

W. Secret 681

Chapter 681: The Second Challenge!

“Rip!”

With a loud growl from Merlin, his Five-Elemental Wizard Heart discharged a formidable power that tore apart the Earth Maxim. Subsequently, the puppet appeared with a stunned look.

“You... You tore apart the Earth Maxim that Master left behind?”

The puppet looked at him in disbelief. This was truly mind-boggling. The puppet had never seen anyone who could tear apart a Maxim before becoming a Legend.

“It wasn’t very difficult.”

Merlin grinned. He could clearly feel that with the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart, his ability had become even more powerful. Even Merlin himself did not know how strong he was right now, and how strong he would be upon becoming a full-fledged Great Wizard.

One thing he was certain, if he became a Great Wizard, he would become the most powerful Great Wizard in the history of the Spell Caster civilization. Even among the numerous foreign tribe civilizations, he would be the most powerful Great Wizard existence, far surpassing any civilization-level prodigies.

“Amazing. Back then, when Master left these Maxims behind, he probably did not imagine that someone will be able to tear apart his Maxim. However, since you’re so powerful, there’s a real chance for you to pass the second and third challenge that Master left behind.”

At this moment, the puppet turned silver. Merlin could sense a powerful aura emanating from the puppet, much stronger than the peak Great Wizard-level puppets from before.

“Merlin, do you want to accept the second challenge now?”

The silver puppet asked in a deep voice.

“Of course but I still haven’t memorized the evolution process of the Ice Maxim.”

Despite achieving a massive leap in abilities, Merlin did not forget himself. He was eager to attempt the second and third challenge but he would not forsake an opportunity to become stronger.

“Very well, go in then.”

The silver puppet pointed toward the Ice Maxim. Merlin quickly turned around and stepped inside.

Upon setting foot inside, Merlin sensed a faint chill. Strands of Ice Maxim were suspended in mid-air. Then, the Maxim began to evolve, little by little, just like the Earth Maxim.

If Great Wizards who were attempting to consolidate a Maxim watched the evolution of Maxims, it would provide them with great insight and inspiration. Thus, it would greatly increase their chances of consolidating a Maxim.

Merlin was also inspired but he had not reached the level of consolidating a Maxim. Moreover, the evolution process of Maxims was not so easily understood with just a single glance or two. It would require watching it for a long time, and then perhaps there would be a sudden flash of inspiration. Therefore, Merlin would have to forcibly memorize it in the depths of his mind, so that he could “replay” the evolution process again whenever necessary.

This time, compared to the Earth Maxim, Merlin had spent more than ten hours to memorize the entire evolution process. Thereafter, he closed his eyes. The entire evolution process of the Earth Maxim and the Ice Maxim replayed in his mind.

The evolution of these two Maxims, in contrast, seemed to have points of similarity as well as massive differences. In short, the comparison of the two gave Merlin some new ideas.

This was the additional benefit of memorizing the Maxims’ evolution process. He would be able to view them as he liked. Perhaps, he would be able to derive some insights and successfully consolidate a Maxim later.

“Swish.”

Merlin flew out. The silver puppet perked up and asked hastily, “Have you memorized it?”

“Yes, I’ve memorized it. Now, we may begin the second challenge!”

A faint smile appeared between the lips of the silver puppet as it said languidly, “Finally, there’s someone worthy to attempt the second challenge.”

“Am I the first Wizard to attempt the second challenge? Didn’t Kleis attempt the second challenge back then?”

Merlin remembered the silver puppet told him that Kleis had also passed the first challenge. However, perhaps he was just like Merlin. He had only memorized the evolution process of the Maxim but did not consolidate a Maxim. Otherwise, Kleis would have become a Great Legend.

“Of course not, his abilities were insufficient. For the second challenge, the bare minimum is to have the ability of a Great Legend. If he was a civilization-level prodigy, perhaps I would’ve allowed him to try. However, you’re different. You’re even more formidable than a civilization-level prodigy, so there’s hope for you to pass the second challenge.”

A crimson glow appeared in the silver puppet’s eyes. Soon, the subspace seemed to quake.

“Boom.”

An incredibly large passage shimmered into view.

“Another Spatial Passage?”

A look of astonishment appeared on Merlin’s face. He did not expect that there could be another subspace within the subspace.

“Yes, how would the extent of Master’s powers be fathomable to you? There’s subspace within the subspace. In fact, Master can carve out nine layers of subspace. Besides powerful Wizards who became Honored Legends through their spatial accomplishments, Master is the only Wizard who could carve out such a large number of overlapping subspace. However, in this place, Master had only carved out a three-layer subspace. This is the first layer subspace, also the outermost layer. Through here is the second layer subspace. Let’s go, the second challenge is in the second layer subspace.”

The silver puppet explained briefly and flew ahead into the Spatial Passage.

Merlin hesitated for a moment. This was an eye-opener for him. He was getting more curious about the Origin Lord. It appeared that every Great Lord was not simple.

“Swish swish.”

Soon, two figures appeared in an inexplicably open subspace. In this subspace, there were four larger zones with a more breathtaking aura.

“These are the ultimate Maxims left behind by Master. These are the four ultimate Maxims he consolidated in order to become an Honored Legend!”

The silver puppet declared proudly. With four ultimate Maxims, he could already be regarded as a very powerful Lord at this point.

Merlin was also very shocked. Although he had already guessed that the Origin Lord was not at all simple but very powerful, he still did not expect that the Origin Lord had four ultimate Maxims.

It was noteworthy as the Blackfire Lord only had two Ultimate Maxims. Among those who were under Arcane Wizard Setoh’s influence, only the Nightmare Lord had consolidated four ultimate Maxims.

The Origin Lord was staggeringly as powerful as the Nightmare Lord. It was not surprising that he was able to carve out multi-layered subspace, and was able to easily defeat an empire-level warship belonging to the Atlan civilization.

“The evolution of an ultimate Maxim?”

Merlin's heart overflowed with enthusiasm. He had been exposed to many ordinary Maxims but had very little insight on ultimate Maxims. Right now, viewing the evolution process of Ultimate Maxims would be immeasurably beneficial for him to consolidate a Maxim or even an ultimate Maxim in the future.

"Yes, these are the evolution of ultimate Maxims! The four ultimate Maxims comprises of the Flame Maxim, Thunder Maxim, Light Maxim, and Water Maxim respectively!"

"Light Maxim?"

Merlin's heart skipped a beat. Even in the Void Zone, Light Wizards were rarely seen, and in fact, did not exist at all. Hence, it was completely startling that Origin Lord was a Light Wizard, and had managed to consolidate the Light Maxim into an ultimate Maxim.

"I know what you're wondering. The Origin Lord has nothing to do with the God of Light. Although I've been here for many years, I still know about the happenings in the outside world. The Glorious Land has fallen, and the God of Light had become a Lord God. However, light is fully controlled by the Lord God of Light. So, even if the Origin Lord were to encounter the Lord God of Light, his Light Maxim would be suppressed entirely and would not be of any use..."

Merlin shook his head in despair. The Light Maxim and Water Maxim were unfamiliar to him, plus he did not construct any Spell Models.

Thus, the only useful ones were the Flame Maxim and Thunder Maxim.

"Can I go in now?"

Merlin was downright eager to enter and learn about the evolution process of ultimate Maxims.

"Go in now? Wait until you've passed the second challenge. Only then, you'd be qualified!"

The silver puppet revealed a mysterious smile. Immediately, four puppets emerged from the four ultimate Maxim zones. They looked hefty. Their height exceeded three meters, and their bodies seemed to reflect a steely metallic glint.

“Puppets again? Then again, something seems different...”

Merlin frowned. He knew that the second challenge would be different from the first challenge. These puppets must be much more powerful, otherwise, the silver puppet would not warn him repeatedly.

“Wizard Merlin, let me remind you. Be careful of these puppets. They’re not transfigured by Master but captured directly from that warship! The Atlans on the warship call them martial arts robots but they’re basically slight higher-level puppets. Nevertheless, these puppets are really strange. Despite not possessing any consciousness, their intellect is on par with ordinary Wizards. Peculiar, those Atlans are truly peculiar!”

As soon as it finished speaking, the silver puppet pointed toward Merlin. Instantly, the four hefty martial arts puppets directed an icy stare on Merlin. Out of nowhere, Merlin sensed a faint threat.

Considering his current abilities, the fact that he felt threatened meant that these martial arts puppets were comparable to Great Legends!

“Aren’t these mere robots? Of course, they don’t have any consciousness, they’re only controlled by a program. No matter how intelligent they might be, it’s still part of the program. They cannot form a consciousness like the puppets!”

Merlin combined the knowledge from his previous life and immediately concluded that these so-called martial arts puppets were actually robots. It appeared that the Atlan civilization was a technological civilization. Nonetheless, they were even more advanced than the world Merlin had been in his previous life.

Whether it was the humongous warship or these robots, all of them were incredibly powerful. If they were able to create robots equivalent to Great Legends, and had enough materials and power source to produce a formidable number, it was not surprising that the Atlan civilization was able to spread the flames of war to the birthplace of Spell Casters, the Glorious Land. In fact, they were able to damage the Glorious Land, to the extent that the once-prosperous Molta Empire collapsed.

“Come on then, battle robots of the Atlan civilization! Let’s see how powerful you are.”

Merlin’s body flashed bright with elemental fluctuations. Behind him, a large illusionary Wizard Heart appeared. This was his newly-consolidated Five-Elemental Wizard Heart. Upon appearing, an invisible pressure seemed to surround these four battle robots.

“Beep. Enemy threat level, Expert! Activating highest combat setting!”

Seemingly recognizing Merlin’s powerful abilities, the four battle robots’ eyes flashed red and emitted a disconcerting mechanical sound.

“Crack.”

A layer of silvery-white armor swiftly appeared and covered the bodies of the four battle robots. Then, they quickly dispersed and surrounded Merlin in the middle.

“Swoosh.”

Without warning, the four robots’ speed surged and attacked Merlin at the same time. They seemed to be transformed into martial art masters. All kinds of martial arts techniques were unleashed with trained ease.

These were real martial arts that were also killing techniques, in regard to Normies. Unexpectedly, once these martial art techniques were exported onto powerful robots, they were able to unleash such a fearsome force.

This was the first time Merlin had encountered someone who could display “martial arts”, even if it was only a robot. Nonetheless, it still gave Merlin a familiar feeling.

“Bang bang bang.”

These robots were not just agile but also powerful, and each of them was basically a martial art master. Hence, their mastery of techniques was at their peak. From the moment they started attacking, Merlin had found himself at a disadvantage. All around him, he seemed to be

surrounded by the battle robots. Within just a short frame of time, Merlin's body had been attacked thousands of times.

“Crack.”

Finally, the layer of defensive spells around Merlin gave a faint crack, as though it would break at any time. Ever since Merlin had consolidated the Wizard Heart, this was the first time he felt threatened by a “weak” opponent.

These battle robots' strengths were only equivalent to ordinary Legends at most, yet, coupled with the martial arts, they were able to unleash a terrifying force.

“Hmph!”

Merlin gave a cold snort. The battle robots were truly tough to defeat. In terms of skill, he would not be able to compete with these specialized killing machines. So, he could only crush them with absolute power!

Thus, Merlin activated the power of the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart, and formed a giant palm in the air. Without warning, he slammed the unstoppable palm onto these four battle robots. No matter how fast they were, it was inconsequential.

Chapter 682: Premature Enlightenment

“Swish swish swish.”

The four martial arts robots were fast beyond limits. Their bodies transformed into an apparition and violently shot toward four different directions, to the extent that the space friction produced an ear-piercing sound.

The power of these four martial arts robots could, in fact, break space and travel via subspace. However, as this was an independent subspace constructed by the Origin Lord, and they were in the second layer, this subspace was extremely stable. Even a Great Legend would not be able to break this subspace.

“Whiz whiz whiz.”

