

Sixth 541

Chapter 541: World Tree

Herag previously couldn't find a suitable opportunity to enter the Black Space, as disappearing suddenly in crowded places always posed some risks.

To be cautious, he had never entered the Black Space.

Now, in the wilderness with no one around, there was no need to worry about these issues.

Upon entering the Black Space, Herag saw a wooden house in the distance, from which came the sound of a harp, pleasant and elegant.

That White Deer lay on the grass outside the wooden house, seemingly quietly listening to the music.

When it saw Herag arrive, it gave him a human-like glance, as if Herag had disturbed its enjoyment.

Herag felt that the White Deer seemed more and more like a person, gradually showing some rich human emotions.

He walked slowly to the wooden house, and upon reaching the door, saw Chatiya inside playing a large harp.

Compared to the harp, Chatiya's petite body appeared very small, her fair fingers brushing over the strings, producing beautiful and pleasant music.

Herag stood quietly behind, not disturbing Chatiya, but listened quietly, feeling quite serene inside.

Chatiya naturally noticed Herag's arrival and played even more passionately, wishing to bring him better music.

After a few minutes, Chatiya finished her performance and ran over with her bare, fair feet, jumping into Herag's arms: "Master, how was it? Was it nice?"

"Very nice." Herag said, stroking Chatiya's back.

"Master, have you reached the Elf Plane?" Chatiya asked.

Herag nodded: "Yes, I apologize for not coming in to see you during this time."

"It's okay, Master, you've worked harder than I have." Chatiya said sensibly.

Herag smiled and took out the World Tree Seed, asking: "Do you know what this is?"

"This... feels so familiar and intimate." Chatiya didn't recognize the World Tree Seed but instinctively felt it was very dear to her.

Herag said: "This is the World Tree Seed."

"The World Tree Seed? No wonder it feels like this. How did you get it, Master?" Chatiya realized.

Herag explained the situation in Miracle Valley, and Chatiya looked a bit sad, mourning for the Elf Race and World Tree that had suffered unforeseen mishaps in Miracle Valley.

But she didn't blame Herag, as it wasn't within his power to change those things.

In war, everyone is helpless.

"Chatiya, how much do you know about this World Tree Seed?" Herag asked.

Chatiya said: "I heard the elders in the tribe mention that the World Tree has seeds, but this is the first time I've seen one. The elders once said, the World Tree will not die, even if it withers, it will one day be reborn."

Herag then asked some related questions, but Chatiya knew very little, only some fragments mentioned by the elders.

Chatiya, as a young girl in the Elf Race, hadn't reached the age to know the core secrets of the tribe.

Based on what she said, Herag formed some speculations in his mind.

According to Chatiya, the World Tree cannot die, and even if it did, it would revive.

Herag recalled the lack of success in transplanting the World Tree to the Wizard Plane, where no method seemed to allow it to survive.

There's speculation that the World Tree committed suicide, unwilling to live on the Wizard Plane.

Relating this to the seed from Miracle Valley, Herag had some ideas.

He speculated that the World Tree was transplanted to the Wizard Plane and, realizing it wasn't the Elf Plane, chose to self-destruct.

The manner of its death isn't clear, likely an innate talent of the World Tree.

After the World Tree's self-destruction, it transformed into a seed, appearing in the multi-layered space of Miracle Valley.

When the Elf Royal Family initially investigated, the World Tree probably hadn't died yet, so there was no seed.

Only after the World Tree's self-destruction did the seed appear.

With Herag's arrival, his bloodline mark of the Elf Royal Family established some connection with the seed, leading to recent events.

Herag originally assumed the Elf Race should have a way to retrieve these seeds, but it appears this is not the case.

He realized the Elf Race lives by relying on the World Tree, meaning the growth location of the World Tree likely isn't chosen by the Elf Race.

Wherever the World Tree grows, the Elf Race settles and thrives.

If they could control the World Tree's seed, they could choose where to live.

Currently, however, it seems the World Tree decides where it grows.

Had it not been for the Toad Space Rules expertise in extracting the seed from the layered spaces, Herag wouldn't have found it.

Normally, it would take many years for the World Tree seed to sprout and root in the layers of space, eventually growing into a towering tree.

Herag obtaining the World Tree Seed was entirely due to various coincidences and opportunities.

"Chatiya, you'll be able to go home soon." Herag said with a smile.

Chatiya looked up joyfully but then felt a hint of sadness seeing Herag.

"What's wrong? You're going home but not happy." Herag said.

Chatiya lowered her head: "When I go home, does that mean you'll leave, Master?"

"Yes, if nothing unexpected happens, after taking you back to the World Mother Tree, I will leave for a while." Herag said.

He needed to figure out if the changes in the Elf Plane were instigated by another group of Wizard Influence.

If so, what were the relationships between this Wizard Influence and the Elf Race.

Their actions against Parker, did it imply a friendly relationship between this Wizard Influence and the Elf Race?

If they were friendly, it's important to determine if these Wizard Influences have animosity towards people from the Wizard Plane.

Only by resolving these issues, can he confidently place those close to him on the Elf Plane and consider it a secure fallback.

To clarify these matters, directly asking the Elf Royal Family at the World Mother Tree is the most straightforward, as they likely know the answers.

If Herag went himself, he would learn nothing, seen as an Evil Wizard and killed outright.

Although he could activate his bloodline mark to take on an elf appearance, that wouldn't work at the World Mother Tree, it might deceive elves in remote regions like Miracle Valley.

For Herag to visit the World Mother Tree, he would have to rely on Chatiya's help.

Chapter 542: Evans County

The Dark Night Forest, located in the northern part of the Elf Plane, is the place where the World Mother Tree resides and where the Elf Royal Family thrives and propagates.

Herag had already learned this information beforehand and knew roughly where it was located.

The next issue is to send Chatiya back to the Dark Night Forest, and then use Chatiya to gather the information Herag wants to know.

Finding a way to send her back is also a problem, and Herag needs to thoughtfully consider the specific methods.

If he directly returns to the Dark Night Forest with Chatiya himself, he might encounter considerable trouble.

Given the current situation, it's clear that the Elf Race is definitely filled with hostility towards people from the Wizard Plane.

Even if he didn't harm Chatiya, the Elf Race would surely not trust him and would more likely believe he harbors malicious intent.

Simply put, it's very difficult for Herag to gain the trust of the Elf Race, even with Chatiya's help.

Therefore, if Herag goes to meet the Elf Royal Family with Chatiya, not only will it be difficult to gain their trust and gather information, but it could also put him in danger.

Although he and Chatiya have a Master-Servant Contract, allowing him to use her as a hostage and she would actively cooperate,

it's unsure if the other side has any means to resolve this issue, and Herag cannot ignore this possibility.

More crucially, if another Wizard Influence is aligned with the Elf Race, it becomes even more dangerous for him.

Before everything is thoroughly investigated, arbitrary action cannot be taken; other methods must be considered.

"My lord, will you return after you've left?" Chatiya, seeing Herag in deep thought, asked aloud.

Herag said, "Of course, I will return. Do you remember how to communicate with me as a follower?"

Before coming to the Elf Plane, he had made Chatiya and Asuna his followers to facilitate communication at any time.

"Of course!" Chatiya responded.

Herag said, "Good, what I'm going to tell you next is very important. I will send you back to the Dark Night Forest, but I won't be going in. Once you're there, you'll need to gather some intelligence on your own. Given your status, it should be easy to access that information. I will be observing you from a God's perspective, indirectly obtaining the information I want."

