

Sixth Ring Wizard

#Chapter 31: Dragonic Language - Read Sixth Ring Wizard Chapter 31: Dragonic Language

Chapter 31: Chapter 31: Dragonic Language

"Greedy giant dragon!" Dino muttered under his breath as he watched the black dragon fly away.

Most of the sailors on the deck were unconscious, foaming at the mouth, except for the Knight Level sailors who were still awake.

As soon as the pressure disappeared, Herag quickly stood up and took off his robe, draping it over Lillian.

His robe was made of black fabric, which wouldn't become see-through when wet.

Lillian clumsily wrapped herself tightly in the robe and hurried back to the cabin, looking quite disheveled.

Herag didn't rush back but instead approached Dino and asked, "Mr. Dino, what was up with that dragon just now?"

"Those damned bugs! These greedy Dragon Race members like robbing passing ships at sea. If it weren't for worrying about the ship's safety, I'd have rendered its Dragon Oil to light a lamp!" Dino said angrily.

The treasure he lost caused him significant heartache; to him, it wasn't a small amount.

Seeing Dino in a bad mood, Herag remained silent, contemplating something while gazing at the direction the black dragon flew away.

A Knight Level sailor nearby walked to the edge of the ship, holding a bucket with a thick rope tied to it. He threw the bucket into the sea to fill it with water, pulled it up, and then splashed it on the unconscious sailors, who woke up groggily.

Feeling uncomfortable in his wet clothes, Herag returned to the cabin to change.

As soon as he changed, Lillian came knocking on the door.

Lillian wore pajamas, her hair still draped and damp.

She held a massive book with a red cover, the title written in Sivr Language: "Basic Introduction to Dragonic Language."

"I need to check what their Dragonic Language was just now. Dragonic Language is so hard to learn; I can't remember all the basic syllables."

Lillian said as she walked in and climbed onto the bed, sitting with her legs up, revealing small white legs and delicate feet.

She opened the heavy book on Dragonic Language, and with her finger, she scanned the contents from top to bottom, repeatedly turning to the designated pages until she finally translated Dino and the black dragon's conversation.

Lillian looked up and smiled, "I figured it out—just now, the black dragon said to hand over your treasures, or I'll tip over your ship."

"Then Dino replied, 'Are you courting death?' The black dragon said, 'You might be strong, but you can't keep me here.'

"Finally, the black dragon said the offerings were too few, not enough."

Herag pondered, "So Dino is that strong? Even such a large black dragon fears him."

"That's quite normal; Dino is an experienced Level 1 Wizard. If we were on land, that black dragon wouldn't dare even glance over." Lillian pulled her legs back, pressing them together.

"Can I borrow this book to have a look?" Herag asked.

"Of course, are you interested in Dragonic Language?" Lillian inquired.

Herag nodded, "I plan to study it, just in case I need it in the future."

"Dragonic Language is hard to learn; you'll know when you try. I can teach you, otherwise you won't know how to pronounce these syllables. It's said that mastering Dragonic Language can allow you to use Dragonic Language Magic, but the spell models are so complex that even Official Wizards find them difficult."

Lillian said as she scooted further onto the bed, patting the adjacent spot, "Sit here! Listen closely to the lesson!"

Herag laughed helplessly; she genuinely treated the space as her own.

Dragonic Language has as many as nine hundred basic syllables, and this is merely the foundation, not the complete version.

The nine hundred syllables combine in various ways, some words requiring hundreds of syllables to combine, with each word taking up two pages.

The complexity of Dragonic Language arises because the dragons' pronunciation structure differs from humans; it's not inherently designed for human use.

With a basic understanding, Herag comprehended why Lillian found Dragonic Language challenging.

"Fortunately, I'm diligent and have an excellent mind," Herag mused, undaunted by difficulty.

"Shenlan, begin recording Dragonic Language, assist me in learning it."

"Task archived."

With Shenlan assisting, Herag's study became considerably easier.

Lillian taught the nine hundred syllables once, and he memorized them all.

Lillian looked at Herag like he was a monster, "Did you memorize it all? Are you messing with me? You must have studied before!"

"No, it's only nine hundred. Isn't it normal to memorize after seeing once?" Herag replied innocently, as though it was perfectly reasonable.

Lillian had doubts about herself, wondering if she was actually just too dull.

After mastering basic grammar, Herag could form some simple sentences in Dragonic Language.