Pangs of space-splitting noise sounded, and the four martial arts robots had reached maximum limits of speed. However, they were unable to escape Merlin's giant palm.

"Rumble."

Merlin's spell, the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart, was no longer within the leagues of ordinary Legends. It was able to tear apart a Maxim. So, when this palm slammed down, its raw power immediately crushed the silvery-white light above the four martial arts robots.

Subsequently, even their durable bodies began to crack like they were made from glass, and shattered the very next moment.

Merlin withdrew the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart. His spell power had far exceeded his own imaginations. Based on the power displayed, even a Two-Maxim Great Legend would not be his worthy opponent.

Of course, this was not even Merlin's most powerful state yet. If Merlin could fuse the final Wizard Heart and achieve the Six-Elemental Wizard Heart as well as consolidate the multi-colored Wizard Heart, then he would undergo a qualitative transformation. As to how powerful he would become, even Merlin himself could not predict.

After defeating these four martial arts robots, Merlin was just about to fly toward the four Maxim evolution zones when he saw four beams of silvery-white light. The countless smithereens began to reassemble rapidly. These four martial arts robots were surprisingly also made of liquid memory metal. Thus, unless they were completely destroyed, it was impossible to defeat them.

"Truly amazing. Even the Great Legends don't have such abilities. If only I can control these martial arts robots..."

Merlin was slightly tempted by the thought. The liquid memory metal martial arts robots were not only comparable to ordinary Legends in terms of ability but possessed "immortal" characteristics. They were certainly tough to beat. If these robots were mass-produced, they would pose a threat to the Spell Caster civilization.

Even then, these martial art robots were not without weakness. Their bodies were made of liquid memory metal. So, using a Flame Maxim or an Ice Maxim with extreme temperatures could destroy the liquid memory metal. According to scientific theory, it would also destroy its molecular structure.

In fact, this was logical. As long as a Maxim was strong enough, it was possible to completely defeat these martial arts robots, albeit highly challenging. After all, these robots were adept at “martial arts”, so they would not be easily defeated.

Although the martial arts robots had recovered, they did not try to stop Merlin again. After all, this was not a life-or-death battle but merely a challenge.

“Well done. Wizard Merlin, you’ve passed the second challenge. Go on then, you may accumulate insights from the evolution process of the ultimate Maxims to your heart’s content. This is an opportunity that even the Great Legends can only dream of!”

Then, the silver puppet mysteriously disappeared once again.

Merlin took a deep breath and looked at a fiery red space before him, which exuded a vicious aura. Merlin’s eyes lit up. It was the Flame Maxim.

“Swish.”

Without any delay, Merlin immediately chose the Flame Maxim zone and flew in. After all, from the very beginning, the first spell Merlin constructed was Fireball. Hence, his understanding of Fire-type spells was most sophisticated.

If Merlin succeeded in becoming a Great Legend in the future, his accomplishment would be based on Fire or Darkness Elements consolidated into a Maxim. Fire-type spells and Darkness-type spells were the two types of spells which Merlin had the most comprehensive understanding.

“Ultimate Maxim!”

Merlin was also very excited. When he stepped into the ultimate Maxim evolution zone, he felt an entirely new sensation. There was no feeling of heat whatsoever. Even though there were blazing flames burning around him, there was a stark difference from ordinary flames.

“Is this the ultimate Maxim?”

Merlin was slightly taken aback. He had seen the ordinary Flame Maxims. Those Maxims were violent and scorching hot, to the point that even space could be set ablaze. Those characteristics were representative of a flame, and the Maxim magnified those characteristics to the highest limits.

Violence and heat were the essences of a flame. Therefore, through an understanding of the two, it was possible to consolidate a Maxim and become a Great Legend. However, the ultimate Flame Maxim appeared to be completely different from the essence of a flame. Not only was it not violent but it also did not emit any heat.

A Flame Maxim without any heat... Was it still considered a flame?

Merlin frowned. To some extent, he had already expected that an ultimate Maxim would not be straightforward. Otherwise, there would not be so few Honored Legends in the entire Spell Caster civilization.

Every existence who had managed to become an Honored Legend would have to possess a superb talent and encounter countless divine opportunities in order to gain enlightenment of an ultimate Maxim. This was the true Essence of Element.

Merlin had watched the evolution process of the ultimate Maxim carefully. Although he did not understand it, he wanted to memorize it firmly in his mind. He saw that the Fire Element was slowly converted into Magic Power, and bound in the Spell Model.

Then, it consolidated into a Maxim where all the characteristics of a flame were manifested to their highest limits. This was almost like the evolution process of a Flame Maxim except that the evolution did not end there. The Flame Maxim continued to evolve and became so incomparably violent and powerful that everything would be burnt to ashes.

Gradually, Merlin came to think of the word “destruction”.

Indeed, the ultimate Flame Maxim was none other than destruction! Regardless of whether a flame was hot or violent, it could cause unparalleled damage to its surroundings. This was the true essence of the Flame Maxim as well as the real ultimate limit of the Flame Maxim.

“Destruction? I see. Ordinary Legends only understood the Essence of Element on the surface whereas the ultimate Maxim drives the Maxim to its utmost limit, unleashing unbeatable power. For example, the ultimate Flame Maxim is pure destruction. Its destructive power is overwhelming. Generally, among Honored Legends, those who built their achievement on flames would have fearsome powers. In any given war, a Legend of Flames can cause massive damage to the foreign tribes simply because the Flame Maxim has reached its limit.”

Surprisingly, Merlin gained significant insight from the ultimate Flame Maxim. Perhaps even he did not realize that at this moment, his Wizard Heart began to quiver unsteadily like it was going to collapse at any moment. Endless Fire Elements surged into Merlin’s Awareness and fused with his Wizard Heart.

“Not good! I haven’t become a Great Wizard. I still have the Darkness-type Wizard Heart that hasn’t been fused. Now that I’ve gained significant insight about flames, no less than those Great Legends, I can even try to consolidate a Flame Maxim. However, doing so would be very dangerous. If I forcibly consolidate a Maxim while my Wizard Heart is still incomplete, I’m afraid the Wizard Heart will collapse immediately!”

Merlin quickly discovered the precarious situation his body was in. Basically, his enlightenment of flames was too advanced. However, it was far too premature for him to consolidate a Flame Maxim and become a Legend. Otherwise, the Wizard Heart in his body would be unbalanced. Once a Wizard Heart had lost its balance, it would collapse. Naturally, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Thinking along these lines, Merlin bit his lip. He made up his mind. This was not the right time to consolidate a Maxim. Hence, he hurriedly woke himself up from the strange insightful state and interrupted his collection of insight from the Flame Maxim.

Chapter 683: Entering the Warship I

“Phew...”

When Merlin awoke from the strange insightful state, the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart regained its calm.

“That was close!”

Merlin whispered softly. Even right now, he was feeling slightly traumatized. The stage of consolidating the Wizard Heart was simply riddled with risks. The slightest misstep could lead to grievous consequences.

However, Merlin felt some regret for having to interrupt his insight. This meant that he gave up a prime opportunity to consolidate a Maxim. Nonetheless, giving up also meant that his Wizard Heart did not collapse.

Thereafter, Merlin flew out of the Flame Maxim zone. He made sure that he stored the evolution process of the ultimate Flame Maxim in his mind so that he could attempt to consolidate a Maxim again in the future.

Next, Merlin flew toward the ultimate Wind Maxim. This time, he did not try to derive any insight for Maxim consolidation. To be fair, consolidating a Maxim was not as easy as it might appear. The fact that Merlin had gained some insight on the spot was simply a stroke of luck.

The Wind Maxim did not give him much insight. Merlin had memorized it firmly in his mind. After all, it was the evolution process of an ultimate Maxim that was desirable even to the Great Legends.

This was only two ultimate Maxims. There was also the Water Maxim and the Light Maxim. Regarding those two Maxims, Merlin did not construct their corresponding spells, so naturally, he would not gain much insight. Nevertheless, they still constituted the evolution process of ultimate Maxims, in which all of them shared some similarities.

Therefore, Merlin also stored them steadfastly in his mind. However, since he was not familiar with these elements, memorizing the evolution process of these two Maxims was not easy. Merlin had spent more than half a month to commit these two Maxims to memory.

“Unfortunately, there’s no Darkness Maxim. Otherwise, I might be able to fuse the Darkness-type Wizard Heart and become an actual Great Wizard!”

Merlin noted down all the evolution process of Maxim but regretted that there was no evolution process of a Darkness Maxim. Otherwise, the time frame for Merlin to become an actual Great Wizard would be greatly shortened.

The evolution process of Maxims, especially those of the ultimate Maxims, may not seem very useful at this point but in reality, they had opened a clear pathway or even a shortcut for Merlin to become an Honored Legend.

Merlin could rely on the evolution process of these Maxims to consolidate a Maxim or an ultimate Maxim. Hence, there were not many obstacles left on his path.

Of course, a road can only lead. Whether or not Merlin could consolidate a Maxim would still be dependent on himself as well as the proper opportunities. For example, Merlin's Mind Power had long since achieved the third step of Hallucinating spells yet, remained shy of achieving the Illusory Heart realm.

"Time to go out!"

Merlin looked at the evolution process of these ultimate Maxims. This multi-layered subspace was a huge price sacrificed by the Origin Lord in order to leave behind opportunities that were highly attractive even to Great Legends.

The silver puppet seemed to be omnipresent. The moment Merlin flew out, it reappeared.

"Wizard Merlin, have you memorized the evolution process of the ultimate Maxims?"

"I've memorized them!"

Merlin nodded with a smile.

"It seems like you've received a fruitful bounty. The Origin Lord left these behind just as a precaution. Nevertheless, while the evolution of Maxims may be beneficial, they may not be very useful to the average Spell Casters. This is because very few Wizards can derive sufficient insight to consolidate a Maxim and become a Great Legend! Only Spell Casters who are truly talented will reflect the true value of these gifts."

Merlin understood clearly the meaning of the silver puppet's words. Not all talented Spell Casters would become a Great Legends but all Great Legends came from talented Spell Casters.

This logic was as clear as day. If an average Great Wizard memorized the evolution process of these Maxims even for the rest of his life, it might not make a difference. The reason the Origin Lord had set up these challenges was to ensure that the Spell Casters who received the evolution process of his Maxims were true prodigies.

Any Spell Caster who had managed to pass these two challenges could definitely be regarded as a prodigy. Even a civilization-level prodigy might face difficulty in overcoming the second challenge.

“You said there’s also the third challenge?”

Merlin asked the silver puppet. Since the Origin Lord was such a powerful Lord, the third challenge he had left behind must be extraordinary. However, passing it would also most certainly fetch a greater prize.

“The third challenge? That challenge is prepared for a Great Legend. A powerful Great Legend, in fact. Do you want to try?”

The silver puppet seemed somewhat eager for Merlin to accept the third challenge.

“Prepared for a Great Legend?”

Merlin deliberated for a moment. The Origin Lord was a Great Lord, so the challenge he left behind would be extraordinary. However, the more difficult the challenge, the greater the prize would be.

A treasure left behind for a Great Legend would undoubtedly be sophisticated. Although Merlin was not yet a Great Legend, he was a Spell Caster with the highest achievements prior to becoming a Great Legend in the history of Spell Casters. Even a civilization-level prodigy was no match for Merlin.

Therefore, he could not be evaluated with ordinary standards.

“Since I’m already here, I must give it a try!”

Merlin also seemed eager to try.

“Very well, come with me to the third layer subspace!”

The silver puppet led Merlin into the third layer subspace.

“Swish.”

Upon entering the third layer subspace, Merlin was surprised to find that the subspace seemed to be filled with brilliant multi-colored lights.

Merlin saw that in the empty space, there was a multi-colored ball of light suspended in the air, seemingly hiding something. Underneath this multi-colored ball of light, there were seven staircase steps. They were seven colors in all; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple.

