W. Secret 521

Chapter 521: The God-binding Disc

What did Arcane City really have? Why would countless genius Spell Casters wish to enter Arcane City?

Ever since Merlin had attempted the Mind Tower, he had a dim understanding of why generations after generations of genius Wizards would come to Arcane City by any means possible.

One would have everything that one needed, for instance, Merlin's Mind Power which had been troubling him. He was able to challenge the Mind Tower, each floor offered Merlin some stimulation, expanding his Mind Power in that manner.

Now, Merlin was training to fuse his Mind Power with his instincts. Once he had done so, Merlin's Mind Power would flourish swiftly, and might even break through to an Eighth-level Mind Heart instantly. In addition, he would then be able to complete the ninth floor of the Mind Tower.

Moreover, Arcane City had many other great items such as casting tools. Arcane City was known to be a place where one could find any casting tool.

Merlin gave it a try. As of now, he had only used very few casting tools because most casting tools were not worth his while.

The only exception was the Assembled casting tool, which was still incomplete. Merlin had not paid the Bell Space any attention for a long time.

As for Wizard Bell, Merlin had even deliberately looked him up in Arcane City. There was a very comprehensive set of information regarding powerful Wizards in Arcane City, which was free to access. Only Arcane City could have something like this.

From this information, Merlin found out some facts about Wizard Bell at last. Wizard Bell was previously a Great Alchemist of the Molta Empire royal family. At that time, he was a Great Legend and was reputed to be the foremost Great Alchemist in the Molta Empire.

As for the Assembled casting tool, it was first created by Wizard Bell. In the field of alchemy, Wizard Bell had always been a pioneer. In general, a large portion of alchemy was gradually developed and refined thanks to Wizard Bell.

However, during the war between the mysterious dimension and the civilization of Spell Casters, the fires of war burned the Glorious Land, and the Great Alchemist Wizard Bell died there.

These were details about Wizard Bell. Merlin was deeply moved when he learned this. Back when he had obtained the components of the Bell Space, he had vaguely sensed that these casting tools were not that simple.

This turned out to be true. Although Wizard Bell was the first to create Assembled casting tools, the one which he was proudest of throughout his life was the God-Binding Disc. It was assembled from nine casting components, and each component was an individual casting tool. They could become various sorts of new casting tools when combined in different ways.

This was the unique characteristic of Assembled casting tools.

Merlin became excited when he learned about the God-Binding Disc, so he looked up descriptions of it. The God-Binding Disc was the most powerful casting tool transfigured by Wizard Bell, one with supreme might, and was formed from nine individual casting tools in total.

Back then, Wizard Bell had become a Great Legend by consolidating a Fire-type Maxim, and ultimately that was the only Maxim he created. However, he focused all his efforts into alchemy and transfigured the God-Binding Disc. Thereafter, he was able to use the God-Binding Disc to suppress natural gods.

Even if some natural gods were stronger than Wizard Bell himself, possessing divinity transformed from the endless power of faith and being nearly immortal, once the God-Binding Disc was wielded, the formidable natural gods were subdued one after another.

It was because of such prowess that Wizard Bell was unreservedly recognized as the foremost Great Alchemist, even in the Molta Empire which was brimming with talent.

Other than Wizard Bell, there were no Great Alchemists who had such splendid results in battle. The God-Binding Disc, as wielded by Wizard Bell, was able to suppress six natural gods in all.

"God-Binding Disc?"

Merlin's heart leaped. He had acquired three casting components which formed the Bell Space. This Bell Space was marvelous as well, possessing some mystical powers.

Therefore, Merlin wondered if the three casting components he had were components of the God-Binding Disc?

Thus, Merlin continued inquiring about the God-Binding Disc. In Wizard Bell's hands, the God-Binding Disc had exploded with terrifying strength. However, after a great war erupted between the Glorious Land and the mysterious dimension, not only did Wizard Bell die but even the God-Binding Disc was lost.

According to rumors, the God-Binding Disc had been broken up into nine most basic casting components, scattered throughout the lands.

"God-Binding Disc!"

There was a feverous fire in Merlin's heart. He increasingly believed that his Bell Space was, in fact, three of the casting components making up the God-Binding Disc.

Arcane City reputedly had the richest supply of casting tools and other alchemy products, along with some rare, strange treasures. Merlin began his inquiries, actively seeking out the casting tools of Wizard Bell.

As the leading Great Alchemist of the Spell Caster's most glorious era, Wizard Bell had many casting tools which were widely circulated. After a brief search, Merlin figured he might as well ask about the components of the God-Binding Disc.

As a sacred place created by the Ultimate Arcane Wizards, Arcane City was the hub of the entire Spell Caster civilization. The three great Arcane Cities were the most secure fort of the Spell Caster civilization, and the places which would preserve the spark of civilization if the Spell Caster civilization was ever endangered.

Therefore, the three great Arcane Cities had everything one would ever need.

As Merlin enquired about the God-Binding Disc, the Great Legends who watched over the countless casting tools and alchemy products of Arcane City did not find his questions strange. There were many Spell Casters who, like Merlin, had previously looked into legendary casting tools with powerful might such as the God-Binding Disc.

"There are only four casting components of the God-Binding Disc in Arcane City."

"Four?"

Merlin was slightly stupefied before his heart burst with elation. Initially, he had not hoped for four more components for it was too challenging to assemble the complete God-Binding Disc all at once. It was uncertain if he could assemble it as a few of those components might even have been completely destroyed.

Therefore, four components were already beyond Merlin's expectations.

"How many Adventure points would the four casting tools cost?"

Merlin asked immediately.

He was curious as to why not many Spell Casters were willing to purchase the renowned God-Binding Disc. Otherwise, these components would no longer be in Arcane City.

The Great Legends raised their head and eyed Merlin, then said calmly, "Each component of the God-Binding Disc requires five hundred Adventure points, so four components cost two thousand Adventure points in total!"

"What? Five hundred Adventure points?"

Merlin's mouth fell wide open. Five hundred points in addition to five hundred more would make a thousand Adventure points. That was enough to exchange for a first-rate casting tool in Arcane City.

Merlin's Aurora Ship, for example, specialized in speed. In truth, there were similar alchemy products in Arcane City, which merely required a little more than one thousand Adventure points.

Spell Casters with so many Adventure points would have purchased other first-rate casting tools. Who would waste their energy on four individual components?

The God-Binding Disc had a great reputation indeed but if it was just four components, they could not compare to other first-rate casting tools or alchemy products.

Moreover, these four components were damaged to different degrees and were not in perfect condition. With such defects, in addition to their costly price, it was natural that not many Wizards were willing to exchange for these four components of the God-Binding Disc.

Merlin was silent for a moment, then drew in a deep breath, and turned to leave right away.

These four components were costly indeed and were even "defective", not worthy of such a huge sum of Adventure points at all. Merlin had only been in Arcane City for a few days but he already understood how difficult it was to obtain Adventure points. In general, each mission might take months or even years, and one would only receive a few dozen Adventure points in return.

This was to say nothing of Adventure points above hundreds and thousands. In the eyes of most Potential Wizards, this was a huge fortune.

Nonetheless, Merlin had secretly made up his mind to acquire the four casting components of the God-Binding Disc. When combined, the four components might not be formidable, and might not even compare to Merlin's Aurora Ship, but Merlin also possessed three casting components that were very likely to be part of the God-Binding Disc.

With these three components, Merlin would have seven casting components of the God-Binding Disc. Although these seven parts might not form a complete God-Binding Disc, and would not have the full, mystical powers of the God-Binding Disc, they would surely surpass most first-rate casting tools. It was something only obtainable by sheer chance.

Therefore, Merlin was determined to get the four casting components of the God-Binding Disc in Arcane City!

"Oh, Adventure points. Without Adventure points, one's cultivation in Arcane City would surely suffer a great blow."

Merlin already understood the significance of Adventure points in Arcane City. The Mind Tower, the force field area, and so on, all required Adventure points to be used.

One must complete an adventure mission to gain Adventure points, which would only be awarded after the mission is completed.

Merlin was already familiar with many places in Arcane City. Of course, he knew about the Mission Tower too. The fat Wizard Arrot had previously introduced Merlin to most of the places in Arcane City, and the Mission Tower was one which Arrot had emphasized.

There was a considerable number of Spell Casters in Arcane City but because Arcane City was too big, it looked as if it was sparsely populated by Spell Casters. The only exception was the Mission Tower.

People came and went in the Mission Tower, and each day, there were many Spell Casters who went there. Among them, there were not just Spell Casters below the Seventh-level. Spell Casters above the Seventh-level and even Great Wizards were more common.

In Arcane City, anyone below the level of Legends could be considered a Potential Wizard, each of whom had a time limit of one thousand years in Arcane City.

Once those thousand years had passed, if one had not become a Great Legend, one would be sent by Arcane City to assist Great Legends in standing guard over other dimensions. After all, there were plenty of dimensions directly controlled by Arcane City, requiring the supervision of many powerful Wizards.

Of course, there were those who stood guard willingly. As long as a Potential Wizard had become a Great Wizard, they would usually be top-notch Great Wizards among the tens of thousands of dimensions. Great Wizards like these were able to voluntarily apply to guard the dimensions.

Moreover, based on how disorderly the dimension was, and how long one stood guard, Arcane City might give a great sum of Adventure points. This method was generally not very risky. One would just need to spend some time to obtain a lot of Adventure points.

Nevertheless, Merlin could not apply for missions like this as he was not a Great Wizard. He was not qualified at all to apply to guard dimensions, and could only take on other missions.

After stepping into the Mission Tower, Merlin glanced around casually. There were mostly difficult missions which would take a long time with only a few Adventure points as a reward such as capturing a foreign tribe.

Other than that, one could choose to enter the front lines and fight against foreign tribes directly. Missions of this sort were very hazardous, and even most Great Wizards would be at risk of dying.

If the resulting Adventure points were higher, Merlin would not mind the risk but these missions had comparatively fewer Adventure points. In comparison to the number of Adventure points Merlin would need to purchase the four components of God-Binding Disc, it was far too insufficient.

"There are many missions with over a thousand Adventure points, but those are far too dangerous for me. For instance, hunting down Great Wizards at their peak – I can't possibly succeed..."

Merlin furrowed his brows tightly. After going around the Mission Tower for a long time, he still did not see any mission that was appropriate and would satisfy him.

Chapter 522: The Strongest Team of Six!

"Wizard Merlin!"

A clear, cold voice came from behind Merlin. He turned around and saw a familiar figure. It was Wizard Saturn.

"Wizard Saturn? You're about to go on an adventure mission too?"

Upon seeing Wizard Saturn, Merlin naturally thought of how Wizard Saturn had reached the eleventh floor of the Mind Tower. He must have enjoyed the sweet taste of progress, and wished to earn some Adventure points.

However, Wizard Saturn shook his head. "No, I came here expressly to look for you."

"Look for me?"

Saturn glanced around, then said gutturally, "We'll talk outside."

Following that, Merlin tailed behind Saturn, leaving the Mission Tower. When they were outside, Saturn said meaningfully, "Wizard Merlin, Arcane City has assigned a mission to us, the newest batch of Potential Wizards. As long as we complete the mission, we'll get two thousand and five hundred Adventure points."

"Arcane City has actually given us a mission automatically with such a rich prize? It mustn't be that easy."

