

## W. Secret 541

### Chapter 541: The Legend Zado

Merlin came to the Mind Tower. Merlin was filled with confidence this time while he looked at the lofty building.

The Mind Tower was wondrous indeed. Previously, Merlin had merely made it to the ninth floor, and his Mind Power had grown many times over. Thanks to some techniques he had learned on the ninth floor, he was able to break through to an Eighth-level Mind Heart in just a few months. The benefit brought to a Spell Caster's Mind Power by the Mind Tower was hard to imagine.

This was a technique that only the Ultimate Arcane Wizards possessed. Other than Arcane City, other places, even places managed by Honored Legends, would not have something as mystical as the Mind Tower.

It was not surprising that Arcane City was able to assemble countless geniuses from the myriad of dimensions of the Spell Caster civilization. The Mind Tower alone was enough to attract countless Spell Casters, something no other place could compare to. In addition, there were other marvelous places such as the force field area.

Merlin did a quick check. Initially, he was left with five hundred Adventure points but entering the Bloodshed Universe had used up two hundred Adventure points. Now, he had merely three hundred Adventure points.

Nonetheless, attempting the Mind Tower required only a hundred Adventure points so Merlin had enough to attempt the tower.

Just as Merlin was about to enter the Mind Tower, he encountered someone familiar, who came down from the distant sky and landed before the Mind Tower. It was the plump Wizard Arrot.

“Wizard Merlin, you’ve come out of the Bloodshed Universe at last. I know that you wanted to stay there for a full ten days’ time hence, I was prepared to look for you today. However, the Great

Legendary Wizard said that you had left already. Thereafter, I found out that you've come to the Mind Tower."

Arrot wore an anxious expression.

"Wizard Arrot, what's going on?"

Merlin stopped in his tracks and asked.

"Sigh..."

Arrot seemed to have a difficult time saying it before he clenched his teeth and said softly, "Wizard Merlin, you've entered the Bloodshed Universe at an inopportune time. Just six days ago, three Great Legends came to our newest batch of Potential Wizards to select disciples."

"Great Legends selected disciples?"

Merlin was slightly stunned. Great Legends were not allowed to stay in Arcane City but there was one exception, which was the Recruiting Wizards of Arcane City.

These Recruiting Wizards were Great Legends with extremely formidable powers, and there were even some of them who were higher-ranked Honored Legends. In Arcane City, if one was noticed by these Great Legends, one might be made a disciple.

Back then, the Legend Mogan had felt that he was merely a Legend with one Maxim. He might not be the best Wizard to guide Merlin. Thus, he hoped that by sending Merlin to Arcane City, Merlin would be taught by a Great Legend or even an Honored Legend.

Now that chance had arrived!

"What's the situation exactly?"

Merlin even felt a trace of regret. He could have gone to the Bloodshed Universe at any time but he would not get another opportunity like this once he had missed it. After all, these Recruiting

Legends would only select a disciple occasionally. One might say that it was done on impulse, and it was even harder to encounter an Honored Legend.

Arrot wore a distressed look as he said powerlessly, “Two out of the three Great Legends are Great Honored Legends. At first, they seemed to have a rather good impression of you but upon discovering that you’ve gone to the Bloodshed Universe, they had selected Wizard Rael and Saturn.”

A disappointed look crossed Merlin’s face. Those two Great Honored Legends would not have waited just for Merlin’s sake. After all, even the most genius Spell Caster would face many difficulties in becoming a Great Wizard, to say nothing of becoming a Great Legend or even an Honored Legend.

“However, there’s still the third Great Legend. He has been waiting for you to come out. So, after learning that you’re out, I’ve instantly looked for you to bring you to that Great Legend.”

Arrot smiled as he spoke. He was happy for Merlin for the fact that a Great Legend was willing to wait just for Merlin for so many days.

“Oh? Which Legends is that?”

Merlin was extremely curious. It was very rare that a Great Legend would wait just for him. Arcane City was not lacking in geniuses, so it was rather easy for Great Legends to take on any kind of genius disciples they wished to. They would not wait just for someone in particular.

Therefore, this Great Legend had induced an inquisitiveness in Merlin.

“This Great Legend is the Legend Zado! Wizard Merlin, come quickly with me to meet the Legend Zado. It’s just a shame that the Legend Zado isn’t a Great Honored Legend. If you had been around that day, out of those two Great Legends, one of them would surely pick you. You’re far stronger than Rael.”

Arrot seemed rather indignant.

Although Merlin was somewhat regretful, it was not so easy to encounter an Honored Legend. Even up until now, after entering Arcane City, Merlin had not seen any Great Honored Legends.

“Come on, we mustn’t let Wizard Zado wait any longer.”

Therefore, with Arrot leading the way, both of them flew off into the distance.

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“Swish swish.”

Two figures landed from the sky before a castle. This was the place where Wizard Zado was staying. He had been waiting here just for Merlin for six full days.

“Wizard Merlin, go in. Wizard Zado had said that when you’ve arrived, you’re to go in and see him immediately.”

Arrot pointed toward the castle. He was only bringing Merlin here. Without the Great Legend’s permission, he dared not enter the castle.

Merlin nodded. “I’m very thankful to you, Wizard Arrot.”

“Haha, it’s nothing. I think highly of you. Although I can’t be considered much of a genius in Arcane City, I have a good eye. When you’ve succeeded in the future, you’ll surely be stronger than Saturn. At that time, it might be me who would need favors from you.”

The rotund Wizard Arrot spoke with a laugh. Merlin bobbed his head. Arrot was straightforward indeed. He had helped Merlin plenty in Arcane City. In terms of Merlin’s relationships, Wizard Midnight whom Merlin met in the Bloodshed Universe along with Arrot, Saturn, and the rest, could be considered relatively close to Merlin.

Following that, Merlin slowly walked into the castle. Arrot watched Merlin’s disappearing figure from outside the entire time, his eyes filled with admiration. He mumbled to himself, “How I envy him, to have a Great Legend waiting for him... how many years has it been since something like this had happened in Arcane City?”

Arrot shook his head. When he could no longer see Merlin, he turned to leave.

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At the castle, Merlin gently pushed open the large door. This door appeared to very heavy but it swung open under Merlin's gentle push.

"Is that Wizard Merlin?"

A deep and resounding voice rang out in Merlin's ear. Merlin lifted his head to see a Wizard, well-built and dressed in a golden robe, standing in the hall. He exuded an incomparably suppressive force.

Merlin was familiar with this force. When he had first entered Arcane City, Merlin had felt a similar force from Saturn's teacher, the Legend Blackcloud who had formed four Maxims.

However, this Legend Zado before him had an even more impressive force than the Legend Blackcloud, rousing Merlin's amazement.

"Wizard Zado, you've waited for long!"

Merlin said deferentially.

"Hehe, since you know that I've waited for a long time, you'd better satisfy me! If you do, six days' wait is nothing but if you don't, you'll be punished!"

This Legend Zado had a rather strange temperament. If Merlin did not satisfy his requirements, Merlin would be punished. Merlin understood that the Legend Zado was testing him. One would have to undergo a test in order to become the disciple of the Legend Zado.

"How may I satisfy Wizard Zado?"

"It's simple. I've created a subspace from a Maxim in my grasp. If you can come out from that place in one piece, I'll be very satisfied, and you can be my disciple!"

"A subspace constructed using a Maxim as a foundation?"

Merlin's face shifted. This was no test but a suicide mission. Just as he was about to decline, a cold smile tugged at the corner of the Legend Zado's mouth. "Oh right, you'll have to rely on your own strength to pass the test. As for your Spatial Ring and that peculiar cat with you, they'd better stay with me."

With that, the Legend Zado made a gentle gesture and Merlin's entire body became stiff. On his shoulder, the black cat Didimoss also seemed to detect the danger, and immediately burst out with a mighty roar, his body swelling rapidly in size.

"Bang."

With a soft sound, Legend Zado's large hands flickered with a multi-colored light, and he swiped forward viciously. The black cat Didimoss was immediately entrapped without being able to put up the slightest resistance, caught in the Legend Zado's grasp.

As for Merlin's Spatial Ring, it had appeared in the Legend Zado's hand at an unknown time.

Merlin was utterly dumbstruck. The black cat Didimoss was on par with Great Legends but was caught by the Legend Zado without the slightest resistance. How terrifying was this Legend Zado standing before him?

"Go on in... Oh right, just a reminder – if you can't withstand my Maxim Subspace, you might actually die... At worst, I'll be reprimanded by the Arcane Wizards. Go ahead, enjoy yourself."

Wizard Zado's breezy delivery caused Merlin's face to shift greatly. How was this a proper process of recruiting a disciple?

However, he could not even open his mouth at the moment, and could only watch helplessly as Wizard Zado made a great swipe, hurling him into a deep and dark subspace...

Chapter 542: Dire Straits

In the endless depths of the subspace, Merlin fell pitifully through space.

Merlin's face was ashen. At first, he thought this was a great stroke of luck but it had turned out to be his doom. That Legend Zado was totally unreasonable as if unconcerned about the rules of Arcane City. If Merlin died in this subspace, he would have died for nothing.

However, there was no point in complaining now. Even the black cat Didimoss was unable to contend against the Legend Zado as he was caught in his grasp. If Merlin wanted to leave the subspace alive, he would have to be cautious, and do things according to the Legend Zado's "rules".

"I know that this subspace is constructed based on the Legend Zado's Maxim. How come there's nothing strange?"

Merlin carefully extended his Mind Power in all directions but did not seem to sense any Maxim. This was just a subspace, not a dimension. Even a Great Honored Legend would only be able to create subspace but not a dimension. Only the three Ultimate Arcane Wizards could form a dimension!

However, though this was just a subspace, it was endlessly vast. Merlin's Mind Power was unable to detect its end.

"Hehe, young fellow, are you ready? If you are, then first enjoy the Flame Subspace..."

The Legend Zado's voice reverberated across the endless void. After he spoke, Merlin felt that his surroundings were quickly transforming.

"Boom."

Merlin's world was transformed, and he was transported to a subspace filled completely with flames. The raging flames burned on the ground and in the air. The entire space was brimming with a terrifying blaze.

From these flames, Merlin discerned the force of a Maxim. He had previously obtained a Flame Maxim as well, so naturally, he was able to tell that these were very powerful Flame Maxims.

"Hoo..."

Merlin drew in a hot breath of air as if the flames were absorbed into his body. The surrounding temperature was alarming, and his Enervating Halo would not hold on much longer.

Nonetheless, at this point, Merlin calmed down. He thought back carefully to the Legend Zado's words, who had mentioned that after Merlin was sent into the Maxim Subspace, he would have to rely on his own strength to survive.

In fact, Merlin had come across a subspace constructed from a Maxim before. Back then, Wizard Bammou had survived in the Flame Prison on the Ship of Nikola. Moreover, he had gleaned the Essence of Fire-type spells from the flames of the Flame Prison which contained the force of the Maxim. In that manner, he had constructed a new Eighth-level spell, and used that to withstand the scorching of the Flame Prison.

Nonetheless, it was a bitter and arduous process, and Wizard Bammou was nearly unable to hold on at the end.

"To comprehend the Essence of Fire... Perhaps that's the only way, and this might be the Legend Zado's intention."

Merlin eyed the ferocious flames, and countless thoughts occurred to him. The Legend Zado surely had not targeted Merlin without reason. By taking the trouble to hurl Merlin into the Maxim Subspace, he must wish for Merlin to get something out of it.

The road to becoming a Legend was challenging. Even if Merlin had the Matrix, and even if he had constructed Six-Elemental spells, it was of utmost difficulty to become a Great Wizard, let alone a Great Legend. Therefore, understanding the Essence of Elements would increase his chances of becoming a Great Legend in the future.

This was the Legend Zado's true purpose!

Still, it was too extreme to just instantly throw Merlin into the Maxim Subspace. A moment of carelessness might just cause Merlin to be burned to ashes by the flames.

"Endless Flame!"

Merlin cast the Sixth-level spell Endless Flame. The Spell Model of Endless Flame was practically perfect, though this was only thanks to the function of the Matrix.



What Merlin had to do now was to understand the Essence of the Elements, particularly Fire Element. Before this, because Merlin had acquired the Flame Maxim before the rest, he had been immersed in Fire Element for a long time. Thus, he had the deepest understanding of Fire Element and Darkness Element.