“Merlin, look at those seven different colored staircase steps. Once you’ve climbed all seven steps, you can walk up to the multi-colored ball of light and obtain the treasure left behind by the Origin Lord! As for this treasure, even a Lord would go crazy over it...”

The silver puppet looked at the multi-colored ball of light with an intricate expression.

Merlin’s eyes sparkled. A treasure that would drive even a Lord crazy was definitely extraordinary. He was very excited. Nonetheless, looking at the seven different colored steps, he did not dare underestimate it.

“I’ll try!”

Merlin quickly flew toward the seven staircase steps. Then, he came to the red first step. Merlin could sense that these seven staircase steps contained a mighty power. Therefore, he hesitated for a moment but finally decided.

“Boom.”

As soon as Merlin set foot on the red first step, a series of runes quickly formed a Runic Magic Circle and trapped Merlin.

“Runic Magic Circle? Break!”

Seeing that it was a Runic Magic Circle, Merlin heaved a breath of relief. Although the Runic Magic Circle was strong enough to bind a Great Legend, Merlin’s abilities were now comparable to a two-Maxim Legend.

Therefore, he wielded his spell, fashioned it into a long spear, and tore the Runic Magic Circle.

“That wasn’t too difficult.”

Merlin passed through the red first step easily. Hence, without any hesitation, he was prepared to climb onto the orange second step.

This time, Merlin felt blocked by an invisible barrier, preventing him from landing his foot on the orange second step.

“This bit of power can’t stop me!”

Behind Merlin, the Five-Elemental Wizard Heart loomed. A surge of Magic Power rapidly wrapped around Merlin. Then, with the power of the Wizard Heart, Merlin broke through the invisible barrier and stepped onto the orange second step.

Merlin stopped for a moment on the second step of the staircase. He was gathering his strength before taking another aggressive step.

“Boom.”

An even more powerful force appeared. The third step, the fourth step, the fifth step...

Merlin advanced step by step, seemingly unstoppable. The Wizard Heart on his body was unleashing all its power.

However, upon arriving at the fifth step, Merlin was unable to land on the step. Even his Five-Elemental Wizard Heart dimmed a little but Merlin still could not enter the green fifth step.

Merlin knew that this was his limit. He could not go any further. His attempt of the third challenge was a failure!

In a distance, the silver puppet's face also revealed a look of disappointment. The puppet appeared to be dismayed that Merlin did not manage to clear all seven steps of the staircase in a single try.

“Wizard Merlin, don't worry. You still have a chance to attempt the third challenge again!”

Merlin nodded. He cast another glance at the seven staircase steps, and left the third layer subspace with the silver puppet. They returned to the first layer subspace.

Merlin was just about to leave when his eyes landed on the warship halved by the Origin Lord. This was an empire-level warship of the Atlan civilization. As for the Atlan civilization, Merlin would not underestimate them at all. Perhaps, there were some bounties to be found inside.

“I would like to enter this warship. Is that possible?”

Merlin knew that the silver puppet controlled the entire multi-layered subspace, so he asked the silver puppet.

“Oh? You're a smart one! This is an Atlan civilization's empire-level warship. Just because Master did not find anything useful inside doesn't mean that you won't either. There are indeed some good things inside but whether or not you can obtain it is up to you. However, I must warn you. Although this warship has been destroyed by Master, some of the puppets in it have gradually recovered. Furthermore, I don't know if anything has changed. So, you must be careful!”

Merlin nodded. “I'll be careful. Can I go in now?”

Merlin's heart was bursting with excitement. An empire-level warship was a terrifying vessel that was comparable to an Honored Legend. In fact, just the liquid memory metal robots alone tempted Merlin to no end.

If only he could obtain a large quantity of such resilient robots, then his worry about the loss of Spell Casters would no longer be a material concern. This was well-suited to confront the Church of Light!

Thus, brimming with excitement, Merlin swiftly flew toward the humongous warship!

Chapter 684: Entering the Warship II

It was pitch-black. Merlin cautiously stepped onto the humongous warship. Since the warship had been split in half, Merlin did not know which side was more important. Thus, he entered from the rear and walked toward the front. His Mind Power did not let down its guard at all, carefully observing everything around him.

Compared to his sight, Merlin had more faith in his Mind Power. No matter how well-hidden something might be, his Mind Power would be able to detect it. Additionally, Merlin's body was covered by a white layer of sleet armor. This was a defensive spell wielded by his Five-Elemental Wizard Heart. In such a foreign and dangerous place, naturally, Merlin did not dare to lower his guard.

The warship was massive, bigger than any casting tool Merlin had ever seen before. In fact, even Arcane Wizard Setoh's castle was not as humongous as this warship.

"Fire!"

A ball of white flames appeared in Merlin's palm, illuminating the interior. The spacious warship was quite empty and was covered with a thick layer of dust. Clearly, no one had entered this place in a very long time.

Merlin gently pressed his hand against the cold warship. The cold sensation almost allowed him to feel the drastic transformation undergone by this warship. Subsequently, he made a bold move. He consolidated the flames into a fist and swung a violent punch at the warship.

"Bang."

There was a loud noise but the warship remained unblemished!

Merlin narrowed his eyes. Now, he gained a new understanding of the strength of this warship. At his current level of abilities, it was impossible to make even a dent on it. This further attested to the claim that this warship was comparable to an Honored Legend and that it was not a bluff.

Moving on, Merlin saw some glassware or clear crystal containers filled with a white, translucent liquid. It did not look like water and seemed very mysterious.

There was no light whatsoever on the entire warship. It was dark and cold. The only noises were from Merlin's footsteps.

After continuing for a short distance, Merlin came to the broken part of the warship. He only walked in a straight line, so there might be some hidden corners that he had not explored.

Nevertheless, it seemed like there was nothing much to discover in the rear half of the warship. Merlin flew directly across the broken portion toward the front half of the warship. He knew that the front part of the warship was its port of control.

In the front half of the warship, there was a variety of instruments, plus the routes were more obvious. Merlin passed by a number of heavyset doors. At the same time, he saw that there were huge gaping holes all over the body of the exceedingly sturdy warship.

Earlier, his full-powered attack did not leave even a scratch on the warship, much less pierce it. Hence, the gaping holes in this warship were not achievable by an ordinary Legend. Perhaps, even an Honored Legend was not capable of unleashing such staggering destruction on this warship.

"Is this the Origin Lord's doing?"

Merlin quickly remembered who had destroyed this warship. Only the Origin Lord would possess such formidable power that even an empire-level warship could be easily destroyed.

Going forward, Merlin felt like he had returned to his past life. However, the technology of this warship had obviously surpassed that of his past life. Perhaps, only in the fantasy novels would one see such advanced technology.

"Hmm? That is..."

Merlin raised his head abruptly. Without noticing, he had entered a great hall. Lined along the two sides of the great hall were four black robots with a metallic luster, similar to those Merlin had encountered in the first challenge.

“Beep. Incoming enemy invasion. Command, exterminate!”

The four ice-cold robots’ hollow eyes suddenly flashed red. Their heads snapped up abruptly, seemingly “awakening” from their slumber.

Merlin was caught by surprise. He did not think that there would still be robots on this broken warship. Nevertheless, accompanying this shock was a faint sense of excitement. As long as there were robots, there was a chance for him to seize control over these robots.

“Swish swish.”

These robots were incredibly fast. They flew toward Merlin with outstretched arms. A frightening blast of laser cannon shot straight at Merlin, causing him to gasp in surprise. When he previously encountered the puppets in the first challenge, they did not have such formidable weaponry as laser cannons.

However, it was impossible for him to evade now. Merlin harrumphed and strengthened the defensive spell on his body. He did not believe that the laser cannon from these robots could smash through the mightier-than-Great-Legend defense on his body.

“Darkness Eye, Silencing Ray!”

Merlin also extended his hand. Darkness Eye in his palm loomed and glistened with a crimson glow.

At the same time, a huge eye appeared behind Merlin. A destructive ray shot out and encapsulated the four robots.

“Zap zap zap zap.”

The seventh form of Darkness Eye, Silencing Ray! This was a power comparable to a Great Legend. Instantly, the four robots were reduced into tiny smithereens.

“Boom.”

Finally, the spell on Merlin’s body collided violently with the laser cannons. The powerful impact rattled Merlin’s body. However, the defensive spell over Merlin’s body reacted with a water-like motion, causing multiple ripples to form across the surface. Subsequently, the impact turned invisible.

“Such a strong impact. These four robots are only on par with an average peak Great Wizard at most but equipped with these laser cannons, they’re approaching the level of a civilization-level prodigy!”

Approaching the level of a civilization-level prodigy was synonymous with approaching the level of a Great Legend. Merlin no longer dared to regard these robots lightly. Even though their laser cannons did not manage to harm Merlin, any other Spell Casters or even a Great Legend, if not careful, could be heavily injured or killed by these.

Seeing the four robots that were smashed into smithereens by Silencing Ray, Merlin’s expression remained grave. With a large outstretched hand, his spell transformed into a giant net and captured the four robots.

Very soon, these smithereens reassembled into four robots. However, they had been trapped by Merlin. No matter how much they struggled, it was futile.

“How do I control these robots?”

Although Merlin knew that these robots were controlled by a program in their bodies, he was not capable of overwriting it.

“Whatever. I’ll keep them bound until I find the control center of the warship!”

Merlin was very tempted by these robots. Since he was not an alchemy master, naturally, he could not replicate what the Origin Lord did. That would involve destroying the robots, and then using the liquid memory metal from their bodies to transfigure a new puppet. This would essentially achieve the same effect as the robots.

Nonetheless, the Origin Lord did not originate from the Atlan civilization. Therefore, though the puppets he transfigured retained the “immortal” characteristic, they lost various other tactics such as the laser cannon. As a result, their combat powers were greatly diminished.

Perhaps, the Origin Lord also discovered the drawbacks of his method, so he stopped transfiguring new puppets, and instead, found a way to control the martial arts robots. As for how the Origin Lord had managed to control the robots, Merlin did not know. However, Merlin had a feeling that the martial arts robots were a little peculiar as though they were not being controlled by a program.

As to the details of how they were peculiar, Merlin could not articulate it. Perhaps, if he could find the command center of the warship, he would be able to learn the specifics of these robots.

Soon enough, Merlin walked out of the spacious great hall and found himself in a narrow compartment. Inside, there were instruments everywhere with complicated switches on them. Judging by the array of instruments and switches here, it was not difficult to infer that this was the control center of the warship.

Although he had arrived in the control center, Merlin found himself helpless against these complicated instruments. He did not understand any of these instruments, much less to operate the control center and regain control over this warship.

“Beep. A large amount of new information found. Scan?”

The previously silent Matrix suddenly came to life.

Chapter 685: The Atlan Civilization!

“The Matrix?”

Merlin felt a jolt in his heart. Ever since he had derived the Ninth-level Spell Models, he basically had not used the Matrix anymore. The Matrix which had accompanied him throughout his journey of growth was no longer of any use.

Now that it had started up suddenly, Merlin was astonished.

After a moment of consideration, Merlin concluded that the Matrix was ultimately still an intelligent quantum super-calculator. Perhaps it could assist him in controlling this warship. Therefore, Merlin took a deep breath. "Confirm scan!"

"Beep. Starting scan."

Following that, the Matrix began to scan. None of the information aboard the warship could evade the Matrix's scan.

"Beep. Scan complete. A large amount of new data is available. Continue with analysis?"

"Continue with analysis!"

Merlin spoke without hesitation. He wished to see how much information and data that the Matrix had gathered on the warship.

After Merlin's command was given, there was a long wait. Merlin knew clearly how terrifying the calculating and analyzing powers of the Matrix were. It was able to derive tens of thousands of complex Spell Models in a very short time.

The amount of data it was able to process was nearly inconceivable. However, the Matrix had been in constant operation now for a few hours but there was no sign that it was about to be done. Merlin was rather dumbstruck at this.

