

Sixth 101

Chapter 101: Analyzing the Ancient Stone Slab

Scenes flashed quickly through his mind, and Herag felt his blood surging.

He closed his eyes and re-entered a state of meditation, while gradually stabilizing his emotions.

About ten minutes later, Herag was completely calm again.

"Compared to many magic potions, such side effects are nothing at all; it just takes a bit more time to meditate."

Overall, Herag was quite satisfied with the effects of the Starry Sky Potion.

Meditation in itself has the effect of calming oneself and stabilizing emotions. By spending more time meditating, he could suppress the unrest in his heart.

Of course, there were other solutions too.

But since Herag needed to meditate every day, it wasn't feasible to solve problems that way each time.

It was too time-consuming, and he didn't want to waste two or three hours a day on such things.

Herag also wanted to be quicker, but unfortunately, his ability didn't allow it.

Meditation was still more time-efficient, as ten minutes could stabilize his emotions.

There were still 9 milliliters left of the Starry Sky Potion in the test tube; one batch could produce 10 milliliters, enough for ten days' use.

After the successful experiment in enhancing the speed of meditation with the Starry Sky Potion, Herag tidied up the lab, restoring it to its clean, orderly state.

After leaving the lab, he went downstairs and locked the door, then prepared to return to the building where he lived.

At this moment, Ed and Judy entered with laughter, standing very close.

When these two saw Herag, they appeared somewhat panicked and quickly moved apart.

Herag smiled and suddenly remembered when he saw the slave mark on Ed's face: "Ed, come over here."

Judy looked at Ed worriedly, while Ed followed nervously.

Herag patted his shoulder: "Don't overthink it. If you like Judy, then pursue her boldly. As long as you handle things well, I won't interfere."

"N-no, sir." Ed felt a bit embarrassed when Herag directly pointed it out.

Upon hearing Herag's words, the fear he felt was immediately relieved.

In many households, the owners forbid their servants from dating. If discovered, the owners could beat them to death without anyone saying a word.

Clearly, Herag wouldn't do that. Besides, Herag wouldn't stay here long, and Ed would eventually need to have his own life.

"I called you over primarily to deal with the slave mark on your face." Herag observed the large mark on Ed's face and pondered.

"Can it really be dealt with?" Ed was a bit excited.

During the time he was newly branded with the slave mark, Ed felt like dying, never daring to lift his head to talk to others.

Now, though he seemed accustomed to others pointing at his slave mark, he didn't show much sensitivity, but deep down, it still mattered a lot to him.

It's common knowledge that slave marks are hard to remove.

This mark was made with a special potion that penetrated the flesh, making it difficult to eradicate.

Ed had even tried scraping the flesh on his face with a knife, leaving him bloodied and eventually giving up.

He had lost hope, but Herag's words rekindled it.

In his eyes, Herag was synonymous with mystery and power.

Since Herag was willing to take a look, there was hope of removing the slave mark.

"Shenlan, examine this slave mark and provide a removal method that won't cause much harm to the body." Herag issued an order.

"Detected the mark was made with a solution of Cabbage Grass. The following potion formula will remove the mark: 10 grams of Rootless Vine, 40 grams of Pig's Belly Grass, 80 grams of Yangju Stone..."

Herag looked at the formula, noting they were all basic herbs, not even one magic potion material.

Since he didn't have many of these items, he wrote a list for Ed to buy.

Upon learning these items were to remove his slave mark, Ed felt immense gratitude towards Herag and ran off quickly.

In less than half an hour, Ed returned with the items.

With the herbs in hand, Herag began the concoction directly.

This process was much simpler than magic potion refining; it required neither magic power input nor constant attention.

The tolerance for error in magic potion refining was low; one wrong move and the effort was wasted. Besides wasting valuable magic potion materials, one would have to start over, sometimes encountering danger.

An hour later, Herag held a large beaker containing a pale yellow solution.

He called Ed over and used a brush to apply the solution to his face.

"Do this every day, once a day, understand? In about half a month, the mark will disappear completely." After finishing, Herag poured the remaining solution into a glass bottle and handed it to Ed.

After application, this solution would penetrate Ed's flesh, reacting with the components of the mark and dissolving them.

Once dissolved, the pigments would gradually vanish, and the mark would fade away.

This process required time, at least half a month.

Ed held the glass bottle in both hands as if it were a treasure, kneeling on the spot and kowtowing to Herag.

"Master..."

Herag waved his hand impatiently: "Alright, go back."

He couldn't stand a grown man whining in front of him and gave Ed a kick.

Ed didn't feel upset even after the kick. Instead, he laughed happily.

Back in his room, Herag first checked every corner, finding nothing unusual.

"Shenlan, constantly monitor the surroundings. If anyone or any animal approaches, alert me immediately."

"Task is now being executed."

Herag took a deep breath and took out the stone slab inscribed with ancient magic from the space ring.

He just glanced at it and quickly looked away. The content on the stone slab hadn't changed.

"Shenlan, can you interpret the content on the stone slab?" Herag asked.

"Yes."

"Shenlan, what does the slab roughly contain?" Herag, while suspecting it was a Level 1 Spell, was still uncertain.

"Based on currently known information, the stone slab contains a spell model equivalent to a Level 1 Spell." Shenlan responded.

"As expected." Herag continued, "Shenlan, if using 30% of magic power daily, how many days until the stone slab's contents can be fully interpreted?"

"Calculating..."

Ten minutes later, Shenlan replied, "Based on calculations, it's estimated that interpretation will take 187 days."

"Over half a year, quite some time, but it doesn't really affect me for now. Even if it's interpreted, I would need at least the spiritual power of a Third Class Wizard Apprentice to possibly read the contents."

Chapter 102: News of the Moonstone Grass

Herag could completely accept the time frame of more than half a year. Anyway, he wasn't qualified to view the contents just yet, so he let Shenlan slowly analyze it.

As for why he only used 30% of his magic power each day, it was because he wasn't in the Moonlight Forest, and basic safety couldn't be guaranteed.

Herag had to ensure he was always in good condition to deal with any unexpected situations.

He needed to retain at least 70% of his magic power to have decent combat capability.

If he consumed too much magic power daily to analyze the Stone Slab's contents and couldn't cast even three shields during an emergency, it would be dangerous.

"Shenlan, from today on, analyze the Stone Slab's contents during my Meditation sessions and pause once 30% of magic power is consumed."

"Task archived."

After arranging the task of analyzing the Stone Slab's contents, Herag began to observe the Stone Slab from the side.

He didn't look directly at the contents on the Stone Slab but stood aside to examine the material of the Stone Slab.

At first, he thought the Stone Slab was made of ordinary stone and didn't check carefully due to the circumstances at that time.

But after observing it carefully again, Herag found that it wasn't merely ordinary stone. It seemed to be a stone containing gold, a type he had never seen before.

The Stone Slab was very hard. When Herag pressed it, he felt that even a Knight Level couldn't leave a mark on it with a sword.

For a Great Knight, it might be different. Herag didn't say for sure, as Great Knights had various methods, and their power in bursts was very high.

Herag then recalled the strange events in Valley Town and instinctively felt that there was a significant chance they were related to the Stone Slab.

He felt that by moving the Stone Slab, he had affected Storm City, even a hundred kilometers away.

Otherwise, he couldn't explain why the memories of Milo and the others had changed, and the archive contents had changed, likely because Herag had moved the Stone Slab.