"#@?%" Herag suddenly spoke a sentence in Dragonic Language.

Lillian looked blank, "What?"

"Nothing, let's see what's next," Herag said with a bit of humor.

Lillian sensed he wasn't saying anything nice, "No way! Let me check!"

She turned to the index, trying to recall what Herag just said, then slowly matched and searched.

"I'm a bit hungry; I'll go eat first," sensing trouble, Herag quickly fled.

As soon as he exited the room, Lillian's angry shout followed, "You dared to call me dumb!"

Lillian, clad in pajamas, couldn't chase after him, forced to curse Herag through gritted teeth.

Dragonic Language really is complex; Herag took five days to completely master the contents of "Basic Introduction to Dragonic Language."

To avoid upsetting Lillian too much, he pretended it took him half a month to fully master it, with Lillian continuing to teach for an additional half month—yet the result still disheartened her.

Lillian perpetually failed to comprehend why others took years to learn Dragonic Language, while Herag mastered it in less than a month, pondering the vast differences between people.

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Deep in the night, Herag meditated in his room, successfully condensing the third star completely.

"Herag Merlin: Power 2.1, Agility 1.7, Constitution 2.9, Spirit 5.8, Magic Power 100%."

His spiritual power increased by 1.2 this time, making Herag feel clear-headed and comfortable.

Upon completing his meditation, he didn't rest; he opened the door, intending to search the deck for the fourth star to meditate upon.

Occasionally, he'd go to the deck to relax during this period, encountering no odd occurrences.

The ship had sailed smoothly for half a month, the journey progressing smoothly.

Arriving on deck, an expanse of stars greeted him, along with the giant moon hanging over the horizon at sea.

Dino still stood at the prow; whenever Herag visited the deck, Dino was there.

Herag refrained from disturbing him, seeing Dino with eyes closed, seemingly asleep.

"Could it be his Meditation Method?" Herag speculated internally.

His Meditation Method required stargazing; perhaps Dino's required observing the sea, which wasn't impossible.

Finding a spot, he sat cross-legged, beginning to search for a star within the night sky for meditation.

The current three stars lie in varied directions across the sky, with considerable distance among them.

For this fourth star, Herag chose yet another direction differing from the prior three.

Chapter 32: Chapter 32: Lost Sea Fog

On the vast deck, there were only Herag and Dino, the sound of the waves hitting the ship was rhythmic, and it was particularly sleep-inducing.

Herag sat cross-legged, focused on his meditation, not knowing how long had passed, when suddenly Shenlan alerted him that someone was approaching.

He opened his eyes and found Dino standing in front of him, looking at him.

Dino spoke: "Your spiritual power is very stable, and the quality of your magic power is good, which means you have been practicing the meditation method seriously."

"Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Dino." Herag stood up and said.

Dino seemed to be quite interested today, and turned to lean on the ship's railing, saying: "Your steadfast, step-by-step practice is the best approach, don't rush for quick results. Look at Fegar, although his spiritual power is high, it's extremely unstable, and the power gained through extreme means will one day backfire."

"Thank you for your guidance, Mr. Dino." Herag said humbly.

"Is your meditation method related to the stars?" Dino pointed to the sky.

"Yes."

Dino nodded: "I can tell, this kind of meditation method is usually not simple. Keep it up, young man!"

In the following days, Herag went to the deck to meditate, often asking Dino questions, all of which Dino answered generously.

It was only after getting acquainted with Dino that Herag learned that Dino had been on the sea for over eighty years.

The ship beneath his feet was already the sixth one, the previous five had all been destroyed due to various accidents.

Every time he went to the Kala Continent, he brought some wizard apprentices. Over the years, accidents frequently occurred, and several times the wizard apprentices on

board were all wiped out, as the sea is full of unknowns, and no one knows when accidents will happen.

Half a month later, they were only a month's journey from the Kala Continent.

Herag sat at the bow of the ship, feeling especially comfortable in the sea breeze.

"There's a problem." Dino sniffed the sea breeze, frowning.

"What's wrong?" Herag, seeing Dino's serious expression, had a bad premonition in his heart.

The night sky, originally filled with stars, suddenly became shrouded in thick clouds, and not only that, but the ship was enveloped in a gray fog, with extremely low visibility.

"Stop the ship!" Dino ordered, and the ship slowly came to a halt.

By memory, Herag groped his way to the bow, seeing Dino standing at the bow, holding a compass-like device in his hand.

"Mr. Dino, what's going on?"

Dino sighed: "We've run into the lost sea fog and don't know when it will clear."

"Lost sea fog?"

Dino explained: "Lost sea fog is a rare phenomenon at sea, once a ship is shrouded by it, it loses direction. The space within the lost sea fog is chaotic, and if a ship sails recklessly, it could end up in unknown places, which can be extremely severe."

"What can be done?" Herag asked.

"Wait!" Dino said helplessly, "The lost sea fog will disperse automatically, but no one knows the time frame. Some lost sea fogs last for a few days, others can persist for decades..."

"Decades..." Herag understood the current predicament.

No ship can carry enough freshwater and food to sustain decades.

After the ship stopped, others in the cabin also noticed the anomaly, many of them rushed to the deck.

Dino briefly explained the current situation, making several wizard apprentices uneasy. On the contrary, the sailors seemed indifferent, in their eyes Dino was like a god, nothing could defeat him.

Three days passed, and the gray fog still hadn't dissipated.

Dino didn't act rashly and remained in an observational state.

Five days later, the gray fog still enveloped the sea.

The mood on the ship started to change, many people became restless.

In these two days, there had been more than one fight among the wizard apprentices, including one who was seriously injured by Fegar.

If Dino hadn't intervened to suppress the crowd, the fight might have escalated further.

For safety reasons these days, Herag and Lillian stayed together to avoid being alone and encountering danger.

The gray fog not only blocked vision but also dulled people's senses, even the operation of magic power became more obscure.

Herag and Lillian shared a room, which felt quite cramped, sleep was out of the question, and both replaced sleep with meditation.

Herag found that even in the gray fog, he could still perceive the stars above, and discern direction.

He told Dino about this, but Dino, for safety's sake, decided to wait a bit longer.

Navigating in the gray fog was too dangerous, even knowing the direction was extremely risky.

In the fog, space was disjointed, east could become west in a second, waiting for the fog's automatic dispersal was the best option.

Half a month later.

The atmosphere on the ship became extremely delicate, as prolonged fog smothering caused most people to become very suffocated, their emotions became increasingly irritable.

With no sign of the gray fog dispersing, Dino went up to the fourth level.

"Herag, come with me today, let's try sailing. Staying longer here could be problematic." Dino's face was solemn.

Herag nodded: "Alright, Lillian, you come with me."

He couldn't leave Lillian alone on the fourth level, it was too dangerous. With the fog blocking, if danger occurred, it couldn't be detected immediately.

Herag and Lillian maintained their state well during this period, they could at least talk and occasionally joke, making the days not so hard.

Others were all alone, every day cooped up in their rooms, surrounded by unknown gray fog, even wizard apprentices found it hard to bear the enormous psychological pressure.

Herag, Dino, and Lillian went to the captain's cabin, Herag sensed afterward, pointing to the back indicating the northwest direction.

Dino nodded and started the ship, controlling the speed to be slow, to cope with any emergencies.

Herag focused entirely on sensing the four stars, constantly judging whether his direction was changing.

"The direction has changed, now the northwest is over there." Herag pointed to the left side.

Dino didn't speak, his hands steering immediately adjusted the ship's course.

The ship sailed in the gray fog for tens of hours, the surroundings suddenly brightened.

Herag opened his eyes and found they were now in normal sea territory.

He looked behind, and the area where the fog was had disappeared.

"Well done!" Dino patted Herag's shoulder in praise.

Herag sat down on the ground, exhaling in relief.

In the fog, directions changed constantly, requiring him to maintain intense mental focus, and after coming out, he felt especially drained.

Immediately, Dino took out the map and compass-like positioning tool, and then said: "We're back where we first encountered the lost sea fog, luckily we didn't go to some strange place."

Chapter 33: Chapter 33: Kala Continent

After the ship sailed for seven more days, it made a brief stop at a small island called Colombo.

The island wasn't large, but it was bustling, with the port teeming with people.

Herag and a group of wizard apprentices came up on the deck, and Dino, standing in front, said: "We'll stay here overnight, you can go ashore and relax. But remember, I'm leaving tomorrow at noon sharp, I won't wait for anyone. This place belongs to our Dream Island, and it's watched over by wizards. Most people on the island are ordinary, so if anyone dares to cause trouble, be prepared for the wizard's punishment."

Dino knew the group had been too stressed recently, and it just so happened that the commercial island of Colombo was developed, with many taverns, inns, and strip dancers to let them unwind a bit here.

Besides, the ship needed to replenish fresh water, so Dino simply docked the ship here.

After getting off the ship, Lillian headed straight for an inn. Herag asked, "Why are you in such a hurry to come here?"

"I haven't had a bath in months." Lillian paid for a room without looking back and went upstairs to take a bath.

On the ship, there was no way to bathe, as all fresh water was precious, which was the most unbearable thing for Lillian.

However, Lillian was prepared, she had an enchanted towel that was always moist and could be used to wipe her body.

Herag had seen that towel, but Lillian wouldn't let him touch it. He guessed the magic inside probably absorbed moisture from the air.

He also booked a room downstairs for himself. The prices here weren't cheap, a room for one night actually cost a whole silver coin.

Herag looked at the setup of the room, it was simple but very clean, with all the items neatly arranged.

After he finished bathing and waited a while, Lillian finally got ready, and then the two went out together.

As night fell, the island of Colombo became even more lively, with people everywhere singing, dancing, and drinking around campfires.

There was also a long commercial street here, where most vendors laid a mat on the ground and then displayed their goods.

The variety of goods was diverse, from handcrafted hats and baskets to clay bottles and jars, as well as all sorts of antiques.

While passing by a stall, something caught Herag's attention, and he knelt down by the stall, casually picking up an antique vase and asked, "How much for this?"

The vendor was a bald middle-aged man holding a black cat. He glanced at the vase and said, "Twenty silver coins."

"Too expensive." Herag put the vase down.

"It's fake, what are you buying that for?" Lillian asked puzzledly.

"Just browsing."

Herag then picked up a few more items and asked for prices, finally seemingly casually selecting a few items, spending a total of sixteen silver coins.

Lillian eyed him but didn't speak.

After dinner, they returned to the inn, and Lillian went to Herag's room and asked after closing the door, "What were you doing earlier, did you find something good, show me."

Herag pulled out a hexagonal plate made of some kind of wood, its color pitch-black. In the middle of the plate was a painting of a hexagonal tower, identical to the one inside his pocket watch.

Lillian examined the plate thoroughly and asked puzzledly: "Is this a treasure? I don't see anything unusual, nor is there any magical energy flow."

"Maybe it's not a treasure, but I've seen this painting in the middle before, so I bought it," Herag explained. He was actually unsure if the item had any value, but the painting was indeed identical to the one in the pocket watch.

Lillian lost interest listening to him: "I thought it was some great treasure, boring."

"Alright, I'm tired too, going to sleep." Herag lay on the soft bed, overcome by fatigue, planning to have a good night's sleep.

Ever since learning the meditation method, he hardly slept, substituting meditation for sleep.

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The ship made only a brief overnight stay at Colombo and then sped off towards the Kala Continent.

More than twenty days later, Herag stood on the deck, faintly seeing the shadow of the continent in the distance.

The ship docked at Ruby Port, and all the wizard apprentices disembarked here.

Dino walked at the front, saying to everyone: "Everyone, follow me."

He led the group through the streets to a tavern, which was named the Broken Cauldron Bar.

"Hey! It's Dino!"

"He's back with the newcomers."

"Let me see; quite a lot of newcomers this time."

"Welcome to the Kala Continent, young lads!"

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As soon as Dino walked into the tavern, he attracted a lot of attention, with many people greeting him. The wizard apprentices he brought along became the new topic for conversation in the tavern.

Herag noticed that everyone here was a wizard, most of them at the wizard apprentice level.

"I didn't see a single wizard outside just now, why are there so many here? A wizards' exclusive tavern?" Herag was a bit puzzled. He estimated there must be some magic he hadn't noticed at the entrance of the tavern, which allowed only wizards to see and enter it.

Lillian stood out among the group, with many people whistling at her, but she didn't even glance at these greasy wizards.

Dino led them through the tavern to a wall in the back courtyard.

He walked to the wall and pressed a few bricks in sequence and then said, "Melinda!"

The wall made a rumbling sound, and then the bricks parted to reveal a path.

The world behind the wall was completely different from the yard, with a forest and a winding stone slab path leading deep into the forest. While the forest was dimly lit and filled with birdsong, the yard was sunny, with great weather.

Herag and the others were astonished at such a strange sight, seeing this kind of scene for the first time.

Dino seemed accustomed to it, leading the way in front, waving a hand behind him, "Let's go."

The group followed him into the world behind the wall, with many looking back after passing through, but it just appeared to be ordinary forest—the wall had disappeared.

Dino turned around and said: "The various wizard organizations are just ahead, wait and follow my arrangements. Today's the end of months of travel, good luck to you all."

He placed his left hand on his chest and bowed gracefully.

"Thank you, Mr. Dino, for taking care of us all the way." Lillian curtsied, holding the edge of her long dress.

Others also bowed and thanked him, as Dino was indeed very responsible throughout the journey, ensuring their safe arrival at the destination.

In the gloomy forest, not a single ray of sunlight shone through, with thick fog enveloping all around.

Herag looked up, and above the forest was heavy white mist, no sign of the sun could be seen.

Occasionally, the cries of crows could be heard in the distance, adding to the desolate atmosphere.

Chapter 34: Chapter 34: The Test

In the dark forest, Herag and the others followed silently behind Dino.

The cold wind blew, with a somewhat biting chill.

The stone pathway beneath Herag's feet was clean and tidy, without a single fallen leaf, and each slab of stone looked exactly the same.

The group walked along the stone path for ten minutes, arriving at a place resembling a garden.

The garden was circular, with many paths extending outwards from its center, their destinations unknown. The stone path Herag and the others were on was just one of these paths.

At the garden center, there was a fountain, bubbling and splashing continuously.

Herag noticed that there were people in the garden; he counted eight of them, standing in scattered groups.

When Dino arrived, they all looked over.

An old lady, wearing a tall gray pointed hat and a gray robe, walked over. She appeared to be in her seventies, and she spoke to Herag and the others, "Dino, I've heard that a beautiful and outstanding lady is joining us at Augustus Academy this time. Which one is she?"

Dino laughed, "Professor Nina, don't rush. You can take her back once the testing is over."

He turned around and gestured to Lillian, "Lillian, come over. This is Professor Nina from Augustus Academy."

"Professor Nina!" Lillian curtsied timidly, exuding the aura of a noble lady—graceful in her demeanor yet with a hint of shyness.

Watching this scene, Herag almost laughed; this woman was pretentious.

The more Nina looked, the more she liked her. She pulled Lillian over, "Hmm, not bad!"

The other seven wizards also started gathering around, both men and women, all exuding an extraordinary aura.

Dino called out to the wizard apprentices behind him, "Those with tokens, stand on my left. Those without, stand on my right."

The eleven wizard apprentices quickly formed two groups. There were seven, including Herag and Lillian, who had tokens, and only four without.

Herag was somewhat surprised that Fegar also lacked a token.

Dino took out a crystal ball and held it in his left hand, then addressed the wizard apprentices on both sides, "Next is the wizard aptitude test, with a full score of 100. The higher the score, the better the aptitude."

"It's important to note that aptitude isn't everything. In the wizarding world, knowledge and effort are always more important. A good aptitude just means you can progress faster, not that you can slack off."

"Herag, you go first."

Herag stood in the first row and stepped forward.

"Place your hand on it, then input magic power, and relax," Dino advised.

Herag did as instructed, placing his hand on the ball and inputting a trace of magic power.

The crystal ball immediately swirled with white mist, which then condensed into the number seventy-five.

"Herag, seventy-five! Very good!" Dino patted Herag's shoulder encouragingly.

This number was beyond Herag's expectations; he had thought he would score around forty or fifty, playing the fool.

A sinister-looking middle-aged man approached, staring at the fireball ring on Herag's hand, "If I'm not mistaken, your ring is a token from Moonlight Forest."

"Yes, sir." Herag felt a strong sense of oppression as the man approached, not intentional, but an aura inadvertently emitted with his every movement.

With a pat on Herag's shoulder, Dino made the oppressive feeling disappear instantly. Dino introduced, "This is Larry Cheqi, a powerful wizard from Moonlight Forest. He will take you back later."

"Mr. Larry," Herag greeted politely with a bow.

Larry gave him a blank look, nodded slightly, and said, "Hmm, you come with me later."

"Second, Lillian." Dino continued with the testing.

Lillian was standing right behind Herag, so she went up second for the test.

"Eighty-seven!"

The crystal ball clearly displayed this number.

"Very good, Miss Lillian!" Dino exclaimed.

"Thank you!" Lillian said, holding up her skirt.

Nina personally came over to grab Lillian's hand, unable to restrain her smile as she whispered secrets into Lillian's ear, unheard by anyone else around them.

Those wizard apprentices with tokens quickly completed the tests. After Lillian, there was no one with a higher aptitude; the best was seventy-two, and the lowest an astonishing score of only fifteen.

Herag noticed that the fifteen-point boy was the same one Fegar had hung to fish from the ship's bow, seemingly named Joshua.

At this moment, Joshua looked lifeless and worried; his token was a feather pen from Aluf Swamp.

Herag soon lost interest in him, focusing instead on the new round of tests that began shortly after.

Among the four wizard apprentices without tokens, Fegar stood at the back; it seemed he always favored staying behind others.

The first three wizard apprentices scored between sixty and seventy. Finally, it was Fegar's turn.

Herag watched intently, curious about the score of a Second-Class Apprentice like Fegar.

Fegar's eyes remained emotionless, like those of a snake; he always wore an indifferent expression, as if nothing concerned him.

He placed his hand on the crystal ball, where the white mist rolled and eventually settled into a number: "Five."

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A silence fell over the scene.

"Five? How did someone with a score of five achieve Second-Class Apprentice status, and at such a young age?" Herag was stunned. He had thought Fegar should have a high aptitude.

He recalled something Dino had once said, "Look at Fegar. His spiritual power is very high, but extremely unstable. Relying on extreme methods..."

"Extreme methods... What kind of methods could elevate someone with a score of five to a Second-Class Apprentice..."

It seemed Dino wasn't surprised, as he coughed to break the silence and said, "Now that the test is over, those with tokens can go find your corresponding contact person."

He turned to the eight wizards who had come to pick them up, and said, "So, now there are four wizard apprentices without tokens. Are any of you willing to accept them?"

Among these four, except for Fegar, the other three exceeded the passing score and were quickly recruited by various wizard organizations.

In the end, only Fegar remained standing there, unapproached.

Neither Herag nor his companions had expected that Fegar would be without a token and end up as the last remaining wizard apprentice.

"No one?" Dino asked once more.

"Come to Green Cottage with us." After a brief silence on site, a big-bearded man stepped forward and invited Fegar.

Fegar said nothing, merely nodded slightly.

"Let's go." The big beard said and walked in front without looking back at Fegar.

Dino seemed to want to say something to Fegar, but in the end, he just moved his throat without uttering a word.

Chapter 35: Chapter 35: Moonlight Forest

After the test, the contacts from various wizard organizations led their respective wizard apprentices away.

Over by Professor Nina, there was only one wizard apprentice, Lillian. She held Lillian's hand and headed east.

Lillian glanced back at Herag. She tiptoed and whispered something into Professor Nina's ear. After Professor Nina nodded, Lillian walked toward Herag.

"What's up?" Herag asked.

Lillian gave a slight smile and then threw herself into Herag's arms for a hug.

"Remember to write to me. Don't forget we're allies; we must help each other in difficult times," Lillian said softly with her head buried in Herag's chest.

"I know," Herag felt the warmth in his arms, and ripples stirred in his heart.

"I'm off." Lillian waved at him and gradually disappeared into the white mist behind Professor Nina.

"This way." Larry stood with his arms crossed by the flower bed. After Herag finished his goodbye, they set off on the stone-paved road heading north.

As Herag looked around, he realized that only the two of them were left there, with Dino having left sometime earlier.

Seeing Larry's figure about to vanish into the white mist, Herag quickened his pace to catch up.

This cobblestone road was the same as before, surrounded by a dense fog that seemed eternal.

Larry walked ahead silently, while Herag observed the surroundings without speaking.

A rustling sound came from the trees beside them. Herag looked up to find three crows perched on a branch, tilting their heads in unison to look at him.

"Newcomer! It's a newcomer!" one of the crows actually spoke.

"A newcomer has arrived. Should we catch a field mouse as a gift?" another crow inquired.

"Humans don't eat field mice!" a crow screeched, "They love the caterpillars on cauliflower!"

"You're wrong, I remember it's the field mice!"

"It's the caterpillars!"

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The three crows started arguing, and as tempers flared, they began pecking at each other, scattering black feathers all over the ground.

After taking a few more steps, the noise of the crows' quarrel gradually faded, aided by the white mist's capability to dull human perception.

Twenty minutes later, Herag and Larry reached the end of the stone-paved road.

There was no more road ahead, but rather a dense forest, with the ground covered in fallen leaves and a sunken metal bucket placed at the center.

Larry walked over to crouch beside the bucket and pressed a finger on its edge, then turned back, saying, "Come, place your hand on it."

Confused about what he intended to do, Herag obediently crouched down and mimicked Larry by placing a finger on the bucket's edge.

The bucket was filled with fallen leaves soaked in murky rainwater, in which mosquito larvae-like creatures swam.

Seeing Herag prepared, Larry recited a spell: "Mentos!"

Herag felt a powerful suction force emanating from the bucket, gripping his finger tightly to the bucket's edge.

Simultaneously, a strong thrust came from behind, pushing continuously through his navel area.

The surroundings began to spin rapidly, spinning faster and faster. Dizzy, Herag couldn't discern what was around him and was forced to close his eyes.

Herag had no sense of how long this state lasted. When he instinctively opened his eyes, he found himself in a square.

In the center of the square was a huge statue of a curly-haired man holding a book in his left hand and flipping its pages with his right, his eyes gazing forward.

"That is Carlos Toron, the founding father of the Moonlight Forest, who established it three thousand years ago. He was a great wizard," Larry looked at the statue with deep respect.

He continued, "This place is called Carlos Square."

To the south of Carlos Square lies the forest shrouded in white mist, while to the north there is a long stone bridge.

The stone bridge spans about seven hundred meters, with a black chasm beneath it that seems bottomless. Statues line the bridge's railings at ten-meter intervals, showcasing various forms, including gargoyles and knights with sword and shield.

As they walked, Larry explained, "I'll take you to register first."

Herag walked across the stone bridge, where a perpetual wind howled through the canyon below.

"High-energy magical source detected!"

"High-energy magical source detected!"

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Shenlan continuously issued alerts. Upon checking, Herag found that every statue on the bridge was a source of high magical power.

Herag astutely perceived that these statues were "watching" him as he passed.

"This is one of the defenses of our Moonlight Forest. Each statue here has considerable strength," said Larry without turning his head.

On the opposite side of the bridge was a complex of buildings with a distinct Gothic style, featuring the classic pointed spires.

Larry led Herag to a five-story building, introducing it with, "This is the Operations Hall, where personnel registration, task assignments, and postings are handled. You'll come here often in the future."

Herag nodded, making a mental note of the place.

Upon stepping into the Operations Hall, he was greeted by the soft yellow glow of the lights.

Elegant crystal chandeliers hung from the ceiling, emitting gentle yellow light.

The hall was spacious, with numerous department windows around it. Many people queued before the windows to handle affairs, while busy wizards inside signed and stamped documents.

The arrival of Herag attracted no attention. They went directly to a window labeled Personnel Affairs.

Behind the window was a chubby middle-aged woman, her name tag reading Jennifer.

She looked up and asked, "What do you need?"

"New member," Larry replied.

Jennifer glanced at Herag and asked, "Do you have a token?"

"Yes." Herag removed a ring from his finger and placed it in front of the window.

Jennifer picked up the ring, examined it for a while, then swallowed it whole.

Closing her eyes, she said, "Hmm, alright, no problem."

After her inspection, she spat the ring out and placed it in front of the window, gesturing for Herag to take it back.

Herag frowned at the saliva-covered ring but reluctantly took it back.

He already sensed that Jennifer was also an official wizard and didn't want to offend her right after arriving.

After checking the ring, Jennifer pushed off with her feet, causing the chair to retreat with a heavy sound. She then opened the drawer in front and rummaged through it chaotically.

After a while, she pulled out a yellowed piece of paper from a pile of wrinkled sheets.

"Fill out this form."

Larry handed the form to Herag, who took it and glanced at it. It was titled "Moonlight Forest New Member Registration Form."

Larry advised, "Don't fill it out carelessly. You can leave spaces blank but don't lie. There is enchantment magic on this form."

This prompted Herag to notice the faint flow of magic power within the paper, subtle enough to go unnoticed without special attention.

Beside the window was a quill and a bottle of ink, which Herag took to carefully fill out his information.

The form was detailed—age, gender, birthplace, practice of meditation methods, duration of practice... He even noticed a section asking "Are you a virgin?"