Nevertheless, in the face of the surging, spitting Flame Maxims, Merlin's Endless Flame was of no use at all. The moment the soaring Endless Flame appeared, it was immediately suppressed and absorbed by the Flame Maxims, following which it vanished completely.

"The Flame Maxims are too strong. I have no way of blocking them, so my spell must approach the Flame Maxims, hopefully reaching their level."

Merlin's entire being was immersed in his understanding of the Flame Maxims. Although these Flame Maxims were blazing stormily, the strange thing was it did not sweep across Merlin. It was as if in the entire Flame Subspace, only the place where Merlin stood was a safe spot.

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In the grand, sumptuous hall of the castle, the tall and sturdy Wizard Zado was holding a black cat in his lap, his hands stroking it lightly.

The black cat was like a person, with a "face" that revealed its dissatisfaction. Nonetheless, faced with Wizard Zado, the black cat Didimoss was powerless. It looked like this Great Legend had not reached the level of an Honored Legend yet, he was definitely a preeminent Great Legend below Honored Legends.

Despite the black cat Didimoss' strength, he was unable to withstand even a blow from the Legend Zado. After all, Didimoss was at best comparable to a Legend with one Maxim. The disparity was far too great.

"It's been ten days. Little fellow, do you think Merlin is able to hold on?"

The Legend Zado asked the black cat in his lap with a humorless smile.

The black cat Didimoss looked at the suspended image in the hall. It showed Merlin who was painstakingly hanging on in the Flame Subspace. Ten days was the amount of time in which the Legend Zado had expressly allowed Merlin to gain understanding. Otherwise, Merlin would have been reduced to ashes long ago.

Even so, the black cat Didimoss was quite pessimistic and said, “Though Wizard Merlin is a prodigy, Legend Zado, I’m afraid that no Spell Caster would be able to succeed in such extreme measures.”

“Is that so? Even you, an extraordinary being who goes against the natural order by transforming into a living entity, can appear by Merlin’s side. I’m curious as to whether Merlin would die so easily. A genius like this, no matter his circumstances, will always find a way out of a predicament... In my long life, I was like this as well. No matter what predicament it was, I would always discover something previously unimaginable and obtain incredible benefits in that way. The disciple that I take on must naturally be just like me, and Merlin is really too similar to me.”

The Legend Zado glanced at the black cat Didimoss. He was filled with curiosity about how the black cat Didimoss had transformed from a half-spirit into a living state. In the past few days, he had been astutely researching the black cat Didimoss.

Turning into a living form was something not even the Ultimate Arcane Wizards could achieve because this involved the natural order! Not even the Ultimate Arcane Wizards were able to control the power of the natural order for it was the foundation on which the millions of dimensions, and even the Void Zone, existed.

“Your ability is swallowing, and you’ll gain a portion of strength from what you swallowed. Although it’s a minute portion, by accumulating over decades, centuries or even a millennium, you’ll certainly grow rapidly to an inconceivable level... Since you’re a lucky one who can reverse the natural order, you can’t be predicted based on conventional reasoning. Not even the Arcane Wizards can forecast your future.”

The Legend Zado seemed to be highly interested in the black cat Didimoss. With a great swipe of his hand, he retrieved a colossal monster from an unknown subspace. The monster was covered all over in crimson eyes, with a height of dozens of meters, exuding a wild and ferocious force.

“Heh heh, this is a Thousand-Eye Beast that I’ve captured. It’s comparable to some of the top Great Wizards. I’ve planned on researching it but I’m almost done with it. Here’s a gift for you. Swallow it.”

When the black cat Didimoss saw the Thousand-Eye Beast before him, his eyes immediately glinted with a green light. It was a look of greed. Just as the Legend Zado had said, the black cat Didimoss, in fact, could still advance further. His ability was to swallow. Only by constantly swallowing powerful forces could Didimoss gradually evolve.

“Swoosh.”

The great mouth of the black cat Didimoss immediately became a gigantic pit which gobbled the Thousand-Eye Beast into his stomach in one gulp. Just as it was with the Rock Giant, the black cat Didimoss sprawled across the Legend Zado’s shoulder in satisfaction, beginning to close his eyes as he slowly digested. He seemed to have forgotten about Merlin.

Wizard Zado smiled, and paid no more attention to the black cat Didimoss. Looking at Merlin’s serene expression in the image, the Legend Zado waved abruptly with one hand, mumbling softly, “You should have gained most of the understanding by now. If you still can’t withstand it, then you’re not the disciple I want...”

At this point, Wizard Zado’s eyes were cold and detached.

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“Hmm?”

In the Flame Subspace, Merlin was comprehending the Essence of Fire. In truth, over the past ten days, he had already gained much. He was even confident that if given one or two more months, he would surely understand even more, and might be able to forcibly contend against the Flame Maxims.

However, the surrounding Flame Maxims suddenly flared up, and waves of heat rolled toward him furiously. He instantly knew that the Legend Zado must not be “protecting” him anymore.

Over the ten days, the Flame Maxims had been of no threat to Merlin. He guessed that this was the Legend Zado’s help. However, the Legend Zado seemed to think that he had sufficient time by now, and was no longer aiding Merlin, allowing the Flame Maxims to sweep across him.

The true test is only coming now!

“Boom!”

Boundless flames wrapped around Merlin instantly. Merlin had Enervating Halo as well as Endless Flame. This time around, Endless Flame would not be suppressed and absorbed so easily, but when faced with the Flame Maxims, it still could not put up any effective resistance.

Merlin was crying out in his heart, “Give me more time, I’ll surely succeed...”

Nonetheless, the Legend Zado would not give him any more time. Merlin was in a tight situation.

Traces of the Flame Maxims began to burrow into Merlin’s body, turning him into ashes from the outside. Even Merlin’s Thunder Maxim was powerless when confronted with numerous Flame Maxims.

Ten days were totally insufficient for Merlin to understand the Essence of Fire, to say nothing of coming up with an effective defense.

At this point, Merlin was in dire straits. In moments like this, some people would fall silent, while some would erupt without inhibitions. Merlin was evidently the latter.

“I don’t care. Since the Matrix can absorb the power of Maxims to derive spells, it can surely absorb the endless Flame Maxims that fill up this place! It must!”

With anticipation burning in his eyes, Merlin, in this most deadly situation as if at the end of the rope, immediately activated the Matrix!

Chapter 543: Siphoning Off Frantically

Absorbing the Maxim and deriving spells was Merlin’s absolute final resort as previously, the Maxims in Merlin’s Awareness were under his control. Therefore, its absorption of the power of the Maxim would not cause any unusual changes.

However, this Flame Maxim was outside his Awareness, shaped like a gigantic Flame Subspace. The surging, spitting Flame Maxim could not be controlled by Merlin at all.

This was just like how it was easy to refine one's own Magic Power yet, it was of utmost difficulty to refine someone else's Magic Power to cast a spell, which was like a suicide mission.

However, currently, Merlin had no other choice, and could only make a tentative attempt. He hoped that the Matrix was strong enough to absorb the Maxim by force, just like how it had refined the god's divine energy in the past.

In essence, most Legends were equivalent to an average natural god. Only Legends who had consolidated a Maxim were able to fight against those powerful natural gods.

“Splash.”

A splashing sound, reminiscent of a river, came into Merlin's ears. Following the appearance of this odd noise, Merlin acutely sensed that the ferocious Flame Maxim did not seem to cause his body any harm. At the moment, his body seemed to have transformed into a bottomless pit, wildly swallowing the Flame Maxim.

Fortunately, this Flame Maxim was not controlled by anyone. If a Great Legend was controlling it, it would promptly attack Merlin. Even if Merlin was a Sixth-level, Seventh-level or Eighth-level Spell Caster and so on, to say nothing of being a Fifth-level Spell Caster, he would be incapable of withstanding it. This was the power of a completely different league.

However, the Maxim Subspace was purely space which was constructed by the Legend Zado using countless years' time and painstaking effort with Maxims as the base. There was nothing else but Maxims in here.

“It can really absorb and refine the Maxim!”

Merlin was wild with joy. He could distinctly sense that the Matrix was currently like a greedy giant beast, gulping down the Flame Maxim frantically, then transforming it into mystical energy that was stored in the Matrix.

Compared to the god's divine energy which it had swallowed, the Matrix seemed to prefer Maxims.

“The Matrix had crossed over along with me. Surely some unknown change must have taken place. Otherwise, a super calculator would not swallow the Maxim so vigorously.”

In the past, Merlin’s Matrix was only able to perform simple calculations and optimizations of spells. However, thereafter, the spells became more complex, and when Merlin had needed to derive new spells, he found that the Matrix was able to refine Maxims.

From that point onward, the Matrix had become much more enigmatic. Merlin was unable to know exactly what changes had occurred to the Matrix but luckily it was deeply concealed. Even Maxims which he had hidden in his body could be detected by Great legends but no one had ever noticed the Matrix.

Up until now, the Matrix was Merlin’s greatest secret. It was the greatest tool in his journey of becoming a powerful Wizard!

The Flame Maxim was diminishing bit by bit. Although the Matrix appeared just like a black hole that swallowed incessantly, the Flame Maxim in the subspace was far too immense. Despite the fervent swallowing of the Matrix, Merlin could not see any difference. Still, this made it easier for him to conceal and disguise the changes that were happening to him.

In a flash, three days had passed. The Matrix had absorbed much of the Flame Maxim. Although the derivation of new Sixth-level spells would require a lot of power from the Maxim, the amount of Flame Maxim absorbed alone was already sufficient to derive the remaining four Sixth-level spells.

Initially, the Legend Zado had decided to let Merlin, under the surrounding pressure of the Maxim, “force out” a rapid understanding of the Essence of Elements. This would be of great help when he had created Maxims as a Great Legend in the future.

However, the Legend Zado did not expect that Merlin would not have an understanding of the Essence of Elements at all. This was far too difficult, and it was impossible to gain this comprehension in a short time. In addition, Merlin was merely a Fifth-level Spell Caster.

Although he had not understood the Essence of Elements, Merlin had reaped a great profit. The Maxim in the subspace was nearly endless. The Legend Zado had spent huge efforts in accumulating his own Maxims for countless years in order to create a Maxim Subspace of this scope. Now, Merlin had simply taken advantage of this, and the Maxim was absorbed and refined, bit by bit, by the Matrix.

“Huh? Still alive? Not bad, not bad. This Merlin is impressive indeed. It looks like I’ve made the right call. He’s mostly gained an understanding of Fire Element. In that case, it’s time for the next one. Hehe, it shall be the Windstorm Subspace this time.”

Zado did not notice that Merlin was frantically “siphoning off” his Maxim. Conversely, he was very pleased with Merlin, and transferred him to the Windstorm Subspace.

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“Whoosh whoosh whoosh...”

A gale whistled. Merlin’s surroundings began to transform rapidly. The initial Flame Maxim was gone, and what appeared now were violent wisps of a Wind Maxim.

Merlin was still safe for now. Based on what had happened in the Flame Subspace, Merlin knew that the Legend Zado would give him a grace period of at least ten days. Within this time, he could work hard to understand the Essence of Wind Element and resist the Wind Maxim in that manner.

However, Merlin knew very well that it was impossible to gain an understanding in just ten days. Instead, he seized this time to activate the Matrix, and began to automatically absorb and refine the surrounding Wind Maxim.

Just the Flame Maxim alone was enough to derive all the Sixth-level spells but Seventh-level spells would require much more power of the Maxim.

Therefore, in such a “good place”, Merlin was free to “siphon off” the Maxim. Of course, he would not let this opportunity slip by him. He activated the Matrix, and started to wildly “siphon off” the Maxim.

There was no way that the Legend Zado would imagine that a mere Fifth-level Spell Caster would be able to “siphon off” the Maxim. Sending Merlin to the Maxim Subspace was a complete mistake.

Merlin stayed in the Windstorm Subspace for more than ten days. The Matrix had accumulated more Wind Maxim than Flame Maxim. After all, Merlin had used the ten days of “grace period” to begin absorbing and refining the energy of the Maxim.

After going through the Windstorm Subspace, Merlin was sent to the Ice Subspace, which was filled with Ice Maxim. Merlin repeated his set method of using the Matrix to refine a great portion of the Maxim.