Merlin was rather tempted indeed, but it was surely not so easy to get two thousand and five hundred Adventure points, so there must be a certain level of risk. Wizard Saturn did not deny this and nodded softly. "This mission is rather special indeed and is only suitable for us. As for the mission itself, there's a level of difficulty, and might possibly be dangerous. Still, with such a huge reward, the risk would be worth it."

Saturn's words really roused Merlin. Indeed, such a generous reward would be worth the risk. Moreover, Merlin had spent half the day wandering around the Mission Tower. Missions with high Adventure points were available but those were too difficult and could not be completed by Merlin at this point.

As for those which were slightly simpler with only a hundred or two Adventure points, Merlin might be confident in completing them but it would still take up a certain amount of time. Furthermore, by relying on these missions to obtain the necessary amount of Adventure points for purchasing the four casting components of the God-Binding Disc would take an unknown period of time.

"Tell me, what's the mission exactly?"

After a long pause, Merlin seemed to arrive at a decision. He was leaning toward accepting the mission. After all, two thousand and five hundred Adventure points was a rich reward that was rarely seen in missions.

Nonetheless, before that, Merlin had to be somewhat cautious, to first understand what the mission was.

Saturn's expression was as aloof as ever as he explained, "This mission is rather complicated to explain. Let's go, I'll bring you to meet the others. It's not just the two of us on this mission."

With that, Saturn brought Merlin to his residence, and as they walked, he told Merlin in detail about this mission.

Saturn mentioned again that the mission was special, only appropriate for Merlin and the rest. Of course, there was a reason behind this. Merlin slowly learned that within the countless dimensions in the Void Zone, besides the Spell Caster civilization, there were foreign tribes of an unknown number.

There were perhaps unique civilizations in each of the dimensions but the majority of these civilizations were confined to one dimension for they did not have the ability to set foot in the Void Zone.

As for the Spell Caster civilization, they had broken free of their dimension and traversed the Void Zone, in addition to controlling tens of thousands of dimensions. As a result, they had become one of the strongest civilizations within the Void Zone.

Of course, in the vast, boundless Void Zone, it was surely not just the Spell Casters who broke free of their dimension. There were other civilizations such as that mysterious dimension which waged an explosive war against Spell Casters, and civilizations whose beings were entirely different from Spell Casters. Their capabilities were on par with the Spell Caster civilization or even stronger.

As the Spell Caster civilization had produced three Ultimate Arcane Wizards and countless Legends, it finally won a place among the vast Void Zone. Nonetheless, it could not be considered the strongest. There were some foreign tribes with inherent differences from the Spell Caster civilization that were more or less at the same level.

When there were differences, there was bound to be conflict. Among the foreign tribes, the one which was currently in tense relations with the rest was the Rock Tribe.

The Rock Tribe was not living beings. They were a relatively formidable foreign civilization which had previously had some conflicts with the Spell Casters. However, after both sides had generally understood their opponent's strength, they no longer carried out wide-scale attacks but instead tried to restrain each other.

Nonetheless, in a few dimensions nearby both civilizations, the two sides were battling through overt and covert means. In one of these dimensions, both sides had agreed that fighters above the

level of Great Wizard were not allowed to enter the Seely dimension. This agreement had lasted for a millennium.

However, in recent times, subtle developments had taken place in the Seely Dimension. Arcane City suspected that contenders which were at the level of the Rock Tribe's Great Wizards had infiltrated the Seely Dimension, noticeably plotting something.

In light of security considerations, Arcane City had decided to send Wizards into the Seely Dimension to ascertain whether the Rock Tribe was up to anything. Spell Casters who were Great Wizards or higher were naturally too sensitive hence they were not allowed to enter. As for average Spell Casters, they might not be of much use.

Therefore, only these freakishly, perversely powerful Spell Casters of Arcane City, who did not have high levels or significant influence, and who would go unnoticed would be best suited to investigate the Seely Dimension.

They just had to learn what the Rock Tribe was plotting in the Seely Dimension, then return to Arcane City, and their mission was considered complete.

Merlin listened to Wizard Saturn's explanation wordlessly. He had a more definitive understanding of this mission. It turned out that besides the Spell Caster civilization, there were foreign tribes that were on par with the Spell Casters.

Merlin had not seen such tribes, and while he was curious, he was also analyzing the potential dangers of this mission. In fact, this mission seemed rather simple but contained certain risks as the Seely Dimension laid between the Rock Tribe and the Spell Caster civilization. Although no Great Wizards from either side would dare to enter the dimension openly, there must have been an unknown number of surreptitious infiltrations throughout the thousand years.

This dimension had become a buffer zone of the covert and overt battle between the Rock Tribe and the Spell Casters. If the Rock Tribe was really plotting something, Merlin and the rest were very likely to be discovered if they went in and investigated. It followed that they would have to confront the fighters who were stealthily hiding in the Seely Dimension, who probably may be comparable to Great Wizards.

At that point, even Merlin, Saturn and the rest, who were each Demonic geniuses, would be in great danger.

"Wizard Saturn, are you confident that we'll come out of the Seely Dimension in one piece?"

Merlin could not help but ask. He saw that Saturn bore an unperturbed manner, his face calm and composed as if he did not think that this mission would be that dangerous.

"There's no guarantee of that but this is why I've gathered all of you. If we really encounter a fighter from the Rock Tribe, the combined abilities of all six of us will surely be enough to contend against them!"

Saturn's tone was firm and decisive and full of certainty. The six individuals he spoke of were Rael and the rest from that past match.

Rael, Seddon, and Olga – these three were Potential Wizards without backgrounds. Adding to this was Merlin, Saturn, and Vic. The six of them were the strongest team of six within this batch of Potential Wizards.

All six were truly geniuses among geniuses. With everyone put together, they were able to take on anyone at the level of a Great Wizard. It was not surprising that Saturn was confident in completing this mission.

After a long moment, Merlin nodded seriously. "For two thousand and five hundred Adventure points, it's worth the risk!"

Merlin had decided. At the same time, the rest nodded as well. Perhaps they had some reservations in their hearts but with two thousand and five hundred Adventure points dangling before them, no one would refuse.

Therefore, the strongest six of the newest batch of Potential Wizards in Arcane City joined forces temporarily for the sake of the mission, forming the strongest team of six.

With Rael and Saturn in the lead, the strongest team of six quickly left Arcane City, flying toward the Seely Dimension in the far distance.

Chapter 523: The Seely Dimension

In the icy blackness of the Void Zone, six beams of light whistled as they sped onward.

Merlin and the rest, making up a group of six, had been flying in the dark, chilly Void Zone for more than a month. Yet, they still had not reached the Seely Dimension. This indicated how far it was.

As a dimension that bordered the foreign tribe, it was natural for the Seely Dimension to be rather distant, even with Merlin's Aurora Ship. The ship, which possessed great speed, was the result of Wizard Mogan's request to Wizard Yatho who spent huge costs to abandon certain functions, focusing on its speed before it was transfigured successfully, achieving great speed.

Even so, the flying ship painstakingly transfigured by Wizard Yatho was still slightly inferior to the alchemy products and casting tools of Wizard Saturn and the rest, which were faster. Those tools even exuded a powerful force. It looked as if they were not just faster but were equipped with defensive and offensive abilities too.

Vic and Saturn were Spell Casters with the best backgrounds. They never seemed to run out of trump cards. No one knew what life-saving treasures they were gifted with by the Great Legends who supported them.

Saturn was backed by a top-notch Legend who had condensed four Maxims. In terms of background, Saturn was in the lead. Therefore, his treasure was the best. If he had flown with full speed, he would have left Merlin and the rest behind.

Merlin's Aurora Ship had decent speed, ranking behind Wizard Saturn and Wizard Vic. As for Rael, Olga, and Seddon, they were Spell Casters without backgrounds. Even though they were selected and recruited by Arcane City, they were naturally more than one step behind Saturn and the rest in terms of resources. Their casting tools were standard and the simplest, with a very slow speed of flight which was not even half of the speed of the Aurora Ship.

Nonetheless, in order to accommodate Rael and the rest, the team could only fly at a leisurely pace.

Merlin was rather rueful at the huge disparity between those with and those without backgrounds. Spell Casters backed by Great Legends, even if they did not enter Arcane City, would end up with significant achievements with a great chance of becoming a Legend.

Conversely, Spell Casters without backgrounds might rely on their gifts, and wait for opportunities to become a freakish Great Wizard. However, it was exceedingly difficult for them to become a Great Legend.

Back when Arcane City had not existed, a Great Legend would appear only once every century or so. After the Ultimate Arcane Wizards established the three great Arcane Cities, the Legendary Wizards of the Spell Caster civilization began to shoot up in numbers.

Those genius Wizards who had excellent talents but without good opportunities were absorbed into Arcane City, finally having the chance to become a Great Legend.

Merlin was now in the Aurora Ship with his eyes closed. He was mulling over how to turn Mind Power into a part of his instincts. After reaching the ninth level of the Mind Tower, he had learned a new way to increase Mind Power, which was to turn it into an instinct. In that manner, his Mind Power would grow in leaps and bounds.

Merlin's current Mind Power had reached a limit. He had the faint premonition that once he grasped how to change Mind Power into instinct, he was likely to break through that limit and achieve an Eighth-level Mind Heart.

To this end, Merlin had asked Wizard Saturn for guidance. After all, Arrot had mentioned that Saturn had reached the eleventh floor of the Mind Tower in one go.

Nonetheless, Wizard Saturn's reply was rather disappointing, and also astonishing. Saturn's method was a simple one. He had used his powerful Mind Power – just pure Mind Power – to defeat the mysterious old man in black without any Occult Mind Spells.

A method like this, in fact, did not bring any evident benefits to Saturn.

"Each floor of the Mind Tower must contain a deep meaning for Spell Casters. Only by understanding the function of each floor, would the Mind Tower serve as the best place to hone Mind Power."

Many thoughts spun across Merlin's mind. He knew deep down that forcibly rushing through the Mind Tower did not serve any purpose. One would not achieve the goal of honing Mind Power at all. In the ninth floor of the Mind Tower, what he had learned was to make Mind Power a part of his instincts.

Only then would his Mind Power be truly honed.

Besides honing his Mind Power in the Mind Tower, managing to raise his Mind Power to the limits of the Seventh-level was Merlin's biggest gain, just like how he had successfully cultivated the Occult Mind Spell Nine Hit Strike until Four Hit Strike.

In this manner, Merlin would be able to rely solely on Four Hit Strike to kill most Ninth-level Spell Casters. The Occult Mind Spell Nine Hit Strike and spell fusion – these two techniques were presently Merlin's strongest attacks. They were his aces up his sleeve, and he must not wield them so lightly.

Merlin glanced at Saturn, Vic, Rael, and the rest. These genius freaks were surely like him, each having their own hidden trumps. Once they were all wielded explosively, even a Great Wizard would have to momentarily evade the onslaught.

Saturn, in particular, had always induced a sense of threat in Merlin. Merlin did not know what frightening techniques Saturn was concealing, so although this trip to the Seely Dimension carried a certain degree of danger, the alliance of these six freakish Wizards greatly reduced the risk.

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"Whoosh whoosh whoosh."

The six beams of light continued their flight in the icy darkness of the Void Zone. In the blink of an eye, Merlin and the rest had flown in the Void Zone for three months, and this was with Flying casting tools. If they had solely relied upon spells to fly, it would have taken years.

"Look, there's a dimension!"

Rael's deep, clear voice rang out as he pointed at a source of blinding white light in front, which was covered in thick fog, just like a ball of mist. This was the archetypal appearance of a dimension.

