

# Sixth Ring Wizard

*Chapter 36: Chapter 36: New Beginnings*

"Sign your name in this spot after you finish filling it out," Larry pointed to a blank space at the end.

Herag checked it again, making sure everything that needed to be filled in was completed, and then signed his name at the bottom.

"Herag Merlin."

The form instantly burst into blue flames, and Herag instinctively withdrew his hand, only to realize the flames had no temperature.

The flames spread quickly, engulfing the entire form, which was soon consumed without leaving a trace of ash.

"Welcome to the Moonlight Forest," Larry said blandly.

Jennifer pulled out a small slip of paper, then picked up a stamp and pressed it heavily onto the slip, with such force that Herag wondered if the paper might get damaged.

"Go to the Materials Office to receive your items," Jennifer handed the slip through the window.

Herag looked at it; the slip contained his basic information and a list of supplies.

"One Wizard Apprentice Robe."

"One Magic Net Talisman Stone."

"Three Course Selection Vouchers."

"One room in the Northern Forest Area Dormitory."

"One Library First-Floor Privileges Borrowing Card."

"One Magic Stone."

...

The list was quite long, containing many items.

The Materials Office window had many people lined up, already forming a long queue.

"Mr. Larry!"

"Good evening, Mr. Larry!"

"Looks like there's a newcomer, and quite a handsome chap!"

"Mr. Larry, when will your Herbalism class start again, or can I pay for a private lesson?"

...

All those in line were wizard apprentices. Once someone noticed Larry, the others turned to greet him as well.

Larry maintained a blank expression: "I'm busy with experiments recently, so I have no time to open a class, nor to provide tutoring."

"Mr. Larry, do you teach Herbalism?" Herag asked.

"I generally teach Herbalism and Magic Potion, but I haven't had the time to start any classes lately," Larry replied.

After queuing for a while, Herag signed a slip and then received his pile of items.

The Wizard Apprentice Robe was gray-brown and felt very soft to the touch. This robe had certain magical defense properties, reducing spell damage received by the wearer.

The Magic Net Talisman Stone was a rectangular transparent crystal. When Herag input magic power into it, a virtual screen was projected from the crystal, displaying options such as friends, course schedule, tasks, and tavern gossip.

Larry took out a similar talisman stone and said, "The Magic Net is a wide-area magic developed jointly by our Karg Wizard Organization, primarily used for information transmission, and it's been established for two thousand years."

"The talisman stone is important; you need to learn how to use it. Through the stone, you can connect with other wizards, check courses, enroll in courses, and browse tasks published by others. The number in the upper right corner is your ID, which others can use to add you as a friend and contact you. There are many functions, so take some time to learn them."

"Isn't this just a communicator?" Herag quickly got the hang of it and even proactively added Larry as a friend.

The Course Selection Vouchers were three green cards, with the Moonlight Forest's Moonlight Forest emblem on the front and usage instructions on the back.

Larry explained, "Many of the official wizards in the organization will offer various courses, and you need to register at least a week in advance. You can check this month's courses through the course schedule, which shows dates and locations."

"Typically, enrolling in courses requires paying with Gold Coins or Magic Stones, and some courses have specific requirements set by the instructor, like providing certain materials before you can enroll. These three course vouchers allow you to enroll in any standard course."

"You should carefully consider how to use these three vouchers. I recommend signing up for some basic courses. Even if you enroll in advanced courses, you won't understand them and will waste the opportunity."

Herag asked, "Mr. Larry, do you have any recommended courses?"

Larry pondered, "Mr. Oleg Zoteev's 'Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction' and Ms. Loli Aifan's 'Basic Principles of Meditation' are both quite suitable for you; choosing these two can't go wrong. The rest should depend on your own situation and what you want to learn."

"Thank you, Mr. Larry. If your Herbalism and Magic Potion courses start, I'll definitely enroll," Herag said with a smile.

"I suggest studying those two courses later as they require sufficient funds; you won't be able to do many experiments without money, and the materials are quite expensive," Larry said seriously.