Next was the Thunder Subspace. Merlin had Thunder-type spells as well so he was rather surprised because he had not met many Spell Casters who had constructed Thunder-type spells. Thunder-type spells were too wild, and difficult to control. In particular, when he had become a Great Wizard in the future, and wanted to merge the Spell Models, it would pose numerous problems.

For now, Merlin had already experienced four Maxim Subspaces. This meant that the Legend Zado was a formidable Legend who had created a minimum of four Maxims, and was already on par with the Legend Blackcloud.

Most ordinary Legends had consolidated one Maxim. Two Maxims could be considered a relatively powerful Legendary Wizard. Legends with three Maxims were rarer while four Maxims would practically make one an overlord in control of multiple or even dozens of dimensions.

Merlin's breathing quickened. He could dimly sense that the Legend Zado did not just stop at four Maxims.

Indeed, after ten days or so, he was once more transported to a subspace that was full of a "heavy" force. This place was filled with an Earth-type Maxim, which was called the Terra Maxim.

Moreover, Merlin could evidently feel that the Terra Maxim was obviously more powerful than the other Maxims he had come across in the other subspaces. It was undergoing a subtle evolution.

"A Great Legend with five Maxims! The Legend Zado is surely a Great Legend who had formed five Maxims with the Terra Maxim as his primary Maxim... It's not surprising that he could come along with those Great Honored Legends to recruit disciples. In some ways, the Legend Zado had greater potential. Once he becomes an Honored Legend through the Terra Maxim, he would immediately surpass most Honored Legends, becoming a formidable Honored Legend! There's even a high chance that he would become the foremost Honored Legend!"

Merlin was astounded deep inside. Great Legends who had consolidated five Maxims were even fewer in number than Honored Legends. Most Five-Elemental Spell Casters would find it hard to become a Great Wizard, let alone construct five Maxims.



“The stronger the power of the Maxim, the greater the amount of energy obtained after the Matrix had refined it. This Terra Maxim is far stronger than the Maxims in the other subspaces. The Legend Zado must be preparing to use this Terra Maxim as his foundation to take the lead in becoming an Honored Legend using the Terra Maxim... In that case, Matrix, feel free to absorb and refine.”

Merlin glanced at the immense Terra Maxim, and his heart was filled with elation. No matter how powerful a Maxim was, it could serve as “nourishment” for the Matrix and be transformed into special energy. This energy could be used to derive new Sixth-level spells, Seventh-level spells, and so on.

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“Two months. It’s almost time... Merlin wasn’t at risk in the final Terra Subspace as well. It looks like I got lucky. Merlin is really a Wizard of inconceivable genius. Haha, I really owe Hochi and Jelen a big one – how shall I repay them? It would do no good to fool these two fellows...”

In the castle, the Legend Zado gave a satisfied smirk. Hochi and Jelen, the two Honored Legends, were rare friends of his. As the Legend Zado had formed five Maxims, and the Terra Maxim was about to evolve – ten years if it was quick, a hundred years if slow – the Legend Zado was confident that the Terra Maxim would evolve completely, and he would become a Great Honored Legend with the Terra Maxim as his primary force!

Therefore, the Legend Zado, in fact, enjoyed a high position among Legendary Wizards, and even Honored Legends treated him as a peer. He and the other two Honored Legends – Hochi and Jelen – had come together to select a disciple. In fact, all three of them had taken interest in Merlin but ultimately it was the Legend Zado who had gotten the chance, and Wizard Hochi and Jelen had let Merlin slipped out of their grasp.

Consequently, he owed those two Honored Legends a favor but it now looked like his choice was correct. If Wizard Hochi and Jelen knew that Merlin was able to survive the Legend Zado’s Maxim Subspace in two short months, they would surely somewhat regret giving up Merlin to the Legend Zado.

“Alright, it’s time to come out.”

With a great grasp of his hand, the Legend Zado immediately closed the Maxim Subspace, retrieving Merlin from within in one motion.

## Chapter 544: A Wild and Bold Idea

Merlin was allowing the Matrix to absorb and refine a large amount of the Terra Maxim when suddenly his surroundings switched, and he was back in the castle once more. Before him stood the Legend Zado.

Merlin still held a huge “grudge” against the Legend Zado but this time, within the Maxim Subspace that the Legend Zado had built up so painstakingly, Merlin had wantonly “siphoned off” the Maxims. This had already caused the Legend Zado a “grievous loss”, so his current attitude toward the Legend Zado was more apologetic.

Nonetheless, the Legend Zado was overjoyed as he measured up Merlin, before nodding in satisfaction. “Not bad, Merlin. You’re able to survive for two months in the Maxim Subspace and must’ve obtained a special understanding of the five types of Elements. Essentially, you’ve established a foundation for becoming a Great Legend in the future. As my disciple, if you’re not even able to become a Legend, then don’t call yourself my disciple... Thus, although my methods are extreme and dangerous, they truly provided you with a foundation for becoming a Legend. I believe that even those Honored Legends wouldn’t have created such a Maxim Subspace purely for the sake of their disciples. The successful creation of this subspace had taken me numerous centuries.”

As a Spell Caster with five Maxims, the Legend Zado was naturally very proud. His disciple must become a Legend. Therefore, he had gone to such lengths to create this Maxim Subspace.

It was just that this method was fraught with danger. Out of all the Spell Casters who had entered, only one out of ten would survive. The Legend Zado had previously taken on a few genius Wizards but all who entered the Maxim Subspace, without exception, were incapable of enduring even the first Flame Subspace.

Merlin was the first Spell Caster to have “endured” the entire experience, and had thus passed the Legend Zado’s test. Naturally, the Legend Zado was ecstatic.

Nonetheless, Merlin felt rather helpless. He feared that there were no Spell Casters who would be able to survive the Legend Zado’s Maxim Subspace. This time, if he had not used the Matrix to absorb the power of the Maxims, he would not have survived either.

Moreover, even though he had come out of the Maxim Subspace in one piece, in truth, he did not gain much understanding and was still a long way from the Legend Zado's expectations.

It was just that Merlin had no way of explaining all this. The Legend Zado smiled, and returned the Spatial Ring to Merlin but the black cat Didimoss remained in his grasp.

"Merlin, this cat is rather significant, being a life form that reverses the natural order. I want to research him properly... Be rest assured, I'll return him to you after my research, and it'll only benefit him!"

The Legend Zado gently stroked the black cat Didimoss while Didimoss gave two disgruntled snorts, "humph humph", after which he closed his eyes and resumed his contented manner.

Merlin was quite powerless when he saw Didimoss' attitude. During the two months he had spent on the Legend Zado's shoulder, Didimoss must have had received many benefits, and had immediately "flung" Merlin to the back of his mind.

Following that, Merlin left the castle. The Legend Zado would stay in Arcane City for a while longer, and Merlin could look for him at any time. In truth, there was a limit to what the Legend Zado could impart to Merlin. Helping him establish a foundation for becoming a Legend was his greatest gift to Merlin. Other Spell Casters, even Great Honored Legends, would have no way of doing the same.

"Swish."

The Legend Zado instantly entered the Maxim Subspace. He came to the Terra Subspace, and examined the heavy Terra Maxim. After a long moment, a puzzled expression came over his face.

"Huh? Why does it feel like the Terra Maxim has diminished somewhat? It's only a few years – has the Terra Maxim really been used up so much? Looks like this Terra Maxim I've consolidated isn't stable enough, and there's still a long way before it reaches its peak for me to become an Honored Legend..."

The Legend Zado thus started to replenish the Terra Maxim of the Terra Subspace. To become an Honored Legend, his Maxim must be comprehended to its peak. When one had a complete understanding of a Maxim, one would become a Great Honored Legend.

The peak Maxim of an Honored Legend was eternally stable, never fading away. Even if it had existed for millions of years, it would remain there if it was not acted upon by external forces. It was even more stable than the divinity of natural gods.

In fact, the Terra Maxim of the Legend Zado was already stable, very close to the peak of a Maxim but how could he possibly know that the Terra Subspace was missing a portion of the Terra Subspace because Merlin's Matrix had absorbed and refined it? No matter what, he would never have thought that a mere Fifth-level Spell Caster could steal his Terra Maxim...

...

After flying out from the Legend Zado's castle, Merlin left the place at the greatest speed possible.

"There are so many Maxims in the Maxim Subspace. Although a part of them was absorbed and refined by the Maxim, it's only a drop in the ocean in terms of their overall volume. It's such a tiny portion – surely the Legend Zado won't realize this?"

The more Merlin thought about it, the more his lingering fear grew. His true secret was the Matrix, something which even the Great Legends were unable to understand. Though Merlin had never met the Ultimate Arcane Wizards, perhaps even they would have no inkling of the miracles of the Matrix.

If the Legend Zado's suspicions were aroused because of this, then Merlin would lose more than he had gained.

It was fortunate that Merlin was merely a Fifth-level Spell Caster. No one would believe that a Fifth-level Spell Caster would be able to steal Maxims. It was a power on a completely different level.

Although it was risky, Merlin's current harvest was huge. He checked on the special energy accumulated by the Matrix. Sixth-level spells would not be a problem, and he could even derive six new Seventh-level spells.

As to whether this energy could derive Eighth-level or Ninth-level spells, Merlin had no way of ascertaining. After all, each increase of a level of meant that the required energy would increase by multiple times.

Previously, Merlin had decided on attempting the Mind Tower but since he had so much energy, he changed his mind and returned to his residence in Arcane City. Following that, he started to derive the remaining four Sixth-level spells.

At present, Merlin already had an Eighth-level Mind Heart, and his Mind Power was more than sufficient, comparable to a Ninth-level Spell Caster at their peak. Constructing four Sixth-level spells was a walk in the park.

Of course, he had to derive first. Now, Merlin had two Sixth-level spells, Endless Flame, and Immense Thunder. Following those two would be Darkness-type, Ice-type, Earth-type, and Wind-type spells.

“Matrix, began derivation of Sixth-level spells!”

Merlin gave the Matrix this command. Instantly, a huge amount of energy was consumed, and the Matrix began deriving the remaining four Sixth-level spells.

“Hum hum hum.”

One after another, the Spell Models appeared in Merlin’s mind. First, it was Darkness-type spells. As there was enough energy or because he still kept any spell he came across in database though he had stopped focusing on populating it, therefore, there was a greater number of derived Spell Models for Darkness-type spells.

In general, Merlin had ascertained that a Spell Model with a hundred percent compatibility was a Perfect-grade spell. The more stable the Spell Model was, when he fused spells in the future, these Spell Models could withstand any slight tremors through sheer force, and would not simply collapse at a touch.

This would be very helpful when he fused had the Spell Models to become a Great Wizard.

“Begin simulating the Spell Model!”

The Matrix first derived Darkness-type spells. Merlin did not delay and directly picked a Spell Model. He mobilized his immense Mind Power and simulated the Spell Model in his Awareness.

His Mind Power was so tremendous that simulating the Spell Model was much easier. Merlin only had to spend two days to simulate his third Sixth-level spell into his Awareness.

“Not bad, there’s not even the slightest tremor. It should be a Perfect-grade spell as well!”

Merlin cast this Sixth-level Darkness-type spell. Instantly, Darkness Element pervaded the air and blanketed the entire room. It looked just like a cage but there were dangers hidden within it. Merlin only had to use his thoughts, and countless attacks would spring out from the darkness.

“This Sixth-level Darkness-type spell shall be named Darkness Cage!”

Merlin was very satisfied with the Darkness-type spell derived by the Matrix. Its might was decent, and it had a hundred percent compatibility. Even without testing it, Merlin knew that this was certainly a Perfect-grade spell.

Merlin found it difficult to imagine what kind of Wizard was able to rely solely on themselves to derive Perfect-grade spells. Wizard Nelar, who did not have the Matrix, and who was still first in the spell ranking, had constructed thirty Perfect-grade spells. What a number of Perfect-grade spells! Even Merlin was taken aback in pure admiration. This was expected of the foremost genius in a thousand years, a rare Seven-Elemental Spell Caster!

After deriving Darkness Cage, Merlin continued to derive the final three Sixth-level Spell Models. Spells which were derived by the Matrix were at least Excellent-grade.

Of course, Merlin had selected those Perfect-grade spells with a hundred percent compatibility. Respectively, they were the Wind-type spell Formless Wind, the Earth-type spell Enervating Loop, and the Ice-type spells Solid Ice.

