

Last Days 641

Chapter 641: Reaction from Various Parties (2)

"What? Rank 7?" Peter's assistant was stunned.

As Peter's assistant, he had been exposed to various knowledge that Peter showed to him. One of them was naturally about the differences between the ranks and their slow advancement after reaching rank 4.

Since more and more people advanced to rank 4, this matter was no longer a secret and there were many people who had known about this.

Of course, they were naturally a bit displeased about this matter.

After all, everyone was hoping that they could become stronger as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, all returnees have the same answer.

Impossible.

Unless they obtained some kind of resources that could help them to speed up their practice, then they had to practice step by step in accordance to their profession. There was no direct shortcut for them to advance faster.

"Hahaha, yeah!" Peter laughed as he grinned. "Advancing to rank 7 required an advancement ceremony, which will take a few hours at least... well, considering that all returnees are advancing to rank 7 for the second time, it's estimated that they can cut off this time by at least half."

Since they already have the experience of advancing to rank 7, they didn't need to waste too much of their time. The more time they took to advance to rank 7, the more variable would there be in their advancement process.

It would be better for them to advance as quickly as possible.

"This... do you know who advanced?"

"I don't know," Peter replied righteously.

The assistant: "..."

"But I can guess. Only Samuel or Riya could possibly reach the peak of rank 6 in such a short period of time," Peter said calmly.

"Why?" The assistant was confused.

"Because these two people dare to enter the crack to look for resources on their own. I don't know what they found or what they experience, but if they can turn the danger into opportunity, then they truly deserve to reach the peak of rank 6," Peter replied calmly.

And Peter also knew that this small team had an advantage that no one else could possibly match.

It was the teleportation formation.

The reason why these two people dared to enter the crack bravely and faced so many magic beasts was inseparable from the fact that Riya could make teleportation formation in case of danger.

When the two of them couldn't fight their opponent, all they have to do was to use the teleportation formation to escape.

To be honest, such a way of fight was really cowardly.

But at this moment, what would be more important than saving one's life?

In that world, they dared to face countless dangers because they have various treasures that they kept with them. So they didn't have to learn so many life saving methods and just have to rely on these.

Rune master was the only exception.

They made these life saving treasures herself, so naturally she had the greatest advantage when she really need it.

Rather than waiting for others to give it to her, why not make it herself?

The teleportation formation was only one of them.

"I have to report this," the assistant said with a sigh.

"Go on and report it. I don't think that they plan to hide this matter if they dared to advance in the Green Planet instead of the crack... uh wait, no, they can't advance in the crack."

Peter thought about the formation that was keeping the crack in place and could guess that if someone dared to activate an advancement ceremony within the crack, the place where they stayed would definitely collapse.

Because the places were not as sturdy as the Green Planet.

What kept it around was the formation and so on.

Even though Peter was not a rune master, he could sense that the crack was not stable. As he had reached rank 6, this sense was even greater and his instinct was telling him that he will die if he dared to try advancing to rank 7 within the crack.

The assistant only looked at Peter with a blank look as he made the call and quickly informed the higher ups about the first rank 7 along with the advancement ceremony's information.

Peter ignored the assistant.

"Well, I have already reached the middle stage of late 6 through eating a lot of resources... It seems that I have to hasten my pace a bit, huh?" Peter smirked as he looked at the distance.

No matter whether it was Samuel or Riya who advanced to rank 7... Peter felt that it was a good thing.

Because their presence will definitely restrain Murin and Dina when either one of them advanced to rank 7 in the future.

...

in the other area

Bang!

Murin looked in the distance and his expression turned worse. He could sense the faint mana distortion but he was so far away from the center that even if he wanted to do something, it would be impossible.

"Damn it, how could they be so fast?" Murin cursed under his voice.

He knew very well that the other returnees would definitely try their best to advance to rank 7 as fast as possible. Because only by reaching rank 7 would many threats from the outside world and even other returnees would not be able to affect them.

Despite knowing this matter, Murin firmly believed that there were not many people who could possibly reach rank 7 so quickly.

Now, he realized that he was too naive.

Someone had advanced to rank 7 or they were in the process of advancing to rank 7.

"No, I can't take this lying down!" Murin gnashed his teeth.

It was only after he killed so many magic beasts and destroyed various places in the crack that he managed to reach rank 6 not long ago.

The amount of resources he had to invest during this period of time was more than enough to make him want to vomit blood.

Yet, it was not enough to make him the first to advance?

Chapter 642: Reaction from Various Parties (3)

Murin felt that it was unacceptable.

How come they were better than him?

Swish!

Riding on his flying magic beasts, Murin headed in the direction where the mana disturbance came from.

Even though it was so far away, Murin didn't believe that he wouldn't be able to catch up. No matter who do the advancement ceremony, he will make sure that he saw the other party clearly and see if she or he had that qualification.

Damn it!

Of course, he also prepared enough backup for him to run away at the fastest speed possible if he couldn't do anything.

After all, he didn't want to lose his life yet.

"When I find the right magic beasts, I'll definitely reach the peak of rank 6 at the fastest speed possible."
Murin's face was ugly.

A beast master's advancement speed was very dependent on their magic beasts. If their magic beasts were good and all, then Murin's advancement speed would be like riding a rocket.

But if the magic beasts were not strong enough, then Murin's advancement speed would be affected.

Because he had to look for and hunt for the magic beasts himself, Murin couldn't focus on letting his magic beasts practice all the time. He had to make time for them to practice and at other time, these magic beasts were all busy with other things.

Moreover, while these magic beasts' talent was good, some of them were not that good because Murin took them for their special characteristic.