Herag had thought it through; personally entering the Dark Night Forest carried too high a risk, not to mention the hassle involved in gathering intelligence.

Under such circumstances, it's difficult to obtain any effective information.

However, it's different for Chatiya. As a princess of the Elf Royal Family, with her status and position, it's much easier for her to access core information.

The only problem to be solved is how she returned to the Elf Plane.

From the perspective of the Elf Royal Family, Chatiya would definitely be seen as gone for good.

Falling into the hands of those Evil Wizards, surviving would already be difficult, let alone returning unscathed.

Herag was also considering how to fabricate a reasonable explanation for how Chatiya returned.

He thought perhaps fabricating isn't necessary, just modifying the facts might suffice.

Chatiya returning to the Dark Night Forest unscathed would inevitably arouse the vigilance of the Elf Royal Family, and surely she would undergo some inspection to ensure no hidden threats remained.

Herag wasn't worried about this at all. Aside from a Master-Servant Contract, there was nothing suspicious about Chatiya.

"I will do my best, my lord." Chatiya nodded earnestly, remembering all of Herag's words.

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Evans County is the largest city on the outskirts of the Dark Night Forest, gathering a large population.

This is also the northernmost city of the entire Elf Plane. Beyond it to the north lies the boundless Dark Night Forest.

For humans, the Dark Night Forest is a forbidden zone. Most humans are prohibited from entering; only the Elf Race can enter.

Because it is the area where the World Mother Tree is located and the ruling place of the Elf Royal Family, it is an absolute forbidden territory.

However, despite this, many people still take risks to enter the outskirts of the Dark Night Forest for profit.

The Dark Night Forest has a long history, almost as old as the Plane itself.

This results in the forest having various precious herbs, materials, and treasures, any of which is incredibly valuable.

Wealth moves people's hearts. Successfully acquiring something can sustain them for many years, which is an irresistible temptation for many Adventurers.

Although the Elf Race punishes Adventurers who sneak into the Dark Night Forest severely, with immediate execution upon discovery, many still dare to try their luck.

After all, the Dark Night Forest is vast, like an ocean.

The Elf Race, being sparse in population, doesn't have enough manpower to guard the entire forest, so every year, many manage to acquire things and safely return.

Such successful cases constantly entice others to venture in, while those who die in the Dark Night Forest or are caught and executed by the Elf Race are seldom mentioned or remembered.

People only remember those who came out and made a fortune; no one cares how many skeletons are buried inside.

Of course, those who bring things out only dare to sell them on the black market. No one dares to openly display them.

This is a world ruled by the Elf Race. If discovered, being caught means a dead end.

Evans County is also under the control of the Elf Race. Though its lord, Balash, is human, he is a subordinate to the Dark Night Forest, only managing all affairs here in proxy.

It's said that Balash, besides being a Great Knight, is also a Magic Master.

Their family has guarded this area for generations and are loyal followers of the Elf Race.

Balash, as the Guardian for this generation of Evans County, has been stationed here for over a hundred years.

In these years, Evans County has remained very peaceful with no major troubles.

Even the invasion from the Wizard Plane didn't significantly affect here; no war reached this place.

Because Evans County backs onto the Elf Royal Family, few dare to cause trouble here.

Chatiya stood outside the majestic Lord's Mansion of Evans County, garnering respectful and awe-filled gazes.

Her intense elven aura and flawless appearance communicated one thing.

This is an elf, and not an ordinary one.

Chatiya felt a bit nervous and anxious inside as she looked at a figure hidden in the distant crowd, which slightly calmed her heart.

She took a deep breath to steel herself, then resolutely stepped into the Lord's Mansion.

Chatiya knew that this journey was not just about going home, but also for the future of Herag and the others.

Chapter 543: Griffins and Elves

Evans County, in a small tavern.

Two men dressed as adventurers sat by a wine table, drinking and chatting idly.

One wore a cowboy hat, the other was bald.

The cowboy hat glanced around, lowered his voice, and said, "Do you know what's happening over at the Lord's Mansion recently?"

"What's happening?" The bald man seemed puzzled and asked curiously.

The cowboy hat said, "You don't know? It's said that the missing little princess of the Elf Royal Family has returned."

"Returned? Wasn't it said that she was taken by those evil Wizards? How could she possibly come back!" The bald man was completely incredulous.

Over the years, the image of evil Wizards has deeply rooted in people's hearts, and the Wizard Plane has been described as a hellish existence.

To those in the Elf Plane, being taken to the Wizard Plane basically equates to a fate worse than death.

Return? That's impossible.

"Why would I lie to you? Many people know about it!" The cowboy hat said in a lowered voice.

"How could something of this level be known by you? It's probably just a rumor." The bald man shook his head, still unconvinced.

The cowboy hat said, "At first, I didn't believe it either, but the recent movements around the Lord's Mansion made me believe otherwise."

"What movements?"

"Half of the military forces of Evans County have been moved near the Lord's Mansion. There's no war going on recently, so what's the need for so many people? It has to be to protect someone important. In a place like Evans County, who could be considered important? It must be the Elf Race. Coupled with those rumors, I think it's very likely that the little princess has returned." The cowboy hat said.

The bald man pondered on his words; indeed, the movements of the Lord's Mansion seemed a bit odd.

Evans County had been peaceful for many years, and such large-scale actions were rare.

If it were an invasion by Wizards, they should be protecting the city, not the Lord's Mansion.

There was no internal unrest in Evans County, making the Lord's Mansion's actions somewhat strange.

If it is indeed the return of the Elf Royal Family's little princess, that would make sense.

The status of a princess from the Elf Royal Family is naturally very high.

As the Guardian of Evans County, Balash must ensure the safety of the little princess until someone from the Elf Royal Family comes to escort her back.

If anything happens to the princess, Balash's entire family would suffer, no wonder they were cautious enough to muster a large army for protection.

Though the Lord's Mansion had not released any news, in times of urgency and with so many eyes around, information inevitably leaked.

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Herag sat by a nearby table, sipping a locally unique fruit wine, listening clearly to the two men's hushed conversation.

This fruit wine had a fragrant and elegant taste, offering a special charm as one drank.

Since he delivered Chatiya to the outskirts of the Lord's Mansion, he had been hiding in the shadows, observing the situation's progress to ensure Chatiya wasn't in any danger.

Herag continued watching from a divine perspective and remained in the bustling market not far from the Lord's Mansion.

If anything happened, he could rush there immediately.

So far, everything was going smoothly.

When Chatiya declared her identity upon entering the Lord's Mansion, the place erupted into chaos.

Balash hadn't expected the princess to just suddenly return and appear outside his Lord's Mansion, causing some lapse in his handling, which led to some rumors spreading.

This was also why he called in the military, fearing any problem might happen with Chatiya.

Balash immediately contacted the Elf Royal Family, informing them of the news.

Upon receiving the notification, a message came back instantly: ensure Chatiya's safety by all means.

If something went wrong, Balash's entire family would be buried with the consequences.

Under these circumstances, Balash naturally felt immense pressure.

Chatiya was treated with the highest standards, residing in the finest palace, with Balash's trusted confidants always nearby, attending to her every request.

Three days later.

A group of Griffins flew over Evans County, each mounted by an Elf.

This spectacle stunned many people in the city; the ferocious and aggressive Griffins soared through the air, occasionally letting out a roar.