These spells were basically built upon the Fifth-level spells with further strengthening and consolidation in terms of the spells’ might. In short, the Sixth-level spells were not an absolute upgrade. Merlin’s abilities were somewhat improved, but not significant.

Only Seventh-level spells could do that. Once he became a Seventh-level Spell Caster, Merlin’s six types of Pandora Demon Abilities could be upgraded once more, and their strength would flourish many times over. Many Pandora Demon Abilities could be upgraded to the third stage. Even those with only two stages could be upgraded to their second stage with Seventh-level spells.

Therefore, the Seventh-level was an inherent barrier. Once Merlin had passed it, his capabilities would increase tremendously. The power of his spells alone would be a match for a Great Wizard!

“I should go to the Mind Tower and see if I can expand my Mind Power. Then, I might as well directly construct all the Seventh-level spells, rising to the Seventh-level in one go!”

Merlin was now a Sixth-level Spell Caster. His cultivation pace was very rapid but he was still unfulfilled. With that colossal reserve of energy, the Matrix could immediately construct all Seventh-level spells. What was missing now was Mind Power.

As a Mind Power Master, Merlin’s current Mind Power was considered decent. If he could augment it by a bit more, he would be more assured in constructing Seventh-level spells, becoming a powerful Seventh-level Spell Caster in one stroke!

At this moment, a wild and bold idea had formed in Merlin’s mind.

Chapter 545: Direction

In the Mind Tower, Merlin stepped onto the first floor!

Back in the familiar Mind Tower again, Merlin did not waste any more time. The floors which he had successfully completed were no longer of any help to him. Therefore, he went through them like a hot knife through butter, and quickly reached the ninth floor.

“Hmm? You’ve come again? It looks like you must have gained an understanding!”

On the ninth floor, the old man in black appeared once again. Evidently, Merlin had made an impression on him. Thus, he was able to recognize Merlin at a glance, and a subtle smile flitted over his lips.

“That’s right, I’ve recently gained a new understanding. Please guide me, old Wizard!”

Merlin was brimming with confidence. Although his Mind Heart was only the Eighth-level now, the Mind Power it contained was equivalent to a peak Ninth-level Spell Caster. However, this old man in black only had the Mind Power of an average Ninth-level Spell Caster, so Merlin had suppressed part of his Mind Power, and only used Mind Power of the average Ninth-level.

“Windstorm!”

A windstorm emerged completely from Mind Power, yet it was not an Occult Mind Spell but purely a technique of control. Merlin had discovered upon fusing his Mind Power with his instincts that using Mind Power to induce a windstorm was an incomparably simple matter.

Back then, the old man in black was able to stir up a storm at will because his Mind Power had been merged with his instincts.

“Haha, good one!”

The old man in black was in exuberant spirits. His Mind Power filled the air as he used various tricks to catch Merlin off guard with an attack. Both sides exchanged blows in this manner. Even the sneakiest attack when confronted with its target, was easily dispelled.

This was the benefit of having Mind Power which was fused with instincts. No attack was as fast as Mind Power, so even the most unexpected attack would be blocked by one’s instinct. With Mind Power merged into the instincts, one could fend off any sudden attacks.

Both of them were Spell Casters who had fused their Mind Power into their instincts, so both were unable to get in a single blow.

“Haha, that’s enough, that’s enough!”

Suddenly, the old man in black retreated, and stood in mid-air, a smile tugging at the corner of his mouth. “In the past, those Spell Casters would use the absolute strength of their Mind Power to instantly defeat me but this method would not bring benefit to the growth of one’s Mind Power. They didn’t consider why was the Mind Tower erected? Without understanding, how would one profit? I can see that you’ve got it. What’s most precious about the Mind Tower is that every floor provides an opportunity for learning. Each floor would benefit a Spell Caster. Since you’re a Mind Power Master, it would aid you even more. I can feel that your Mind Power is formidable, and you’ve suppressed it to the Ninth-level on purpose. Therefore, I’ve lost long ago. Go ahead to the tenth floor – you’ll obtain even more precious things there...”

After bowing to the old man in black respectfully, Merlin took one step back, and his body was instantly washed in a white light, which wrapped around him. His figure disappeared instantly...



...

On the tenth floor of the Mind Tower, there was already an old man in white when Merlin arrived. The old man was sitting on the floor silently, and a tea set was set out before him.

“You’ve finally come...”

The old man in white lifted his head to glance at Merlin as he spoke serenely as if he had been waiting here long ago.

“O Wizard, is this the tenth floor?”

“That’s right, this is the tenth floor. I’ve waited for you a long time.”

“Waited for me?”

Merlin furrowed his brows but did not know what the old man in white meant. Still, he inquired, “I wonder what test is there on the tenth floor?”

“Test? Don’t bring that up first. Will you have a cup of tea with me?”

The old man gestured with one hand, and a cup of tea flew from the floor to Merlin. Merlin accepted it dubiously, and took a small sip.

After coming to this world, Merlin had never drunk any tea. Now that he tasted this familiar flavor once again, he reminisced for a moment.

“Oh? Do you like tea?”

The old man in white asked in astonishment.

“I don’t but I’ve drunk it before, and it brought back some memories.”

The old man in white set down his cup, and said with a smile, “Very well. Before you came to the tenth floor, old man Sea has told me about your situation, and have asked me to provide you with some benefits. Oh, that’s right, you still don’t know who old man Sea is. Old man Sea is the guardian of the ninth floor that you’ve met.”

Merlin was slightly stupefied. It turned out that the old man in black on the ninth floor was so helpful to him, asking the guardian of the tenth floor to give Merlin more benefits. Merlin became more respectful to him because of this. The guardians of the Mind Tower were personally appointed by the Arcane Wizards. In terms of Mind Power, they were exceptional.

“Since old man Sea had already mentioned you to me repeatedly, I’ll naturally give you some benefits. However, whether or not you can obtain these benefits still depends on you.”

Merlin’s expression trembled. He knew that the test of the tenth floor might be coming.

“There’s no need to be so nervous. Since you’re a Mind Power Master, do you know what Mind Power is?”

The old man in white raised a question that appeared simple but one which Merlin was unable to answer.

What was Mind Power? Even Honored Legends would have no answer. In fact, after becoming a Great Wizard, Mind Power did not appear to be important because for a Great Wizard to become a Great Legend, the main thing was to understand the Essence of Elements, and form a Maxim. There was no need to use Mind Power to simulate the Spell Models to cast spells anymore.

It looked as if upon reaching the level of Great Wizard, Mind Power would be abandoned completely. This was the end result of the cultivation of most Spell Casters.

Nonetheless, Merlin was a Mind Power Master. There was still a group such as the Mind Power Masters in this world. They attempted to forge a path that was different from Spell Casters, further strengthening their Mind Power to the level of a Great Legend!

However, what was Mind Power? Merlin thought about it carefully for a long moment before replying, “Mind Power is intangible and vague. Perhaps it’s a type of consciousness.”

The expression of the old man in white did not change. He set down his cup gently, and said calmly, “What’s Mind Power, really? In truth, even I don’t know. Not just me but even the Ultimate Arcane Wizards, who are beginning to be enlightened about the natural order, are unable to completely grasp the Essence of Mind Power... Spell Casters understand the Essence of Elements, and can create Maxims, becoming Great Legends! In that case, by understanding the Essence of Mind Power, can we Mind Power Masters also become as powerful as Great Legends?”

The words of the old man in white set off a spark in Merlin’s eyes. Wizard Ossais’ lifelong goal was to perfect the system of Mind Power Masters, hoping that this would give rise to a Mind Power Master who was on par with Great Legends. As a result, he had created the formidable Occult Mind Spell Nine Hit Strike.

The old man in white appeared to have expected Merlin’s interest, and smiled. He continued saying, “Although no one has discovered the Essence of Mind Power even now, the intangible nature of Mind Power is still evident. Mind Power attacks are most peculiar. Spell Casters can merely feel Mind Power but cannot “see” it which means that Mind Power doesn’t exist on the material plane.”

Merlin nodded as well. He was thoroughly immersed in the old man’s point of view. In terms of his understanding of the system of Mind Power, Merlin was, in fact, an amateur with an incomplete understanding. This was a rare opportunity, and he listened with rapt attention.

“Mind Power doesn’t exist on the material plane as it’s incorporeal! However, once it had reached the Seventh-level, it’ll start to interact with the material world. I believe you’ve experienced that. Mind Power at the Seventh-level can form a powerful attack, which may directly affect the material plane. This is transformation. In fact, we Mind Power Masters, as we constantly improve our Mind Power, are also uncovering the Essence of Mind Power step by step.

“Still, Mind Power remains shapeless. If Mind Power was to turn from shapeless to corporeal one day, what would change? Mind Power can simulate anything, and once it attains a form, won’t we be able to obtain anything we want with a single thought? That is, in fact, a power that only belongs to the grand natural order... The entire Void Zone is operated by the natural order, and even the Ultimate Arcane Wizards have no way of violating the natural order.

“Your Nine Hit Strike merely interacts with the material world through powerful Mind Power. In truth, that’s already the wrong path... Interacting with the material world, in the end, can’t compare to turning Mind Power itself into something material. That would be a grand, limitless scenario. Think about it. If someone from the Mind Power Masters truly achieved this, what would they become?”

The old man in white was now wearing an expression of unrestrained emotion and excitement.

“Boom.”

At the moment, it was as if a thunderclap had rung in Merlin’s mind. Everything was turned upside down. Mind Power was intangible but it could transform into anything. What if it really could become something tangible?

Turning something incorporeal into something solid seemed to be a fairy tale but Merlin believed that it could be done because he had personally witnessed this fairy tale. The black cat Didimoss had transformed from a non-living entity to a living being.

It was as if a stone had suddenly gained life. It was inconceivable and outrageous for it had reversed the natural order.

Since the black cat Didimoss could reverse the natural order, why not Mind Power? Moreover, after Mind Power had reached the Seventh-level, was it not able to interact with the material world?

If taken one step further, Mind Power would directly turn into something material from the intangible into the tangible... Perhaps this was the true direction of Mind Power Masters, the road for them to achieve power.

If that day really arrived, and Mind Power could turn the intangible into something material, Merlin was unable to picture how powerful Mind Power Masters would actually be.

At the very least, once Mind Power could turn corporeal, it was something the average Legend or Honored Legend could not compare to.

Merlin became more and more excited, and his gaze toward the old man in white had changed, becoming very respectful.

“Teacher! You’re my teacher!”

Merlin bowed deferentially to the old man in white. This discussion did not seem to have brought many benefits to Merlin but in fact, it had illuminated a direction for Merlin, a direction which no one would imagine.

This wonderful gift was even greater than Ossais' teaching of the Occult Mind Spell Nine Hit Strike!

"That's right, perhaps our hopes are really placed on you... You're also my only disciple! Alright, you can go. There's no need to go to the eleventh floor. You won't have to come to the Mind Tower anymore. This tower is no longer of any use to you."

The words of the old man in white caused Merlin's face to shift slightly. He had merely reached the tenth floor. The Mind Tower had sixteen floors in total, how could it be useless to him?

Moreover, the old man in white was only the guardian of the tenth floor. The eleventh floor, twelfth floor, and so on – would those not be even more helpful to Merlin?

Merlin's expression shifted uncertainly as he looked at the old man in white. In that instant, the mood between them turned taciturn.

"Teacher, this Mind Tower is created by the Arcane Wizards, containing endless mysteries, so I still wish to attempt further and gain more understanding."

Merlin spoke cautiously.

"Oh? Merlin, you think you're on the tenth floor?"

The old man in white gave a wooden smile as he looked at Merlin, following which, with a light wave of his hand, the tenth floor of the Mind Tower began to rapidly transform. The familiar surroundings were disappearing at a terrifying speed...

Chapter 546: The Blackfire King

"This..."

Merlin stared with mouth agape at his environment. The familiar tenth floor had already vanished, and where he was at now was, in fact, a lavish place, surrounded by transparent veluriam.

When he looked down below, he could see everything that was beneath him. He was no longer on the tenth floor or to be more accurate, he had never been on the tenth floor.

“Teacher, where have you brought me to?”

Merlin asked softly.

“No, you’ve been here the entire time – the sixteenth floor. In fact, when you left the ninth floor, you were handed over to me on the sixteenth floor.”

“What? The sixteenth floor?”