Most dimensions were like these, hidden in a fog. Of course, this was not a fog but the unique dimension energy that each dimension possessed, radiating outside the dimension and protecting it securely.

However, although the overall strength of this dimension energy was formidable, the area in isolation was comparatively weaker. On average, Spell Casters above the Seventh-level were able to break through the dimension energy to enter the dimension.

Saturn took out a map of the dimensions and compared the dimension coordinates, following which he nodded assuredly. "That's the Seely Dimension!"

They had finally reached the Seely Dimension. Besides their joy, they also felt a sense of heaviness. They knew that this dimension was not so simple, and possibly contained endless dangers.

If one went beyond the Seely Dimension, one would be in the territory of the Rock Tribe. It was hazardous for Spell Casters to go there. After all, the Rock Tribe was similar to the Spell Caster civilization in terms of powerful abilities, having occupied countless dimensions. In the vast Void Zone, they were a relatively powerful civilization known as the Rock Tribe civilization.

Wizard Saturn and Wizard Rael stopped in their tracks in front of the Seely Dimension. They stared at the gigantic dimension with solemn expressions.

"Everyone should know about the general situation of the Seely Dimension. In fact, the civilization in the dimension is not primitive, so we must keep a low profile and be careful after we entered the dimension. After all, besides the Seely people of the dimension, there are members of the Rock Tribe hidden among them."

Wizard Rael said to the rest of them in grave tones.

"We'll follow the instructions of Wizard Rael and Wizard Saturn."

Merlin and the rest replied accordingly. This mission had a certain level of danger, and they must not be rowdy and disorganized. Among the six, Saturn and Rael had the greatest capabilities so with two of them in lead, there would not be much trouble.

"Very well, since everyone is ready, we'll enter the dimension."

With that, the group of six headed toward the Seely Dimension.

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In the Seely Dimension, a horse carriage slowly trundled along a rocky road.

In the carriage, there sat a lady in the prime of her youth, with a graceful figure and beautiful features, accompanied by a female guard who was dressed in the skintight apparel of a warrior.

"Ziwei, do you think that Father will marry me off to the Kingdom of Seeway this time?"

A fatigued look came over the young lady's face as she asked softly.

The female guard who was called Ziwei maintained her poker face. She was holding a blade and shook her head coldly. "This is a matter between His Majesty the King and Your Highness the Princess. I have no right to comment on this. However, His Majesty is furious about Your Highness' secret escape from the palace, and has ordered me to escort Your Highness back to the palace, and to request Your Highness to not do anything like this again."

It turned out that this young lady was a princess, one who had sneaked out from the palace. Now, this female guard was ordered to "capture" the princess and bring her back.

It was not surprising that this carriage was surrounded by knights who were armed to their teeth, enclosing the carriage rightly. Not even a fly would be able to get near.

Her Highness the princess suddenly revealed an unusual fury, yelling in a high-pitched voice, "Ziwei, I don't wish to return to the palace. Once I do, Father will marry me off to that seventy-year-old man from the Kingdom of Seeway. How many more years can that oldie live? One year, two years or three years?"

As she looked at the princess' furious face, Ziwei's cold gaze had involuntarily revealed a hint of warmth, following which she sighed. "Your Highness, His Majesty the King has no other choice. The Kingdom of Seeway has a Holy Knight whereas our Kingdom of Seeden has never produced a Holy Knight even today. If Your Highness isn't married to them, our Kingdom of Seeden would be destroyed imminently..."

"Holy Knight!"

Surprisingly, Her Highness the princess had calmed down. It was all because of that Holy Knight. Ever since the original Seely Empire collapsed and broke off into countless small kingdoms, there had been successive years of war campaigns but also days of peace and serenity.

However, after some kingdoms produced the strongest Holy Knights, everything had changed. Each kingdom was consolidating their power, ready to emulate the Seely Empire of days past, uniting all kingdoms.

"Ziwei, why can't our Kingdom of Seeden produce a Holy Knight? How I wish that the heavens would allow our kingdom to have a Holy Knight too. I'm willing to pay any price..."

Ziwei merely smiled. This was Her Highness the princess' naïve thinking. Holy Knights did not appear so easily. In the past centuries, after the collapse of the Seely Empire, there had been no Holy Knights. It was only in the recent decades that a few kingdoms had begun to produce a few Holy Knights continuously.

If Holy Knights were so easily created, someone would have emulated the Seely Empire and united the countless kingdoms, big and small, a long time ago.

"Your Highness, perhaps we'll be able to fulfill your wish!"

Just at this time, an intangible voice, which somehow sounded close to the ear, came into the horse carriage.

"Swoosh."

The female guard Ziwei immediately drew the long blade at her waist, eyeing her surroundings as watchfully as a tiger. However, besides Ziwei and the princess, there was no one else in the carriage.

Chapter 524: Princess Fleur

"Who's there?"

It was not just Ziwei but also the recently distressed princess who were on their guard.

There were only the princess and Ziwei in the horse carriage, so Ziwei pulled the curtain to one side and looked around. At this point, the entire convoy stopped, and the heavily clad knights gulped a mouthful of cold air, staring at the sky before them in utter astonishment.

They were faced with a few strangely dressed men who were standing in mid-air, blocking the path of the carriage.

"They can stand in mid-air. Only the powerful Sky Knights have such an ability!"

"Sky Knights, they must be Sky Knights, and there are six of them. Who sent them? Our Kingdom of Seeden only have four Sky Knights in total, and they're all the supreme Captains of their regiments."

"No matter who they are, prepare for battle at once. Even if they're Sky Knights, we must preserve the Royal Knights' glory!"

These heavily clad knights were filled with dread. The six Sky Knights induced in them an incomparable level of shock. These were powerful individuals second only to Holy Knights.

Although they were frightened, these heavily clad knights still guarded the carriage, and no one withdrew.

Ziwei who peered through the curtain was wearing an unpleasant expression. She could not figure out which kingdom would have the capability to dispatch six Sky Knights just to intercept Her Highness the princess?

This was too absurd a notion, and even Ziwei could not believe this.

"Your Highness, I'll try talking to the six powerful Sky Knights first, and ask them their origins."

With that, Ziwei leaped from the carriage suddenly, and a vivid green light surged up around her body like a halo. This was a rather mainstream cultivation method in the Seely Dimension – fighting spirit!

Ziwei was a Great Knight. If she had advanced further, she would become a Sky Knight, and able to walk on air. Ziwei was also the head guard of the royal family. With her escorting the princess, it should be a piece of cake yet, they had unexpectedly encountered these six mysterious Sky Knights in their journey. Even a Great Knight like her could only bow her proud head.

"Honorable Sir Sky Knights, may I ask what instructions you have for stopping us?"

Ziwei's manner was humble. Faced with six Sky Knights, there was nothing for her to be arrogant about. It should be known that in the Kingdom of Seeden, a Sky Knight would serve as Captain for a regiment.

The travelers in the sky were Merlin and Saturn and the rest. This group of six had just arrived in the Seely Dimension, eager to learn about the actual circumstances of this dimension.

Before their eyes was a princess of a kingdom. Naturally, they were the best candidates in terms of understanding the Seely Dimension.

Saturn eyed Merlin, and a rare smile tugged at his mouth. "Wizard Merlin, I'll have to trouble you now to use your Darkness spell and quieten these people for a moment."

Merlin nodded then raised one arm, following which the entire area seemed to darken. Darkness descended instantly and shrouded the entire convoy, and everyone within was caught in a boundless illusion.

"It's done. They're in the illusion. We can ask them anytime we like."

Merlin led Saturn and the rest into the darkness. With one light wave of his hand, Her Highness the princess leaped from the carriage like a puppet. Together with Ziwei, she came before Merlin and the rest.

"Wake up!"

Merlin softly commanded both of them. There was a snap in both their minds, like a clap of thunder, and the boundless illusion vanished instantly. Both of them recovered their senses rapidly.

"What happened to us earlier?"

The princess looked at the surrounding sweep of darkness. Her heavily clad knights had descended into a dream and were unable to hear her at all.

Ziwei, on the other hand, appeared much calmer. She pulled the princess close to her and said in a low voice, "Your Highness, there's no need for panic. These are the Sky Knights."

However, as Ziwei looked around at the darkness, she knew that not even Sky Knights were able to achieve such a peculiar effect. All at once, she did not know how to handle the situation.

Saturn stared at the princess and said coldly, "Your Highness, I've said that we'll be able to fulfill your wish. Are you really willing to pay any price?"

The princess was rather stunned before she remembered her causal words, saying that she was willing to pay any price if only the heavens would allow her Kingdom of Seeden to produce a Holy Knight.

Could these people really be Holy Knights?

"Are you Holy Knights?"

The princess asked somewhat incredulously.

Saturn smiled in response. Of course, they knew about the Holy Knights of the Seely Dimension. Most Sky Knights were equivalent to Seventh-level Wizards, the most ordinary kind of Seventh-level Wizards.

As for Holy Knights, that was a huge step forward. Strictly speaking, Holy Knights themselves were merely on par with average Ninth-level Spell Casters. However, the most important rite of becoming a Holy Knight was that one must tame a giant dragon.

In the Seely Dimension, there were grand creatures called giant dragons. In fact, these giant dragons were similar in some ways to Spell Casters, able to spit fireballs and frost and the like. Nonetheless, these were not spells but the dragons' natural abilities.

A giant dragon had extraordinary strength and an immense body. One giant dragon could easily wreck a sturdy city, so these dragons were considered creatures of the legends.

A few Sky Knights, who were at their peak, had wished to become Holy Knights. Other than having immense strength themselves, most importantly, they had to tame a giant dragon and ride the creature, containing terrifying powers of devastation as it soared across the horizon.

Based on their capacity for destruction alone, Holy Knights had reached the peak of Ninth-level Spell Casters who had fused a few types of Spell Models together.

The strongest Holy Knight in the history of the Seely Dimension was the Seely King who founded the great Seely Empire a thousand years ago. He was a Holy Knight whose powers reached unimaginable heights. The records of Arcane City even clearly indicated that the Seely King's powers were comparable to a Great Wizard.

Nonetheless, this was the sole contender of the Seely Dimension who was on par with Great Wizards. Moreover, if a civilization wished to step beyond their dimension and venture into the Void Zone, they must produce Great Legends.

Although the Seely Dimension had a Holy Knight who was comparable to a Great Wizard, they were unable to transcend their dimension and become a formidable civilization.

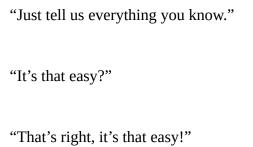
After the Seely King had passed away, very few Holy Knights appeared. Even when they did, they could generally only reach the level of Ninth-level Spell Casters at their peak, unable to compare to Great Wizards.

Merlin and the rest were each able to easily kill most Ninth-level Spell Casters. If they resorted to their hidden trumps, they were even comparable to peak Ninth-level Spell Casters who had begun to fuse spells.

Therefore, it was not too far off to say that Merlin's group of six were Holy Knights.

"Whether or not we're Holy Knights isn't important. What's important is that we can help you resist the Holy Knights' threat! You won't have to marry some other king."

Saturn's words spurred the princess' rush of excitement. She eyed Merlin and the rest, then bit her lips and asked cautiously, "What do you want to do?"



Wizard Saturn laughed and the princess laughed as well. Thus, Wizard Saturn began his inquiries, and the princess began replying in full and systematic detail.

