

Sixth Ring Wizard

Chapter 46: Chapter 46: Ambush

Sunny immediately used a Mana Shield, the milky Light Shield appearing around him made him feel slightly relieved.

The Corrosive Arrow left a black scar on Sunny's waist, with corrosive energy starting to burrow into his flesh, blood mixing with a foul-smelling black liquid seeping out.

"Ah!" The searing pain made Sunny involuntarily cry out.

The corrosive energy clung to his flesh like a branding iron, continuously burning his blood and flesh.

Sunny's hand trembling, he took out a bottle of White Sage Healing Potion, poured it on the wound, and a white smoke rose up with a sizzling sound.

He grimaced in pain, and at the same time, two Corrosive Arrows were successively shot, hitting the Mana Shield.

The corrosive energy of the Corrosive Arrows also had a corrosive effect on the Mana Shield, requiring Sunny to supply more magic power to maintain and repair the Mana Shield.

He glanced in the direction the Corrosive Arrows were shot from, unable to find Herag's trace.

Sunny's expression was uncertain, and after contemplating for a while, he still decided to go back to find Macken.

Boom!

As he turned around, a fireball struck from behind, fiercely smashing into his Mana Shield and exploding.

The blast sent Sunny flying several meters, visibly thinning the Mana Shield.

"No, I have to find Macken!" Sunny turned and cast an Ice Arrow, the Ice Arrow swiftly piercing through the forest, frosting the branches and leaves it brushed past.

Herag watched as the Ice Arrow passed a few meters away; Sunny didn't know his exact location at all.

He maintained his distance, following Sunny unhurriedly, occasionally shooting a Corrosive Arrow.

Sunny's Mana Shield quickly became unsustainable as he consumed too much magic power maintaining it.

"Wind Elf's Blessing." Unable to maintain the Mana Shield, Sunny's heart pounded furiously, using Enchantment Magic of Demonized Items.

A gust of wind swirled around his body, and Sunny's speed increased significantly, quickly distancing himself from Herag.

Herag wasn't in a hurry to catch up. In Shenlan's perception, Macken was already approaching and would soon meet Sunny.

"If I can't handle it, I can retreat safely."

Herag remained hidden in the forest, maintaining his distance.

"Macken, I found the kid, got ambushed." Sunny cried out as he saw Macken, looking quite disheveled.

Macken looked at him oddly, "Ambushed?"

Sunny, sensing something off in his gaze, instinctively stepped back, pointing with his finger toward the forest, "He's over there."

Macken nodded, "Hmm, I'll take care of him, but..."

A huge Ice Cone rapidly formed in front of him and then launched towards Sunny.

"You!" Sunny's eyes widened, too close to Macken, he hastily conjured a feeble Mana Shield.

With little magic power left, the Mana Shield he produced had limited defensive capability.

Sunny's Mana Shield couldn't withstand the Ice Cone Technique; the Ice Cone effortlessly shattered the Shield and pierced Sunny's chest.

Blood spurted, staining the Ice Cone red.

Sunny was slammed into a tree by the Ice Cone's impact, mouth agape, spitting a mixture of blood and shattered organs. With one last hateful glance at Macken, he dropped his head, lifeless.

Having killed Sunny, Macken cautiously hid behind a large tree, observing the surroundings.

He noticed the wounds on Sunny's body, marks of the Corrosive Arrows.

That stuff was troublesome, and he didn't want to get hit.

"Hmm?" He heard movement to his right and immediately put up a Mana Shield similar to Sunny's.

A Corrosive Arrow struck the Mana Shield, creating ripples.

Macken quickly dodged to the other side of the tree. Before long, another Corrosive Arrow shot over.

"Damn! How does he know my location!" Macken's Mana Shield withstood this attack, he glanced in the direction the Corrosive Arrows were coming from. The dense woods made it impossible to see Herag.

The only offensive magic he knew was Ice Cone Technique, which required a large amount of magic power and couldn't be used for probing.

He had to wait for the right opportunity to strike, just like when he effortlessly killed Sunny.

The dense jungle severely restricted his abilities, and unexpectedly, Herag could accurately hit him with Corrosive Arrows from outside his field of vision.

"I need to close the distance." Macken started moving towards Herag's direction, using the many trees as cover.

Herag leisurely used Corrosive Arrows to deplete Macken's magic power, knowing the need to maintain and repair the Mana Shield would consume a lot.

As Macken approached, Herag also slowly retreated, keeping a certain distance but not too far, lest Macken escape like Sunny, making it hard to catch up.