Herag took out the dark Magic Stone and asked, "How much is a Magic Stone worth in Gold Coins?"

"The market price is one hundred Gold Coins, but no one would sell Magic Stones to get Gold Coins, as others would think you're a fool. Transactions between wizards are often settled with Magic Stones, not Gold Coins."

Larry led Herag out of the affairs hall, next heading to the dormitory in the Northern Forest Area.

Herag took out a copper key, with a small wooden tag attached to its end, on which was written: "Room 443, Northern Forest Area."

The interior of the Moonlight Forest was even larger than what Herag had seen from the outside. After leaving the affairs hall, it took him a full half-hour to walk through various streets and alleys before reaching the Northern Forest Area Dormitory.

The Northern Forest Area was a forested mountain region with thick trees, and within the forest were scattered three-story cottages.

These cottages served as dormitories for wizard apprentices, one person per cottage.

On the way to Room 443, Herag noticed that each of these cottages was different, with colors varied and some with small vegetable gardens next to them, well tended.

Larry explained, "Once assigned to you, this house belongs to you, so you can remodel it to your liking."

"Where do you live, Mr. Larry?" Herag asked curiously.

"I live in the town," Larry replied.

"In town?"

Larry stopped and looked back at the buildings they had just passed and said, "The area we just walked through is called the town, where only official wizards can live. The Northern Forest Area is generally for wizard apprentices, though some remain there even after becoming official wizards, it all depends on personal preference."

"The houses in town have spatial magic, so the interior space is quite large."

"I see," Herag mused, preferring the solitary forest homes for their tranquility.

"Here we are. My task is complete. If you have any more questions, you can consult the affairs hall; someone there will be able to help you," Larry finished and then vanished into a wisp of smoke.

"Mr. Larry sure clocks out quickly," Herag observed, hardly having time to thank him.

He turned back to look at his new home, a three-story detached structure surrounded by dense forest, a stream gently flowing nearby.

This environment, though lacking a bit of the lived-in feel, was very suitable for a wizard's life, as both wizard meditation and experimental research required a quiet setting.

*Chapter 37: Chapter 37: Textbooks*

Herag inserted the copper key into the door slot, and once inside, the door activated with a flow of magic, unlocking automatically with a click.

After the door opened, the lights inside the room automatically illuminated, casting a soft yellow glow.

The room was furnished completely with tables, chairs, and other furniture, and there was a stack of wood beside the fireplace.

Some oil paintings hung on the walls, mostly landscapes.

The lamps on the walls resembled those on the ship, but with a more refined design, softer light, and a pale yellow stone inside.

The first floor of the house was a lounge and kitchen, the second floor had three rooms: one bedroom, one study, and one empty.

The third floor was an attic with a lower height, suitable for storing sundries.

The kitchen was equipped with complete dinnerware and various condiments, and Herag also found tea leaves and coffee.

Herag lit the wood to start a fire in the fireplace, then heated a kettle and brewed a cup of coffee for himself.

After a brief rest, Herag began to arrange the subsequent plan.

"Shenlan, provide a suggested study plan."

"The suggested study plan is as follows:"

"1. Study Basic Principles of Meditation."

"2. Study Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction."

"3. Study multiple languages."

"4. Study a Defensive Level 0 Spell."

"5. Study an Attack Magic."

...

Shenlan devised a series of plans, and Herag realized he had a significant amount of work ahead of him as he looked at the schedule.

He checked the timetable through the Talisman Stone; classes at Moonlight Forest were scheduled from 9 AM to 9 PM, each lasting three hours.

This month, almost every single day was packed with different types of classes, including anatomy, necrobiology, shadow studies, etc.

Herag searched and found Loli Aifan's "Basic Principles of Meditation," which was conveniently starting a new round of classes next Monday.

"This price..." He glanced at the cost of the course, which required fifteen Gold Coins.

Gold Coins were to be paid in person, but Herag had a course voucher; he could simply use the voucher then. Moonlight Forest periodically converted the vouchers into Gold Coins for the teaching Wizards.

