

Sixth Ring Wizard

Chapter 26: Chapter 26: Farewell Moment

The redhead appeared near Swan City mostly to wait for a ship.

Herag felt somewhat relieved after listening to Claude; the redhead's teacher probably wouldn't live much longer, or might not even be alive now, so he shouldn't worry about anyone seeking revenge later.

"I'll inform you as soon as there's news about the ship. In the meantime, focus on learning. Although I don't understand wizards, the ones I have visited are all very knowledgeable. Knowledge is always the sharpest weapon," Claude said, his eyes filled with nostalgia, recalling something unknown.

Claude said somewhat ashamedly, "Although I am your teacher, I actually have taken advantage, harboring some selfishness, hoping you could look after my descendants in the future."

Herag smiled, "Teacher, you don't need to say that. You helped me, and I will naturally take care of your descendants within my capacity. You must sacrifice something to gain something; that is the price, and I understand."

"Hahaha!" Claude laughed heartily, "You are indeed very suitable to be a wizard."

...

Time flew by, and three months passed.

During these three months, Herag spent most of his time in the library of Nosentan Academy.

Every book in the library was recorded by Shenlan. Herag first had each book scanned and entered into Shenlan, and then chose to read those that piqued his interest.

In terms of the Starry Sky Meditation Technique, the meditation of the second star had been completed, and now he was working on the meditation of the third star.

"Herag Merlin: Power 2.1, Agility 1.7, Constitution 2.9, Spirit 4.6, Magic Power 100%."

After successfully meditating on the second star, his physical stats such as power also increased slightly.

Herag discovered that the Starry Sky Meditation Technique didn't just add a little spiritual power from meditating on one star; the second star added 1.1 spiritual power, and subsequent gains should be more, but correspondingly, it would take more time, and the difficulty of meditation would increase.

That single Meteor Grass had been used up, and later, Claude managed to find two more through connections, but no more Meteor Grass was found afterward.

Herag couldn't do anything about it; such matters couldn't be rushed, as resources on the Coleson Continent were indeed too scarce.

Emil, along with Jimmy and others who initially followed him, formed a mercenary group. After several successful missions, they made a name for themselves, and the group's size gradually grew, now numbering over sixty people.

Melissa said that when the opportunity arises to form a caravan, Emil's group, possessing sufficient military power, could run the business without issues and make a lot of money.

During this time, everyone had their own busy matters, and Herag spent less and less time interacting with them.

For some reason, ever since Herag demonstrated a Fireball Technique, Jimmy and others, including Melissa, seemed to have a sense of awe, or rather fear, towards him.

Although they appeared normal towards Herag, he could still feel that hidden trace of fear from the depths of their hearts.

Emil, however, was the same as before, always honest and straightforward with Herag, though recently, he appeared noticeably weary, with more signs of life's hardships on his face.

His strength had improved considerably recently, and Herag estimated that Emil might hope to break through to Great Knight.

Herag once thought that Great Knight was the pinnacle of combat power in this world, until...

"Baron Buck concealed his parent-child relationship with Emil, and even Emil himself didn't know; he must have had some ulterior motive, but..." Herag sighed, no matter what Baron Buck's intentions were, they vanished into smoke with his death.

Herag's peaceful days were disrupted on this very day of early spring when news came from Claude's side that the ship would arrive at the port of Swan City within five days.

The port of Swan City was large, having great geographical advantages, making it the largest port on the Coleson Continent.

Many ships docked at the port, and despite Claude's advanced age, he came personally to see Herag off, with Melissa and Emil supporting him on each side.

"Teacher, you really didn't have to come," Herag said with a wry smile.

Claude smiled kindly and said, "You are still young and don't understand. Once you leave, we probably won't meet again in this lifetime; taking a few more steps isn't much."

"Herag, just come back and visit often. Teacher, you are in good health!" Melissa said from the side. She had grown increasingly womanly, completely unrecognizable from the girl she used to be.

Just a month ago, Melissa confirmed she was pregnant, though it wasn't noticeable yet.

The two had a simple wedding, with a group of people casually sharing a meal; fallen nobles couldn't afford to organize something big.

"You wouldn't understand; the world of wizards is different from ours. The time they spend on a single experiment could equal an ordinary person's entire life. Moreover, a voyage across the sea is no easy feat; returning isn't something that can be done in a short time," Claude said with great emotion.

