

Sixth 211

Chapter 211: Treant

Sifler had read about Wizards in some ancient texts.

Brutal, powerful, greedy—the descriptions of Wizards were nearly all negative.

But one thing was certain: Wizards were very powerful.

Sifler asked, "Wizards? What are they doing there?"

Lu Qiao explained, "This involves the dimensional war, it's very complex. Simply put, the Wizards from the Wizard Plane are too greedy, and they want to occupy our Elf Plane and control all the resources here."

Sifler was somewhat stunned.

He didn't expect that to be the reason.

He had heard stories of heroes saving the world since he was a child, but growing up, he knew there were no such world-ending events.

Now, it turned out that a world-level crisis was really in front of him.

"What will happen if they capture Cole?" Sifler asked.

Lu Qiao said uncertainly, "They might directly kill him, or they might keep him to gain some intelligence. In any case, his situation won't be good."

Sifler's eyes lit up, it seemed that Cole might not be dead.

Maybe he was still alive.

"Please let me go with you." Sifler said.

Lu Qiao nodded and said, "You can, but don't act recklessly, those Wizards are even more cruel and powerful than you imagine."

...

After tidying up a bit and notifying the King, Sifler followed Lu Qiao and the four others to Oberstein.

He couldn't remember how long it had been since he last traveled far.

The last time he went far seemed to be to a city to the west to help solve a demon problem.

Many years had passed in the blink of an eye.

Sifler lived a retired life in Sea Stone City, usually teaching students and sitting at the Royal City.

He thought he would spend his life this way, peacefully until the end.

Never did he think he would one day rush to the distant frontier to save his student.

Half a month later, the group arrived in Oberstein.

As soon as Lu Qiao and the others entered the city, they attracted many people's attention.

Elves were very rare here, most people have never seen an Elf with their own eyes in their lives.

Even though they had heard the legends of Elves since childhood.

Soon, adventurers saw these Elves and avoided them.

Those who avoided them all had dealings with Elves before, knowing how noble and arrogant Elves were.

Even if an Elf killed them with a sword, no kingdom could punish them.

So it's best not to provoke Elves, this was the consensus among many adventurers.

A group of soldiers rode over, the leading soldier glanced at Lu Qiao and the four others, then at Sifler.

He dismounted and bowed, "Excuse me, are you Mr. Lu Qiao and Mr. Sifler?"

Lu Qiao nodded slightly, without speaking.

They had already informed Tyrion before departing.

Tyrion had long stationed people at the city gates, who reported immediately when Elves arrived.

The soldier respectfully said, "Please trouble yourselves to come with me to the military camp to rest, the Commander is still outside the frontier, and will be back shortly."

Upon receiving the news, Tyrion immediately rushed back.

He had been personally patrolling the frontier recently, constantly watching for any movement from the Lime Mountain Range.

Tyrion knew very well what it meant when Elves came to investigate.

It meant that the matters within the Lime Mountain Range were beyond what the Noen Kingdom could handle.

When Tyrion returned to the military camp, he immediately saw Lu Qiao and the four Elves, as well as the greatly aged Magic Master Sifler.

"Mr. Sifler! Honorable Elf friends!" Tyrion greeted first.

Sifler looked at Tyrion and sighed, "Tyrion, you've aged too."

Due to being at the frontier, Tyrion had few chances to return to Sea Stone City.

A few years ago, Tyrion had returned, at that time he didn't have so much white hair.

In a blink, Tyrion's temples were already white.

"This is Mr. Lu Qiao, a friend of the Elf Race." Sifler introduced.

Tyrion smiled helplessly when Sifler pointed out his age.

He sighed and then looked at Lu Qiao, "Let me tell you about the recent situation."

"Recently, we've been closely monitoring the situation in the Lime Mountain Range, but it's been very calm inside, with no disturbances. No one has been in or out for this period, and from the outside, there's nothing unusual."

After hearing this, Lu Qiao silently walked to the edge of the wall and looked at the distant Lime Mountain Range.

"Let's go have a look." Lu Qiao said to the people behind him.

Three Elf Race Guard Team members followed, Tyrion and Sifler exchanged a glance and also went over.

Lu Qiao and his group rode directly to a location close to the perimeter of the Lime Mountain Range.

Going further, they would enter the outer perimeter of the Lime Mountain Range.

Lu Qiao stopped and walked to a large tree, placed his hand on it, and closed his eyes.

An invisible wave spread out, and Lu Qiao seemed to be detecting something.

A few minutes later, Lu Qiao opened his eyes, "It seems the people inside haven't come out."

He then placed his hand on the tree again, and his body began to emit a fluctuation of magic power.

Soon, a branch protruded from the trunk of the tree.

Subsequently, this branch extended, looking somewhat like a human arm upon closer inspection.

This wasn't all; after the arm extended, a wooden head and another hand emerged.

The treant pushed against the trunk with both hands and pulled itself out.

A treant, about six feet tall and emaciated, stood before them.

Lu Qiao placed his hand on the treant's head, quickly chanting some syllables.

A wind rose, brushing across everyone's face.

The treant's limbs quickly shrank, along with its head and body.

The treant soon condensed into a wooden sphere, roughly the size of a basketball.

The wooden sphere continued to shrink, becoming the size of an egg.

At this moment, the sphere was suddenly enveloped by a ring of green light, transforming into a bird with white wings.

Lu Qiao closed his eyes, and after the bird circled above their heads, it flew towards the Lime Mountain Range.

During this process, Lu Qiao's vision was already switched to the flying bird.

Strictly speaking, this bird was actually his magic power avatar.

This avatar was much stronger than ordinary spirit communication, possessing certain magic abilities.

Spirit communication essentially communicates with small animals or trees, which themselves have no magic abilities and only provide their field of vision.

Lu Qiao controlled the bird, with the Lime Mountain Range becoming increasingly nearby in view.

He flew over the mountain range's entrance, glanced around, and found nothing unusual.

He continued forward, trying to find some traces below.

With hundreds of people missing, some clues would surely be left behind.

But in this area at the entrance, there was nothing, not even a trace of fighting.

"It seems I must delve deeper."

After contemplating for a moment, Lu Qiao continued to fly deeper into the Lime Mountain Range.

The bird was just his avatar, and it didn't matter even if it died.

Chapter 212: Investigation

Lu Qiao now only hopes to avoid being discovered too soon; he still needs to rely on this bird clone to gather more intelligence.

After flying a certain distance forward, Lu Qiao discovered some traces.

There were sunken pits on the ground, and in some places, the bushes appeared unnaturally collapsed.

These were obvious signs of battle.

However, there was not a trace of blood on the ground nearby, likely cleaned up by someone.

This further confirmed to Lu Qiao that there might be Wizards present here.

From these battle traces, it indicated that the few hundred people who entered the Lime Mountain Range were likely dead.

Even if they were alive, they were probably in the state of slaves or prisoners.

To take down hundreds of people without leaving a drop of blood behind.

Clearly, this wasn't something one or two people could accomplish; it must have been done by an organized multi-person team.

After seeing these traces, Lu Qiao had a rough idea in his mind.

He continued flying forward, observing carefully along the way.

Lu Qiao is an Elf, having grown up in the forest.

He is very familiar with the growth conditions and forms of various plants.

With just a glance, he could tell which areas were frequently traversed by people.

Those unnatural walking traces were as apparent to him as the sun in the sky.