The meditation class consisted of three sessions, totaling nine hours.

"Just one course costs fifteen Gold Coins, and it's only a basic course."

Herag took out his wallet from his Space Ring and counted it, finding only twenty Gold Coins in total.

"Let's see the tasks." Herag accessed the task section to survey the situation.

"Wanted: herbalism experimental assistant, must possess herbalism knowledge, hired after passing on-site assessment, payment 30 Gold Coins."

"Looking for assistance in slaying a mountain giant, requires at least a Second-Class Apprentice with two or more Attack Magic spells, payment twenty Magic Stones."

"Collect Ghost Valley Walking Grass, 20 Gold Coins per plant."

...

The Talisman Stone could only browse tasks and contact task publishers; posting tasks required going to the affairs hall, filling in the information, and paying a deposit, whereby the task would subsequently update on the Magic Net.

Each Talisman Stone was bound to the corresponding Wizard, and its internal functions varied depending on the Wizard Organization.

The usage distance of the Talisman Stone was also limited; it could only be used within the area where the eight Wizard Organizations were located. Beyond that, it became unusable, though it sufficed for everyday use.

Herag ended up enrolling in "Basic Principles of Meditation," "Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction," and "Basic Introduction to Herbalism."

He calculated that the three courses would normally require seventy Gold Coins.

In herbalism, Larry temporarily had no course plans, so Herag opted for the course of a Female Witch named Yuna.

The three courses would be completed within three weeks, and Herag's next plan was to borrow books.

The courses here did not provide textbooks, so Wizard Apprentices had to prepare them themselves. They could directly borrow from libraries if a copy was available; otherwise, they could only purchase from other Wizard Apprentices.

The library at Moonlight Forest was the tallest building here, with a full seventeen floors. This library, already over two thousand years old, housed a variety of books.

Herag's library card privileges were at the lowest level, allowing him to borrow books only from the first floor.

Fortunately, the three books required for his classes were foundational and located on the first floor.

Herag borrowed the textbooks for meditation and herbalism, but the ones for spell model construction were already borrowed out, with none left for now.

"You can check the flea market." The librarian noticed he was a newcomer and suggested helpfully.

"Flea market?"

The library administrator said, "Wizards in the forest sell unneeded items there, everything imaginable. You can go take a look."

Following the librarian's directions, Herag reached the west side of the town, where the flea market was.

It was not much different from ordinary street markets, except it was quieter, as Wizards generally kept to themselves.

Many Wizard Apprentices manning stalls were absorbed in reading books, putting their studies aside only to conduct business when someone asked.

The stalls offered various oddities, including body parts of unidentified animals, common sights by now. Herag even noticed someone selling dung, labeled as dragon dung.

Oddly enough, the dung seemed fresh, hardly resembling dragon dung.

Herag frowned and hurriedly moved away from the area, toward stalls featuring books.

One stall had several piles of books, and the vendor was a bespectacled, slender boy.

"Do you have the book 'Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction'?" Herag asked.

The boy adjusted his glasses and nodded, "Yes!"

He struggled to search through the pile of books, appearing to have forgotten its location, and after considerable effort, finally found it.

"How much is it?" Herag asked.

"Fifty Silver Coins."

Herag was a bit incredulous: "How much?"

The boy explained, "That's the going rate; I bought it for fifty Silver Coins as well. You can sell it after the class and recoup your costs. We all do this. Buying these books is merely to break even, not to make a profit."

To be cautious, Herag asked around at other stalls and found that the boy's claims were true.

While he didn't entirely believe they weren't making profits, the market price was indeed thus.

"Here." Herag counted out fifty Silver Coins and took the spell model book.

Once the boy tallied the Silver Coins, he asked, "You're a newcomer, right? You can add me as a Talisman Stone friend; I have a lot of books."

"Okay." Herag agreed, figuring it would expedite future book searches.

"Hello, I'm Leo Severon," Leo smiled.

"Herag Merlin."

After adding him, Herag's friend list contained two contacts.

"I wonder what Lillian's Talisman Stone ID is..." Herag suddenly pondered.

They were unaware of the Talisman Stone's existence before coming, and they were currently reliant on letters for contact.

*Chapter 38: Chapter 38: Meditation Method*

Herag returned home and sat at his desk to write a letter, informing Lillian about his current situation, and attached his talisman stone number.

There was a mailbox in town, so Herag dropped it off the next day on his way to class.

Lady Loli's meditation course was held in a high tower, and there weren't many wizard apprentices attending, only five people.

Herag glanced at the others and noticed they were all first-class apprentices like him who had just joined.

He was the only one who came by ship from the sea; Moonlight Forest had more than just one source of new blood.

Lady Loli appeared to be around thirty years old, exuding the charm of a mature woman. Her attire was rather bold, with long legs draped in black silk, perfectly outlining their curves.

"Thank you all for registering for my course. I will use these three classes to explain the 'Basic Principles of Meditation'." Lady Loli opened her textbook and began to teach.

"As you all know, meditation is about sensing the ubiquitous free energies, absorbing and converting them to enhance our spiritual power, thus increasing our strength. Even without learning any meditation method, simply meditating can complete this process, but at a much slower and less efficient pace."

"That is why meditation methods were born. Although most meditation methods differ, the basic principle is the same, which is the contemplation method."

"The contemplation method involves selecting an anchor for yourself, and during meditation, using this anchor to speed up the absorption of free energy. Different anchors create different meditation methods, and the effects vary."

"Common anchors include earth, vegetation, and rivers. These types of anchors are the most common but have average efficiency. It is said that in ancient times, there were meditation methods to contemplate the sun, moon, and stars. These methods were immensely powerful and had high limits but are lost to history..."

...

"Relevant information has been gathered; data on meditation methods are being supplemented..."

As Herag listened to the lecture, Shenlan was also inputting and analyzing the information conveyed by Lady Loli.

Herag instantly felt enlightened by her lecture. Merely reading the textbook hadn't given him such a profound understanding; Lady Loli's explanation made him feel as if a veil had been lifted.

"The Starry Sky Meditation Technique is truly extraordinary..."

He realized after the first class the uniqueness of the Starry Sky Meditation Technique. Typically, a meditation method involves continually contemplating a single anchor to increase spiritual power, with limited efficiency.

The Starry Sky Meditation Technique's anchor has no limit. With each successful meditation on a new star, his spiritual power could immediately grow.

Two days later, Herag had completed the three meditation classes. Besides gaining valuable insights, Shenlan had also collected much useful information.

"The information on the meditation method is sufficient to upgrade and optimize the Starry Sky Meditation Technique by consuming 360% magic power. Would you like to upgrade and optimize?"

Shenlan provided a prompt, which was something Herag didn't anticipate.

He asked, "What improvements come with upgrade and optimization?"

"After optimization, the Starry Sky Meditation Technique will modify the meditation method to a combination array map method, significantly enhancing meditation speed."

"Upgrade and optimize the Starry Sky Meditation Technique."

"Upgrade and optimization underway, estimated time: 5 days, 3 hours, and 25 minutes."

Herag felt his own magic power draining slowly; this power was supplied to Shenlan for computing the upgrade and optimization.

He didn't expect it to take so long—constructing a spell model for the Partial Petrification Technique only took twenty-five minutes.

The magic power consumption was even more astonishing. A 360% consumption meant he would nearly exhaust his magic power and have to wait for it to replenish before continuing the meditation method upgrade.

Fortunately, the magic power consumption was not all at once, and the meditation method upgrade could pause and await magic power recovery.

During the meditation method upgrade, Herag took out the book "Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction" to read; classes would start in a few days, and he needed to prepare in advance.

Knock, knock!

There was a knocking sound at the door, and when Herag opened it, he found a middle-aged man with a large package on his back, also a wizard apprentice.

"Hello, are you Mr. Herag Merlin?" he asked, holding a note.

"That's me, what's the matter?" Herag inquired.

The man took out a wooden box from the large package on his back and said, "I am Ivo, responsible for delivering and retrieving things in the forest. This is something sent to you by Miss Lillian from Audustud Academy."

"Oh?" Herag received the wooden box, feeling its weight—it wasn't clear what was inside.

"Please sign here." Ivo fished out a quill pen from his pocket, moistened it with his mouth, and handed it to Herag.

Herag carefully grasped the quill by its end and signed his name on the note.

"Thank you! If you have anything to send, just find me." Ivo smiled, put away the note, and carried the large package to his next destination.

Using a bit of force, Herag opened the lid of the wooden box. Inside was a small golden cloth bag and a letter.

He first opened the letter.

"If I don't reach out to you, you won't write to me, huh? This is the first time in my life writing to a man. Recently, Professor Nina accepted me as her student, and she covers all my study expenses and treats me very well."

"I asked Professor Nina about it specifically; I heard that courses in Moonlight Forest are very expensive, and you're likely to earn gold coins and magic stones by completing tasks to procure resources yourself."

"I figured since I don't need gold coins right now and have plenty to spare, I sent you five hundred gold coins."

"Remember, I'm lending it to you, and you have to pay it back later. But being the generous person I am, I won't charge you interest."

"After you receive it, make sure to count them. I don't quite trust the person delivering the items here."

"Let's work hard together, and remember not to take on too dangerous tasks; life is long, and there's no need to take unnecessary risks."

...

"Lastly, I'm still resentful about you not writing to me. Remember to add me as a talisman stone friend after receiving this letter, and be sure to write me back!!!"

"Lillian Stuart, Holy Radiance Calendar 4175, June 25th"

Herag murmured after reading the letter, "The twenty-fifth, so she wrote it the same day I wrote mine; she hadn't received my letter yet when she wrote it."

He picked up the exquisite golden cloth bag, and upon opening it, found it filled with glittering gold coins.

"Shenlan, count how many gold coins there are." Herag immediately instructed Shenlan to count them.

"There are a total of five hundred gold coins."

"Looks like none are missing; this amount of money is a timely help." These five hundred gold coins were truly a lifesaver for Herag, as he was in dire need of money.

With these coins, he could focus on learning the knowledge he wanted, quickly enhance his abilities without expending too much effort in completing tasks to earn money.

"Does this mean I'm living off someone else's favor?" Herag chuckled, took out the talisman stone, and entered Lillian's talisman stone number to add her as a friend.

"Your permission does not currently allow cross-organization communication." The talisman stone displayed a message.

Herag hadn't anticipated such a restriction, but upon reflection, he understood why.

He was just a first-class wizard apprentice, and the relationships among wizard organizations were complex, involving both cooperation and conflict. If he were an insider infiltrating, it would be easy to leak information.

*Chapter 39: Chapter 39: Corrosive Arrow*

Five days later.

"The Starry Sky Meditation Technique upgrade optimization is complete."

Herag closed his eyes and began to meditate.

After the upgrade of the Starry Sky Meditation Technique, the three and a half stars in Herag's mind, which were originally scattered randomly, are now connected together.

Shenlan added an auxiliary background, and Herag understood. It resembled the thousand array maps he encountered when deciphering the pocket watch, but these maps had fewer points.

The existing three stars are sequentially positioned on several magic power points of the first map. Herag calculated that there are seven more magic power points on this map.

The three stars form part of an array map, connected in a continuous line.

During meditation, Herag discovered that the three stars had a slight connection, significantly increasing the speed of meditation.

The fourth star was initially expected to take another month, but at this pace, it would be solidified within a week.

In addition to the increased meditation speed, the speed of magic power circulation also improved considerably.

"Partial Petrification." Herag's right hand turned grayish-white.

"Shenlan, how long did this casting take?"

"This Partial Petrification took 0.86 seconds."

Herag contemplated, "0.86 seconds, it previously took 1.3 seconds; the improvement is notable."

This 0.5-second improvement can be considered significant, playing an important role in real combat situations.

"Once the first array map is completed, there should be further changes."

Herag decided to enroll in multiple courses to provide Shenlan with sufficient data support and information entry.

With Shenlan's powerful data analysis and calculation capabilities, Herag only needs to input enough data, and Shenlan can accomplish many tasks.

During the upgrade period of the Meditation Method, Herag took the time to write another letter to Lillian.

Due to the permission restrictions of the Moonlight Forest Talisman Stone, they can only communicate via letters.

...

Five days later.

"The Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction data has been entered, increasing spell model construction speed by 20%."

"The herbalism database has been updated, adding multiple magic potion material effects and uses, new conventional magic potion refining procedures, new Wolf's Bane Potion formula, and White Fresh Cure Potion formula..."

In five days, Herag completed the Basic Principles of Spell Model Construction course and the Basic Introduction to Herbalism course.

At the same time, the fourth star of the Starry Sky Meditation Technique was also successfully meditated on.

"Herag Merlin: Power 2.2, Agility 2.0, Constitution 3.0, Spirit 6.9, Magic Power 100%."

After this successful meditation, other physical data had minor improvements as well.

"Two stars left to become a Second-Class Apprentice." Herag silently calculated.

Once he meets the Spiritual Power criteria, he can attempt to break through to a Second-Class Apprentice.

"Next is... learning two spells." Currently, Herag only had one spell, Partial Petrification, and his offensive and defensive means were too limited.

Level 0 Spells generally have dedicated Spell Model Books, just like Partial Petrification.

Herag can opt to purchase from an Official Wizard or seek to buy from fellow Wizard Apprentices.

He thought of Leo, the one with glasses, and took out a talisman stone, opened the friend list, and sent a message: "Do you have any Level 0 Spell Models?"

A while later, Leo replied: "Yes, what type do you need?"

"One offensive and one defensive."

"For offense, there's Ice Cone Technique, Small Fireball Technique, Corrosive Arrow; for defense, Ice Shield."

Leo then projected several diagrams showing the overview spell models of these spells, along with brief data and effect descriptions.

"Ice Cone Technique: High magic power consumption, fast speed, strong attack, with freezing effect, affected in hot areas."

"Small Fireball Technique: High magic power consumption, moderate speed, strong attack, with explosion and burning effect, can't be cast underwater."

"Corrosive Arrow: Moderate magic power consumption, extremely fast speed, strong attack with a corrosion effect."

"Ice Shield: High magic power consumption, weak resistance to fire attribute spells."

After a quick scan, Herag asked, "How much?"

"Each is two Magic Stones, or 300 Gold Coins if paying with Gold Coins."

"So expensive?" Herag hadn't realized Level 0 Spells were priced this high.

Leo replied, "That's the standard price. Compared to magic potion materials, Level 0 Spell Models are quite cheap. The prices for Level 0 Spells are transparent; you can easily find out."

"However, newly joined Wizard Apprentices usually can't afford Level 0 Spells. Generally, they do some tasks to earn Magic Stones before studying Level 0 Spells."

"If you accept tasks, it's best to find those rewarding Magic Stones. Gold Coin tasks, while simple, are too slow."

Herag wandered around the Gossip Tavern for a while, searching Level 0 Spells with keywords, and indeed found it to be this price.

He opened Leo's chat window and replied, "I'll take the Corrosive Arrow, I'll pay with Gold Coins."

"Alright, I'll bring it to you. Where do you live?"

"Room 443."

Ten minutes later, Leo arrived with a heavy book and a bunch of drafts.

He also lived in the Northern Forest Region, not far from here.

"This is the spell model for Corrosive Arrow you wanted, and these drafts are some of my previous calculations, which you can use as a reference."

Leo's drafts were densely filled with many parameters and formulas, with a neat reasoning process.

"Here's 300 Gold Coins; count them." Herag's money pouch was suddenly much lighter, which pained him a little.

Lillian probably didn't expect Herag's Gold Coin consumption to be this quick.

Leo adjusted his glasses and used magic power to let the Gold Coins jump one by one into his pocket.

"Transaction complete. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. When I'm not busy, I can provide answers. The Corrosive Arrow spell is a bit challenging." After checking all the coins, Leo got up to leave.

"Alright, thank you." Herag got up to see Leo to the door.

After closing the door, Herag sighed, "I didn't expect there to be after-sales service. Leo indeed has the air of a researcher."

Apart from the long robe provided by the Forest, Leo's clothes were simple coarse cloth garments. His hurried appearance suggested that he was probably busy researching spells.

Herag guessed that his life might also be tight. Otherwise, he wouldn't have set up a stall at the flea market.

The wizarding profession is indeed very costly. Right now, Herag only has over 200 Gold Coins and one Magic Stone left, just enough to buy a second Level 0 Spell.

For now, no suitable defensive spell is available. He felt the Ice Shield spell was too limited, and many people knew the Small Fireball Technique, which often gets restricted.

Among the three offensive spells, he eliminated the Small Fireball Technique first because his ring was already enchanted with this spell, though the casting speed is slower.

The Ice Cone Technique wasn't suitable for sustained combat. His Spiritual Power was lacking, his magic was limited, and the Ice Cone Technique consumed too much magic power.

Thus, he finally went with the Corrosive Arrow spell, as its usage scenarios are relatively broad.

Though he didn't need Leo's drafts much, Shenlan could complete all the calculation processes, even the spell model construction didn't need to be done manually.

Nevertheless, he went through the drafts in their entirety, recognizing Leo as a very logical wizard.

"Shenlan, begin entering Corrosive Arrow data and then start constructing the Corrosive Arrow spell model."

*Chapter 40: Chapter 40: Defense*

"Corrosive Arrow data has been entered."

"Corrosive Arrow spell model analysis is complete."

"Corrosive Arrow spell model construction plan is complete."

Herag waited for a few minutes, and Shenlan processed the information related to the Corrosive Arrow, ready to start constructing the spell model at any time.

"Shenlan, start constructing the Corrosive Arrow spell model."

"The task has been archived, estimated remaining time twenty minutes, estimated Magic Power consumption 17%."

"Twenty minutes? The number of parameters and formulas for Corrosive Arrow is nearly twice that of Partial Petrification Technique, yet it takes five minutes less than constructing the Partial Petrification Technique. It seems that the spell model class was really worth it," Herag analyzed.

In Herag's mind, Shenlan was precisely controlling Spiritual Power to construct the Corrosive Arrow spell model, calculating each step's parameters and formulas at the speed of light, the process seamless.

Twenty minutes later.

"Corrosive Arrow spell model construction completed."

"Remaining Magic Power: 83%."

Herag pulled a log from beside the fireplace and placed it in the middle of the living room, then stepped a few meters away.

He controlled his Magic Power, channeling it into the Corrosive Arrow spell model in his mind.

A black energy arrow with some green in it appeared before him, forming quickly. Shenlan's statistics showed it only took 0.12 seconds to complete this spell casting.

Herag guided the Corrosive Arrow to shoot out and hit the log in the living room.

The log was split in half, from the cross-section, black corrosive energy began to spread, and in the blink of an eye, the two halves of the log were covered by corrosive energy, making a sizzling sound.

A pungent smell was released. Herag approached to examine, and bubbles were emerging on the surface of the log. The corrosiveness of the energy was very strong, penetrating deep into the log, swiftly corroding the two halves into hollowed-out decay.

"The effect is good," Herag was quite satisfied with this Corrosive Arrow.

If the Corrosive Arrow hit a person, it would torment them like bone-entrenched maggots, difficult to handle.

"Remaining Magic Power: 77%."

Herag contemplated, "Casting the Corrosive Arrow once consumes 6% Magic Power."

This spell doesn't have the straightforward destructive power of Fireball Technique or Ice Cone Technique, but it excels in sustained combat, high tolerance for mistakes.

I can miss many shots, but once you are hit, you will be entirely on the defensive.

"But similarly, right now, I have no means of defending against other people's spells." Herag frowned, this was a problem that needed quick resolution.

He opened the Talisman Stone, sent Leo a message: "Do you have anything besides Ice Shield? Can you find other Defensive Magic?"

After a moment, Leo replied: "For now, I only have Ice Shield. You might want to post a task to purchase or ask an Official Wizard you know; they usually have more options."

"Okay, thanks."

"You're welcome."

...

Herag decided to ask Larry; if all else failed, he'd have to post a task to acquire a Defensive Magic. The key problem was that he didn't have much money on him right now.

"Mr. Larry, are you there? I'd like to buy a Level 0 defensive spell model, do you happen to have one suitable?" Herag asked directly.

The message went hours without a response, but Herag wasn't anxious, poured a cup of coffee, and continued reading the book on Corrosive Arrow.

After a while, there was finally a reply from Larry.

"I have one. Suitable for you are Ice Shield, Mana Shield, and Dark Energy Shield."

"Ice Shield has strong defense against physical attacks but is relatively weak against many spells."

"Mana Shield has some defense against both physical and spells, but requires continuous Magic Power consumption."

"Dark Energy Shield is strong against both physical and spells, but its drawback is its vulnerability to Light Element spell attacks, although encounters with Light Element attack spells are rare."

Herag weighed the options for a while, having an idea, and asked Larry for advice: "Mr. Larry, do you have any suggestions?"

"Considering your situation comprehensively, I recommend Mana Shield and Dark Energy Shield. But Dark Energy Shield is complex to learn, too high-tier for a novice Wizard Apprentice like you, so Mana Shield is preferable," Larry replied.

"Thank you, Mr. Larry, I've decided... on Dark Energy Shield, how much is that?"

"..."

Larry wrote back: "Three Magic Stones."

"I only have one Magic Stone and two hundred Gold Coins, can I owe you one?" Herag looked at his pockets, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"Alright, come to my house tomorrow, the location is Building 5, Zone C in the town," Larry agreed to herag's credit request.

"Thank you, Mr. Larry!" Herag was genuinely grateful to Larry, who appeared unapproachable but quite helpful to Wizard Apprentices.

Considering the actual market price, Larry still took a loss, not to mention one still owed.

Herag arrived in the town early the next day, following signs to locate Building 5, Zone C.

He looked up at the seven-story-high Building 5, marveling at the excellent treatment Wizards receive.

Such a large building belonged solely to Larry.

At the main entrance, there was a doorbell, which Herag pressed lightly.

Soon the door opened, but he didn't see anyone.

"I'm here," a voice came from below.

Looking down, Herag saw a green-skinned goblin in ragged clothes.

"You're Mr. Herag, I'll lead you upstairs," said the goblin, walking ahead.

"Alright, thank you," Herag was curious about seeing humanoid species for the first time.

The goblin murmured, "You're the first Wizard to say thank you to me."

"..." Herag was momentarily speechless, unsure how to respond.

The stairs in Larry's house spiraled upward; after ascending, Herag looked up to see an interior space with at least a dozen levels, much higher than the external view of seven stories.

The goblin led Herag to the fourth floor, a laboratory-looking area, with cultivated plants in containers and various specimens soaked in jars everywhere.

Various colored potions were placed on some shelves, none of which Herag could distinguish with his limited knowledge.

"Herag, you've arrived. Gami, you may go now," Larry appeared holding a test tube with yellow liquid.

"Yes, master." The goblin saluted then shuffled downstairs.

Watching him depart curiously, Larry laughed: "This is a House Elf, quite common. But Gami is already old, has forgotten some Elf Magic, doesn't serve much purpose now aside from cleaning."

The room was overly crowded, even the floor was covered with unidentified plants. The plants' branches and leaves extended, leaving little space to stand.