Each Griffin had strength comparable to Great Knight Level, and being flying creatures, their combat ability even surpassed many Great Knights.

Griffins, these fierce beasts, could only be tamed by the Elf Race, and they would serve no one else.

The presence of Griffins signified the presence of the Elf Race.

The Griffin group descended near the Lord's Mansion, while some Elves, riding on Griffins, took to the skies again, standing guard around.

When Chatiya heard the call of the Griffins, she ran out of the house, followed by some of Balash's trusted aides.

As she reached the front hall, she saw a group of a dozen Elves approaching, led by a female Elf around thirty years old with an exquisite appearance that even surpassed Chatiya's, with the added allure of maturity.

"Mother!" Upon seeing the female Elf, Chatiya's eyes immediately reddened.

Upon seeing Chatiya, Alina ran over immediately, tightly embracing her daughter, overwhelmed with joy.

Chatiya also held Alina tightly, and the mother and daughter cried together.

"How have you been all these years?" Alina wiped away the tears from Chatiya's face and asked with concern, while also checking for any injuries on Chatiya.

"I'm fine," Chatiya replied truthfully.

"Where have you been?" Alina asked.

Chatiya was about to speak but glanced at the people from the Lord's Mansion around, then said, "I'll tell you back home."

Alina nodded and turned to the Elves behind her, saying, "We depart immediately."

At this moment, she no longer showed the tenderness earlier but exuded authority.

The Elves behind her were all incredibly strong clansmen, and even two elders were present.

Chatiya and Alina boarded a mighty Griffin together, then soared into the sky, heading towards the direction of the Dark Night Forest.

The other Griffins followed closely, centering around the mother and daughter's Griffin, tightly protecting them.

At this moment, countless people in Evans County raised their heads to watch this scene.

They observed the sudden arrival and departure of the Griffins and Elves.

Griffins were rare creatures, and most people had never seen them; now, having seen them, there would undoubtedly be discussions, adding some talking points to future conversations.

Herag stood by the street, dressed in a simple robe, watching silently in the direction where Chatiya departed.

From this moment on, he could no longer follow them but could only keep an eye on Chatiya through the divine perspective.

The subsequent developments would depend on Chatiya, and Herag couldn't help much further.

Chapter 544: World Mother Tree

Above the Dark Night Forest, Chatiya rode on the Griffin, feeling the breeze on her face.

The speed of the Griffin was very fast, and there should have been a strong wind, but it was blocked by the Magic enchanted on the Griffin.

Chatiya glanced below; the Dark Night Forest was still the familiar appearance, seemingly unchanged, remaining so tranquil for hundreds and thousands of years.

After flying above the Dark Night Forest for most of the day and crossing one mountain range after another, they arrived at the settlement of the Elf Race.

It was still the Dark Night Forest here, with towering ancient trees growing everywhere.

But unlike the outskirts of the Dark Night Forest, various wooden houses were scattered throughout the forest, and occasionally some Elves could be seen moving below.

When the Griffin Group flew overhead, these Elves would look up and cross their hands over their chests, then bow in salute.

For Chatiya and her group, this was not the destination; there were still one or two days of journey ahead.

The areas below were just districts where common Elves lived and moved; the Elf Royal Family was still deep within the distant Dark Night Forest.

Chatiya looked to the horizon, where a giant silhouette of a tree stood, that was the World Mother Tree.

Even from such a distant place, one could feel the enormity of this World Tree.

Chatiya remembered, the World Mother Tree almost seemed to grow straight into the sky, with no sight of where its canopy was.

It is heard that once a warrior of the Elf Race climbed the World Tree, wanting to reach the highest point.

However, that warrior climbed for a full five years without reaching the top of the World Tree.

After reaching a certain height, he was blocked by some unknown power and could not continue further.

Under normal circumstances, the height climbed in five years should have reached outer space, yet even the top of the World Tree was not reached.

Chatiya had never seriously thought about these things before; growing up under the World Tree, it was hard to notice these.

She gazed at the World Tree on the horizon, pondering how tall it really was and what kind of place its top truly was.

On the other side, Herag also saw this gigantic silhouette of the World Tree through the perspective of the Gods.

This World Tree was the most crucial existence in the entire Elf Plane, theoretically the strongest entity in this plane.

Herag gazed at the World Mother Tree and instinctively felt some apprehension, a wave of pressure coming over him.

This was an invisible pressure emitted from a super individual, a pressure that Elves like Chatiya would not feel, instead, they would only find it comforting.

Herag, not in Elf Form, was thus able to directly feel this pressure.

The World Tree was not adept at combat, though that was relative to beings of the same level.

To someone like Herag, a Level 2 Wizard, the World Tree was an exalted existence, absolutely not something Herag could contend against.

Let alone Herag, even the Expedition Team from the Wizard Plane only dared target branches of the World Tree, not daring to touch the World Mother Tree a bit.

The Griffin Group continued their journey above the Dark Night Forest, stopping every so often to rest in the Elf Villages below.

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Two days later.

The Griffin Group landed on this extremely vast platform, approximately the size of four or five football fields.

This was one of the branches of the World Tree.

As Chatiya's feet stepped onto the familiar ground, she gazed at the numerous palaces constructed on the World Tree in the distance, and tears immediately welled up in her eyes.

At this moment, she felt immensely grateful to have met Herag.

If someone else had bought her back then, she would have had no chance of returning here and might have experienced something very tragic.

Upon Chatiya's arrival, the waiting Elves around her knelt on one knee; these were the guards of the Elf Royal Family, each with strong auras.

At this time, a young man with a full head of golden hair and a handsome face walked over, it was none other than the fourth prince of the Elf Royal Family, Prince Sebastian.

"Mother!" Sebastian first greeted Alina, then looked at Chatiya, "Xiao Qi, you have finally returned, it's good that you're alright."

"Brother!" When Chatiya saw the familiar Sebastian and these once familiar people, her heart finally found some peace.

A feeling surged in her heart, the feeling of being home.

Sebastian was the person Herag had impersonated back then, successfully fooling the Elves of Miracle Valley with his identity.

"Where are our older brother and sister?" Chatiya asked.

This generation of the Elf Royal Family had seven offspring in total, with Chatiya being the youngest.

Ahead of her were five older brothers and one older sister.

"Big brother and second brother went out to deal with the troubles on the Wizard's side, Sana ventured out years ago, and hasn't heard of your return yet. It's just me and your third brother here now." Sebastian said.

Chatiya showed some regret on her face, unable to immediately see these dear ones.

Noticing her expression, Sebastian said, "It's alright, once they get the news they should rush back quickly, with the war with the Wizards now gradually easing off, there won't be any major moves in the short term. Now that you've returned, no one can hurt you anymore."

On a giant branch of the World Tree, a grand palace was built, looking from afar like a piece of art.

This was the place where Chatiya once lived, her old residence.

Now, important figures of the Elf Royal Family who could arrive had almost all gathered in the palace.

"Are you saying that after being bought by that Wizard, he sent you back?" A middle-aged man with a face full of authority sat next to Chatiya, asking.

Unintentionally stern, his look towards Chatiya was filled with love.

This was Randy Older, the Elf King of the royal family, the current Elf King.

In the present Elf Plane, he was the most powerful person.

Chatiya nodded, "The lord treated me well and never harmed me."

Herag had thought this through before, believing that fabrications would always have loopholes, and would not withstand scrutiny, so it's better to tell the truth, withholding some private information.