Lu Qiao quickly flew over vast areas, clearly remembering all the traces in his mind.

"These are patrol tracks!"

When he connected all the traces and recognized them in his mind, he realized they were definitely patrol tracks.

Lu Qiao is the Guard Captain, very familiar with the intricacies of patrols.

He stopped on a tree, observed the collected traces, and quickly calculated the target location.

These patrol tracks were all centered around a core location.

All patrol routes were designed to provide a security effect for this place.

After determining the approximate location, Lu Qiao thought for a moment and took flight again.

At this time, a flock of birds happened to fly by, and Lu Qiao directly mingled into the flock.

The surrounding birds glanced at him, seemingly feeling that this unexpected guest was somewhat different from them.

Following the flock, Lu Qiao flew to the target area.

He looked down and didn't find anything unusual.

After circling a few times in the sky, he noted that the area below consisted of ordinary woodland.

However, he did notice one unusual aspect.

That was the concentration of Energy Particles.

The Elf Race is born with very high magic talent and is very sensitive to Energy Particles.

Lu Qiao flew several laps in this area without noticing anything strange, but discovered that the Energy Particles below were highly concentrated.

This was an unreasonably high concentration.

Generally, Energy Particles are constantly moving.

In a natural environment, Energy Particles flow from high-concentration areas to low-concentration areas.

But the anomaly with this area was that Energy Particles from all around were converging here.

Once inside, they did not leave, circulating within this area.

A very distinct boundary formed around the area, with low Energy Particle concentration outside and high concentration within.

This was quite intriguing.

It indicated that something here had been artificially altered, causing this phenomenon.

Lu Qiao had always lived under the World Tree, where the concentration of Energy Particles was also high.

But even there, the Energy Particle distribution was natural and not as bizarre as this place.

Lu Qiao circled a few more times but couldn't detect any anomalies.

He quietly remembered the boundary of Energy Particle concentration.

After taking a general look, the area covered was quite extensive.

This area was precisely within the patrol range.

This explained everything.

"Wait, something is strange. From the patrol traces, people often patrol here, but why haven't I seen anyone today?"

Lu Qiao sensed something was amiss at this thought.

This was a very unusual place.

Not a single patrol person was seen below.

Could it be that the patrol didn't happen today?

This was impossible.

The only possibility was that he had been discovered.

Realizing that, he began to fly back.

But as soon as he flew out a bit, still within the area below,

a black Energy Arrow pierced through the bird's body.

The bird instantly turned into a piece of wood and drifted into the woodland below.

On the other side, Lu Qiao opened his eyes, having lost contact with the bird.

The Clone Technique had ended.

"I've been discovered," Lu Qiao said in a deep voice.

"Discovered? Do we need to evacuate quickly?" Sifler asked.

Tyrion's reaction was, "Discovered by whom?"

He still didn't understand the Plane War situation, nor the existence of Wizards, or what was happening in the Lime Mountain Range.

Lu Qiao shook his head, "No need, they don't seem to be coming out yet. It's fine; I've already obtained the information I wanted."

This reconnaissance, Lu Qiao had gained greatly.

Although he had been discovered, he had already determined the location of the Wizard Base and the patrol routes.

Of course, the patrol routes would likely change, but not drastically.

The base was right there; it couldn't run away.

"Let's go; there's no point in staying here. I need to return immediately to inform the chieftain and the other tribes. I can confirm that the Wizard Base exists inside."

"The three of you stay here and adapt to any situation. Wait for my return. Don't initiate attacks; those Wizards are extremely dangerous," Lu Qiao instructed the other three Elves.

The three nodded without any objections.

"Wizards?" Tyrion heard this term for the first time.

Sifler patted his shoulder, "I'll explain it to you in detail once we get back."

Lu Qiao felt heavy-hearted now; he realized from observing the Wizard Base that it seemed quite mature.

He already knew that the Wizard Base had many Witch Arrays for protection, making a frontal attack extremely difficult.

The only way to deal with them was to wait for them to come out.

Now, if those Wizards decided to remain inside and continue building the base, there wasn't much they could do.

The only fortunate thing was that those Wizards hadn't emerged to commit mass slaughter; the nearby civilians were temporarily safe.

Lu Qiao thought for a moment and said to Tyrion, "You might need to start planning the dispersal of civilians in Oberstein."

"Dispersal?" Tyrion's eyes widened, not expecting the situation to be so severe.

Lu Qiao nodded, "Inside... well, you could say there are very powerful Demons. Once they emerge, they will cause massive harm to the surrounding beings. So, you must start considering relevant plans."

In previous Wizard invasion incidents, many such events had occurred.

Wizards had blood-sacrificed many beings to perform powerful Magic, causing massive devastation.

Chapter 213: Orders

In the Wizard Plane, there are many rules that restrict these wizards from slaughtering ordinary people.

But upon arriving in the Elf Plane, many wizards begin to act without restraint.

Various bloody, evil, and cruel magic experiments are conducted with numerous test subjects here.

This causes the creatures of the Elf Plane to loathe and hate wizards intensely.

Just one such wizard can affect the impression of all the Wizard Plane's inhabitants on the creatures of the Elf Plane.

Not to mention, wizards like these are not in the minority.

In the eyes of many Dawn Land wizards, the ordinary people of the Elf Plane are no different from pigs and dogs.

Now, the wizards within the Lime Mountain Range are still in the dormant phase, so the people of Oberstein have not been affected yet.

But once the wizards inside start their plunder in earnest, it's safe to say these ordinary people will be powerless to resist and will be slaughtered at will.

After Tyrion returned to the camp, he pondered for a long time and then went to the Oberstein governor.

He explained the situation to the governor, requesting that a public announcement be issued promptly.

"But that will cause panic," the governor's perspective on the issue was different from Tyrion's.

His task was to maintain the stability of Oberstein's governance.

If such an announcement is sent out, Oberstein will fall into chaos, and he would certainly be punished then.

To maintain stability in Oberstein, the governor is unwilling to issue such an announcement.

Tyrion didn't look too happy. He, of course, knew what the governor was thinking and said in a deep voice, "Falling into chaos is better than falling into danger. If those wizards indeed emerge, we may die, but that's our duty. However, what did those civilians do wrong? They should know the truth; they have the right to choose!"

The governor shook his head: "Creating chaos will affect many people's lives. We cannot issue an announcement like this over an unknown danger. Besides, haven't the Elf Race people come already? With them here, what danger can there be?"

The governor still refused to issue an announcement.

In his view, since powerful casters of the Elf Race have arrived, what problem can remain unsolved?

The governor had never heard of wizards and knew very little about them, not realizing the threats Tyrion spoke of.

Evacuating the entire civilian population of Oberstein seemed incredibly exaggerated.

No matter how much Tyrion stressed the danger posed by the wizards, the governor steadfastly refused to issue an announcement for the civilians to relocate.

The governor finally waved his hand to interrupt Tyrion: "Enough. I am the governor, and I will naturally be responsible for Oberstein's people. Tyrion, you are the boundary commander; just keep your borders safe, and don't meddle in Oberstein's internal affairs."

"You!"

Tyrion was both angry and anxious, but there was nothing he could do.

As the boundary commander, he had no authority to interfere with Oberstein's internal affairs.

If the governor refused to issue an announcement, Tyrion couldn't do anything, as stepping out of line would constitute meddling in internal affairs.