Even if he could have twice the amount of magic beasts... the feedback he received from each magic beasts was actually lower than ordinary beast master.

This was Murin's secret that he didn't let others know.

They only envied him for being able to get a lot of magic beasts but they didn't know that he had to spend more resources to advance through ranks because of this talent.

Well, it could only be said that everything has a price.

"Tsk, damn it!" Murin cursed under his breath.

The next magic beast had to be a very talented magic beasts. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to advance through ranks quickly and reached rank 7.

It seemed that he did have to pay attention to the type of magic beasts he selected in the future even more carefully.

...

City A Base

To be honest, City A Base was days away from City J Base and City I Base. The mana distortion didn't reach City A Base, but it was the call from the higher ups that came to Mr. Jones.

In the more than half a year time when Samuel and the others were gone and busy with their own business, Mr. Jones was also doing his best for City A Base. Right now, City A Base was definitely the best base for everyone to stay.

There was no lack of food in City A Base because the farming was very successful.

And it was also being replicated by other bases.

Of course, the order was pending because the person who could make it was not present. And the few rune masters who were being trained could only make the other fences while the core ones could only use the limited stock from City A Base.

In any case, City A Base made a lot of money.

At the same time, they still collected the magic beasts' corpses for Riya once a month, which she transported through the teleportation formation and then left behind a stack of space storage scrolls as payment.

It was really convenient.

The problems of food has been solved more or less and water was mostly using magic to solve it. As for the land itself, there were still some problems that was being handled little by little.

In City A Base, more and more people could now focus on improving their strength and even settling down.

For this matter, Mr. Jones was still busy.

But it's the kind that made him happy.

After all, being able to see City A Base getting better and better, there was definitely a sense of achievement from the bottom of his heart when he saw it all.

As for the daily dramas...

Let's just leave it to the other people to solve.

When Mr. Jones was busy with his work as usual, Mr. A suddenly called him and Mr. Jones could only postpone his work.

"Mr. A, it's been a while," Mr. Jones called out politely.

Mr. A nodded through the video call and asked the question he wanted to know the most directly, "Mr. Jones, sorry to bother you, but I would like to ask about what you know about advancement to rank 7."

Peter had mentioned that there would be an advancement ceremony but he didn't elaborate on it. In his words: he will tell them after he had advanced to rank 7 to prevent any accidents.

It was not like he wouldn't tell them, but it was not the time yet.

The Martial Arts Association also felt helpless about this, but they couldn't really force Peter to do what he didn't want to do.

So they could only say to the government that they couldn't help it.

The government also knew that these returnees definitely has reservation in everything that they shared with them. But what they had given out so far was indeed already very good and showed their sincerity to the fullest.

So while they were curious, they still knew how to hold themselves back.

But this didn't mean that they would give up so easily.

Since Peter refused to answer, couldn't they look for others?

There were more than one returnees.

Before coming to Mr. Jones, they had already contacted Dina and Ruth, but the answer of these two people were also consistent.

Dina directly said that they couldn't afford the price of this information from her.

As for Ruth, she said that she would sell the information after her advancement.

So the government had to turn to Mr. Jones to see if they could get a different answer.

Chapter 643: Reaction from Various Parties (4)

Mr. Jones: "..."

To be honest, he was indeed surprised to see Mr. A being so blunt and direct in his question.

But at the same time, he realized that something must have happened to stimulate Mr. A so much.

Based on the question that Mr. A asked...

It could only be that someone had advanced to rank 7 and the government thought of looking for him because they couldn't contact Samuel and Riya. The former was because he had been staying in the crack for a long time while the latter was because the government didn't dare to contact directly.

After all, Riya's attitude was clear.

She handed over most of the negotiation over to Samuel and only talked with them very briefly about some matters.

And since she was inside the crack, the only time she came out was when she took the magic beasts' corpses that she asked them to collect and handed over a batch of space storage scrolls as per agreement.

At this moment, anyone who dared to have any other ideas were simply stopped at the very first step.

They couldn't even contact her.

How could they ask something from her?

"Samuel didn't tell me much about it, Mr. A," Mr. Jones replied helplessly. "He said that he will tell us only after we have reached rank 6 peak where he would help us to advance to rank 7."

It was not a complete lie.

Samuel did keep a backup of a file somewhere but he would only explain the content to them after they had reached sufficient rank. Knowing too much too early was not too good. Because they would only feel pressure from the knowledge without being able to utilize it.

Mr. A frowned.

He felt that Mr. Jones was not telling the truth.

How could Samuel not leave some kind of backup for his family members?

These returnees were all betting on their lives, advancing further and further away on the road to reach the peak. Their lives were in danger and those who still have family members would definitely leave something for them so that their lives wouldn't be too bad.

But at the same time, he could see that Mr. Jones was truly unwilling to tell more to them about this matter.

"In that case, did Samuel ever tell you about the rank 7 advancement ceremony?" Mr. A asked another question.

"Advancement ceremony?" Mr. Jones blinked his eyes and thought about it. "Samuel did mention that advancing from rank 6 to rank 7 required special preparation, but he didn't go into details about it."

After all, they were still too far away from reaching rank 7.

Samuel didn't want them to worry so much about it and planned to tell them in person if possible when one of them had the qualification to advance to rank 7.

Btu so far...

Well, their current qualification didn't seem to be that good.

"Is that so?" Mr. A was disappointed.

Special preparation.

All returnees said that, but they were unwilling to go into details about what kind of preparation they needed to advance to rank 7.

No matter how curious they were, they didn't even know what they needed to prepare.

"With all due respect, Mr. A, has Samuel reached rank 7?" Mr. Jones asked the question he has been wondering about.