"How much information does this warship really contain? Even the Matrix is spending so much time..."

Merlin furrowed his brows. He had some hesitations about this now but he could not do anything. His only course of action was to wait in silence.

Time passed bit by bit. After around seven or eight hours, Merlin opened his eyes with a joyful expression. The Matrix had finally successfully received and analyzed a tremendous amount of data.

Merlin was able to control the Matrix, so at once he ordered, “Transfer data!”

“Boom.”

Merlin did not even have the chance to get used to it when he felt his boundless Awareness about to burst from swelling. There was far too much information, and even Merlin’s current Mind Power and immense Awareness were unable to stand it.

“Stop. Transfer data slowly.”

Merlin hurriedly commanded the Matrix. With this new command, the Matrix began to gradually transfer the data, and images appeared in Merlin’s mind one after another.

From these images, Merlin saw a race that appeared superficially similar to Spell Casters. These were “humans” as well but it was a peculiar civilization. They lived below a vast, starry sky in dense groups, packed into a colossal building shaped like a honeycomb. Below the starry sky, there were also Spatial Passages that were fixed in place, called Spatial Nodes.

These beings proudly called themselves Atlans, and the civilization they created was called the Atlan civilization. They were able to manufacture warships which filled the sky and innumerable powerful robots. The starry sky where they were was far too big. Merlin knew that this was, in fact, a dimension of gigantic proportions. Even Merlin himself had never seen such a massive dimension. One would need to combine dozens of dimensions at least to compare to the Atlan Dimension.

Nonetheless, Merlin astutely sensed from these images that, within the Atlan Dimension, beneath that endless starry sky, there were no Elements. This meant that their lifespans were brief, and they were incapable of becoming Great Wizards, just like Merlin in his previous life.

Perhaps it was precisely due to these unique conditions that the unique Atlan civilization was born. They had developed an utterly different civilization. They no longer fortified their own bodies but relied upon external equipment. They researched the essence of material things and mastered immense power in that manner. This was technology!

The Atlan civilization relied upon material things, investigating their essence, thus gaining control over strength which superseded the individual. This was very different from the other foreign civilizations of the Void Zone.

Regardless of whether it was the Tree Tribe, the Giant Tribe, or the Rock Tribe, no matter how unusual their methods were, they were the same as the Spell Caster civilization. The path they walked was one of strengthening one's own self, to the point where one could create dimensions and destroy heavens.

Although the Atlan civilization was so powerful, they had not traveled beyond their dimension in general. They had conquered every corner of their own dimension but were ultimately unable to leave the place. It was like there was an invisible binding upon their dimension. In other words, the strength of the Atlan civilization was not enough to break this binding.

The Atlan civilization had even once thought that they were the masters of the heavens or of the world, that they were supreme beings. Nonetheless, one day, power of unimaginable magnitude tore apart the shackles of that dimension.

The Spell Caster civilization had arrived!

The three Ultimate Arcane Wizards had led the Spell Caster civilization to rise in the vast, endless Void Zone. They rapidly grew to become one of the strongest civilizations. They even thought that there was no dimension which was unconquerable, until one day, they found a peculiar dimension, which not even an Arcane Wizard was able to enter alone.

Therefore, the three Arcane Wizards combined their powers to break the binding. They prepared to enter, and take over this strange dimension in great excitement. Unexpectedly, what they had released was a dimension which would cause catastrophe for them.

Soon, it was a ruthless war! Two proud, autonomous civilizations which had never met before erupted into a war without warning. It was the first time the Spell Caster civilization suffered serious losses. Those warships, as wide as the sky, could smother even Great Honored Legends. Even Lords were at risk.

What was more frightening was the nearly endless offensive capacity of the Atlan civilization. They were able to mass-produce martial arts robots comparable to Great Legends. This was a majestic force, relentless and overwhelming, immediately spreading the fires of war to the origin of the Spell Caster civilization, the Glorious Land!

That war was the cruelest of all. The Glorious Land was grievously damaged, and the Molta Empire founded by the Spell Casters, at the pinnacle of its might, collapsed within a night. Great Legends and Honored Legends were lost one after another.

This was a war more terrible than the war between the Spell Caster civilization and the gods.

The information ended here. After all, back then, this warship had merely lit the fires of war in the Glorious Land before it was annihilated by the Origin Lord.

In the data supplied by the Matrix, the Atlans naturally labeled the Spell Casters as intruders and fiends. In short, all these various names embodied the mutual hatred of both parties without exception.

As for the subsequent developments, naturally, Merlin was unclear. Nonetheless, he knew the ending. Currently, there was one Ultimate Arcane Wizard who was expressly keeping watch over the surroundings of the Atlan Dimension. The war with the Atlan civilization had carried forward up until the present.

Evidently, even though the Atlan civilization was powerful, Spell Casters still gained the upper hand, suppressing the Atlan civilization firmly within the Atlan Dimension.

As to why the Ultimate Arcane Wizard had not acted to thoroughly wipe out the Atlan civilization, Merlin was in the dark as well.

“Phew...”

Merlin heaved a long sigh. This was only a small part of the vast amount of information. The rest of it was the records of the warship on the mystical technology of the Atlan civilization. These records comprised more than ninety percent of the tremendous data. Of course, for those who had no understanding of the Atlan civilization’s technology, even someone like Merlin, this data was quite useless.

Having understood the general situation of the Atlan civilization, Merlin turned to look once again at the control center of the warship. If he had no way of starting up the control center, he would be unable to control the warship.

“Matrix, is there a way to control this warship?”

The Matrix was intelligent. Now that it had received so much information, Merlin had guessed that the Matrix might be able to control this warship. Even if it could not control all of it, even a part of the warship would do.

“The central intelligence of the warship has been damaged. It’s possible to attempt gaining the highest-level access of the warship!”

When he heard the response of the Matrix, Merlin felt a burst of elation. He realized it was true after he gave it careful thought. If this warship still had any intelligent procedural control left, it would not be in such a state. Moreover, the Matrix would not possibly be able to have obtained so much information easily. After all, this information was the core secret of the warship.

“Beep. Success in gaining highest-level access to the warship!”

Upon hearing the familiar voice of the Matrix, Merlin finally stopped worrying and nodded. “Activate the warship!”

“The warship has sustained significant damage. Activation might induce unforeseeable dangers. Confirm activation?”

Without missing a beat, Merlin replied, “Activate the warship!”

To the current Merlin, what danger could he possibly encounter in this damaged warship?

“Rumble.”

The entire warship began to shudder, and bursts of light flickered across the pitch-darkness of the warship. Nonetheless, after a short moment, the warship fell into complete silence once again without the slightest movement.

“What happened?”

Merlin frowned, not knowing what had just happened.

“The power source of the warship is exhausted. There’s no backup source. There’s no way to activate the warship!”

“Power source?”

Merlin suddenly recalled the previous information. There was a passage which mentioned that the Atlans had practically conquered the entire starry sky with a highly developed civilization. However, a technological civilization was very reliant upon its power source. Without a source, those warships, giant cannons, and robots were nothing but scraps.

Therefore, although the binding of the Atlan Dimension was broken by the three Ultimate Arcane Wizards, the Atlan civilization itself wished to go beyond its dimension, to gain an endless energy source.

“What energy is required to start up the warship?”

Merlin was too lazy to go through the information in his head. After all, there was way too much data. Merlin did not want to bear that anguish again. Asking the Matrix was evidently the quickest way.

“The warship contains a high-powered engine furnace, which can break down most minerals and materials, turning them into the energy required by the warship.”

The Matrix replied.

“A high-powered engine furnace? I wonder if it’s able to break down elemental crystal stones.”

Merlin thought about it and finally decided to give it a go. If it could transmute this energy, of course, that would be the best. This warship had immense value, especially in a place like the Glorious Land where Spell Casters had fallen behind. The warship and the robots on board could be of great assistance to Merlin.

Thus, following the directions of the Matrix, Merlin came to a high-powered engine furnace located at the deepest core of the warship. Its position was strictly guarded as well. Even the Origin Lord back then, upon slaying all the Atlans aboard the warship and destroying the robots, had left right away. As a result, this high-powered engine furnace was completely undamaged.

It was because of this that Merlin had a sliver of hope to start up the warship. Nevertheless, this was assuming the engine furnace could function as usual, and that it was able to break down and transmute the elemental crystal stones into energy required by the warship.

“I might as well try!”

Merlin opened his Spatial Ring and instantly tossed over ten thousand elemental crystal stones into the high-powered engine furnace, which was pitch-black and covered in dust.

Following that, he stood beside the high-powered engine furnace, waiting wordlessly.

Chapter 686: Activating the Warship!

“Sizzle sizzle.”

When Merlin had poured more than ten thousand elemental crystal stones into the dusty and extremely shabby high-powered engine furnace, it gave a slight reaction and started to emit an odd sound.

Moreover, after this sound rang out, the warship began to flicker with lights but in an unsteady manner.

“Beep. The power source of the warship hasn’t reached one percent, thus unable to fulfill the lowest requirement of activating the warship. Please continue adding energy!”

The voice of the Matrix sounded once more. Currently, the Matrix had already taken over the control desk of the warship’s core. All the changes within the warship would be monitored by the Matrix.

“It’s actually succeeded in transmuting energy!”

Merlin looked at the high-powered engine furnace which was operating by now, his heart filled with endless delight. This high-powered engine furnace's ability to break down energy had exceeded his expectations. Although the energy from more than ten thousand elemental crystal stones was not even one percent of the warship's power, Merlin could continue to fling in more elemental crystal stones.

Soon, elemental crystal stones cascaded from the Spatial Ring like sand, thrown into the high-powered engine furnace by Merlin. This time, it was not ten thousand but more than a million elemental crystal stones.

“Beep. The energy has reached one percent. You can activate the warship now. Confirm activation?”

The Matrix's voice this time was not much of a pleasant surprise to Merlin. He had thrown in a full million elemental crystal stones but this had merely replenished one percent of the warship's energy source.

If he wished to completely replenish the power source of the warship, he would need at least a hundred million elemental crystal stones. Even to the present Merlin, this was an astronomical sum.

“Don't activate it for now!”

Merlin gritted his teeth and immediately tossed in over ten million elemental crystal stones. Instantly, the power source of the entire warship had increased to eleven percent. Although this was still a small amount, it was no longer as risky as before. He could use the warship to do many things now.

“Activate the warship completely!”

Merlin commanded the Matrix. Soon, the entire warship started to tremble.

“Buzz.”

That seemed to be the ruckus of the warship's mechanical system being activated. Following that, the warship was entirely illuminated. Dazzling lights lit up the warship as if it was daylight.

Merlin carefully scrutinized the control center of the warship. After there was a power source, he could sense that the whole warship seemed to have "come alive".

"Matrix, inspect the extent of damage of the warship!"

Merlin urgently wanted to know whether this warship was still valuable. In that case, first, he must ascertain how badly damaged the warship was.

"Scan completed. In total, the warship is over ninety percent damaged! Restoration will take a long time and a lot of power. Complete restoration now?"

More than ninety percent of the warship had been damaged. This was something Merlin had predicted. After all, even the body of the warship was broken into two. This level of damage meant that it was basically scrap metal.

However, the final line of the Matrix made Merlin gasped in shock.

"It's been damaged so seriously. Can it still be restored?"

Merlin found it hard to imagine, with such a heavily damaged warship, how could it possibly be restored?

"The high-powered engine furnace at the core of the warship wasn't damaged. Therefore, if one manufactures some repair robots, with enough energy, it can be restored in a few decades!"

It turned out that the core of the warship was still the high-powered engine furnace. Still, after some careful thought, Merlin realized it was true. The high-powered engine furnace was not damaged and could produce energy endlessly.

With energy, it could do many things. Manufacturing repair robots was nothing too difficult. However, the energy required to do so must be quite frightening.

“How much power is needed to manufacture a repair robot?”