But this was just his guess, and Herag couldn't confirm the specific reason.

After observing for a while and finding nothing conclusive, Herag put the Stone Slab back into the Space Ring.

The next morning, Herag called for Ed to drive because he needed to go out.

He was planning to visit the Adventurers' Association in Ryan City, as he still had no leads on the Moonstone Grass matter.

The Doris Kingdom was too large for Herag to conduct a thorough sweep of every place.

His first thought was the Adventurers' Association, which was spread throughout the Kala Continent, with numerous members and multiple channels of information.

The Adventurers' Association didn't belong to any one kingdom but cooperated with every kingdom, with its presence in every city.

The Adventurers' Association in Ryan City was similar to the one in Storm City, with its own dedicated five-story building.

The division of areas on the first-floor hall was similar, giving Herag a feeling of being in a chain store.

He found the task posting counter and, after queuing for a while, it was his turn.

Behind the counter was a young man, seemingly in his twenties, named Ward.

"I want to post a task to find clues about Moonstone Grass," Herag directly stated his needs.

Ward took a piece of paper, wrote some details, and then asked, "Do you have any requirements for the reward or deadline of the task?"

"Ten Gold Coins for anyone who can provide valuable clues. As for the task deadline, I can't say for sure; the task will cease once I obtain Moonstone Grass," Herag replied.

Ward nodded and said, "Understood, sir. According to the Adventurers' Association's requirements, we need to charge you one-tenth of the task reward as a fee. Is that acceptable?"

Herag placed a Gold Coin on the counter, saying, "No problem, please post the task as soon as possible and notify me promptly if there are any updates."

Ward took the Gold Coin, checked it, and then placed a piece of paper in front of Herag, "Please fill in your contact address and name, sir. We'll notify you immediately once there is information."

After Herag wrote down his current residential address, the procedure was completed.

Next, this task would be posted in the Adventurers' Association's task list in Ryan City, visible to all adventurers browsing tasks.

There is strength in numbers, and with so many in the Adventurers' Association, it would be much faster than Herag searching alone.

After completing the task posting, Herag returned home and continued his reclusive life.

Every day was spent dining, meditating, and studying. When he ran out of Starry Sky Potion, he would brew another batch.

Everyday matters didn't require Herag's attention, as Judy and Ed managed things well.

Half a month passed, and the slave mark on Ed's face had almost disappeared. In a few more days, it would be completely gone.

Ed was truly grateful to Herag and placed immense importance on every task Herag assigned.

Herag even suspected that if he now ordered Ed to die, he would do so without question.

Soon, another half month passed.

On this day, like every other, Herag was meditating when he suddenly opened his eyes.

Someone knocked on the door, and Ed immediately ran to open it, seeing a young man in his twenties. He asked, "What brings you here?"

The visitor was Ward from the Adventurers' Association, who smiled and said, "Hello, I'm here for Mr. Jelant. There's news regarding the task he posted at our Adventurers' Association."

Ed replied, "Please wait a moment; I'll notify our master."

"Alright, thank you." Ward said politely.

By this time, the mark on Ed's face had completely vanished, and no one would view him as a slave anymore.

Before Ed could inform him, Herag had already come out.

"Master, there's a..." Ed said respectfully.

Herag nodded, "I know."

He quickly reached the entrance and said to Ward, "Is there news?"

Ward nodded, "Yes, Mr. Jelant, there is news about your task."

"Can its authenticity be confirmed?" Herag inquired.

He was wary of adventurers who might deceive him with false information for the Gold Coins.

For example, they might name a random location, causing Herag to waste time and energy if he went to search and found nothing.

Ward smiled, "Rest assured, Mr. Jelant. Since I'm here to inform you, you can be sure that the information has been verified. I guarantee it's authentic!"

His smile was confident, and his tone firm, showing his trust in his information.

"May I meet the person who took the task?" Herag asked.

Since Ward spoke with such assurance, Herag felt a bit more at ease. A large organization like the Adventurers' Association wouldn't likely have issues with such matters.

Chapter 103: Erza

"The one who accepted the task is the City Lord of Ryan City, Lady Erza." Ward glanced around and said in a low voice.

"The City Lord?" Herag couldn't believe it; it was actually the City Lord of Ryan City who accepted his task.

Herag had long heard of City Lord Erza. Since arriving in Ryan City, he could always hear news about her.

Erza came from a noble family; her father was the famous Duke Barton of the Doris Kingdom.

Eight years ago, Erza married the City Lord of Ryan City, which was meant to be a powerful union.

Unexpectedly, just a month after the wedding, the City Lord of Ryan City succumbed to a severe illness.

It was said at the time that even the legendary Mystic was invited, but no one could cure the City Lord's illness; they could only watch him die.

Afterwards, Duke Barton used various contacts and resources to make Erza the City Lord of Ryan City, where she remains to this day.

This event was filled with so much drama that it became a topic of discussion among the residents of Ryan City and throughout the Doris Kingdom.

Such discussions were fewer in Ryan City because anyone daring to comment on the City Lord, if known by the staff of the City Lord's Mansion, would suffer extreme punishment.

Many believed back then that the marriage was a conspiracy, a plot by Duke Barton to seize Ryan City.

The then City Lord of Ryan City was in the prime of life with excellent health; suddenly falling severely ill aroused suspicion from everyone.

There were also those who thought that the City Lord's illness might have been due to Lady Erza's overwhelming allure, leading to indulgence.

When Erza first became the City Lord of Ryan City, she faced many obstacles, including opposition from many of the late City Lord's loyalists.

But Duke Barton was no pushover; he quickly eradicated these opposition forces, helping Erza smoothly take over Ryan City.

In the past eight years, key positions within the City Lord's Mansion have been replaced with Erza's own people, putting Ryan City firmly under her control.

She could be said to have immense power in Ryan City.

"Why would such a person come to take my task?" Herag was deeply puzzled.

Ward saw his expression and said in a low voice, "I don't know the specifics, but City Lord Erza surely has the information you need. I can't bring her to see you; you'll have to go see her."

Ward showed a helpless expression, indicating he was powerless in this.

Herag nodded and said, "I understand."

"Ed! To the City Lord's Mansion!" he turned and called to Ed in the courtyard.

Ed quickly brought the horse out and then attached it to the carriage.

After Ward completed his notification task, he left as well.

The City Lord's Mansion was located at the northernmost part of Ryan City. Though called a mansion, it was actually a castle.

Tall walls shielded it from prying eyes, heavily armed soldiers stood on and outside the walls, showcasing the authority of its master.

Herag's carriage was stopped a hundred meters away from the wall, where three soldiers wielding weapons stood outside the carriage: "Stop, what's your purpose here?"

"My name is Jelant, I have matters with City Lord Erza, please notify her." Herag lifted the curtain, slightly revealing his own presence.

These soldiers, having been on the battlefield many times, quickly sensed that this person was extraordinary.

Especially when Herag lifted the curtain, a tremendous pressure enveloped them, giving them a feeling of suffocation.

Fortunately, Herag quickly retracted his spreading magic power, allowing the soldiers to feel more at ease.

Seeing Herag showed no intent to force entry, one of the soldiers ran back to the City Lord's Mansion to report.

The remaining two soldiers continued to hold their weapons against Herag. Although they knew they weren't a match for him, it was their basic duty.

Soon, the soldier returned: "Mr. Jelant, you may enter."