He knew his son's progress was fast, but isn't it a bit too quick for him to reach rank 7?

Well...

Even if he did, Mr. Jones would not be surprised, though.

After all, Samuel has been staying in the crack for a long period of time and probably obtained a lot of resources that could help him to advance through ranks faster.

While these treasures were indeed rare, but who knows what kind of things existed inside the crack?

They couldn't enter too deeply.

Only Samuel and Riya were brave enough to explore deep into the crack. The only good thing was that Samuel still send videos to them, allowing them to see part of the crack through his exploration.

Unfortunately, Samuel didn't bring too many things for them to research or others.

After all, most of the magic beasts' meat was eaten by Samuel and Riya...

For this matter, everyone was silent.

Samuel is a magic warrior, so they were not surprised that he had to eat a lot of magic beasts' meat. But Riya is a rune master, which is part of the mage's branch, why did she have to eat a lot of magic beasts' meat?

But well, Riya's answer was that she used them to make runes.

When they got this answer, everyone was silent.

Considering that Riya had explained the use of magic beasts' blood and that there was refining process that could be done to turn these magic beasts' corpses into mana... they could only gave up asking.

"We don't know," Mr. A replied. "The returnees are telling me that there's a rank 7 advancement ceremony performed right now, but they're not entirely sure who it is. Based on the location and the four returnees whom we managed to contact, we estimated that it should be either Samuel or Riya."

As for which one of these two, Mr. A was not entirely sure.

"Well, I can try to ask?" Mr. Jones said.

"Have you contacted Samuel recently?" Mr. A asked in surprise.

"Well, he contacted me just an hour or so ago," Mr. Jones replied truthfully as he took his phone and send a message to Samuel.

The reason why he didn't call was that he was worried that he would disturb his son.

However, Samuel replied in an instant.

Samuel: It's Riya who's advancing to rank 7

Samuel: If anyone asks, you can answer this way. There's no point in hiding this matter either way.

Samuel, who was looking at his phone, arched his eyebrows slightly. It seemed that the satellite was still working well and it was not disturbed by the mana disturbance by Riya's advancement.

It seemed that science and magic had to advance together.

So that if one route was blocked, they could use the other one.

Chapter 644: Reaction from Various Parties (5)

Mr. Jones looked at his son's message and looked at Mr. A in front of him.

"How is it, Mr. Jones?" Mr. A asked patiently.

He knew very well that no matter what Mr. Jones answered, he had to accept it.

"Well, my son replied and he said that the one who's experiencing the advancement ceremony is Riya and not him," Mr. Jones replied truthfully.

At the same time, he asked for more information from his son about the so called advancement ceremony.

Samuel selectively told his father a few information and said that the rest could only be told in the future when he had advanced to rank 7. He himself had to prepare for his own advancement ceremony and couldn't leak out the details of his ceremony.

Because if others were to know what he needed for his ceremony, they might block his path in advance.

This was something that Samuel didn't want to experience.

After all, the amount of resources in the Green Planet was limited and they had to work hard to get any kind of resources. If someone found what they needed and purposely took it away, it would be hard for them to find the identical resources.

"Samuel told me that an advancement ceremony is very important for anyone who wants to advance from rank 6 to rank 7. The resources needed for each profession is different and there will be specific methods for each of them depending on the path they took," Mr. Jones said while reading the message.

Mr. A and the others were silently recording this matter.

"Considering that there are 12 returnees in total, he said that there are a total of 12 different paths and 12 different ceremony. Every ceremony will show the characteristic of the person who did the advancement. For example, right now, Riya is experiencing the advancement ceremony and she's a rune master, so there will be a vision of runes on the sky," Mr. Jones continued.

"Vision of runes?"

At this moment, Mr. A quickly asked them to retrieve the image of the areas where the mana distortion happened.

Even though the image was taken from above, they could still see the areas very clearly.

Just like what Samuel said, there was a large and dense runes filling the sky forming the shape of an unknown emblem. They didn't know what shape it is, but they had the feeling that it should be related to the rune masters.

The golden and silver color were intertwined together.

If one had to say, it looked breathtakingly beautiful.

"The runes..." Mr. A murmured.

Mr. Jones was also looking at the image in front of him and was silent for a while. He was thinking about the shape that would form when Samuel did his ceremony and it might be something related to magic warrior?

As for what it is, he didn't know.

After all, Samuel didn't tell them anything about it too clearly.

"How long would the advancement ceremony took?" Mr. A asked.

"Samuel said that it will depend on the person themselves. But since they're all returnees who have experience, it should be shorter for them," Mr. Jones replied.

Mr. A nodded.

They were all looking at the image in front of them and Mr. A simply told them to keep it.

These runes were basically covering the sky of a large area. Based on his estimation, it was at least a few hundred kilometers in distance.

However, most people wouldn't be able to see it.

Unless they were sensitive to the runes and could sense the runes movement, they would only be able to see it from above like this.

Because most of the runes were formed above the clouds.

After that, Mr. A asked a few more questions before thanking Mr. Jones solemnly and cutting off the video call. They had gained a lot of information and it was enough.

Mr. Jones stayed in his office and sighed deeply.

Mr. Jones: Will there be any trouble with the appearance of the first rank 7?

Samuel: No, she's not a person who likes to create trouble.

Seeing the last message from his son, Mr. Jones fell into silence. For a moment, he had a strange feeling about his son's way of speaking about Riya.

But in the end, he surpassed the thoughts.

The most important thing is for them to suppress this news.

It was just...

Is it possible?

...

Long distance away, Continent W, Near the border with Continent Z

"Mr. Nolan, there's a message from the higher ups... it's about the other returnees in Continent Z," a soldier rushed over.