“A repair robot requires a hundredth of one percent of the warship’s power!”

Upon hearing the Matrix’s words, Merlin fell into contemplation. The warship currently still had eleven percent of power. One percent would be enough to make a hundred repair robots.

This would greatly reduce the time taken to restore the warship.

“Manufacture a hundred robots!”

“Beep. Task received. Inspecting system for manufacturing repair robots – it’s intact, so manufacturing is possible! It will take at least three days to manufacture a hundred repair robots.”

Three days was not too long. Merlin thought that he might as well stay in the warship, learning more about it while he waited for the manufacturing of the repair robots.

“Let me look at the manufacturing of the repair robots.”

Merlin was curious as well. The Atlan civilization’s empire-level warship was too amazing. Even when it was damaged to this stage, as long as the high-powered engine furnace was not ruined, and there was enough energy, it could repair itself slowly. This was a rather intelligent warship.

At the moment, the entire warship was controlled by the Matrix. The Matrix was equivalent to the warship’s brain, so Merlin could go anywhere he liked without issue.

Soon, under the Matrix’s direction, Merlin came to a sealed secret chamber in the warship. Here, everything was guarded tightly. A gigantic furnace with flames ignited inside was liquefying a strange metal.

Following that, the metal flowed to a massive assembly line, undergoing complicated forging processes. A brand-new robot was manufactured, then cast into a slack tub in the warship, taking shape at last!

The final step for the formed robot was to be implanted with a control chip. This control chip contained complex information on repairing. After this robot was implanted with this chip, it immediately became a master mechanic with refined skills, able to repair the various damaged spots of the warship.

“This power of technology is completely different from the Spell Caster civilization!”

Merlin was deeply astounded. This was like using up a bit of energy in addition to special minerals and metals, and being able to “manufacture” batches of Great Alchemists, Rune Wizards, Potion Masters, and so on.

Of course, these robots were incapable of sensing Elements, using Magic Power or having Mind Power, so they could not become Great Alchemists, Rune Wizards or Potion Masters. However, becoming a master mechanic, in the context of the Atlan civilization, was on par with becoming a Great Alchemist in the Spell Caster civilization.

Merlin was able to understand how fearsome the Atlan civilization was as he watched the manufacturing of repair robots one after another.

He still wanted to see the entire warship and learn all about it.

With the Matrix, Merlin’s understanding of the warship grew swiftly. This empire-level warship provided Merlin with mind-blowing concepts.

This warship contained a living zone, information zone, combat zone, inspection zone, and so on whereas robots consisted of repair robots, mining robots, construction robots, cleaning robots, battle robots, and more.

It could be said that every warship of the Atlan civilization was practically a miniature version of the Atlan civilization. If even one warship was able to source a location with an energy source and minerals, the more than ten thousand population of the warship could slowly establish a new Atlan civilization.

This was the scary thing about the Atlan civilization. Each warship was a seed of the Atlan civilization. As long as they were not completely wiped out, the Atlan civilization would rise up swiftly without any gaps in development as all of the Atlan civilization's technology was stored in the warship.

In fact, this was the tremendous store of information that Merlin had received with the Matrix. In essence, it was the accumulation of the Atlan civilization's technology back then. With this information in addition to more than ten thousand Atlans on the warship, they could create an entire new Atlan civilization.

However, now that the warship had been destroyed by the Origin Lord, and there was not a single Atlan left on board, and the ship was over ninety percent damaged, it would not be that easy to restore the warship.

“Beep. One hundred repair robots have been manufactured. Begin full restoration of warship?”

The Matrix's voice rang in Merlin's mind. By now, Merlin had a decent understanding of the warship, no longer as clueless as he was before.

He thought about it, and asked, “How much energy would be needed to fully restore the warship?”

“The damage is too severe, so calculation is impossible. However, the present level of energy is insufficient by far. You can choose partial restoration for now!”

Merlin nodded. This was the key point. The power source was the main issue in the end. The current level of energy was not enough for a complete restoration. Even if he filled up the power source fully, it would not be enough.

Who knew how much power was needed just to repair that broken section?

As for partial restoration, Merlin had not considered what to restore. At the moment, what was most important to him were those battle robots.

“How many types of battle robots are there onboard?”

“The battle robots are divided into ordinary battle robot, superior battle robot, and martial arts robot. Although there are robots stronger than the martial arts robot, the design of an empire-level warship is unable to manufacture stronger robots!”

Merlin studied this in greater detail. Ordinary battle robots were very tough as well, essentially comparable to an average Great Wizard. Destroying a city would be a walk in the park. As for superior robots, those were the four robots Merlin had previously encountered, on par with preeminent Great Wizards. As for martial arts robots, Merlin had experienced them before as well. They were definitely comparable to a Great Legend!

From the Matrix’s explanation, Merlin knew that there were even stronger robots in the Atlan civilization, stronger than martial arts robots. Nonetheless, this was merely an empire-level warship. The strongest it could manufacture were martial arts robots.

Even so, this excited Merlin to no end. This was basically mass-producing existences on par with Great Legends!

With this in mind, Merlin instantly said in high spirits, “Matrix, manufacture martial arts robots right away.”

Merlin thought about the immense strength of those four martial arts robots at the second challenge. If he could manufacture a few of those, it would be enough to sweep away the Glorious Land completely!

Chapter 687: Leaving

However, reality was cruel. As soon as Merlin spoke, the Matrix immediately replied, “There’s a malfunction in the manufacturing room. Restoration is required. Begin restoration?”

“There’s a malfunction?”

Merlin clenched his jaw and said in a low voice, “Restore immediately, as quickly as possible!”

The entire ship was over ninety percent damaged. It was normal for the place which manufactured martial arts robots to be damaged as well. Merlin could not help but rejoice that

he had first manufactured repair robots. Otherwise, resolving malfunctions would take up an unknown amount of time.

Soon, a hundred repair robots surged toward the manufacturing room of martial arts robots, bustling around swiftly. With a hundred repair robots doing restoration work, naturally, the process was very fast. Nonetheless, Merlin saw another downside – consumption of power was too fast.

Initially, he had manufactured a hundred repair robots, using only one percent of the energy source, leaving ten percent left. However, as the repair robots worked endlessly to repair the malfunction in the manufacturing room now, it was taking up a lot of power too. Very soon, the energy bar fell quickly. In a mere half an hour, it had fallen by one percent. Now there was only nine percent of the power source left.

“Repairing one malfunction already requires so much energy?”

Merlin was somewhat taken aback. This was just a small malfunction. If he were to fully restore the ship in the future, the amount of power that would be consumed would be astronomical.

After more time had passed, another hour went by. The energy bar was left with eight percent. The amount of energy used to repair one small malfunction induced a sense of helplessness in Merlin.

“Beep.”

Just as Merlin wondered if the power would be used up incessantly, the Matrix’s voice finally rang out. “Restoration complete. The malfunction has been resolved. Continue to manufacture martial arts robots?”

Naturally, Merlin said without hesitation, “Begin manufacturing!”

Following that, Merlin began to wait in silence.

However, after a long moment, there was no movement in the warship. Merlin could not help but ask, “Matrix, what’s the matter?”

“Rumble.”

The entire warship suddenly quaked slightly, and the Matrix’s voice rang out again, “Energy insufficient. A huge amount of energy is required, please replenish!”

Merlin’s expression shifted at this. The energy was insufficient, but how much was really needed to manufacture one martial arts robot?

“How much energy is actually needed to manufacture one martial arts robot?”

“According to calculations, manufacturing one martial arts robot requires a hundred percent of the warship’s power source. Please supply more energy!”

“A hundred percent?”

Merlin’s mouth was agape as he stood there blankly. He had already used up more than ten million elemental crystal stones and only managed to replenish the energy to eleven percent. If it were a hundred percent, would he not need at least a hundred million elemental crystal stones?

“Fine, I’ll forget about the martial arts robot for now. Then how much power is needed for a superior robot?”

Merlin had already given up on manufacturing a martial arts robot for now. The cost was too high. Even if he dug up all his elemental crystal stones now, he could not possibly replenish the power source of the warship to a hundred percent. Naturally, he would not be able to manufacture a martial arts robot.

It looked like Merlin’s fantasy of leading a few martial arts robots to sweep away Glorious Land was too naïve. He could only abort it before he even began.

“A superior robot requires at least ten percent of the warship’s power!”

The Matrix's reply caused more doubts in Merlin. Ten percent of the energy meant at least ten million elemental crystal stones in exchange for a superior robot at the level of a preeminent Great Wizard. In huge numbers, this was a terrifying force but Merlin did not have so many elemental crystal stones.

"What about an ordinary battle robot?"

"It would require at least one percent of the warship's power!"

An ordinary battle robot was a powerful existence on par with a Great Wizard. It needed only one percent, which was worth it. However, Merlin, who was unclear about the workings of the Church of Light, was unwilling to spend energy in manufacturing a batch of ordinary robots.

"That's right. Can I change the chips of these four robots to obey my orders?"

Merlin recalled the four robots he had captured back in the warship. These robots should be superior robots, powerful as well, already very close to a civilization-level genius or a Great Legend.

"It's possible to program four new control chips to replace the old control chips."

The Matrix was in control of the warship, and thus able to program new chips from scratch. Naturally, Merlin was overjoyed, so he nodded. "Program the new chips!"

"Beep. Chip room is badly damaged, and requires restoration."

Merlin's face was wooden by now. He had expected this long ago, so he ordered the chip room to be repaired. He watched as the energy dropped from eight percent to five percent. At last, the restoration of the chip room was a success, and it had newly programmed four chips.

Soon, Merlin controlled the four superior robots to go into the chip room and started to switch out their chips.

The process of changing the chips went smoothly. After all the chips were switched, when the four superior robots awakened once more, they were utterly deferential toward Merlin. They would obey any command from him, even if he asked them to self-destruct.

“Matrix, how many undamaged robots are left on the warship?”

These robots on the warship had recovered slowly throughout this long period. Perhaps there were some who were slowly repaired when the warship still had power.

Therefore, in the warship, there should be a considerable number of robots. If their chips could be changed, Merlin would not have to use up much power to obtain a formidable force.

“Scanning complete. In the warship, there are five additional superior robots and thirteen ordinary robots!”

“Oh? There’s still so many?”

Merlin’s eyes brightened. Following that, he personally led the four superior robots, and with the Matrix’s help, easily captured those other robots.

Thereafter, he changed their chips. In total, he had used up one percent of the power source to get five superior robots and thirteen ordinary robots under his control.

Merlin now commanded nine superior robots and thirteen ordinary robots. This was a rather fearsome force. It should be known that the superior robots were equivalent to preeminent Great Wizards. In addition to their weapons, they were close to Great Legends, perhaps only slightly lacking in comparison to Kleis who had special Spatial Pandora Demon Ability.

By relying on these twenty-two robots, Merlin had enough to conquer the entire Spell Caster world of the Glorious Land.

“I should leave!”

Merlin stood in the warship. With the power source maintaining things, this warship shone with a “vitality”. Nonetheless, because of insufficient power, it could not be restored.

As a result, Merlin gave an order to the Matrix. The operation of the entire warship should be maintained with the lowest energy possible. There was no need to restore it for now. In the

future, after Merlin had enough elemental crystal stones or other things which the warship could transmute into energy, he could restore the warship.

“Whoosh.”

Merlin flew out and stared at the two broken halves of the warship. Naturally, Merlin did not wish to abandon this warship here for it was comparable to an Honored Legend, and had a chance of being restored.

Therefore, Merlin took out a Spatial Ring. He had killed some powerful existences before and obtained some Spatial Rings. He took the one with the biggest space within, aimed it at the warship, and yelled, “Keep!”

“Swoosh.”

As soon as he spoke, the colossal warship trembled lightly but soon, it disappeared without a trace. Merlin used his Mind Power to look within the Spatial Ring. The vast space within the ring was now occupied by this mammoth warship but it looked rather compact, meaning that the space within the Spatial Ring was not very adequate.