He hadn't harmed Chatiya and had taken good care of her, so there was no need to feel guilty.

Thus, when Chatiya recounted her experiences, it was almost indistinguishable from the actual events.

But Chatiya telling the story was one thing, and whether others believed it was another.

"Don't trust Wizards easily, they are cunning, sinister, and bloody; what you are seeing is just a facade." Alina said.

After listening to Chatiya, she didn't disbelieve her daughter's words.

But Alina didn't think Herag was so kind-hearted as Chatiya described, he must have some scheme.

And it was for this scheme that the Wizard deliberately showed such a good-person facade, to gain Chatiya's trust.

Chapter 545: Inquiry

As for what to do after gaining Chatiya's trust, it's not clear for now, but it definitely won't be anything good.

Alina, as the queen of the Elf Race, naturally knows very clearly about the major events happening in various places of the Elf Plane.

The invasion from the Wizard Plane has brought enormous losses to the Elf Plane, countless people have lost their lives, countless people have lost their homes.

Those wizards strike fiercely, with various means, frequently leading to the destruction of cities one after another, and even many kingdoms have been completely wiped out.

Randy, however, did not rush to a conclusion but continued to ask, "According to what you said, this should be a wizard who is completely immersed in cultivation, who bought you and then left you in that castle without much concern, only taking a bit of your blood for research, which indeed aligns with the wizard's style."

Randy knows a bit more about wizards, knowing what kind of characteristics this group of people generally has, which is similar to what Chatiya described.

If the wizard who bought Chatiya isn't interested in her body or appearance, it is indeed possible that he just took blood to conduct some research.

But the problem is, the other party is a member of the expedition team from the Wizard Plane.

What is the expedition team for? To invade other planes.

Randy also thinks that Herag bringing Chatiya to the Elf Plane is definitely not just so simple as to send Chatiya back.

"Master... was really kind to me." Chatiya still wanted to say some good words for Herag.

"He didn't ask you to do anything?" Randy looked into his daughter's eyes and asked.

Chatiya's gaze dodged a little, and after thinking for a while, she said, "Yes."

"What was it?" Randy asked.

He wasn't afraid of Herag having demands; it's normal for someone who saved his daughter to have requests. What he feared was not having any demands.

"The master thought that if something happened in the Wizard Plane in the future, he hoped to come to the Elf Plane for refuge and hoped to get your help then, father." Chatiya said.

"Help? Chatiya, don't worry about him; you've returned, why care about a stinky wizard?" Sebastian said.

After he spoke, his face suddenly changed, as if he had thought of something, and he immediately asked, "Did he do anything to you?"

Thinking of those wizard's methods, Sebastian suddenly thought perhaps Herag had a way to control Chatiya.

The other side just let Chatiya return like that, surely having the capital to negotiate with them, otherwise wouldn't let her go back so simply.

"Master-Servant Contract." Chatiya said.

"What!" Sebastian immediately got angry; he didn't expect that wizard to make his dearest sister sign a Master-Servant Contract.

Chatiya is a princess of the Elf Royal Family, signing such a contract is an insult to the entire Elf Royal Family.

"Father! Please allow me to lead troops to attack, we must destroy those wizards!" Sebastian said furiously.

"It's already dissolved." Chatiya hurriedly said.

Sebastian was astonished and said, "What?"

Chatiya continued, "Before I came, the master had already dissolved the Master-Servant Contract between us."

This was also previously considered by Herag, as for the Master-Servant Contract, the deep foundation of the Elf Race likely has ways to dissolve it.

This contract, for the Elf Race, seems like a threat, certainly causing hatred from the other side.

Rather than let them dissolve it, Herag might as well directly dissolve it himself.

Herag now has the contact of a believer in the gods with Chatiya, the Master-Servant Contract is actually not so important anymore.

Randy asked, "It's really dissolved?"

Chatiya nodded, "Yes, I am already free."

"Let Mr. Acorn come over to help take a look, he is also a wizard and knows the wizard's methods best."
Randy contemplated for a moment and then ordered the person next to him.

"Who is Mr. Acorn?" Chatiya asked curiously.

She never knew there was a wizard by her father's side, she had never heard of it before.

Randy looked at Chatiya and said, "This is a big secret; after Mr. Acorn checks and confirms there are no tricks on you, I will tell you."

Chatiya nodded, obediently not asking further questions.

Herag's heart trembled upon hearing these words.

"So there is indeed another wizard influence!"

He was very sure it couldn't be a wizard from the expedition team unless there was a traitor inside.

After a while, a round-faced fat man came over, who looked very honest and sincere.

He looked at Randy and said, "What can I do for you, Mr. Randy?"

Both seemed to be of equal status.

Randy smiled, "I'm really sorry to trouble Mr. Acorn to make a trip specially. My daughter Chatiya was taken away by a wizard from the Wizard Plane and then sent back. I worry there might be some hidden

tricks placed on her. Although the Elf Race is also adept at magic, we do not understand those wizard methods, so I want to ask Mr. Acorn for help."

"Oh, so that's the case, being taken away by those people but still being able to come back is indeed a strange affair." Mr. Acorn grinned sincerely and said.

After he glanced at Chatiya, he turned back to Randy and said, "This is a trivial matter, but I wonder if you've considered what I've discussed with Mr. Randy before. The wizards from our Boundary Land and those from the Wizard Plane are different; they are primitive and brutal, but we are very civilized. Of course, we are also much stronger than them. Cooperation with us is a win-win situation, beneficial to both sides."

Randy was silent for a moment, a hint of apprehension flashing in his eyes as he looked at Mr. Acorn, and spoke, "I truly appreciate your efforts in making the wizards from the Wizard Plane gradually subside. I am also very interested in the cooperation you mentioned, but I think the specific matters of cooperation need further discussion. After all, this concerns the affairs of two planes, and it must be discussed clearly before making any hasty decisions."

"Understood, understood. No problem, this matter can be discussed later; let me first take a look at Princess Chatiya's issue." Mr. Acorn said with a friendly smile.

"Thank you, Mr. Acorn, for your help!" Randy said.

Mr. Acorn then looked towards Chatiya, scratched his face before extending his hand and releasing some magic power that surrounded Chatiya.

After a while, he took out a test tube, which contained a pure blue liquid.

Mr. Acorn pulled out the wooden plug on the test tube, and the liquid inside quickly turned into a blue butterfly.

After the butterfly flew out of the test tube, it flew towards Chatiya and landed on her forehead, flapping its wings slowly.

"Princess Chatiya, don't be afraid, it's collecting your information and analyzing some things." Mr. Acorn noticed that Chatiya seemed somewhat afraid and comforted her with a smile.

Chatiya didn't know what the butterfly was doing, she only felt a cold sensation spreading from her forehead to every corner of her body.

Chapter 546: Boundary Land

The fleeting chill quickly dissipated, and Chatiya didn't feel particularly uncomfortable.

The blue butterfly paused for a moment on Chatiya's forehead before flapping its wings and floating away.

It flitted around Chatiya, continuously scattering blue specks of light from its wings.

These specks vanished upon contact with Chatiya's skin, leaving her without any sensation or understanding of their purpose.

As the blue specks dispersed, the butterfly gradually turned into a phantom until it became a stream of blue light.

This blue light danced briefly in the air before flying towards Mr. Acorn.

Mr. Acorn still held the test tube, and the blue light flew directly into it.