Hearing the familiar sentence, Jonas Nolan looked over in confusion. He was just working on his new potion and had been doing a lot of experiments during this period of time. Of course, he also made a lot of potions that could help him to increase his mana.

After all, he embarked on this path because his own talent was not very good but his alchemy talent was extremely exceptional.

Through the use of his own potion, he could advance through ranks quickly.

By now, he had reached rank 6 and was making his preparation to reach rank 7 as soon as possible.

"Is there any important information?" Jonas Nolan asked leisurely, not paying too much attention to the soldier's words.

"Mr. Nolan... it's said that someone had advanced to rank 7 and there's an advancement ceremony that attracted a lot of people's attention."

Prang!

The glass in Jonas Nolan's hand fell down and his expression distorted.

"Who is it?" Jonas Nolan quickly asked.

He knew that for the returnees to advance to rank 7, they would need a lot of resources. One of the plausible methods was to use potions to help them speed up their advancement.

But no returnees even came to him.

Jonas had guessed that they should have their own methods that didn't require him.

But...

Who can tell him why it is so fast?

Chapter 645: Reaction from Various Parties (6)

Jonas Nolan swore that he had been working hard.

Even though he was a bit careless and spend most of his time fiddling with his potion, he would never neglect his own practice.

Adjusting his glasses, Pena turned to look at the soldier and said, "Show me the pattern!"

"Pattern?" The soldier was stunned.

"When someone perform an advancement rank ceremony, there would be a mark visible from the sky. Don't you have satellite or something? Show the mark to me and it'll be easier to find out who it is."

There were a total of five returnees in Continent Z.

It was not impossible for them to mobilize their spies to figure out the identity of the returnee who advanced to rank 7.

But there was a faster method.

As long as they could see the pattern, they could guess who it is.

Soon, a picture was brought in front of Jonas Nolan. He looked at the picture in front of him and fell into silence.

"Mr. Nolan?"

"This is the mark of the runes," Jonas Nolan said slowly. "Only someone with high attainment in runes would be able to attract the world to form this pattern for him or her."

They all knew that there was a rune master in Continent Z. But the information of this rune master was extremely limited.

Aside from the fact that the rune master made a move in City J Base to fight against the magic beast's tide, the rune master has been keeping an extremely low profile.

So low profile that even the basic information couldn't be found.

There were not many spies left after the earthquake happened because everyone just focused on their own survival. Stealing state secrets or something like that has become more and more difficult and there was simply no chance.

Now...

"And the power of this rune master is definitely not weak," Jonas Nolan whispered in a low voice.

"I'll report this first!"

The soldier ran back but Jonas Nolan was not interested.

They all knew that when they advanced to rank 7, they would have their own advancement ceremony and the markings in the sky would definitely reveal their true identity. It was also because of this that they would not care too much.

As long as they made enough preparation before their own advancement ceremony, then they didn't have to worry so much about their advancement failure.

"But rune master, huh? I thought that it would be the warriors or the magic warrior who advanced the fastest."

Jonas Nolan walked out of his laboratory and looked at the crack's enetrace not far from him. In order to facilitate him entering and exiting the crack from time to time to gather resources, he purposely made his own laboratory right beside the crack.

It was a risky move for sure, but Jonas Nolan is not afraid.

In the past year, he had entered the crack several times to get a lot of resources and even managed to get several special magic cores.

Perhaps, quite similar to Riya, Jonas Nolan also dared to enter deep into the crack because he had the resources to do so. The large amount of potion had allowed him to be slightly arrogant.

It was dangerous indeed.

But if he didn't take the risk, how could he advance through ranks so easily?

"It won't be so easy for magician to raise their ranks in rank 6, so if I want to be faster... I can only take more risks, isn't it?" Jonas Nolan's eyes were burning with ambition and determination as he looked at the crack's enetrace in front of him.

He had accumulated a lot of potions during this period of time and there was also one follower who had reached rank 5.

Well, the officials of Continent W basically smashed most of their higher ranked resources for him so that he could advance through ranks quickly. Because they understood that having too few returnees meant that they had to cultivate their own elites.

Continent W didn't want to lose against other continents.

So they dared to take this risky move.

And the rest was used to increase the number of warriors, magic warriors, and magicians in the army.

"Hey, tell them that I want to enter the crack... this time I'll look for more resources," Jonas Nolan said to the soldier who had returned.

The soldier froze before replying, "Yes, Mr. Nolan!"

Jonas Nolan looked at the soldier's back indifferently. No matter what, he had to take this chance and strive to reach the peak of rank 6 as soon as possible.

...

Long distance away, Continent X, one of the larger islands

The gloomy aura has always enveloped this place, especially after Pena gathered a large skeleton army under him.

It could be said that there were a lot of dead people around Pena that he reused, fused, and break.

The actions could be said to touch the nerve of some people.

But for the sake of Continent X's interest, none of them dared to make a move.

The sole returnee from their continent was like this and there was simply nothing that they could do about it. Because if they didn't rely on him, it would be impossible for Continent X to rise.

"Mr. Pena, there's a report that someone had advanced to rank 7 from Continent Z," a soldier came forward to make a report.

Pena, who was fiddling with a large number of skeleton, paused his movements, raised his head and then let out a strange laugh.

"Would there be really someone who advanced to rank 7 so quickly?"

Advancement through ranks has always been a matter of accumulation of strength. Pena firmly believed that only if they had accumulated a large amount of resources would it be possible for them to advance to rank 7.

Otherwise, they would be too weak!

And there might be other threats that they have to face after they advanced to rank 7, which was simply not cost effective.