Herag jumped off the carriage and followed the soldier into the City Lord's Mansion, while Ed stayed outside to wait for him.

As soon as he entered, Herag felt like he had stepped into a garden.

The mansion was filled with all sorts of flowers and plants, fountains were everywhere, and there was a winding waterway with the sound of flowing water that was soothing to hear.

The soldier led Herag through two palaces to a place that appeared more residential.

There was a long staircase in front of the residence, and a man in his forties stood at the top of the stairs, staring coldly at Herag.

"Mr. Jelant, please go up. Knight Commander Levan will take you to see the City Lord," the soldier said, and then returned the way they came.

Herag stepped onto the stairs, silently noting another Great Knight at the top, Knight Commander Levan.

He climbed the stairs step by step, with Levan watching him intensely the whole time.

Once Herag reached the top, Levan said, "Follow me."

Then he turned to lead the way, seemingly unwilling to speak more with Herag.

Herag sensed a persistent hostility and wariness from Levan, along with a hint of disdain.

He couldn't fathom what he had done to provoke this Levan since it was their first meeting.

Levan led Herag through a series of turns and finally to a large door.

He reported with his head down, "City Lord, Jelant has arrived."

"Hmm, let him in." A clear and pleasant voice came from behind the door, soothing to hear.

"Yes." Levan gently pushed open the door, then turned to stand by the door, not even glancing inside.

Herag took a look at him, then walked in. The door was promptly closed by Levan.

Once inside, Herag's first impression was the luxurious décor and expensive furniture.

Every chair was made from precious wood, each worth tens of thousands of gold coins.

He then turned towards the deepest part of the room on the right, where there was a bed.

A woman lay across it, supporting her head with one hand, a plate of fruits in front of her, eating grapes.

"City Lord Erza?" Herag said.

Erza was dressed casually, in a loose robe, with the front revealing vast patches of white skin.

She didn't seem to be wearing pants, only covered by the long robe.

Her long white legs peeked through the robe, faintly visible.

Her feet were bare, toes delicate and fair.

Erza popped a grape into her mouth and then said, "It is I, esteemed Herag."

"You know me?" Herag was instantly on high alert upon hearing her name him directly.

Erza smiled and said: "No need to be tense, I have no ill intentions. I am also a Wizard Apprentice. Though lacking in natural ability, Uncle Dino tried many ways for me, and I remain a First-Class Wizard Apprentice."

Chapter 104: Uncle Dino

"Uncle Dino?" Herag heard the name and wondered if it was the Dino Wizard he knew.

Erza smiled softly, "That's right, it's the Dino you know. You came to the Kala Continent on his ship."

With her words, Herag was completely surprised. He didn't expect Erza to know Dino, and they seemed to have a close relationship.

He could sense magic power fluctuations from Erza, although they were very weak. It was evident that Erza's strength was not remarkable, even considered weak among First-Class Wizard Apprentices.

Those with poor aptitude are like this; no matter how much they meditate, the progress is unbearably slow.

If Herag were like Fegar with only five points of aptitude, he might need ten or twenty years to successfully meditate on a single star.

As for advancing to Second-Class Wizard Apprentice or Third-Class Wizard Apprentice, it would be pure fantasy.

The path of a Wizard is harsh; if one's aptitude is too low, there is almost no hope of continuing.

Fegar's situation is very special. Herag wasn't sure by what means he advanced to Second-Class Wizard Apprentice, only that his spiritual power was extremely unstable.

Since Erza called him Uncle Dino, it meant their generations were a bit apart by one.

But the problem was that Dino had been at sea for seventy to eighty years and looked only thirty or forty, whereas he was actually over a hundred years old.

The lifespan of a Level 1 Wizard typically exceeds three hundred years, so Dino was still considered young.

Herag asked, "Uncle? Dino is over a hundred years old. You call him Uncle? Doesn't that make you seventy or eighty?"

Erza chuckled softly and then lightly chided, "What are you saying? Uncle Dino is more like my great-grandfather. I've just always called him that since I was little, and he doesn't care about such trifling titles."

"I see," Herag realized. Erza was married at twenty and now was twenty-eight, so he was curious why she called Dino Uncle.

Erza lay back on the bed, adjusting her position. Her robe slipped slightly, revealing her ivory shoulder and rolling scenery.

The bed was surrounded by a layer of black gauze, making it difficult for ordinary people to see what's inside clearly.

But Herag had Shenlan Assistance, allowing him to see the scene inside clearly.

Erza changed position and continued lying down while saying, "I've heard your name long ago."

"Dino mentioned me?" Herag speculated.

"Yes, when Uncle Dino returned from the sea last time, he brought me some gifts and talked about interesting encounters on the sea, which included you," Erza continued.

"I didn't expect Dino to mention me," Herag said. At that time, he was just a newly enrolled Wizard Apprentice, and Dino was a powerful Official Wizard. He didn't expect to make an impression on Dino, let alone be talked about in front of others.

Erza laughed, "That's when I remembered your name. Later, half a month after you entered Ryan City, the Adventurers' Association handed over your file to me. Since you are a Mystic, they dared not keep the information from me, so they reported it up for my awareness."

Herag sighed. When Erza called out his real name, he guessed it was the Adventurers' Association that leaked the information.

"Don't blame Milo, though. He doesn't have ill intentions towards you and even hoped in subsequent messages that I could provide you with some conveniences. He said you're a lawful Mystic who wouldn't harm the city's order."

"After you entered Ryan City, I arranged for someone to observe you from afar for a few days, finding that you indeed spent most of the time at home without causing any disturbance to the city. So, I didn't bother you much. It seems you just want to spend a quiet time here."

Erza said, adjusting her legs a bit as if feeling uncomfortable from lying down too long, her long and fair legs exhibiting perfect curves.

"Then why did you accept the task I posted? Do you have any information about the Moonstone Grass?" Herag asked.

Erza replied, "I did. To be precise, I originally had two Moonstone Grasses, but they were stolen halfway."

"You're the City Lord of Ryan City, and your father is Duke Barton. Who would dare rob you?"

A Great Knight stood outside, and Erza had significant military power in her hands, making her hard to provoke.

"Wizards," Erza slowly uttered two words, "The one who stole my Moonstone Grass is a Wizard, not an Official Wizard, likely a First-Class or Second-Class Wizard Apprentice."

Herag knew things weren't this simple. No wonder Erza asked him to come over.

But since Erza is Dino's descendant, she should also have Wizard connections. Why would she need to call upon him?

"Aren't you Dino's descendant? Plus, the Doris Kingdom is within the jurisdiction of Dream Island. Which Wizard Apprentice would rob you?" Herag voiced his doubts.

Erza sighed, her lower part rising and falling, the white expanse making one's head spin.

She said, "I only have a good relationship with Uncle Dino, but besides him, I don't know any Wizards. With my aptitude, I don't even qualify to join Dream Island. Uncle Dino also said that with my aptitude, joining a Wizard Organization is not beneficial. He's at sea for long periods and can't always look after me. It's better to be a City Lord in Ryan City, living the rest of my life quietly."

"And Mr. Dino? Is he at sea again?" Herag asked.

Erza said, "Of course, he's very busy. So when the Moonstone Grass was taken by the Wizard, I had no choice. The only Wizard I could contact was you. Initially, I didn't want to bother you, but when I saw you posted a task for Moonstone Grass at the Adventurers' Association, I thought you might be interested, so I took the liberty of disturbing you."