Emil patted Herag on the shoulder, "You brat, don't forget us. I don't care if you're a wizard or whatnot; you'll always be that kid diligently training with the sword in my heart."

"Hmm, I know," Herag said, reminiscing about learning swordsmanship and breathing technique in the past, feeling quite sentimental.

"You are going to be our child's future godfather; remember to take good care of him after becoming the noble Wizard," Melissa said, touching her belly.

Herag nodded, "It's just a pity I won't get to see him born. Once I've settled there, I'll write to you, and we'll keep in touch."

"The ship is here," Claude suddenly said, looking toward the horizon.

Everyone looked over, and there was a ship moving rapidly at the horizon where the sea and sky met.

At first, it didn't seem like much, but once the ship got closer, Herag and the others realized this ship was much larger than ordinary ones.

The ship had five layers in total, and its outer layer was wrapped in some strange metal, emitting a dark glow of unknown material.

On the deck stood over a dozen sailors, busy pulling sails.

Herag noticed that among these sailors, at least five were at Knight Level or above.

The ship sailed into the port and stopped; the sailors immediately started unloading cargo from the ship, making it look no different from an ordinary merchant ship.

Claude explained, "This ship belongs to a wizard organization on the Kala Continent, mainly handling trade for money. Because their ships are sturdy enough to navigate dangerous seas, their crew is strong, and they have an official wizard onboard, capable of dealing with many situations. So their ships can travel far to buy and sell goods, making a lot of money. After all, the expenses of a wizard organization are huge."

"Transporting you Wizard Apprentices is actually just incidental. If there are apprentices, they take them along; if not, it's no big deal."

Herag noticed someone standing at the ship's bow, draped in a black hood; the person exuded a powerful magical aura.

Simultaneously, Shenlan issued a warning, "High-energy magical source detected!"

"It seems he's the official wizard onboard," Herag muttered, looking at the person.

That person seemed to sense something, turned to look at Herag, and then walked down the gangway towards him.

Chapter 27: Chapter 27: Boarding the Ship

"Are you the wizard apprentice ready to board the ship?" the man in the black hood asked.

"Yes, sir." Emil could sense the strong magic power from the other person, even though he was intentionally holding back.

"Do you have a token?" the hooded man continued to ask.

"Yes," Emil took out his ring.

The hooded man took the ring, examined it in his hand: "Hmm, a token from the Moonlight Forest, this is the second time I've seen this ring. Follow me. Due to previous delays in our journey, we will only be staying here for one day."

"Second time..."

Emil associated with many thoughts, guessing that the first time was with his red-haired mentor.

It seems that the hooded man has been on this ship for many years.

"I'm leaving," Emil turned back to say goodbye to the three of them.

"Take care!" Herag stepped forward and gave him a strong hug, and Melissa also gave him a hug.

"Let's go." The hooded man urged impatiently and turned to leave first.

Emil slung his backpack over his shoulder, took the package handed by Herag, and quickly followed behind the hooded man.

"I'm Dino, a Level 1 Wizard from Dream Island. There are five levels on the ship; you apprentices live on the third and fourth levels. The conditions there are a bit rougher, but safer than above. The sea is dangerous; try not to run up without a reason."

As Dino led the way, he explained some of the ship's rules to Emil.

"Mr. Dino, how many wizard apprentices are on the ship?" Emil asked.

"Including you, there are eleven in total, with two from the Coleson Continent, including you. We will stay here for a day to see if anyone else comes."

Emil followed Dino onto the deck; standing on it, he realized it was even more spacious than it looked, almost as large as a square.

Most on the deck were busy sailors and five or six young people scattered along the sides of the ship, enjoying the breeze; they looked about Emil's age.

When Emil boarded the ship, these people glanced at him, then turned their attention away, as if they were accustomed to new wizard apprentices joining at every stop.

Dino turned back to warn: "Try not to cause conflicts on the ship; don't affect its sailing; and do not cause any damage to the ship, or I will feed you to the fish."

"Understood," Emil nodded.

"Follow me." Dino led the way down the stairs into the cabin.

Emil followed, stepping on the wooden stairs which creaked from age and disrepair.

Once inside the cabin, it was dim; lamps hung on the walls, casting white light from slabs of white stone.

The passageway inside the cabin was somewhat narrow, Emil noticed the wall materials were special wood with a metallic sheen.

He pressed his hand against them, finding the wood extremely hard.

Dino noticed Emil's actions and said without looking back, "This is wood from the Forbidden Magic Forest; it is the hardest known wood and possesses high magical resistance."

