, one would discover in surprise that the puppet's skin was sparkling and crystalline, like jade. There were no signs of scorching. If this was due to astounding regenerative properties, this would be too terrifying.

Nonetheless, the more prevalent assumption was that this puppet might be equipped with formidable defensive capabilities. To be more precise, it must have extremely high resistance against Fire-type spells.

As if she could read the thoughts of the spectating Spell Casters, the female Wizard snapped her fingers and pointed. Instantly, thick layers of ice crystals rapidly formed around the puppet's body.

"Crack crack."

The ice crystals formed unceasingly, solidifying in a pristine, white layer of ice.

"Crack."

At this moment, the puppet moved, the muscles rippling all over its body. As it shook its body fiercely, the solid ice crystals were immediately shattered, becoming flakes of ice that filled the air as they flew in all directions.

It was not that the ice crystals were not solid enough or that the Ice-type spell was too weak. It must be known that this was a Seventh-level Wizard, who was almost at the peak of her level. How could her spell be an average one?

Even so, this puppet was still able to easily escape from the binding of the ice crystals. In no time, a Spell Caster had confirmed that this was a rarely seen Eighth-level puppet!

“It’s an Eighth-level puppet. Dara City had really pulled off an impressive feat. To think that they produced a puppet that exceeds the limits. It’s really inconceivable!”

“This is too crazy – an Eighth-level puppet! This is an Eighth-level puppet that anyone can control. If one obtains it, isn’t it equivalent to having an Eighth-level Wizard as a personal bodyguard?”

An ardent look burned in the eyes of many Spell Casters. Since it was a puppet, even if it was an Eighth-level one, it was surely no match for a Wizard at the peak of the Eighth-level in a real fight.

However, a puppet that was able to crush every Seventh-level Wizard and contend against Eighth-level Wizards was very powerful indeed. This was a puppet that had surpassed the usual limits. Even an Eighth-level Wizard would go mad for it.

The Seventh-level female Wizard looked in satisfaction at the reactions of the Spell Casters below. Nonetheless, she shifted the topic of discussion. “Fellow Wizards, I’m sorry to say that the current premium item which is up for auction is not this puppet!

“It’s true that this puppet is at the Eighth-level, transfigured successfully by a noble Great Alchemist of Dara City. What we’re auctioning off today is the alchemy formula for transfiguring this puppet!

“This limit-breaking alchemy formula will guarantee success in transfiguration as long as it’s a Spell Caster with a relatively high mastery of alchemy! The value of this is far greater than the alchemy puppet. Therefore, the starting bid is at two million elemental crystal stones, and every subsequent bid must increase by no less than ten thousand elemental crystal stones!”

As soon as she spoke, the entire venue of the auction was dead silent. There seemed to be no one bidding as they were still digesting the earth-shattering implications of her words.

An alchemy formula which surpassed the limits of puppet transfiguration? Moreover, based on Dara City’s reputation, it must be authentic if it was up for auction. The value of such an alchemy formula was almost hard to imagine.

Of course, there were also Spell Casters who had thought of a special factor. The alchemy formula would surely yield more puppets which surpassed the limits, but what if the materials for this

puppet transfigurations were extremely hard to find? Would that not limit the practicality of the formula?

There was a high possibility that this was the case, which was why Dara City was willing to auction it off. However, even so, it was a priceless treasure, and countless Spell Casters would go insane for it. This was a puppet, not just an Alchemy Creature, and could be transfigured endlessly.

If one transfigured ten such Eighth-level puppets, one could even forcibly overwhelm a powerful Eighth-level Wizard. In greater numbers, not even a Wizard at the peak of the Eighth-level would be a match for them.

This limit-breaking alchemy formula was indeed worthy of being one of the premium auction items. Moreover, the competition between the distinguished guests was only just beginning...

Chapter 465: The Memory Crystal

“Eight million elemental crystal stones!”

“Eight and a half million elemental crystal stones!”

“Nine million elemental crystal stones!”

In the auction, the competing bids carried on like a perpetual wave, never-ending in the ear. However, in just a short half an hour, the price had risen to nine million elemental crystal stones.

In luxury suite number twenty-eight, Wizard Darknight’s eyes were bloodshot, fixed steadily upon the puppet on the podium. This puppet which was comparable to an Eighth-level Spell Caster excited him to no end.

Nevertheless, as he observed the constantly clambering, terrifying price, Wizard Darknight could only shake his head slightly. Even though he governed Eternal Night Mountain, and was counted among the relatively wealthy, he was still far behind those distinguished guests in the luxury suites.

“Lady Phillie, how many elemental crystal stones are left from the amount that we’ve brought today?”

Merlin suddenly turned toward Lady Phillie and asked.

Lady Phillie began to check. After her inspection, she said in a low voice, “Wizard Merlin, this time we’ve prepared thirteen million elemental crystal stones. This is the highest number of elemental crystal stones which Bisque City could mobilize for now. Earlier, we had bid successfully for the Hallucinatory Heart, so now we’re only left with six million elemental crystal stones!”

“We’re only left with six million?”

An expression of disappointment clouded Merlin’s face. He was extremely interested in the alchemy formula that could transfigure Eighth-level puppets. This was the item which he was most interested in other than the Hallucinatory Heart throughout this auction.

Nonetheless, it was a pity that he, who had bid for the Hallucinatory Heart, did not have enough financial resources to compete against the other distinguished guests.

In the end, the puppet formula was sold at nine million and eight hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, a price close to the sky-high price of ten million. Although this was an unreasonably high price, one obtained the formula in exchange. If one was able to successfully transfigure multiple Eighth-level puppets, then it would be worth more than ten million elemental crystal stones.

Two premium auction items had been profitably auctioned off at prices which Dara City was satisfied with. Dara City was even slightly taken aback at the final price of this puppet formula.

“The following item is the final item for today, and it’s also the most important item in this auction!”

The charming Seventh-level female Wizard appeared solemn. The auction had sold off two premium auction items in succession. Now, this was also the final item of the auction, a treasure more precious than the Hallucinatory Heart and the Eighth-level puppet formula.

Every Spell Caster directed their gaze to the Seventh-level Wizard who was on the podium.

“Hehe, is that treasure really about to appear?”

“This time, I’m determined to get it!”

“I wonder what this final treasure really is...”

A few Spell Casters seemed to know what this final item was, bursting with eagerness to bid for it with determination. Other Spell Casters did not seem to know what this last auction item was.

Merlin narrowed his eyes slightly. This auction had broadened his horizons. The Eighth-level puppet formula had tempted him. It was because he did not have enough elemental crystal stones that he had to give up somewhat regretfully.

This final treasure was clearly more valuable than the Eighth-level formula. Merlin did not know what it was that was worthy of being the final premium item of the auction.

Therefore, he looked toward the podium in excited spirits as well.

“Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that all of you know that the Glorious Palace had recently issued a wanted notice. Those wanted are a group who worship the wicked god. Over the past millennium, the believers of the wicked god have never truly become extinct. Each time these believers are discovered, they become the highest priority of the Glorious Palace.

“Therefore, this time, the Glorious Palace has announced a generous reward. Anyone who could wipe out this group of believers would be allowed entry into the Glorious Pavilion of the Glorious Palace and stay there for one entire day.”

This news was perhaps not known to low-level Spell Casters, who were now baffled. However, the powerful Spell Casters had received news of this long ago.

Nonetheless, the believers of the wicked god seemed to be inextinguishable. Back then, Wizard Mogan had spent a century slaying the gods. Ever since then, those believers of the wicked god would emerge from time to time.