"When was it taken?" Herag thought even if he was called in, it might be useless; whoever took it must have fled far, and he can't track them down.

"Ten days ago," Erza said.

Herag shrugged, "Can you find the person's location?"

Erza shook her head, "I don't know his location, but I know where he'll go next."

"Where? How do you know?" Herag was a bit puzzled.

"The person who stole my Moonstone Grass doesn't belong to any Wizard Organization. There are many such Wizard Apprentices. Not everyone has the conditions to join Wizard Organizations like Moonlight Forest or Dream Island," Erza said.

She adjusted her slipped shoulder garment again, changing positions to lie face down on the bed, the snow-white instantaneously pressed out explosively.

Her small feet leisurely moved in the back, "Wizards need resources for cultivation. These freelance Wizard Apprentices regularly hold a market once a year to obtain resources. In this market, all Wizard Apprentices can buy or exchange resources as needed for cultivation."

Chapter 105: Too Young to Understand an Older Woman's Charms

"So the wizard apprentice who took the Moonstone Grass did it to sell or trade for the resources he needed at the market?" Herag asked.

Erza nodded, "Exactly, that's the only possibility. Because I know that Moonstone Grass is actually a high-tier magic potion material, generally used for high-level magic potion refining. How could a rogue wizard apprentice refine high-level magic potions? So he must be preparing for the market."

Herag understood what Erza meant, Moonstone Grass is useless to an average wizard apprentice, so they can only sell or trade it.

And since the market is about to start this year, that person will definitely go to the market.

After thinking for a while, Herag said, "But there are still two problems: First, where is the market located? Can you find the specific location of such a place? The second problem is, even if I get to the market, I won't know who has the Moonstone Grass."

"I already know the location of the market, don't forget, I can use the power of the Adventurers' Association to gather information. Although a few people died, the information was obtained. It's in Luoya Town."

Erza sat up, her robe haphazardly draped, her golden hair cascading down to cover the critical points.

She continued, "As for the second problem, you don't need to know who that person is. As long as someone is selling Moonstone Grass at the market, you can buy it for me. Get both batches, I only need one, and the other is yours as payment."

Herag thought for a moment, meaning he actually didn't need to fight to get the Moonstone Grass, as long as he could buy or trade for it at the market.

With the Moonstone Grass in hand, he could complete the task Larry gave him.

Next, he just needed to quietly meditate and wait for news from the Moonlight Forest.

Herag asked, "Can your information channels find out what currency these wizards typically use for transactions? Gold coins or magic stones?"

"I can tell you without needing any information channels; they mostly use bartering or gold coin transactions. Magic stones are quite rare and hard to acquire for anyone outside the wizard organizations. Most magic stone mines are controlled by major wizard organizations, and magic stones mostly circulate within these organizations, with very few reaching the outside world," Erza said.

She took a bite of a grape as the juice splashed onto her chest, quickly wiping it with a towel, making one's blood boil.

Herag gulped, calming his emotions before asking, "If Moonstone Grass is priced in gold coins, about how much does it usually cost? I am but a pauper, with no money on me."

He had over ten thousand gold coins in his pocket and a valuable Heart of the Ocean Necklace, which was a gift prepared for Lillian.

Overall, he wasn't exactly poor, but in front of this wealthy woman, Herag had to play the poor card.

Erza glanced at him, a smile on her lips, "I have prepared one hundred thousand gold coins for you. Typically, this level of magic potion material costs about ten thousand gold coins, and no more than twenty thousand. The extra gold coins are also your reward."

"Why don't you send someone yourself?" Herag asked.

Erza rolled her eyes at him, "Because only wizard apprentices or wizards can enter the market."

"Understood, hand over the money," Herag said with a smile.

Erza, with a bit of shyness in her voice, said, "Actually, you can refuse the gold coins, and I can give you a different reward. I haven't experienced a wizard yet~"

"This woman is nearly thirty, yet still talks so coquettishly!" Herag grumbled in his heart.

He refused, "No, I only recognize gold coins."

Erza sighed, "You are still too young, not knowing the goodness of an older sister. There will always be time to earn gold coins, but some things, once missed, are gone forever~"

She could also release the information, perhaps finding some wizard apprentices willing to help shop on behalf of her.

But firstly, it wasn't certain she could find someone, as wizard apprentices are usually very mysterious and hard to find.

Secondly, even if she found someone, Erza wouldn't trust them.

But Herag was different; Erza knew a bit more about him and trusted him a bit more.

Overall, Herag was the most suitable candidate at the moment.

"Alright, give me the detailed information on Luoya Town, and the one hundred thousand gold coins." After some thought, Herag decided to take on this task.

He was quite interested in the market himself, curious about what might be available there.

"You won't run away, will you?" Erza asked with a bit of coyness.

"Run away? I, Herag, am not that kind of person. Besides, given my acquaintance with Mr. Dino, there's no way I would just take your money and disappear," Herag laughed.

...

Herag left the City Lord's Mansion with ten chests of gold coins in his Space Ring, filling it to the brim as it was already a bit cramped.

He nearly fled from there, as staying even a moment longer would have stirred his blood.

Recently, due to practicing with the Starry Sky Potion, he managed to suppress its side effects through meditation.

But facing Erza's mature and alluring figure, that restlessness quickly bubbled up.

He finally understood why many wizards have eccentric personalities, mostly because of the side effects of these magic potions.

Afraid of doing something irrational if he stayed longer, especially since she was Dino's descendant, he couldn't act recklessly.

But judging by Erza's demeanor, she seemed quite hopeful that he might act recklessly.

Herag now had a tall, robust build, striking looks, and a composed yet mysterious aura that easily drew attention and curiosity from the opposite sex.

Many spells also have side effects, particularly necromancy and curse spells.

The market was set to take place in half a month, in Luoya Town, not far from Ryan City.

With Ryan's convenient transportation, riding a horse there would take only three days.

Herag spent ten days meditating and practicing at home as usual, then set out early for Luoya Town.

Although the market would start in five days, the wizard apprentices intending to participate generally arrived early; resource exchanges and intelligence transactions began even before the market officially opened.

This time, Herag did not let Ed drive because that place was filled with wizard apprentices, and Ed, being an ordinary person, might inexplicably perish there.

Traveling on horseback was more convenient and faster, especially since it wasn't too far.

Herag rode along the main road at a fast pace.

After traveling for two days, Herag encountered another man on horseback at a fork in the road. The man was cloaked in black, and upon seeing Herag, he actively kept his distance, without getting too close.

"Shenlan, scan his physical data."

"Power 3.1, Agility 3.5, Constitution 4.2, Spirit 9.8."

Chapter 106: Luoya Town

"The level of a Second-Class Wizard Apprentice, judging by his direction, he should be heading towards Luoya Town as well."

Seeing the result given by Shenlan, Herag had an idea in his mind.

It's easy to recognize wizards; the magic power fluctuations on them are hard to fully conceal unless with special means.

That kind of kindred aura, Herag could tell at a glance from afar.

The man seemed to sense that Herag wasn't easy to deal with, so he voluntarily kept a distance and sped up, remaining wary of Herag the whole time.

Herag didn't approach to provoke him, maintaining the distance to show he had no hostile intentions.

Along the way, Herag encountered many other wizard apprentices, all heading to the market just like him.

Among them, most were First-Class Wizard Apprentices, with Second-Class Wizard Apprentices being relatively rare, and Third-Class Wizard Apprentices even rarer.