“I’ll have to find a Spatial Ring with a bigger space!”

Merlin had never worried about space. After all, no matter how many elemental crystal stones he carried, the Spatial Ring could fit everything with such a large space. However, this warship was way too big, so the space it needed was naturally very large. Merlin needed a Spatial Ring with more space.

Upon detecting a commotion near the warship, the silver puppet appeared suddenly. He stared at the place where the warship had been, which was now a wide, empty gap, and could not help but ask, “You’ve taken the warship?”

Merlin nodded. “The things aboard this warship are very useful to me. I’ve already kept it in my Spatial Ring. I can take it with me, right?”

“Of course, you can. This warship isn’t of much use here anyway.”

The silver puppet did not stop Merlin. This was a space created by the Origin Lord in the first place to await true prodigies. Merlin had passed the two challenges and might attempt the third in the future. He was practically half a disciple of the Origin Lord. Naturally, the silver puppet would not object.

“That’s right. I wonder if I can take a look at those four martial arts puppet?”

Merlin asked the silver puppet.

“Look at the martial arts puppet?”

The silver puppet hesitated for a beat. Perhaps it considered that Merlin was practically half a disciple of the Origin Lord, so it finally nodded. “Sure!”

Therefore, Merlin followed behind the silver puppet and reached the second layer of subspace. When he saw the four martial arts puppets once again, Merlin finally learned how the Origin Lord had controlled these four martial arts robots without changing their chips.

It turned out that the Origin Lord had used the method of puppet transfiguration. He had imprinted martial arts into the four puppets with a method similar to a mind imprint. Therefore, even without a chip, these four martial arts puppets possessed the force of the Origin Lord, able to explode with formidable strength.

“If I can capture these four martial arts puppets and implant new chips, I’ll be able to completely control these four martial arts puppets!”

Merlin’s eyes brightened. The Origin Lord was a Great Lord, and his mind imprint was powerful but this was nothing in comparison to a Mind Power Master like Merlin.

Even if Merlin was unable to forcibly remove the Origin Lord’s mind imprint with his current abilities, he still had the help of the Illusory World and was sure to succeed.

“Can I bring these four martial arts puppets with me?”

Merlin suddenly asked the silver puppet.

“Bring the martial arts puppets away?”

The silver puppet was slightly startled but soon shook its head. “They were left behind by Master back then, so you can’t take them away! Unless you pass the third challenge in the future and obtain the treasure he had left. In which case, this place won’t serve a purpose anymore. The subspace will collapse automatically. At that point, it’s up to you whether you want to bring these puppets away. However, for now, you can’t!”

Merlin frowned. If he could bring these four martial arts puppets with him, he was almost a hundred percent certain of removing the Origin Lord’s mind imprint. Thus, he would be able to control these four martial arts robots almost comparable to Great Legends.

“What if I take them by force?”

Merlin’s voice was steely. He did not think that there was any force here which could stop him. Regardless of whether it was the silver puppet or the four martial arts puppets, they had no way to stop him.

“Take them by force? This is a multi-layered subspace left behind by Master. Even a Great Legend, if they tried to act recklessly here, would be killed instantly!”

The silver puppet’s words were followed by an indescribable pressure in the entire subspace, causing Merlin to feel an intense threat. It was as if once this power exploded, he would be unable to block it no matter what methods he used.

Merlin was overwhelmed with shock, only coming to his senses now. Since it was left behind by the Origin Lord, how could there not be any protective measures? Honored Legends would be killed as well. Merlin had no doubt about that.

With this in mind, Merlin could only say helplessly, “I’ll surely return to pass the third challenge!”

With that, he turned to leave and exited the subspace left by the Origin Lord in one step.

Chapter 688: The Purple Gold Crown I

“Whoosh.”

Merlin’s figure appeared once more in the main foyer of Ozmu Headquarters.

“I’m finally back!”

Merlin finally felt the familiar force once more. Before he could take a good look at his surroundings, frightening Elemental fluctuations suddenly exploded. For an instant, the power of runes and spells filled the air, thundering toward Merlin.

Faced with this attack that was on par with a preeminent Great Wizard, practically right behind Kleis’ power, Merlin simply appeared incomparably calm. He stood his ground silently, a spell armor emerging around him.

“Boom.”

A deafening crash shook the entire foyer, and thick smoke and dust immediately submerged Merlin.

“This bit of power is lacking too much...”

A calm voice could be heard. From the smoke and dust, Merlin’s figure appeared once again, still completely unharmed.

At the moment, there were two Great Wizards with vigorous Elemental fluctuations standing before Merlin. A quick inspection revealed that they were peak Great Wizards. Behind these two were twenty or so Great Wizards.

It was evident that the previous attack which blanketed the entire venue was led by these two.

“If I’m not wrong, you two must be Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian, right?”

Merlin looked at these two peak Great Wizards, and instantly knew their identities. In the inner chamber, he did not find Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian. Unexpectedly, they

had already come out and had set up an ambush at the entrance of the inner chamber, waiting for Merlin to appear.

If it was an average preeminent Great Wizard, even one like Kleis, they would have been caught unprepared to deal with this sudden sneak attack. However, whom they had met was Merlin, who was even more terrifying than a civilization-level genius. This small attack was nothing at all and was easily blocked.

“That’s right, Merlin, how bold you are to enter the headquarters of my Ozmu. You’ve gotten help from these two, I suppose?”

Great Wizard Savaron waved his hand promptly, bringing Wizard Tamo and Wizard Gilles before Merlin. Clearly, these two had been captured by Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian.

Merlin spoke in a level tone. “Both of you Wizards already know that Kleis is dead, right? Even Kleis had died at my hands. You two think you can stop me?”

Although Merlin’s tone was even, it roused bursts of ripples in the hearts of these Spell Casters. They were all Great Wizards of Ozmu, so naturally, they knew how strong the First Elder, Kleis, really was.

However, Kleis had been killed by Merlin now. Furthermore, their previous ambush did not do anything at all. In truth, some of these Great Wizards were considering other plans now.

A great change came over the faces of Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian, and they roared in unison, “Be silent! What does Kleis count for? He’s no more than a prodigy we nurtured. The foundation of Ozmu is far beyond what you’ve imagined.”

“Foundation? If you’re referring to the subspace of the Origin Lord, I’ve already gone in and passed two challenges! Perhaps both of you should recognize these puppets!”

A smirk twisted in the corner of Merlin’s mouth. Thereafter, ignoring the startled expressions of those two, he immediately took out the twenty-two robots from his Spatial Ring.

“Swish swish swish.”

The robots appeared in the main foyer one after another. In particular, the nine robots at the front had bodies which were pitch-black and icy cold, inducing a tremble of dread in everyone.

“What are these? Alchemy puppets?”

“These alchemy puppets are really strange. No matter how strong these puppets are, what use can they be?”

“Among our Ozmu, even the best Great Alchemists can only transfigure puppets on par with Ninth-level Spell Casters at most. As for the few puppets left behind from three thousand years ago, they might reach the level of a Great Wizard, but how rare are those? How scary can these puppets be?”

Many of Ozmu’s Great Wizards did not seem to understand much about the robots Merlin had summoned. They assumed these to be alchemy puppets. Even if these puppets were on par with Great Wizards, what use could they be in front of so many Great Wizards?

However, compared to the rest, Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian truly understood these “puppets”. They knew very clearly that this was Ozmu’s greatest secret – the puppets within the Origin Lord’s subspace.

In particular, they were well acquainted with those nine puppets. They had also tried to pass the first challenge prepared by the Origin Lord but suffered a crushing defeat. Only Kleis had managed to pass.

They knew very well that each of these “puppets” was on par with a preeminent Great Wizard. One was enough to cause Ozmu a great headache, to say nothing about nine of them.

Moreover, there were the other ordinary robots, which were formidable existences not inferior to an average Great Wizard. Such a fearsome force would be able to sweep away the entire Spell Caster world. Even if Kleis was not dead, this force was enough to be a threat to him.

“You’ve actually brought the puppets from the subspace. How is that possible?”

Great Wizard Savaron's voice trembled as he spoke. The subspace of the Origin Lord was Ozmu's greatest secret. Back then, they had searched all over for genius Spell Casters, even using Pandora Demon Abilities as a lure in order to get prodigious Wizards to join Ozmu at any cost.

The outstanding ones among these would receive intense nurturing. Once they had reached the level of a peak Great Wizard, they were allowed to enter the subspace left behind by the Origin Lord, to attempt the challenges he had left behind.

Nevertheless, within so many years, there had only been Kleis within Ozmu who had succeeded in passing the first test.

"There's nothing that's impossible. What Kleis couldn't do, I can do! Both of you, I'll give you some time to consider. Can you withstand the attack of just these twenty-two puppets alone?"

After Merlin had finished speaking, he said nothing else, and lightly shut his eyes. Behind him, the twenty-two robots stood in silence as well. In an imperceptible manner, a powerful deterring force was causing uneasiness in the hearts of Great Wizard Savaron and Great Wizard Terian.

"Wizard Savaron, what do we do? Kleis is dead, and even the most important secret of Ozmu, the subspace of the Origin Lord, has been discovered. We've already lost our secret... More importantly, this Merlin is strong enough, even stronger than Kleis. Perhaps, he can ultimately pass the three challenges of the Origin Lord. If so, won't our wish of many years be fulfilled at that point?"

Great Wizard Terian spoke in a low voice. The depths of his heart were in fact rather stirred up. At this moment, in terms of power, forget about Ozmu. Even in the entire Spell Caster world, no one was a match for Merlin. Merlin's unification of the entire Spell Caster world was an unstoppable force. There was nothing which could prevent it.

Moreover, their greatest wish from the start was that someone would be able to pass the three challenges and obtain the benefits. They were unable to pass the tests, so they absorbed some genius Spell Casters and slowly nurtured them. Finally, they would send those to attempt the challenge, hoping to profit in some ways.

The strongest genius they had nurtured was Kleis, yet Merlin had accomplished what Kleis could not!

“So, what do you think?”

After an hour, Merlin opened his eyes, his calm gaze fixing upon Wizard Savaron and Wizard Terian. His gaze was serene enough but it was also abnormally piercing, causing Wizard Savaron and Wizard Terian to become nervous.

“We’re willing to join the Spell Caster Alliance!”

Kleis had died. Ozmu no longer had any alternatives unless they were willing to clash against Merlin. However, the outcome of that would be certain.

“Very well!”

Merlin grinned. Behind him, an apparition of a Wizard Heart of incomparable size materialized. Although it was merely an apparition, its fearsome force practically suffocated these Great Wizards.

Before this Wizard Heart, the Wizard Hearts they had condensed seemed so minuscule, unable to put up the slightest resistance. This was Merlin’s true, frightening capability, which far surpassed what these Great Wizards had imagined.

After exposing his abilities slightly, Merlin had indeed received great results. He nodded in satisfaction. Currently, Ozmu was the only faction in the entire southern Spell Caster world. With them joining, the Spell Caster Alliance had undergone an enormous expansion, showing the first real sign of swallowing the entire Spell Caster world.

However, this was not enough. What Merlin wanted was the entire Spell Caster world, to combine everyone thoroughly as one force, even if it was temporary!

“Wizard Tamo, Wizard Gilles, Wizard Savaron, Wizard Terian – four of you take care of things in the southern Spell Caster world for now. Everything remains as before but you’re not allowed to kill other Spell Casters. You’re now a member of the Spell Caster Alliance. All Spell Casters are members of this alliance. Spread this message. I’ll still have to pay a visit to the northern Spell Casters. Those large spell casters’ organizations must’ve made up their minds by now...”

Merlin made simple arrangements for the southern Spell Caster world, then brought only the three-headed dragon with him. Even Yulais was left with Ozmu.

“Let’s go, we still need to make one difficult trip. To the northern Spell Caster world!”