Moreover, each time they showed up, they would attract the most urgent attention of the Glorious Palace, who would always send forth their experts to wipe the believers out as soon as possible.

It was just that in the past few years, these believers of the wicked god had cropped up again and again. It was hard to slaughter all of them, so the Glorious Palace might as well send out this notice, offering some reward, prompting all the Spell Casters of this dimension to hunt down these believers of the wicked god.

“What’s the Glorious Pavilion?”

Merlin lifted his head and looked toward Wizard Darknight as he asked in a low voice.

“Master, the Glorious Pavilion was personally erected by Wizard Mogan. It contains various spells and even Pandora Demon Abilities, and any Great Wizard can leave a unique imprint in the pavilion such as spells, runology, and so on. Therefore, for anyone who enters the Glorious Pavilion, not only is it a huge honor symbolically, but one may also acquire unimaginable benefits.”

Wizard Darknight evidently paid closer attention to the Glorious Palace, and thus his explanation of the Glorious Pavilion was extremely detailed.

“Even Great Wizards can enter, and they may be willing to leave behind imprints and reflections. There’s a huge possibility that a few Spell Casters from beyond the heavens had left some imprints in there. Perhaps there’s some explanation about dimension coordinates in there!”

Countless considerations flashed across Merlin’s mind instantly, especially the possibility of information regarding dimension coordinates. Besides the Spell Casters who came from the Void Zone, no one else would know about the dimensions, let alone dimension coordinates.

Merlin possessed the coordinates of the Ecuador Dimension. At the same time, Wizard Saitu had left behind the coordinates of the dimension he occupied in the Thunder Maxim.

Naturally, Merlin wanted to visit these two dimensions but did not know how to locate these coordinates. Only after obtaining the relevant information would he be able to search for the corresponding dimensions according to their coordinates.

“The Glorious Pavilion!”

Merlin secretly memorized this place. This might be his only hope to learn about dimension coordinates.

The female Wizard paused for a moment, then softly pulled off a piece of red cloth on the podium. Underneath that cloth was a transparent Memory Crystal, in which one could leave behind a memory message.

“The final auction item is this piece of Memory Crystal. As for the message it contains, hehe, I believe all of you will be interested. The message is mainly about a secret hideout used by a group of believers of the wicked god!”

“Babble.”

As soon as the female Wizard spoke, the entire auction venue burst out in a talk. Countless Spell Casters were unable to locate any secret hideout of those believers.

Once one knew the hideout of those believers, it was a done deal. One could locate those believers of the wicked god, kill them, thus completing the mission set by the Glorious Palace. One would then get to enter the Glorious Pavilion for an entire day.

Staying in the Glorious Pavilion for an entire day was better than any treasure. Back then, as Wizard Dara finished a certain mission of the Glorious Palace, he was able to enter that pavilion and stay for an entire day despite being merely a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

Thereafter, in a mere five years' time, Wizard Dara became an Eighth-level Spell Caster, one who was the strongest amongst his level. He was even able to escape unscathed when faced with Ninth-level Spell Casters!

Furthermore, the fortune of entering the Glorious Pavilion did not merely belong to Wizard Dara alone. In general, each Spell Caster who entered the Glorious Pavilion had ultimately become the overlord of a group or a very formidable Wizard!

Therefore, now that the Glorious Palace had issued a mission, they had already stirred up the entire dimension, tempting countless Spell Casters with the chance to enter the Glorious Pavilion. However, this was not that easy, and only the Glorious Wizards of the Glorious Palace could enter and exit the pavilion as they wished.

Perhaps this was why the Glorious Wizards did not take on missions in general. It was merely a chance to enter the Glorious Pavilion. To those Ninth-level Glorious Wizards, this could not even be called a reward.

Such a reward was not a rarity to the Glorious Wizards but other Wizards would go crazy over it.

Now, the chance to enter the Glorious Pavilion was right before their eyes. As long as they obtained the Memory Crystal, located the whereabouts of the believers of the wicked god, and then kill them, they would be able to enter the Glorious Pavilion.

Therefore, many Spell Casters were looking at this piece of Memory Crystal with wild passion burning in their eyes.

“The opening bid of the Memory Crystal is five million elemental crystal stones. Each bid must raise the price by no less than fifty thousand elemental crystal stones!”

The Seventh-level female Wizard drew in a deep breath and finally announced the starting bid of the last auction item. As the final premium auction item of this auction, it was not disappointing indeed.

“Great, it really is a Memory Crystal!”

“According to rumors, these believers attempted to awaken a wicked god from thin air once more but this caused them to become heavily scrutinized by Wizard Mogan. They really are stupid. Even the wicked gods who were at their peak were defeated by Wizard Mogan, to say nothing of a recently awakened god.”

“The believers of the wicked god are a group of lunatics who know no reason. However, this group of lunatics can be exchanged for a chance to enter the Glorious Pavilion. This is an opportunity that must not be missed.”

As this involved the entry into the legendary Glorious Pavilion, even the most cool-headed Spell Caster would be incapable of remaining calm now. The first ones to bid were the distinguished guests from those luxury suites, and they had clearly come here for the Memory Crystal. They raised the price one after another until it surpassed the previous auction items by far.

Very soon, the price of the Memory Crystal had broken through the mark of ten million, and it was continuing to rise higher. Merlin could not help but shake his head. Even if he had not bid for the Hallucinatory Heart, he would have no way of competing against these distinguished guests.

In terms of riches, Merlin who had a shallow foundation still could not compete against these Spell Casters with extensive resources.

The price of the Memory Crystal had passed ten million and was soaring further toward a sky-high price. Suddenly, a frigid chill appeared all around the auction venue at an unknown time.

“The Memory Crystal is mine!”

From beyond the doors, a Spell Caster with handsome features barged in. He was dressed in a long, white Wizard robe. With a magic staff in his hand, he pointed casually toward the podium.

Instantly, the Seventh-level female Wizard was surrounded by emerging layers of dense ice, which froze her in place. Following that, the mysterious white-robed Wizard immediately lunged towards the podium.

The white-robed Wizard’s target was that transparent piece of Memory Crystal!

Chapter 466: A Sudden, Unexpected Development

“Bang!”

There was a loud bang, and the entire auction venue was frozen in ice crystals. The boundless chill rapidly assailed everyone who was present, and it seemed like no one was able to withstand it. Only when it spread to the doorways of the luxury suite, it was as if held back by some of the distinguished guests, who prevented the chill from entering.

However, most of them were frozen solid, including the distinguished guests!

“Crack!”

Ice crystals formed quickly within luxury suite number twenty-eight. Darknight and Lady Phillie wore grave expressions for the ice crystals were beginning to invade the room.

“Humph!”

Merlin snorted coldly. This frigid blast was impressive but he had Glacier Country and was not fearful at all. The transparent Glacier Country descended instantly, containing the speed by which the ice crystals spread.

Other than the suite Merlin was in, there were only seven or eight other rooms that were not frozen by the ice crystals.

“Swish.”

The white-robed Wizard was extremely fast. After unleashing the chill, he snatched the Memory Crystal from the podium in one great swipe, following which he withdrew quickly to the back.

“Put the Memory Crystal down!”

“Who did this? Who would be so impudent as to rob an item from the auction in Dara City?”

Many Spell Casters still seemed to be caught in a dream. This was far too shocking. There were merely seven or eight Wizards in the auction who were able to hold back the spell cast by that white-robed Spell Caster earlier. Even the lovely, charming Seventh-level female Wizard on the podium was frozen by the ice crystals, unable to put up the slightest resistance.