For these scattered wizard apprentices, advancing to a Third-Class Wizard Apprentice is extremely difficult without training resources.

Since they couldn't join the major wizard organizations due to inadequate aptitude, trying to advance to a Third-Class Wizard Apprentice on their own is like reaching for the stars.

As for becoming an Official Wizard, it was something these scattered wizard apprentices scarcely dared to dream of, unless they had some fortuitous encounter.

A day later, Herag arrived at Luoya Town with a group of people.

Luoya Town is quite a large town, nestled in a valley.

There's a large stone at the entrance, covered in moss without any inscriptions.

If ordinary people came here, they'd only see this large stone and the towering cliff behind it.

Even if they climbed the cliff, they'd only see the forest, unable to find a trace of Luoya Town.

The way to enter Luoya Town is to channel magic power into the large stone, which then transports you into the town.

Inside Luoya Town, fighting is forbidden. Anyone who causes trouble and fights will be punished and expelled from the town, and blacklisted, never to enter Luoya Town again.

This is quite a serious consequence for these wizard apprentices, as the market in Luoya Town is their important avenue for resource exchange.

Nobody is sure who the management of Luoya Town is, but it's certain that an Official Wizard oversees each market opening.

Most people speculate it's the wizards from Dream Island, as it's under Dream Island's jurisdiction.

These scattered wizard apprentices are actually unstable elements; Dream Island probably employs this method to manage them within its jurisdiction.

After entering, Herag found himself on a street lined with many shops, some empty and some with goods being set up for sale.

Various transactions had already begun, but whether they were buying or selling, most people hadn't left Luoya Town.

At the center of Luoya Town, there's a large stone. When the market officially opens, wizard apprentices can activate this stone to randomly teleport to nearby places.

This measure was established to protect the market participants' safety, to prevent instances of murder and treasure theft.

However, this still cannot entirely prevent occurrences of murder and robbery, as wizards have many tricks, and some strange marking methods always exist.

The teleportation only covers a thirty-kilometer radius, and once outside, targets can generally be found through marking methods.

Hence, after entering, these wizard apprentices remain cautious of each other, keeping their distance and avoiding any physical contact.

"Shenlan, constantly monitor the magic power fluctuations around and anyone's actions. Warn me immediately if there's any potential threat to me." Herag was also very cautious, instructing Shenlan to start monitoring immediately to avoid unknowingly being marked.

"Are you new here? You look unfamiliar." A chubby, round-faced wizard apprentice approached, standing several meters from Herag.

Herag glanced at him and said, "Yes."

"Shenlan, check his vital stats."

"Power 3.2, Agility 3.5, Constitution 4.1, Spirit 9.5."

"Second-Class Wizard Apprentice..." Herag glanced at the data.

The round-faced wizard smiled, "I come to this market every year, and it's easy to spot newcomers. My name is Calis. How about five Gold Coins to tell you about this place? There are many things to watch out for, or you'll get scammed."

"Five Gold Coins? You sure know how to make money." Herag chuckled.

Calis sighed, "Well, making money isn't easy. Rest assured; those five coins will definitely be worth it."

Herag thought for a moment, then took out five Gold Coins, "Alright then..."

"Detected abnormal magic power fluctuation." Shenlan immediately alerted.

Herag, who thought five Gold Coins weren't much and some information was worth the expense, now had second thoughts when Shenlan warned him.

In his vision, Shenlan marked a blue magic power fluctuation emitting from Calis.

"Shenlan, what's going on?" Herag asked.

"Analyzing..."

"Analysis complete. There's an 87.3% chance it's some kind of ritual. If the subject hands over the coins, the ritual will complete." Shenlan replied.

Herag weighed the coins in his hand, looked at Calis, and smiled, "Interesting."

He guessed this was likely a marking ritual; if he handed over the coins to complete the ritual, this wizard apprentice named Calis might be able to monitor his whereabouts anytime.

The ritual itself is unlikely to be harmful, as there's not enough magic power, and Calis isn't strong enough.

A deadly harmful ritual wouldn't be completed so easily; surely it would require a greater price.

Herag took a deep breath, feeling the complexity of the situation, almost falling for a trick just upon entering.

No wonder these wizard apprentices avoid lengthy conversations with each other. Without Shenlan and adequate experience, someone else would surely get marked by Calis.

Although Herag isn't afraid of him with his power, Calis might not be alone.

"What's interesting? Give me the coins, and I'll start explaining. You must be extremely cautious here." Calis appeared earnest and sincere.

Herag nodded, agreeing wholeheartedly, "Indeed, one must be extremely cautious here. So, to be a little cautious, I won't give these five Gold Coins, and I won't trouble you for introductions. I'll explore on my own."

Calis' expression froze; seeing Herag's knowing smile, he realized Herag had seen through him.

He immediately switched to a cold, indifferent demeanor, "Not bad, newcomer."

Herag spared him a glance, chuckled, and walked down the street, intending to visit the various shops.

Calis, seeing he couldn't deceive Herag, wandered around, seemingly waiting for the next newcomer.

Chapter 107: The Deal

In Luoya Town, the rows of houses are almost all set up as shops for people, so you can find an empty house if you want to sell anything.

The houses here are definitely sufficient because there are too few Wizard Apprentices.

Even though this is an annual market, most of the surrounding Wizard Apprentices come to participate, but the numbers are still small.

Herag walked all the way, and counted a bit; there are only about thirty people.

The number might increase a bit later, but it's unlikely to suddenly surge, ending up with only dozens of people.

"No wonder Calis could tell at a glance that I'm a newcomer. The number of idle Wizard Apprentices is still too few. Most people have likely crossed paths before, making it easy to spot who's new."

Herag continued strolling down the street, noticing that some shops already had Wizard Apprentices settled in, while others were putting up small blackboards with what they were selling and seeking to buy.

"There seems to be a lot of bartering here, with very little Gold Coin trading, and I haven't seen any Magic Stone trading yet."

He observed several shops, mostly selling Magic Potion Materials, Casting Materials, and finished Magic Potions, and some were selling Spell Model Books.

Sales are generally priced in Gold Coins or through exchanges with items of the same level.

For instance, the shop next door has written on the small blackboard: "Selling Withered Demon Vine, 80 Gold Coins per piece, preferably exchanged for White Dew Grass."

For these Wizard Apprentices, making money here is secondary; the most important thing is acquiring cultivation resources.

These people are not part of a Wizard Organization and have no stable channels to obtain cultivation resources.

It's easy for them to earn money in the ordinary world, but the toughest part is getting various Magic Potion Materials and Casting Materials.

Places with abundant resources are almost all under the control of Wizard Organizations, and scattered resources are hard to find and acquire.

A place like Valley Town has abundant resources, and if these people knew about it, they'd probably risk the danger and venture in.

Herag took a round but did not discover anyone selling Moonstone Grass, guessing the person hasn't arrived yet.

He's not interested in the current shop items, as they're nearly all things he already has. Larry prepared too richly with that batch of basic Magic Potion Materials for him, with a lot of variety.

Seeing it was late, Herag found an empty house and moved in.

He shut the door and started taking out the food and water prepared as dinner.

No need to worry here about someone suddenly breaking in and attacking him; no Wizard Apprentice in Luoya Town dared act recklessly.

Two days later, the market officially began, and the number of people in Luoya Town reached over sixty.