"Forbidden Magic Forest..." Emil attempted to inject some magic power into the wall, finding resistance.

The two bypassed the first level, went down the stairs to the third level.

"The rooms on the third level are full, you'll have to go to the fourth level."

Emil glanced towards the corridor, several rooms had lights on while others seemed unoccupied, perhaps their occupants were sleeping or up on the deck.

The fourth level was narrower than the third, with fewer rooms; Emil counted only five rooms in use.

Dino led Emil to a room, took out a key, opened the door: "You will stay here; the fourth level is rougher but fewer people means fewer conflicts. You are a First-Class Apprentice, right?"

"Yes," Emil replied.

According to the Starry Sky Meditation Technique, Emil needed to meditate on six stars to meet the mental power requirements of a Second-Class Apprentice.

Generally, people have one to two points of spiritual power before meditation; Emil estimated the Second-Class Apprentice standard to be seven to eight points.

Receiving confirmation, Dino said: "Then this is suitable for you. The third level has Second-Class Apprentices, more than one, so be careful."

At that moment, the room opposite Emil's lit up.

Dino introduced: "The person opposite is also from the Coleson Continent, boarded at the last port. That's about it, just don't cause trouble and wait quietly until we reach land. The second level is where you eat; go there if you're hungry, and try to avoid the deck. I don't have the energy to look after you all."

"Yes, I understand, Mr. Dino," Emil said politely.

After giving these instructions, Dino left, looking busy.

Emil checked his small room; it was dark and he struggled to locate a lamp on the wall.

The lamp was similar to those in the passage, consisting of a white stone and a glass cover.

Beneath the stone lamp was a small switch; Emil pushed it upwards and the lamp illuminated with soft white light.

Pulling the switch downwards extinguished the light.

"What kind of stone is this..." Emil studied the lamp, which was simple in design.

The structure consisted of a base, a switch, and the main body of the white stone and glass cover.

"The mystery must be inside the base." Emil sensed a faint magic flow inside the base but dared not take it apart, not wanting to be tossed overboard.

With the light turned on, the room felt bright and despite its narrowness, Emil felt a sense of warmth.

The room contained a single bed, with barely a person-wide gap between the bed and the wall, just enough for Emil to stand.

A wooden board fixed to the opposite wall by ropes served as a small table when pulled down.

The room's ceiling housed two cabinets for storing luggage and personal items.

Emil stowed his package inside, containing preserved meat, dry food, and other long-storage items prepared by Herag and the others.

After putting his package away, Emil lay on the single bed; the boards were hard but acceptable.

A thick quilt covered the bed; he felt inside with his hand, finding it slightly damp.

Knock, knock...

A gentle knocking came from the door; Emil checked a small map, noting a person standing outside—judging by the silhouette, a woman.

He opened the door to see a girl of about sixteen or seventeen, with long golden hair, delicately featured, smiling kindly.

"Noble?"

Emil noted her light gold dress, with her silver-gray coat adorned with gold tassels—a standard noble attire, and not of a minor noble.

Chapter 28: Chapter 28: Lillian

"Hello, I am Lillian Stuart." Lillian smiled, slightly lifted the sides of her skirt with both hands, and gave a slight curtsy, a standard noble gesture.

Herag also slightly bowed in return and said, "Hello, Miss Lillian, I am Herag Merlin. If I'm not mistaken, you should be from the Seville Empire in the east of the Coleson Continent."

"That's correct. It seems Mr. Herag knows the history of our Stuart Family." Lillian looked at Herag with a hint of admiration.

"Yes, I've read some related books. The Stuarts are a great family; without you, there wouldn't be the powerful Seville Empire today." Herag spoke without a trace of flattery.

The Seville Empire is very far from the Norton Kingdom, so far that ordinary people in the Norton Kingdom may never hear of this country in their lifetime.

During his days in the library, Herag learned that the Seville Empire is a country highly developed in military, politics, and economy, and several generations of kings from the Stuart Family have governed the country well.

The name Stuart following Lillian signifies her high status.

Lillian seemed to understand what Herag was thinking and sweetly smiled, saying, "My father is the current King Louis."

"So, it's Princess Lillian, Your Highness." Herag smiled.

Lillian quickly said, "There are no princesses in the wizard world. I've come to see you to discuss whether we can form an alliance since we're all from the Coleson Continent. Those people upstairs look down on us, considering people from the Coleson Continent to be savages from the wild."