The charge would be severe then, and with his already considerable military power, he couldn't afford to give anyone grounds for criticism.

Tyrion left the governor's place, feeling heavy-hearted as he watched the bustling crowds on the streets.

The governor only wanted to get through these few years safely to get promoted elsewhere, completely unwilling to take any risks.

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Base Twenty-Seven.

Parker gathered everyone together.

When Lu Qiao and four Elves reached the outside of the Lime Mountain Range, the sentries at Base Twenty-Seven had already detected them.

Parker immediately decided to recall all patrols.

Parker temporarily didn't want the base exposed to the Elf Race.

So he gathered all the patrol personnel back.

Base Twenty-Seven had a Witch Array for concealment, so it wasn't easy to discover.

Initially, it was expected that Lu Qiao and co. would enter the Lime Mountain Range for reconnaissance, planning to act depending on the situation.

Unexpectedly, Lu Qiao sent a bird as a decoy to investigate.

Initially, nobody took notice of the birds flying above.

Countless birds flew around within the Lime Mountain Range every day; who would pay attention to a bird flying overhead daily?

But Lu Qiao's bird lingered above the base longer than usual and soon caught Parker's attention.

He promptly took it down, resulting in a piece of wood falling; only then did everyone realize this bird was an Elf Race reconnaissance tool.

Parker said in a deep voice: "It seems we've been exposed. The Elf Race should soon take action. In the days ahead, things might not be so easy."

"But thankfully, our base's Witch Array is fully constructed. For now, security isn't a concern, as those from the Elf Race will find it hard to breach the Witch Array and enter the base."

Though Base Twenty-Seven had been discovered, its basic infrastructure was essentially completed.

If the Elf Race wanted to break into Base Twenty-Seven, they'd have to pay a heavy price.

In the short term, the Elf Race couldn't assemble the forces required to forcibly breach the base.

Parker glanced around at everyone and continued: "Now it's time to go out and do something. According to the intelligence, four Elves have come to Oberstein. One is a Level 2 Wizard, and three are Level 1 Crystalization Wizards."

"The Elf Race population is small, so losing even one member is a significant loss. Therefore, we need to take action, and our target is to eliminate or capture these four Elves."

"However, before we strike, someone needs to ascertain the situation within Obestan City to confirm that only those four Elf Race casters are present."

"On the surface, besides these four Elves, there's a human Level 2 Caster. Apart from them, it's mostly ordinary people who pose no threat."

"But caution is advised, so we must first send someone inside to investigate thoroughly."

Parker stopped here and looked at Herag: "Herag, I'm planning to send you to investigate Obestan; any issues?"

"No issues," Herag replied directly.

A task assigned by Parker left Herag with no objections, nor could he afford to have any.

A red-haired female witch glanced at Herag, discontentedly saying, "Mr. Parker, why give such an opportunity to a Wizard from the Barren Land. He's just a Gaseous Wizard; can he accomplish this?"

Parker looked at the female witch, chuckling mildly, and then with a wave of his hand, a beating heart appeared in his grasp.

The red-haired witch stared at the heart with wide eyes, then experiencing a painful expression, crouched on the ground.

Parker gripped the heart and smiled: "My orders aren't for you to question. This is just a warning; there won't be a next time unless you want me to crush it."

The heart in his hand continued to beat, and Parker's broad palm only required a light squeeze to shatter it.

Chapter 214: Bullying the Weak

Parker moved his hand slightly, and the heart in his hand disappeared.

"Phew..."

The red-haired Witch took a deep breath, clutching her heart as she crouched on the ground, not daring to lift her head, her chest heaving violently.

After a slight chastisement from Parker, none of the surrounding wizards dared to speak again.

Parker smiled and said, "Everyone need not be nervous, you can still voice your opinions in the future. I just dislike her questioning tone. This is Base 27, and we are engaged in groundbreaking warfare. I am a person who rewards and punishes clearly, dealing with matters and not people."

"Herag and his group indeed come from the Barren Land, but here, there is no distinction between the Barren Land and the Land of Dawn. When I assign a task, I make sure to assign the most suitable person for the job."

Parker had his reasons for sending Herag on this mission.

He had actually been observing Herag all this time.

Parker discovered that in his daily interactions with David, Reese, and Asuna, Herag was more like an ordinary person.

Unlike the wizards from the Land of Dawn, each with their eyes pointed sky-high.

Herag and Asuna were sufficiently "familiar" and had a deep understanding of Oberstein.

Moreover, being a Gaseous Wizard, his magic power aura was not very strong, making it relatively easy to hide.

Looking across the entire Base 27, Herag seemed the most suitable.

After the crowd dispersed.

Herag came to Parker's office, which was just a larger wooden cabin.

Parker took out a gray-white ring: "This is a Concealer's Aura. Once you wear it, it can hide all the magical aura you have. Unless someone uses special means to check you closely, they won't discover any magical aura on you."

"I've observed you, and your close combat capabilities are quite strong—very suitable for pretending to be a knight. Through your interactions with that Caster, you should already have some understanding of Oberstein, right?"

Herag nodded and said, "That's right, I basically understand the situation over there."

Parker said, "Alright, later tonight you can sneak out. At dawn, you enter the city, posing as an adventurer from another place. Your language is also very natural and not easy to expose. Once you are in Oberstein, walk around every place in the city and see if there are any other Casters."

"After getting the lay of the land, you can come back, and you don't have to be so careful on the return trip. It doesn't matter if you're exposed."

...

Late at night.

Herag was lurking near the entrance of the Lime Mountain Range, rubbing the Concealer's Aura on his hand.

He now had no magical aura at all on his body, appearing just like a strong young man.

In Herag's mind, there was a real-time map.

The map showed that every few dozen meters ahead of the entrance, there were several soldiers patrolling.

"Shadowy Corner."

Herag's whole body seemed to melt like water into the ground.

Even after slipping into the shadows, he continued to avoid the soldiers on the ground.

About half an hour later, Herag had bypassed the patrol line formed by these border soldiers and reached near the Obeistan City Gate.

Herag glanced at the position of the city gate, the gate tightly shut, with soldiers on the city walls on guard 24/7.

He turned around and walked out, where a main road had a junction leading to Oberstein.

Herag followed the main road out, slipped into the nearby woods, found a big tree, and climbed up to rest, looking just like any other adventurer.

It's common for adventurers to find a place around the city gate to spend the night before it opens.

The spot Herag chose was quite good, sheltered from the wind and quiet enough.

He sat on the tree, closed his eyes, and meditated, seizing every moment to start his practice.

The Gaseous Spiritual Power in his mind had already been compressed into a sphere, not far from liquefaction.

As Herag was quietly meditating and practicing, there was some commotion from the woods not far away.

A fifteen or sixteen-year-old boy came running frantically, followed by seven or eight people chasing him.

The leader among the seven or eight people was a Knight Level strongman, and they all seemed to be dressed as adventurers.

The boy seemed to be just an ordinary person, not yet a knight.

Though young, his physical fitness was too lacking, and he was soon caught, his head pressed to the ground by the foot of that knight, unable to move.

The Knight Level strongman was a bald man, looking about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, glaring fiercely at the boy on the ground: "Run! Why aren't you running? Don't you want to become a knight? Follow us, and sooner or later you can become a knight, so why did you let go of the people?"

Lins lay on the ground, his head stomped into the mud.