Herag stayed in his room these two days, practicing at ease, suspending the analysis work of the Stone Slab during this time, as he must always maintain the best state without any Magic Power loss.

Luoya Town was now bustling, and on the street appeared two or three figures in black robes, reportedly the management personnel of Luoya Town, responsible for maintaining order.

Herag sensed and found they were all Third Class Wizard Apprentices, with very strong Magic Power auras.

"Seems they're likely from some Wizard Organization, probably Dream Island." Herag guessed inwardly.

With these people around, transactions on-site were orderly, and no need to worry about someone getting greedy and forcibly rushing in even if displaying some treasures in hand.

"Moonstone Grass! It's actually Moonstone Grass!"

"This is High-tier Magic Potion Materials; how did he come by it?"

"This thing is good but useless to me; general Magic Potion Refining doesn't use this stuff."

"Exactly, if I had such Magic Potion skills, why would I be struggling outside? I'd have entered some Wizard Organization for work long ago."

...

Herag noticed quite a few people crowding and discussing in front of a shop ahead.

Upon hearing the word Moonstone Grass, he immediately rushed over, discovering it was a man with a white mask selling Moonstone Grass.

The masked man held a delicate wooden box, opened it, revealing red silk as the base, with two silver transparent leaves resting on it.

"Shenlan, detect if this is Moonstone Grass."

"After inspection, confirmed to be Moonstone Grass."

Herag, to be cautious, let Shenlan verify its authenticity.

Moonstone Grass generally grows underwater and must be in a location illuminated by moonlight.

Before picking, Moonstone Grass is green, looking unremarkable like aquatic plants.

Without the relevant knowledge, even when seen, people won't recognize it, let alone relate that plant looking like watergrass to High-level Magic Potion Materials.

After showing the Moonstone Grass to the crowd, the masked man said, "I have two portions of Moonstone Grass; I need Casting Materials from the Necromancy or Curse Element in exchange."

"Can't use Gold Coins for swapping? Those two categories of Casting Materials are hard to get," someone asked.

The masked man shook his head: "No, I don't lack Gold Coins."

"I see there probably aren't any Wizard Apprentices specializing in Necromancy or Curse Element here; trading your Moonstone Grass would be quite difficult." That person seemed very interested in Moonstone Grass, continuing to persuade.

What he said was also true; both Necromancy and Curse Element require extensive knowledge learning, which is a high threshold for idle Wizard Apprentices, making specialization in these fields rare.

Without being specialists in these two directions, they generally wouldn't carry corresponding Casting Materials.

After all, Necromancy and Curse Element Casting Materials are generally quite dark, who would keep such things for no reason?

The masked man's attitude was firm: "If I can't trade for the Casting Materials I want, the trade for these two portions of Moonstone Grass will cease, and I'll reconsider later."

Herag glanced around and moved through the crowd.

He took out the Resentful Doll: "I do have a good Casting Material here, but trading it for just these two Casting Materials would be a big loss for me."

"It's actually a Resentful Doll!"

"Where did he get such high-level Casting Materials?"

...

The crowd's gaze instantly focused on Herag, his hand holding the Resentful Doll attracting much attention.

For Curse Element Wizards, a Resentful Doll is a treasure, using it for general Level 0 Curse Spells is quite wasteful.

Of course, it's not impossible to use it; the effect would definitely be excellent, just too wasteful.

The masked man was instantly moved seeing the Resentful Doll, but now his two portions of Moonstone Grass were suddenly not qualified.

He quickly took out a thick book: "This is the Spell Model of Level 0 Spell 'Ice Cone Technique,' I'll add this for the trade, how about it?"

Herag smiled: "How could that be possible? A Resentful Doll can serve as Casting Materials for Level 1 Curse Spells, just this small Ice Cone Technique book is still lacking. if you can't provide something more valuable, I'm afraid this trade is unfeasible."

He deliberately displayed a stance of not caring much about Moonstone Grass, feign to retract his Resentful Doll.

Chapter 108: Pursuit

"Wait!" The masked man reached out to stop Herag.

He was silent for a moment, though his expression was invisible, his hesitation was palpable.

"Do you have anything else good?" Herag asked impatiently.

The masked man then took out a block of ice, inside which was a giant, beating heart.

"The heart of a Stone Giant!"

"Why is it frozen?"

...

"This is a Stone Giant's heart. Normally, even with this together with Moonstone Grass, it wouldn't be enough to trade for the Resentful Doll. However, I used Cold Insect Grass to freeze this Stone Giant Heart, which can maintain its vitality for a full two years!"

"With this and Moonstone Grass, it should be enough to trade for your Resentful Doll."

The masked man held the ice block in his hand and spoke to Herag.

Herag was genuinely tempted now; this thing was of great value to a Second-Class Wizard Apprentice.

The heart of a Stone Giant was an essential primary material for the Dawn and Dusk Potion, necessary for advancing to a Third Class Wizard Apprentice.

The main issue with this material is that it cannot be stored for long, so generally, only when a Second-Class Wizard Apprentice reaches the advancement conditions do they hunt Stone Giants.

For Wizard Apprentices in the Wizard Organization, this isn't too difficult because they have channels for hunting Stone Giants.

But for these independent Wizard Apprentices, things are different. They have no idea where to find a Stone Giant.

Even if there are any, they are usually near major Wizard Organizations.

These people going there are at great risk.

Cold Insect Grass is also a rare Magic Potion material, its value even higher than the heart of a Stone Giant.

Using Cold Insect Grass to freeze a Stone Giant's heart is extremely extravagant, but for these people, it is the only way.

The masked man himself is also a Second-Class Wizard Apprentice; this item was surely prepared for himself.

Now that he's brought even this out, it shows that he really wants the Resentful Doll.

Herag was worried about where to find a Stone Giant heart for his next advancement; this frozen Stone Giant Heart was just what he needed.

He thought for a moment and said, "This is not bad. If you add that Ice Cone Technique book, I'll make the deal."

The masked man was silent again for a while, then took out the spell model for Ice Cone Technique: "Fine."

His words were cold, and anyone could hear the chill in his tone.

Herag wasn't afraid of offending him. He didn't think the masked man would give up on the Stone Giant Heart, and there would likely be trouble afterward.

Given the situation, why not profit a little more?

The transaction quickly began, witnessed by the management of Luoya Town, as the two exchanged their items.

"Shenlan, check if these items have anything attached that can enable tracking."

Herag immediately began inspecting the items, believing the masked man would likely tamper with them.

"Checking in progress..."

"No traces found."

Shenlan's inspection results were unexpected to Herag. None of the items had any residual magic power or anything similar.

After completing the transaction, Herag put everything into his Space Ring.

Normally, within the Space Ring are different spaces.

Even if there were tracking methods, it would be impossible to track items in another space.

Herag went straight to the central large stone of Luoya Town, placed his hand on the stone, and then infused it with magic power.

Then, the world spun, and he vanished from the spot.

After Herag left, the masked man appeared seemingly out of nowhere, also standing next to the large stone.

According to Luoya Town's rule, one person must wait ten minutes after another leaves before they can leave.

The masked man didn't dare break this rule, so he stood earnestly next to the stone, waiting for ten minutes to pass.

When the time was up, the masked man immediately transported himself away via the large stone.

...

Once Herag landed, he glanced around and then determined his direction by sensing the position of the stars; he began to run towards Ryan City.

The horse he came with was no longer an option to retrieve; he had to quickly leave this place.