Merlin gently stroked the head of the three-headed dragon. Thereafter, not only was the dragon not angered but it extended its necks cheerfully instead, then spread its wings and soared into the sky in great excitement, heading toward the distant northern Spell Caster world.

...

At the Polosi River, winter had just passed. The thick layer of ice above the current had not melted completely when the Holy Light Empire made a comeback, beginning to attack the troops of the Kingdom of Blackmoon on the other side of the river.

Over a million troops were stationed on both riverbanks. The Kingdom of Blackmoon had nearly gathered all its primary forces, totaling four hundred and fifty thousand. They were faced with the Holy Light Empire which was even scarier, with troops of six hundred thousand.

Both sides had battled fiercely here for a few months. The soil on both banks was tainted by blood so that it was now dark violet in color. Even in this chilly weather, a stink pervaded the air.

“Your Majesty, the morale of the troops has been declining. They’re feeling despair toward this war. Your arrival will surely reinvigorate their fighting spirit, and the final victory shall belong to us!”

In the Kingdom of Blackmoon’s camp, a dignified, middle-aged man, wearing a purple gold crown, listened to reports from his subordinates with a wooden expression.

Most of these reports were updates of the battle, unfavorable ones at that. This caused the eighth prince, who had just arrived at the front lines, ready to fight to the death, to turn extremely gloomy.

“Marshal Cassely, be rest assured. I’ve brought the purple gold crown with me this time, along with the elders from the royal family, and the strongest Wizards of the kingdom. The Holy Light Empire can forget about crossing the Polosi River!”

Marshal Cassely raised his head to glance at the determined king, his mouth opening and closing as he struggled to say something. In the end, he did not say anything, and swiftly withdrew from the king’s tent.

The king stood up and wordlessly arrived at the riverbank. When he looked up, he could easily see the situation of the Holy Light Empire over at the other side. Wisps of white light assembled just like a gigantic umbrella, shielding in mid-air.

The soldiers of the Holy Light Empire, even the lowliest ones, were under the protection of this white light. It was obvious that they were ready to fight and filled with courage!

“Faith, is it? I don’t know if the God of Light you worship really exists but as long as I’m here, I’ll never let them set foot in this free country, never!”

The eighth prince stared at the reflection in the icy surface, of the purple gold crown worn on his head. This was his last support!

Chapter 689: The Purple Gold Crown II

On the other side of the Polosi River, the troops of the Holy Light Empire were all equipped and ready. Each of them was at their best – mentally, physically, and psychologically. This was a crusade against heresy that they had looked forward to a long time ago.

Ever since the Holy Light Empire was founded, concern for their God had grown. As long as they had sincere faith in their hearts, anyone could feel that their bodies were filled with inexhaustible strength. They were full of vigor every day, and would not tire no matter how much they did.

Therefore, the Church of Light followed in the footsteps of the Holy Light Empire, quickly spreading all around and firmly grasping the entire Holy Light Empire.

“O’ Your Noble Holiness the Pope, we’ve just received news that the king of the Kingdom of Blackmoon, Bhutto XVII, has arrived at the front lines. He’s in the camp on the other side of the Polosi River.”

A red-robed Wizard bowed respectfully toward the middle-aged man sitting in the high seat, dressed in a flowing robe. This man gave off an intimate vibe, almost “fatherly” in feeling but at the same time, he possessed an unparalleled dignity.

He was the Pope of the Church of Light – the Emperor of the Holy Light Empire, Philandeny!

The present Philandeny had been crowned as the Pope of the Holy Light Empire long ago, combining the authority of the empire and the church as one. In the Holy Light Empire, he was equivalent to an incarnation of their God.

“Archbishop Nananni! Don’t worry. The heretics of the Kingdom of Blackmoon have only lost their way. With God guiding the way, we’ll bring them into His radiance and rinse their spirits. They can still become God’s most devout believers!”

This red-robed Wizard was an Archbishop of the Holy Light Empire, a member of the clergy. Nonetheless, he was also a chancellor of the empire. This time, he had followed the Pope to the front lines to bear witness to how even the biggest land of heretics would finally be blanketed in God’s glory.

“Your Holiness the Pope, five years ago, the supreme God of Light blessed us with a miracle, conveying His oracle through Your Holiness, and we started to make preparations. To date, besides the Kingdom of Blackmoon, all other lands have been conquered by us. Everyone is in God’s light now, except for the Kingdom of Blackmoon. They’re wicked heretics, consisting of Spell Casters with corrupted souls. God has commanded us to annihilate these Spell Casters. There’ll be no redemption for their souls. However, the strongest among them is comparable to an Archbishop. If we count those spell casters’ organizations, their powerful ones far outnumber ours...”

Archbishop Nananni spoke somewhat worriedly. Clashes between the Church of Light and Spell Casters were not infrequent. Naturally, he knew that the number of Great Wizards in the Spell Caster world was rather considerable.

Every single Great Wizard was equivalent to a red-robed Archbishop of a large district in the Church of Light. This Archbishop was responsible for the religious matters of a huge region.

Even though the Church of Light's influence had spread substantially, their land was merely divided into seven districts.

This meant that the current Holy Light Empire only had seven Archbishops. If their hidden forces were added like the mysterious Wizards in the Inquisition, the Holy Light Empire's capabilities were even stronger but it was still slightly lacking in comparison to the Spell Caster world.

"That's no matter. The Spell Casters are now in great disorder. They won't possibly join forces. Moreover, even if they do, so what? Don't forget, five years ago, the great God of Light sent his miracle, allowing us to select three individuals with the most devout faith in God. Now, those three Wizards, after going through the holy ceremony, were bestowed with supreme powers by the God of Light, becoming the legendary Divine Believers. I've already invited one Divine Believer to oversee things here. No matter how many Great Wizards there are in the Spell Caster world, it's of no use. They must all be purified!"

Philandeny spoke calmly.

"Divine Believer?"

Archbishop Nananni's heart trembled. There was a Divine Believer! According to some records of the Church of Light, once, a long time ago, the entire world was immersed in God's glory. Everyone worshipped the noble God but later, heretical Spell Casters began to rise, gradually breaking away from His light.

At that time, within the Church, other than the supreme existence the Pope, there was the Inquisition, the Archbishops, and so on, who wielded authority. There was also another group who stayed above these matters, which was the Divine Believers!

If the Pope could replace God in managing countless believers, then the Divine Believers were those with the most devout faith in God. At the same time, they had gone through a ceremony and received God's trust, and could even take on a part of God's strength.

It was just that, in the past, the God of Light had not granted any miracles or oracles, and some believers even started to doubt God's existence.

Therefore, in that period, the church was low-profile, serving only as a spiritual symbol, attached to the Kingdom of Light. However, decades ago, the Pope received an oracle and

began to gain control over the Kingdom of Light once again. He succeeded in seizing the kingdom and founded the Holy Light Empire.

After establishing the Holy Light Empire, the God of Light fell into silence again, and took no action, until five years ago. He blessed them with a miracle and allowed the church to pick three believers with the greatest faith.

“So, the three believers with the most devout faith are Divine Believers. They’ve already succeeded in mastering the powers God had blessed them with?”

Philandeny nodded. “Within five years, they’ve essentially grown familiar and gained control over the powers God had given them. Even one Divine Believer is enough to sweep away all the heretics!”

Upon seeing the confident look on the Pope’s face, Archbishop Nananni felt more assured, saying softly, “Your Holiness the Pope, then should we start the war now, and destroy those heretical troops in one go?”

“Of course, the decisive battle has begun! God’s radiance will surely spill across every corner of the world.”

Philandeny stood up, his body exuding an incomparably divine force like he was a real god. His abstruse gaze was directed at the other bank of the Polosi River...

...

“Boom.”

The entire ground seemed to quake. The sentinels in the Kingdom of Blackmoon’s army immediately noticed the abnormal activity among the Holy Light Empire’s troops on the other side of the river.

“Oh no, the Holy Light Empire’s attack has begun anew...”

Their voices rang through the army camp. The soldiers of the Kingdom of Blackmoon were solemn and ready as well. They did not panic, and under Marshal Cassely's command, swiftly moved into formation.

"Your Majesty, the Holy Light Empire has started to attack. It seems like they're aiming for a decisive battle!"

"Decisive battle?"

There was a sharp glint in the eighth prince's eyes. Currently, both sides were on both banks of the River Polosi, having stationed their best troops. The outcome of this battle could indeed influence the overall situation. It was not an exaggeration to call it a decisive battle.

"Marshal Cassely, get ready. This is a battle our Kingdom of Blackmoon mustn't lose. Just as you said, it's a decisive battle!"

The eighth prince followed Marshal Cassely and exited his tent. He looked toward the battlefield ahead. As the river was frozen in thick ice, the soldiers of the Holy Light Empire were wearing special shoes, steadily making their attack toward the troops of the Kingdom of Blackmoon.

The first squadron was a fierce cavalry. These soldiers were wrapped in thick armor, and their bodies were also shrouded in a faint veil of light.

"Archers, shoot!"

The Kingdom of Blackmoon began their counterattack too. A rain of arrows descended, and a fierce wind appeared in the sky. With the force of the wind, these arrows became even faster.

"Bang bang bang."

As the arrows rained upon the cavalry, they were blocked by the layer of light. This was a spell added to the cavalry by the Wizards of the Church of Light. From the start, the Wizards of the church had begun to battle fiercely with the Spell Casters of the Kingdom of Blackmoon.

"Ice Trap!"

At this furious cry, vicious Ice Elemental fluctuations quickly spread in all directions. The initially solid ice of the river rapidly erupted into large cracks and pits. Countless cavalrymen fell into this trap.

Faced with the spells cast by Spell Casters, these brave soldiers had no hope of victory.

“These Normies – what purpose can they serve in a war like this?”

The eighth prince watched wordlessly as soldiers fell one by one. In the clash of the spells from both sides, these soldiers were caught in the crossfire. They were unable to put up the slightest resistance.

“That’s right. If they were supported by spells, they might still be useful to deal with Spell Casters below the Fourth-level. In this battle, forget about Spell Casters below the Fourth-level. Spell Casters above the Seventh-level, even Great Wizards, are many in number. Normie soldiers are only sent to their deaths!”

Marshal Cassely felt rather helpless too. Although he had formidable commanding abilities, in a war like this, even the best commander would be powerless.

“Don’t throw away the lives of the kingdom’s brave soldiers anymore! The Wizards of the Church of Light have started to attack...”

The eighth prince was already able to see the other side of the river. Countless Wizards in white robes were glowing with pure, holy light. They were mobilizing their spells.

“Your Majesty, they’re only scouting. Each time the Holy Light Empire attacks...”

Before he could finish, the entire sky was lit up. The white glimmer that filled the sky illuminated the entire stretch above. Among the church’s Wizards on the other riverbank, some red-robed and black-robed Wizards suddenly appeared.

“Red-robed Archbishops, black-robed Inquisitors... They’re the Archbishops and Inquisitors, comparable to Great Wizards! Your Majesty, quick, send the elders from the group of elders.

How can there be so many Archbishops and Inquisitors? The Holy Light Empire must've plotted for a long time to thoroughly annihilate us!"

Marshal Cassely's face was incomparably white. He felt an unprecedented level of threat. The Archbishops and Inquisitors on the other side added up to thirteen in total. This was the same as thirteen Great Wizards.

A force like this was much stronger than the group of elders of the Blackmoon royal family. They would soon suffer a destructive blow.

"O' noble God of Light, you're born from the light, bringing light to us all, chasing away darkness, chasing away evil! Light Sword, carry out your judgment!"

The sky resounded with the chanting of the thirteen Archbishops and Inquisitors. Soon, a gleaming, white giant sword materialized in mid-air, hanging above the camp of the Kingdom of Blackmoon.

"Boom."

The giant sword sliced down. No matter if they were Normies or Spell Casters, they felt suffocated as if the sword was about to painfully tear their bodies apart.