He shouted, "Robbers! You're not knights at all, just bullies riding on strength!"

The bald man sneered slightly, "Bully the weak? Kid, did a donkey kick your head? This is the nature of this world. You're weak, so you get bullied. I thought you had some potential and was planning to train you. Didn't expect you to be so clueless; I went through all that trouble to snatch someone, and you let them go."

"Tell me, how are you going to settle this debt?"

Lins struggled to get up, but the knight's power was too great—he couldn't move at all.

Some time ago, Lins had met this knight at Oberstein, impressed by the knight's swordsmanship, and wanted to learn from him.

Because he paid a tuition fee of ten Gold Coins, the knight reluctantly took him into the team.

On the surface, he said he'd train him to become a knight, but the knight never really intended to, just wanting an extra labor hand.

This group didn't do anything good either; they liked to rob weaker merchant teams.

They snatched both goods and people.

They had robbed a merchant caravan today, with two decent women among them.

After venting, the bald man fell asleep, leaving the two women locked in a cage.

Lins secretly let the two women go at midnight, and the bald man found out when he got up to urinate, noticing the women were gone.

He immediately suspected it was Lins.'

Because the others had been with him for a long time and wouldn't do such a thing as letting people go.

Only Lins, the newbie, would possibly do that.

When he came to settle accounts with Lins, Lins stupidly pretended to be asleep.

But when he realized the bald man's aggressive intentions, he bolted, running until he was caught here.

The bald man, seeing Lins pinned to the ground, was just about to rough him up.

A sidekick patted his shoulder: "Boss, there's someone on the tree over there."

"Someone?" The bald man immediately became vigilant.

He was also an experienced adventurer, very cautious about these potential threats.

The bald man glanced in the direction his sidekick was pointing and indeed saw someone sitting in the tree.

Chapter 215: Lins

The short-haired man glanced at Herag, who was sitting in the tree, and shouted sternly, "Who are you? Get lost!"

He hadn't noticed Herag's presence at all earlier, instinctively sensing that the other might not be easy to deal with.

So he tried to scare Herag away.

Herag sighed, jumped down from the tree, and cleaned his ear, "Can't even have a moment of peace."

He walked over slowly, his body relaxed, seemingly without any defenses.

The short-haired man drew his longsword and threatened, "Stop! Come any closer and I won't be polite."

The few followers behind him also drew their weapons, all pointing at Herag.

Herag looked at their aggressive stance, kept walking, and smiled, "Do you know when animals show their fangs? When they're scared."

"You're just bluffing." The short-haired man gritted his teeth and swung his sword directly, his speed very fast.

But Herag's figure swayed, and he disappeared, reappearing behind the short-haired man.

Herag placed his hand on the short-haired man's neck, applied a bit of force, and there was a cracking sound.

Clang!

The short-haired man's sword fell to the ground, and his arms drooped weakly.

Herag let go, and the short-haired man collapsed limply to the ground.

The short-haired man's neck was grotesquely twisted, his head hung down, and his neck was connected by only a thin layer of skin, with all the bones crushed.

His followers watched in horror at this scene, then turned and ran.

Herag didn't pursue them but said in a deep voice, "Don't let me see you in Obestan again."

He was currently playing the role of a Great Knight Level adventurer, not a mad killer, so he didn't slaughter them all.

He hadn't intended to get involved in this matter, but the other party insisted on asking for death.

So Herag had no choice but to send him on his way personally.

Lins looked at Herag's tall figure with admiration, knelt on the ground, and kowtowed, "Lins thanks you for saving my life!"

"Lins?" Herag heard the name and remembered some things.

Lins didn't notice the change on Herag's face and continued, "Sir, I wish to follow you!"

Great Knights and Knights usually have entourages, who volunteer to follow the strong.

By learning and training under a strong individual, progressing quickly with occasional guidance from them.

Lins felt that meeting this Great Knight was a rare opportunity for him.

This person offered aid against injustice and was surely not a robber like the short-haired man.

Moreover, he didn't chase to kill the others, indicating he wasn't a bloodthirsty person.

Herag didn't speak but asked, "Is your sister Asuna?"

Lins was stunned, then looked at Herag excitedly, "Do you know my sister?"

"Yes, I know her. We met while adventuring elsewhere. Not only do I know her, but we're also quite familiar." Herag explained.

They then shared the same bed daily, familiar beyond measure.

Asuna had mentioned her brother Lins to him before.

So Herag just casually asked, not expecting Lins to really be Asuna's brother.

Lins was a bit excited hearing this from Herag.

But remembering that Asuna had been missing for so long, his mood suddenly turned somber.

"My sister..." Lins wanted to talk about Asuna.

Herag waved his hand, "I already know."

"You already know?" Lins asked in surprise.

Herag nodded, "That's right, that's why I'm here. You should leave Obestan as soon as possible; it's not safe here."

Asuna was considered one of his own, and Lins was alive, so Herag advised him.

"Is my sister still alive?" Lins inquired.

Herag shook his head, "I don't know either. I only know the Lime Mountain Range is very dangerous, and even Obestan isn't safe. If you want to become stronger and then search for Asuna, you'd better leave here quickly and come back once you're stronger."

"I..." Lins didn't want to leave Obestan.

But he also knew Herag's words were likely true.

Recently, the border army had sealed off the Lime Mountain Range, prohibiting anyone from approaching.

Hundreds of adventurers ventured into the Lime Mountain Range and never returned; no one knew what was inside.

There were many rumors, all indicating that the Lime Mountain Range was perilous.

Currently, he was too weak to control his own fate, let alone enter the Lime Mountain Range to find Asuna.

Herag thought for a moment and took out a thin book.

This book was actually just a piece of sheepskin parchment folded.

It contained the Earth Breathing Technique, which Shenlan had later refined.

But he couldn't use it, so he just kept it aside.

"This is the Earth Breathing Technique. Take it and practice well in a safe place. Only by becoming stronger will you have the right to discuss other matters." Herag said deeply.

Lins accepted the Earth Breathing Technique, looked at Herag gratefully, then knelt and thanked, "Thank you, sir! I haven't even asked for your name."

Herag shook his head, "If we have a chance to meet again, I'll tell you my name."

Lins nodded, knowing he was too weak to even be eligible to know the other's name.

"Are you waiting for daylight to enter Obestan?" Lins asked.

Herag was resting here, so he was likely waiting for daylight.

"Correct," Herag replied.

"If you don't mind, I can guide you at daylight. I grew up in Obestan, am familiar with the city, and can assist with wherever you need to go." Lins volunteered.

Herag thought for a moment, finding it convenient to have someone leading the way.

He intended to explore various places in Obestan, and having a local guide would arouse less suspicion and be more convenient.

"Alright, guide me when it's daylight." Herag agreed.

Lins was immediately happy and began flipping through the Earth Breathing Technique in the dark.

He was eager to start practicing, but it was too dark to see the content.

...

At dawn.

The Obestan City Gate opened, with many people already coming and going at the entrance.

Lins walked in front, guiding Herag.

"Shenlan, activate environmental monitoring. If there are high magic power reactions or Elf Race, alert me immediately."

For Herag, probing was simple.

Just walking around the city while Shenlan's environmental scan could cover the entire place.

This task itself carried some risks.

Three Crystalization Level Elves and a Level 2 Wizard caster all were potential dangers.