His current position was not ideal, somewhat off-track from his arrival direction, and farther from Ryan City.

After running at high speed for an hour, Herag sensed someone catching up behind him.

He turned to see the masked man chasing after him on horseback.

Herag turned and cast two Corrosive Arrows, one aiming at the horse and another at the man.

To evade the Corrosive Arrows, the masked man immediately jumped off the horse, rolled several times on the ground, and got back up.

"Shadow Insect Swarm." The masked man chanted spell syllables, summoning a large swarm of mosquito-like black creatures.

The swarm, dark and dense, rushed towards Herag.

"Dark Energy Shield!"

"Ice Shield!"

"Mana Shield!"

Herag quickly cast three shields on himself, and the swarm continuously battered against them, consuming their protection.

"You've mastered so many shield spells!" The masked man was surprised.

People like them, who hadn't joined a Wizard Organization, generally mastered fewer spells.

Many didn't even have a single shield spell, yet Herag had cast three upon himself right away.

"Counting the earlier Corrosive Arrows, he's already used four spells." The masked man felt a bit grim; he realized Herag wouldn't be easy to deal with.

But retreating was not an option; the Stone Giant Heart was too important to him, and he must retrieve it.

Herag drew his longsword and, taking advantage of the thick shields' protection, accelerated towards the masked man.

The swarm completely obscured his shields; normally, one would definitely not see their surroundings.

Herag remained unaffected, advancing quickly with steady steps.

Seeing this, the masked man had no choice but to recall some insects for defense, while a Bone Spike formed in his hand.

Herag charged fearlessly, continuously casting Corrosive Arrows to harass the masked man.

The masked man had only one Mana Shield, which soon became tattered under the assault of Corrosive Arrows and could no longer hold.

As Herag was about to close in, the large Bone Spike in the masked man's hand completed its formation.

The next moment, Herag disappeared.

Shocked, the masked man seemed to realize something.

But by then, it was too late; a longsword pierced his chest.

"Flash step..."

The masked man slowly uttered these words before falling heavily, his swarm dissolving soon after.

He never expected Herag to actually master the Flash Step spell, the most difficult spell among the Level 0 Spells.

First, obtaining the spell model was incredibly rare, accessible only to members of Wizard Organizations.

Second, learning it was highly challenging, often requiring immense time and effort and still not guaranteeing successful mastery.

As he fell, the masked man suspected that Herag probably belonged to a Wizard Organization; otherwise, it would be impossible for him to master so many Level 0 Spells.

He treated Herag as an independent Wizard Apprentice, underestimating Herag's strength. His obsession with the Resentful Doll and Stone Giant Heart made him rash, leading to his demise.

Chapter 109: The True Use of the Starry Sky Potion

Herag followed up with several sword strikes; facing an enemy without finishing them off easily leads to tragedy.

After confirming the masked man's death, Herag checked the items on the corpse.

This masked man did not have a Space Ring, only a backpack with the space of a water tank, which is considered a relatively low-level space storage item.

Inside, Herag saw his own Resentful Doll, a few bottles of low-quality Healing Potion, and several Gold Coin Deposit Tickets from the Doris Kingdom treasury.

This person still had money; these Gold Coin Deposit Tickets totaled over thirty thousand gold coins.

Herag couldn't use them because these tickets require identity verification.

If he tried to exchange the tickets for gold coins, he might encounter other troubles, and it's not worth it for thirty thousand gold coins.

The rest were just some miscellaneous items, and the most valuable was his own Resentful Doll.

After counting the spoils, Herag used a Small Fireball Technique to burn the corpse.

"How did he find me?" Herag couldn't understand where he went wrong, but now that the person was dead, there was no chance to ask.

After dealing with the corpse, Herag resumed his journey.

He bought a horse in a village along the way and continued his journey.

From here to Ryan City, it takes two days on horseback; walking is too slow and easy to be overtaken.

Unfortunately, he killed the masked man's horse, otherwise, he could have been faster.

About an hour after Herag left, the plump Calis arrived at the scene. Looking at the still blazing fire, he muttered to himself, "That kid is actually so fierce."

...

Two days later, Herag returned to Ryan City.

Once in Ryan City, Herag could relax a bit.

Wizards rarely fight in cities inhabited by ordinary people, because accidentally harming many ordinary people would cause trouble for themselves.

As for those casual Wizard Apprentices without any background, they wouldn't dare to make a move in the city.

After entering the city, Herag headed straight to the City Lord's Mansion, and after being reported, Erza's Knight Commander, Lewandowski, personally came to lead him inside.

Just like before, Lewandowski always had a grim face and remained extremely wary of Herag.

"You've returned so soon?" Erza, as before, was still lying slanted on the bed with black gauze draping around.

This time, she wore a small tank top that fully showcased her figure.

Herag always felt the straps of the tank top might snap at any moment, given the immense stress.

"This is Moonstone Grass, two leaves in total. As agreed, this is yours." Herag took out a wooden box and retrieved a piece of Moonstone Grass from it.

"How much did it cost?" Erza asked curiously.

Herag earnestly replied, "A lot; almost all the gold coins you gave were spent. Moonstone Grass is very rare, and they inflated the price quite high."

"Really? I didn't hear it was so expensive before." Erza asked somewhat skeptically.

"I don't know either, but it's definitely expensive. By the way, why do you need this? Are you conducting Alchemy?" Herag asked.

It was a question he had wanted to ask; ordinarily, Wizard Apprentices are not worthy of using Moonstone Grass, so why was Erza, a barely First-Class Wizard Apprentice, using such high-level Magic Potion Materials?

Erza said, "I heard Moonstone Grass when soaked in water maintains youth and delays aging."

"I've never heard of such an effect." Herag recalled and couldn't remember any such record in herbalism books.

"You formidable wizards naturally can maintain youth anyway, so you wouldn't notice such trivial matters." Erza looked at Herag somewhat enviously; she had worked hard to become a Wizard Apprentice mainly to preserve her appearance.

She had personally seen Dino, her great-grandfather, still retain the appearance of someone in his thirties despite being over a hundred years old, so she naturally aspired to become a wizard.

But unfortunately, her qualifications were insufficient; even with Dino's help, she barely entered the field.

After her hopes of further advancement dwindled, Erza began pursuing various methods of maintaining her appearance.

Especially in recent years, approaching thirty years of age, Erza increasingly sought to maintain her beauty.

This matter with Moonstone Grass was passed onto her by Dino, saying that soaking it in water could alleviate aging.

Many wizards naturally overlooked this effect as it holds no meaning for them.

And ordinary people can't afford such items, so naturally few know about it.

"Shenlan, does Moonstone Grass have anti-aging effects?" Herag asked.

"After testing and database research, Moonstone Grass has certain effects of delaying aging," Shenlan provided the answer.

"So it really has such an effect." Herag didn't expect it to be true.

"Come over and give it to me then," Erza said leisurely while lying inside.

Holding the Moonstone Grass, Herag put the wooden box back into the Space Ring and walked over.

Handing the Moonstone Grass through the black gauze, Herag passed it inside.

Erza reached out to take the Moonstone Grass but turned her hand to grasp Herag's hand, while her fingers traced Herag's palm, making him feel ticklish.

"Since you spent almost all the gold coins you had to buy Moonstone Grass, why don't I give you another kind of reward?" Erza gazed at Herag seductively, murmuring with an enticing breath.

Herag immediately pulled up the black gauze and slipped inside, pressing down on Erza: "You're playing with fire."