Such an unexpected development had never occurred in the past auctions in Dara City.

“D*mn it, what a mighty chill. It must be that madman Ores!”

The Whirlwind Lord in luxury suite number thirteen had all his limbs frozen. Fortunately, he had immense strength and soon broke free of his bindings. Nonetheless, he had an idea of who would be bold enough to rob a treasure from the auction.

“Swish.”

Thus, the Whirlwind Lord quickly flung the doors open and flew out from the auction venue, chasing after the white-robed Wizard. There were many Spell Casters who were currently doing the same thing as the Whirlwind Lord, most of which were the mysterious and revered distinguished guests.

“Master, what do we do? It must be that Spell Caster at the peak of the Eighth-level, Ores. He’s a powerful Wizard on par with Wizard Dara. Only he would dare to act against Wizard Dara’s auction.”

Wizard Darknight was well informed and recognized that white-robed Wizard at once.

“All of you should wait here. The Memory Crystal was snatched – this might be an opportunity!”

A smirk appeared over Merlin’s lips. If the Memory Crystal was in the auction, it would not be wise for him to make his move. However, now that it had been robbed, it was a chance for Merlin to seize it for himself while avoiding plenty of unnecessary trouble.

“Swish.”

Therefore, Merlin rushed out of the luxury suite as well and went after the white-robed Wizard Ores.

As soon as he left the auction, Merlin saw that there were many waves of powerful Elemental fluctuations in the sky which were speeding ahead. They must be hunting down Ores.

“Ores, how bold of you! Since you’ve come, you don’t have to leave. Stay on...”

Suddenly, a raspy voice rang out across the sky, sounding like it was transmitted from all directions. At the same time, a huge hand formed purely from flames lunged powerfully at the white-robed Wizard Ores.

“Boom!”

The white-robed Wizard seemed prepared. He raised one hand and pointed. The sky was frozen solid into ice crystals, and the two spells clashed heavily against each other.

It was not a scene where the flames melted the ice crystals. Conversely, the two types of Elemental fluctuations tangled with each other, bursting with an occasional explosion, containing astonishing might.

“Wizard Dara has made his move!”

“What intense Elemental fluctuations. Wizard Dara has come infinitely close to a Ninth-level Spell Caster. He might really have a chance of becoming a Glorious Wizard in the Glorious Palace in the future!”

A few Spell Casters recognized Wizard Dara. This was Dara City, where Wizard Dara held an absolute advantage. Only he could stop Ores.

“Heh heh, Dara, it’s been such a long time. It seems like you haven’t made any progress. I’ll take this Memory Crystal for myself, haha!”

Ores roared with laughter. He was not harmed by the giant flame hand, and instead retreated in one piece. He was light as a feather, and his speed increased many times over as he flew out of Dara City like a rainbow beam.

“Whoosh.”

In the sky, the flames gradually condensed into a body with indistinct features. Nonetheless, violent Elemental fluctuations emanated from the entire body. This must be Wizard Dara who managed this auction.

Wizard Dara was the host of the auction. Now that something like this had happened, if he did not hurry to stamp out its repercussions, it would have a disastrous effect on the auction.

Therefore, Wizard Dara’s expression was as gloomy as water, his eyes glaring steadily at Ores’ disappearing figure in the distance.

“Ores, you dare to ruin my auction. I shall chase you to the ends of the world!”

Wizard Dara was filled with rage, brimming with natural resentment toward Ores. Thus, his figure quickly sped into the direction where Ores had left.

At the same time, the Whirlwind Lord and the others saw clearly that the exchange of blows between Wizard Ores and Wizard Dara was completely beyond the level of Seventh-level Spell Casters. It was a battle of Wizards at the peak of the Eighth-level.

“Swish.”

Merlin’s figure appeared in mid-air. The Whirlwind Lord narrowed his eyes slightly, exuding a chilly, murderous force all over his body. He laughed coldly. “So, you’re not Tambert. It looks like the foolish fellow has been replaced by you! Very well. Count yourself lucky this time. After I’ve obtained the Memory Crystal, I’ll come to wipe out Bisque City!”

The Whirlwind Lord was instantly able to tell that Merlin was not Tambert of Bisque City, so he immediately surmised Merlin’s general identity as the Spell Caster who had replaced Tambert, gaining fresh control of Bisque City.

Nevertheless, the Whirlwind Lord was now in a hurry to get the Memory Crystal. Naturally, the “trivial matter” of dealing with Merlin would have to wait. The Whirlwind Lord would make his attack after getting the Memory Crystal.

Merlin did not bat an eyelid as he stared at the Whirlwind Lord’s disappearing figure. An intense, deadly look flashed in his eyes but he quickly restrained himself. He saw that many Spell Casters had begun their chase, among which were Spell Casters who were at the peak of the Eighth-level like Wizard Dara.

Therefore, Merlin did not dawdle any longer, and vigorous Wind Elemental fluctuations rose up around his body

“Flash Wind!”

Merlin unleashed Flash Wind at full force in addition to his Fifth-level Wind-type spell Traceless Wind. His speed further reached an outrageous level.

“Whiz.”

Merlin was like an arrow at maximum velocity, and he quickly overtook the Spell Casters in front of him. He took the lead and was the first in the chase, causing no end of amazement to the Spell Casters looking at him.

In terms of speed, the current Merlin was definitely the first amongst these Spell Casters. Even Ores, who was frantically escaping far ahead, was not as fast as Merlin. The gap between the two narrowed more and more.

“How can he be so fast? He’s not the old fellow Dara. So, who is he?”

Sensing the Spell Caster who was increasingly close behind him, Ores frowned slightly. He did not know who that person was, and could only ascertain that it was certainly not Wizard Dara.

Ores was far too familiar with Wizard Dara and naturally knew that Wizard Dara’s speed was no match for his. He had rarely met anyone whose speed could be compared to his.

However, Ores not only had met someone like this now but the person’s speed was even greater than his.

Ores did not stop. With one in front, and one behind, the both of them quickly outstripped the Spell Casters behind them. They flew to a desolated, remote location. Ores reckoned that Wizard Dara and the rest would need some time before they would catch up, so he stopped and turned around, quietly hovering in the air.

He wanted to know who this Spell Caster was, one who could pursue him so stubbornly at such an incredible speed.

“Hmm? He’s stopped?”

Merlin saw that Ores had stopped in front, so he began to slacken his pace at a distance, coming to a stop in mid-air as he faced Ores.

“Who are you? I know most of the Seventh and Eight-level Spell Casters who attend the auction in Dara City yet you’re the only one I don’t recognize!”

Ores realized that this Spell Caster was a stranger. The force of Elemental fluctuations on this stranger's body was merely at the Fourth-level. A Spell Caster like this had chased after him – was this not akin to seeking his own death?

Thus, Ores became more curious and was in no rush to attack. Conversely, he sized up Merlin with full interest.

However, Merlin did not take a second look at Ores, and merely said coldly, “Bisque City, Merlin!”

“Bisque City? Isn't that a zone controlled by Tambert?”

Ores was about to say something else but Merlin had already stretched out his palm casually. He revealed, in his fair palm, a blood-red, eerie eye which flickered constantly.

“What I want is the Memory Crystal!”

Merlin's voice was icy, and there was not a trace of fear as he faced the Spell Caster at the peak of the Eighth-level, Ores.

“What spell is this or is it a Pandora Demon Ability?”

Ores had never seen such a peculiar eye. Naturally, he did not know that this was a powerful special Pandora Demon Ability, something far beyond a Fusion Pandora Demon Ability.

“Someone like you wants the Memory Crystal? Haha, that's really hilarious...”

However, before Ores could finish speaking, he felt a stab of trepidation trembling throughout his body. An intense sense of threat spread deep in his heart.

“Darkness Eye, control!”

Merlin drew in a deep breath, and the eerie, blood-red Darkness Eye immediately unleashed its fourth form. At the same time, the sky was filled with a crimson glow which expanded like a huge net, confining Ores within.

In particular, a giant ghostly face had appeared above Merlin's head. The ghostly face burst out in peals of terrifying laughter, its faces twitching incessantly. The fourth form of Darkness Eye had flared up fully.

Ores' mocking smile froze instantly. He reacted quickly, and without any hesitation, a layer of ice crystals, smooth as a mirror, appeared all over his body.

"Hum."

In the instant the blood-red light fell across Ores' body, his expression underwent a great change for the first time....

Chapter 467: Killing the Whirlwind Lord

"Chi-chi."

When the blood light descended upon Ores, he felt in that instant that his control over Elements weakened increasingly, almost gradually vanishing at last.

Ores had never felt such a sensation before. His control over Elements was being stripped away!

"What Pandora Demon Ability is this?"

Ores was flabbergasted, and a somber expression gradually took over his face. Nonetheless, he acted decisively. Sensing that something was wrong, he immediately retreated. One could see that although he was engulfed in the fourth form of Darkness Eye, and his control over Elements was continuously declining, he was obviously able to hold on longer than those Seventh-level or average Eighth-level Wizards.

He was able to wield a spell despite being trapped in the blood-red light. It was the first time Merlin had seen this. That layer of mirror-smooth ice crystals had some effect on the fourth form of Darkness Eye.

Upon retreating, Ores glanced at Merlin from a safe distance with a complicated expression. He said hoarsely, “Merlin of Bisque City, not bad at all. That crimson eye of yours made me feel a sense of danger. If this was some other time, I would like to fight. However, now? There are many who are trailing behind you. The Memory Crystal is still what’s important. Haha, I won’t waste any more time with you.”

After he spoke, Ores extended an arm and gestured toward the ground.

Merlin still did not know what Ores was doing. Suddenly, countless ice crystals appeared over the ground, rapidly extending to Merlin’s feet.

“Crack.”

Merlin’s feet were frozen. He acted decisively and immediately unleashed Glacier Country, countering Ores’ chill. However, Ores had seized this window of time to quickly disappear from Merlin’s sight.

“Swish swish swish.”

Very soon, Wizard Dara and the rest finally caught up but all they could see was Merlin’s translucent Glacier Country and no trace of Ores.

Merlin used his Mind Power to investigate and discovered that he had no way of locking onto Ores. His face fell involuntarily. He had unleashed the fourth form of Darkness Eye, yet he was unable to restrain Ores.

This made Merlin more prudent. It looked as if the fourth form of Darkness Eye could not handle every threat. Faced with those average or above-average Eighth-level Spell Casters, Darkness Eye had absolute dominance, depriving the opponent of their control over Elements in one move.

However, when it came to Wizards at the peak of the Eighth-level like Ores, it was not that easy. Although the fourth form of Darkness Eye provided Merlin with some advantage, it was still rather difficult for him to kill them using only that.

Ores had escaped along with the Memory Crystal. Merlin’s body exuded a dim chill, and he did not even look at the Spell Casters who had just arrived as he immediately prepared to leave.

“Hehe, leaving so soon?”

A figure promptly blocked the path before Merlin. Merlin raised his head to see that it was the Eighth-level Wizard, the Whirlwind Lord, with whom Merlin had a slight conflict on their previous journey to Dara City.

The Whirlwind Lord’s gaze was sharp as he glared at Merlin coldly. The other Spell Casters looked at the Whirlwind Lord and Merlin with interest. They had never met Merlin and were simply astonished upon witnessing Merlin’s speed earlier.

“Heh heh, looks like a good show is about to start. This Wizard who came from Tambert’s luxury suite had provoked the Whirlwind Lord. Based on Whirlwind Lord’s ruthless personality, not only this mysterious Wizard but even Bisque City would be involved in this calamity.”

“Fools! You only think of the Whirlwind Lord’s savagery, but why didn’t you consider whether this mysterious Wizard, being so fast, had caught up to Ores? If he had, he’s escaped in one piece. Heh heh, escaping in one piece when faced with Ores – can the Whirlwind Lord do that?”

“That’s right, I’m afraid that the Whirlwind Lord has backed himself into a corner this time. He acted so hastily but he didn’t carefully perceive the surrounding Elements. The force of violent Elemental fluctuations is clearly lingering in the air here, meaning that someone had cast a spell here. Besides that mysterious Wizard, who else could it be?”

A few astute Spell Casters had noticed Merlin’s unusual aspects so they were cautious. Even though they were impatient to learn of Ores’ whereabouts and obtain the Memory Crystal, they did not readily ask Merlin about this.

Conversely, it was the Whirlwind Lord who, in his hurry to teach Merlin a lesson, had stood out first from the group.

Merlin narrowed his eyes slightly. At this moment, he was not able to restrain his murderous intent from spreading out. This terrifying murderous intent which was nearly tangible filled the skies and the land.

Even if Merlin was unwilling to admit this, ever since he acquired Darkness Eye, he had slaughtered much more than he used to. How could the Whirlwind Lord possibly compete with the number of people Merlin had killed throughout his journey?

Therefore, once this murderous force was exuded, even the Whirlwind Lord's face shifted greatly.

Without waiting for the Whirlwind Lord to respond, Merlin waved one great hand. Instantly, a frigid blast converged from all directions, and a transparent layer of light enveloped the Whirlwind Lord.

“Glacier Country!”

The translucent Glacier Country was only able to freeze a Seventh-level Spell Caster in place. Intense Wind Element began to emerge all over the Whirlwind Lord's body, forming into columns of fearsome whirlwinds which crushed the surrounding ice crystals into fragments.

“Destructive Flame!”

A sharp glint twinkled in Merlin's eyes. He took a step forward. Raging flames instantly surged up around his body and began to burn furiously. Merlin was like a god of fire, controlling all flames.

“Go.”

With that one command, Glacier Country began to burn with ferocious flames. What was most peculiar was that the flames and the ice crystals did not conflict with each other. Instead, they matched each other in an indistinct manner, letting the Whirlwind Lord properly experience the full force of cascading ice and fire.

The mutual combination of Glacier Country and Destructive Flame could produce explosive and remarkable results. The Whirlwind Lord had initially handled the attack with ease, but now, with the burning of the flames, he could feel his Magic Power depleting quickly as if he would be burned to ashes by the flames any moment now.

It was then that the Whirlwind Lord realized that Merlin before his eyes was far beyond any comparison with Tambert.

“Whoosh...”

The sky turned dark. It was boundless Darkness Element which immediately submerged the Whirlwind Lord. Under the simultaneous attacks of three spells, the Whirlwind Lord could no longer hold on at last. The fiery blaze quickly ignited his body as invisible attacks occurred in the darkness. In the blink of an eye, the Whirlwind Lord was reduced to ashes.

Merlin waved one great hand, dispelling Glacier Country and the flames. A Spatial Ring appeared on the ground, and Merlin grasped it firmly in his hand. Other than that, there was nothing else left.

The Spell Casters who came this time were at least Seventh-level, and there were more who were Eighth-level Spell Casters. They were the batch of Spell Casters among the distinguished guests who had the greatest capabilities. Moreover, those who would dare to chase after Ores would naturally be rather confident.

The Whirlwind Lord had his unique points as well. His whirlwind spells, in fact, had formidable might, infinitely close to the power of Eighth-level spells. It was even stronger when added to a Demon Ability, so he was brave enough to chase after Ores.

Of course, compared to Ores, the Whirlwind Lord was naturally lacking, but he wanted to take advantage of the situation. However, he had ended up dying at Merlin's hands.

Merlin's glance swept across the crowd of Spell Casters, following which he flew off into the other direction as if nothing had happened.

"Wizard Merlin, hold on!"

A calm voice rang out. Merlin furrowed his brow, feeling rather annoyed. Time and again, someone kept blocking his way.

Before him was Wizard Dara, who had blocked Merlin, yet he had no intention to pick a fight.

"Wizard Dara, what's the matter? I didn't steal the Memory Crystal from the auction!"

Merlin was still rather apprehensive when faced Wizard Dara. He had just exchanged blows with Ores, and Ores was basically equally matched with Wizard Dara. His fourth form of Darkness Eye

might provide him with an edge over these peak Eighth-level Wizards but to actually kill them was an immense challenge with numerous difficulties.

Wizard Dara gave a genial smile. “Of course Wizard Merlin didn’t steal the Memory Crystal. It’s just that I’ve some matters I would like to discuss with you. That’s all.”

“Matters to discuss with me?”

The furrows on Merlin’s brow deepened. Wizard Dara was now acting very strange. He was not hunting down Ores but instead was looking for Merlin to discuss some matters.

Although Merlin did not know what this was about, based on Wizard Dara’s manner, it was not as simple as Wizard Dara merely “inviting” Merlin to a discussion.

Seeing that Merlin was not replying, Wizard Dara smiled enigmatically, following which his voice sounded in Merlin’s ear. This was a simple technique which used Mind Power to communicate with someone. This method was very confidential, and only the pair who were communicating could hear anything.

“Wizard Merlin, it’s regarding the believers of the wicked god, as contained in the Memory Crystal. I wonder if Wizard Merlin is interested in going to Dara City for a chat?”

This was Wizard Dara’s voice which only Merlin could hear. The other Spell Casters only thought that Wizard Dara had stopped Merlin in order to invite him to Dara City for the discussion of some matters.

When Merlin heard that it was about the Memory Crystal, his eyes brightened. Nevertheless, he then sized up Wizard Dara in suspicion. That Memory Crystal had been up for sale at Wizard Dara’s auction. Had Wizard Dara already seen the message contained in the Memory Crystal?

The more Merlin thought about it, the more he felt it was likely.

Therefore, Merlin nodded and followed behind Wizard Dara, returning once more to Dara City by flight. This caused the pursuing Spell Casters to exchange dismayed looks.

“Wizard Dara is not chasing anymore?”

“Wizard Dara seemed highly interested in that Wizard Merlin. Although that Memory Crystal is valuable, Wizard Dara had managed Dara City for so many years. He can afford to lose one Memory Crystal. I think we should stop wasting our efforts. We can’t possibly catch up to Ores.”

A few Wizards saw that even Wizard Dara had left, and shook their heads powerlessly. They did not continue to pursue Ores, and each went their own way.

Chapter 468: Wizard Dara

In Dara City, the hall of Wizard Dara’s residence was currently only occupied by both Wizard Dara and Merlin. As for maidservants and the like, there was not even one of them.

Merlin was somewhat curious. Why was there not even a maidservant in the residence of someone like Wizard Dara, considering his current position?

As if he sensed Merlin’s curiosity, the castellan of Dara gave a slight smile. “Do you find it strange? The entire Dara City belongs to me, but I like a quiet environment. Having reached the stage where I am now, there aren’t many things that would tempt me.”

Merlin nodded, following which a strange grin tugged at the corner of his mouth. He said softly, “That’s right, someone with your identity and status would not care about such things. Presumably, a chance to enter the Glorious Palace should be able to excite you?”

“Wizard Merlin, you’ve truly proved yourself as a powerful Wizard who could kill the Whirlwind Lord, and your thoughts are perceptive too. It’s true. My lifelong dream has been to enter the Glorious Palace and become a Glorious Wizard! I believe with your intelligence, you’ve already guessed that it was, in fact, I who auctioned that Memory Crystal!”

This pragmatic manager of Dara City, the powerful Wizard Dara at the peak of the Eighth-level, was the owner of the Memory Crystal. Merlin had guessed as much because Wizard Dara’s previous communication with him revealed that Wizard Dara knew the contents of the Memory Crystal. It was just that Merlin could not be sure.

Merlin also knew that Wizard Dara would surely be interested in the believers of the wicked god contained in the Memory Crystal. Wizard Dara was willing to enter the Glorious Pavilion once

more. The external rumors that Wizard Dara had lost interest in entering the Glorious Pavilion were false.

“Purpose! Wizard Dara, what’s your purpose in doing so?”

Merlin’s eyes fixed without wavering upon Wizard Dara. Since Wizard Dara had gone to such lengths, surely, he would have extensive schemes. Only Merlin did not know what he was plotting exactly.

“Hehe, Wizard Merlin, I won’t talk about my purpose for now. Conversely, it is you who’s hiding a very big secret... The rumored Spell Caster from beyond the heavens is, in fact, a Fourth-level Spell Caster who had constructed a few Fifth-level spells! If news of this gets out, I’m afraid it would cause quite a stir. Who knows, the Glorious Palace might even be alarmed, and might decide to send over someone to ‘understand’ Wizard Merlin.”

A stiff, unnatural smile had appeared on Wizard Dara’s face.

“Hmm, are you threatening me?”

Merlin raised an eyebrow. He had greatly restrained the force of his body but was still seen through by Wizard Dara. Wizard Dara must have sensed this back when he was fighting against the Whirlwind Lord.

Merlin was a Wizard from beyond the heavens. Although the Glorious Palace of this dimension would not trouble such Wizards, this was because most of them were Great Wizards. After all, those below the level of Great Wizards would find it harder to pass through the Void Zone.

Merlin had simply entered the Void Zone by chance and coincidence through the powerful Runic Magic Circle left behind by the Great Wizard Fidel. Ultimately, he had come into this new dimension unexpectedly.

Therefore, the Glorious Palace would not disturb those Great Wizards, and would instead treat them courteously. However, Merlin was merely a Fourth-level Wizard, yet he was able to explode with impressive power that might reach the peak of the Eighth-level. There was no way to tell if the Glorious Wizards of the Glorious Palace would send someone over.

At that point, Merlin would be caught in deep trouble. The implicit meaning of Wizard Dara's words was a naked threat.

Although Merlin did not bat an eyelid as he was secretly on his guard. The fourth form of Darkness Eye could be unleashed at any time. He even considered making his move and killing Wizard Dara right here.

Wizard Dara did not seem to notice any changes in Merlin, and his tone was just as calm as ever when he said, "Wizard Merlin, please don't misunderstand me. How could I possibly threaten you? I'm simply curious. You know, being a mere Fourth-level Spell Caster, you're able to annihilate an Eighth-level Wizard, one who was comparatively powerful like the Whirlwind Lord. I believe that any Spell Caster would be interested in this."

It was true that Merlin had just killed the Whirlwind Lord, already causing a huge stir. Nevertheless, if his identity as a Fourth-level Spell Caster was publicized, it would cause an even greater uproar.

Assuming that Merlin did not mobilize the fourth form of Darkness Eye, his current abilities were initially only comparable to Wizards at the peak of the Seventh-level. However, after he had constructed various types of Fifth-level spells, his powers had in fact grown somewhat. When his spells were used together, they were even enough to wipe out most Eighth-level Spell Casters.

Although the Whirlwind Lord was not an average Eighth-level Wizard, being more powerful, his Mind Power was too weak as Merlin had discovered when he cast Darkness Assassin. Merlin's Glacier Country was added on to Destructive Flame and other Fifth-level spells, which he had derived himself and thus could not be considered based on the standards of usual spells.

Moreover, he had cast Darkness Assassin in the end. After he had unleashed this spell, the Whirlwind Lord was unable to withstand the illusion of the Darkness-type spell as well as the ever-present hidden attacks. It was then that the Whirlwind Lord was finally killed.

Since Merlin had been exposed, there was no point in pretending anymore, so he said coldly, "Wizard Dara, tell me your intentions!"

Wizard Dara, who had appeared unperturbed from the start, gradually grew somber now. He said in a low voice, "Wizard Merlin, you came from beyond the heavens. You won't know how hard it is to wipe out those believers of the wicked god. It's funny how those Seventh-level and Eighth-level Spell Casters think that upon obtaining the Memory Crystal, they would be able to kill those believers, and thus enter the Glorious Pavilion. They're basically idiots, seeking their own death!"

After a pause, Wizard Dara continued. “The believers of the wicked god, if they are the fanatical type, would be troublesome. I’ve encountered these believers before, so of course, I knew very well how strong they are. I would be incapable of completing the mission to wipe out these believers of the wicked god just by myself, so I need someone to help me!”

“You’re recruiting help? If you would stealthily use the Memory Crystal to entice a few powerful Eighth-level Wizard, surely that won’t be a problem? Why did you publicly auction the Memory Crystal instead?”

Merlin felt that Wizard Dara had deep-running schemes, and was someone who was slick, and hard to deal with.

“Heh heh, how I wish that was the case. How many powerful Wizards are there who are worth my attention? Furthermore, even if others had joined, we would have to plot against each other. When faced with the believers of the wicked god, we would fail easily. Therefore, I displayed the Memory Crystal in the auction to cause a commotion, and then purposely spread the news to Ores.

“Ores is obsessed with boosting his powers. How would he let slip an opportunity to enter the Glorious Palace? Plus, his abilities are formidable indeed, and he was sure to come here and seize it forcibly.

“As expected, Ores did come, and he even caused such a huge uproar. My plan was precisely this; to let Ores feel like he could deal with those believers after acquiring the Memory Crystal. At that point, we’ll follow behind. With Ores in front of us doing the heavy work, it’ll be much easier for us.”

Dara’s words cause Merlin’s heart to sink slightly. Indeed, Wizard Dara had such convoluted schemes. He would use such a plan to get Ores to clear the path ahead while he cashed in from behind.

However, with such a great opportunity, and since his plan had worked, why would Wizard Dara invite Merlin?

As if he sensed Merlin’s misgivings, Wizard Dara let out a long sigh and said with a solemn expression, “Even if Ores is bearing the brunt in front, I don’t think that he’ll succeed! Even with you and me in the equation, there’s no guarantee of success. If possible, I want to invite another peak Eighth-level Spell Caster. It’s just that amongst those who came to this auction, besides

yourself, there was no one who was on par with the peak of the Eighth-level. For the rest of them, going on this mission would only be throwing away their lives!”

In addition to Merlin as well as Ores doing the heavy work in front, Wizard Dara still felt that there was no guarantee of success. This indirectly indicated how challenging it would be to wipe out those believers of the wicked god.

“Alright, I’ve said all that I needed to say. I wonder if Wizard Merlin is interested in working together to wipe out those believers of the wicked god?”

After Wizard Dara finished speaking, he fell silent as he waited for Merlin’s reply.

Merlin raised his head to glance at Wizard Dara, whose expression remained calm as if nothing was out of the ordinary. Nonetheless, Merlin knew that if he refused, Wizard Dara would surely use all of his wits to confine Merlin in Dara City!

Merlin had not much choice unless he was willing to battle with Wizard Dara! It was just that if he did not manage to kill Wizard Dara, there would be great trouble. At the moment, Merlin was not confident that he would be able to kill Wizard Dara.

After a long moment, Merlin slowly lifted his head, and asked in a low voice, “When do we start?”

Wizard Dara heaved a small sigh of relief, and his eyes twinkled. It looked like he had previously decided that if Merlin did not agree, he would keep Merlin here at all costs. After all, the matter of the Memory Crystal must not be divulged. Otherwise, this would be a tremendous blow to Wizard Dara’s reputation. After all, no one would have imagined that Wizard Dara, who had always been honest in managing the auction of Dara City would intentionally set up such a snare.

Once this was leaked out, Dara’s auction would no longer be able to carry on.

With such a critical issue on the line, how could Wizard Dara possibly let Merlin leave so easily?”

Fortunately, Merlin had agreed to cooperate in wiping out those believers of the wicked god together. Thus, it was with relief that Wizard Dara said, “As to when we’ll start, I don’t know as well. We’ll have to see when Ores makes his move.”

“You’ve tampered with the Memory Crystal?”

Merlin immediately realized this. Wizard Dara must have done something to the Memory Crystal. Otherwise, how could he possibly know of Ores’ whereabouts?

Wizard Dara did not deny this and nodded. “That’s correct. I’ve tampered with the Memory Crystal, and Ores won’t find out about it. For the next few days, Wizard Merlin can stay here in Dara City. When Ores begins to move, we’ll set out together, and trail him in secret!”

Merlin bobbed his head, but deep down he was even more vigilant toward Wizard Dara. His opponent’s cunning schemes made him uneasy.

Chapter 469: Spell Fusion I

Dark clouds filled the sky as if a rainstorm was about to happen.

Merlin sat in a quiet room. He had already let Darknight and Lady Phillie guard the surroundings to notify him if anything happened. After all, in this unfamiliar Dara City, Merlin still had to be careful.

“Swoosh.”

A Thunder Stone appeared in Merlin’s hand. It was the treasure that he had obtained during the auction. Perhaps to others, it was only an alchemy material but if Merlin wanted to cultivate Thunder Fury fused with a Pandora Demon Ability, he needed the Thunder Stone.

Merlin was already very familiar with cultivating Pandora Demon Abilities. Since he did not have any Thunder-type Pandora Demon Abilities, he could cultivate it smoothly. Merlin first followed the procedures of the new spell and drew some patterns on his arm. When these mysterious patterns were drawn, they faintly modeled with the Thunder-type spells in his body, establishing an extraordinary connection.

This was the foundation for cultivating Thunder-type Pandora Demon Abilities, followed by the Thunder Stone. Merlin lightly placed the Thunder Stone on the mysterious pattern on his arm.

“Hum.”

Suddenly, a glint of lightning flashed, and a faint numbing feeling spread through his arm at the same time. The fist-sized Thunder Stone gradually melted and entered the patterns. The originally bleak patterns then slowly became dazzling.

“Whoosh!”

The Thunder Stone shook slightly and quickly turned into a pool of golden liquid, and flowed into the patterns on his arm. Suddenly, some apparitions appeared on the patterns, which quickly floated to mid-air.

Those patterns were still flashing with faint lightning, exuding a terrifying aura. Even Merlin felt that it was quite brutal.

“That’s it? This is the first form of Thunder Fury?”

Merlin hesitated. Although he had followed all the steps to cultivate Thunder Fury, he still felt somewhat doubtful in his heart.

“Thunder Fury!”

Immediately, Merlin cast Thunder Fury which he had just cultivated. It appeared as a Thunder-type spell with a fused Pandora Demon Ability. The only Fifth-level spells Merlin had not constructed were Ice-type and Thunder-type spells. Thus, he could only cast a Fourth-level Thunder-type spell for Thunder Fury.

“Boom!”

The deafening sound of thunder rang out as if diffusing in the air, and bouts of thick lightning bolts flashed. The entire Dara City seemed to be shrouded in the terror of thunder.

“This...”

Merlin was also stunned. The effect of ordinary Fourth-level Thunder-type spells was nowhere as shocking as this one was. The only explanation was that the changes took place after fusing the Pandora Demon Ability into Thunder Fury.

However, the change was just too drastic. The entire Dara City might have been alarmed by such a loud noise.

Merlin acted quickly and stopped the spell. He already somewhat understood the power of Thunder Fury. It was a purely offensive Pandora Demon Ability. In terms of offensive power, it was much stronger than Fiery Collapse.

In addition, it was also a large-area offensive spell!

“This is only the first form of Thunder Fury. Now I can continue to cultivate the second form!”

Merlin had always relied on Fiery Collapse as his main method of attack because attacks from Fire-type spells were indeed extremely powerful. However, he now realized that compared to Thunder-type spells, especially those that were combined with Pandora Demon Abilities, Fire-type spells were still inferior.

Of course, it might be because Merlin’s Fiery Collapse was only forcefully fused into a Fire-type spell.

Now, Merlin only cultivated the first form of Thunder Fury but it had a total of three forms. Merlin had constructed a Fourth-level Thunder-type spell, which met the condition to cultivate the second form.

Thus, Merlin mustered his momentum and directly cultivated Thunder Fury to its second form. A Thunder Stone no longer needed to be consumed in order to cultivate it to the second form. Since he had already absorbed too much power of the Thunder Stone earlier, he only needed to cultivate the patterns on his arm.

Those patterns were called Thunder Lines, and were the key to cultivating Thunder Fury. Merlin gathered the Thunder Elements according to the special method, which slowly floated around the Thunder Lines. Then, the Thunder Lines rapidly thickened, and its colors also gradually became darker.

“Rumble.”

The Thunder Lines shook fiercely and let out a sound like gushing water, and carved into Merlin’s skin the next moment. Merlin then felt that his control of Thunder Elements increased and that he was more familiar with Thunder Fury.

“The second stage of Thunder Fury!”

Merlin finally breathed out a sigh. With the second stage of Thunder Fury, its power had increased again. Its might had now clearly surpassed Fiery Collapse, the Fire-type spell that had been fused.

Then, Merlin held out his hands, and a ball of fire and a streak of lightning and thunder immediately appeared on his left and right hand respectively. They were the Fire-type and Thunder-type spells.

Merlin somehow felt that these two spells were harmonious with each other. This type of feeling was extremely unique as if the fusion of thunder and fire could explode into a formidable force.

“Fusion?”

This happened naturally, and even Merlin felt that it was very odd. Then, he combined a sliver of thunder and fire, forming a Thunder Flame.

Thunder Flame could increase power several times over in an instant as flame and thunder melded and bound mutually.

“Bang!”

However, before Merlin could rejoice, the powerful Thunder Flame formed by the thunder and fire exploded in a flash. Flames splattered everywhere, and bolts of lightning scattered in all directions like snakes, forming several large pits on the ground.

Merlin lightly frowned. He held his chin and muttered to himself. He looked like a Ninth-level Spell Caster attempting to fuse spells. He held some similarities to Great Wizards.

However, the spells a Great Wizard would fuse would be Spell Models, and the power of those fused spells would be absolutely terrifying.

Merlin's thunder and fire was just a fusion between spells, not Spell Models. Even so, the power of the spell would explode after fusion.

However, since it was the first fusion, it exploded because it was unstable. This proved that fusing spells were not simple. One would need to try time and time again to find the compatibility, only then would the fusion be successful. The current Merlin did not seem to have this capability.

After cultivating Thunder Fury, Merlin wanted to continue cultivating another Ice-type fusion Pandora Demon Ability called Binding Ice. As the name implied, this Pandora Demon Ability was to enhance the binding ability of Ice-type spells.

Furthermore, this Fusion Pandora Demon Ability had three forms, and its power was also extremely strong. Merlin had already obtained the frigid ice bone marrow from the action, and could immediately cultivate Binding Ice.

Merlin had faint anticipation of the successful cultivation of Binding Ice. He wanted to see if Binding Ice could be "fused" with another spell like the Thunder-type Pandora Demon Ability.

Merlin was keenly aware that this was closely related to whether he could become a Great Wizard in the future.

Thus, Merlin took out the frigid ice bone marrow. Immediately, a layer of ice crystals formed rapidly in his hands, causing his hands to shiver fiercely. A layer of pale white flames quickly rose and melted the ice crystals.

Merlin took a deep breath and merged the frigid ice bone marrow into the mysterious Binding Ice runes he prepared beforehand. Then, Merlin waited expectantly...

Chapter 470: Spell Fusion II

"Ka-chak."

The frigid ice bone marrow penetrated deeply, almost completely freezing Merlin's body. Layers of ice crystals rapidly formed on Merlin's skin. However, Merlin did not care. Instead, he stared unwaveringly at the mysterious runes carved on his arm, which was the key to cultivating Binding Ice.

"Hum."

The runes of Binding Ice gradually emitted a faint blue color. Then, they merged into the skin on his arm and formed light imprints.

Binding Ice was successfully cultivated!

However, Merlin did not relax. He was fusing Binding Ice and Pandora Demon Ability into the Ice-type spell where Merlin felt a slight sign of a Wind-type spell wanting to fuse with Binding Ice.

Merlin's heart rejoiced that the phenomenon had happened again. It was the same feeling of wanting to fuse, like the feeling he got from the Fire-type spell after he cultivated Thunder Fury.

However, this time, Merlin was much more cautious. He gradually released the Wind Element and observed the changes between the Wind-type and Ice-type spells.

Slowly, the Wind-type and Ice-type spells fused together. The Wind-type spell was a Speed-type, and was extremely quick. Where it passed, there was also the Ice-type spell binding properties.

Thus, the combination of two spells allowed the binding ability of Merlin's Ice-type spell to increase multiple folds. This time, Merlin was extremely careful. However, after only a moment, the spell could no longer stabilize and completely collapsed.

Merlin already had some certainty in his heart. He knew that it was completely impossible for him to completely fuse spells now. However, with regular practice, it was possible. It was just temporary fusion between spells, not completely fusion between Spell Models.

In a fight with an opponent, even the power of a temporarily fused spell would increase dramatically. At that time, he would be able to grasp the advantage by taking his opponent off guard.

“I never thought that cultivating a Pandora Demon Ability would have such an unexpected reward.”

A smile was revealed from the corner of Merlin’s mouth. Spell fusion, although temporary, was still quite a shocking and sudden discovery. When he cultivated Pandora Demon Abilities in the past, there had been no such accident.

Perhaps it was because his Mind Power was weak then, or because his spell levels were not high enough or because his Pandora Demon Abilities were not refined enough. No matter what reason it was, spells could be temporarily fused. As long as he practiced continuously, and extended the time for spell fusion, Merlin’s power would be raised to a terrifying point!

After cultivating Six-Elemental Pandora Demon Abilities and fusing Pandora Demon Abilities into every Elemental spell, Merlin was satisfied. When he became a Great Wizard in the future, he would become a peak Great Wizard standing at the very top.

However, Merlin still needed to use the Hallucinatory Heart to raise his Mind Power. Ideally, he would break through to Seventh-level Mind Power in one shot, throw off his shackles, smash through the bottleneck, and achieve a fundamental change in his Mind Power!

Only when his Mind Power reached the Seventh-level would Merlin be able to construct the remaining Fifth-level Ice-type and Thunder-type spells, and truly become a powerful Fifth-level Spell Caster!

“Swoosh.”

Merlin took out the Hallucinatory Heart from his ring. Instantly, the entire room seemed to fall into an illusion. The myriad of colors made the room look like a dream.

This was the characteristic of the hallucination from the Hallucinatory Heart. However, Merlin’s current Mind Power could be considered to be quite strong, so a single Hallucinatory Heart naturally would have no effect on him.

“So, this is the Hallucinatory Heart.”

Merlin took a deep breath. He already knew how to use the Hallucinatory Heart, so he used his Mind Power and quickly spread it inside the Hallucinatory Heart.

In the Hallucinatory Heart, Merlin felt like he had entered an illusory world. Colorful bubbles surrounded and wrapped every trace of Merlin's Mind Power.

It was like this was a world of bubbles, with tens of millions of colorful bubbles everywhere. Merlin had a lot of Mind Power, and every strand of Mind Power was as thin as a hair but they were still completely wrapped by the bubbles covering the sky. The enveloped Mind Power then started to frantically expand.

Every strand of Mind Power expanded multiple folds. When the fused Mind Power withdrew from the Hallucinatory Heart, it seemed like his Mind Power as a whole had also increased several times.

Merlin only then felt the miracles of the Hallucinatory Heart. It was not surprising that so many powerful Spell Casters competed to obtain the Hallucinatory Heart. However, it had ended in Merlin's hand.

“Phew...”

After an unknown amount of time, Merlin let out a long breath and looked at the Hallucinatory Heart. It had shrunk drastically.

“Mind Power had always been illusory but after reaching the Seventh-level, it can transform into a substance and interfere with matter!”

Merlin had always remembered that Seventh-level Mind Power was a dividing line. Once reaching it, Mind Power would no longer be illusory but be able to interfere with matter. Although it was just in the boundary between illusion and reality at the Seventh-level, it already had the ability to interfere with some matter.

When Great Wizards reached this stage, their Mind Power would become extremely strong. Sometimes, coupled with some secret spells, Mind Power could even be stronger than some spells. With just a simple thought, Mind Power that could interfere with matter would be capable of setting off monstrous waves.

It was so much so that even those Legendary Wizards could switch the color of the sky and change their situations with just a thought. Everything really could be changed with just one thought!

However, this was still too far away from Merlin. Now, he only wanted his Mind Power to break through to the Seventh-level.

The Hallucinatory Heart had shrunk but Merlin's Mind Power had expanded several times. However, there was still no sign of his Mind Power breaking through to the Seventh-level. His Mind Power was still completely illusory, just like a cloud of transparent vapor.

Merlin did not mind. He knew that breaking through to the Seventh-level Mind Power was extremely difficult because it was a qualitative change. To turn illusion to reality, although it was only half substantial, it was also extremely unique and required a large amount of Mind Power.

Thus, he continued to extend his Mind Power inside the Hallucinatory Heart, and his Mind Power started to grow rapidly.

With the passage of time, the Hallucinatory Heart became smaller and smaller, gradually shrinking from the size of a fist to the size of a chicken egg, and before long, to the thickness of a finger.

On the other hand, Merlin's Mind Power gradually became viscous as if turning from a gas into a liquid. Merlin knew that this was the key for Mind Power to transform to the Seventh-level. In order for that to happen, he had to mobilize his Mind Power and frantically revolve it in his Awareness until it formed a sphere.

This Mind sphere was called the Mind Heart, and was the foundation of all Spell Casters' Mind Power. Once the Mind Heart was formed, the amount of Mind Power would depend on the specific circumstances of each Spell Caster.

This time, because of some special reasons, after several Spell Casters condensed a Mind Heart, their Seventh-level Mind Power could rival Eighth-level or even Ninth-level Mind Power.

That kind of Mind Heart was called the Special Mind Heart, which was exactly what Merlin wanted to condense.

After an unknown amount of time, the Hallucinatory Heart in Merlin's hand gradually disappeared after being completely absorbed by his Mind Power. Even Merlin did not know how much his Mind Power increased by.

He could only sense that his Mind Power was too tremendous. The transparent Mind Power that only he could sense had reached the moment of condensing into a Mind Heart.

“Boom.”

Merlin mobilized his Mind Power, and that unfathomably large Mind Power instantly began to gradually rotate. It picked up speed as it spun, and from a transparent and colorless Mind Power, a faint silver light gradually appeared as it rotated.

Very quickly, the Mind Power turned from an illusion to reality, and a Mind Seed the size of a grain of sand was condensed. This was Merlin’s first Mind Heart!

Joy sprung from Merlin’s heart. He finally condensed a Mind Heart. However, this was not enough. His Mind Power was still very large, and he had to condense all his Mind Power into the Mind Heart for him to have considered having condensed a Mind Heart.

Thus, as more and more Mind Power gradually gathered in the Mind Heart, it soon grew bigger. From the size of a grain of sand to a soybean, and finally to an infant’s fist, it still seemed to continue growing.

However, when his Mind Power was almost depleted, Merlin suddenly opened his eyes. His eyes seemed to be suffused with a silver light. This was because his Mind Heart had already been condensed, and was emitting a brilliant and resplendent silver light in his Awareness.

Mind Power constantly affected Merlin. Therefore, without controlling it, a silver light glowed from his eyes. Now that he had a Mind Heart, he could slightly stir the air with his thoughts.

“Phew...”

Merlin used his Mind Power to disperse some of the air around him, which instantly formed a bout of cool wind. This was an example of using Mind Power to interfere with matter to cause a breeze.

However, with Merlin’s current Mind Power, this was all he could do. He could not move a heavy object at all. He needed to continuously increase his Mind Power.

Nevertheless, Merlin was still not satisfied with this infant fist-sized Mind Heart in his Awareness. He wanted to condense a Special Mind Heart but if he let his Mind Heart expand like this, there would be a limit in the future. At that time when he reached that limit, he would have to break through to the Eighth-level, and his Mind Heart at that time might not be able to contain much Mind Power.

Thus, Merlin still needed to compress his Mind Heart, and he did it immediately after thinking about it. Merlin closed his eyes again and started mobilizing his Mind Heart, rotating it at an even terrifying speed.

Compress, compress and compress again! Merlin tried every method to compress the infant fist-sized Mind Heart. Sure enough, the volume of the Mind Heart shrank rapidly, indicating that Merlin's Mind Heart was indeed far from being compressed to the limit.

Very quickly, Merlin compressed the Mind Heart to the size of a ping pong ball. The tightness of the Mind Power inside the Mind Heart was even more frightening.

Such a high-intensity compression showed that Merlin's Mind Heart still had a lot of room for growth in the future, and could fuse more Mind Power. It could be regarded as an extremely strong Special Mind Heart!