Merlin’s expression changed significantly. He knew that the Mind Tower only had sixteen floors in total, and even now, the number of Spell Casters who had reached the sixteenth floor could be counted on one’s fingers. He had directly come to the sixteenth floor from the ninth floor.

“So, everything earlier was a Hallucinating spell?”

Merlin recalled that he had even drunk tea earlier. He could distinctly taste the aroma and bitterness of the tea. His Mind Power was very powerful, and he had experienced many Hallucinating spells in the past but never like this one. He had not the slightest inkling that it was an illusion. This was far too scary.

“What’s illusory and what’s real – aren’t they simply separated by a boundary? It’s just a shame that an illusion is still an illusion, and can’t become reality... All that I can accomplish now is merely to make an illusion seem real but it’s still ‘illusory’ in the end, and not reality! The Essence of Mind Power is to change the illusory into reality, and I can’t do that yet...”

The voice of the old man in white carried a helpless and rueful tone.

However, it was as if a stormy sea had broken out in Merlin’s mind. Only now did he sense that the old man in white before him, his new Teacher in Mind Power, was so terrifying in terms of Mind Power. This old man was definitely stronger than Ossais who had taught Merlin Nine Hit Strike.

At the very least, the old man in white had found his way whereas Ossais was still without direction.

After a long moment, Merlin understood that the identity of the old man in white was extraordinary. A powerful master who oversaw the sixteenth floor of the Mind Tower must be someone whom not even the Ultimate Arcane Wizards would overlook.

Therefore, Merlin asked carefully, “May I know who Teacher is?”

The old man in white laughed slightly. “Diss! However, this name isn’t commonly used. It’s so ancient that even I’m about to forget it…”

“Diss?”

Merlin carefully thought about this name but none of his memories carried an impression of it. It was an unfamiliar name.

“However, most people call me the Blackfire King!”

A strange smile had crawled over the old man’s face, and when Merlin heard this name, his face instantly became stiff.

King! This was not a label that most Spell Casters could achieve. Even the Great Honored Legends were not called a King. In simple terms, the label of King was not a definite indicator of one’s level but rather a general appraisal of one’s power.

To become a King, one must at least be an Honored Legend! Moreover, one must be unrivaled. After achieving the status of Legend, one must not have had any failures, and must also wipe out a foreign tribe’s civilization.

To wipe out a civilization by oneself – how awe-inspiring and terrifying was such a feat?

Just like the Dora Demon Tribe who had nine Royal Demons during their golden age who were comparable to Honored Legends. Finally, the Ultimate Arcane Wizard was enraged, and they personally attacked to slay those nine Royal Demons, extinguishing the Dora Demon’s civilization with one Wizard’s strength.

In truth, it was not just the Ultimate Arcane Wizard who had powers like these. Some formidable Honored Legends had similar abilities. Nonetheless, to fulfill those two conditions, one must at least be an Honored Legend, and exterminate a foreign civilization on one's own. Only Spell Casters like these had the right to be called a King!

The Blackfire King was one such prominent figure. He might not be the strongest among the Honored Legends but news of his feat had definitely spread the furthest. Almost every Spell Caster in Arcane City had heard of him before.

The Blackfire King had cultivated two Maxims to their peak, which were a Darkness-type Maxim, and a Fire-type Maxim. "Blackfire" was thus an honorific, and "King" was an affirmation of his abilities and achievements.

The Blackfire King had previously, with just his own strength, wiped out three foreign civilizations, one of which even had a few powerful Honored Legends. Even so, they were slain by the Blackfire King alone, and thus he had acquired more than ten dimensions!

Thereafter, the Blackfire King had made an astonishing move. He gifted the ten dimensions he had received to Arcane City at no cost, and thus became a Legend-in-residence at Arcane City, staying here ever since.

From that point onward, few had seen the Blackfire King, and most did not know what he had been up to. Now, it looked like the Blackfire King had always been in Arcane City, and was even appointed by the Ultimate Arcane Wizard to oversee the sixteenth floor of the Mind Tower!

What Merlin found hardest to understand was that the Blackfire King's detailed elaboration on the system of Mind Power earlier was definitely not insights he had simply gained overnight. Surely, in terms of Mind Power, he was highly accomplished.

A powerful Great King still wanted to focus on cultivating Mind Power? It should be known that the system of Mind Power Masters was still not refined. There were no Mind Power Masters who could solely rely on Mind Power to be on par with Legends.

Forget about a Great King; even among most Great Wizards or Legends, few would concentrate on cultivating Mind Power.

"There's no need to be puzzled... Although I've grasped two Maxims thoroughly and become a King, there's almost no hope for me to go any further. In truth, having reached this stage of a Great



Legend, I don't have to focus on consolidating Maxims anymore because it's practically impossible. Since there's no more hope, most would turn to research other matters. For instance, some Great Kings like to study puppets, focusing their research on puppets which are powerful to the extreme. Or they might research runes. It just so happens that I have an interest in Mind Power, and I think that once the system of Mind Power is perfected, and we discover the Essence of Mind Power, changing the illusory into reality, we would likely reach a level that even an Ultimate Arcane Wizard would find difficult to conceive. Merlin, you're the first one to learn of my theory in full, and you have the best chance to perfect the system of Mind Power Masters, thus fulfilling my theory..."

Countless thoughts flashed across Merlin's mind. Even if he put aside the Blackfire King's guidance in terms of Mind Power, the Blackfire King was still a Legend with a Darkness Maxim. His understanding of Darkness-type spells was not inferior to the Legend of Darkness Oflas in the slightest.

After all, having condensed a Darkness Maxim to its peak, his general power was the same. The only difference was that a Darkness Maxim had a different approach, and most Spell Casters who had cultivated Darkness-type spells would have comparatively stronger Mind Power.

Perhaps this was why the Blackfire King focused on studying Mind Power.

"Teacher, be rest assured that there'll come a day where I'll improve the system of Mind Power Masters, making your theory come true!"

Merlin's voice was solemn, and the Blackfire King smiled before he said slowly, "That's right, what I've achieved for the system of Mind Power Masters is only in theory. All that I can help you with is to simply point you into one direction. However, besides Mind Power, perhaps I can still assist you in other areas."

A mysterious smile crossed the Blackfire King's lips, after which he stretched out a withered hand, and passed it gently over Merlin.

"Buzz."

Merlin's entire body stiffened, following which Darkness Eye in his palm seemed to come under great pressure. The giant ghostly face abruptly formed over Merlin's head, and one could even see the wrath of the ghostly face.

“Whoosh.”

The Blackfire King made another vigorous gesture, and the bloodlike Darkness Eye was forcibly extracted from Merlin’s palm, coming into the Blackfire King’s hand.

“Hehe, Darkness Eye. This is the most notorious technique of the Legend of Darkness Oflas. All who cultivated Darkness Eye are practically Oflas’ puppets. Once you’ve cultivated Darkness Eye to its seventh form, heh, you won’t be yourself anymore. Darkness Eye will retaliate completely, turning the Spell Caster into a puppet instantly. Through all these years, under Oflas’ hand, there had appeared a dozen or so individuals who had cultivated Darkness Eye to its seventh form, and finally, become Oflas’ Legendary puppets!”

“What? Become a puppet?”

Merlin had gone through numerous shocks by now. He had always felt that Darkness Eye was rather odd, thinking that it was because it had absorbed too many negative emotions, resulting in a backlash.

He did not expect that this was simply a trick by the Legend of Darkness Oflas, whose intention was to turn Spell Casters into his puppets.

“Darkness Eye is mystical indeed. Once cultivated to its seventh form, most Great Wizards can explode with the power of a Legend! Therefore, Oflas has relied upon Darkness Eye to establish a troop of relentless and fearless Legendary puppets. He really has his tricks. However, for him to have targeted my disciple, I’ll have to teach him a lesson.”

An icy glint flashed across the amiable face of the Blackfire King, following which his body emanated wisps of the Darkness Maxim which immediately engulfed Darkness Eye.

“Boom!”

Darkness Eye swelled up frantically, following which an image was projected from Darkness Eye, transforming into a black-caped Spell Caster shrouded in darkness.

“So, it’s the Blackfire King! Since this Wizard is connected to the Blackfire King, naturally, I won’t disturb him anymore...”

This projection was the Legend of Darkness Oflas. He even gave Merlin a deep look before deciding to leave but the Blackfire King laughed coldly. “Oflas, you dare to touch even a disciple of mine. Heh, it seems like you no longer have any regard for me these days?”

The Legend of Darkness Oflas was rather afraid of the Blackfire King. Even though Oflas was a Great Honored Legend with a longstanding reputation, he was still junior to the Blackfire King.

“Great Blackfire King, surely Merlin wasn’t your disciple before this?”

“So what? Oflas, regardless of whether Merlin was my disciple before this, he’s my disciple now! I’ll keep this Maxim seed of yours as a form of restitution to Merlin. If you’re unhappy about that, you can ask the Arcane Wizard to arbitrate!”

With that, the Blackfire King’s hand flared up with a surging blaze. The flames were transparent, and one could only feel the fearsome heat.

Under the scorching temperature, Oflas’ expression changed quickly, even wailing loudly, “Blackfire King, you’re too unreasonable, I’ll bring this matter to the Arcane Wizard, argh...”

The projection of Oflas unleashed pitiful cries, following which it was burned to ashes by the flames, leaving only a mystical force. It was a Darkness Maxim cultivated to its peak.

This Darkness Maxim was immediately inserted into Darkness Eye by the Blackfire King, following which he waved his hand and Darkness Eye was embedded once more into Merlin’s palm.

“That Maxim of Oflas had cultivated Darkness Eye to its sixth form... This is a small gift to you! Darkness Eye can still be useful. With the seventh form, one can achieve the fighting powers of an ordinary Legend. However, the seventh form isn’t easy to cultivate. Oflas had cast a wide net, and who knows how many Spell Casters are cultivating Darkness Eye but only a dozen or so have recently cultivated it to its seventh form.”

Merlin was nearly mad with ecstasy. He could feel the immense energy fluctuations of Darkness Eye, which was nearly on par with some Great Wizards at their peak. Even if it could not defeat the top Great Wizards, it was still Merlin’s greatest weapon for now.

“Thank you, Teacher!”

Merlin knew that the Blackfire King had no qualms about offending the Legend of Darkness Oflas only for the sake of his disciple.

“Merlin, you mustn’t mention to anyone outside that you’re my disciple! In truth, that teacher Zado of yours isn’t bad as well. Five Maxims – that’s an extreme potential. Once he becomes an Honored Legend with the Terra Maxim, his battle prowess would only be second to a King. In addition, he’s a Five-Elemental Spell Caster, which is aligned with the spells you constructed, so he’s suited to guide you. As for Darkness-type spells, you can ask me... However, what you currently need is your own understanding. Other people, even Honored Legends, can only help you directly to a small extent...”

Merlin bobbed his head. He sensed that even Honored Legends could only guide him in the right direction. For concrete improvements, he would have to rely on his own understanding.

“Alright, it’s time to leave. If you want to look me up for anything in the future, just talk to this rune, and I’ll know immediately... However, the Void Zone has no space nor time, so this rune is useless there. You can only use it when you’re in Arcane City.”

Merlin kept the Blackfire King’s rune carefully, following which he bowed in respect again. Today, the Blackfire King had done him a huge favor. In his heart, the Blackfire King had risen to a level similar to Wizard Leo, both being teachers who had helped him immensely.

“Go forth! I’ll wait for the day when you’ll perfect the system of Mind Power Masters...”

The Blackfire King gazed warmly at Merlin before he waved his hand. A white light covered Merlin, and instantly transported him from the Mind Tower

Chapter 547: Leaving

After returning, Merlin quickly held out his hand. Darkness Eye in his palm was still emitting traces of crimson light, appearing very peculiar.

However, Merlin could clearly feel that the “backlash” of Darkness Eye from before had disappeared. Darkness Eye had indeed absorbed the negative energy and became stronger.

However, there was no backlash whatsoever from the negative emotions. This was all thanks to the Legend of Darkness, Oflas.

Perhaps the conspiracy of Darkness Eye was no longer a secret among some powerful Legends. Back then, when he was cut off from the world in the Glorious Land, he had even thought that the Legend of Darkness, Oflas, was dead. Who would have known that Darkness Eye was hiding such an astonishing secret?