Presently, Herag was only a Level 1 Gasification Wizard.

If he encountered those Elves and the Magic Master, escaping unscathed wasn't guaranteed.

Chapter 216: Entering Oberstein

Moreover, there is a Magic Master here with the strength of a Level 2 Wizard, facing Herag would be nearly a life-and-death situation.

Earlier, when he acted, he used pure physical strength without a trace of magic power.

When Herag and Lins entered Obestan, they didn't attract any attention.

The two looked like adventurers; there had been quite a few adventurers entering Obestan recently, so people were used to it.

Herag glanced at Shenlan's environment scan feedback; nearby were only some common folk and a couple of Knight Level individuals among the soldiers.

The roads in Obestan City were all very wide. After studying the construction here, Herag found these roads should be built this wide to facilitate army passage during wartime.

Along the way, they met many adventurers, some of whom were casters.

But these casters were all very ordinary; not even a single Third Class Wizard Apprentice Level was seen.

So although these people were casters, their strength was not threatening. Herag just made a brief note of them without paying much attention.

"Sir, over there is my and my sister's home."

After crossing the main road, they reached a low residential area. Lins pointed at a house in the distance and introduced it.

The houses in this area were not luxurious, all were quite ordinary, yet they were clean and tidy.

The ground nearby was clean, which showed that someone often cleaned it.

The location here was not bad; it probably still required some money.

As an adventurer, Asuna had earned some money over the years.

She supported the family by herself, bought a house, and could even support her brother's education.

Herag couldn't help but marvel at how tough this girl was.

Herag followed Lins into the house and looked around; there wasn't any excess decor, and the place was overall tidy and clean.

There were only two rooms inside the house, one for each sibling.

Lins's room was messier; Asuna's room looked very comfortable and was extremely tidy at a glance.

Herag glanced at the wardrobe, pondering to bring Asuna some clothes when he had time.

Currently, Asuna only wore black silk and white silk maid outfits, without casual wear.

Although it provided Herag a great visual and tactile experience and increased his attack speed,

some casual clothing should be prepared.

The clothes in Asuna's closet would fit just right.

Certainly, he couldn't take them now; without a proper reason, Lins might even think he was a pervert.

"What are the main buildings inside Obestan? Such as the City Lord's Mansion?" Herag asked.

The main purpose of his trip was to scout for individuals of considerable strength.

Such beings were likely to reside in important places.

Herag planned to take advantage of the daytime to scan directly and check them out.

Lins pondered, "There is no City Lord's Mansion in Obestan, but there is a City Hall. The Governor usually resides there, and sometimes important figures stay there."

"Take me over there for a look; this is my first visit to Obestan, so I plan to wander around." Herag said casually.

"Okay, it's not far from here." Lins started to lead the way ahead.

The City Hall has a complex of buildings, with high walls erected outside, guarded by soldiers.

Outside the City Hall is an open square, only half of which is accessible, while the other half is a restricted area that cannot be approached freely.

Herag stood on this side of the square, gazing toward the City Hall.

At the same time, Shenlan's environment detection was activated, quickly clarifying the situation inside.

Inside the City Hall were three Elf Race members, judging by their aura to be at the Crystalization Wizard's Level.

There was also a Level 2 Wizard Elf who hadn't been found and wasn't currently inside the City Hall.

Another Level 2 Wizard caster was also not detected, seemingly not inside the City Hall either.

Besides these individuals, the only somewhat more formidable ones inside the City Hall were two Great Knights, while the rest's combat power was negligible.

What concerned Herag was where those two Level 2 Wizard level entities had gone.

Afterward, Herag spent several hours walking through the entire Obestan City.

During this time, he discovered two Level 1 Gasification Wizard level casters, both adventurers.

After completing the search inside Obestan City, there was still one place unchecked, which was the Border Camp.

The camp is southwest of Obestan, facing the Lime Mountain Range from afar.

To scout the camp, it was necessary to leave the city.

Before leaving the city, Herag prepared to arrange things for Lins.

"I plan to go out of the city and look at the Lime Mountain Range from afar; you don't need to come," Herag said.

Lins said, "You can't go over there now; it's guarded by soldiers, and all access is strictly prohibited."

"It's fine; I only want to look from a distance, not intending to go over," Herag explained.

"Then there shouldn't be a problem. Do you have a place to stay tonight? You can stay at my home." Lins enthusiastically invited.

Herag shook his head, "No need. You want to become a knight, right?"

When Lins heard this, he became serious instantly, "Yeah, I want to become a knight!"

"Here are a hundred Gold Coins. Twenty of them are the tuition for five years at the Gray Knight Academy. You should set off immediately to study there and don't return unless necessary."

Earlier, during the couple's nightly conversations after exercises with Asuna, Herag mentioned that Lins always wanted to attend the Gray Knight Academy to become a real knight.

But the Gray Knight Academy is far from Obestan, on the far east side of the Noen Kingdom, taking at least a month's journey.

Asuna naturally wasn't comfortable letting Lins go alone that far.

The tuition wasn't an issue; Asuna could afford it.

The problem was that Lins didn't actually have much knight talent; this path wasn't suitable for him.

But now, these were no longer issues. Herag didn't intend for Lins to truly become a knight, just to temporarily keep him away from Obestan.

In Herag's view, Asuna's constant obstruction would only make Lins more rebellious.

Instead, letting him experience it firsthand made him realize he truly had no knight talent.

Young people are like that; you can't reason with them; only by stumbling and falling can they truly understand.

Looking at the hundred Gold Coins, if it were before, Lins would've been ecstatic.

But now, with Asuna's fate unknown, he was somewhat reluctant to leave Obestan.

Seeing the hesitation in his eyes, Herag continued, "What use is there in staying here now? You can't lend any help. Go to the Gray Knight Academy; only by becoming stronger do you have the qualification and assurance to discuss other matters."

Lins nodded silently, "Thank you, sir. I understand."

Herag got directly to the point, contacting a caravan and, after paying a bit, arranged for Lins to go east with the caravan toward the Gray Knight Academy.

Chapter 217: Return

This caravan just happened to be departing today, and was approached by Herag while waiting in line for inspection at the city gate.

The travel expense is one Gold Coin, and Lins can follow the caravan, with food and drink provided by them.

The Gold Coins Herag used were all provided by Parker, matching the commonly used Gold Coin specifications in this world.

Therefore, Herag didn't need to worry about revealing any information due to the Gold Coins.

Herag patted Lins on the shoulder and said, "Work hard, kid. Don't come back until you become a Knight."

Lins nodded excitedly, "Sir, I will definitely become a Knight!"

The caravan continued its journey, and Lins waved to Herag from the carriage head.

After sending this little rascal off, Herag turned and walked towards the city gate in the southwest direction.

He planned to check out the border camp there.

He had already gotten a basic understanding of the situation in the city, with nothing particularly unusual.

In Herag's mind was already a complete map of Oberstein, with every building recorded in detail.

These things needed to be drawn into a map later on and handed over to Parker when he got back to Base 27.

After exiting through the southwestern city gate, Herag found that there were already many Adventurers near the border.

They were all gazing towards the Lime Mountain Range, attempting to spot something from there.

Though the Lime Mountain Range was dangerous, the Adventurers were unafraid, and were even more eager to go inside.

Constantly, Adventurers from afar came to Oberstein, all wanting to explore and take risks.