The Seely Dimension had a long history, especially a thousand years ago when the Seely Empire had united the entire Seely Dimension. That was their golden age.

However, the Seely Empire had fallen a thousand years ago, breaking up into countless tiny kingdoms. Every kingdom began fighting, leading to a confrontation between the larger kingdoms.

Holy Knights had always been rare in every kingdom, and some kingdoms had not even produced one because Holy Knights were the strongest forces. One Holy Knight was equivalent to a million troops.

Once a kingdom had given birth to a Holy Knight, that kingdom was able to become mighty in one leap. In the past decades, a strange situation had occurred. Among a few kingdoms, Holy Knights began to emerge.

The neighboring kingdom of the Kingdom of Seeden, for instance, which was the Kingdom of Seeway, had produced a Holy Knight. Other kingdoms had even produced two or three Holy Knights. Currently, the number of Holy Knights from all the kingdoms was higher than it was hundreds of years ago.

The Kingdom of Seeway had given birth to a Holy Knight and was already restless, even voicing an intention to make their move against the Kingdom of Seeden. The king, in order to protect the Kingdom of Seeden, at least for a few years, was thus prepared to send the prettiest princess of the royal family, Princess Fleur, to the seventy-year-old king of the Kingdom of Seeway.

As a result, Princess Fleur had escaped from the palace and was now brought back by Ziwei.

"That's not right. This is unusual."

When Saturn and the rest heard about this, they already felt that something was wrong. The main peculiarity was those Holy Knights.

In the past centuries, the number of Holy Knights was small, but in recent decades, their numbers had increased many times over. Furthermore, certain kingdoms were stirring impatiently. Clearly, there was a trend of kingdoms intending to wage war and conquer other kingdoms.

Merlin frowned as well. He carefully recalled the information from Arcane City, especially data regarding Holy Knights. In the Seely Dimension, Holy Knights enjoyed a high status. In fact, the most difficult part of becoming a Holy Knight was the taming of the giant dragon.

Holy Knights themselves were merely a stronger version of Sky Knights. Hence, it was not so easy to tame a giant dragon. Many powerful Sky Knights had tried to do so, only for a majority of them to end up as a tasty snack in the dragon's mouth.

"What's odd about this is the giant dragons."

Merlin suddenly spoke. When Saturn and the rest looked at him, he continued saying in a low voice, "Sky Knights have to tame giant dragons to become Holy Knights. However, if someone was to capture these dragons and tame them in advance, then send them to the powerful Sky Knights, wouldn't they be able to produce Holy Knights on a large scale?"

"Capture the giant dragons?"

Merlin's words immediately cleared the mist before the eyes of Saturn, Rael, and the rest. They already vaguely understood what Merlin was implying. Besides Spell Casters, only the Rock Tribe who were hiding in the Seely Dimension would be able to easily capture giant dragons.

"Only by locating a Holy Knight can we learn whether the Rock Tribe is behind this."

Saturn and the rest had come to investigate the Rock Tribe's schemes in the Seely Dimension. To their surprise, they already had an investigative direction as soon as they arrived. If everything went smoothly, they would soon get to the bottom of the Rock Tribe's plans, and return to present their report.

In the palace of the Kingdom of Seeden, King Roger wore a purple gold crown as he towered above in his throne, his eyes fixed upon Princess Fleur who was kneeling in the foyer below.

King Roger was very fond of this daughter. If it was not for the overbearing manner of the Kingdom of Seeway, he would not have wished to use such a plan to stabilize the situation.

After a long moment, King Roger unleashed a long sigh, and said slowly, "Fleur, the kingdom is now in hard times. Every day, the Kingdom of Seeway becomes more and more insistent in its goal to annex our Kingdom of Seeden..."

King Roger was about to further persuade Princess Fleur when she suddenly lifted her head, and said with a calm expression, "Father, in my journey, I've met six powerful Sky Knights. They have a plan to defeat the Holy Knight of the Kingdom of Seeway!"

"Huh? Six Sky Knights?"

King Roger was astounded. He promptly shifted his gaze to the six strangers behind Fleur. These six men looked to be rather young but there was a distinct force exuding from them, just like when he was faced with the kingdom's Captains.

King Roger glanced at Ziwei, who nodded gently as well. This proved that what Princess Fleur said was true. Therefore, King Roger immediately smiled. Of course, six Sky Knights who would serve the Kingdom of Seeden were exactly what the king had been lacking.

"Six powerful Sky Knights, welcome to the Kingdom of Seeden. I can dub all of you as Grand Dukes!"

King Roger was not stingy with his titles, immediately conferring the rank of Grand Duke upon Merlin and the rest. Besides the king himself, this was the highest title. The Captains of the Kingdom of Seeden who were similarly Sky Knights were also Grand Dukes.

Merlin and the rest did not decline. They had discussed this beforehand. They must first establish themselves in the Kingdom of Seeden, and it would be best if they could assimilate. Becoming the

Grand Dukes of the Kingdom of Seeden was undoubtedly the best way to assimilate into the Kingdom of Seeden.

Following that, Merlin and the rest were put up in the palace. They could stay there for now.

"Ziwei, what's all this about?"

After Merlin and the rest had left, King Roger summoned Ziwei and asked in a low voice.

Ziwei hesitated for a beat but did not cover up the truth. She recounted the appearance of Merlin and the rest in careful detail but she did not know of the subsequent secret plan agreed upon by Merlin's group and Princess Fleur.

"These six strong Sky Knights appeared out of the blue. Fleur said that they can deal with the Holy Knight. I wonder if that's true? Sky Knights defeating a Holy Knight – do you think that's possible?"

King Roger furrowed his brows and was somewhat at a loss of what to do. If Merlin and the rest truly had the ability to defeat the Holy Knight, then the Kingdom of Seeden would not have to bow its head to the Kingdom of Seeway.

As for the origins of Merlin's group, King Roger was not that concerned. In the past decades, Holy Knights had cropped up in various kingdoms which had been nobodies before that. As long as Merlin's group of six would assist the Kingdom of Seeden, it would be good enough. There was no need to learn about their origins.

Conversely, Ziwei appeared calm and collected. She said quietly, "Your Majesty, whether the six Grand Dukes can defeat a Holy Knight – if you summon the Captains and let them give it a shot, you'll find out, right?"

At Ziwei's suggestion, King Roger smacked his own forehead. That was right. The Kingdom of Seeden had four Sky Knights as well. All he had to do was let them try.

"Alright, Ziwei, you'd better go and watch over Princess Fleur. Make sure she won't sneak out of the palace in the meantime. I'll summon the four Captains at once."

With that, King Roger dismissed her with a wave of his hand. The foyer descended into silence once again, and a look of exhaustion washed over King Roger's face.

At this point, King Roger did not notice the ripples in the air which quickly vanished without a trace. In another spacious room nearby, the image of King Roger's recent conversation with Ziwei was displayed before Merlin and the rest.

Rael waved his hand and the image was cut off. This was a small spell of Rael's but it was rather handy when used against most people. If it was a powerful Spell Caster, they would notice the Elemental fluctuations at once, and the spell would be useless.

They saw that King Roger, in the image, had already summoned the four Captains of the regiments, who were all genuine Sky Knights. Evidently, he was planning to test whether Merlin and the rest truly had the power to contend against a Holy Knight.

This was the first step of their plan – to win King Roger's trust and gain a foothold in the Kingdom of Seeden.

"We've already made the first step. We'll establish ourselves in the Kingdom of Seeden. As for the investigation of the Holy Knights, we'll have to think about that after gaining our foothold."

Wizard Saturn spoke slowly. Although it looked like the people in the Seely Dimension did not have the power to be of threat to them, the Rock Tribe was hiding behind the scenes. They must keep a low profile, and being cautious was never a bad thing.

"Wizard Saturn, how are we dealing with those four Captains? They're all Sky Knights of this dimension. Perhaps Ziwei isn't able to tell the difference between us and the real Sky Knights. Even if she has some suspicions, that's all she would have, without any confirmation. However, to the four genuine Sky Knights, they would surely be able to tell that our powers are a world of difference from theirs. We'll have some problems then."

Merlin raised an inquiry.

"That's simple. We'll just use a puppet to fight for us."

Wizard Vic spoke suddenly, following which he promptly retrieved a puppet. This puppet was large and sturdy, but in general, it was shaped like a normal human. Moreover, the puppet was covered in a pitch-black armor, which gave an impression of callousness.

"Use a puppet? That's a good idea! Can this puppet compare to a Ninth-level Spell Caster?"

Puppets were not that different from humans. They did not cast spells but relied on the absolute strength of their bodies. This was similar to the cultivation system of the Seely Dimension. Although it would not have the unique fighting spirit of the Seely Dimension, this was not important. At worst, they could say it was a special cultivation method. Most likely, those Sky Knights would not probe further.

The most important concern was whether this puppet could defeat those Sky Knights. Most Sky Knights in the Seely Dimension were on par with Seventh-level Spell Casters. If they were more powerful Sky Knights, they could even compare to Ninth-level Spell Casters!

However, Vic merely laughed and said mysteriously, "Wizard Merlin, this puppet is my trump card. Before I entered Arcane City, my teacher had spent over a hundred years transfiguring it. When required, the puppet can even explode with the strength of a Great Wizard in a short burst."

Merlin's heart trembled. This was Wizard Vic's trump card. It was just a puppet, yet it concealed alarming strength which could match a Great Wizard in a short burst.

Nonetheless, Merlin could tell that Wizard Vic was being rather modest. This puppet could only be more powerful. At first, Merlin had been worried that they would be in trouble if those Holy Knights were more powerful or if they encountered a contender from the Rock Tribe.

Now, it seemed that the aces up the sleeves of these freakish Wizards far exceeded Merlin's imagination.

"Very well, since we have this puppet, we'll follow the plan."

With that, Merlin and the rest stayed in the palace, keeping a low profile at all times. They did not meet anyone and only walked about casually in the palace.

. . .

The palace garden was filled with birdsong and fragrant flowers. Merlin and Wizard Vic, dressed as knights, were sitting quietly on a stone bench, enjoying the scenery of the garden.

The Captains of the Kingdom of Seeden still had not reached the palace for now.

"There are no gods in the Seely Dimension?"

Merlin asked Wizard Vic. He felt that it was rather strange. Most dimensions would give birth to gods but he had not seen any traces left behind by gods in the Kingdom of Seeden nor any records of gods in the books.

Wizard Vic shook his head slightly in response. "Before coming to the Seely Dimension, I've looked up some information in Arcane City in preparation, so I partly know of their situation. In fact, there are gods in the Seely Dimension. Of course, powerful ones. However, a thousand years ago, due to the Seely Dimension's unusual location between the Rock Tribe and the Spell Caster civilization, each side had sent their best fighters. We've sent an Ultimate Arcane Wizard, and the Rock Tribe sent their most powerful Rock Ancestor. Both sides joined forces to soundlessly wipe out the gods of the Seely Dimension."

Merlin was shaken to his core. The equivalent of two Ultimate Arcane Wizards had attacked, and the gods of the Seely Dimension had been vanquished just like that, with barely a whisper.

Merlin did not say anything else but extended his Mind Power over the entire palace, and even stretched further to cover most of the capital city.

He could clearly perceive the stirring of the people's will in the capital. In great streets and small alleys, people were discussing the Holy Knight produced by the Kingdom of Seeway. Their words revealed their worries for the Kingdom of Seeden.

"Wizard Vic, take a look. These people are worried about the fate of the Kingdom of Seeden. Little do they imagine that their lives are already in our grasp as well as the Rock Tribe's."