Chapter 646: Reaction from Various Parties (7)

"Yes, Mr. Pena! It's true and the officials requested for you to see this image."

Unlike Jonas Nolan who didn't tell much about the advancement ceremony because he wanted to gather the resources he needed on his own, Pena chose to let the country knew some things.

Because he couldn't get these things so easily.

Thanks to that, the official knew that there would be a markings formed in the sky during an advancement ceremony and the identity of the person who advanced could be seen through it.

Of course, Pena only let them knew a part of it.

Part that he couldn't gather on his own and required their help.

"Let me see," Pena said leisurely.

A tablet was put in front of Pena. His dropping eyes moved towards the screen before his movement paused.

"It's a rune master," Pena said slowly.

And this rune master... is that rune master.

Pena's eyes flickered when he saw that familiar engraving marks. Everyone had their own unique marks, which represent their paths and profession. The profession one would be similar one after another but because their specific paths would be different, most advancement ceremony would create a different kind of pattern in the sky.

The greatest shape was naturally their profession and then there would be a lot of fillings in accordance to their specific path.

And the path that he saw this time...

'A very pure rune master... as far as I know, there's only one pure rune master in that world around our age.'

Pena had heard of this special rune master.

A rune master with low talent but chose to take the path of magician regardless. When he passed by that place, he heard some rumors about how someone changed their magic spells to runes.

It was a bit outrageous in his opinion.

Because no matter how fast they draw runes, how could it be faster than the magic spells that could be cast instantly after reaching a certain ranks?

So he only felt that this person is foolish.

Until two years afterwards when he saw the screen with his master that he found out... he was the foolish one.

His master told him calmly, "There's no rubbish path, only rubbish people. If you're determined enough to create a specific path that belong only for you alone, you can still make your name resound all across the land."

Just like that special rune master.

Because he was about to advance to rank 7 himself and embarked on his own journey out, Pena remembered this incident very clearly.

That beautiful mark...

It was really eye catching with gold and silver intertwined.

But more importantly was the fact that if they paid closer attention, they would be able to see various colors hidden within these runes. From outside, they could only see the brilliant color of silver and gold.

The magic tools that the people in that world used allowed them to see the inside clearly.

He could never forget the dense runes that seemed to be filling the entire sky, yet none of them clashed against the other. It was so much that he didn't know how the person herself would be able to finish making the formation.

After all, Pena is not a rune master.

Those combination runes were simply too complicated for him to learn. It was enough that he learned the art of necromancy from his master.

"So it's the rune master. I'll make the report, Mr. Pena," the soldier said and quickly left.

Pena didn't care too much about these officials people being so impatient.

After all, he knew that there were competition between continents and countries that still existed until now.

But for him...

"If it's really that special rune master, it's really not a surprise for her to advance to rank 7 so quickly," Pena muttered in a low voice.

His gloomy aura turned even gloomier.

Even though it was indeed not that unusual, but he didn't want to lose. He had already collected a large number of skeletons and as long as he could collect a bit more and build his castle... he could start his own advancement ceremony.

At that time, no one would be able to stop him anymore.

...

Long distance away, Continent Y, one of the city base.

As the greatest opponent of Continent Z, Continent Y has always been paying close attention to the situation in Continent Z. They have already lost in terms of the returnees' numbers, so they hoped that these returnees they have would have higher ability.

Both Navi and Nalan could be said to be under heavy pressure from the officials.

Because after Ami, the soul magician, death, there were only two returnees left. The officials knew that the number of the returnees were limited but they never get the clear number before this.

Now, they had the feeling that almost all returnees have appeared.

And if this was the case, it meant that they have lost a lot with Ami's death.

In the eyes of these officials, how could these people in the base be compared to the returnee?

The knowledge and ability of these returnees would bring their country to a greater height!

They couldn't afford to lose even one of them.

Unfortunately, there was no time for them to regret.

After all, they couldn't change the past.

"Nalan, the officials are making a fuss again." Navi's face twisted a bit when she saw the message they sent.

"Is there any problem?"

"A returnee has advanced to rank 7 and they somehow managed to find this out so quickly," Navi replied and her face contorted.

Who is it?

Who could advance to rank 7 so quickly?

"I see." On the other hand, Nalan was relatively indifferent.

"Nalan!"

"They're on the other side of the world. Do you really think that you can stop them?" Nalan asked back.
"Besides, only the first part of mana compression could have the possibility of intervention from others. Once they enter the second stage, they would be in the state isolated from the world.... You can't do anything to them at that time."

Chapter 647: Advance to Rank 7

Navi fell into silence.

She knew that Nalan was right.

But she still felt unwilling.

"Damn it! I have to practice harder."

Seeing Navi rushing off to practice, Nalan shook his head slightly.

To be honest, he was not as calm as he showed on the surface. But he knew very well that there was no point in getting angry about it.

The two continents were indeed opposing each other, but what does it have anything to do with him?

Nalan didn't care too much and didn't want to care either.

As a magic warrior, his progress is faster than Navi.

So...

'The next person who advanced to rank 7 had to be me.' Nalan's eyes flashed with determination and ruthlessness.

It seemed that they did need to increase their speed.

Otherwise, it was unknown how they were going to face that rank 7 rune master.

None of them liked to have their fate placed in the hands of others.

This is what fueled their ambition to reach the peak.

...

Samuel and Riya's side

The mana compression didn't take a long time since Riya had experience before. Even though there were some pain from this process, Riya didn't care that much. It was a process that everyone had to go through when they advanced from rank 6 to rank 7.

For rune master, the second stage was to carve the runes into their heart.