After a brief pause, Herag pretended to stroll around while gradually nearing the military camp.

The outside of the camp was surrounded by a wooden fence, and these Adventurers had to stop two hundred meters away, unable to get closer.

Herag took a look; this distance was sufficient. Shenlan's environment detection could cover most of the tents without any problem.

Shenlan's environment detection expanded, and the situation inside the camp instantly came into Herag's view, with scenes of the camp surfacing in his mind.

Herag quickly saw Sifler; the magical aura of a Level 2 Wizard was too obvious.

Herag dared not observe for too long, quickly moving on to examine other areas.

If he stared for a while longer, it was very likely that Sifler would sense someone watching him.

Though there were many people here, there was no need to take that risk.

Knowing that a Level 2 Wizard was inside the camp was enough.

Herag switched his vision to other areas.

After scanning around, he found only a few scattered Wizard Apprentices and no one at the Official Wizard Level.

Then there were some Great Knights and Knight Level figures.

After confirming again, Herag had a rough idea of the strength in Oberstein.

Returning to Oberstein, he went to the back of the residential area where Asuna lived.

Checking Shenlan's environment detection, he flipped over into the backyard.

The door was locked, but for Herag, it posed no difficulty. A slight use of Magic Power easily unlocked the door.

He went to Asuna's room, opened the wardrobe, and put a large pile of clothes into the Space Ring for storage.

Herag opened a drawer and found all kinds of colorful small undergarments, thought for a moment, and also stored them in the Space Ring.

After collecting all the everyday clothes, Herag glanced at the nightstand where there was a drawing of Asuna and her brother.

In the picture, Lins appeared just a few years old, faintly resembling his current self.

Asuna also looked very young, probably only eleven or twelve at the time.

Herag thought for a moment and put the picture away, too.

Having done all this, Herag locked the back door and flipped back out.

Then he left the city directly, finding a secluded spot in the woods outside to hide.

Throughout the process, Shenlan's environment detection was active, constantly checking the surroundings for any approaching people.

He took out a piece of parchment, a quill, and ink, and started drawing Oberstein's map and the distribution of defense forces at the border army.

He marked the positions of the three Elves and the Level 2 Wizard.

Of course, people would keep moving, so these were only for reference.

After finishing the map, it was still early, so he could only wait for a while, needing to return after dark.

Going back in broad daylight would be too obvious and easy to be detected.

Herag was in no hurry and kept monitoring the surroundings for any activity.

A few hours later, nightfall arrived.

Herag still did not move. Even though it was dark now, there were still many people around.

In the distance, the sounds of drunken men laughing and shouting could be heard from time to time.

He planned to wait until after midnight, as moving then would be the safest choice.

Patiently, Herag continued to wait for a few more hours, and now it was deep into the night, with silence everywhere.

"Shadowy Corner."

Herag turned entirely into a pool of shadow, then moved towards the Lime Mountain Range.

The route was quite similar to when he came, without encountering any trouble.

On the way back, Herag noticed some changes in the patrol soldiers' positions.

He silently noted it down, though it wasn't particularly important.

In wars at the Wizard Level, ordinary people served no purpose.

...

After returning to Base 27, Herag handed over the completed map to Parker and said, "There is currently one Level 2 Wizard and three Crystalization Level Elf in Oberstein. I didn't see the Level 2 Wizard Elf, no idea where they went."

"Besides these, there are three Level 1 Gasification Wizard Level Adventurers; other forces are not worth worrying about."

Parker nodded, "It seems there's no hidden strength. That Level 2 Wizard Elf probably went back to seek reinforcements and shouldn't return anytime soon."

He glanced at Herag, "You did very well."

Parker then gathered everyone in the base once again, "This is our first offensive operation. The combat objective is to eliminate or capture the Level 2 Wizard and the three Crystalization Level Elf in Oberstein."

"Mr. Parker, please allow me to participate in this operation." A Level 2 Wizard immediately volunteered.

Soon after, many others also stood up, all eager to join this action.

Even a fool knew this was a great chance to gain merit.

Facing three Crystalization Wizards and one Level 2 Wizard, aside from that one troublesome Level 2 Wizard, the other three Elves were easy to deal with.

There were as many as eleven Level 2 Wizards in Base 27.

Parker raised his hand, signaling for everyone to quiet down.

Once the surroundings were silent, Parker said, "I know everyone wants to participate. This is our first operation out, so not only do we have to succeed, but we also have to do it beautifully. All Level 2 Wizards, come with me this time, and it's best if we can capture all four of them alive."

As soon as Parker said this, the Level 2 Wizards around cheered.

With Parker also taking action, the success of this operation was almost certain.

Parker was the only Level 3 Wizard at the base, also the top combat strength.

Chapter 218: Captured Alive

Herag didn't know exactly how strong a Level 3 Wizard was, because he hadn't even seen a Level 2 Wizard truly in action.

Last time, Kane only killed some ordinary people, making it impossible to estimate his true strength.

But Herag could imagine that, since these Level 2 Wizards dared not show any disrespect to Parker, it indicated that Parker's power had reached an extremely terrifying level.

The strongest being Herag had seen was the Toad from the Abyss Plane, which claimed to be around Level 4 to Level 5.

The Toad gave Herag a strong sense of oppression, and this was even when the Toad intentionally restrained itself.

In contrast, Parker seemed ordinary, always wearing a silly smile, making people feel no oppression from him.

"Level 2 Wizards stay, the rest can go back to rest." Parker called these Level 2 Wizards into his wooden cabin, ready to arrange specific matters.

The strength of these people could easily sweep Oberstein, but for the sake of caution, they still made specific plans.

Herag returned to the cabin, finding Asuna not yet asleep.

Asuna was still wearing her maid outfit, with her slender legs dressed in a pair of black garter stockings.

"Why aren't you asleep yet?" Herag asked.

Seeing Herag return, Asuna breathed a sigh of relief, quickly stepped forward and jumped into Herag's arms: "You hadn't come back, I... I was a bit worried about you. Also, I heard their conversation outside just now, and I'm a bit worried about Lins..."

Having learned the Sivr Language, Asuna knew that Herag and his group were planning to go to Oberstein.

This group was so powerful that once they went to Oberstein, Asuna didn't know who could stop them.

And Lins lived in Oberstein, as an ordinary person, he certainly couldn't protect himself.

Herag patted Asuna's smooth back and said, "I saw Lins today."

"You saw Lins!?" Asuna looked at Herag incredulously.

"Yes, it was a coincidence, saved him once. Don't worry, I've arranged for him to go to Gray Knight Academy, he left with a trade caravan, there's a certain guarantee of safety. He's no longer in Oberstein, so you need not worry too much." Herag reassured.

"Really?" Asuna's emotions fluctuated greatly, not doubting Herag, but instinctively feeling it somewhat surreal.

Herag smiled, took out a small pink garment: "Of course it's true, I even brought you some clothes."

Asuna took one glance, her face turned red, she grabbed it and put it behind her: "You went to my home?"

Herag nodded: "Yes, I thought you didn't have appropriate clothes, so I brought your clothes over."

After saying this, he waved his hand, and the clothes from the Space Ring were placed on the bed, thick piles.

Asuna looked at these clothes, her expression complex, took two pieces and held them, suddenly started crying.

Herag didn't quite know how to handle this situation, he could only walk over and hold Asuna in his arms.

Herag then took out the painting from Asuna's bedside cabinet: "I also brought this back for you."