Merlin said in a stupefied manner. The entire Seely Dimension was nothing more than a buffer zone between the Rock Tribe and the Spell Caster civilization. This dimension was totally unable to give birth to contenders who were at the level of Legends, forever incapable of reaching the Void Zone. Naturally, they had no way of escaping the fateful clutches of the two great civilizations.

"That's right. They'll never know that their destinies were controlled long ago. A kingdom may fall or another powerful one may rise. What meaning is there? This is the tragedy of weak civilizations. Ever since Spell Casters had exiled the gods from the Glorious Land and entered the Void Zone, we've witnessed many formidable civilizations. We knew on a profound level that if we don't grow stronger, our civilization would ultimately end up with the same fate as these puny civilizations."

Wizard Vic said ruefully. Merlin had a dim understanding of why the three Ultimate Arcane Wizards had taken the initiative in asking all Great Legends to sign the Legends' Accord as well as established the three great Arcane Cities.

It was to reduce the pointless internal conflict between Spell Casters, to constantly expand the overall strength of the Spell Caster civilization.

"Merlin, Vic, come to the foyer of the palace quickly. The four Captains of the Kingdom of Seeden have arrived."

Wizard Saturn's voice suddenly sounded into their ears. Both of their expressions turned apprehensive and they exchanged a glance, following which they rapidly headed toward the main foyer of the palace.

Chapter 526: Identity Exposed

In the main foyer of the palace, four men dressed in polished armor stood still. On his throne, King Roger's eyes crinkled, and a smile lingered on his face.

When Merlin and the rest had reached the foyer, King Roger said hurriedly, "My four Captains, these six are the Grand Dukes I've personally conferred not long ago. They're all powerful Sky Knights!"

"Sky Knights?"

The four Captains' gazes swept across Merlin and the rest constantly. Merlin could sense that these four Captains were different from the rest, even intimidating him slightly.

Although it was a very faint sense of threat, this indicated that the four Captains could pose a certain threat to them. Among them, there must be formidable individuals on par with Ninth-level Spell Casters.

"Grand Duke Saturn, the six of you have mentioned that all of your strength combined is comparable to a Holy Knight. Although I have faith in all six of you Grand Dukes, it's quite an outrageous statement, after all. Therefore, I've invited my four Captains to carry out a demonstration with you six. I wonder what you think about this?"

King Roger looked at his four Captains and Merlin's group, a strange look flashing in his eyes. He had summoned the four Captains in order to see if Merlin and the rest were truly as powerful as a Holy Knight.

Saturn nodded curtly. They had already planned this. They would use Vic's puppet to fight against these four Captains hence there should not be a problem.

"Very well, if there are no problems, please come along to the training grounds. It's spacious there, and we won't have to worry about wreaking havoc."

King Roger appeared to be in buoyant spirits. After all, the Sky Knights were noble Captains, and it was rare to see them in action. Now, he was about to see so many of them in battle.

"Hold on!"

Just then, one of the Captains – a well-built, bearded man, bellowed deeply, following which his sharp gaze passed across Merlin and the rest, one by one.

"Your Majesty, these people aren't Sky Knights but troublemakers!"

With that, the four Captains promptly broke formation and subtly shielded the king behind them, their wary gazes directed unto Merlin and the rest.

Saturn furrowed his brows slightly, still unable to figure out what was happening. That strapping Captain who was at the lead laughed icily, then said, "The six of you aren't Captains but Spell Casters instead. Isn't that right?"

"What?"

On his throne, King Roger did not seem to know what "Spell Casters" signified hence his face flashed a surprised look. Nonetheless, Merlin and the rest felt a jolt in their hearts. These Sky Knights knew about Spell Casters. In that case, their plans were now thwarted.

With this in mind, Wizard Saturn did not hesitate in the slightest and growled, "Move now. Control them first!"

"Whoosh..."

As soon as Wizard Saturn spoke, Merlin was the first to move. His Darkness-type spell instantly covered the entire foyer. Everyone within was trapped in darkness, unable to even see their own hands.

"Crack."

Saturn and the rest each displayed their skills too. Every spell from these freakishly powerful Wizards was comparable to a Ninth-level Spell Caster's. In the blink of an eye, they had restrained those Sky Knights.

The only one who gave them a bit of trouble was the leading Captain, whose strength was in fact on par with a Ninth-level Spell Caster. Faint golden fighting spirit rose from his body, mildly dispersing the ice crystals on his body as well as Merlin's Darkness spell.

Nevertheless, Wizard Vic unleashed his puppet who dealt a blow to this Sky Knight, causing serious injury. Merlin obtained a more direct understanding of Vic's puppet. It was terrifying indeed that a puppet could be transfigured to this level. Even a Great Legendary Wizard would have to spend a lot of effort to do so.

"Alright, Wizard Merlin, cut off your spell."

Soon enough, Merlin and the rest had gained control of the situation. They were genius Wizards of Arcane City, the first-class prodigies among the myriad of dimensions of the Spell Caster civilization. At the Seventh-level, they were able to challenge Ninth-level Spell Casters, so it was a walk in the park to deal with a few Sky Knights.

After the Darkness spell was withdrawn, King Roger awoke. He stared, flabbergasted, at the four Captains who were restrained, and an expression of alarm worked its way across his face. He pointed at Merlin and the rest. "Sir Grand Dukes, what's this about?"

"Your Majesty, they're troublemakers! They're Spell Casters from beyond the heavens, here to annihilate our Kingdom of Seeden..."

The well-built Captain who was restrained now burst with grief and indignation. It looked like he had a certain understanding of Spell Casters, which made Merlin and the rest suspicious.

Spell Casters and the Rock Tribe had mutually agreed back then to not interfere with the matters of the Seely Dimension. Therefore, very few people, or perhaps no one in the Seely Dimension knew of Spell Casters or the Rock Tribe.

However, these Sky Knights evidently knew about Spell Casters. Some major developments must have taken place in the Seely Dimension.

"How do you know of our identities?"

Saturn asked in an icy voice.

"Heh, not just your identities. We also know the identities of the despicable Rock Tribe but their forces are too mighty. They are now capturing great dragons with the support of some puppets to give to certain greedy Sky Knights, making them into Holy Knights. They are brewing up a massive conspiracy."

The words of this sturdy man made Merlin and the rest stunned to their core, for he actually knew so much about the Rock Tribe.

"Your Majesty, we have some information to convey to you and your Captains. Therefore, we'll need to have you give the order to seal off the palace and not allow anyone in."

Saturn's tone carried a subtle threat. King Roger was powerless as well. Even his four strongest Captains were overpowered with barely a fight. What else could he do?

Therefore, Merlin and the rest brought the king and his Captains to a hidden room and began asking careful questions.

"Captain Thunderdragon!"

The burly man at the head of the four Captains was the strongest of them, comparable to most Ninth-level Spell Casters. If he was able to tame a giant dragon, Thunderdragon would become a powerful Holy Knight in an instant.

Thunderdragon was the person with the highest chance of becoming a Holy Knight in the Kingdom of Seeden.

"Speak. How do you know about us?"

Wizard Saturn asked, wearing a calm demeanor.

Thunderdragon was silent in thought and was no longer as incensed as he was before, and instead appeared rather subdued.

After a long moment, he slowly raised his head. "Although you may not have good intentions, only you can resolve this issue. I know of your identities because three years ago, I captured a Spell Caster who was just like you.

"At that time, the Spell Caster was extremely weak, having been injured grievously, and was easily captured by me. After I used my methods, that Spell Caster had no choice but to tell me everything he knew. It turns out that Spell Casters like you and the Rock Tribe are hidden among us. Our fates have been in your grasp from the beginning.

"That Spell Caster was being hunted down by the Rock Tribe, and he mentioned that nearly all of the Spell Casters hiding in the Seely Dimension were wiped out by the Rock Tribe. However, it wasn't the Rock Tribe who killed them but Holy Knights. Those Holy Knights are no more than puppets whom the Rock Tribe controlled from behind the scenes.

"The Rock Tribe is brewing their schemes. In each kingdom, Holy Knights appeared in twos and threes. The number of Holy Knights over the past decades has surpassed the total number of Holy Knights accumulated over a thousand years. This is extremely abnormal. This great number of Holy

Knights led to a war between kingdoms. A fearsome battle now hovers above all the kingdoms like a dark cloud.

"I don't know what the Rock Tribe's plan really is but I can sense its danger. Perhaps only you Spell Casters can stop the Rock Tribe's plot."

Thunderdragon's tone was heavy. He had incidentally learned that the Seely people were being manipulated. Their destinies were not in their own hands but the hands of the two more powerful civilizations controlling them.

Even if he wanted to rebel against them, his strength was weak and pitiful. That powerless feeling was a great source of suffering. He could only watch helplessly as the dimension was used as a wrestling ground for two great civilizations. It might even become a battlefield in the future. A sorrow like this was hard to describe.

Merlin looked at Thunderdragon and his downcast face. The other Captains were the same, powerless in the face of everything. That heavy emotion roused some sympathy in Merlin.

This was the price the weak had to pay. If the Spell Caster civilization had not produced Honored Legends in the first place, and had no Honored Legends to lead the charge out of their dimension and into the Void Zone or if the Spell Caster civilization had not produced the three Ultimate Arcane Wizards, their fate would not have been much better than the Seely people's fate.

"Even if we didn't come, you would be under the gods' rule."

Merlin suddenly spoke. Thunderdragon trembled all over at his words as if he knew about the gods as well, and said nothing else. Still, Merlin was able to discern a glint of determination in his eyes.

"This is rather troublesome. The situation is much more serious than we imagined."

Wizard Saturn was not concerned with Thunderdragon and the rest. His face had turned gloomy. After hearing Thunderdragon's narration, he realized how severe the situation was in the Seely Dimension.

The Rock Tribe evidently was plotting something big. They had brazenly attacked the Spell Casters concealed in the Seely Dimension, and had utilized the forces of the Seely people to avoid the detection of Spell Casters.

When the Spell Casters had realized what was happening, it was too late. The Spell Casters who were hidden all over the Seely Dimension were generally wiped out over the past decades. Perhaps some of them had sent a message back but it would be incomplete.

As a result, Arcane City had sent Merlin and the rest to investigate this issue in the Seely Dimension but this was a mission of enormous risk.

"It's not surprising that everyone would obtain at least two thousand and five hundred Adventure points... The state of affairs in the Seely Dimension is so serious. We're in great danger."

Wizard Rael spoke with a solemn face. The most direct threat was naturally the Rock Tribe, who had plotted so actively, very likely to be brewing up some massive conspiracy.

"We still have a chance!"

Merlin suddenly interjected. "Since the Rock Tribe is acting surreptitiously, employing the forces of the Seely people, this means that they wouldn't dare to act hostile openly. At least for now, they wouldn't dare to start a war against Spell Casters! So, we still have a chance to get to the bottom of this issue and seize our moment. This time, it's our mission. If we leave now, we won't even get a single Adventure point."

Saturn and the rest were silent for a moment. It was true that if they returned to Arcane City now, it would mean that they had failed the mission, achieving not a single Adventure point.

After a long silence, Saturn asked, "Wizard Merlin, do you have a plan?"