Upon reaching rank 7, no matter what their profession is, their mana heart, mind, and soul would be connected with each other.

And the process for each of them would be different.

For rune master, it was a process that they had to do through using their own runes, carving their path forward in their own heart. And the runes that they selected for their own heart would be written in the smallest font as possible and as many as possible.

Naturally, they have to think about the stability of the runes and so on.

Riya had already made it once and recalculate it in the past year when she had nothing to do. She wanted to add more runes, but she also knew that there was a limit to how many runes that she could make.

So she simply picked the best course for her.

Riya opened her eyes and runes carving had appeared all over her body. She raised her finger and started drawing runes in the air once more before it head towards her own heart and mind.

The left hand draw runes for her heart and the right hand drew runes for her mind.

These runes were formed simultaneously and moved at extremely speed, forming inside her heart and mind.

Outside the formation, Samuel was watching this scene.

He was not too surprised.

After all, Riya is a rune master and technically speaking, the second stage of advancement ceremony would differ depending on their profession and path. He himself would not have such actions.

Time passed quietly.

Soon, the runes were done and the mana surged once more.

Samuel closed his eyes as he could feel the pressure rise and the mana outside was rushing towards Riya at rapid speed. This made it hard for them to look around and after a few seconds, he could feel the wind had slowed down.

After a moment, he opened his eyes and saw that Riya had stood up.

The runes marking on her body had disappeared, leaving only faint mark behind both of her eyes in petal shapes and a small pattern on her forehead. The marks were not very prominent and couldn't be seen unless they were standing close to her.

The dancing runes had stopped and dissipated into countless mana petals as it slowly fell down.

It was beautiful.

No matter how many times he saw it, Samuel felt that Riya's advancement ceremony was really beautiful.

"Is it done?" Samuel heard himself asking in a low voice.

Riya raised her head and smiled faintly. She was wearing a robe that she had customized from Peter and then arranged runes on it. The robe fluttered slightly along with the mana's movement as everything calmed down slightly.

Seeing her smile, Samuel's eyes moved towards Riya's forehead. The mark was slowly fading away, but he could guess that it should be the same mark that appeared on the sky during Riya's advancement.

Magicians and magic warriors would have their advancement markings on their body.

For magicians, the location would be either their forehead or slightly below their neck. For magic warriors, the location could be on their navel, stomach, or it could be behind them, depending on their shape.

As for warriors...

Their advancement markings couldn't be seen at all.

But they could change their body shape to a certain degree freely without any restriction. So if they prefer a bulky look, they could change their look to have their muscles visible or if they prefer a relatively plain look, they could make their muscle didn't stand out too much.

There was no specific markings for these warriors.

Whether it was a good thing or a bad thing, Samuel didn't know.

"Yes, it's done," Riya said and heaved a sigh of relief. "How much time has passed?"

"Hmm..." Samuel opened his phone to take a look and then said, "50 minutes. It's really fast."

Fast?

Riya rolled her eyes and then chuckled. "Well, the most time consuming phase is the mana heart compression but as long as you know the trick, you can do it quickly. It's just a bit more painful if you do it fast."

After all, they were basically squeezing their own heart.

It was definitely not an easy process.

But since Riya had undergone this process once, she just had to replicate it and then moved quickly in accordance to what she had learned before.

"You did it until it's the size of a pearl, right?" Samuel suddenly asked.

"Of course," Riya replied.

From the size that was slightly bigger than a fist to the size of a pearl, it would be a lie to say that it was an easy compression. Besides, the amount of mana in Riya's body was extremely large.

Chapter 648: Not Yet

Compared to Samuel, it was almost 100 times more.

So the process itself was actually very difficult.

Yet, Riya did it in such a short period of time.

"You're really..." Samuel didn't know what to say when he thought about this. He knew very well that the main reason why people were able to endure the terrifying pain from the mana compression had to do with their willpower.

Without strong willpower and determination, how could it be possible for them to endure the pain that could possibly shatter their soul during the mana heart compression?

All returnees knew very well the impact of not doing mana heart compression correctly.

They would never be able to reach rank 9.

So they had to do it carefully, even if they have to endure that kind of pain once again.

"Hmm?" Riya made a voice and tilted her head.

Samuel saw this look and fell into silence before shaking his head. "It's nothing. I have just found out that your willpower is stronger than expected."

"We're all people who have died once... isn't it more painful when you have your entire soul and body ripped apart during your death?" Riya asked in a low voice.

The pain of the mana heart compression was really nothing compared to her own death in that world.

She didn't know how she managed to come back when she should have died in that place. The pain when her entire body and soul were broken apart could never be forgotten and Riya knew very well that it might haunt her for her entire life.

She didn't want to die again.

But she also knew that it was an impossible request.

There will come the time for her to leave this world.

And before that time arrived, Riya hoped that she could achieve her dream of reaching the peak.

"Ah..." Samuel scratched the back of his head uncomfortably.

He also remembered that the pain of his death back then was really something that he didn't want to remember. Having his body broken apart by the magic beasts under their barrage of attack, he couldn't even imagine what would happen to his body.

Perhaps it would be trampled to death under the rage of those magic beasts.

Samuel didn't know.

"Hmm?"

Riya looked up and noticed the runes outside that was previously distorted had slowly return to normal. At the same time, something flew towards her and before she could stop it, the small light entered her forehead.

"Riya!" Samuel was stunned when he saw it and almost instinctively walked in.

But he remembered that Riya set up a formation there and if he walked in rashly, he might not be able to come out alive.

"I'm fine." Riya raised her hand.

There was a message entering her mind and her pupil dilated slightly.

She looked around for a moment before forcing herself to calm down.