He looked at the test tube in front of him, his fingers shaking as he swirled the blue liquid inside, then smiled in satisfaction and, tilting his head back, drank the blue liquid directly.

After drinking the blue liquid, Mr. Acorn closed his eyes, savoring it as if it were fine wine, with a slightly intoxicated expression.

Moments later, he slowly opened his eyes and said, "Apart from some remnants of the Master-Servant Contract, there's nothing wrong. Princess Chatiya is quite safe."

After hearing Mr. Acorn's words, Randy, Alina, and others breathed a sigh of relief.

"It seems that the Wizard you mentioned is indeed sincere and hasn't tampered with you," Randy said.

"Of course, the Lord treats me well, I've said that before," Chatiya spoke positively of Herag again.

Glancing at Mr. Acorn, Chatiya then asked, "Mr. Acorn, where are you from? It seems that my father and others trust you greatly."

Mr. Acorn looked at Randy, seemingly seeking his opinion.

Randy smiled, "Since there's no threat to Chatiya now, there's no harm in speaking openly."

As a princess of the Elf Royal Family, Chatiya naturally had the right to know many secrets.

Mr. Acorn was filled with mystery; it was unimaginable how a Wizard would appear in this place.

"I come from the Boundary Land," Mr. Acorn replied with a smile.

Chatiya asked curiously, "What is the Boundary Land?"

Having grown up in the Elf Plane, Chatiya wasn't always at play; she was taught by elders within the tribe who imparted various courses and knowledge.

Thus, Chatiya had a certain understanding of the Elf Plane, and she definitely hadn't heard of a place called the Boundary Land.

"You can think of the Boundary Land as another Plane, different from both the Elf Plane and the Wizard Plane," Mr. Acorn explained.

"Another Plane..." Chatiya nodded, half-understanding.

Near Evans County was a small town where Herag sat in an inn, quietly observing Chatiya's situation.

When Mr. Acorn used the blue butterfly, Herag was concerned that his Divine State's surveillance might be discovered.

Fortunately, it seemed from the results that it hadn't been detected.

This divine state was rather unique; it's theoretically undetectable unless there was some contract or trickery signed with Chatiya.

Hearing the words "Boundary Land," Herag was also puzzled since he hadn't heard of a Plane called by that name.

After becoming an Expedition Team member, he had reviewed plenty of resources within the team and gained some understanding of many Planes.

But he had genuinely never heard of a Plane called the Boundary Land.

Herag was also cautious about communicating with Chatiya at this point to avoid alerting Mr. Acorn.

He couldn't assume that just because Mr. Acorn hadn't detected him, communicating with Chatiya would also go undetected.

Although Mr. Acorn's entire presence was very subdued, almost impossible to gauge his strength.

Judging from Randy, Alina, and other Royal Family members' attitudes towards Mr. Acorn, he must be a Wizard of immense power.

Faced with such a Wizard, Herag knew he must proceed with extreme caution and couldn't act rashly.

"Boundary Land? What a peculiar name, Mr. Acorn. Can you tell me more about it?"

Although Herag didn't ask, Chatiya knew he must be eager to learn more, so she initiated the question.

Mr. Acorn sheepishly scratched the back of his head, saying, "I'm truly sorry, Princess Chatiya, but it's not possible to reveal too much now. If there comes a day when our Boundary Land confirms cooperation with your Elf Plane, I'll personally show you around the Boundary Land."

"Cooperation? Father, what are you planning to cooperate on?" Chatiya asked.

Randy replied, "The Boundary Land will bring us knowledge and resources to help us repel the Wizard Plane's invasions. In return, we are to provide them with a seed of the World Tree to plant in the Boundary Land. Additionally, we will establish friendly trade exchanges for mutual prosperity."

Mr. Acorn smiled, "Our Boundary Land has always sought to resolve issues on Civilization Planes through peaceful means, unlike the Wizards of the Wizard Plane who are cruel and violent. Thus, I hope you will consider our cooperation matter seriously, Mr. Randy."

Randy nodded, "I will certainly contemplate this matter seriously, and I am very willing to cooperate with you."

...

After resolving the threat to Chatiya, Mr. Acorn left, not disturbing the family's reunion.

In any case, he was staying here for the time being, and the details of cooperation needed to be discussed slowly.

"Father, you haven't agreed to what I asked you yet!" Chatiya said, holding Randy's arm.

"What is it?" Randy asked.

"The Lord saved me and brought me home; if he wants to visit here in the future, you won't turn him away, right?" Chatiya said.

After thinking for a moment, Randy replied, "Of course not. I swear by the name of the Elf King that as long as he doesn't harm our Elf Race in the future, I will not trouble him and welcome him to visit here. How about that, are you relieved now?"

"Hehe!" Chatiya laughed happily.

Since Randy promised that, he certainly wouldn't go back on his word, as he was the Elf King.

Randy truly felt that way; as far as Chatiya mentioned, it was just a Level 2 Wizard.

A Level 2 Wizard wouldn't cause much trouble in the Dark Night Forest, and since he had helped his daughter, Randy wouldn't retaliate with violence.

The Elf Race essentially loves peace and isn't keen on slaughter.

Herag sitting in the inn felt slightly reassured after seeing this.

What he wanted was merely Randy's attitude. Truly, Herag wouldn't dare stay in the Dark Night Forest.

After all, people are unpredictable, and Herag didn't dare reside in the Dark Night Forest, which was the Elf Race's base and home to a formidable World Tree.

Before gaining enough strength on par with Mr. Acorn, Herag wouldn't dare step into the Dark Night Forest.

Only when he became like that Wizard, Mr. Acorn, could he enter at will.

Chapter 547: Cooperation

Herag asked Chatiya to confirm the attitude of the Elf Race, mainly for the consideration of Reese and others.

Moreover, if it weren't for special circumstances, he wouldn't let Reese and the others enter the Dark Night Forest.

If the Abyss Plane were to invade the Wizard Plane in the future, Herag would initially choose to bring Reese and others to a remote small town in the Elf Plane.

Herag considered that if he were to leave the Elf Plane in the future, he wouldn't be able to take care of Reese and others.

Leaving them to live on their own in the Elf Plane made him uneasy, but if another force could look after them, he would be much more at ease.

In the Elf Plane, the only ones capable of such a task are naturally the Elf Race.

Chatiya had a great relationship with Reese and others when she was in the Wizard Plane, being almost like sisters with Asuna.

With such a relationship, coupled with Randy's promise, Herag could be more at ease with the Elf Race.

As for why he might leave in the future, that is naturally to improve his strength.

Herag always believed that power is the most fundamental.

When the Abyss Plane invades the Wizard Plane, hiding in the Elf Plane may be safe, but it also lacks resources for cultivation and makes advancement difficult.

The Elves' way of cultivation is different from that of Wizards; they rely on bloodline power and naturally become stronger with age.

However, just to advance to a Level 3 Wizard, Herag needs various kinds of Power of Rules.

Herag contemplated that even if he would seek refuge in the Elf Plane for a short time, he would still likely leave eventually.

Otherwise, his power would remain stagnant, and there would be no hope.

As for where to go, Herag did not know, nor did he have any concrete plan or destination.

But now, Herag was intrigued by the Boundary Land mentioned by Acorn.

From the few words revealed by Acorn, it was clear that the Boundary Land is also a plane belonging to Wizards.