"By forming an alliance, we can look after each other. What do you think?" Lillian's big eyes were full of hopeful anticipation.

"We can exchange information, but there's no need for an alliance." Herag, unsure of her intentions, directly refused.

"Okay, let's just exchange some information then." Lillian said, not surprised by Herag's refusal.

"Shenlan, activate the magic power monitoring. Notify me immediately if Lillian shows any anomaly."

"Magic power monitoring activated."

After Herag issued the command, he went inside, sat down by the bed.

Lillian gave a slight smile, adjusted her skirt, and sat down beside him.

A gentle fragrance wafted over, pleasant and not overpowering.

The room was small, and the fragrance soon filled the entire space.

Lillian asked, "Which wizard organization are you planning to join?"

"Moonlight Forest," Herag replied.

"I know Moonlight Forest. It's a powerful wizard organization. I plan to join Augustus Academy; this is my token." Lillian said, pressing a finger against her chest where a brooch was pinned to her clothing.

Lillian appeared to be only sixteen or seventeen years old, yet she already possessed the charm of a mature woman.

Herag's gaze was first attracted to the fair skin, then quickly shifted to the brooch.

There was a flow of magic power in the brooch, evidently a demonized item, likely a token of Augustus Academy.

Herag sensed that Lillian might be testing him, but he had no interest in the brooch.

"Do you casually pin your token on your chest like that?" Herag asked.

Lillian smiled, "Please forgive my probing; you indeed showed no greed."

"No greed? Is she reading expressions or using a special magic..."

Herag waved his hand, "That's not important, let's focus on exchanging information; I need to know news related to the wizard organizations."

"Give me a moment." Lillian said, getting up to run into her room, with little steps that had none of a noble lady's demeanor.

Before long, Lillian returned with a map in her hands.

Lillian unceremoniously lowered the wooden board on the opposite wall and laid out the map.

"Look, these are roughly the locations of several wizard organizations."

Herag took a look and recognized it as a map of the Kala Continent, more detailed than what he had seen before.

However, the map was still incomplete, primarily marking the locations of the wizard organizations.

The first thing he noticed was Moonlight Forest, located inland, some distance from the coast, but it was difficult to estimate the distance as the map lacked a scale.

Above Moonlight Forest was Green Cottage, and to the right of Green Cottage was Augustus Academy.

There were other wizard organizations that Herag hadn't heard of.

Lillian placed her slender finger on the position of Moonlight Forest and said, "I don't know much about Moonlight Forest, it's an old and powerful wizard organization. You should be cautious; Moonlight Forest has conflicts with Green Cottage, and they often have skirmishes."

"Green Cottage..." Herag recalled that Malcolm was from Green Cottage.

He looked at the map again, noting that Moonlight Forest and Green Cottage were in a north-south position, quite close to each other, probably the reason for the frequent friction.

Lillian moved her finger to Augustus Academy, saying, "Augustus Academy is the only academic faction among these wizard organizations. The wizards here mostly come from pure-blood wizard families. Augustus has strong strength and background, and it has few conflicts with other wizard organizations because most don't want to have conflicts with it."

"Pure-blood wizard families?"

"It means parents, and sometimes several generations back, were wizards. Wizards from such pure-blood families tend to have good aptitude and have a high chance of becoming official wizards due to systematic learning from a young age," Lillian explained.

"But Augustus also has ordinary wizard apprentices like you and me, who enter with a token. You mentioned that I am a princess, but once I'm in the academy, who knows how I'll be discriminated against. It's a place that greatly values bloodlines. Moreover, the status of a princess is a nuisance, making it more thrilling for some people," Lillian said with self-mockery.

"..." Herag was speechless, as Lillian had a clear understanding of her own situation.

"Thank you for your information. Is there anything you need to know? I might not be able to provide anything of value to you," Herag said.

Lillian obviously knew a lot of information, while Herag had limited knowledge, so the so-called exchange of information might not be feasible.

Lillian smiled, "It's okay, this is my sincerity. The journey is long, and I just want to find a trustworthy ally. My token has the ability to detect the goodness or evilness of a person's heart, and from earlier until now, you haven't shown any malice towards me. This is why I'm willing to share information with you."

"I see, do all those people upstairs have malice towards you?" Herag asked.

"More than just malice... let's leave it at that; I'll head back now." Lillian said with a helpless and bitter smile.