"Thank you!" Asuna stared at the painting, stunned, took it quietly and bowed her head, crying.

Asuna quickly composed herself, wiped away her tears, and began tidying up the clothes on the bed.

She categorized the clothes neatly and then placed them in the cabinet in the room.

"Will there be a lot of people dying in Oberstein?" Asuna asked.

Herag was silent for a while and said, "Possibly, although their target this time is the Elf Race and the Magic Master. But ordinary people are too fragile; even a slight impact can be catastrophic."

"This is war."

Asuna was silent, those people she grew up knowing might all die, but she couldn't do anything.

She also didn't blame Herag, for even without him, these events would still unfold.

After careful consideration, Asuna realized that meeting Herag was actually quite fortunate.

If she hadn't met Herag, Asuna would have been killed or captured by other Wizards.

Other Wizards wouldn't be as agreeable as Herag.

Moreover, Herag had helped Asuna resolve the issue with Lins, otherwise who knows what situation Lins might have faced today.

"Master, after your long day, let me boil some water for your bath." Asuna said after putting down the painting.

"Mm, alright." Herag indeed wanted to take a bath.

After this bath, another night passed.

...

Oberstein's battle ended faster than Herag had imagined.

Parker's group returned on the morning of the second day, bringing four captives.

Sifler and the three High-tier Casters of the Elf Race were all captured alive by Parker's group.

All four had heavy Magic-Banning Shackles on their bodies, with black iron tubes inserted in their backs, seemingly also to prevent the use of Magic Power.

Sifler appeared very haggard, his right hand was missing, hair disheveled, with many bloodstains on his face.

He appeared extremely weak, his robe in tatters and with multiple bleeding wounds.

The other three Elves were similar, just not as severely injured as Sifler.

Meanwhile, Parker's group seemed entirely unharmed, the battle apparently exceeding expectations with ease.

Herag watched as Parker's group ushered the four into the basement.

Awaiting them was undoubtedly endless interrogation until their value was fully extracted, at which point they would be executed.

The three Elves might survive, but would be deprived of all Casting Ability and raised as slave-like figures.

Crystalization Wizard-level Elves fetched a very high price, can be sold at a very high valuation.

Though these three Elves were all males, they're still highly marketable.

The Land of Dawn was full of nobility interested in them.

Herag sighed, knowing these people's fate was already sealed, destined to be tragic.

Next, he considered his own safety.

Seven months had passed, and he needed to stay at Base 27 for five more months.

However, these next five months likely wouldn't be so easy.

The capture of three High-tier Casters from the Elf Race wouldn't go unnoticed.

Base 27 was now officially at odds with the Elf Race, future friction and conflicts would certainly be plentiful.

This operation capturing Level 2 and three Crystalization Wizard-level Elves didn't involve those below Level 2, but in the future, many tasks would require Herag's participation.

When the time comes, the danger level would be uncertain.

Perhaps even a regular patrol task could encounter an ambush from formidable enemies, all these possibilities existed.

Thinking about this, Herag knitted his brows, feeling the subsequent troubles might be numerous.

Currently, his interests were thoroughly bound with Base 27.

Under no circumstances could the Elf Race breach Base 27, otherwise, he too would have nowhere to escape.

Chapter 219: Shadow Altar

Oberstein, last night experienced a catastrophe.

A large section of the city walls collapsed, countless buildings within the city crumbled.

The City Hall almost turned into ruins, razed to the ground.

Countless civilians and adventurers were killed or injured, cries and wails filled the air.

Parker and his group stormed into the City Hall last night, and after a furious barrage, leveled it to the ground.

The three high-tier spellcaster elves merely resisted for a while, and then they were captured.

Sifler quickly hurried over.

Capturing Sifler took some effort, mainly because Parker wanted to capture him alive.

So many methods couldn't be used, not wanting to kill Sifler outright.

During the fight with Sifler, a large section of the city wall was directly knocked down.

Sifler was restrained in his actions, fearing for the ordinary people around him.

Parker's group finally succeeded in capturing Sifler.

On the ruins of the City Hall, the Governor looked at the rubble and corpses all around, his heart filled with despair, his face ashen.

With such a severe incident, in this lifetime he wouldn't even think about a promotion, and would also be held accountable.

Tyrion stood at his side with a grimy face, looking at the Governor, he said solemnly, "I told you before, those people are very dangerous! If you had let them evacuate earlier, there wouldn't have been such heavy casualties!"

The Governor didn't speak, his eyes vacant.

Tyrion had been busy all night directing soldiers to rescue the wounded, it was exhausting.

He glanced at the lost look of the Governor, estimating that he couldn't be relied on anymore.

In this chaotic time, it was solely his command of the soldiers that barely kept the situation under control.

The three high-tier spellcasting elves were captured, the Magister was also taken.

The strength of that group left a deep impression on Tyrion's mind.

"Wizards... are they really this powerful?"

In Tyrion's mind, the Magister was already an absolute powerhouse.

Sifler was even more famous for many years, the guardian of the Noen Kingdom.

But now he was captured alive by that group of wizards!

Besides sending people to rescue the wounded, Tyrion also issued a notice, informing that many dangerous individuals were lurking inside the Lime Mountain Range, urging the people of Oberstein to evacuate as soon as possible.

Originally, this announcement wasn't supposed to be made by him, but now the Governor couldn't be relied upon.

Moreover, the situation was urgent, Tyrion had to decide on his own.

In fact, there was no need for him to issue the announcement, as many surviving civilians and adventurers were already fleeing Oberstein.

They didn't know what happened, only knew that a group of demon-like figures had stormed into Oberstein, wreaking havoc.

The many spells used by the wizards were things these people had never seen before and couldn't understand.

In their eyes, these were the means of demons.

Though the group left, they had left an indelible mark of terror in the hearts of Oberstein's people.

At dawn, people started leaving one after another.

Adventurers had a deeper understanding of Parker's group's prowess.

Especially some casters, upon discovering that the group was at least wizardry level, completely lost the thought of exploring the Lime Mountain Range.

These adventurers fled the fastest, knowing they couldn't stay here any longer.

Many adventurers originally thought of seeking wealth amidst danger, but upon realizing that a bunch of Magic Masters had emerged from the Lime Mountain Range, they were scared out of their wits.

As Oberstein fell into chaos, Base 27 began its next move.

"This is the structure of the Shadow Altar, the materials are all stockpiled at the base. Next, we will establish at least twenty Shadow Altars within the Lime Mountain Range."

Kane held a blueprint in his hand, introducing it to Herag and other Level 1 wizards around him.

After listening to his explanation, Herag roughly understood.

The Shadow Altar is a summoning altar, with pre-arranged witch arrays inside.

As long as magic power is input into the Shadow Altar, it can summon demons from the Shadow Plane.

These demons are controlled by the people within Base 27 and can be used in combat.

The demons possess knight-level strength, or the casting capability of first-class and second-class wizard apprentices.

This type of Shadow Altar is a common method in the Wizard Plane, used for quickly and massively creating forces before plundering resources.

The Elf Race has a small population, and so do wizards actually.

There aren't many Official Wizards in the Land of Dawn, and even fewer can be used to open up warfare on the Elf Plane. It's impossible for these wizards to personally handle everything.

The demons summoned by the Shadow Altar play the role of charging into battle.