"No, at this rate, I'm finished." After pursuing a certain distance, Macken realized much of his magic power had been consumed. Yet Herag remained in an elusive position, causing him anxiety and helplessness.

Leaning against a tree, Macken thought, "This guy's too slippery. If I keep chasing, I'm dead. Seems like I need to retreat. The kid kept his distance, which means he can't handle me either. Corrosive Arrows can't deliver a fatal blow."

After weighing his options, Macken decided to abandon the chase, not wanting to fall here.

"Getting ready to run?" Herag immediately noticed Macken's slow retreat, using the dense trees to avoid his Corrosive Arrows.

Herag slowly followed, occasionally taking the chance to shoot a Corrosive Arrow to sap Macken's energy.

Sweat covered Macken's brow as his magic dwindled, increasing the pressure on him.

Herag clung on like a parasitic worm, never closing in, just depleting him with Corrosive Arrows.

Herag's Corrosive Arrows were precise, and his timing impeccable, always managing to drain his Mana Shield.

As Macken neared the entrance to the Moonlight Forest, his Mana Shield was so weak it was barely maintainable.

Herag took out a Spirit Stabilizing Potion, fully replenishing his magic power.

This was something he acquired on credit from Larry, worth ten Magic Stones, something a typical First-Class Wizard Apprentice couldn't afford.

After drinking the potion, Herag increased his speed, catching up to Macken in a few strides, appearing in his sight.

"Ice Shield!"

"Mana Shield!"

"Dark Energy Shield!"

Herag slapped on three Shields, each a different color, layering them over himself securely.

"Ice Cone Technique!"

Macken hesitated not at all; he had reserved enough magic power for one Ice Cone Technique, waiting for Herag to get close for a fatal strike.

The massive Ice Cone swiftly formed and charged toward the fully shielded Herag.

"Damn! How could he master so many spells!"

After launching the Ice Cone Technique, Macken prepared to flee, seeing Herag fully shielded.

He didn't believe the Ice Cone Technique could kill the fully shielded Herag, and with his magic nearly depleted, he needed to escape quickly.

Chapter 47: Chapter 47: Shield-Focused Wizard

Macken turned his head and saw a bright longsword swing past, clutching his throat and unable to speak, blood flowed like a waterfall, blood bubbles gurgled from his mouth. Looking at Herag, who was covered in shields, he collapsed to the ground full of confusion in his eyes.

"Remaining magic power at 3%," Shenlan issued a warning.

Herag felt mentally exhausted: "The spell Flash consumes too much magic power, casting it once uses up 49% of magic power."

At the moment the Ice Cone rushed towards him, he decisively used Flash to appear behind Macken, then killed Macken with a single strike.

Caught off-guard and with almost no magic power left, Macken died without being able to resist at all.

"Need to leave quickly." Herag searched the bodies of Macken and Sunny, found a ring and four Magic Stones, and quickly left the Moonlight Forest.

His current magic power was not even enough to cast a single Corrosive Arrow, so if danger arose, he could only rely on hand-to-hand combat.

After returning to the inn, Hellfoot arrived shortly after, with no one in the carriage.

The journey went smoothly, and once in the Northern Forest Region, it was quite safe, so Herag was able to relax his tense spirit a bit.

If Macken and Sunny's bodies were not discovered in time, they would soon be dragged away and eaten by the beasts and magical creatures in the Moonlight Forest.

Even if discovered, it had nothing to do with him. The forest district would just record the incident, as such things were quite common.

During his stay in the Moonlight Forest, Herag felt it provided a platform.

Wizards study and exchange resources here, with everything requiring equal exchange and not like schools with strict wizard management.

Freedom also represents disorder.

"Wind Elf's Ring: Enchanted with a Level 0 spell, Wind Elf's Blessing."

The green ring in Herag's hand was taken from Sunny, and the enchanted spell seemed to be able to increase the agility attribute. The exact value would need to be tested later when his magic power recovered.

"I'll go pick mushrooms in the Moonlight Forest in a few days," Herag planned to wait until this matter settled before going, to avoid further trouble.

...

Two days later.

Herag pulled a chair onto the balcony and lay down, carefully studying the spell model of Flash.

Beside him, a small stove was burning brightly, with a teapot on top boiling coffee. The aroma wafted out, refreshing and enlivening him.

"The practical value of the spell Flash is high, but the magic power consumption is too much..."

Herag paused at this thought, then issued a command to Shenlan: "Shenlan, can you optimize the spell Flash to reduce magic power consumption?"

"Conducting data analysis..."

"Data analysis complete, calculations complete, Level 0 spell Flash can be optimized. After optimization, casting it once is estimated to consume 37% magic power."