"It's simple – we'll make the first move. We'll pretend that we agree to Princess Fleur's marriage to the Kingdom of Seeway but we'll request that they send their Holy Knight to escort her. Then, we'll take down the Holy Knight as fast as we can, after which we should be able to learn the Rock Tribe's plans. At that point, we'll return to Arcane City, and our mission would be considered complete. The following developments will be the dealings between the Great Arcane Wizards and the Rock Tribe, nothing to do with us."

"Not bad, a perfect plan!"

Wizard Saturn and Wizard Rael both nodded their approval.

"Your Honorable Majesty, we'll have to trouble you on this matter."

A smile stretched across Saturn's face but his tone indicated that there was no room for bargain.

Chapter 527: The Ambush

Ten days later, in the sky above the Kingdom of Seeden, a huge shadow appeared above the capital, accompanied by a loud howling noise. Many people were staring at the sky with their jaws wide open and a mixture of shock and stupor on their faces.

"Giant dragon, a giant dragon is coming!"

"That's a Holy Knight, a formidable existence who's able to tame a giant dragon... Holy Knight Deutz from the Kingdom of Seeway is coming to fetch Princess Fleur."

"Shame, this is a great shame. Our Kingdom of Seeden has no choice but to sacrifice our most beautiful princess in exchange for temporary peace... When will we finally be able to give birth to a Holy Knight?"

The giant dragon in the air was hundreds of meters long, and its huge wings nearly blocked out the sun and the sky. It was incredibly massive. In addition, it looked terrifying vicious, and exuded an invincible aura.

This was the most invincible creature in the Seely Dimension – the giant dragon!

At this moment, on the back of the giant dragon stood a middle-aged man wearing golden armor. His body exuded a powerful aura which was mixed with the aura of the giant dragon, thus forming an even more powerful and strange aura.

This was the Holy Knights' uniqueness. A lone Holy Knight might not be particularly powerful or at least not substantially different from the peak Sky Knights.

However, once they stood on the back of the giant dragons, they would be almost combined with the giant dragon where their abilities would immediately soar to a Great Wizard's level.

"Hoo..."

The giant dragon descended from the sky. The massive gust of wind almost knocked down some of the palace guards. Subsequently, the giant dragon landed on the main foyer and countless guards rushed forward to surround Deutz.

Deutz flew the giant dragon right into the palace, which was basically an act of provocation. The obvious arrogance in Deutz' eyes could be felt by everyone.

However, looking that the giant dragon underneath Deutz, who was able to blow the surrounding guards away with a mild snort as well as the reputation of the Holy Knights, none of the guards dared to take a step forward.

Holy Knight Deutz stayed on top with no signs of jumping off the giant dragon. Instead, he said with bristling arrogance, "I carry the king's orders to fetch Queen Consort Fleur. Quickly, go and summon Fleur. I'll safely deliver the queen consort to the Kingdom of Seeway!"

"Since you're here to fetch Her Majesty the Princess, naturally, you'll have to pay respects to the king first!"

Although the guards were afraid, they still shouted in a loud voice. As the palace guards, their foremost duty was to protect the sovereignty of the king.

"I'm only tasked with fetching the queen consort. As for the king, there'll be another opportunity to pay respects to him in the future."

Holy Knight Deutz frowned but still did not enter the palace. After all, he was a respectable Holy Knight. Even when he saw the king of Seeway, he did not have to salute him, what more to salute the king of Seeden.

Therefore, Deutz would not enter the great hall of the palace and instead waited quietly outside. The giant dragon would periodically shoot out a breath of hot air, causing all the surrounding guards to jitter.

At the moment, seated high up in the great hall, King Roger was looking cautiously at the six strangers below. In a whisper, he asked, "Grand Duke Saturn, that Deutz still refuses to come in. What should we do?"

Saturn also wrinkled his forehead and exchanged a glance with Merlin and the others. "If Deutz refuses to come in, it means that he's being vigilant. Look, he hasn't left the giant dragon at all. In fact, he has been vigilant, which is quite troublesome."

Since the moment Deutz arrived, Merlin and the others had been watching him closely. They could sense a strange aura emanating from Deutz that indeed could rival a Great Wizard.

The giant dragon underneath him, in particular its vicious aura was like a slap in the face. Despite being so far away, they could still sense it. It was not surprising that it was the most vicious creature in the Seely Dimension.

"This is indeed troublesome. Wizard Vic, can your puppet resist that giant dragon?"

Wizard Rael looked at Vic. The great dragon's threat far exceeded that of Deutz. In addition, the combination of the two was comparable to a Great Wizard, so they must think of a way to separate the two.

"The giant dragon's abilities should be equivalent to a peak Ninth-level, so my puppet is able to subdue it. However, we mustn't allow Deutz to combine with the giant dragon at all cost. Otherwise, we'll have to face the equivalent of a Great Wizard, which is very troublesome."

Vic considered it and felt that he could subdue the giant dragon, provided that the giant dragon and Deutz were separated and could not combine.

The reason why the Holy Knights were so powerful was that they were able to combine with the dragon, and instantly become comparable to a Great Wizard.

"Looks like we have to get Princess Fleur to help."

Merlin stepped forward, and stated his plan. Princess Fleur would have to make an appearance to separate Deutz and the giant dragon.

King Roger bit his lip and nodded reluctantly. "I hope you'll be able to fulfill your promise."

"Definitely. Our purpose of coming to the Seely Dimension is to investigate the Rock Tribe's conspiracy. After this incident, you'll be left unharmed and will no longer be subjugated by the Kingdom of Seeway."

After hearing Saturn's assurance, King Roger was finally relieved. He also understood that at this point, he could only obey the arrangements set by Merlin and the others.

"Go get Princess Fleur!"

Subsequent to the king's order, soon, Princess Fleur arrived in the great hall of the palace. She was astonished to see Merlin and the others with King Roger. Until now, she did not know that King Roger had been controlled by Merlin and the others. All she knew was that she had to cooperate with Merlin and the others to defeat Holy Knight Deutz outside.

"Father, what do you need me to do?"

Princess Fleur was somewhat excited.

"Fleur, go outside now and by hook or by crook, get Deutz to enter the palace. You must separate him from the giant dragon!"

King Roger grunted. Right now, Fleur was their last resort. After all, by concession, Fleur was already considered the queen consort of the Kingdom of Seeway. Since Deutz had come to fetch Fleur, he would not publicly reject her request.

Fleur's face was flushed with excitement. Standing up, she picked up her skirt and went outside the great hall. She lifted her head to look at Holy Knight Deutz on the giant dragon.

"Knight Deutz, Father wants to see you. After all, you're a powerful knight, and our Kingdom of Seeden has never yet produced a powerful Holy Knight."

Princess Fleur smiled and said to Deutz.

Deutz hesitated slightly. If the request had come from anyone else, Deutz would not pay attention but Fleur was already considered the queen consort of the Kingdom of Seeway in name. Thus, Deutz would have to regard Fleur's words carefully.

After a long delay, Deutz finally nodded. "Your Majesty Queen Consort, I'll pay respects to His Majesty the King!"

Deutz leaped down from the giant dragon and walked right into the great hall.

The moment Deutz entered the great hall, he heard a dull thud. Immediately, the entire great hall plunged into darkness.

"Not good!"

Deutz yelled, and the giant dragon outside seemed to have sensed the danger he was in. With a loud puff, its huge body began to slam furiously against the great hall. This resulted in a terrifying racket which seemed like the entire great hall was about to be leveled by the giant dragon.

"Wizard Vic, we're counting on you!"

Amidst the darkness, Wizard Saturn's voice revealed a sense of gravity.

"Don't worry. Black-armored Puppet, go and stop the giant dragon!" 1

A beam of black light rapidly grew bigger, and a tall puppet wrapped in black armor appeared before the giant dragon. Its small frame seemed to contain a fearsome power that caused even the giant dragon to tremble.

"Boom!"

The puppet in black armor did not hold back and collided against the giant dragon. Suddenly, the entire palace seemed to quake as an invisible shockwave flattened almost the entire surroundings.

"Such a powerful force!"

Gasps of exclamation abounded from within the darkness. The punch released by the black-gold puppet already packed a truly fearsome force, yet upon collision with the giant dragon, the black-gold puppet was not a worthy opponent. The puppet was sent flying into the air and landed heavily on the ground, forming a huge crater. This spoke volumes of the power of the giant dragon.

"Hmph, the Kingdom of Seedan wants to ambush me? Ambush a noble Holy Knight? Soon, you'll know what a foolish decision it is!"

Holy Knight Deutz remained conscious. A surge of golden fighting spirit enveloped him, and he retreated as fast as possible. Soon, he would be able to jump back onto the giant dragon.

When that happens, Merlin and the other would have to face a Holy Knight equivalent to a Great Wizard!

Chapter 528: Rock Tribe Gustia I

"Leaving? Not so fast!"

At this moment, Saturn extended a finger. Immediately, fine strands of windstorm rapidly weaved together into a big net. This big net fell directly onto Holy Knight Deutz's head. The force was so formidable that even an average Ninth-level Spell Caster would not dare to tackle it head-on.

Moreover, Saturn was not the only one who attacked. Merlin's eyes also shined with a strange glow as he affixed his stare on Deutz. Subsequently, invisible Mind Power began to fluctuate.

"Nine Hit Strike!"

"Boom!"

One wave crashed after another. The invisible attacks caused Deutz to pale significantly. The golden fighting spirit around his body seemed almost useless. Although his abilities could rival a Ninth-level Spell Caster, he seemed a little short-handed compared to the joint forces of Merlin and Saturn.

On the other side, Vic's puppet leaped up fiercely. Its body emitted flashes of black light, and a strange power began to fluctuate.

"Foolish creature, get lost!"

A hint of madness appeared in Vic's eyes. Since he had obviously activated the puppet's secret powers, its strength was boosted mightily

"Bang!"

The puppet in the black armor swung another punch, and this time, even space collapsed. This punch had transcended the concept of space. In a flash, it landed on the giant dragon's head.

The giant dragon was covered with huge shiny scales which protected its gargantuan body. However, this one punch directly smashed all the giant dragon's scales. The huge force slammed violently against the giant dragon. With a painful whimper, it fell heavily onto the ground.

"What?"

Deutz was shocked. He had personally perceived the giant dragon's abilities, which was terribly fearsome and far stronger than him. Right now, however, based on the showdown of power, the giant dragon had lost to the "black armored person".

However, Deutz himself was in a precarious situation. After withstanding Merlin's Nine Hit Strike with each strike stronger than the last, at the fourth strike, he could no longer endure it. His face flushed red, and a spray of fresh blood spurted from his mouth. Immediately, he was restrained by Wizards Olga and Seddon in a single move.

"Hoo..."

The door of the great hall had been smashed into pieces. On the ground outside laid a wheezing giant dragon. A gentle breeze stirred and blew away the stench of blood inside the great hall.

After a big battle, Deutz was finally restrained while the giant dragon had been injured and similarly suppressed.

"Who are you?"

Deutz glared at Merlin and the others coldly. He now saw that these six people before him were not the Sky Knights from the Kingdom of Seedan. He knew the four Sky Knights from the Kingdom of Seeden like the back of his hand, and these six people were none of them.

This meant that the Kingdom of Seeden might have produced new Sky Knights, and unbelievably, they were able to defeat a glorified Holy Knight like him.

Deutz tried to crack his brains but he was already a trapped prisoner. His arrogance disappeared and countless considerations to escape ran through his head. However, he took one look at the wheezing dragon on the ground and those hopes were dashed.

Merlin and the others exchanged a look. This battle might have appeared to be easy and lasted only for a short time, but all of them had wielded most of their techniques.