Acorn's words were full of confidence, not the kind of self-aggrandizing confidence, but a confidence that seemed justifiable.

He looked down upon the Wizard Plane.

Wizards of the Wizard Plane seemed insignificant to the Boundary Land, merely one of the bargaining chips in negotiating cooperation with the Elf Race.

As long as the Elf Race agreed, the Boundary Land could drive the Expedition Team of the Wizard Plane out of the Elf Plane.

And this is just one condition in their cooperation.

"What kind of power does the Boundary Land actually possess? Is it a Middle-tier World or a High-tier World?" Herag couldn't help thinking.

From Randy and the others' behavior, they showed deep respect and awe for Acorn.

Although Acorn's attitude had always been cordial, whenever cooperation was mentioned, Randy undeniably felt a lot of pressure.

He seemed completely unable to refuse the cooperation proposed by Acorn, only saying that the specific details needed further consideration.

Randy, as the Elf King, was arguably the most powerful person in the entire Elf Plane.

Even under the World Mother Tree, his reverence for Acorn suggests that either Acorn is extremely powerful, or the power behind Acorn, the Boundary Land, is extremely strong, or perhaps both.

Only with an absolute disparity in power would Randy be so cautious towards an outsider in his own territory.

Herag suddenly felt that the Elf Race was truly unfortunate; just the troubles from the Wizard Plane hadn't been resolved when another Wizard Influence more powerful than the Wizard Plane appeared.

It could only be said that without enough power, it's the same anywhere—always the law of the jungle.

Herag could confirm that the Boundary Land is at least a Middle-tier World, but he could not confirm if it was a High-tier World.

If it's just a Middle-tier World, then it's still manageable, with a limited top-tier combat capacity ceiling.

But if it's a High-tier World, then the upper limit is quite high.

Given the current strength of the Wizard Plane, it is indeed insignificant before a High-tier World.

Herag couldn't help but recall what Acorn said, that they have always sought to resolve issues with the Civilization Plane through peaceful means.

Analyzing the current situation, it seemed that the Boundary Land had only sent an Acorn to the Elf Plane.

Therefore, it was very likely that Parker was injured by Acorn; Parker, as a Level 3 Wizard, could only be severely injured by powers of at least Level 4 Wizard strength.

Acorn's arrival was both a negotiation and a deterrent.

From the perspective of the Boundary Land, achieving cooperation and trade without military engagement would certainly be more in line with beneficial interests than direct warfare.

The Boundary Land is now using its own strength as a deterrent, forcing the Elf Plane to cooperate with them.

What they want is actually the same as the Wizard Plane—a World Tree Seed.

Only the Wizard Plane's information channels were not as well-informed as the Boundary Land and didn't know about the existence of the World Tree Seed, continuing to research how to transplant the World Tree and keep it alive.

The Boundary Land apparently knew more, knowing that transplantation was useless, and only a World Tree Seed would do.

Randy was obviously reluctant to hand over the World Tree Seed, but faced with the pressure from the Boundary Land, he also had no choice but to be willing.

Since the other party came expressly for the World Tree, they would not rest until they achieved their goal.

So far, they are still negotiating by peaceful means; if the talks break down, they will face an invasion like that of the Wizard Plane—only much more ferocious.

Herag thought for a moment and called Toad out, asking: "Do you know of the existence of the Boundary Land?"

"Boundary Land? Never heard of it," Toad shook his head and said.

Herag then recounted the events concerning Acorn and the Boundary Land, explaining everything that had happened.

Toad, puzzled, said: "In my memory, the Endless Plane only had the Wizard Influence in the Wizard Plane. Even if there were Wizards in other planes, they were Wizards from the Wizard Plane, and their numbers wouldn't be large. But from the information revealed by Acorn, the Boundary Land he referred to is surely an Influence with many Wizards, and much stronger than the Wizard Plane."

"This is rather strange. What events occurred while I was asleep..."

Herag speculated: "Could the so-called Boundary Land be related to the Sixth Ring Tower?"

"It's a possibility," Toad said.

Herag's thought was that Toad's memory must be from many years ago.

Back then, the Endless Plane only had the Wizard Influence in the Wizard Plane, so the Wizards in the Boundary Land should also have originated from the Wizard Plane.

Throughout the years, the only Wizard Organization he could find records of that had left the Wizard Plane was the Sixth Ring Tower.

Whether it was due to betrayal or other reasons, it was true that they left the Wizard Plane.

Originally, it was thought they might be in the Abyss Plane, but now it seems they could very well be in this so-called Boundary Land.

Chapter 548: Space Passage

If the Sixth Ring Tower had actively embraced the Abyss Plane, it should have continued to grow and prosper in the Abyss Plane.

However, from the current situation, the Sixth Ring Tower is not in the Abyss Plane.

As a demon from the Abyss Plane, Toad has never encountered other wizards since awakening in the Abyss Plane these years.

This indirectly proves that the Abyss Plane doesn't contain any trace of the Sixth Ring Tower; they are not inside the Abyss Plane.

The Boundary Land was most likely a place the Sixth Ring Tower found later for settlement, but the process in between is currently unknown.

Herag immediately recalls the historical records from the Land of Dawn. The accounts and descriptions of the Sixth Ring Tower there are very consistent, labeling the Sixth Ring Tower as a betrayer.

Now it seems, there indeed are hidden circumstances behind it.

Herag couldn't help but recall one of the conditions Acorn mentioned to Randy: removing the invading wizards from the Wizard Plane and driving them back.

From this, Herag feels that the Boundary Land surely doesn't have a favorable attitude towards the Wizard Plane, but it seems it's not a matter of deep-seated hatred.

Otherwise, the wizards of the Boundary Land would surely have immediately taken action to eliminate them upon discovering the wizards from the Wizard Plane.

But now it has merely become a condition for negotiation with the Elf Race, action is optional.

The Wizard Plane is clearly not regarded as a threat by the Boundary Land, deemed insignificant.

Herag thought that the wizard he encountered on the Demon Plane is most likely from the Boundary Land.

They appear in various planes, and probably can reach the Wizard Plane too.

Yet until now, there has been no news about other wizard influences invading, otherwise the Wizard Plane would have been desolate.

But from the Wizard Plane's perspective, those who know of the Boundary Land evidently fear it greatly.

Parker, severely injured, stayed silent, quietly healing in the Floating City.

Neither the Expedition Team nor the Wizard Alliance has voiced any opinions, all remaining silent on the matter.

Herag speculates they probably want neither other wizards to know about the existence of the Boundary Land, nor want to provoke it.

They dare not provoke the Boundary Land, dare not to have conflict with it.

Even if they suffered losses, they can only swallow them silently, and even plan to retreat from the Elf Plane.

This suggests the upper echelons of the Wizard Plane surely understand what kind of place the Boundary Land is, knowing its formidable strength makes it untouchable.

As it stands, the cooperation between the Boundary Land and the Elf Plane is an inevitability, just a matter of time.

Once the cooperation is achieved, whether the Expedition Team is willing or not, they will certainly retreat from the Elf Plane.

Herag can't help but think of a concern: if the Expedition Team were to retreat, it would be very difficult for him to come to the Elf Plane again.

The Teleportation Altar is surely under the control of the Expedition Team, and without a reasonable excuse, it would be impossible for him to go to the Elf Plane.

Furthermore, if the Expedition Team has retreated from the Elf Plane, wanting to go there would seem too suspicious.