"Your Majesty!"

Marshal Cassely's eyes were bloodshot as he yelled himself hoarse. Currently, he appeared incomparably anxious. Faced with a power like this, he was in total despair.

"The Church of Light can forget about setting foot in the free country of Spell Casters! Purple gold crown, go forth. Protect this land, protect liberty!"

At an unknown time, the eighth prince had taken off the purple-gold crown from his head. This crown was a symbol of the royalty, embodying the honor of the royal family.

Nevertheless, the members of the royal family also knew that this purple gold crown was one of their most valuable treasures. It contained defensive powers that could not be matched and had always guarded the royal family.

No one had ever been able to break this purple gold crown!

“Hum.”

The purple gold crown began to vibrate violently in the eighth prince’s hand. At the same time, a purple-gold light swiftly broadened overhead, covering the entire camp.

In the sky, within the dazzling purple gold ray, a gigantic apparition of the crown gradually took shape. Boldly, it confronted the Light Sword unleashed by thirteen existences on par with Great Wizards!

Chapter 690: The Divine Believer!

The massive purple gold crown was like a lofty monarch, filled with grandeur and dignity. This was the most precious treasure of the Blackmoon royal family, which had guarded them for many years. Each king, as long as he wore this crown, would not be in danger.

Currently, everyone was holding their breath. Even the eighth prince was looking up into the sky, watching the clash between the white giant sword and the purple gold crown.

“Rumble.”

The giant sword cut down upon the purple-gold crown. That frightening force caused even the earth itself to shudder, overshadowing even the sunlight.

The aftershock of the collision spread in all directions, and a fierce wind appeared in the air, blowing into the distance.

The sky soon resumed its calmness. When the smoke and dust had dispersed, everyone was amazed to see that the purple gold crown did not change at all. It still shone with a purple-gold glow, brimming with boundless grandeur.

“Purple gold crown, you didn’t disappoint me. There’s still nothing that can break your defenses!”

A smile tugged at the corner of the eighth prince's mouth. It was the most precious asset of the royal family. Naturally, the eighth prince understood how the purple-gold crown was known to be unbreakable. At least, Great Wizards were unable to break its defenses.

In the past, the royal family had met a crisis, encountering three Great Wizards. However, with the purple-gold crown's protection, the king was safe and sound. In the end, they had beaten the three Great Wizards. However, there had never been a time as dangerous as the present, when there were thirteen beings on par with Great Wizards, attacking together.

Fortunately, the purple-gold crown still blocked it!

In contrast to the Kingdom of Blackmoon's cheering, the Holy Light Empire appeared rather solemn. The seemingly omnipotent red-robed Archbishops and the grim, pitiless Inquisitors were usually so lofty. Now, thirteen of them had joined forces, capable of destroying everything.

Nonetheless, they had no way to deal with that purple gold crown. Once was not enough, and even subsequent attacks were of no use, unable to break past it.

"Purple gold crown – a crown-like this should be purified, worn on the head of Your Holiness the Pope!"

Archbishop Nananni spoke softly. He did not join the fight but stayed beside Philandeny to observe the situation. They had previously heard of the purple gold crown but did not seriously take it into account. They had seen many Spell Casters' casting tools but none which was as powerful as this purple gold crown before them.

A Spell Caster who wore it did not even need to be at a powerful level in order to unleash that matchless defensive power.

"It really is a pretty crown. To destroy it like that would be such a shame..."

Philandeny glanced at the golden crown on his head and sighed. The purple gold crown was a true crown. It was just a shame that he could not obtain it.

“Let the Archbishops and Inquisitors step down. The purple gold crown isn’t something they can overcome.”

Archbishop Nananni was slightly taken aback as if he had suddenly thought of something. He asked quietly, “Your Holiness the Pope, have you decided to send the Divine Believer?”

“Other than the Divine Believer, who else can overcome that purple gold crown?”

After a pause, Philandeny’s face turned serious, following which he used a special method of voice transmission, saying in a low voice, “Divine Emissary Bonnet, please come out. The supreme God has guided us to cast God’s glory across every corner of the world. Now, we’re faced with the frantic obstruction of heretics. Only the Divine Emissary, through the powers granted by God, can eliminate these heretics!”

After Philandeny’s words were spoken, the surrounding space was gripped by small tremors, just like ripples in water.

“Crack.”

Space was broken apart bit by bit, and a figure slowly exited from this space. It was someone who looked very ordinary. He was dressed in a plain white robe, his bare feet on the ground. Only his inscrutable eyes seemed unusual.

A person like this, dressed in this manner, reminded Archbishop Nananni of the Ascetics in the Church of Light. They had collectively offered their bodies and minds to God, and their belief in God was most pious.

“Is the Divine Emissary Sir Bonnet an Ascetic?”

Archbishop Nananni questioned rather incredulously.

“That’s right. The three Divine Emissaries are all Ascetics!”

Philandeny nodded whereas Archbishop Nananni appeared somewhat surprised. Nonetheless, this seemed logical upon careful consideration. Only these Ascetics, who had no desires nor requests, could maintain the most devout faith in their God.

“Your Holiness the Pope, God has guided us to turn our hearts toward the light. However, there’s still a group of heretics who control a vast land, causing those within to have no way of receiving God’s splendor. God, grant me the strength I need. I shall shine God’s light into every corner of the world!”

With that, the Divine Emissary Bonnet, still wearing a pious expression and the simplicity of an Ascetic, looked toward the purple-gold crown in the sky. Following that, step by step, as if ascending a flight of stairs, he stepped into mid-air.

“Who’s that?”

The soldiers of the Kingdom of Blackmoon were celebrating because even those thirteen existences on par with Great Wizards had been unable to defeat the purple-gold crown. This indicated that the Kingdom of Blackmoon was in an invincible position. No matter how long this war dragged on, the Kingdom of Blackmoon would be able to withstand it.

However, now the thirteen Archbishops and Inquisitors were swiftly retreating. In their place was a man, dressed in plain clothing – a white robe, and barefooted. Step by step, he ascended into thin air.

“Marshal Cassely, do you know who’s that?”

The eighth prince turned around and asked Marshal Cassely. As a marshal who had been in command of the front lines, he should have an excellent understanding of the Holy Light Empire.

However, Marshal Cassely shook his head helplessly. “The Archbishops and Inquisitors of the Church of Light are easy to recognize but this man’s clothes are neither that of an Archbishop nor an Inquisitor. Instead, he looks more like a special group within the Church of Light – the Ascetics!”

“Ascetics?”

It was the first time the eighth prince had heard of this name.

“That’s right, the Ascetics. They’ve given their bodies and minds to the God of Light as an honor, and have the greatest faith in the God of Light. These Ascetics are few in number within the Church of Light but are well respected within the church.”

“So, what if he’s an Ascetic? Can he really break the purple-gold crown?”

A confident look flashed across the eighth prince’s face. The purple gold crown was able to withstand an attack from thirteen beings comparable to Great Wizards. In the Spell Caster world, there was no force that could break the defenses of the purple gold crown.

Currently, the pious Ascetic within the sky, the Divine Emissary Bonnet, was still approaching the purple-gold crown step by step, before finally stopping right before it.

His gaze was tranquil, following which he looked up at the sky, his expression turning even more devout. His body then erupted with light as blinding as the sun.

This light induced an incomparable sense of warmth within the people as if there was a feeling of amiability. As for Bonnet in mid-air, he was shrouded in this veil of pure light, like a real god!

“Supreme God of Light, grant me the strength to eliminate the darkness and the obstructions!”

Bonnet’s voice reverberated in all directions, after which he lightly tapped the space before him.

“Swish.”

With this gesture, the calm space was instantly shattered, and an enormous black crack split the air apart. This crack was even widening without stopping, forming into a colossal abyss!

“Space is shattered? To shatter space with one tap... Could he be a Great Legend?”

The Spell Casters of the Kingdom of Blackmoon were the most shocked, especially the elders within the group of elders. They swiftly arrived at the eighth prince’s side, staring at the Ascetic in mid-air in unparalleled astonishment.

As Great Wizards, these elders of the royal family naturally knew that only the fabled Great Legends could shatter space at will. This was a level that all Spell Casters dreamed of achieving, but until now, no one was able to become a Great Legend.

“How can there be someone so terrifying from the Church of Light? Comparable to a Great Legend... Could it be that the God of Light actually exists?”

The eighth prince gaped dumbly at how a single tap from the Ascetic could shatter space itself. This power was something no Great Wizard could withstand. As for the purple gold crown, the eighth prince’s cumulative confidence from a moment ago had now vanished without a trace!

“Block it, the crown must block it!”

The depths of the eighth prince’s heart were crying out...

...

In a huge palace of the northern Spell Caster world, there was a gathering of Ozmu, the Seven Major Spell Caster organizations of the northern Spell Caster world, and even Spell Casters who had hurried from Subzero Snowfield.

Within this palace, even the three-headed dragon was guilelessly sprawled upon the ground. It lifted its heads from time to time, sweeping a massive gaze across the Spell Casters within the foyer.

Today, more than forty Great Wizards were assembled here. This was over ninety percent of the Great Wizards in the Spell Caster world. Only the recently established Spell Caster Alliance was able to pull off such a feat.

The one who presided above all of this was Merlin. Before this, he had already arrived at the northern Spell Caster world and quickly received a reply from the Seven Major Spell Caster organizations, who were willing to join the Spell Caster Alliance.

Other than the fact that Merlin had mentioned alluring conditions, the most important factor was that they had no other choice. Initially, they had wanted to watch from the sidelines but

after Merlin had seized Ozmu Headquarters and made them join the Spell Caster Alliance, the Seven Major Spell Caster organizations of the northern Spell Caster world had no choice at all but to join the Spell Caster Alliance.

This time, it was Merlin's first time using the name of the Spell Caster Alliance to gather the Great Wizards of all factions. This indicated that the entire Spell Caster had joined forces, forming a formidable faction!

"Everyone, within the Spell Caster Alliance, there's knowledge on Spell Model construction, alchemy, potions, and runes. Of course, what everyone wants the most, which is information on becoming a Great Legend, I've already given. You can access it at any time!"

After Merlin had spoken, the faces of the Great Wizards were gripped by excitement. The Molta Empire had collapsed overnight, and the flow of knowledge had been broken. In particular, the path to becoming a Great Legend was reduced to just a few isolated phrases. They only knew that one had to condense a Maxim but the specific steps and characteristics as well as the differences between creating each type of Maxim, and so on, were all lost.

Merlin had brought this information with him from the Void Zone. This was nothing more than the most common, basic information in the Spell Caster civilization of the Void Zone. However, to these Great Wizards of the Glorious Land, it was incomparably precious.

Just based on this alone, they already had no complaints about joining the Spell Caster Alliance.

As he noticed the Great Wizards' excitement, a grin tugged at Merlin's lips. There were many reasons for the decline of the Glorious Land but the most direct factor was actually the seal of the three Ultimate Arcane Wizards.

However, if not for the seal, the Glorious Land would have been destroyed long ago. After all, this was the origin of the Spell Caster civilization. Regardless of the God Alliance or the Atlan civilization, along with other enemy civilizations, they were all curious about the Glorious Land.

During Merlin's return to the Glorious Land this time, even if he could not unify the Spell Caster world, he would disseminate this knowledge, allowing the Spell Casters of the Glorious Land to grow strong once more.

“Everyone, I’ve unified the Spell Caster world. Perhaps many of you don’t understand why I’m doing this. In fact, it’s very simple. It’s because the entire Spell Caster world is faced with a grave crisis. The Spell Caster world may be on the brink of extinction at any moment. Just like how three thousand years ago, the Molta Empire, so mighty once upon a time, had collapsed overnight!”

Merlin’s tone was calm enough but his words caused the atmosphere in the foyer to drop to a freezing point. Everyone fell silent, their faces contorted by puzzlement.