"What's that? Did someone attack you...?"

"No. It's not an attack." It's a message.

Riya was silent as she digested the message that appeared out of nowhere inside her mind. She knew very well that it was estimated that everyone who advanced to rank 7 would be able to know this.

But...

To think that the truth is like this.

"Riya?" Samuel saw the complicated look on Riya's face and felt worry from deep within his heart. The formation was not activated at all when that light suddenly came and head towards Riya.

"You will know after you reach rank 7," Riya said and rubbed her forehead. Her blue eyes flickered slightly. "As for what it is... I can't talk to you before you reach rank 7."

There was a restriction.

And knowing too much before it was time was also not a good thing.

"Rank 7?" Samuel narrowed his eyes and then nodded. "I'm still making the preparation for my advancement ceremony. When I reach rank 7, let's talk about it."

He's curious, but he also knew that there were some things that might not be convenient to be said out loud. Whatever that light is, Riya couldn't tell him and he had to wait until it was the right moment before he could know.

"That's a promise." Riya smiled in response.

Swish!

With a wave of her hand, Riya deactivated the formation around her and looked at the corner where the mana stone was already gone. Considering the intense of her advancement, it seemed that rank 6 formation really couldn't handle it.

Well, Riya never thought about hiding it in the first place.

"Let's go?" Samuel asked.

Riya nodded. "Yes. To City I Base... but before that, I think that I need to talk with the visitor."

Visitor?

Samuel blinked his eyes before moving his gaze to the sky. Seeing the familiar magic beast flying a distance away from them, he arched his eyebrows.

"It seems that someone wants to seek death."

...

Within a certain place

It was dark.

There was only faint light in this dim cave with countless runes extending to the walls and a person was sitting at the center of the formation.

He had long silver hair and has been closing his eyes in meditation.

The moment Riya's advancement ceremony was finished, the man opened his eyes and looked in one direction. The golden pupil reflected no emotions but indifference.

"The first one is really that rune master," the man muttered in a low voice.

His voice was low and somewhat ethereal. Those who heard it would think that they were dreaming as they felt that the voice would disappear soon after. Yet at the same time, they would feel warm from hearing this voice alone.

The man's indifference face showed a faint smile for the first time.

"With the first one, the others will come soon after..."

A light flickered and disappeared into the distance.

The silver haired man looked in the direction where Riya was located for a while longer before closing his eyes once more.

It was not the time yet.

Chapter 649: What If

At this moment, Riya didn't know anything about that.

The message that was sent to her mind was limited and Riya was not qualified to know some things before it was time.

It didn't feel comfortable to know that someone was watching them.

But Riya calmed down quickly and focused her attention on the person who came over riding on top of the flying magic beast.

Who could it be aside from Murin.

"He's still more than two kilometers away," Samuel commented as he looked at the distance. With their keen senses, this distance was nothing much and they could still see the other party.

But whether they could attack someone at this distance...

It was another question altogether.

"It seems that he's curious whether I have succeeded or not," Riya said with a faint smile on the corner of her lips. "Just in time. I also want to know whether he will be able to block my attack or not."

After advancing to rank 7, her current state was still very good and Riya didn't think much about it.

Swish!

Riya raised her two hands and runes formed in an instant. The speed was faster than before and the complicated formation was done within two seconds before ice elements formed from the runes and then shoot towards Murin in the distance.

Samuel arched his eyebrows but didn't stop Riya.

Since Murin came here to provoke the other party, then there was no problem even if they were to hit him like this.

Swoosh!

Bang!

"Ahhhh!"

There was scream in the distance and then Riya turned around, ignoring the person who was falling down before he was caught by his second flying magic beasts.

"Did you kill his magic beast?" Samuel asked curiously.

"No, just injuring it," Riya replied.

She didn't want to provoke life and death grudge with Murin from this incident and only gave him a warning.

The attack power of a rank 7 was far higher than that of a rank 6.

At least, for Riya, she just need to expend a bit more mana to use this magic spell.

'With this, it'll be more convenient when dealing with the rank 7 magic beasts.'

She already had enough troubles within the crack when dealing with the magic beasts and having advanced to rank 7, she would be able to deal with them easily later.

Thinking about this, Riya felt a bit interested.

After all, they avoided the relatively stronger rank 7 magic beasts when they explored the crack so that they would not be killed accidentally because they were not strong enough. But after she reached rank 7, they could try to deal with these magic beasts.

Riya glanced at Samuel.

Well, it might be better to wait until Samuel also reached rank 7.

It should only take a few more weeks at most considering that his own progress was by no means slow.

"That's good." Samuel nodded when he heard Riya's answer.

Riya arched her eyebrows. "Do you care for Murin?"

"No, I just think that it's a bit troublesome to deal with him. Of course, if it's really necessary, I don't mind dealing with him."

If it was not necessary, there was no need to provoke other people without reason. But if the other party came to provoke them, then they just had to respond appropriately.

As for what the other party was thinking, Samuel didn't know.

"He's only here to test and see whether I succeed or not," Riya replied leisurely as they walked down the street heading to City I Base.

After all, the advancement ceremony didn't mean that they would definitely succeed. Though, the chance for these returnees to advance to rank 7 was extremely high because of their past experience.

But what if?

Once they failed in their advancement, they would be in a weak state for a period of time. For someone who was hostile to them, it was definitely the excellent opportunity to get rid of them.

Riya knew this.

Samuel also knew this.

It was also because of this that Riya made a move to warn Murin so that he would not be arrogant and did something he shouldn't.

"Indeed." Samuel nodded. "With you around, it's very reassuring now."