Herag pondered that this issue must be resolved, or else the Elf Plane cannot serve as a fallback plan.

He immediately asked Toad: "Do you have any means to allow me to come to the Elf Plane from the Wizard Plane? The Expedition Team will probably retreat, and they surely wouldn't want conflict with the Boundary Land."

Toad is very capable, with high proficiency in spatial rules, perhaps he might have a solution.

After thinking for a while, Toad said: "If I could find the location of the Expedition Team's spatial channel, I would be able to reach the Elf Plane without relying on their Teleportation Altar."

"Spatial channel's location?" Herag was slightly puzzled.

Toad explained: "The establishment of a spatial channel requires time and effort. The Expedition Team surely exerted great energy to set up the spatial channel to the Elf Plane. Even if they retreat from the Elf Plane, the spatial channel still remains."

The spatial channel painstakingly created by the Wizard Plane won't be destroyed so easily.

This means, even if the Teleportation Altars are shut down, the spatial channel still exists.

It's like a road; although both ends are closed, the road doesn't cease to exist.

Herag asked: "How do we find the spatial channel's location?"

"Aimlessly searching would take a lot of time, but if I use the Teleportation Altar, I can quickly locate the spatial channel's position." Toad said.

The Teleportation Altar itself connects to the spatial channel, and with Toad's spatial proficiency, simply interacting with the altar might help locate the spatial channel.

Once the spatial channel is located, Toad would become a mobile teleportation altar, able to freely move between the two planes.

Previously at Base 27, Herag didn't bring Toad along mainly to avoid other wizards discovering anything unusual about Toad.

But in truth, if Toad completely hides its aura and maintains the state of a normal toad, it's very hard for others to notice anything peculiar about him.

Back when Fran attacked, Toad only revealed its true form before Fran realized its extraordinary nature.

Herag simply chose not to bring Toad along out of caution.

Now for the matter of the spatial channel, he has to take Toad along on his next visit to the base.

The strongest at Base 27 now is merely a Level 2 Wizard, with not a single Level 3 Wizard.

With Level 2 Wizard's strength, discovering Toad's secrets would still be quite difficult.

Herag glanced over at Chatiya's side, Chatiya was now back to her princess life, surrounded by numerous attendants and guards.

He doesn't have to worry about Chatiya for the moment, she will surely fare well with the elves.

Since he had sent Chatiya back and obtained the desired information, Herag planned to return.

But before leaving, there was one more thing to handle.

Herag took out the Black Space, and upon entering, saw that the White Deer was still lying outside the cabin, same as always.

The only difference was that Chatiya was no longer inside the cabin.

The White Deer had been gazing in the direction of the cabin, but upon seeing Herag, it actually stood up and slowly walked over, looking at him.

Its gaze seemed to be asking Herag where Chatiya had gone.

Upon seeing the White Deer's eyes, Herag understood and said: "Chatiya went home. She is the elf princess, she must go back home."

After hearing this, the White Deer's eyes flashed with a complex emotion, then looked up at the sky and unexpectedly let out a cry.

The sound was long and mournful, echoing within the Black Space.

Chapter 549: White Deer's Departure

This was the first time Herag heard the White Deer's voice; before, the White Deer had never made a sound in front of him.

Although the White Deer's voice was melodious and pleasant, this call was incredibly sorrowful.

Perhaps because she knew she would never see Chatiya again, she felt a deep sadness from within.

The White Deer was born in the low-tier world of X-617, and she is the Child of the Plane in that world.

Chatiya was most likely her first friend since she was born.

In that world of X-617, everything is primitive, with almost no intelligent civilization appearing.

The White Deer, though leisurely in that world, must have been very lonely, as there was no life she could communicate with.

She had always been alone, living solo in that primitive world.

Captured by Herag, it was even more miserable, having to stay all the time in the desolate Black Space, occasionally contributing some blood to Herag in the early days.

But things changed after Chatiya came, for the first time the White Deer experienced the feeling of having a friend accompanying her.

For a creature like the White Deer, who roams the world alone, companionship is a luxurious thing.

That's why she would be so upset when she learned Chatiya left to go home.

Herag glanced at the White Deer, saying, "I can let you out, how about you go find Chatiya?"

The White Deer suddenly lifted her head, her eyes filled with excitement, but this expression quickly vanished, leaving only suspicion.

She doesn't trust Herag at all, nor does she have any affection for him.

It's quite understandable; after all, being kept by Herag for so long, even having her blood taken, it's naturally impossible to have favorable feelings.

Herag said, "I'm not lying to you, nor is there a need to. You're just wasting my food here; rather, you should go find Chatiya."

The White Deer was somewhat unsure but showed a hint of expectation in her eyes.

She wasn't adept at hiding her emotions, displaying everything openly.

Herag didn't care if she believed him or not and continued, "Chatiya resides in the Dark Night Forest, which is the territory of the Elf Royal Family. Once I release you, just wait outside the Dark Night Forest. Don't rush in or else any danger encountered won't be my concern."

"Though you are good at running away, remember, there are many strong beings in this world. If they catch you, it won't be like with me; at least you had food and drink."

The White Deer nodded; all she wanted now was to quickly go find Chatiya.

"Don't be hasty, let me contact Chatiya and have her prepared to receive you," Herag said.

He then began to contact Chatiya, "That silly doe, I'm preparing to release her; she'll wait for you outside the Dark Night Forest. You could arrange to have people waiting outside. She's fast, shouldn't take long to arrive."

"Silly doe? Do you mean Annie?" Chatiya was slow to react initially.

Herag said, "Yes, it's that White Deer. Anyway, she wastes food with me, and I see you quite like her, so how about letting her find you on her own?"

"Really! Thank you, sir! I'll go wait for her immediately! But sir, when will you come back to see me?" Chatiya asked.

Herag said, "Hmm... hard to say, unclear when I'll be back, but I'll contact you then."

"Ah... but I miss you, sir." Chatiya murmured.

"If you miss me, just talk to me like this." Herag said.

"But I want to hug you, sir!"

...

Herag is currently in a small town, about a week's journey from Evans County.

But that's calculated by carriage speed; with the White Deer's speed, it surely shouldn't take that long.

Chatiya quickly set off, accompanied by guards of the Elf Race.

After returning to the inn, Herag glanced outside; the sky was about to darken.

He went to the wilds outside the small town, found a secluded small grove, and took out the Black Space.

With a thought, Herag summoned the White Deer from the Black Space, standing on the grass in front of him.

As soon as the White Deer stood on the ground, the entire area disappeared, then reappeared several hundred meters away, looking distantly at Herag.

She stared at the black sphere in Herag's hand, her gaze filled with fear.

The White Deer remembered very clearly that it was this black sphere that had captured her years ago and kept her confined until now.

With the rare chance to see daylight again, she naturally did not want to return to that barren, lifeless place.

Seeing the White Deer's wary expression towards him, Herag smiled and said, "Rest assured, I won't use this thing to lock you up again."

After saying this, he put the Black Space into the Space Ring, but the White Deer still remained wary, staying far away.

Judging by her appearance, she seemed ready to flee at any moment.

Over the years, the White Deer had grown much bigger, evidently more mature and stronger.

It can be imagined that the White Deer must have significantly increased her mastery of Spatial Rules.

At this moment, catching her again would likely be much more difficult, Herag even thought the Black Space might no longer be useful.

"Don't rush to leave." Herag quickly said as he noticed she wanted to run.