Erza showed no fear; instead, she hooked her arms around Herag's neck and leaned close to his face saying, "Dry kindling needs a blazing fire."

...

The most needed age encounters the most capable age; an entire night quickly passed.

Herag looked at the sleeping Erza in his arms, feeling no fatigue at all, whereas Erza was exhausted and asleep.

"Hmm?" Herag suddenly had a strange feeling.

"So this is the real application of the Starry Sky Potion?"

He closed his eyes and immediately began Meditation, discovering that his meditation speed was several times faster than when he consumed the Starry Sky Potion.

The unfortunate part is that this speed is due to a large accumulation of the Starry Sky Potion's properties, manifesting all at once now and can't be regularly maintained at such a pace.

The Starry Sky Potion's latent properties were stored in Herag's body, and they hadn't been completely unleashed.

But after the frenzy last night, these properties once again activated and produced an even better effect.

"The effect is excellent, but I can't possibly sustain this daily. Right, I could store this effect and release it after a week; that should be more reasonable."

The unactivated properties of the Starry Sky Potion would settle down and could be released all at once later.

During the period when the properties were effective, Herag seized the chance to meditate and didn't miss any opportunity to enhance himself.

Chapter 110: Half a Year

Herag's meditation lasted for eight hours this time, with effects comparable to a week's meditation after consuming the Starry Sky Potion.

Originally, it would take more than a month to succeed in meditating on the eighth star, but now it only requires about a month.

When Herag opened his eyes again, it was already evening. Erza, seeing that he was meditating, did not disturb him but instead dressed up and went out to arrange some food.

It was expected that Herag would finish meditating by noon, so the delicacies were placed in the room.

Who knew Herag would meditate until evening, and the food, having gone cold, was taken away, and dinner preparations began.

"You are really diligent," Erza said as she sat by the bed, seeing Herag awake.

She was wearing a low-cut outfit, the lower part just covered by her hips.

Herag felt a bit agitated inside and said, "If I hadn't taken another look at you, I should have completed my daily meditation last night."

"Did I force you to look?" Erza lightly rebuked.

Herag thought for a moment and nodded, "I looked."

Erza was stunned for a moment, then quickly understood and gave Herag a friendly punch.

...

After having dinner at the City Lord's Mansion, Herag left. Erza tried to persuade him to stay, but Herag still refused.

Instinctively, he would love to stay in the frivolity of the night, but Herag didn't want to waste too much time on these matters.

With the Moonstone Grass now in hand, the task given by Larry is considered complete, and now he just needs to wait for news from the Moonlight Forest.

Once things settle down there, he can return.

To him, there are still too many inconveniences outside; at least inside the Moonlight Forest, it is safe enough.

Anything he wants to learn can be learned immediately.

There is no shortage of resources; as long as there are sufficient Magic Stones, he can acquire whatever resources he wants.

For Wizard Apprentices, the Wizard Organization indeed provides a relatively stable environment for practice.

When Herag arrived at his courtyard and pushed the door open, he found Ed diligently trimming the lawn.

Upon hearing the door open, Ed looked up, saw Herag, and ran over, pleasantly surprised, "Sir, you're back."

"Yes," Herag replied simply and continued walking towards his room.

Judy also came running when she heard the commotion, her hands still wet, seeming to have been doing laundry.

Herag looked around and found everything very clean, showing that the two of them often cleaned meticulously and diligently.

Upon returning to his room, he began to organize the harvest from this trip: a Moonstone Grass, a Frozen Stone Giant Heart, and a spell model of the Ice Cone Technique.

These are all good items, especially the Frozen Stone Giant Heart, which is of great significance to Herag.

He now just needs to meditate step-by-step until his Spiritual Power reaches the requirements for advancing to a Third Class Wizard Apprentice, then he can start brewing the Dawn and Dusk Potion.

The brewing of the Dawn and Dusk Potion is not much more complex than the Dawn Potion, and Herag's Spiritual Power is certainly a lot higher now than when he brewed the Dawn Potion, giving him more confidence in the brewing process.

He also plans to learn the Ice Cone Technique spell. Having more spells means more options, and being better prepared is always beneficial.

In his battle with the man in the mask, he realized the advantage of having multiple spells.

Just having three Shields was enough to frustrate the man in the mask; ordinary Wizard Apprentices don't have that much energy and time to master three Shield Spells.

However, for Herag, the work of deciphering the Ancient Stone Slab is certainly important as well.

Another major discovery from this trip was finding the true usage of the Starry Sky Potion.

Herag didn't expect that only by combining in such a way can the true effects of the Starry Sky Potion be released.

In the future, he plans to accumulate at least seven days of potency and then see Erza to release the potency.

Since Erza is also a First-class Wizard Apprentice, her body is stronger than an ordinary person's and can withstand his endless energy.

To avoid leaving descendants, Herag used his Magic Power to envelop certain things.

Instinct told him that Erza might have deliberately acted this way for this very purpose.

Herag's wizard potential is quite good, and Erza herself has a bit of wizard potential as well. The chances of their offspring having wizard potential are high.

But Herag remained cautious, ensuring Erza's intentions would ultimately be in vain.

After tallying the gains from this trip, Herag resumed his usual practice life.

Every day, he consumes the Starry Sky Potion to complete meditation, visiting Erza every seven days to release the potion's potency.

The content of the Ancient Stone Slab continued to be deciphered, and Herag took time to have Shenlan complete the spell model construction for the Ice Cone Technique, giving himself another Attack Magic.

Twenty days later.

"Shenlan, check my body data."

"Herag Merlin: Power 4.8, Agility 4.9, Constitution 6.1, Spirit 13.5, Magic Power 100%."

The meditation on the eighth star was complete, once again enhancing Herag's metrics in all aspects.

His Spiritual Power was nearing the standard for advancing to a Third Class Wizard Apprentice, but Herag wouldn't rush into advancement.

With the Starry Sky Meditation Technique, he can complete meditating on two stars before attempting the advancement to a Third Class Wizard Apprentice.

By then, his Spiritual Power will undoubtedly surpass 15 points, making the advancement more assured and with a higher success rate.

Herag's days in Ryan City passed peacefully, typically involving meditation practice, brewing potions, and visiting Erza to release the Starry Sky Potion's effects.

This house needn't be rented anymore as Erza directly gifted it to him.

He later learned that the entire area of houses belonged to Erza.

Over the course of more than half a year, Herag turned sixteen, marking his third year in this world.

"Herag Merlin: Power 6.7, Agility 6.3, Constitution 7.8, Spirit 16.8, Magic Power 100%.

Herag completed the meditation on the tenth star, with all ten points on the Array Map in his mind lit up.

It was then that he understood the function of the Array Map.

Once all points of the Array Map are lit, it can store 50% of Herag's Magic Power.

This functions like a Magic Power storage tool, allowing Herag to have 150% available Magic Power.

This is a significant enhancement for Herag, whether in combat, potion brewing, or Shenlan executing various simulations, analyses, and calculations, all requiring Magic Power.

The Magic Power stored by the Array Map increases with Herag's power, different at a Spiritual Power level of 16 compared to 20, but the Magic Power the Array Map can store also increases accordingly.

And this is just one Array Map; Herag can imagine having ten or a hundred Array Maps, making Magic Power almost endless and never exhausted.

Herag already began pondering some combat methods advantageous to him based on the effects of the Array Map.