“Fortunately, I met my teacher. Otherwise, I would be digging my own grave if I continued to cultivate Darkness Eye!”

Merlin felt slightly scared thinking about it now.

“The Legend of Darkness, Oflas... One day, I’ll definitely repay you with thanks twice over for today!”

A trace of coldness flashed across Merlin’s eyes. Although he did not meet the Legend of Darkness, Oflas, Darkness Eye had put him in such danger that Merlin was naturally not comfortable.

“Darkness Eye is now comparable to some peak Great Wizards. Maybe there’s still a gap from those top Great Wizards but it shouldn’t be that huge!”

Merlin felt the power in Darkness Eye. Although he hated Oflas very much in his heart, he had to admire him for creating such a powerful special Pandora Demon Ability. It could even make a Great Wizard burst with an ordinary Legend’s power.

This time, after returning from the Mind Tower, although his Mind Power had not significantly improved, his Mind Heart had already reached the Eight-level. His Mind Power was comparable to some of the more powerful Ninth-level Spell Casters.

Under such a circumstance, Merlin’s attempt to construct all Seventh-level spells was not that difficult. However, he still had to start constructing to know whether it could be done.

Of course, Merlin had made up his mind never to construct spells in Arcane City. After all, he had just become a Sixth-level Spell Caster. If he became a Seventh-level Spell Caster in such a short amount of time, it would arouse suspicion even in Arcane City with his numerous talents.

Even if there was just the slightest chance of arousing suspicion, Merlin would not risk it. The secret of the Matrix could only be known by him. Therefore, he planned to leave Arcane City and construct Seventh-level spells in a safe place.

As for the specific place to go, Merlin already had an idea. When he was in the Kingdom of Blackmoon, he had obtained two dimension coordinates. One was for Wizard Saitu where he had obtained the Thunder Maxim. There was a specific dimension coordinate in it but Wizard Saitu might still be inside, so it was not absolutely safe.

The remaining one was naturally Ecuador's dimension. In the mysterious castle in Subzero Snowfield, when Merlin had controlled the puppet in the castle, it also mentioned a specific dimension coordinate.

Furthermore, this Wizard Ecuador had most likely fallen, and this dimension was most likely an unowned dimension. As for what exactly had happened, Merlin had to go and find out for himself. After all, it had been such a long time, so anything could happen.

However, before leaving, Merlin still had to wait for Legend Zado's message as well as the release of the black cat Didimoss into the vast Void Zone. With the black cat Didimoss' accompaniment, safety would naturally be greatly increased.

...

For a month, Merlin had a rare period of quietness. He studied Mind Power every day, and had transformed various things. He even took the initiative to immerse himself in the illusion which he had "weaved".

His illusion was far inferior to the Blackfire King's and did not even seem real. However, Merlin was not discouraged. The path of a Mind Power Master was inevitably tough. Now, he was just like a pioneer, and needed to explore the path slowly and bit by bit.

"Merlin, come to my castle!"

Suddenly, the rune on Merlin's arm twinkled with threads of light, and transmitted Legend Zado's voice.

Merlin's heart rejoiced. He quickly stood up, and went directly to Legend Zado's castle.

"You came quickly."

Seeing Merlin, Legend Zado laughed, and stroked the black cat Didimoss. There seemed to be a trace of sadness but he finally let go of Didimoss.

"Whoosh."

Didimoss jumped onto Merlin's shoulder, and as Merlin took a closer look, Didimoss seemed to have gained some weight. In such a short period of time, Legend Zado had let the black cat Didimoss to eat well for it to have gained weight. Now, the black cat Didimoss had become a "fat cat" not just in name but in reality too.

"Teacher Zado, I want to leave Arcane City and wander into the Void Zone."

Merlin hesitated for a moment before speaking. Now that Legend Zado was his teacher, he naturally had to explain to Legend Zado why he wanted to leave Arcane City.

"To wander?"

Legend Zado was slightly stunned. Then, he looked at Merlin for a moment, and nodded thoughtfully. "So, you've already begun constructing Seventh-level spells. Seventh-level is indeed a threshold hence you can't be careless. You may be able to derive the spells faster if you go out and wander."

Legend Zado's hand grabbed the air, and a ball of multicolored light appeared in his hands. The ball fluctuated between colors constantly, appearing exceptionally beautiful.

"This is the imprint from condensing my five-elemental Maxim. I'll put it in your arm now. You can release it if you've encountered any danger. Even if it's Legends with two or three Maxims, it'll be able to repel them. However, the time will be very short. You'll have to grasp the opportunity and escape. Generally, the moment my Maxim imprint appears, the other party would know it's me. I believe my name still has some effect in the entire Spell Caster civilization..."

After Legend Zado had said that, he hit the multicolored light on Merlin's arm. It looked like a faintly colored birthmark.

Merlin sensed that as long as he willed it, he would be able to unleash this imprint. This was a method that Legend Zado had given Merlin to save him, and also directly showed that Legend Zado attached great importance to his disciple.

"Thank you, Teacher Zado!"

There was a ripple in Merlin's heart. Although Legend Zado was very extreme in his actions, once someone became his disciple, he would be very protective of his disciple.

"Hmm, Merlin, when you go, as my disciple, as long as you don't encounter any Honored Legends, you won't have to worry about anything. I'll bear the brunt of any serious trouble. All you have to do is remember not to disgrace me, understand?"

"Em, I understand!"

Merlin looked at the dignified and high-spirited Legend Zado and felt slightly speechless. Was this not urging his disciple to look for trouble? However, this feeling was indeed quite comfortable...

"However, if you meet an Honored Legend, that'll be quite troublesome. Don't provoke any Honored Legends for now."

Although he "encouraged" Merlin to get into trouble, Legend Zado still knew what he could and could not handle.

Merlin was quite speechless. How would it be that easy to meet an Honored Legend? Even after entering the Void Zone for so long, and arriving at Arcane City, it was only due to coincidence that he had met the Honored Legend, the Blackfire King in the Mind Tower.

Due to occupying hundreds or thousands of dimensions, the entire Spell Caster civilization had many Legendary Wizards. However, Honored Legends were still rare. Even hundreds of dimensions could not give birth to an Honored Legend.

"Teacher, I'll be cautious!"



“Hm, then go and quickly become a Seventh-level Wizard!”

Legend Zado waved Merlin away, and Merlin also respectfully bowed before leaving the castle.

Then, Merlin communicated with the Blackfire King’s imprint.

“Teacher, I’m preparing to leave Arcane City to wander into the Void Zone.”

“The Void Zone? Come back to the Mind Tower first.”

Hence, Merlin went to the Mind Tower. Now that he had the Blackfire King’s invitation, he did not need to spend Adventure points, and went directly to the sixteenth floor.

“You want to wander?”

The Blackfire King raised his head and asked calmly.

“Yes, Teacher. No one has walked the path of a Mind Power Master. If I want to perfect it, I can’t just stay in one place. Only by wandering around can I perhaps get the opportunity to perfect the Mind Power Master’s system! Besides, I’m still a Spell Caster, and I need to construct spells...”

The Blackfire King interrupted Merlin before he could finish. He hesitated for a moment before saying, “I don’t have anything to give you but I believe that Legend Zado has already given you something to save yourself with. Some Honored Legends will also give Legend Zado some face. Furthermore, you’re also a Potential Wizard of Arcane City. With these two identities as well as that item that Legend Zado had given you, ordinary Spell Casters won’t attack you with the intention of bullying the weak, so I can be relieved. However, if you encounter danger and Legend Zado doesn’t do anything, you can reveal that you’re my disciple! Otherwise, you aren’t allowed to tell anyone that you’re my disciple, understand?”

Merlin’s heart trembled. It seemed that the Blackfire King was very low profile, and was the polar opposite from Legend Zado. Legend Zado wanted everyone to know that Merlin was his disciple while the Blackfire King did not want anyone to know that Merlin was his disciple.

“I understand!”

“Alright, go. I hope the next you return to Arcane City, I’ll be able to see your improvement!”

Merlin knew that the “improvement” the Blackfire King wanted to see was an improvement in the Mind Power system. Merlin could only nod, and then he was sent out of the Mind Tower after being wrapped with white light.

Chapter 548: Devouring Insect Tribe

In the boundless Void Zone, an extremely fast flying ship was flying at a steady pace. On the flying ship was a black-robed young Wizard currently looking at a map while slightly frowning.

“Wizard Saitu’s Dimension is slightly nearer. The Ecuador Dimension is too far. With the speed of the Aurora Ship, it’ll only be able to reach after flying for years...”

The Wizard on the flying ship was Merlin, who had just left Arcane City. The map in his hands seemed to cover more than half of the dimensions of the Spell Caster civilization. It could be considered to be an extremely comprehensive map.

However, in the vast Void Zone, the dimensions the Spell Caster civilization controlled was just a drop in the ocean, so there were many places and dimensions that were not indicated on the map.

Merlin’s current destination was not Wizard Saitu’s Dimension but the Shkedu’s Dimension on the way to Wizard Saitu’s Dimension.

The Shkedu Dimension, although its name sounded a little awkward, was based on how the Shkedu people in this dimension used to pronounce it. In the Molta language, “Shkedu” meant “center”.

The Shkedu Dimension was the center dimension. Just by looking at the name, one would know the importance of the Shkedu Dimension.

This time, Merlin’s trip to the Shkedu Dimension was to prepare for Wizard Saitu’s Dimension. His Mind Heart had most likely already reached Eighth-level Mind Heart, so his Mind Power should be enough to construct all Seventh-level spells.

However, if Merlin wanted his strength to have a quantitative upgrade after reaching the Seventh-level, he had to cultivate every spell's fused Pandora Demon Ability to their highest stage.

Some fused Pandora Demon Abilities would be able to naturally upgrade their power as long as the spell met the requirements but most fused Pandora Demon Abilities needed certain rare items to cultivate.

In Arcane City, although there were various cultivation facilities, and could be considered as unrivaled, there were no exchanging of rare items. At most, it would be some things like casting tools or robes.

As for rare items, they were usually bought from large-sized dimensions, and the Shkedu Dimension was one of the nearer large-sized dimensions among Wizard Saitu's Dimensions.

Merlin's idea was to buy the rare items first, find a safe place to construct Seventh-level spells, increase the spell's power by fusing a Pandora Demon Ability, and used the qualitative upgrade in the spell's power to finally wander into Wizard Saitu's Dimension and the Ecuador Dimension to see if they were still in good condition or if anything new happened.

"My fused Pandora Demon Abilities are still a little weak!"

Merlin murmured in a low voice. His fused Pandora Demon Abilities were all obtained in the Glorious Land. They were either two or three staged, and some were even forcefully fused into spells, so their quality and power were unevenly matched.

This was an obvious shortcoming of Merlin's spells. If he was like Saturn, and had a grand Honored Legend with four Maxims as his teacher since he was young, then his fused Pandora Demon Abilities would definitely be the best. Adding that to his Perfect-grade spells, his spells' power would be at least thirty percent stronger than it was now.

However, on a Spell Caster's path, not everything went according to one's wishes. Merlin's fused Pandora Demon Abilities were indeed quite far behind when compared to a genius with a good background like Saturn, but he had the Matrix to derive Perfect-grade spells for him, which also made up for it quite a bit.

Thus, if he could purchase the required rare items needed to fuse Pandora Demon Abilities, and raised them to the highest stage, then the spell's power should have a massive increase when Merlin became a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, Merlin had been on the Aurora Ship for half a year. From Arcane City to the Shkedu Dimension, even if the Aurora Ship flew at full speed, it would take at least half a year to reach.

According to the mark on the dimension map, Merlin was not far away from the Shkedu Dimension. He would be able to reach the Shkedu Dimension after three days at most.

“Phew... This is so tiring!”

Merlin let out a long sigh. In this half year on the Aurora Ship, Merlin had been comprehending the “illusory” ability of Mind Power. If he wanted to make an illusion become real using Mind Power, he first had to make great progress in the “illusion” ability.

Previously, the Blackfire King was able to pass off the false as reality, and Merlin did not even have any suspicion. That was naturally because the Blackfire King's Mind Power was strong, but it also showed that the Blackfire King was very accomplished in “illusions”.

Merlin already had some ideas about how to change illusion to reality using Mind Power. First, his Mind Power must be extremely strong. Only a strong enough Mind Power would be able to support the illusion into becoming reality.