Herag then took out a map and said, "You don't even know where the Dark Night Forest is; how are you going there?"

After he spoke, the White Deer understood; she only realized then that she had no idea where the Dark Night Forest was.

Herag pointed to a spot on the map, saying, "This is our current position, and here is the location of the Dark Night Forest. I know you understand, you should be able to read the map, right? Memorize the location well. If you get lost, that won't be my concern."

The White Deer stared diligently at the map from afar, and even at such a distance, she preferred to look longer rather than get closer.

It seems Herag left too deep an impression, leaving her on high alert against him.

Herag asked, "Got it memorized?"

The White Deer nodded slightly.

Herag then pointed west, saying, "Head in this direction, you'll reach the position of the Dark Night Forest, understand?"

The White Deer nodded, glanced at Herag, then the west, and then her figure disappeared.

Herag could only sense a slight fluctuation of Spatial Rules, he was also astonished.

The White Deer had clearly become very proficient in her control of Spatial Rules.

When the White Deer traveled through space, the Spatial Rules hardly fluctuated.

If Herag himself were not quite familiar with Spatial Rules, he would have found it hard to detect even this slight fluctuation.

Like a highly skilled diving athlete, who enters the water with barely a splash.

Looking to the west, Herag, through Shenlan's perception, saw the White Deer appear thousands of meters away.

After landing and glancing around, the White Deer then swiftly traversed again, completely disappearing from Shenlan's detection range.

Chapter 550: Guards

After watching the White Deer leave, Herag turned and returned to the small town, as preparations needed to be made for the return journey tomorrow.

He wasn't worried about the White Deer encountering any danger.

With the White Deer's current abilities, capturing her would indeed be quite difficult.

Herag suspected that in a few more years, the White Deer might even be able to move freely within space, just like a World Tree seed.

At that level, traversal would mean complete disappearance without a trace.

Even a Wizard who comprehends Spatial Rules would find it very difficult to detect the White Deer in another layer of space.

Unless their mastery of space is very high, like that of the Toad who can see through multiple layers of space, one wouldn't even sense the White Deer's existence, let alone capture her.

...

A few days later.

When Chatiya arrived on the outskirts of the Dark Night Forest on a Griffin, she immediately saw the silhouette of a White Deer in the distant forest.

"Annie! You got here so quickly!" Chatiya waved her little hand and said.

The White Deer looked at Chatiya, took two steps forward, but upon seeing the group of guards around Chatiya, stopped in its tracks, clearly somewhat afraid.

Chatiya noticed this and said to the guards around her, "That's my friend, her name is Annie, you're not allowed to harm her!"

The Guard Captain was a tall male Elf named Khaled.

Khaled cast a glance at the White Deer and said hesitantly, "Princess, this White Deer is of unknown origin..."

"What unknown origin! She's my friend! If I say it's fine, then it's fine. If you dare to harm her, I'll hold you accountable!" Chatiya reprimanded.

"As you command." Khaled fell silent, compelled to respect Chatiya's orders.

He exchanged glances with the surrounding guards, indicating to remain vigilant and always be mindful of Chatiya's safety.

Protecting Chatiya's safety was their most important task, even at the cost of their lives, they couldn't let anything happen to her.

This White Deer, being of unknown origin, naturally made the Guard Team very cautious.

Although the White Deer showed no intention of attacking at the moment, they couldn't let their guards down.

With Chatiya's order, Khaled and his men couldn't prevent the White Deer from approaching.

Chatiya waved to the White Deer, "Annie, come over, they won't do anything to you."

The White Deer looked at Chatiya, then at the group of guards by her side, showed some hesitation, but eventually took steps towards Chatiya.

When the White Deer came closer, Chatiya reached out to pat the White Deer's head and said, "I was worried you'd be lonely there by yourself, but now it's okay..."

Chatiya was about to say more but noticed the presence of other guards around, so she stopped.

She didn't want to reveal any information related to Herag in front of others, the less she divulged, the better.

So far, the Elf Royal Family had no clue whether the person Chatiya referred to was male or female, or what their name or features were.

Even though there was no longer a Master-Servant Contract, Chatiya still wanted to protect Herag as much as possible to prevent him from being harmed because of her.

Khaled and the guards kept a close eye on the White Deer, ready to act at any unusual movement.

However, after Chatiya and the White Deer met, everything was harmonious, with no surprises occurring.

"Annie, will you be staying with me from now on?" Chatiya asked.

Genuinely considering the White Deer a friend, she first consulted the White Deer's opinion.

The White Deer nodded, signifying agreement.

Chatiya giggled, "Then let's go home, that way."

The White Deer glanced in the direction of Chatiya's finger; on the horizon, there was the faint silhouette of a giant tree.

As Khaled was about to signal the Griffin to lower its body for Chatiya to mount.

Chatiya waved her hand, "No need, I'll just go with Annie."

With that, she sat sideways on the White Deer's back; once she was settled, the White Deer took a leisurely step and disappeared.

The surrounding Elf Race guards were taken aback, as Chatiya vanished right before their eyes; this was a serious dereliction of duty.

Khaled and the others immediately began searching the surroundings, spotting Chatiya in a distant thicket, looking back at them while seated on the White Deer.

"What are you guys doing? Hurry up and follow, Annie and I won't wait for you." Chatiya's voice came from afar.

Seeing Chatiya again, Khaled and his men sighed in relief, quickly climbing onto the Griffin and flying over.

The White Deer's speed surpassed their expectations.

The Griffin was already very fast, even among flying creatures, it was extraordinarily quick.

Yet Khaled and his men had trouble even glimpsing the White Deer's shadow, occasionally spotting Annie and Chatiya because of clearings allowing views to the far horizon.

The White Deer wasn't making a special effort to hasten, carrying Chatiya more like enjoying a leisurely outing.

In no time, the White Deer with Chatiya arrived beneath the World Mother Tree, while the other guards were left far behind, likely arriving only by tomorrow.

Chatiya's arrival riding the White Deer naturally attracted the attention of others.

The aura of the White Deer was so unique, it quickly drew the interest of Randy and others.

Acorn happened to be there as well, and a group gathered around Chatiya and the White Deer to investigate.

"Such a unique creature, naturally capable of comprehending Spatial Rules," Acorn observed after examining it.

Randy asked, "Where did it come from?"

"Father, don't worry about it, Annie's my friend." Chatiya didn't want to reveal too much information, so she said.

Randy didn't press further, merely exchanged a glance with Acorn, getting a general idea.

Where else could the White Deer come from, most likely from the Wizard Plane.

Since Chatiya had just returned from the Wizard Plane, even though she tried hard to conceal information about the Wizard, inferring it was quite simple.

Randy then sought Acorn's perspective on the White Deer, and upon confirming that the White Deer wasn't a violent or malicious being, he left it alone.

For Randy, within his controllable realm, Chatiya's happiness was paramount.

...

Herag trotted his horse alone, traversing a mountain forest with lush flora surrounding the ranges.

Having achieved the primary objective, he planned to return.

Once back at Base 27, he'd proceed to secure the location of the spatial passage, marking the accomplishment of all his goals.

The sun set in the west, casting an orange glow over the opposite peak, painting a golden half-mountain range.

Suddenly, Herag paused, furrowed his brow, then resumed riding forward.

Ahead lay a relatively flat grassy area where a group had set up camp.

Campfires were lit, freshly chopped wood from the surroundings blazing fiercely, while the group busied themselves within the camp.