Riya blinked her eyes and looked at Samuel beside her. The two of them were walking side by side and it should have been a normal thing, but why did she feel that what Samuel said was a bit ambiguous just now?

He was only talking about her ability, right?

"Now that I have already advanced to rank 7, there won't be many people who can threaten me and we can also explore those rank 7 magic beasts' lairs," Riya said as she raised her finger. "There are a few places that I want to check in the crack and I have marked them with the teleportation formation."

Speaking about teleportation formation, it seemed that she should also make a few teleportation formation plate...

Ugh wait, she needed the materials for it.

Thinking about the fact that she had used up most of the higher ranked magic beasts' blood in her world, Riya felt that she had become poor again. But without the support of these formations, she wouldn't be able to advance to rank 7.

It could only be said that the cost was proportional.

Samuel still has a few rank 7 magic beasts' corpses, but Riya knew that he kept them for his own advancement ceremony.

She definitely wouldn't take other people's things, so she should go to the crack again in a while to get more magic beasts' blood to make the formation plates she needed.

Of course, there was still some stocks.

She should be able to make a few rank 7 defensive formation plates and magic scrolls for her own use.

"Yes." Samuel still remembered those magic beasts and there was a smile on his face. "Let's go and deal with them soon."

"Why do I feel that you're more excited than me?"

Chapter 650: Murin's Antics

"Is there?" Samuel touched his face and chuckled. "Perhaps I'm happy that I don't have to be chased around by those magic beasts anymore?"

Riya looked at Samuel subtly.

It sounded as if he was thinking of relying on her when dealing with those magic beasts. While it was not impossible, but this seemed to be completely different from what she knew of Samuel's personality.

"Don't think too much. I'll go there only after I have advanced to rank 7. Otherwise, we're simply seeking death," Samuel said calmly. "Not all of them are at the early stage of rank 7."

"I know." Riya chuckled. "Do you still need to gather more materials for your advancement ceremony?"

"No, I have everything I need and only need to wait and prepare myself first," Samuel replied calmly. "It's not the time yet for me."

Riya nodded at Samuel's answer.

Samuel looked at Riya's profile for a moment before looking away. He wanted to ask that question to her, but... it didn't seem to be appropriate to ask now. It would be better to wait until they were in City I Base before he asked it.

...

Murin's side

cough *cough*

In the air, Murin was coughing badly. He felt that it was truly a mistake for him to come here.

None of the returnees were easy to deal with and upon reaching rank 7, it was clear that the offensive power of the rune master had increased significantly. Even if he had been keeping his distance, he could still get hit.

"But I'm sure she used a lot of mana for that one attack." Murin patted his magic beast and then checked the other magic beast.

Upon being hit by Riya's attack, he immediately called the magic beast back to the pet space. He knew very well that it would be impossible for him to defeat Riya when she had advanced to rank 7 while he was still rank 6.

It was nothing more than a pipe dream.

'Well, she still restrain herself.'

Looking at the injury of his flying magic beasts, Murin could tell that Riya aimed at specific part on purpose. He didn't know how she managed to do it and didn't care too much.

After all, upon reaching rank 7, there would be a qualitative improvement.

Unfortunately for him...

He's a beast master.

This meant that his body was weak and the mana he has could only be used to make some low level spell to protect himself and the rest would be used by his magic beasts.

He basically relied on his magic beasts to contend against other people.

Without his magic beasts, he was nothing.

But this kind of thing was not necessarily a bad thing in Murin's opinion. After all, it still allowed him to reach the height that he might not be able to reach if he had followed other paths.

"Let's go back."

Murin looked at his phone and saw that the Magic Association had already started calling him again. Thinking about those annoying people, Murin felt his mood turned worse.

He knew very well that those people thought that they were the most powerful and wanted to control the returnees.

But because they all picked different paths, it was impossible to get them all together.

After all, each and every single one of them would not follow what other people said so easily. They have their own thoughts and they were unwilling to be used by other people.

With ambition as high as the sky...

'I lost this time but it doesn't mean I'll lose next time.'

Murin's eyes flashed with determination.

He will make sure to succeed as soon as possible. No matter what awaited him in the future, Murin will defining win.

There was no way he would be willing to suffer defeat under the hands of those people again.

The bitter battles that he had experienced in that world was still fresh in his mind. Each and every single one of them should not be his match if they were to go on separately. But because they attacked him together, his magic beasts couldn't handle them on their own.

What awaited them was bitter defeat.

Right now, he couldn't gather those extremely powerful magic beasts like before. After all, many of them were rare and hard to get. Without the pampering of those people from the beast master's association, it was hard for him to even get the slightly better ones.

He had to work hard to make his team.

Now, he had the confidence to say that his team was definitely one of the best team in the world!

Because of this, he will never lose so easily again.

...

City I Base

The commotion in the distance had stopped and the people didn't have any thoughts about it.

Having faced the strangeness of the world several times, they had started to get used to it and didn't think that it was anything weird. The hot and cold temperature, the magic beasts that appeared, and now strange weather...

It seemed that they have become a bit immune.

It could also be said that they had completely let go and simply let nature took its course without doing anything.

Because it was the truth that many of them couldn't change anything.

Even if they wanted to do something, it would not affect the overall situation.

Now that they didn't know anything and the things seemed to have been resolved, these people chose not to do anything.

Of course, if they knew that they were about to experience the strange weather again in the future, they might want to start investigating about it.

Only some people tried to investigate this matter.

"Ruben, did you see anything?" Amelia saw that Ruben was staring at his phone intently. The six of them gathered in their residence, waiting for the atmosphere to return to normal before going out.

"Ah?" Ruben raised his head, his expression was a bit strange. "Master has reached rank 7."