Next, one needed to comprehend the essence of Mind Power. By understanding the entire process, it would be equivalent to succeeding half already.

What Merlin was doing now was to understand and comprehend “illusion”. Only after he had thoroughly comprehended “illusion” would he be able to change it into reality. This was a very long and difficult process, and even Merlin did not know exactly how much time it would take. Would it be a few years or a few thousand years? Merlin was unsure whether he could even succeed.

He was now a pioneer. Every step forward was an uncharted land which he had opened up, and was of great significance. However, this road was doomed to be solitary, and could only be slowly explored by himself.

Over the past six months, Merlin had not been doing useless work. He had indeed made great progress in “illusion”. It was not the illusion that Darkness-type spells brought forward, but an illusion directly woven by Merlin’s Mind Power. It was extremely realistic, and even ordinary Spell Casters would not be able to discover it.

Of course, if he wanted to reach the Blackfire King’s level where even Merlin’s Mind Power could not discover it, he still needed to put in a lot of effort.

“I should reach the Shkedu Dimension in a few days. Then..”

Merlin was planning how he would buy rare items in the Shkedu Dimension step by step when his Aurora Ship lightly trembled. No matter how slight the tremor was, Merlin keenly felt it.

“There’s movement up ahead? That was an Elemental fluctuation. Is it a Spell Caster using spells?”

Merlin’s eyes narrowed, and he immediately stood up in alert. In the boundless Void Zone, the chances of encountering a Spell Caster was extremely small, even if this area was controlled by Spell Casters.

It was like a vast universe. No matter how large a spaceship was, how low would the probability of encountering someone else?

Thus, in the past six months Merlin was in the Void Zone, this was his first time encountering an Elemental fluctuation. Driven by curiosity, Merlin steered the Aurora Ship and flew rapidly toward the direction of the Elemental fluctuation.

...

“Squeak squeak squeak.”

A large group of black beetles, almost hundreds of thousands of them, blanketed the scene as if forming a big net, and were whistling toward a source of white light in front.

“It’s really those pesky bugs. Why am I unlucky as to encounter the Devouring Insect Tribe?”

In the white light, a figure flew forward while staggering, but the insects were extremely quick, and formed a large net to block the figure in the white light.

Wizard Luce had already somewhat lost hope. To come across the Devouring Insect Tribe in the vast Void Zone was truly “superb” luck.

The Devouring Insect Tribe was also called the Dimension Plague. They were born to live from dimension to dimension. The Tribe’s hive mind could live and grow parasitically in a dimension, and finally create countless Devouring Insects that would slowly gnaw at the entire dimension until nothing was left.

Thus, the Devouring Insect Tribe was called the Plague of the Dimensions!

The Devouring Insect Tribe was extremely terrifying but fortunately, their numbers were small. That was because the lifespan of those insects was very short, only a hundred years long. They relied on dimensions to live, so if there were none, they could even starve to death.

The distance between many dimensions was very far, and with the insects’ flying speed, it might take hundreds of years to reach a faraway dimension. By then, they would have long starved to death.

It was also precisely because of this that the Devouring Insect Tribe numbers were small. Encountering them in the vast Void Zone really was extremely unlikely.

However, Wizard Luce was precisely that unlucky. He had almost reached the Shkedu Dimension but he ended up encountering the Devouring Insect Tribe. Fortunately, this group was not extremely strong. The hive mind seemed to have just reached the Ninth-level, so the insects would all generally be the Seventh or Eighth-level.

However, under a hive mind’s guidance, a large group of insects could exhibit terrifying power. Even some strong Ninth-level Spell Casters would be trapped and surrounded, and finally be devoured.

Wizard Luce had sacrificed a good amount of casting tools as well as some powerful defensive Runic Magic Circles to get to where he was and finally stumbled close to the Shkedu Dimension.

Once in the Shkedu Dimension, those Devouring Insects that seemed to still be in their infancy stage would pose little threat, and be easily destroyed by some Great Wizards.

However, it was a pity that Wizard Luce seemed to have run out of resources, and could no longer break free from the Devouring Insect Tribe.

“Damn it, what do I do? What do I do? Those loathsome bugs will eat me until nothing remains...”

Wizard Luce’s expression was full of anxiety.

Suddenly, a golden light in front flew over at breakneck speed.

“Whoosh.”

The golden light suddenly stopped, and a black-robed Wizard flew out from the flying ship. Wizard Luce immediately rejoiced. It was as if he found an oasis in the desert.

However, he became disappointed just as quickly. He looked carefully, and discovered that this black-robed Wizard was weak to the point of being pitiful. He was only a Sixth-level Spell Caster.

Luce was slightly disappointed but he quickly adjusted his attitude. He still had an idea, so he shouted toward the black-robed Wizard, “The Wizard over there, I’m Wizard Luce from the Shkedu Dimension. I happened to encounter this hateful Devouring Insect Tribe, but they’re currently at their weakest infancy stage! Your flying ship is very fast, and these insects won’t be able to keep up. I implore you to hurry into the Shkedu Dimension, and call for a Great Wizard. I’m willing to give you a million elemental crystal stones as a reward!”

A million elemental crystal stones were almost two-thirds of Wizard Luce’s wealth that he had accumulated for several hundred years. However, in order to survive, he could only suffer financial losses.

However, after Wizard Luce had finished speaking, he noticed that the black-robed Wizard was indifferent, and showed no signs of leaving. Wizard Luce became worried, and said through gritted teeth, “The Wizard over there, if you’re willing to go to the Shkedu Dimension and call for help, I’ll give you an additional two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!”

Wizard Luce gnashed his teeth. In order to live, he was prepared to spend money in large amounts. He had already taken out most of his wealth.

However, the black-robed Wizard still showed no sign of leaving, and instead approached forward.

“If you give me a million and two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones, then I won’t have to go to the Shkedu Dimension anymore.”

The black-robed Wizard looked at the stupefied Wizard Luce, and revealed a calm smile.

Chapter 549: Pavilion of Rarities

The black-robed Wizard was Merlin, who came from afar. He naturally knew how famous the Devouring Insect Tribe in front of him was. However, as the trapped Wizard said, these insects were still in their infancy stage, and were not strong at all.

“Endless Flame!”

Merlin took a step forward, and his body burst into ferocious flames. The might of Merlin’s sixth-level spell could already rival a ninth-level spell.

Perhaps it was nothing much before the dense Devouring Insect Tribe, but Merlin still had another move.

“What? Hurry up and go. Those are Devouring Insects. Even if they’re in their infancy stage, they’re not something that you can handle. Hurry and go to the Shkedu Dimension and call for a Great Wizard.”

Luce became very worried when he saw Merlin acted directly. He was anxious that if Merlin died, there would be no hope for him anymore.

“Is that so?”



Merlin looked at the insects that were surrounded by the flames. His Fire-type spell indeed could not do anything against these insects, but very quickly, sounds of thunder started to rumble in the vast Void Zone.

“Boom!”

Countless peals of lightning roared down, turning into an electric net, and mercilessly fell on Endless Fire. The flames and electricity formed a perfect fusion and emitted a dreadful force.

“Explode!”

Merlin shouted softly, and a white light immediately rumbled, almost lighting up several hundred meters of the Void Zone. The terrifying shock wave spread in all directions without restraint.

As for the dense Devouring Insect Tribe, they no longer emitted any sound. They were completely reduced into ash by the fused spell’s explosive shock wave...

“Whoosh...”

Merlin cast a Wind-type spell to blow away some of the smoke generated from the explosion. The insects have all but completely disappeared, and all that was left was Wizard Luce’s astonished face.

Merlin walked toward Wizard Luce and said calmly, “It’s time to honor your promise. One million and two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones!”

“Uh...”

Wizard Luce returned to his senses. He looked at Merlin with flashing eyes and knew that the Wizard before him was a true Spell Caster genius from the legends. The kind of demonic super genius who was able to surpass several challenges!

Merlin was only a sixth-level Spell Caster, but when he handled the horrible Devouring Insect Tribe, he looked relaxed, and dealt with them easily. Only demonic geniuses could have that kind of power.

“Of course, I won’t go back on my word!”

After the excitement, Wizard Luce’s heart was filled with bitterness. One million and two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones... He had accumulated them over hundreds of years, but now they were all gone.

Although his heart ached, he was already very lucky to preserve his life. Thus, Wizard Luce very willingly gave the one million and two hundred thousand elemental crystal stones over to Merlin.

Merlin kept the elemental crystal stones inside his ring, and revealed a smile. He never thought that he would be able to get such a large sum of “easy money” after almost reaching the Shkedu Dimension. His purpose at the Shkedu Dimension this time was to buy some rare items, and he did have a lot of elemental crystal stones. However, no one knew how much those rare items would cost, so the more elemental crystal stones he had, the better.

Then, when Luce found out that Merlin wanted to go to the Shkedu Dimension, he volunteered to be Merlin’s guide. Since Merlin was not familiar with the Shkedu Dimension, having a Wizard as a guide would help him avoid a lot of trouble.

Thus, the two Wizards chatted while flying toward the Shkedu Dimension.

...

“It’s bustling!”

Merlin stood outside the Shkedu Dimension, and watched the many Spell Casters going to and fro, and said with deep emotion. He had not seen such a lively scene ever since he entered the Void Zone.

The Shkedu Dimension in front of him had countless flying ships constantly entering and exiting. There were also some Spell Casters, but the lowest of them were of the seventh-level, and they were driving some stronger Spell Casters. Otherwise, it would be difficult to enter the dimension.

There was even fewer Spell Caster below the seventh-level like Merlin!

Wizard Luce, who was acting as Merlin's guide, said proudly, "That's natural. I've been in the Shkedu Dimension since I was young, so I know it like the back of my hand! The entire Shkedu Dimension is basically equivalent to a huge trade city. The Spell Casters coming and going into the Shkedu Dimension span from hundreds of dimensions. Even some great Honored Legends sometimes come to the Shkedu Dimension to see if there's anything they need."

Then, the two flew into the Shkedu Dimension together. Although there were many Spell Casters in this huge dimension, there were also many Elements. In fact, it was rich in Elements, and was a very suitable dimension for Spell Casters.

Along the way, Wizard Luce had introduced the Shkedu Dimension in a non-stop babble. He pointed at a group of Spell Casters, and said proudly, "The number of Spell Casters in the Shkedu Dimension are countless. Roughly speaking, there're at least a billion of them!"

"In addition to the large amount of Spell Casters, some ordinary Shkedians have completely assimilated into the Spell Caster civilization, and have become no different from us, Spell Casters. Moreover, we even produced three Honored Legends as well as dozens of ordinary Legends!"

Wizard Luce's detailed explanation of the Shkedu Dimension made Merlin wonder. Honored Legends were exceedingly rare, and generally, hundreds of dimensions might not even give birth to an Honored Legend. However, in just one Shkedu Dimension, they had produced two Honored Legends in addition to hundreds of ordinary Legends. That was very strange.

However, it might have something to do with the many Spell Casters gathered in the Shkedu Dimension.

"By the way, Wizard Merlin, you must remember that the Shkedu Dimension doesn't prohibit casting spells. Fighting at close quarters is also allowed, but the buildings here mustn't be damaged! If you enter any building, you can't make any more moves, otherwise, you'll be killed by the Shkedu Dimension's law enforcement department."

Wizard Luce said this with a solemn expression. This law enforcement department was the force that controlled the entire Shkedu Dimension. The strongest among them were nine Honored Legends, and two were Honored Legends from the Shkedu Dimension.

The large Shkedu Dimension had naturally attracted countless resources, and gathered countless Spell Casters. Honored Legends from outside would also naturally wanted to occupy it. Thus, after fighting and compromising, the remaining nine Honored Legends formed the law enforcement

department, and recruited some ordinary Legends to jointly maintain the prosperity of the Shkedu Dimension.

Fighting in the Shkedu Dimension did not mean anything but if it involved buildings or entering a shop to kill someone, that would go against the Dimension's rules. Even some Great Legends did not dare to violate the rules.

Once, there were three powerful Legends who killed a Great Wizard in the Shkedu Dimension. In the end, an Honored Legend personally acted, and killed him in one shot.

From then on, even Great Legends had to obey the Shkedu Dimension's rules!

Merlin also nodded. Such rules were reasonable. Without these rules, the Shkedu Dimension would become chaotic, and it would affect its prosperity.