Especially invaluable was Vic's puppet that managed to block the giant dragon from combining with Deutz to become a real Holy Knight. Otherwise, the battle would not have ended so easily.

"Truly despicable. If I didn't leave the giant dragon, you would not have been able to handle me!"

Deutz was currently frustrated to no end. Once a Holy Knight left his giant dragon, his threat level would plummet downward in a straight line. At most, he would only be at par with a powerful Sky Knight.

Initially, he had been very careful and vigilant in the Kingdom of Seeden, but still, he got tricked into leaving the giant dragon. As a result, both of them were captured, which made him feel disgruntled.

Saturn and the others did not pay attention to Deutz's frustrations. Even if he became a real Holy Knight, they would still be able to capture him. At most, it would just cause a bigger spectacle and less favorable odds for them.

"Merlin, you do the interrogation."

Saturn said to Merlin.

Merlin did not evade and came to face Deutz. In a deep voice, he asked, "Holy Knight Deutz, as to how you became a Holy Knight, I'm sure that you know better than we do. Judging from your abilities, it's impossible for you to tame the giant dragon. Tell us, who helped you to tame the giant dragon?"

"Huh? How do you know that?"

Deutz's face blanched and a trace of fear rose up in his eyes. Even when he was captured earlier, he did not wear such a look.

Right now, upon hearing the question about who tamed the giant dragon, Deutz revealed a look of fear and terror. Anyone would know that there was more than met the eye.

Merlin sneered. "You still can't tell? We're not Sky Knights!"

At the same time, Merlin stretched out a hand and a small fireball appeared in his palm, emitting an incredible heat.

"You... You're Spell Casters?"

Deutz sucked in a huge breath of air, and asked in a trembling voice.

"Since you know that we're Spell Casters, we'll be honest with you. This is a matter between the Spell Casters and the Rock Tribe, even you'll not be able to interfere. If you talk to us, you can still go back and continue being a Holy Knight. If not... Well, you probably have witnessed some of the techniques of the Rock Tribe. Since the Rock Tribe is afraid of Spell Casters, naturally, our techniques aren't inferior to them."

Merlin was now certain that there must be a Rock Tribe behind Deutz. Those Holy Knights were most probably secretly controlled by the Rock Knight.

"You really want to find the Rock Tribe?"

After a long silence, Deutz asked slowly.

"Of course. We came here to investigate the Rock Tribe."

Merlin nodded, and Deutz ground his teeth angrily. "I do hope that you manage to clear out all those Rock Tribes. They're truly terrible. The Holy Knights who have appeared in the last few decades generally constitute giant dragons that were captured by the Rock Tribe, and they also control almost all the Holy Knights."

"Control the Holy Knights? How do they control you?"

Merlin and the others were jolted, sensing that they were getting closer to the truth. As long as they could investigate the Rock Tribe's conspiracy, they would be able to return and submit their mission.

"They're not controlling us but our giant dragons! These giant dragons usually obey us and fight alongside us, allowing our abilities to increase substantially and become real Holy Knights. However, when push comes to shove, he can control the giant dragon at any time. Without the giant dragon, our capacities are only on par with some powerful Sky Knights at best, which generally isn't a threat."

Merlin nodded to Deutz's words. Spell Casters also had some techniques that could be used to control a giant dragon, so it must not be too difficult for the Rock Tribe as well.

Although using the giant dragons to control the Holy Knights was a good plan, what was the true motive for the Rock Tribe to do so?

Regarding this, Deutz also shook his head helplessly. "All I know is that in each kingdom, wherever Holy Knights exist, the Rock Tribes would also lurk in the shadows. They're active in various kingdoms and are hidden in the dark. A few of us Holy Knights have met and exchanged messages with each other. We've discovered that the Rock Tribes are afraid of Spell Casters, probably people like you. The people that they instructed us to kill were actually Spell Casters. All the while, they're hidden behind the scenes, so we don't know what they're scheming."

The situation described by Deutz was largely similar to what Captain Thunderdragon had said. Although the Potential Wizards in the Seely Dimension were killed by the hands of the Holy Knights, in reality, the Holy Knights were being controlled by the Rock Tribe.

However, they were still unclear about the conspiracy of the Rock Tribe, so Merlin and the others could not go back to Arcane City to submit their mission yet.

"Deutz, do you know who's the Rock Tribe behind you? How many people are there?"

Merlin asked after some thought.

"How many people? The only Rock Tribe I've met is just one person. He's ever-changing but I can sense his aura. That's right, there's only one person. He calls himself Gustia."

After the interrogation, Merlin shifted his gaze to Saturn, and the six of them gathered to discuss.

"If we want to uncover the conspiracy of the Rock Tribe, I'm afraid we have to go one step further, and directly engage the Rock Tribe."

"How many people from the Rock Tribe has infiltrated the Seely Dimension? What about their abilities? We don't know anything. If we act rashly, it might be dangerous."

Some of them had agreed to engage the Rock Tribe while others had second thoughts.

Both Saturn and Rael did not make any statement. They were the ones who would be able to make the final decision.

The two men stewed in silence for a long time. Then, Saturn spoke suddenly, "Since we've already come this far in this mission, naturally, we cannot abandon it halfway. This so-called Rock Tribe's Gustia is most probably only one person. After all, they operate furtively behind the scenes, so they wouldn't dare to infiltrate too many in. Nevertheless, even though it's just one person, Gustia's abilities must be terribly formidable to be able to easily capture all these giant dragons. His abilities must be at least comparable to the existence of a Great Wizard."

"Yes, and this Gustia isn't like those Holy Knights. He's comparable to the powerful Great Wizards."

Wizard Rael added.

"So now, it's your turn to decide. Are you going or not? If we go, then don't hold anything back. This will be a dangerous mission, after all. We'll have to face the existence of a powerful Great Wizard."

Saturn looked at Rael and the others with a hint of excitement. It was the excitement to battle a powerful enemy.

"Hehe, so what if he's a Great Wizard? The three of us had joined forces and killed a Great Wizard before! This mission has such generous Adventure points as a reward so it would be a great waste to not go. So, what if we have to fight it out with the Rock Tribe?"

Wizard Seddon said with an expression of indifference. Apparently, he, Rael, and the others had joined forces to kill an ordinary Great Wizard before. This was a remarkable battle record.

"I've nothing to say. Saturn, we'll not abort this mission halfway. What about you?"

Rael said with a solemn expression.

"If all of you can go, why wouldn't we dare to go?"

Wizard Vic stood up. He also had a powerful trump card. Even if the opponent could not be defeated, he would not have a problem preserving his life. Hence, he was not afraid.

"If that's the case, we'll all go to meet the Rock Tribe!"

Saturn's words undoubtedly represented the final decision of all six of them. They would fight the Rock Tribe's Gustia, and unearth the conspiracy of the Rock Tribe, before returning to Arcane City to submit their mission.

Chapter 529: Rock Tribe Gustia II

"Hoo...."

Out of a sudden, a strong gust of wind whooshed across the barren hillside, and a few figures landed on the hillside. The hillside was unevenly scattered with ragged rocks and shallow ditches. Moreover, it appeared to be plain and unassuming hence there seemed to be nothing special about it.

"Where's the Rock Tribe?"

Saturn frowned. He looked at Deutz beside him. Deutz was currently being controlled, and did not bring his giant dragon. He had led Saturn and the others directly to this hillside.

Deutz looked around and said affirmatively, "This is the place. The last time I met Gustia, it was here. Follow me, just below the hillside, there should be a huge crypt."

Thus, Deutz led them down the hillside to an inconspicuous spot, and then gently pressed a boulder.

"Rumble."

The hillside began to quake. Subsequently, a huge crack appeared, and revealed a pitch-black staircase, which bottom could not be seen.

"This should be the place of the Rock Tribe. According to my information, the Rock Tribes are underground creatures. Regardless of where they are, they would choose to live underground."

Saturn had read some information about the Rock Tribe. Although they had never met the Rock Tribe, they were able to make some basic judgment based on this information.

"Let's go down."

Merlin and the others were just about to descend when suddenly, the entire hillside quaked. Especially near the huge crack, the quake was even more treacherous, like a horrible aura was awakening.

"We've been discovered! Soon, he'l come out... Might as well, saves us the effort to look for it underground. Let's fly up first."

Sensing this strong quake immediately put everyone on guard. The Rock Tribe's Gustia must have discovered Merlin and the others. In any case, Merlin and the others were not surprised because they did not intend to hide in the first place. They wanted to draw Gustia out.

The ground was still quaking but soon, from the staircase behind the crack, a black-robed human figure flew out. With narrowed eyes, it looked very sinister.

"Spell Casters? Where are you from? Don't you know that the Rock Tribe and the Spell Casters have a pact in the Seely Dimension?"

This black-robed figure questioned them upon emerging.

Saturn sneered. "Gustia, how dare you mention the pact? Does the pact allow a Rock Tribe like you who's comparable to a Great Wizard to enter the Seeley Dimension?"

"Oh? It seems like you know some things... However, I'm very curious. What do you actually know?"

Although he saw that Merlin and the others knew its name, Gustia did not panic but appeared to be unruffled.

"We don't have to know anything because once we catch you, we'll naturally find out everything."

"Catch me? Haha, that's ridiculous! Looks like you don't know anything at all but it's okay. Soon, the Seely Dimension will belong to the Rock Tribe. Even when you find out, you won't be able to do anything because the entire dimension will be transformed into a dimension suitable for the survival of Rock Tribe."

Gustia laughed gleefully. At the same time, his figure exploded into chunks of large rocks.

"This is troublesome. So, the conspiracy of the Rock Tribe is to make the first move at all cost in order to transform the Seely Dimension into a rocky dimension!"

The hearts of Merlin and the others sunk. They, of course, knew the meaning of transforming a dimension. The Rock Tribe excelled particularly in transforming dimensions. They were non-living entities so the dimensions that they lived in were nothing but desolate rocks.

Their so-called transformation plan was to transform the entire Seely Dimension into rocks. Anything and everything would be transformed into rocks, just like the rocks scattered around the hillside.

Once the transformation by the Rock Tribe was successful, then the elements on the Seely Dimension would quickly disappear. It would then turn into a place that was unsuitable for Spell Casters to dwell.

"Damn it. That horrible Rock Tribe is making the first move. Originally, the Seely Dimension has elements and is suitable for us, Spell Casters to live here. However, if their transformation is successful, then the Spell Casters will have one less suitable dimension to live in!"

"The Rock Tribe's abilities are similar to us, Spell Casters. If they really succeeded at transforming the dimension, I'm afraid we'll not wage war with the Rock Tribe for a dimension with no elements. Therefore, we mustn't let them succeed. We must pass this message to Arcane City as fast as possible and get the Great Ultimate Arcane Wizards to stop them."

The expressions on Merlin and the others had changed significantly thinking about the distressing implications caused by transforming the dimension.

"Hehe, thinking of leaving? You must be sent by Arcane City to investigate the situation in the Seely Dimension. Arcane City is known as the greatest holy place for you Spell Casters, and all Spell Casters there are prodigies among prodigies. Killing you can also reduce some future threats for the Rock Tribe."

Gustia revealed his true form, which was an incomparably massive Rock Giant, towering over a hundred meters, almost like a small mountain peak. His aura, too, was extremely formidable. Just a slight hint was enough to make Merlin and the others feel suffocated.

"Black-armored Puppet, go!"

Vic immediately released his puppet. Pitted against the Rock Tribe, his puppet should be able to subdue him for a short while.