Moreover, as summoning only requires magic power, it is almost without cost for the wizards.

As long as there is enough magic power, forces can be created infinitely.

The people of Oberstein should be grateful that Parker chose to use the Shadow Altar, which is considered the best option.

Many base wizards choose to use altars like blood sacrifices, the demons summoned that way are even more powerful.

However, Parker isn't researching in that direction, so he used the more conventional Shadow Altar.

The task of building the altars was handed over to Herag and the other Level 1 wizards.

Herag and three others were assigned with one altar construction task.

The construction of the altar is actually quite simple, the materials are already prepared, it just needs to be assembled.

What is a little more difficult is that after the altar is built, it needs to create fifty shadow demons every day.

This is quite a large consumption for ordinary Level 1 wizards and a laborious task.

Herag collected the materials and blueprints needed for altar construction from Kane, then led David and Reese to the designated location to start building the Shadow Altar.

Their altar position was near the entrance of the mountain range, which was relatively more dangerous.

If someone attacked, they would be the first to encounter the enemy.

"Let's quickly build the altar first."

Herag looked at this location and indeed felt some pressure.

David and Reese also knew this position was not very safe, so they started assembling the Shadow Altar with black, rectangular stones.

The entire altar was hexagonal in shape, laid with three layers of stones.

The assembly process wasn't difficult, and the three of them took an hour to complete the altar.

Next, it was time to summon the shadow demons.

Following the blueprint's guidance, Herag input magic power into the altar.

The altar had many grooves, and when the magic power was input, these grooves started shining with red light.

A mass of black mist began to appear in the center of the altar, and when Herag continued to provide magic power, the black mist gradually solidified into a tangible form.

After a minute, a black two-headed wolf appeared atop the altar.

The two-headed wolf sniffed at Herag and the others, then obediently lowered its head and walked over to crouch beside them.

These summoned demons would stay near the altar unless given other orders.

Herag and the others could also command these demons, but Kane's directive was to leave these demons near the altar unless there were special circumstances.

Chapter 220: Summoning

Herag didn't quite understand how these demons recognized identity.

For instance, this two-headed wolf, which was seeing the three of them for the first time, could still identify them as allies.

Herag could only guess that the identity information of the three of them was recorded in the witch array of Base 27.

And the interior of these shadow altars is likely connected to the witch array of Base 27, so the summoned demons could distinguish friend from foe.

Herag estimated that with his magic power, he could probably summon over a hundred shadow demons in a day.

He turned to David and Reese: "You both try on your own and calculate how many you can summon in a day."

"I'll give it a try." David walked to the altar and, like Herag, began channeling magic power to summon shadow demons.

A few minutes later, an eight-legged spider crawled down from the altar.

Reese screamed and instinctively hugged Herag.

Herag felt a bit restless inside.

He said speechlessly, "You're a Level 1 Wizard and you're scared of this kind of thing."

Reese, slightly embarrassed, let go: "I, I'm most afraid of spiders."

The eight-legged spider looked at Reese with its compound eyes, puzzled, then crawled over as if awaiting Reese's instructions, scaring her into taking a few steps back.

"See, this little guy seems to like you," Herag chuckled.

Reese quickly shook her head, indicating she didn't like spiders at all.

Goosebumps rose on her arms, showing that she was indeed quite frightened.

"Go, stay over there." Herag pointed to the nearby forest.

The eight-legged spider, receiving Herag's directive, crawled quickly into the forest.

"David, how many shadow demons can you summon in a day with your magic power?" Herag asked.

David pondered: "If I use up all my magic power, I can summon thirty in one day."

Herag nodded and then turned to Reese: "You give it a try."

Reese walked over to the altar and soon summoned another eight-legged spider, which scared her into running behind Herag.

"And you, how many can you summon in a day?" Herag asked.

"A-a-about thirty-five," Reese estimated.

Knowing the two's limits, Herag contemplated: "In that case, our daily task is fifty. I'll handle twenty alone, and you both tackle fifteen each."

Summoning twenty shadow demons didn't consume much of his magic power.

His primary goal was for David and Reese to retain some combat power.

If the two of them used all their magic power to summon shadow demons, they'd lack combat strength in special situations.

"We could take on a bit more, Herag; you're the main force." David, worried that Herag might deplete too much of his magic power, suggested.

Herag shook his head: "No worries, don't concern yourself with my magic power."

He still had magic power stored in the array map. Even after summoning twenty demons, the remaining magic was more than adequate.

Then the three of them began to take turns summoning demons, calling forth fifty shadow demons in just over an hour.

All around the altar, shadow demons were actively roaming.

Looking across the Lime Mountain Range, it was as if it had become a paradise of shadow demons.

The summoning of shadow altars is not unlimited; they're capped at fifty summons per day.

To continue summoning, one must wait for the altar to stabilize the next day.

Forcing more summons could damage the shadow altar. Overusing it would lead to its collapse.

Twenty altars were scattered throughout the Lime Mountain Range, distanced far apart.

With these summoned demons, there was no longer a need for human patrols.

Base 27 could use these shadow demons to sense the various situations throughout the Lime Mountain Range promptly.

In a day's time, the Lime Mountain Range amassed a thousand demons.

At present, this wasn't many—certainly not enough to execute invasion tasks.

But given time, the number of summoned demons would grow, resulting in a formidable force.

Parker's intention seemed to not rush into action, likely planning to gather more strength.

Herag glanced at the distant Obestan City, noting that if the inhabitants didn't evacuate promptly.

Once the demon army descended from the mountains, it would be hell on earth.

Obestan boasted a fifty thousand-strong human army; although numerous, their combat strength fell far short of the demons.

These demons were at least Knight Level, alongside First-Class and Second-Class Wizard Apprentice level demons.

Knights were elite within the army; when the demon army was formed, given the absolute strength gap, Obestan's border troops had no chance.

...

A month later.

Lu Qiao led a troop formed by three united Elf Tribes to Obestan.

The troop included three Wizardry Level casters, over a dozen high-tier spellcasters, and several middle-tier and low-tier spellcasters, totaling over sixty people.

The troop appeared grand, as a large group of elves entered Obestan.

By now, Obestan had cleared most of the ruins, and the city walls were undergoing repairs.

Yet, the desolation still shocked Lu Qiao.

He had already received news of Obestan's attack, with three clan members and Sifler abducted and missing.

Upon receiving the news, Lu Qiao wanted to hurry over.

But coordinating with the other two tribes wasn't swift; explanations were necessary for them to agree to send people with him.

A considerable amount of time was spent on contacting and coordinating; even the journey was on specially bred horses, allowing for speed.

Obestan City had considerably fewer people; whoever could leave did so.

Those who remained had reasons preventing their departure.

Originally a bustling border city, Obestan now appeared desolate.

Seeing this scene, Lu Qiao felt somewhat relieved.

He knew how brutal battles against wizards could become.

It was best for ordinary people to leave early, minimizing unnecessary casualties.

Tyrion quickly heard news of the elves entering the city and rushed over to meet them.

He looked older than before, now with much more white hair, and appeared quite haggard.

This period had been exhausting for him, with many matters demanding his attention.

The Governor was no longer in Obestan; the King had summoned him back to Sea Stone City to hold him accountable.

Now Tyrion had full responsibility in Obestan; everything was up to him.

The only demand from His Majesty was the defense of Obestan; the King had no understanding of wizards but insisted it be held.