"Wizard Luce, I need to buy some rare items to cultivate fused Pandora Demon Abilities. Do you know where I should look?"

Merlin did not conceal anything, and said he wanted to buy rare items.

"Oh? So, Wizard Merlin is also making plans for constructing seventh-level spells. If you're looking for rare items, then the most suitable place would be the Pavilion of Rarities. That place specializes in selling powerful Pandora Demon Abilities as well as its corresponding rare items. They're very diverse and have almost everything. I believe that Wizard Merlin won't be disappointed."

"Then, I'll have to trouble Wizard Luce to lead the way."

Merlin then followed Wizard Luce and flew toward the Pavilion of Rarities.

Merlin looked closely at his fused Pandora Demon Abilities. Currently, he had Flash Wind, Fiery Collapse, Darkness Heart, Thunder Fury, Binding Ice, and Fuse Earth.

Some of them, such as Fiery Collapse, Thunder Fury, Binding Ice, and Fuse Earth, needed rare items while Flash Wind and Darkness Heart did not. Once he had constructed seventh-level spells, and practiced more, the power of his Pandora Demon Abilities would naturally increase.

As Merlin was carefully coming through his fused Pandora Demon Abilities, they reached the Pavilion of Rarities. Standing in front of the Pavilion were two beautiful Great Wizards.

Majestic Great Wizards were designated as gatekeepers. Merlin shook his head helplessly. It seemed that in this prosperous Dimension, everything could be measured with elemental crystal stones.

Even Luce once joked that he could buy a Great female Legend for a day as long as he could afford it... Of course, that was only a joke. It was difficult to say if there really was something like that. Even if there was, the price would definitely be unimaginable.

“Respected Wizards, is there anything you two need?”

A beautiful female Great Wizard quickly stepped forward, and asked respectfully.

Merlin frowned. If this was anywhere else, a lofty Great Wizard with a grand position would never act like this, and have a respectful attitude toward a low-level Wizard like Merlin.

However, in the prosperous Shkedu Dimension, it seemed like everything changed.

“This is the list of all the rare items I want. Does your Pavilion of Rarities have them?”

Merlin directly made a list of every rare item he needed.

The female Great Wizard revealed a smile after reading the list. “These are all very ordinary rare items. For example, the Bright Thunder Stone is a rare item for cultivating Thunder Fury, and the Millennium Lava Heart is a rare item for cultivating Fuse Earth. Our Pavilion of Rarities has all the rare items in this list. However, with all due respect, these Pandora Demon Abilities aren’t strong Pandora Demon Abilities. Their powers are all very mediocre. If you cultivate these fused Pandora Demon Abilities to the seventh-level, there might be a large impact on its strength.

“Hm? What do you mean? Can I re-cultivate Pandora Demon Abilities?”

Merlin frowned, and he coldly looked at the female Wizard in front of him. Merlin's weakness was indeed just his fused Pandora Demon Abilities. Since these Pandora Demon Abilities were all obtained in the Kingdom of Blackmoon, they were completely incomparable to the Spell Casters in the Void Zone.

More importantly, each spell type could only cultivate one fused Pandora Demon Ability. Merlin had no more chance to reconstruct other Pandora Demon Abilities anymore.

Chapter 550: Advancing to the Seventh-Level!

The female Wizard looked at Merlin, and laughed softly. "Of course, you can. However, that requires Dispelling Water! Dispelling Water is only produced in a strange dimension and is controlled by a certain Great King. Every bit of Dispelling Water costs a fortune! However, once it's consumed, the fused Pandora Demon Ability in previous spells can be removed, and you can re-cultivate stronger Pandora Demon Abilities!"

Merlin's eyes brightened. He had never imagined that there would be such a miraculous treasure. At present, his most obvious weakness was his fused Pandora Demon Abilities. The fused Pandora Demon Abilities he found in the Kingdom of Blackmoon were generally not that strong. There were some that were not even perfect, and had many defects.

If he had Dispelling Water, he would be able to re-cultivate Pandora Demon Abilities. At that time, this obvious weakness would become an advantage, and he would be no inferior to the genius Wizards who were taught by Great Legends since childhood.

"How many elemental crystal stones does Dispelling Water cost?"

Merlin asked softly. If the price was appropriate, he would not mind using Dispelling Water to re-cultivate Pandora Demon Abilities.

"Dispelling Water is costly but it's extremely worthy. Each type of Dispelling Water only requires ten million elemental crystal stones! If you use Dispelling Water and re-cultivate your Pandora Demon Abilities, I believe that the power of your spells will be greatly improved!"

The female Wizard said enthusiastically. However, no matter how passionate she was, she could not hide the high cost of Dispelling Water.

Ten million elemental crystal stones were only enough to buy one type. If Merlin wanted to dispel the fused Pandora Demon Abilities of his Six-Elemental spells, he would need six bottles of Dispelling Water, which was at least six million elemental crystal stones. That was an astronomical sum.

After all, even those Great Legends only had about ten million elemental crystal stones in their families. Many top Great Wizards would only have ten million elemental crystal stone after accumulating them for hundreds of years. Wizard Luce, as a ninth-level Spell Caster, had only accumulated a million or so elemental crystal stones over hundreds of years, not even two million.

However, one bottle of Dispelling Water cost ten million elemental crystal stones. Who were they selling to?

Great Wizards and above Spell Casters no longer needed Dispelling Water to cultivate their Pandora Demon Abilities. The only Wizards who could afford the price were Honoured Legends above top Great Wizards. However, Dispelling Water was of no use to them.

The Spell Casters who wanted to buy Dispelling Water to re-cultivate their Pandora Demon Abilities were not able to afford it, but it was still being sold at such an exorbitant price. Merlin wondered how Dispelling Water could be sold.

Seeing Merlin still remained unmoved, the female Wizard hurriedly explained, “The price of ten million elemental crystal stones is already quite cheap. After all, the last time we auctioned off Dispelling Water, one bottle fetched twelve million elemental crystal stones. The truth is, most of these bottles are bought by Honoured Legends. If they took a fancy to a disciple, they can buy Dispelling Water to let their disciples re-cultivate stronger fused Pandora Demon Abilities.

Merlin nodded. That was also a possibility. Nevertheless, looking at the price tag, even if his heart was moved, he had no other thoughts. He could not afford such a steep price at all.

“Forget it. Just collect these items for me.”

Merlin told the female Wizard. He could still afford these rare items, but Dispelling Water was far beyond Merlin’s capability.

“Very well, please wait a moment!”

The female Wizard was slightly disappointed, but she did not hold many expectations in the first place. After all, not everyone could afford Dispelling Water. It would be considered lucky to sell one bottle in ten years.

After a moment, the female Wizard took out a Spatial Ring containing some of the rare items Merlin needed.

“These rare items aren’t that expensive, and only cost a total of three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones. As for the remainder, our Pavilion of Rarities has expunged them, so the total is only three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones.”

“Three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones? That’s not expensive!”

Merlin also knew the approximate price of these rare items, so he happily took out three hundred thousand elemental crystal stones. Before he left, the female Wizard did not forget to make one final push, and said gently, “Dispelling Water can dispel fused Pandora Demon Abilities even before there’s a fused Spell Model. If you need it, the price can still be negotiated. The price of every bottle of Dispelling Water can be decreased by one million elemental crystal stones!”

Merlin smiled but said nothing as he knew the steep prices of Dispelling Water. However, no matter how high it was, it would at least be eight million elemental crystal stones. This was not a small sum for any Spell Caster.

As for Merlin, he had dropped that thought long ago.

After leaving the Pavilion of Rarities, Merlin needed to find a safe place to construct spells and try to rise to a seventh-level Spell Caster. Thus, he said to Wizard Luce, “Bring me to a safe residence!”

Wizard Luce nodded and said, “Generally, everywhere in the Shkedu Dimension is safe. No one dares to disobey the rules!”

Thus, Wizard Luce brought Merlin to a secluded courtyard. Merlin temporarily stayed at the place for a month and spent twenty thousand elemental crystal stones. Although it was considered costly, the environment was good.

“Wizard Merlin, I live not far from here. If you need anything, please don’t hesitate to find me!”



Wizard Luce had accompanied Merlin for most of the day, so when Merlin had settled down, he quickly turned around, and left.

Merlin returned to the house, appraised the place, and casually sat down.

His current Mind Heart had already reached the Eighth-level, and his Mind Power was also comparable to some ordinary Ninth-level Spell Casters. Logically, it was enough to let him construct all Seventh-level spells.

However, whether he could really construct them, he had to simulate a Seventh-level Spell Model before saying for sure!

Thus, Merlin silently activated the Matrix. Since the Matrix had absorbed too many Maxims in Legend Zado's Maxim Subspace, its storing energy could be said to be terrifying. It would not be a problem to derive all Seventh-level spells.

"Matrix, derive seventh-level Darkness-type spells!"

Merlin let the Matrix derive Seventh-level Darkness-type spells first. After all, Darkness-type spells required the most amount of Mind Power. Merlin was also confident that his current Mind Power would be able to construct all Seventh-level spells.

The Matrix started rapidly deriving the spells, and its storage energy also started to decrease. The special energy needed to derive Seventh-level spells was at least several times more than for Sixth-level spells.

"Beep, derivation completed!"

Very quickly, the Matrix had completed its spell derivation. Merlin quickly looked at them.

Deriving Darkness-type spells have always been more difficult. Perhaps it was because the number of Darkness-type spells in the Matrix's database was lesser hence, the Darkness-type spells derived were also lesser.

However, there were still a couple of perfect-grade spells with one hundred percent compatibility.

Merlin chose one of them. Since he had the Matrix for deriving spells, he did not have to worry about the process at all. What he needed to do now was simulate the Spell Model in his Awareness.

After spending three days, Merlin finally succeeded simulating the first Seventh-level Spell Model. The moment the simulation succeeded, the surrounding Darkness elements seemed to turn into a viscous liquid, and enveloped Merlin.

Merlin clearly felt that the Seventh-level spells were different from the spells from before. It was a faint feeling of a deeper understanding of the Darkness element.

“So, Spell Models have this function as well. It can help in comprehending the essence of Elements?”

Merlin muttered under his breath while thinking carefully.

The Spell Caster system had existed for a long time. Although the Molta Empire collapsed more than three thousand and six hundred years ago, that did not mean that the Spell Casters only had a history of around three thousand years.

The Molta Empire was simply the era where the Spell Casters were at their most brilliant in the Glorious Land. Before that, Spell Casters could have already appeared for ten thousand years.

Over a long period of time, countless Spell Casters had almost completely perfected the Spell Caster system. Merlin had always thought that the purpose of a Spell Model was to absorb and transform Elements into magical power before casting the spell and unleashing great destructive power.

However, it was not until simulating a Seventh-level spell now that Merlin realized the true purpose of a Spell Model was to help Spell Casters slowly comprehend the essence of Elements.

The Spell Casters also slowly formed a system from scratch. If an ordinary Wizard wanted to directly comprehend the essence of Elements, how difficult would that be? It could not be ruled out that such Wizard did not exist, but they were few and far in between, and there might not even be one in ten thousand years.

Therefore, most Wizards had to gradually understand the essence of Elements through constructing Spell Models one step at a time, following the Spell Models as they grew stronger, and construction became more complicated.

By the time they construct Ninth-level Spell Models, most Spell Casters would have a certain understanding of the Elements. Those with slightly stronger comprehension would be able to fuse Spell Models, and become a Great Wizard. Furthermore, they would be able to completely comprehend the essence of the Elements, condense Maxims, and become Great Legends!

Compared with Spell Models below the Seventh-level, Seventh-level Spell Models had a qualitative improvement. Merlin immediately understood the real function of the Spell Models.

Of course, Merlin did not understand much about the Elements. He had just realized the use of Spell Models, and he had to slowly increase his comprehension. However, he roughly measured the Mind Power needed to simulate Seventh-level Darkness-type Spell Models, and found that with his current Mind Power, he could completely simulate six Seventh-level spells.

Thinking of this, Merlin stopped hesitating, and let the Matrix begin to derive the remaining five Seventh-level Spell Models.

Day by day passed, and after around twenty days, Merlin's body trembled, and emitted an intense Elemental fluctuation that carried an "oppressive" force.

Seventh-level... In the Shkedu Dimension, Merlin had finally become a Seventh-level Spell Caster!