"Smash!"

Looking the Black-armored Puppet, the Rock Giant merely gave a gentle wave of his hand, and the Black-armored was vehemently pressed into the ground. Then, with a single punch, the Black-armored Puppet was crushed into fine powder.

"How could he be so strong? My Black-armored Puppet had mobilized all its strength, which is basically comparable to a powerful Great Wizard. How was it unable to withstand even one attack?"

Vic was dumbfounded, his eyes filled with incomprehension.

"Haha, you won't be able to escape."

Gustia rumbled in laughter. In an instant, the entire hillside quaked strongly. Countless chunks of large boulders floated into the air and rapidly formed a stone wall which surrounded Merlin and the others securely.

This stone wall was extremely sturdy. Even their spells were unable to break it.

The most common ability of the Rock Tribe was to control rocks. The more powerful the Rock Tribe was, the stronger his ability to control rocks. He could even increase the hardness of the rocks many times over.

Taking into account the formidable defensive power and strength of the Rock Tribe, Spell Casters did not have any special advantage to combat the Rock Tribe. All they could do was to face them head-on.

"Sh*t, Gustia isn't an average Rock Tribe but probably has an existence that's infinitely close to a Great Legend!"

Saturn said with a grave expression. Even without Saturn's reminder, just by looking that the terrifying power that Gustia had demonstrated, and the suffocating aura he had emitted, everyone was well-aware of Gustia's threat level.

Their estimation had been wrong, and the price of being wrong was extremely steep. If he was just an average Great Wizard or even a slightly stronger peak Great Wizard, they would not be completely helpless and would still be able to put up some semblance of resistance.

However, Gustia was an existence infinitely close to a Great Legend. There was not even a trace of hope for them.

"Pathetic Spell Casters."

Gustia gently flicked his fingers, and all the Defensive spells on Vic's body as well as his robes, were immediately broken. Moreover, the immense power even slammed Vic viciously onto the ground until he was treading a thin line between life and death.

"How pathetic."

Gustia cruelly pressed down another palm. Rael's entire body roared, and a column of fire shot up into the sky, seeming to almost melt all the rocks around them. However, following Gustia's palm movement – Rael, Seddon, and Olga were all pressed onto the ground. It was only due to their respective special techniques that they were not immediately killed.

However, they were close. Just another attack from Gustia would surely kill them.

In the blink of an eye, this strongest team of six had lost more than half its force. All that was left was Merlin and Saturn.

"Will you be able to withstand it?"

Merlin glanced at Saturn. Saturn shook his head and said, "My mentor gave me some life preservation techniques, which might be able to resist Gustia temporarily, but still, we can't escape..."

After he spoke, a hexagon-shaped unique casting tool appeared in Saturn's hand. He pressed it firmly, and used his Mind Power to activate the power within it.

A pale white light orb appeared and covered Merlin and Saturn, which faintly contained the aura of a Maxim.

"Bang!"

Gustia used all his strength to hit the light orb but it only quivered slightly and resumed its original form.

"Hmm? This must be the power possessed by the Legends among your Spell Casters. Although all of you Spell Casters are pathetically weak, those Legendary Wizards are quite impressive. Nevertheless, you're not real Legends, so how long can you rely on this turtle shell?"

Gustia guffawed, and madly hit the light orb with consecutive punches.

Merlin and Saturn's expressions turned more and more grievous. They looked around, and there was truly no way out. They had been completely sealed in by Gustia. All they could do was withstand the attacks.

The attacks rained down one after another. Regardless of how strong the light orb was, there was finally a hint of loosening.

"No way, there's not a single way. We miscalculated. We didn't expect that the Rock Tribe sent such a powerful entity into the Seely Dimension. Other than a Legend, there's no way to conquer it."

"Crash."

At last, the light orb shattered. Gustia's large body began to make his way step by step toward Merlin and Saturn.

"Spell fusion, go!"

Merlin's Fire-type spell and Thunder-type spell fused together in an instant and hurled toward Gustia forcefully but Gustia did not even try to evade. He simply allowed the fused spell to land on his body.

The horrible shockwave generated by the explosion of the spell only managed to shake off some dust from Gustia. Regardless of whether it was Mind Occult Spells or spell fusion, none of them had any effect on Gustia.

The gap was simply too astounding!

"Looks like there's no way left. I didn't expect that we'll die at the hands of foreign tribes."

Merlin looked at the fallen Rael, Vic, and the others who were lying motionless on the ground. They had all lost their fighting spirit. Even if they were not injured, they were still powerless against Gustia.

The gap was too huge. There was simply no way out.

"It's over. The Seely Dimension will soon belong to the Rock Tribe. Haha..."

The small mountain-like body of Gustia raised his arm and locked his aim on Merlin and Saturn. Accompanied by the suffocating aura, his arm landed.

Chapter 530: Is This Still A Cat?

The gigantic rock arm swung down mercilessly. Merlin gently shut his eyes, no longer putting up any resistance. It was meaningless. Whether it was Darkness Eye, spell fusion or Occult Mind Spells, they were obviously powerless against this terrifying Rock Tribe, who was a powerful existence infinitely close to a Legend.

"Don't worry, when we're killed, the Great Ultimate Arcane Wizards will sense it... Every Spell Caster who enters Arcane City carries a mark on their bodies, which is overseen by the Ultimate Arcane Wizards. If any of us die, the Ultimate Arcane Wizards will be alerted. So, when we die, the Arcane Wizards will realize what had happened here. Perhaps, they'll still be in time to stop the Rock Tribe's conspiracy. This can be considered our last contribution..."

Saturn said with a grimace. At this moment, even he was unable to stay calm.

"Bang!"

A huge sound reverberated. Just the wind effect alone almost suffocated Merlin.

"Huh?"

Merlin waited for a long time but did not feel his body tearing. On the contrary, it seemed like nothing had happened. He hurriedly opened his eyes. Before him, unknown since when, there was a completely pitch-black, lazy-looking cat.

"Didimoss, you're awake?"

Merlin was surprised and overjoyed. Back then, Wizard Yatho had mentioned that Didimoss would require a long time to wake up. Perhaps it would take two to three months, half a year or even decades or centuries. Once awakened, Didimoss would most probably be transformed from a half-spirit into a living being, equipped with powers comparable to a Great Legend!

Right now, almost a year after Didimoss had fallen into his deep slumber, he had finally awakened.

Merlin carefully sensed the aura on Didimoss. He could sense a strong vitality as well as a powerful heartbeat, clearly indicating Didimoss' new status. He was a lively, organic creature that was full of life!

"A cat?"

A strange expression appeared on Gustia's face. Gustia's understanding of Spell Casters ran deep but knew nothing about this black cat. Gustia took another look at the crushed rocks on the ground. It was the appearance of this cat that had easily shattered his palm.

Fortunately, the Rock Tribe was extremely tough to kill, so his hand was restored in an instant.

"Boom!"

This time, Gustia clapped both his palms together. The sight and sound of this movement were several times more frightening than the last. Even Merlin who was isolated far away felt like suffocating.

"Careful!"

Merlin did not know what kind of powers the black cat Didimoss currently had. Though Wizard Yatho had mentioned that as long as a spirit transformed into a living being against the natural order, it would, at the very least, possess powers comparable to a Legend.

If some of the more powerful spirits managed to transform into living beings, then they could even potentially become an existence comparable to the Arcane Wizards. Of course, this was only based on speculation because even Wizard Yatho had never seen a spirit transform into a living being.

Right now, the black cat Didimoss had transformed from a half-spirit into a living being. In addition, taking into consideration his beginnings in the Dark Magic Region, the black cat Didimoss had indeed come a long way. From a spirit, he had transformed gradually, step-by-step, into a living being. After all, he had remained inside the main Runic Magic Circle of the Dark Magic Region for a thousand years.

Faced against the gigantic rock palms which blocked out the sun and sky, the black cat Didimoss' eyes glowed bright green and spoke in human words, "If we're comparing sizes, I'm bigger than you!"

Upon finishing speaking, the black cat Didimoss' body unprecedentedly began to expand. A few breaths later, he had turned into a gargantuan figure spanning hundreds of meters long. At this moment, the Rock Giant was reduced to a child-like existence before the black cat Didimoss.

"What ability is this?"

Gustia was stunned. His palms slammed heavily onto the black cat Didimoss' body but there was no effect. Instead, there was a huge backlash that once again smashed Gustia's palm into pieces.

"Hehe, the feeling of growing big is great! Why don't you also try the feeling of being smashed?"

The black cat Didimoss waved his huge "claws" and ferociously clawed at Gustia. The huge Rock Giant encountered a powerful force. With a swipe from the black cat Didimoss, Gustia had turned into uncountable gravel.

"Rumble."

Soon, Gustia was reassembled into a Rock Giant. It was as if Gustia was unable to die but there was a look of distress on his face. Gustia could sense a strong threat from the black cat Didimoss.

"This is definitely not a Spell Caster technique. What are you, really?"

"After sleeping for so long, I'm actually a little hungry. Since you're so big, you should taste quite good."

The black cat Didimoss uttered some perplexing words, and then everyone witnessed an incredibly mind-boggling scene. The black cat Didimoss opened his mouth, which instantly grew incomparably huge like a giant black hole descending from the sky. Then, with a single gulp, he swallowed the huge Rock Giant.

Even a portion of the hillside appeared to have been bitten off.

"Swish."

The black cat Didimoss rapidly shrunk and resumed his original size. He even licked his scarlet tongue, and gnawed a few times, seemingly unsatisfied.

"The taste is mediocre, quite bad-tasting. Nevertheless, it was quite big so I won't have to eat for a few months, which is nice..."

The black cat Didimoss jumped onto Merlin's shoulder once again with droopy eyes, looking like it would soon fall asleep.

Merlin looked at the black cat Didimoss carefully. He found that after swallowing the Rock Giant Gustia, Didimoss' body seemed to be a lot plumper than before and could pass for a "fat cat".

Although the black cat Didimoss was no longer moving, the entire situation was deathly silent. Even the typically composed Saturn was looking at Merlin with a weird expression.

"Is that still a cat?"

The heavily injured Rael was dumbfounded. Despite his wide knowledge, he had never seen a "cat" so vicious that could swallow a Rock Giant in a single gulp.

Moreover, this was a Rock Giant that was infinitely close to the level of a Great Legend. Even if a real Legend was to battle Gustia, he would have to mobilize a Maxim just to suppress him. Killing him would require even more tedious effort.

"Merlin, we owe you one this time, and of course, this... Sir Didimoss!"

Saturn thought for a moment, and after a reminder from Merlin, called out Didimoss' name. The current Didimoss was no longer the same as before. His abilities rivaled a Great Legend, so no one would dare treat him as just a cat.

"Let's leave quickly, away from the Seely Dimension. We need to report our mission back to Arcane City. The situation here is extremely precarious and will require the involvement of the Great Legendary Wizards. Otherwise, we'll really lose the Seely Dimension."

Rael said solemnly. He must have some incredible techniques because he had suddenly recovered by leaps and bounds. As for Vic, Seddon, and Olga, they were gravely injured.

Luckily for them, all of them had some life preservation techniques, so no one died. As long as they returned to Arcane City to recuperate for a while, they would be fully healed.

"Let's not delay any further. Let's go."

Merlin and the others no longer dithered. In an instant, they took out their casting tools. Each of them turned into beams of light and disappeared on the spot, whooshing out of the Seely Dimension and back to Arcane City.