"From 49% to 37%, it's quite a significant optimization." This result was sufficient to reduce a lot of the magic power burden.

He continued to ask: "Shenlan, can you optimize the Level 0 spell Flash to increase the Flash distance?"

"Conducting data analysis..."

"Lack of sufficient spatial magic data, suggest providing ample fundamental principles of spatial magic."

"As expected..."

As Herag predicted, there was currently no way to increase the range of Flash.

He had almost no understanding of the principles of spatial magic, and all of Shenlan's calculations required data as a foundation.

Only with enough input can calculations be performed and output generated.

"Shenlan, start optimizing the Level 0 spell Flash, direction of optimization is reduced magic power consumption."

"Task archived, estimated remaining time twenty-six minutes, estimated magic power consumption 31%."

...

"Level 0 spell Flash optimization complete."

Herag noticed some changes in the spell model of Flash in his mind, with some slight modifications that allowed more magic power to be saved without affecting the original effect of Flash.

"Shenlan, optimize the Level 0 spell Mana Shield. There are three optimization approaches: 1. Increase shield's defense ability; 2. Reduce magic power consumption; 3. Both increase shield's defense ability and reduce magic power consumption."

Herag proposed three optimization solutions for Mana Shield to see how far Shenlan could achieve.

"Conducting calculation and analysis..."

"Analysis complete, all three optimization solutions are feasible."

Seeing this was possible, Herag continued to inquire about optimization plans for Ice Shield and Dark Energy Shield.

Ice Shield could enhance defense capability and reduce magic power consumption, while Dark Energy Shield could only reduce magic power consumption, lacking data to enhance defense ability.

Herag thought it was likely due to a lack of knowledge in elemental magic, which would need to be supplemented later.

He then asked for an optimization solution for Corrosive Arrow: "Shenlan, how can Corrosive Arrow be optimized?"

"Conducting calculation and analysis..."

"Level 0 spell Corrosive Arrow can optimize the amount of magic power consumption, enhancing the corrosive effect."

After Shenlan provided the result, Herag began to arrange his own plan for optimizing Level 0 spells.

Shenlan optimizing spells required the consumption of magic power, and Herag had only so much magic power. It took him four days to fully optimize all his spells once over.

Even the Partial Petrification Technique had its magic power consumption reduced somewhat.

"Ice Shield!"

"Mana Shield!"

"Dark Energy Shield!"

Herag sequentially cast three shield spells on himself, checking his remaining magic power: "68%."

Before Shenlan optimized these three spells, just casting three shields would consume half of his mana. Now it only used up 32%.

With the Starry Sky Meditation Technique, the fifth star had solidified halfway. Herag estimated that he should complete this meditation within a month.

Once this star successfully formed, he would be close to advancing to a Second-Class Wizard Apprentice, ready to prepare the Dawn Potion needed for this promotion.

"Hmm? There's a message." The Talisman Stone flickered with a green light.

Upon opening it, Herag found a message from Larry: "I've opened registration for the Magic Potion course. If you're interested, you can sign up and attend."

"I'll go sign up right away." After replying, Herag found the Start Magic Potions class by Larry in the course section.

The course cost twenty gold coins, not expensive at all.

"You don't need to buy books, just use mine from before, which have some notes that can help you study." Larry continued.

"Thank you, Mr. Larry!" Herag clearly felt that Larry was placing more value on him, likely due to recognizing his potential.

Herag knew clearly that what he gained now, he would need to exchange with a corresponding price in the future.

As he grows gradually, if there's a spot where Larry needs his help, he would likely ask him for some assistance.

Equivalent exchange is always the creed that wizards follow.

Chapter 48: Chapter 48: Magic Potion

After registering, Herag wandered around the Gossip Tavern, which is similar to a forum from his past life where one can post and communicate.

The bodies of Macken and Sunny have already been found, and someone in the Gossip Tavern has posted about it for discussion.

Someone suggested they were killed by people from the Green Cottage, while others speculated it was internal conflict, and some believed a third party was involved.

However, the post quickly sank; the death of two First-Class Wizard Apprentices in the Moonlight Forest is really a trivial matter, not even worthy as tea-time gossip.

Herag took out the Wind Elf ring and input Magic Power to trigger the Enchantment spell.

"Shenlan, check my body data."

"Herag Merlin: Power 2.2, Agility 2.0(+2), Constitution 3.0, Spirit 6.9, Magic Power 100%."

"Increased agility by two points, quite a good ring." The numbers in parentheses represent external attribute bonuses. Feeling the lightness of his body, