

W. Secret 511

Chapter 511: The Legend with Four Maxims!

Looking at the huge ball of light, which was the legendary Arcane City, a flicker of uncertainty appeared in Merlin's eyes. Just the overwhelming aura of Arcane City was enough to instill a feeling of reverence.

"Merlin, don't worry. Let's go in."

Wizard Mogan smiled, and led Merlin to fly toward the huge ball of light. As the light rays became more and more blinding, Merlin's Mind Power was unable to detect anything other than a complete blank.

"Swish swish."

Finally, the two of them were fully immersed by the blinding white light and disappeared without a trace...

...

Merlin felt that his entire body was extremely comfortable, like he was soaking in a warm bath. In fact, he could not help but moan aloud.

"Merlin, wake up."

Just as Merlin was enjoying himself thoroughly, Wizard Mogan's voice resounded in his ears. A feeling of shock jolted in his heart as he hurriedly opened his eyes. What he saw was a lush green sprawling field.

In a distance away across the field, stood several towering buildings that radiated a soft brilliance. It aroused the desire for people to get closer as if there was something particularly attractive on the inside.

Beside him, Wizard Mogan was explained, “Merlin, this is Arcane City! Although it’s termed as Arcane City, it’s actually an incomparably huge dimension that’s vast and almost endless. Merlin, feel around, can you sense what’s the difference between Arcane City and the other dimensions?”

“What’s the difference?”

Merlin had not sensed it but upon hearing Wizard Mogan’s prompts, he began to pay attention to the changes in his surroundings.

“Hoo...” The Spell Models inside Merlin’s body were gently whirring. The next instant, endless elements began to surge madly like a storm and flooded into Merlin’s Awareness. Suddenly, all of Merlin’s Spell Models had been fully recharged. At the same time, the transformation of Magic Power had also quickened.

Suddenly, Magic Power that would have required a huge number of elemental crystal stones as replenishment was recharged into Merlin’s Spell Models. The speed far outshined the effects of elemental crystal stones. In any other dimension, such an occurrence would be nothing more than a fool’s dream. It was completely unbelievable.

“The elements here are so concentrated! I’ve never sensed such a high concentration of elements. With such dense elements, this place is essentially a paradise for Spell Casters. If there was a battle here, there would be no fear of exhausting one’s Magic Power.”

Finally, Merlin had sensed the difference in Arcane City.

The elements were truly concentrated, so the rate of replenishment of Spell Models was faster than using elemental crystal stones.

Wizard Mogan nodded slightly and extended his hand with his fingers wide open. Then, as if he was grabbing something, he closed his fist aggressively.

“Crack.”

In the originally invisible air, a crisp sound reverberated. At the same time, shiny stones fell from the sky. Merlin picked it up and saw that it was an elemental crystal stone.

Merlin's jaw dropped wide open with an expression of disbelief. These elemental crystal stones were formed just from Wizard Mogan's casual grab. Just by exerting high enough pressure, it was possible to "create" elemental crystal stones.

In other dimensions, elemental crystal stones had to be formed over hundreds and thousands of years. In addition, the location had to be suitable and had to fulfill some special requirements before elemental crystal stones could be slowly formed.

However, in Arcane City, all that was required was a powerful force to directly condense, compress and "create" the elemental crystal stones, which was simply incredible.

Wizard Mogan lamented, "This is an example of the Ultimate Arcane Wizards' techniques, all of which completely exceeds imagination... Besides the high concentration of elements, the force fields in Arcane City are also different because they can change at will. Some of the force fields are several, tens or hundred times more powerful than other dimensions. Under such a powerful force field, the puppets transfigured by the alchemists can be trained to become even stronger. Originally, a Seventh-level puppet would be the limit. However, in Arcane City, it's possible to transfigure an Eighth-level, Ninth-level or even Great Wizard-equivalent puppet.

"Not only the force fields but even the sun, moon, stars, mountains, and rivers can be changed accordingly. Basically, the entire Arcane City is the best place for Spell Casters to cultivate themselves!"

Wizard Mogan described the special characteristics of Arcane City in detail to Merlin with a look of excitement on his face. This was the reverence he held toward the Ultimate Arcane Wizards.

"Let's go. It looks near but it's actually very far. We'll go via subspace!"

Wizard Mogan was referring to the majestic building in front of them. Although Arcane City now encompassed the entire dimension, the initial Arcane City created by the Arcane Wizards was a fully-equipped and functional city. Due to the overshadowing brilliance of Arcane City, however, the entire dimension became known as Arcane City.

"Whoosh."

Wizard Mogan immediately opened a space passage and led him into the space passage. Traveling via subspace took almost less than a moment. Merlin felt that the space passage vibrate gently, and then it was reopened by Wizard Mogan. Both of them walked out.

Looking from a distance away, this was already a huge, sprawling city but standing right before it blew Merlin's breath away. It was even more stunning than looking from afar.

The towering buildings were one thing but some of them were floating in the air as if they were completely weightless. There were no Runic Magic Circles or whatsoever to stabilize them, yet they were exceptionally stable, which was beyond reasonable comprehension.

Wizard Mogan seemed to see through Merlin's confusion, so he smiled. "That's because of the change in force fields. Throughout Arcane City, everywhere is filled with wonder! The marvelous techniques possessed by the Ultimate Arcane Wizards are unsurpassable even by the Great Honored Legends!

It was truly marvelous. As Merlin walked through Arcane City, he felt that he was surrounded by things that he did not understand or had never seen before.

Just as Merlin was getting excited about exploring Arcane City, a Spell Caster dressed in platinum long Wizard robes silently appeared before them.

Merlin was shocked because he had not detected anything.

Wizard Mogan, on the other hand, smiled and said, "This is our first time entering Arcane City. I'm recommending my disciple into Arcane City to meditate!"

This platinum-robed Wizard glanced coldly at Merlin and Wizard Mogan. He nodded slowly and said, "Of course it's your first time to Arcane City. Even the Legendary Wizards, unless summoned by the Ultimate Arcane Wizards, can only enter Arcane City once in their lifetime. That is, when they use their one and only recommendation to bring their disciple to Arcane City. Otherwise, it would not be possible to enter Arcane City. Well, then, come with me."

Merlin was just about to ask a question but he saw Wizard Mogan gently shaking his head, seemingly wary of this platinum-robed Spell Caster.

"Hoo..."

The platinum-robed Spell Caster lightly waved his hand and walked on wind. His speed was incredible, perhaps not as fast as a Flying casting tool, but not too far behind.

Such a fast speed had truly astounded Merlin, to the point of disbelief.

“This is a Legendary Wizard who has almost discovered an ultimate Maxim. Once he succeeds, he’ll be an Honored Legend!”

It was not surprising that Wizard Mogan was so respectful toward him. Apparently this plain-looking Spell Caster was almost an Honored Legend.

“Arcane City is truly unbelievable. Just the first Spell Caster whom we’ve encountered is almost an Honored Legend.”

Merlin’s gaze was fixed on the soon-to-be Honored Legend before them. Both their speeds were not as fast so, they could only rely on Flying casting tools.

Soon, the three of them came to an ancient palace complex which was floating in the sky. The powerful Legend led Merlin and Wizard Mogan straight into the main palace.

There were many Spell Casters in the main palace. Their auras varied but Merlin noticed that most of them were Spell Casters of the Seventh-level or below.

When these Wizards saw Merlin and Wizard Mogan, they were uninterested and continued with what they were doing. Some of them were mingling around while some of them were practicing spells, so it was quite lively.

The cold-expression Great Legend bellowed loudly at them. “Who will guide them to apply for the newcomer’s assessment into Arcane City? Ten Adventure points!”

“I’ll go, I’ll go.”

In an instant, many of the Spell Casters shouted with enthusiasm. Among them, a fat Wizard with a plump figure was the most enthusiastic of all. He rushed forward and even furrowed his brows at Merlin with a comical expression.

“Hmm, it’s you then! Bring them to complete the assessment, then you can claim your ten Adventure points.”

After he spoke, the powerful Legendary Wizard turned around and left.

The fat Wizard smiled at Merlin and Wizard Mogan. “Is this your first time to Arcane City?”

Wizard Mogan nodded and said, “Yes, this is our first time to Arcane City. It’s to recommend Merlin to Arcane City.”

The fat Wizard’s eyes flashed bright and hurriedly said, “Hehe, so you’re also being recommended to enter Arcane City. You’re considered a newcomer in this hundred-years period, so in the future, we’ll be considered as the same batch of Potential Wizards!”

“Same batch of Potential Wizards?”

Merlin looked at this fat Wizard doubtfully, and he patiently explained, “In Arcane City, there are many Spell Casters. Every hundred years is considered as one batch, and we’re called Potential Wizards! I’m also recommended to Arcane City by my mentor twenty-six years ago. We’re the latest batch of Potential Wizards!”

Merlin nodded. It appeared that he would have a lot of opportunities to interact with this fat Wizard in the future.

The fat Wizard was very talkative, chatting incessantly throughout their journey. Fortunately, Merlin also needed to understand the workings of Arcane City, so he listened patiently.

Not too long afterward, the three of them left the floating palace complex. However, the moment they stepped out of the palace complex, they saw a behemoth object as big as a castle descended from the sky and flew toward them.

Even the platinum-robed Great Legend who had left them earlier was solemnly staring at the behemoth castle in the sky. The castle exuded an extremely powerful aura, and contained ferocious Wind Elements, Fire Elements, Thunder Elements, and Earth Elements.

Merlin could only detect the elements, but in Wizard Mogan's eyes, they represented Maxims!

"It's a Great Legend who has consolidated four Maxims. A powerful Legend is arriving!"

Wizard Mogan's eyes were filled with awe. A Great Legend who had consolidated four Maxims was a powerful Wizard who stood at the top. Despite visiting countless dimensions before, Wizard Mogan had never seen such a powerful Legend.

"Boom boom."

The behemoth castle slowly descended in front of the palace complex, causing a strong gust of air and a phenomenal rumble. Spell Casters came rushing from the palace complex. All of them were awestruck by the behemoth castle.

Beside Merlin, the fat Wizard revealed a hint of excitement. Wiping off the sweat beads on his forehead, he said excitedly, "Amazing, this must be another prodigy, maybe even an unrivaled prowess! Tsk tsk, this is a Great Legend who has consolidated four Maxims. The height of their expectations cannot possibly be conceived by ordinary Wizard! In order for someone to be accepted as their disciple and for them to use their one and only recommendation, surely the Spell Caster must be a genius above all the geniuses. Even Arcane City would not be able to hide their dazzling brilliance."

A Great Legend who had consolidated four Maxims was rare even in Arcane City, so the descent stirred up a lot of attention. Many of the Spell Casters' gazes were cast toward the gates of the castle suspended in mid-air.

Chapter 512: The Assessment I

The behemoth black castle floated steadily in the air. It was a powerful casting tool. Such a casting tool was very powerful and could not possibly be transfigured by an average person.

Of course, its functions were much more developed compared to some Flying casting tools, and its speed was extraordinarily fast. This was a casting tool used by the top Legendary Wizards and was mobilized using the power of Maxims. Surely, this castle would be able to blast out a powerful force.

"Boom."

The castle shook gently, and the door slowly opened. From the inside, out flew a stern-faced black-robed Wizard. Following behind him was a cool, haughty-looking young Wizard.

The platinum Wizard earlier flew into the sky toward the black-robed Wizard. In a solemn tone, he asked, "You're here to recommend someone to Arcane City?"

The black-robed Wizard's eyes narrowed and glared at the platinum Wizard blocking his way. Without any trace of decorum, he coldly answered, "Yes!"

The platinum Wizard pointed toward the fat Wizard and Merlin. "They're also going to take the newcomers' assessment. You can go together."

"Them?"

The black-robed Wizard frowned slightly and was about to make a comment, but suddenly, he sensed a dangerous aura emitted by the platinum Wizard.

"Two Maxims, and one of them will soon be consolidated into an ultimate Maxim?"

Earlier, the black-robed Wizard completely ignored the platinum-robed Spell Caster. The black-robed Wizard controlled several large dimensions, and his authority was absolute. A single word from him could determine the life and death of a dimension. He considered himself as someone standing at the peak.

If this platinum long-robed Legend had only consolidated two Maxims, naturally, the black-robed Wizard would not be concerned. However, the Wizard in question had consolidated a Maxim almost to an ultimate level, thus, this Wizard could not be disregarded.

Once he had consolidated an ultimate Maxim, he would become a Great Honored Legend! Although the black-robed Wizard had consolidated four Maxims, he still would not be a worthy opponent of a Great Honored Legend.

Therefore, the black-robed Wizard gradually soothed his expression and did not speak further. He led the handsome young Wizard in front of Merlin and the others.

“Quickly, lead the way!”

The black-robed Wizard said quite impatiently to the fat Wizard. Obviously, the fat Wizard also dared not dither any longer. He took one glance at the haughty-looking young Wizard, and led the group to fly toward the newcomers’ assessment arena.

Along the way, Merlin was also gauging the young Wizard who would also be joining the assessment. Since he was accepted as a disciple by a Legend with four Maxims, he must definitely possess some extraordinary traits.

“We’re here!”

The fat Wizard appeared to be trembling slightly throughout the way. Indeed, being stared down from behind by a four Maxim Legendary Wizard would unnerve anyone.

The black-robed Wizard’s expression was stoic. Seeing a steeple floating in the air before them, he led the young Wizard, and swiftly entered the steeple.

The fat Wizard shook his head helplessly. “A four Maxim Legend is incredible. Even in Arcane City, they occupy a very high position. I wonder how formidable is the Spell Caster recommended by this Great Legend. Wizard Merlin, Wizard Mogan, let’s go in.”

Hence, Merlin and the others also flew into the steeple.

In the steeple were transparent crystals the size of a fist which emitted a bright light. These were made by Spell Casters who captured Light Elements and placed them inside special transparent crystals. They were able to light up darkness like daylight.

In the Glorious Land, Merlin could not find any Light Wizards outside of the Church of Light because no one could construct Light-type spells. However, in Arcane City, Merlin finally saw Light Element Wizards.

This indirectly meant that it was not that Spell Casters could not become Light Element Wizards but that there was something strange about the Glorious Land that prevented the appearance of Light Element Wizards. Furthermore, according to Merlin’s inference, it was largely linked to the Church of Light.

The specific reason, however, was unknown to Merlin.

The clear glossy marble shined brilliantly, and the pure white stone columns were engraved with dense runes, giving off an ethereal feeling.

At the front of the great hall, a few white-robed Wizards were lying lazily on the chairs, looking lethargic.

“Hmph!”

The black-robed Wizard who had consolidated four Maxims harrumphed, and in an instant, the entire great hall seemed to be filled with a frigid, bone-chilling draft. Even the lethargic Spell Casters were jolted awake by the extreme cold.

“Who?”

These white-robed Wizards were essentially Great Legends respectively, and to be able to stay in Arcane City meant that they were not ordinary Great Legends. They were previously Potential Wizards in Arcane City who had spent countless years to finally consolidate a Maxim and became a Great Legend. Some of them were unwilling to leave Arcane City, so they stayed on.

Thus, these Legendary Wizards were also quite arrogant.

However, this time, they encountered the black-robed Wizard, a top-level Legendary Wizard who had consolidated four Maxims, and controlled several large dimensions. As such, these arrogant white-robed Wizards dared not behave recklessly.

Seeing this, the fat Wizard snickered softly. “Hehe, these white-robed Wizards are finally tongue-tied. Normally, even a Legend with two Maxims isn’t given much attention by them.”

The fat Wizard’s face was filled with righteous anger. It looked like he held deep “contempt” for these Wizards.

“Sir Wizard, please display your Legends’ Accord badge!”

When the white-robed Wizards saw that the black-robed Wizard was a four Maxim Great Legend, they did not dare dawdle and woke up to prepare for the assessment.

“Slap.”

The black-robed Wizard flung out a badge which was fully engraved with runes. On it were details of the black-robed Wizard’s identity. It belonged to the Legends’ Accord. Only Legendary Wizards who were recognized as part of the Legends’ Accord would have this badge.

With this badge, Arcane City could investigate some of the Legendary Wizard’s accomplishments as well as whether they had used their recommendation quota before. Moreover, only Legends who held the Legends’ Accord badge would be able to enter Arcane City.

Those Legends who had not signed the Legends’ Accord such as the plunderers, were completely unable to enter Arcane City.

After the black-robed Wizard handed over his badge, the white-robed Wizards became even more cautious than before. Carefully, they said, “Legend Blackcloud, the one who battled alone against four gods and killed all of them as well as occupy several dimensions!”

“It’s Legend Blackcloud!”

Even Wizard Mogan, after finding out the black-robed Wizard’s identity, held a look of reverence in his eyes.

The battle records of Legend Blackcloud could be considered well-known throughout the entire Spell Caster world. Only very few Legendary Wizards would not have heard of Legend Blackcloud’s battle records. He was the one who stood alone against four big gods, and killed all of them. Such a battle record had not been seen for a long time.

In fact, many of the powerful Great Legends had only defeated Legend Blackcloud but could never kill him!

The white-robed Wizards shifted their gazes toward the young Wizard beside Legend Blackcloud and smiled. “Legend Blackcloud, your recommendation quota has indeed not been used before. Are you going to use your one and only recommendation to let your disciple Saturn into Arcane City?”

The young and arrogant Wizard was Saturn. He was highly prized by Wizard Blackcloud, to the extent that Wizard Blackcloud used his one and only recommendation to send him into Arcane City.

“Yes, Saturn is my most prized disciple. His future achievements would not be any lesser than mine! My one and only recommendation is given to Saturn!”

Wizard Blackcloud said with a firm expression. After all, this one and only recommendation was very precious. Even a Great Legend like him who had consolidated four Maxims was only entitled to one recommendation. Once he had used it, there would not be another chance. The fact that he was willing to use it on Saturn was a testament to his high esteem of Saturn.

The white-robed Wizards nodded and turned to Saturn. “Wizard Saturn, Wizard Blackcloud has recommended you into Arcane City, and upon our review, there are no issues. From now on, you’re a Potential Wizard in Arcane City. Nevertheless, based on convention, you’ll need to go through some assessments. Of course, the assessment is very simple and is only used by Arcane City to find out some general information about the Potential Wizards.”

“Alright!”

Saturn’s expression was as cool as an iceberg, with not a single trace of a smile.

“Oh right, the rest of you can come along as well.”

The white-robed Wizard saw that Merlin and the others were still behind, so he spoke to them offhandedly.

Wizard Mogan also stepped forward and took out his Legends’ Accord badge. Upon verification of his identity, Merlin also finally joined Arcane City and became one of its members.

“Wizard Saturn and Wizard Merlin, prepare yourselves for the assessment.”

Thereafter, the white-robed Wizard said to Legend Blackcloud and Legend Mogan, “Great Legends, you may watch the assessment but according to the rules of Arcane City, you must leave once the assessment is over. Furthermore, without being summoned by the Ultimate Arcane Wizard or becoming an Honored Legend specially employed by Arcane City, you mustn’t take another step into Arcane City again!”

Although Wizard Blackcloud was arrogant, he also understood the rules of Arcane City, so he nodded. Then, his gaze landed on Saturn. As for this disciple, Wizard Blackcloud was very satisfied with him.

“Wizard Saturn, please prepare for the assessment!”

The white-robed Wizard first requested Wizard Saturn to step forward to a huge crystal ball shimmering with colorful rays of light. Wizard Saturn did not hesitate. Following the white-robed Wizard’s request, he extended his hand on the crystal ball.

“Whirr.”

The huge crystal ball immediately emitted a dazzling radiance. Colorful light rays were reflected across the entire great hall, almost like a dream state.

The white-robed Wizards, on the other hand, were staring closely at the huge crystal ball and began to count every single light ray because every light ray represented a type of spell. This was to test how many types of spells the Spell Caster had constructed.

“One, two, three... Six types! There are six types. Wizard Saturn is a Six-Elemental Spell Caster!”

“Finally, another Six-Elemental Spell Caster has appeared. It has been six hundred years. Another Six-Elemental Spell Caster has finally appeared in Arcane City!”

“It’s not surprising that Legend Blackcloud prized Saturn so highly. He’s indeed incredible. Six-Elemental Spell Casters are truly rare. Besides one Seven-Elemental Wizard who had appeared thousands of years ago, the most talented Spell Casters are the Six-Elemental Wizards.”

Looking that the light rays emitted by the crystal ball, the white-robed Wizards were all stunned. Even in Arcane City, the land of prodigies, a Six-Elemental Spell Caster would still stand out at the very top.

Chapter 513: The Assessment II

The colorful radiance of the crystal ball bathed the great hall in a myriad of colors. It was a very beautiful sight. The fat Wizard's eyes shone brightly as he was surrounded by this colorful display. He praised in admiration, "No wonder he's Wizard Blackcloud's disciple. A Six-Elemental Spell Caster is rare even in Arcane City. It looks like another strong contender has emerged once again from our batch of Potential Wizards!"

The fat Wizard was called Arrot. He was a very candid person and was not too surprised to know that Saturn was a Six-Elemental Wizard. Moreover, Arrot did not hold back his praises to him even after seeing Saturn's arrogant manner.

"Are Six-Elemental Spell Casters very rare in Arcane City?" Merlin asked the fat Wizard Arrot after mulling over the question in his mind.

Arrot took a strange look at Merlin and replied, "Of course Six-Elemental Spell Casters are rare. No matter where you are, a Six-Elemental Spell Caster is considered an absolute top-level prodigy! Arcane City is, amidst hundreds and thousands of dimensions, the place where prodigies gather together, but even so, Six-Elemental Spell Casters are a rarity. We only have a handful here! In the recent batch, we have five Five-Elemental Spell Casters. They are already considered a powerful batch of Potential Wizards. Now with Saturn as a Six-Elemental Wizard, I'm afraid that we'll immediately become the most powerful batch of Potential Wizards in Arcane City's history!"

Arrot exclaimed excitedly and shot Merlin a careful look. He patted Merlin's shoulder with a smile. "You don't have to worry too much. Arcane City may have a lot of prodigies, but the majority are Four-Elemental Spell Casters. While Four-Elemental Spell Casters are not as outstanding as the Five- or Six-Elemental Spell Casters, there's still hope for them to become a powerful Legendary Wizard. For example, Wizard Blackcloud is also a Four-Elemental Spell Caster, but he had managed to consolidate four Maxims and become the topmost Legend!"

Merlin ignored Arrot's 'consoling' tone. He focused his gaze on Wizard Blackcloud. Indeed, Wizard Blackcloud was only a Four-Elemental Spell Caster, but he had great perseverance and great opportunities that had allowed him to consolidate four Maxims. Wizard Blackcloud could no longer consolidate a fifth Maxim because four Maxims was the highest limit for him as a Four-Elemental Spell Caster.

Even so, Wizard Blackcloud had become one of the greatest legends, second only to a few rare Legends who had consolidated five Maxims and a couple of Honored Legends who had achieved enlightenment on an ultimate Maxim.

Once the white-robed Wizards discovered that Saturn was a Six-Elemental Wizard, their tone to him became much more courteous. “Next, we will test your constructed spells.”

Saturn nodded and began to follow the white-robed Wizard to another crystal ball. Testing a spell would only require the release of a spell’s power. The grade of the spell would then be evaluated by the crystal ball.

“Start with a Zero-level spell!”

Saturn released a spell soon after.

“Boom.”

A Zero-level spell was released on the crystal ball. Subsequently, dazzling light was emitted by the crystal ball. The white-robed Wizard deadpanned, “Above average.”

Most of Wizard Saturn’s Zero-level spells were tested as Above average, and only one Zero-level spell was rated as Good.

However, Wizard Saturn’s spell grade began to climb steadily from First-level spells onwards. They were all Good, and when he reached Fourth-level spells, they became Excellent.

The fat Wizard Arrot’s eyes bulged wide. His breath was becoming frantic as he trained eyes on Wizard Saturn’s test.

The progression from Above average to Good and then to Excellent was unimaginable. Furthermore, his Fourth-level spells and above were all Excellent. Saturn’s spell construction abilities were truly incredible.

Nevertheless, the surprise was far from over. The crystal ball vibrated strongly just as they were testing Wizard Saturn’s Seventh-level spells. An unprecedented ray of light shot out of the crystal ball and illuminated the entire great hall.

Those white-robed Wizards could not help but stand up with a look of excitement and disbelief.

“This... This is Perfect! A Perfect spell! His Seventh-level Spells are all Perfect!”

“Finally, we can see Perfect-grade Spells. Saturn is, at least in spell construction, the most talented Spell Caster in the last hundreds of years!”

Seventh-level spells were new spells that had to be self-derived, and Saturn’s Seventh-level Spell was all Perfect-grade which was shocking news even in Arcane City.

“Haha, Saturn, well done!”

Wizard Blackcloud was also very satisfied. Saturn’s talents were the best he had ever seen. Otherwise, he would not have used up his one and only recommendation to send Saturn into Arcane City.

“Wizard Saturn, please take a look. With these six Perfect-grade spells, you are temporarily occupying the 18th place in Arcane City’s spells ranking!”

The white-robed Wizard pointed at a white wall in the great hall. Dense writings began to appear on the wall. Saturn’s name was ranked 18th with his six Perfect-grade spells.

“Oh? Are these people all the Wizards in Arcane City?”

Saturn had taken the initiative to ask a question for the first time. He was very interested in this ranking.

The white-robed Wizard shook his head and said, “Almost all of them. It’s because only spells below the level of Great Wizards can be tested. Once someone becomes a Great Wizard, their spells have all combined into one, so naturally, they cannot be evaluated. This ranking has not been disrupted for a long time. It’s surprising that you’ve already managed to squeeze into the 18th place upon arrival. This is truly amazing! Perfect-grade spells are not easy to construct, many talented Spell Casters are unable to derive even a single Perfect-grade spell. Most of them can only derive Excellent-grade spells, which is already quite impressive.”

Saturn glanced at the top 20 Wizards on the spells ranking and nodded internally. All the Wizards up there had had a lot of Perfect-grade spells, so many that even he found the number to be a little bit impossible. He had personally derived the Seventh-level spells, so he naturally knew how difficult it was. He had spent several decades just to derive these six Seventh-level spells.

After continuous perseverance, he had finally built the six Perfect-grade spells. If he were to derive Eighth-level spells in the future, he was not confident that he would still be able to derive Perfect-grade spells.

“Incredible, truly incredible. Perfect-grade spells, how did he derive it? Although I’m a Seventh-level Spell Caster as well as a Five-Elemental Wizard, I only have four Excellent-grade spells.”

Arrot shook his head slightly. His talents were actually considered good enough already. Having four Excellent-grade spells was considered not bad in Arcane City. He would be graded an average Wizard. Anyone who had personally derived spells would know how difficult spell derivation was. Especially deriving powerful spells, which was essentially an uphill battle. Producing Perfect-grade spells no longer hinged on ability, but also luck.

“Wizard Merlin, it’s your turn! You should undergo the assessment, but don’t worry if you don’t perform as well. These assessments are only a point of reference. It’s a battleground for the true top-level prodigies but does not serve many purposes for us.”

Wizard Arrot pushed Merlin gently forward and gestured for him to undertake the assessment.

Wizard Mogan also came to the white-robed Wizard and showed his Legends’ Accord badge. Upon verifying his identity, the white-robed Wizard began to ask Merlin to put his hand on the crystal ball.

Wizard Blackcloud and Wizard Saturn also did not leave because they had to wait until Merlin finished his assessment so they could leave together.

Merlin stopped before the crystal ball and took a deep breath. Then, he put his hand on the crystal ball. The crystal ball began to emit colorful rays of light instantly.

One, two, three, four...

The crystal ball continued to emit beams of light. Up until the fourth beam of light, it did not attract the attention of the white-robed Wizards. After all, Arcane City was the gathering place of prodigies among the hundreds and thousands of dimensions. In other places, a Four-Elemental Wizard might be considered a prodigy, but they were painfully common in Arcane City.

“Zap.”

Another light ray radiated out. Five beams of light blended with one another, illuminating the entire great hall with a multitude of colors. It was truly beautiful. The white-robed Wizard glanced at Merlin. Five-Elemental Wizards were considered much more outstanding in Arcane City.

“Five-Elemental Wizard!”

Just as the white-robed Wizard was prepared to confirm Merlin’s identity as a Five-Elemental Spell Caster, another ray of light suddenly emerged from the crystal ball. This rich light remained focused and did not disperse, shining straight up towards the highest point of the great hall.

“A sixth beam of light. Are there six Elements?”

“Another Six-Elemental Spell Caster?”

At this moment, not only the white-robed Wizards but Arrot, Wizard Blackcloud, and Wizard Saturn were also staring at Merlin in surprise. If people were not familiar with the situation inside Arcane City, they might have been mistaken and thought that Six-Elemental Wizards were found commonly in Arcane City. After all, two of them in a row were found to be Six-Elemental Wizards.

The fat Wizard Arrot looked at Wizard Mogan and stuttered, “Wizard Mogan, is Wizard Merlin really a Six-Elemental Spell Caster?”

Wizard Mogan nodded with a satisfied expression. “How can this be fake?”

“Incredible, truly incredible! Looks like Wizard Mogan must be truly skilled in mentoring disciples. After all, you’re to be able to mold a Six-Elemental Spell Caster out of him!”

Naturally, Arrot assumed that Merlin becoming a Six-Elemental Spell Caster was a result of Wizard Mogan's careful guidance. Wizard Mogan certainly would not try to explain himself out of this kind of a 'misunderstandinag'. Instead, he beamed.

Although Wizard Blackcloud appeared to be very surprised, his expression remained calm. He muttered under his breath, "Arcane City truly is something. It would be difficult to encounter one Six-Elemental Wizard in tens or hundreds of dimensions. It's so unexpected to find that any one of the Legend's ordinary disciple can be a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. However, he's still not as good as you. He's only a Fifth-level Spell Caster and still doesn't have the ability to derive spells. It might be relatively simple to become a Seventh-level Spell Caster, but to derive Perfect-grade spells is not as easy."

Wizard Blackcloud was still very confident about Saturn because Saturn he derived six Perfect-grade spells. Even the highly talented Spell Casters could not be compared to him.

"Boom."

Merlin began the spell testing. He immediately surprised everyone because the first Zero-level spell was already an Excellent spell.

"All Zero-level spells, Excellent!"

"All First-level spells, Excellent!"

"All Second-level spells, Excellent!"

"All Third-level spells, Excellent!"

...

A series of 'Excellent' made everyone's jaws dropped in shock. Such astonishment was almost comparable to when Wizard Saturn's spells were found to be Perfect-grade spells earlier. It should be noted that as long as a spell was not self-derived, it was impossible to have a Perfect-grade spell. This was because the spell was not derived according to the Spell Caster's own body condition, so no matter how good the construction, there would always still be some tiny flaws that made it unable to achieve Perfect-grade.

Even then, very few people would be able to construct all of these spells into Excellent ones.

The white-robed Wizard inhaled deeply and looked at Merlin warily. “Wizard Merlin, please cast your Fourth-level spell.”

Merlin’s heart was thumping as he began to test his Fourth-level spells. He had used The Matrix to derive all the spells from the Fourth-level onwards. He did not know what grade would the spells derived by The Matrix achieve.

‘Even if it’s not Perfect, it should be able to achieve Excellent. If not Excellent, then at least Good!’ These thoughts flashed in Merlin’s mind. Then, he gently raised his hand and released the Fourth-level spell.

Chapter 514: Perfect-Grade Spells!

Everyone held their breath as they stared at the huge crystal ball.

“Hum.”

Suddenly, strange noises were heard coming from the crystal ball, and it began vibrating around the same time as well. A dazzling ray of light shot out, illuminating the entire great hall.

This transformation was identical as Wizard Saturn’s Perfect-grade spell!

“Perfect-grade spell!”

“A Perfect-grade spell again. It’s only a Fourth-level spell. Does this mean that this Wizard Merlin began to derive spells from the Fourth-level onwards?”

“Prodigy Wizards who start to derive spells at the Fourth-level are not uncommon, but most of them can only derive Above Average or Good spells. It’s very rare for self-derived Fourth-level spells to be graded as Excellent. What a surprise that Wizard Merlin is actually able to derive a Perfect-grade Fourth-level spell!”

Merlin's Fourth-level spell was apparently Perfect-grade. It was almost certainly a piece of very shocking news to many people. This indirectly proved that Merlin was able to derive new spells from the Fourth-level onwards.

However, the shocking events are far from over. Merlin began to release his second Fourth-level spell.

"Perfect..."

"Perfect..."

"Also Perfect..."

The huge crystal ball was emitting a brilliant radiance, making everyone dizzy and nauseated. Everyone's hearts were rattled underneath this dazzling light because it represented Perfect-grade spells.

All of Merlin's Fourth-level spells were Perfect-grade! All of his Fifth-level spells were also Perfect-grade!

This was simply incomprehensible. If Merlin had managed to derive, say, one or two Fourth- or Fifth-level Perfect-grade spells, it could be attributed to luck.

However, all twelve of them were Perfect-grade spells, and they were completely new spells self-derived by Merlin. This was no longer a question of 'luck'. Merlin truly possessed extraordinary talents for spell construction.

The fat Wizard Arrot was dumbfounded as he stared at the dazzling light emitted by the crystal ball. His eyes were full of bewilderment.

Demonic genius, this was a true demonic deviant. He originally thought that Wizard Blackcloud's disciple, Wizard Saturn, was already abnormally Demonic enough and would become the most talented prodigy among this batch of Potential Wizards. He did not expect Merlin to turn up out of nowhere and proved himself to be even more talented. Not only was he a Six-Elemental Spell Caster, but his Fourth-level spells onwards were also all Perfect-grade!

Arrot stared steadfastly at Merlin's figure and said to Wizard Mogan who was beside him, "Wizard Mogan, you have really taken in an outstanding disciple! A highly-talented person like Wizard Merlin can almost catch up to the undisputed number one genius since a thousand years ago, the Seventh-level Wizard Nelar! If Wizard Merlin continues to construct Perfect spells, then he might be able to push Nelar down. His number one spot on the spell ranking had not changed in a thousand years!"

"Nelar?"

At this moment, not only Wizard Mogan but Merlin, Saturn, and the four Maxim Wizard Blackcloud all turned to look at the white wall.

On the clean white wall, there was a list of spells ranking. Saturn was now temporarily ranked at 18th place with his six Perfect-grade spells just now. This was already a very admirable ranking because the spells ranking had existed since Arcane City was built, and countless prodigies have left their names on it.

However, Merlin's ranking was even higher. With twelve Perfect-grade spells, he had been ranked at the 13th place. Moreover, this was only temporary. His ranking would climb higher if he was able to construct more Perfect-grade spells after this.

The number one spot was occupied by Wizard Nelar with a total of thirty Perfect-grade spells. Seeing this impressive number was enough to make anyone suck in cold air.

Everyone who was present knew how difficult it was to construct a Perfect-grade spell. The fact that someone actually managed to construct thirty Perfect-grade spells was truly inconceivable!

Perfect-level spells had always been very powerful. Once they were fully combined together, then its power would escalate to a terrifying level.

"Nelar! He's number one on the spells ranking. No one has surpassed him in a thousand years. Back then, Nelar was a rare Seventh-level Wizard. He also began to derive spells from the Fourth-level onwards, and amongst his Fourth-level spells, two of them were Perfect-grade spells.

"After that, Nelar continued to improve on his spells. At the Fifth-level, he had constructed three Perfect-grade, and at the Sixth-level, he had constructed four Perfect-grade spells. Then from Seventh-level onwards, all his spells were Perfect-grade. Thus, combined together, Nelar had

constructed a total of thirty impressive Perfect-grade spells. Since then, he had been ranked first on the spells ranking. No one ever managed to surpass him!

“Now, however, Wizard Merlin, you have a great chance to surpass Nelar and to construct more Perfect-grade spells!”

A white-robed Wizard said as he looked at the numerous names on the white wall. Back then, the Spell Casters who were able to leave their names on this spells ranking were all beyond ordinary. Other than those who died under unfortunate circumstances, most of them had gone on to become the most demonic of Wizards or even the greatest of Legends!

Moreover, some of them also became the top Legend or Great Honored Legend. Therefore, this spells ranking was, in some sense, an indication of a Spell Caster’s future potential.

Merlin had already constructed twelve Perfect-grade spells at the beginning when he was casting his Fourth-level spells. In addition, he was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. If he could keep up the momentum and construct more Perfect-grade spells from now on, then Merlin’s future achievements would be absolutely unimaginable.

“Saturn, what do you think about Merlin?”

Wizard Blackcloud asked in a small voice, his eyes narrowed slightly.

The stoical Saturn wore a thoughtful expression on his face for the first time. After a while, he replied coldly, “Incredible. His talent at spell construction is better than mine!”

Wizard Blackcloud nodded with satisfaction. He was most satisfied with Saturn because of this trait. Saturn was not only talented but was able to recognize his own weaknesses. He might be slightly arrogant, but then again, which prodigy did not have a prideful nature?

Bringing Saturn to Arcane City this time was the right choice. Arcane City was that one place, amongst hundreds and thousands of dimensions, where prodigies would gather together. Here, there would always be someone more talented than Saturn.

However, talent did not mean everything. Just like Blackcloud himself who was once only a Four-Elemental Spell Caster. Who would have thought that he would be able to become a top Legend with four Maxims and control several dimensions?

“Teacher, I’ll stand firm in Arcane City. Talent is nothing but a key. A key to access higher levels that are to come. I won’t rely too much on this key!”

Saturn understood Wizard Blackcloud’s meaning. That was why he said those reassuring words to Wizard Blackcloud after a moment of hesitation.

Wizard Blackcloud nodded while Saturn headed straight towards Merlin. He said with his gaze fastened tightly on Merlin, “I’m Saturn!”

Merlin looked at the arrogant Saturn and replied, “I’m Merlin!”

Saturn appeared to lower his head to recite the name. He then raised his head, took another long gaze at Merlin, and left. He did not even spare a glance at the fat Wizard Arrot standing beside them.

Arrot pouted and muttered under his breath, “He truly is really arrogant... Nevertheless, if I were to have Saturn’s talents and a mentor with four Maxims, I would be arrogant as well!”

Arrot did not mind. The one thing that Arcane City would never run out of were arrogant Wizards. After all, people who were able to enter Arcane City were all prodigies in their own right, so it would be impossible not to be proud.

Even Arrot himself carried with him an air of arrogance when he first came to Arcane City. However, all his arrogance had dissipated after spending some time in the city.

How would one be able to stay arrogant when they were faced against a group of Spell Casters who were much more powerful and more talented than them?

“Wizard Merlin, let’s go. I’ll bring you to the residence and introduce you to the newcomers in our batch. Hehe, I believe there will bound to be a huge commotion when they are told that both you and Saturn two prodigies will be joining them.”

Arrot was full of enthusiasm, but Merlin was not in a rush to leave with Arrot yet. Instead, he bade goodbye to Wizard Mogan. Although Merlin was able to stay in Arcane City, Wizard Mogan would

not be able to do so. Even the four Maxim Wizard Blackcloud would have to leave Arcane City immediately.

“Merlin, I should get going. If you are to leave Arcane City one day, you can come back to the Mogan Dimension!”

Wizard Mogan gave the dimension coordinates to Merlin. He would be able to find the Mogan Dimension easily with the dimension coordinates. Regardless, no one knew how long it would be until the next time they met again.

After watching Wizard Mogan leave, Merlin and Arrot left the steeple.

...

“This is the living area, and that is the force field area. You can change the force field as you like.”

“There is the testing ground. Even if a great Legend were to test the power of their Maxims inside, none of the force will leak out.”

The fat Wizard Arrot led Merlin and Wizard Saturn around to familiarize themselves with the entire Arcane City. All along the way, Arrot chattered incessantly while Merlin occasionally interrupted him with a question or two.

Saturn maintained his stoic expression and did not ask any questions.

Merlin’s gaze would occasionally land on Saturn. Although his number of Perfect-grade spells was more than Saturn, Merlin would not be so egotistical as to think that he was more powerful than Saturn.

Saturn had constructed Seventh-level spells that were all Perfect. He was also a Six-Elemental Spell Caster like Merlin. Additionally, his level was higher than Merlin’s, and he had had Wizard Blackcloud as his Mentor. Surely, his Fusion Demon Abilities would not be dreadful. Thus, the extent of his true abilities was quite formidable.

If Merlin were to use up all of his techniques, he might be able to kill an average Ninth-level Spell Caster, but if it was Saturn who were to attack, he would definitely be able to easily kill an average

Ninth-level Spell Caster. Even some of the powerful Ninth-level Spell Casters would not be a threat to Saturn.

Although Saturn was arrogant, he indeed possessed abilities that were worthy to be boasted about. While Merlin was not inferior to Saturn in any aspect, the difference in their levels was an insurmountable chasm.

After all, Saturn was similar to Merlin in the sense that both of them were considered top-level prodigy Wizards. In the case of having similar talents, Saturn, who had already become a Seventh-level Wizard, would naturally have superior abilities.

“Once I’m familiar with Arcane City, I need to start constructing Sixth-level spells.”

Merlin planned in his heart.

Chapter 515: A Major Event

It had been three days since Merlin had arrived in Arcane City. In this time, he had generally familiarized himself with Arcane City. However, Merlin was unable to gain a deeper understanding of it for now.

Arcane City was neither large nor small. There were some places which Merlin could not visit for now.

Merlin stayed in a strange, oval-shaped room that was very spacious and extremely secure as well. Not even a Great Legend would be able to examine the Spell Casters who stayed within these unusual rooms.

This was a house personally designed by the Great Arcane Wizard. The Potential Wizards could enjoy absolute privacy which no one could intrude upon here.

Merlin was finally able to rest when he reached his room. In these three days, he had been observing and familiarizing himself with Arcane City. Now, he was ready to construct some spells.

“I can construct a few Sixth-level spells first and bolster my powers!”

In the past, Merlin was in no rush to do so because by relying on spell fusion along with various Demon Abilities and spells, he could compare to most Ninth-level Spell Casters. He was considered freakish and formidable enough already.

However, only after Merlin arrived at Arcane City did he feel the pressure. Although his “gifts” were still decent and were able to outshine a large portion of geniuses, he could not afford to overlook the disparity between his and the other Wizards’ levels. For instance, Saturn. Although Merlin was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster as well and had a greater number of Perfect-grade spells than Saturn, he was still a Seventh-level Spell Caster. Merlin would be no match for Saturn in a battle.

Therefore, Merlin had to strengthen his abilities accordingly. He had essentially reached the limit to the thing he could master in most areas. Naturally, he would have to resort to constructing Sixth-level spells if he wanted to improve on his abilities.

“Matrix, turn on!”

Merlin started up The Matrix. He wanted to derive new Sixth-level spells. These were Sixth-level spells. Naturally, it would be difficult to derive them, and the amount of energy required was nearly inconceivably large.

Nonetheless, it was fortunate that Merlin had not died when the Sky God pinned him down. That tremendous amount of divine energy had been absorbed by The Matrix, converted and stored as special energy. Merlin could now utilize this special energy to derive new Sixth-level spells.

“Matrix, derive new Sixth-level spells!”

Merlin quickly issued his command. The Matrix began its operations instantly, and Merlin could clearly see that the special energy was dwindling at a visible pace in order to support The Matrix’s derivation.

The Matrix’s most exceptional aspect was its calculations. Spell Models themselves were very complicated. The energy required to power such complicated calculations was unimaginable. Merlin had previously tried using Magic Power and elemental crystal stones to see if The Matrix would absorb them, but he had failed in the end. The Matrix would not absorb any other forms of energy for now besides the divine energy of gods and the Maxims of Legendary Wizards.

This had caused Merlin plenty of difficulties. His Thunder Maxim had been decreasing little by little every time he used it, and the energy needed to derive Sixth-level spells was growing at an astonishing rate. It was far beyond what the Fifth-level spells needed.

Merlin was afraid that constructing six Sixth-level spells would use up nearly all of his Thunder Maxim. He would still need to derive Seventh-level, Eighth-level, even Ninth-level spells in the future using The Matrix. Merlin dared not to imagine the colossal amount of energy those would require.

Perhaps this was the greatest flaw of using The Matrix. However, he thought that at least all the spells derived by The Matrix were Excellent, and there even might be some Perfect-grade spells among them. This was something most Spell Casters were unable to accomplish.

There were pros and cons to this. Merlin was able to become the freakish Wizard he was now by relying on The Matrix. Therefore, he would have to think up of a plan in the future to search for Maxims or the divine energy of gods no matter how challenging it might be.

After a few hours, The Matrix finally derived a Sixth-level spell. Merlin inspected remaining divine energy and discovered that there was very little left of it. It was impossible to derive a second Sixth-level spell by relying on divine energy.

“My Mind Power hasn’t reached the limit of a Seventh-level Mind Heart, and it’s not a problem to construct a few Sixth-level spells now. I would have to reach the peak of a Seventh-level Mind Heart in order to construct all the Sixth-level spells though.”

Merlin estimated that the Mind Power required to construct all six Sixth-level spells would be enough by using a Seventh-level Mind Heart at its peak. This was thanks to the fact that Merlin’s Mind Heart had been constantly compressed. Wizard Ossais’s Occult Mind Spell’s Explosion Theory had compressed Merlin’s Mind Heart to half its size.

It was because of that that he was able to construct all Sixth-level spells with just a Seventh-level Mind Heart. Otherwise, he would have to break through to the Eighth-level at least.

Merlin presently had a huge advantage in terms of Mind Power because he had Explosion Theory and had been compressing his Mind Heart incessantly. There were not many whose Mind Heart was so as powerful as his at just the Seventh-level among Mind Power Masters.

First of all, Merlin had derived a Sixth-level Fire-type spell. Merlin had planned in advance that the second Sixth-level spell to derive would be a Thunder-type spell.

Why he would want to construct Fire-type and Thunder-type spells? Of course, it was because these two spells could be fused together. Once they were fused, the two Perfect-grade Sixth-level spells would become unparalleled in terms of its power. At the very least, slaying most Ninth-level Spell Casters would become relatively easy, and he would even be able to contend against Ninth-level Wizards who were slightly stronger than him.

Soon enough, Merlin started to consume the Thunder Maxim once more to derive the Thunder-type spell. Deriving this Sixth-level spell was using up too much of the Maxim. The gigantic Thunder Maxim shrunk rapidly at a discernible speed within a few hours just because it was deriving that one type of Sixth-level spell.

Finally, the Thunder-type spell was derived. All that was left to do was constructing the spells.

Merlin already had the utmost familiarity with constructing spells. First, he selected a spell with a hundred percent compatibility. In the past, Merlin did not know that spells had grades, only knowing how to differentiate between strong and weak ones. However, he now knew that in general, spells with a hundred percent compatibility and were strong enough could already be considered Perfect-grade spells.

It would not exert any influence or pressure upon the Spell Models regardless of how many Perfect-grade spells one had constructed. Otherwise, they would begin to exert pressure on the previous Spell Models once there were too many of them, causing them to collapse suddenly. Only Perfect-grade spells, due to their hundred percent compatibility, would not cause the other Spell Models to crumble under pressure.

Merlin began to pick from the derived Fire-type and Thunder-type spells. Naturally, he had picked those with a hundred percent compatibility. Only these spells were Perfect-grade spells, and the subsequent Spell Models would not suffer from any instability. It would not be that dangerous during spell fusion as well.

This was the main reason those Spell Caster clans had focused on spell construction since young. Spell Models were woven tightly in the life of a Spell Caster and were of utmost significance in helping one becoming a Great Wizard.

Once one became a Great Wizard, Spell Models did not serve many purposes anymore. That was because after becoming a Great Wizard, one would then focus on creating Maxims. That was when one started to get involved with the essence of Elements.

At last, Merlin selected his two spells, naming them Endless Flame and Immense Thunder respectively.

The two spells needed to be simulated within his Awareness, requiring a few days' time. Merlin could only mobilize his Mind Power and began simulating both Spell Models with all his might.

After seven days or so, Merlin opened his eyes in great satisfaction. He had successfully constructed both Sixth-level spells in his Awareness. Despite the addition of two spells, Merlin's Awareness remained entirely stable without the slightest tremor.

In the cases of many Spell Casters, the more Spell Models they constructed, the higher their level, the more unstable the Spell Models in their Awareness would become. This was to the extent that, each time they constructed a new Spell Model, their Awareness would experience a bout of tremors.

Such Spell Casters, even if they became Ninth-level Spell Casters by luck, could forget about fusing Spell Models in this lifetime and becoming a powerful Great Wizard. That was because the slightest deviation during that instant of fusing the spells would cause them to collapse if the Spell Models were unstable.

The path of a Spell Caster was fraught with difficulties. A slight mistake would result in a stage with no hope of recovery. Merlin had the help of The Matrix and did not have to endure such a tough journey.

However, the pace of Merlin's spell construction was hindered due to the troubles his Mind Power was experiencing. Merlin's Mind Power had not reached the limit of a Seventh-level Mind Heart, so he was unable to construct six Sixth-level spells completely. Naturally, he did not manage to become a true Sixth-level Spell Caster.

After constructing the spells, Merlin began to absorb the Elements, turning them into Magic Power. Fortunately, the Elements in Arcane City were far too abundant, and replenishing his Magic Power this way was even faster than using elemental crystals stones. Therefore, Merlin shut his eyes once again and started to work on his recently constructed Spell Models. He absorbed the rich Elements, turning them into Magic Power and storing it into the Spell Models.

One day, two days, three days...

Merlin was transforming the Elements into Magic Power. During this time, no one had disturbed him. Nevertheless, Merlin's eyes flew open and his eyebrows were knitted together. Someone had triggered the Runic Magic Circle outside his door.

"Who would look for me?"

Merlin thought about it carefully. In Arcane City, he was merely acquainted with the plump Wizard Arrot and the haughty Wizard Saturn. Wizard Saturn's haughty attitude would not allow him to make the effort to seek out Merlin.

After thinking about this for a moment, Merlin stopped his gathering of Magic Power for now. His Spell Models had accumulated much Magic Power. Although they were not full, they were seventy or eighty percent filled, so there was no rush.

Therefore, Merlin stood up and opened the door.

A fat, swollen body stood at the door. Merlin did not have to see the face to know who it was.

"Merlin, follow me quickly. Something major had happened. We can't do without you this time. Saturn has gone ahead, and it should be you next!"

It was the plump Wizard Arrot outside the door. After seeing Merlin, he dragged Merlin without any explanation and quickly flew into the air. Judging from his expression, It seemed to be an urgent matter.

Chapter 516: The Match I

"What's really going on?"

Merlin followed Arrot as they flew towards the testing ground. This was a place for the Wizards to test out their spells. It was enclosed in invisible energy, and not even a Legendary Wizard would be able to cause much destruction here.

Merlin saw two groups facing off against each other on the testing ground. One of the group was headed by someone Merlin already knew, Saturn.

The other group was comprised of Spell Casters who were fewer in numbers and dressed more plainly. Both sides had their daggers drawn, and the atmosphere there did not seem too amicable.

The plump Arrot hurriedly brought Merlin before Saturn, panting as he said, “Wizard Saturn, I’ve brought Wizard Merlin.”

“Saturn, this is who you’ve summoned? He’s only a Fifth-level Spell Caster, how can he defeat Seddon?”

Beside Saturn stood a Wizard with a pale face and handsome features who was wearing a black cape. He was exuding intense Elemental fluctuations all over his body, causing even Merlin to feel a faint sense of threat.

“Wizard Merlin, that is Wizard Vic. We’ve lost to that group of arrogant mavericks in the match just now. It was Wizard Saturn who asked me to find you and have you join the final round of the match.”

Merlin was in a muddle. He did not know what was going on at all. It was a good thing that the plump Wizard Arrot began explaining to Merlin in detail.

All this while, Merlin had been constructing spells by himself and did not realize that the current batch of Potential Wizards was divided into two main denominations.

Favored prodigies like Saturn, who had a Great Legend with four Maxims as a teacher, had been sent here as a Potential Wizard by a Legend who had used up their recommendation for him. There was a great number of them, but they were unevenly matched in terms of quality, and there were rather average Spell Casters among them.

The other denomination was the ones whom Arcane City had personally recruited. These Spell Casters usually did not have much of a background, and simply rose up on their own in their own dimensions. Each of them was a genuine prodigy, and most of them were Five-Elemental Spell Casters.

The latter type was fewer in number but had formidable capabilities. Moreover, they would usually clash with the favored ones like Saturn.

These two types would naturally not see eye to eye with each other and would have conflicts between them from time to time. Before Saturn's arrival, the other party had the upper hand and was suppressing the Spell Casters who had arrived in Arcane City with a recommendation.

Nevertheless, Saturn would of course not let these people step all over him after he understood the situation. Therefore, he had organized this match. Each side would nominate three people, and victory would be determined by best out of three rounds. The losing side must not act all high and mighty before the other party in the future.

Saturn was indeed a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. His strength was actually pretty powerful. He had fought a hard and heavy battle with the strongest member from the other side, Wizard Rael. In the end, Saturn had to use his trump card, a special skill, to be able to finally defeat Wizard Rael.

Merlin eyed the well-built, resolute Wizard Rael from the other side. It was impressive how he was able to force the hand of a Six-Elemental Spell Caster like Saturn. Even Merlin himself could not guarantee that he could defeat Saturn. In a true battle of life and death, Merlin was most likely to lose.

Saturn had won the first round, but the next round would be that Wizard Vic who was standing beside Saturn going against Wizard Olga. Both were Seventh-level Spell Casters and had exchanged blows more than one or two times. Wizard Vic had proved himself to be the one with superior abilities.

The result was tied after two rounds, and the third and final round had yet to begin. Before Saturn had arrived, Wizard Vic had been the strongest among the Potential Wizards who had entered Arcane City by recommendation. Even he had lost the match. Furthermore, their opponents had sent Wizard Seddon, who was only slightly weaker than Wizard Rael. Whoever Wizard Vic sent would surely lose.

Thus, Saturn ultimately asked Arrot to look for Merlin to join the third round of the match.

After understanding what had happened, Merlin frowned slightly. He knew that no matter where he was, there would be cliques. Merlin had entered Arcane City by Wizard Mogan's recommendation, so naturally, he would become a part of Saturn's clique.

If he did not accept the invitation and fight, he would be rejected by this group in the future. Merlin was no lone wolf. He knew that it was important to blend well with the group.

Otherwise, he would be in an awkward position, excluded from both sides.

Nonetheless, Wizard Vic was somewhat worried. “Wizard Saturn, can this Wizard Merlin be trusted? I know Seddon. Not even I can defeat him for sure.”

Wizard Vic had some reservations. He knew that Merlin was a prodigy and a genius Six-Elemental Spell Caster at that. This fact had been circulating throughout this batch of Potential Wizards since a long time ago.

If a few years had passed and Merlin had grown to be on par with Saturn, Wizard Vic would not doubt him in the slightest. However, Merlin now merely had the potential to become better, and that potential had not yet been transformed into abilities. It was far too risky to nominate Merlin for the third round of the battle against Wizard Seddon.

Amongst those who could enter Arcane City, who was not a genius? Furthermore, Wizard Seddon had been actively recruited by Arcane City. His talents were acknowledged by Arcane City.

Saturn lifted his head to glance at Merlin, and a strange light flashed in his eyes. Following that, he said firmly and decisively, “I believe that Wizard Merlin won’t let us down!”

After speaking, Saturn closed his eyes. Faced with Saturn’s manner, Wizard Vic could only shake his head helplessly. Ever since Saturn had arrived at Arcane City, Vic had automatically conceded his “leadership” position to him. Saturn was stronger than him, both in terms of talent and abilities. He had a Great Legend with four Maxims as his teacher. No matter how one looked at it, he was stronger than Vic.

If Saturn had made a decision, he would not change his mind.

After a long while, Merlin nodded. “I’ll try my best.”

With that, Merlin turned around and faced his opponent, Wizard Seddon!

Merlin wanted to be accepted in their group, so he had no choice but to join this match. Nonetheless, he dared not underestimate this Wizard Seddon in the slightest. His opponent was a Seventh-level Spell Caster with Five-Elemental spells and knew how to combine them with Demon Ability. He could contend directly against most Ninth-level Spell Casters.

There was no assurance that Merlin would win against a genius like this.

Seeing that Merlin had stood out, Wizard Seddon's expression tightened and sunk. He said in a low voice, "You're that Six-Elemental Spell Caster who possesses twelve perfect spells, Merlin?"

Merlin merely nodded calmly at the question, but Seddon began to laugh and spoke in a forthcoming manner, "Not bad, you're a true genius. This match between us is the last resort! Saturn had been too arrogant, but we have our own pride too. We want to prove to everyone that, even without a powerful background, without relying on Great Legends, we're not inferior to anyone!"

These people were proud indeed. They were naturally impressive enough to be able to be recruited by Arcane City. The most important thing was that they were exceedingly industrious and had a great thirst for formidable powers. Once they reached Arcane City, they were like a fish in the water. Their capabilities had advanced very rapidly.

Wizard Seddon was one such case. He was merely a Fifth-level Spell Caster when he arrived at Arcane City a few years ago. A few years later, he was now a Seventh-level Spell Caster. The speed of his growth was outrageous.

Still, a miracle like Wizard Seddon would pop up consistently after some time in Arcane City.

"Swoosh."

Wizard Seddon had made the first move very abruptly. His spell filled the entire sky, shrouding Merlin instantly. The force of the spell was enough to kill a Ninth-level Spell Caster.

Merlin's expression turned grave as he stared at the flames in the sky. Darkness Eye had originally been his trump card and his strongest power, but it was now merely at the fourth form and would be powerless against such a formidable attack.

Therefore, Merlin cast Enervating Halo immediately. His body was then flickering with Wind Elements. His figure drifted about erratically with an astonishing momentum.

If Merlin wanted to escape, he could easily do so with such speed. Nonetheless, this was a match. What Merlin wanted to do was to defeat Wizard Seddon. Thus, he could not run away and could only continuously hide in narrow spaces. Wizard Seddon's spells were all Large-area spells. Their impact was vast, and they had a turbulent momentum. Their power was overwhelming and earth-shattering. Merlin almost could not find a good place to dodge.

Merlin was already at a disadvantage when he made the first move. The situation right now was critical!

Wizard Vic shook his head lightly. 'The difference between their levels is too much. Seddon is not an average Wizard. He's a Spell Caster second only to Wizard Rael, and not even I can be sure of defeating him. I'm afraid that this is too dangerous for Wizard Merlin. What if he surrenders now...'

"Wizard Merlin would not surrender..."

Saturn immediately interrupted Vic. On some level, Saturn held Merlin at the highest regard, even to the extent that Saturn thought of Merlin as his competitor.

Saturn would not surrender, and Merlin was less likely to do so because they bore the pride of geniuses, of Six-Elemental Spell Casters!

Merlin was in a tough situation indeed. He evaded constantly, but space was getting smaller and smaller. He was almost forced into a dead end by Wizard Seddon.

Wizard Seddon's experience in battle was not inferior to Merlin. Indeed, he had started from the bottom and ascended step by step by himself. He was noticed by Arcane City after he had revealed his outstanding talents.

A person like this was difficult to deal with because one wrong step would lead to more mistakes to be made. It was hard for Merlin to regain his opportunity. Up until now, Merlin did not even have the chance to strike and could only dodge incessantly.

"This won't do. I must regain my opportunity and buy some time to unleash my spell fusion!"

Merlin was caught in peril and was in desperate times. He did not even have the time to cast his spell fusion. He would lose if this were to go on. This was the first time he had been in such a hazardous situation when facing a Seventh-level Wizard.

With this in mind, Merlin's face suddenly flushed red and his enormous Mind Power was mobilized all at once. Since he could not cast a spell, he would use the Occult Mind Spell which was invisible and impossible to guard against.

"Occult Mind Spell, Nine Hit Strike!"

With that thought of his, Merlin unleashed an Occult Mind Spell for the first time in a battle, and it was the most advanced one—Nine Hit Strike!

Chapter 517: The Match II

"Boom."

The Occult Mind Spell Nine Hit Strike had no shadow nor shape and was impossible to defend against. Merlin was able to retaliate even when he was constantly evading. He could attack in one wave after another and have managed to give out three heavy blows altogether.

Merlin's Three-Hit Strike could even break down Eighth-level spells at their peaks. Seddon had great strength, but being attacked so suddenly had caused him to panic, and his attacks naturally stopped. Moreover, he had to deal with the attack from Merlin's Occult Mind Spell.

Merlin drew in a deep breath, seizing this window of time. A ball of flames and a bolt of thunder appeared on each of his palms respectively.

These were the Sixth-level spells Merlin had just constructed, Endless Flame and Immense Thunder. Just the forces they emanated were enough to cause one's heart to go cold. These spells could be compared to those Eighth-level spells that were at their peaks.

"Occult Mind Spell?"

Wizard Seddon finally weathered through Merlin's Nine Hit Strike. If Merlin was able to cultivate Four Hit Strike, perhaps then he would be able to defeat Wizard Seddon. However, he had only cultivated Three Hit Strike successfully. At most, he could create some trouble for Wizard Seddon but was incapable of causing him any serious harm.

Wizard Seddon stopped his attacks and continued, "You're actually a Mind Power Master, but this bit of Mind Power doesn't pose any threat to me."

Naturally, Wizard Seddon had also noticed the spells in Merlin's hands. He could sense that those were Sixth-level spells. No matter how powerful Merlin's spells were, Wizard Seddon was still confident that these two spells would not cause much harm against him even if they were to be fused with Demon Ability.

It was not just Wizard Seddon. Even Wizard Saturn, who had his eyes shut, now opened them to look at the flames and thunder in Merlin's hands. Merlin had not constructed these two spells when he first entered Arcane City.

This meant that Merlin had already constructed two spells in his short time in Arcane City. Judging from the aura of the spells, they were very powerful ones. At the very least, they were Excellent-grade spells and could even be Perfect ones!

Such terrifying talent at spell construction! Saturn was impressed once more. For the first time, he felt that he could not compare to Merlin in terms of constructing spells.

Nonetheless, these two Sixth-level spells were far too inadequate to defeat Wizard Seddon. Wizard Seddon was not an ordinary Seventh-level Spell Caster but a prodigious Wizard who was on par with those Ninth-level Spell Casters.

"Surrender! Your Occult Mind Spell can't handle me, and your spells are not of any use as well!"

Wizard Seddon spoke with narrowed eyes.

"Can't handle you? Then I'll try this!"

A furtive smile flitted over Merlin's lips. Everyone watched as he quickly brought together the flames and thunder in his hands, gradually merging them.

“Go!”

Merlin pushed his palms forward and the new spells fused from the flames and thunderbolt instantly locked onto Wizard Seddon. It shot in his direction.

“Spell fusion!”

Wizard Seddon’s face changed all of a sudden. He felt an intense threat and could think of nothing else now. A shield with a lustrous metal surface appeared in his hand and floated in the air, shielding his whole body as he turned and ran away from Merlin.

“Boom.”

The spells exploded with a bang, and the terrifying shockwave immediately ripped apart the hovering shield. The aftershocks landed viciously on Wizard Seddon, sending him flying.

After the smoke and dust dispersed, Wizard Seddon’s face was rather pale. He was not injured this time, but it was because he had spent over a hundred Adventure points to obtain a Runic Shield from Arcane City. It was transfigured by a Great Legend who was a Great Alchemist and was initially intended to be used by Wizard Seddon when he was out on his adventures.

He did not expect that it would be used up in this battle. This was a colossal loss. It was not that easy to obtain over a hundred Adventure points.

If he did not have this shield, Wizard Seddon found it hard to imagine what would have happened. Perhaps he would have been gravely injured. When he looked at Merlin again, it was with a desolate expression.

“I’ve lost!”

With that, Wizard Seddon did not plan to linger and immediately turned to leave.

The other Spell Casters there were still in a daze, astounded by the spell fusion Merlin had just unleashed.

Only the powerful Wizards among the Ninth-level Spell Casters would try their hand at spell fusion by merging all of their Spell Models together. Merlin was clearly not a Ninth-level Spell Caster and could not possibly fuse Spell Models.

The only explanation left was that Merlin had merely fused the spells. Nevertheless, this was even more astonishing. To a Fifth-level Spell Caster, fusing spells was not easier than fusing Spell Models at all. It could even be much more difficult to do so.

Any Spell Caster who could fuse merely spells only was frightening. It was not that there were no powerful Spell Casters who could fuse spells in Arcane City, but they emerged only once or twice each millennium. Merlin had shown up now with the ability to fuse spells.

Wizard Vic shot a look at Saturn and nodded wordlessly. It was no wonder that Saturn was hell-bent on looking for Merlin, a Fifth-level Spell Caster. It turned out that Merlin was able to fuse spells.

Still, only Saturn and Merlin knew that Saturn did not know about Merlin's spell fusion. Saturn had sent for Merlin to join the match because he had felt that Merlin was still hiding some mysterious power when he first met Merlin. Even he felt an intense sense of threat coming from him.

He would never thought that his mysterious power would be spell fusion! Yes, Saturn might be a genius, but even he was unable to fuse spells after becoming a Seventh-level Spell Caster. He dared not even try. One tiny slip up might cause the spells to explode which was equivalent to suicide.

"Haha, Wizard Merlin, you've really helped us in our revenge this time. Those Spell Casters with no background were all acting high and mighty back when you and Wizard Saturn hadn't entered Arcane City. Although I was unhappy with that, I couldn't win against Rael, so I can't do anything about it. Now, look at Rael and the rest, haha. Would they still dare to act so proud in front of us?"

Naturally, Wizard Vic felt like he had been avenged. In the past, he had been suppressed by Rael and the other Spell Casters without a good background. Now, led by Saturn and Merlin, they had finally defeated those Spell Casters who were so haughty and had such formidable abilities. Of course, he was overjoyed.

Merlin only smiled and said nothing. He had made a quick observation and found it to be true that the Spell Casters without backgrounds were overall more powerful than the Spell Casters with good backgrounds.

After all, the ones recommended by Great Legends might really be geniuses, but there was still a difference between them and the geniuses who had truly started from the bottom, who had fought their way through every step of the journey to become who they were now.

Of course, there were also exceptions. Saturn was an exceptional prodigy who had been brought up by a Great Legend who had four Maxims, Wizard Blackcloud. Naturally, he was the genius among all the geniuses.

Merlin did not expect he would become someone with a “background” when he arrived at Arcane City.

“Merlin!”

Saturn stopped before Merlin, and his expression was still as aloof as always. It seemed that this was his natural personality. It was a habit he had developed since young that could not be easily changed.

“Merlin, you must join our group! There are many things which one can’t accomplish by oneself in Arcane City and require many others like ourselves. For instance, Rael, Vic, and Seddon whom you’ve just defeated—we’re all the same. Although we live in conflict, we bear no hatred towards one another. People of our level aren’t ignorant enough to feel jealous. As for hatred, that’s even less likely for us to have. So you don’t have to worry that Rael and the rest would hold a grudge against you.”

Saturn was such a proud person. For him to take the initiative to explain all this to Merlin indicated that he had acknowledged Merlin as an equal.

Merlin nodded. Just now, he saw that Wizard Seddon had turned and left. Although his action seemed rather curt, Merlin did not sense any resentment in his opponent’s eyes. What he saw instead was Seddon’s tenacity. Seddon would surely work even harder to try and surpass Merlin once he left. This was the common attribute shared by all the geniuses in Arcane City.

Otherwise, Arcane City would not produce so many Great Legends.

Following that, Saturn left. One could see that he was stunned by Merlin’s spell fusion too. He would definitely work even harder after this. However, Saturn was walking a very different path. He only had to work on constructing more spells and becoming a Ninth-level Spell Caster as soon as

possible. After that, he would begin fusing Spell Models, and his power would fly off the charts in no time.

“Saturn’s Mind Power is not bad as well. How does he train it?”

Merlin now suffered from a lack of Mind Power. His Mind Power was in fact very powerful, and his Mind Heart had been compressed according to his liking so that it would be able to take in more Mind Power. Nonetheless, his Seventh-level Mind Heart would have to reach its limits at least for him to be able to construct six Sixth-level spells.

“Wizard Saturn? When he came to Arcane City, he had attempted the Mind Tower as soon as he can.”

Beside Merlin, Wizard Arrot overheard Merlin’s mumble and replied softly.

“Huh, what’s the Mind Tower?” Merlin inquired curiously.

“The Mind Tower was personally erected by the Ultimate Arcane Wizard. It has eighteen floors in total, and each floor has a challenge aimed at the Spell Caster’s Mind Power. Once you’ve completed the tower, your Mind Power would be honed and increased quickly. This is faster than Meditation, but each attempt to challenge the tower requires a hundred Adventure points.”

“Adventure points? How many of those do I have now?”

Merlin asked Arrot. He assumed that Adventure points were not that different from the Dark Magic Region’s contribution points, but Arcane City was obviously more generous and open by giving the Potential Wizards access to almost everything it had. It just depended on whether those Potential Wizards could obtain the sufficient Adventure points to gain access to them.

“So how many points do I have now?”

Merlin was estimating that he should have been awarded at least some Adventure Points what with his exceptional talents and twelve Perfect-graded Spells.

However, Arrot smirked. “Potential Wizards who’ve just arrived at Arcane City have no Adventure points. You would have to venture out yourself to gain them!”

“Not a single point?”

Merlin blinked. It seemed that he had misunderstood the meaning of these “Adventure points.”

Chapter 518: Honing Mind Power I

“Hehe, if you train in Arcane City, you’ll find that we have an endless supply of resources. Regardless of whether it’s spell construction, alchemy, runology, puppets, or the rest, you would progress much faster if you train in Arcane City. Still, Arcane City won’t provide access to these resources so freely. You’ll need something called Adventure points. To get Adventure points, you would’ve to help Arcane City solve some problems that may or may not be dangerous. Only then can you’ll be awarded a small sum of Adventure points. There’s no other alternative to this. Arcane City won’t ever just give them out as a reward to any Spell Caster.”

Arrot gave a detailed explanation of the ways to gain Adventure points. One could only go on adventures outside. An example would be when a Great Legend in a certain dimension felt that there was insufficient manpower and they would need a few powerful Spell Casters to control the dimension.

One would also be awarded Adventure points by killing some powerful foreign tribes. However, one would get the most Adventure points by discovering a dimension with no master, as long as it was not a barren dimension and Elements still exist there. One did not have to control the dimension but merely provide its specific coordinates to obtain a large sum of Adventure points. At that point, Arcane City would automatically send a Great Legend to take over that dimension with no master.

In short, one would have to venture outside to gain Adventure points, and there would always certain risks one would have to take.

Of course, one would receive tremendous benefits in Arcane City with Adventure points. This was a cultivation environment admired by even the Great Honored Legends. It existed only in Arcane City.

Merlin had no Adventure points at all. He heard Arrot mentioned that the Mind Tower was very useful for honing one’s Mind Power, but he had no Adventure points and could not enter the Mind Tower.

“That’s right, has Wizard Saturn really gone on adventures already? Otherwise, how would he have Adventure points to enter the Mind Tower?”

Merlin and Saturn had entered Arcane City at the same time, but Saturn had already attempted the Mind Tower and had surely gained some significant benefits. Merlin began to feel invigorated, wishing to venture outside and gain some Adventure points right now.

However, Arrot hurriedly shook his head. “Wizard Saturn hasn’t gone out on any adventures. He was able to enter the Mind Tower because it’s open for free to Spell Casters who are attempting it for the first time. No Adventure points are needed.”

Merlin was slightly taken aback. Arcane City would not provide Potential Wizards with any Adventure points but would provide certain things for free without Adventure points. This was in fact indirectly aiding Potential Wizards.

“Since it’s free, there’s no time to lose. I’ll give it a shot right now.”

Merlin was already getting impatient. He wanted to challenge the Mind Tower right now.

Arrot hesitated before finally saying, “Wizard Merlin, you should think about this carefully. You only have one free chance to attempt the Mind Tower, and the stronger your Mind Power is, the more benefits you will reap from entering the Mind Tower. Many Potential Wizards would wait until their Mind Power has reached a capable stage before using this free chance to attempt the Mind Tower.”

“Haha, there’s no need to wait for so long. If it’s effective, I’ll just get some Adventure points in the future.”

At the moment, Merlin needed his Mind Power to grow. How could he wait patiently? Therefore, he quickly flew towards the Mind Tower with Arrot’s guidance.

“Swish.”

Merlin and Arrot landed before the Mind Tower. This Mind Tower only had sixteen floors 1 , but each floor took up a great height. With sixteen floors in total, one could not even see the top clearly when one looked up.

“Arrot, you’ve attempted the Mind Tower before, right? What floor did you reach?” Merlin turned and asked Arrot while he was looking at the Mind Tower soaring into the clouds.

Arrot scratched his head slightly. He thought about it for a while before finally saying, “I’ve attempted it indeed, but I only reached the eighth floor.”

“The eighth floor. What about Wizard Saturn?”

Merlin was curious about which floor Saturn had reached in his challenge. After all, Wizard Saturn was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster as well and the amount of Mind Power he needed was similar to Merlin’s. As a Seventh-level Spell Caster, Wizard Saturn’s Mind Power must at least be on par with Ninth-level Spell Casters.

Of course, Wizard Saturn had not condensed a Mind Heart, so the level of Mind Power required of him was naturally very high. Merlin possessed a powerful Mind Heart which was able to store much more Mind Power. He naturally did not need to constantly break through the levels of his Mind Power.

Once Merlin reached the limits of the Seventh-level Mind Heart, he would be very formidable. If only he could fill his Mind Heart to the brim, he would be able to construct six Sixth-level spells all in one go then. If that were to happen, he could have become a Sixth-level Spell Caster in just a short period of time!

Wizard Arrot considered the matter before saying in a soft voice at last, “Wizard Saturn is impressive indeed. He actually managed to reach the eleventh floor of the Mind Tower!”

“The eleventh floor?”

Merlin did not know what the eleventh floor signified. He would still have to attempt the Mind Tower himself to know how challenging the eleventh floor was.

Merlin imprinted the fact that Saturn had reached the eleventh floor into his mind. Then, he showed his identity and stepped into the Mind Tower.

“Although Wizard Merlin’s Mind Power is very strong, can he reach the eighth floor? Perhaps even the eighth floor would be difficult for him...” Arrot muttered to himself quietly.

Nonetheless, one could not see the situation inside the Mind Tower from the outside, so Arrot could only wait quietly.

“Swish.”

Once Merlin stepped into the Mind Tower, his Mind Power began inspecting his surroundings instantly. He realized that three other unknown Spell Casters had entered the Mind Tower at the same time as him.

All these three unknown Spell Casters had relatively powerful Mind Power. It looked like it was their first time attempting the Mind Tower as well since they appeared rather cautious.

“I’ve heard that there are strange things within the Mind Tower. We’ll have to be careful even if it’s just the first floor!”

The three Spell Casters seemed to know each other. They stood back to back, looking very cautious of their own surrounding. They seemed to notice Merlin but did not intend to invite him to go through the tower together.

Merlin did not waste much time on those three. He began to meticulously examine the first floor of the Mind Tower. The first floor was dim and empty and appeared rather spacious, but he did not sense anything special about it.

“The honing of Mind Power. What could that mean?”

Merlin was still dwelling on the function of Mind Tower that Arrot had mentioned just now which was to hone one’s Mind Power and allow it to grow rapidly.

“Ouch, that hurts!”

Merlin’s mouth twisted in one corner. In that instant, he felt a faint sting in his mind and his expression changed immediately. The pain did not vanish but spread gradually throughout Merlin’s body instead.

It was not just Merlin who was experiencing it. The other three Spell Casters now were wearing identical agonized expressions as well. They felt as if their Mind Power was being torn apart.

“I can still take it. Endure, we must endure!”

The three of them began to howl softly. They knew that this might be the test of the first floor. Merlin had actually recovered from the pain as soon as he had experienced the pain. His Mind Heart was incomparably powerful. Besides being able to store Mind Power, it had protected his Mind Power as well.

Unparalleled agony beset the three of them until Merlin could hear dull moans coming from them. Those were moans of suffering.

Merlin frowned. Other than the beginning pang of unbearable pain, his Mind Power now was only aching just a little. This was the Mind Heart fulfilling its function.

“It’s just pain? This is stimulating my Mind Power. Is the Mind Tower that simple?”

Merlin was somewhat taken aback. The Mind Tower was using the crudest method to stimulate Mind Power directly, inflicting unbearable agony on the Spell Casters. However, their Mind Power would rapidly advance if they had managed to withstand it.

Although Merlin was protected by his Mind Heart and was not in much pain on the first floor, he was able to detect that the slight growth his Mind Power had experienced.

Merlin was not in a hurry to enter the second floor of the Mind Tower and waited instead for the other three to gradually recover. Their expressions were that of relief and glee after that.

“It’s increased. My Mind Power’s really increased! The Mind Tower is so wonderful!”

The three of them were in high spirits. Their Mind Power had grown a great deal on the first floor of the Mind Tower. The agony they had previously experienced had been forgotten completely.

“Swish, swish.”

After that, the three of them went to the second floor, with Merlin following close behind.

On the second floor, they quickly felt an acute sensation. This time, it was agony as well, but it was many times worse than what they had felt on the first floor.

Even Merlin, who had the protection of the Mind Heart, felt as if his Mind Power was being ripped out and forcibly torn apart.

Pain like this was hard to put into words. It was like one's brain was being physically lacerated. This sort of direct agony immediately stimulated the Mind Power to grow frantically.

Mind Power had always needed to be stimulated in order to grow quickly. For example, Merlin had taken some potions before to stimulate his Mind Power, causing him intolerable suffering but which had provoked a soaring growth in his Mind Power.

Now, his Mind Power seemed to be controlled by an unseen force in the Mind Tower. There was no need for him to take any potions this time for his Mind Power to experience such unmatched agony. As a result, his Mind Power was honed.

The other three were already howling in pain constantly. Although they were making a supreme effort to endure it, their bodies had begun to tremble as if they would collapse at any moment.

Merlin, on the other hand, drew in constant deep breaths. He bore the pain of his Mind Power being ripped apart. His willpower was extraordinary. He showed no signs of collapsing even though the whole process was unbearably agonizing.

As time passed, Merlin felt the pain gradually subsiding, and his Mind Power had undergone another spurt of growth. However, this growth was far greater than the one he had experienced on the first floor.

“Surely the third floor won't be more painful?”

Merlin glanced up at the Mind Tower. There was a limit to everything, even for stimulating one's Mind Power. Once that limit had been violated, not only would one's Mind Power gain no growth, it would collapse instantly instead.

Therefore, Merlin was somewhat hesitant as he stepped into the third floor of the Mind Tower.

Chapter 519: Honing Mind Power II

After a moment of consideration, the three elected Spell Casters stepped into the third floor first. Merlin drew in a deep breath and finally let go of his hesitations. This was a free chance to enter the Mind Tower which was not easy to come by. Naturally, he must not give up halfway.

“Swish.”

Thus, Merlin stepped into the third floor as well.

The walls of the third floor consisted of a large mirror all around. From the mirror, Merlin could see his surroundings very distinctly. The three Spell Casters looked around in astonishment as well. They were completely surrounded by the gigantic, glossy mirror which even extended under their feet and above their heads.

The third floor of the Mind Tower was evidently a room covered in a mirror.

Merlin furrowed his brow, not knowing what mysteries the third floor contained. He might as well sit on the floor and wait silently.

Who knew how long it was before Merlin felt a sense of fatigue, following which he gradually fell into a deep sleep. This happened unwittingly, and not even Merlin noticed it.

In his dream, Merlin had returned to Blackwater City in the Kingdom of Light. Back then, Blackwater City was controlled by the Kingdom of Light. Merlin and his father, Old Wilson, had rebelled spiritedly, finally saving the people of the Wilson clan.

However, in the dream, everything seemed as before, only the development of events was a world of difference from what had originally happened. Merlin was one step too slow and Wilson Castle was reduced to ashes. Macy and numerous others from the Wilson clan had died pitifully inside Wilson Castle.

Merlin was endlessly remorseful. Thereafter, he even saw his father, Old Wilson, collapsed before his own eyes. He was powerless to redeem the situation, powerless to save the entire Wilson clan.

This dream was like reality, clawing at the depths of Merlin's heart. A swell of indescribable sorrow rose up within Merlin, and without realizing it, two streams of tears had run down Merlin's cheeks.

"No, this is all an illusion! It's false, for I've transformed the Wilson clan!"

Merlin trembled inside. He had unconsciously fallen into an illusion. Ever since he had Darkness Heart, in addition to powerful Mind Power, it was hard for him to be trapped in an illusion.

However, he was caught in an illusion this time without noticing it. Moreover, there was no sense of incongruity as if everything was real.

Merlin glanced at his "self" in the mirror. His face was still streaked with tears. It was the first time Merlin had seen himself "crying".

"Everything in the dream is another outcome..."

Merlin carefully recalled his entire dream. It was strange that even the tiniest details in the entire sweep of things could be brought to mind distinctly. Now that he replayed it in his head, he felt a sense of misery.

Suddenly, Merlin noticed that his Mind Power had grown by some amount. He immediately thought of another possibility.

"Could it be that the third floor of the Mind Tower uses 'sorrow' to stimulate Mind Power, increasing Mind Power in that manner?"

Most people, when experiencing great joy or sorrow, would cause their Mind Power to fluctuate immensely. However, this was only for most people. Even if one became a Spell Caster, elation and grief would still increase Mind Power, only it was too negligible.

Merlin did not expect that such a basic concept would be magnified countless times over in the Mind Tower. It followed that his Mind Power would grow by a huge amount.

Merlin looked toward the three Spell Casters once again. They still had not awakened, and their faces gripped by incomparable sorrow since long ago. They must have surely fallen into deep grief. Under such circumstances, their Mind Power would greatly increase when they awoke.

Merlin lowered his head in a pensive manner. He had gained a general understanding of the function of the Mind Tower. It was marvelous indeed. At first, it used the most direct stimulation of pain, after which was emotional stimulation. Although these were the most rudimentary ways of stimulating Mind Power, they were magnified without limit in the Mind Tower. Of course, the effects were much better.

Merlin, for instance, had Mind Power and willpower which were too strong. Conversely, he was not suited to boost his Mind Power in the Mind Tower. In here, one should sink absolutely into the illusion, and experience unmatched sorrow, to increase Mind Power.

Merlin drew in a deep breath. The grief of his dream, now that he thought about it, was still aching faintly. He really did not wish to face that level of sadness once more.

However, for the sake of his Mind Power, Merlin could only choose to fall into the dream completely. Therefore, he closed his eyes lightly and immersed himself totally into the dream, experiencing that heavy misery. His Mind Power began to slowly, steadily expand...

The third floor, the fourth floor, the fifth floor...

Merlin slowly and steadily ascended throughout his journey. The three Spell Casters who had attempted the Mind Tower with Merlin had reached the seventh floor long ago but were unable to hold on at the seventh floor. At last, they left the Mind Tower.

As for Merlin, he was still one step behind. On each floor, he would engage completely in the dream with no efforts of resisting, allowing the Mind Tower to shape his dreams.

In the dream, Merlin went through all sorts of ecstasies and griefs, all of which were very realistic, based on everything that Merlin had experienced in the past. Only then would Merlin feel as if it really happened.

Of course, there were many benefits to this. The most direct advantage was that Merlin's Mind Power was rising sharply, all the way to the eighth floor.

The eighth floor was where the plump Wizard Arrot had reached. Merlin looked around curiously. It seemed to be a plain room with nothing special.

“I wonder what kind of dream it will be this time?”

Merlin was slightly looking forward to another dream. His current attempt to complete the Mind Tower had allowed his Mind Power to flourish rapidly. It was nearly at its limits. After a few more floors, it might reach the limits of the Seventh-level Mind Heart.

Such a growth rate was even faster than consuming potions. Of course, it was not as quick as divinity as it was a treasure which even Legendary Wizards would need, and was very rare. Unless one literally suppressed a god, it was difficult to obtain divinity.

Furthermore, even if one had suppressed a god, without the ability to overwhelm, the god could rely on the power of divinity to defy the Great Legend, not letting a Spell Caster obtain divinity so easily.

Thus, besides divinity, this Mind Tower was very helpful for honing the Mind Power indeed.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, as Merlin was waiting to fall into a dream, he felt his mind quake as if a huge explosion had occurred. Following that, Merlin felt that his Mind Power seemed to be forcibly sucked out by countless tentacles.

This sensation was incomparably unendurable. Even Merlin could not help but take in a cold gulp of air, and constantly drew in thin breaths, trying to lessen the pain. Nonetheless, this pain only grew in intensity, which was difficult for Merlin to bear.

What was even more dismaying was that Merlin was unable to perceive what was this mysterious energy, draining his Mind Power just like when the seventh floor of the Mind Tower had pulled him into a dream.

“No wonder that Arrot was unable to take it and could only make it to the eighth floor.”

Merlin broke out into a bitter smile involuntarily. This method of directly draining one's Mind Power was far too excruciating. All at once, he had lost his Mind Power, and Merlin's entire person became incomparably fragile.

Mind Power was a crucial part of a Spell Caster. Even when Merlin had used his Mind Power excessively in the past, his Mind Power had never been completely sucked out like how it was now.

The effects of his Mind Power being vacated were evident. Merlin was now unable to wield an Occult Mind Spell or cast spells by stimulating his Spell Models with Mind Power.

In short, Merlin currently had many powerful but worthless techniques which he was unable to utilize.

Once Mind Power was gone, the resulting effects were rather terrifying. Currently, Merlin was filled with a lingering fear. He could think of nothing else but to begin meditating. Although this was slow-paced, he was able to recover some Mind Power.

As expected, after some time had passed, Merlin's Mind Power was gradually replenished but as soon as that happened, the mysterious energy sucked out his Mind Power once again.

Again and again, in torturous cycles, Merlin stayed on the eighth floor of the Mind Tower for three days. Each time his Mind Power was vacated, his Mind Power would increase significantly once it was recovered.

At the moment, Merlin's Mind Power was nearly at its limits, lacking by just a margin.

"Boom!"

When Merlin's Mind Power was sucked out once again, he could even distinctly feel a fulfilling sensation. Yes, a fulfilling sensation. His Mind Power was slowly recovering as if a tiny stream had appeared in a dried-up riverbed, which would quickly turn into a surging river, overflowing to the heavens.

At last, when Merlin's Mind Power was recovered, it had already reached the limit. Merlin felt that no matter what, as long as his Mind Heart remained at the Seventh-level, he could not possibly add more Mind Power.

The eighth floor no longer served Merlin any purpose. Without any hesitation, Merlin immediately went up to the ninth floor!

On the ninth floor, Merlin closed his eyes slightly, wordlessly enjoying the fulfilling sensation of the Mind Heart. This time, his Mind Power was exuding gradually in invisible fluctuations.

“Four Hit Strike!”

Merlin’s eyes flew open as if automatically. Merlin’s Offensive Occult Mind Spell could finally wield Four Hit Strike after his Mind Power had reached the limit of the Seventh-level Mind Heart.

Once his Occult Mind Spell had attained the Four Hit Strike, Merlin had another technique in his arsenal which was on par with Ninth-level Spell Casters. This was the only powerful technique, subsequent to spell fusion, which was comparable to Ninth-level Spell Casters.

As for the rest, like Glacier Country, Perfect-grade spells, Fusion Pandora Demon Ability, and even the fourth form of Darkness Eye, they were only at the stage of peak Eighth-level. They had no way of holding up against Ninth-level Spell Casters and did not pose a large threat to such Spell Casters.

“The Mind Tower is truly a great place!”

Merlin was somewhat unwilling to leave the Mind Tower. This place was essentially the finest place to cultivate Mind Power.

“I wonder what method the ninth floor of the Mind Tower would use to hone Mind Power?”

Merlin began to turn his attention toward the ninth floor. Up until now, he had not seemed to notice anything out of the ordinary on the ninth floor. However, out of vigilance against the Mind Tower, Merlin was still very cautious, not daring to let his guard down in the slightest.

Chapter 520: Profit

“Swoosh.”

Just when Merlin was bored stiff, something finally happened on the ninth floor of the Mind Tower. An old man dressed in black appeared suddenly. Merlin immediately became nervous. He could sense from the Elemental fluctuations of the old man, that this person was a powerful Spell Caster.

In the Mind Tower, other than the other challengers, Merlin had never encountered other Spell Casters. This old man was obviously not another challenger.

“Challenger, you’ve entered the ninth floor of the Mind Tower, so we’ll go by the rules of the ninth floor. Your Mind Power is formidable, and your Mind Heart has reached the limits of the Seventh-level. Moreover, you’re a Mind Power Master.”

Merlin felt a jolt of surprise. He did not think that the old man in black would be able to learn of his attributes in just a glance.

The old man in black shook his head, and said with a detached expression, “There’s no need to look at me like that. It’s not I who can discern your secrets but the Mind Tower which was built by the Great Ultimate Arcane Wizard. In here, no one can hide anything.”

It turned out it was the Ultimate Arcane Wizard who had ascertained everything. Merlin sensed that although this old man made Merlin feel extremely intimidated, he himself was not that powerful of a Wizard, and should be merely at the Ninth-level.

“You are...?”

Merlin was somewhat unsure about what was odd about this Ninth-level Spell Caster.

The old man in black fixed his gaze on Merlin and said immediately, “Other than a Spell Caster, I have another identity. Like you, I’m a Mind Power Master! It must be said that Mind Power Masters are most authorized to speak about the honing of Mind Power for we’re the ones with the most incisive understanding of Mind Power. The Ultimate Arcane Wizard placed us in the Mind Tower to hone the Mind Power of Potential Wizards like you.”

Merlin’s heart leaped. He did not expect to meet another Mind Power Master. The level of threat this old man posed was clearly not as intense as Wizard Ossais, and his abilities were surely not as strong as Ossais’, but his achievements in Mind Power were surely impressive too.

“How will you hone Mind Power?”

Merlin asked meekly.

“It’s simple. I’ll retain my Mind Power to the level of most Ninth-level Spell Casters and battle with you. It’ll be a battle purely of Mind Power skill. Spell and Occult Mind Spells aren’t allowed to be used.”

The words of the old man in black caused Merlin some doubts. A challenge purely of Mind Power skill – what did this have to do with expanding Mind Power?

As if he sensed Merlin’s misgivings, the old man laughed coldly. “After the challenge, you’ll know!”

With that, the old man made the first move by mobilizing his Mind Power, which quickly turned into a formless sledgehammer, smashing toward Merlin ruthlessly.

Merlin, who was highly sensitive to Mind Power, was naturally able to tell that the old man in black had made his move. His opponent was wielding a Mind Power attack that was formed on the basis of the average Ninth-level Spell Caster’s Mind Power.

Merlin’s current Mind Heart had reached the limits of the Seventh-level, coming infinitely close to most Ninth-level Spell Casters in terms of Mind Power. Therefore, he activated his Mind Power instantly which turned into an unseen Mind Power net. Layer by layer, he tried to entangle his opponent’s Mind Power sledgehammer.

“Chi.”

The old man’s Mind Power rapidly transformed into a sharp dagger that slashed open Merlin’s net. Following that, his Mind Power crashed heavily into Merlin at the highest speed.

“Bang!”

Merlin’s body was immediately sent flying and he fell painfully onto the ground.

The old man in black shook his head slightly, saying in disappointment, “This won’t do. You’re not flexible in the slightest. Utilizing Mind Power isn’t that simple! This is already the first time, and you only have three chances on the ninth floor of the Mind Tower. Once I defeated you three times, you’ll be sent out from the Mind Tower.”

Merlin stood up slowly. In that previous hit, he had secretly cast Enervating Halo, so the old man’s attack did not cause him considerable damage.

As for the lack of flexibility that the old man mentioned, Merlin understood clearly. Merlin’s use of Mind Power was clumsy indeed. Even when he had looked for Ossais, it was to learn Occult Mind Spells.

In the present, once he was not allowed to use Occult Mind Spells, Merlin was practically at the level of a “rookie” in terms of using Mind Power.

“If it’s solely Mind Power skill, what use does it have toward increasing Mind Power?”

Merlin did not hastily rush into battle. Instead, he carefully pondered the matter. This was the Mind Tower, and its most vital function was to hone Mind Power, inducing remarkable advancements in Mind Power.

Thus, this was definitely not just a mere battle of Mind Power skill. There must be another objective that Merlin had not noticed.

Therefore, Merlin began to think back to every movement of the old man in black. Every gesture and every word that he said were now incessantly flashing across Merlin’s mind.

“Again!”

Merlin thought about this for a long time then suddenly stood up. Without further explanation, he mobilized his Mind Power. Invisible Mind Power arrows filled the air, coming from all directions, racing wildly toward the old man in black.

Moreover, there was no angle of escape, and it would be difficult for the old man to evade.

“Heh? Mind Power can also turn into a storm.”

The old man's Mind Power, by quickly whirling at an unimaginable speed, took shape as a windstorm in an instant, whistling as it scattered Merlin's Mind Power arrows all at once.

As for Merlin, he was defeated once again. It was the same Mind Power as before with hardly any differences. Although Merlin had the advantage of the first strike, he was still unable to be of any threat to the old man in black. His opponent's storm was not an Occult Mind Spell but simply a pure use of Mind Power skill.

"You have one last attempt."

After saying this to Merlin, the old man in black quietly closed his eyes.

He was left with only one chance but Merlin was wild with joy. He finally knew the old man's intentions. Using Mind Power in such a direct manner as an arm would move a finger, could only be done by completely fusing Mind Power into one's consciousness. At a single thought, Mind Power can be wielded as if by instinct.

Instinct – Merlin finally grasped that his Mind Power must be merged with his instincts, becoming instinct itself. In that manner, his Mind Power would flourish greatly.

"Once again."

Finally, Merlin understood the secret of the ninth floor. Thus, he challenged the old man in black once again. This time, he industriously fused his Mind Power with his instincts, but this was not something that could be accomplished in a day.

"Bang!"

Merlin's body was sent flying once more but a smile had dawned upon the old man's face. "Not bad, you've realized this so quickly. Still, you've failed three times and must leave the Mind Tower. I'll look forward to your next visit!"

"Whoosh."

As soon as the old man in black spoke, Merlin felt his entire being shimmer once, following which he appeared outside of the Mind Tower. Arrot, who had been waiting outside for a long while, asked in exhilaration, “Wizard Merlin, you’ve made it to the ninth floor?”

Merlin glanced at the Mind Tower. It was a wonderful place indeed. The ninth floor of the Mind Tower had taught him a method to increase Mind Power. Nonetheless, his Mind Power was truly inferior to Wizard Saturn’s by some degree as he had only made it to the ninth floor.

“I’ve only made it to the ninth floor... However, this time I’ve profited greatly. Let’s go, I’ll come again next time.”

Merlin looked up at the Mind Tower which had sixteen floors in total. He had only made it to the ninth floor with seventh floors left to go. Those would surely be amazingly beneficial toward the honing of Mind Power.

Therefore, Merlin was already eager to attempt the Mind Tower once more. However, before doing so, he would have to obtain a huge sum of Adventure points.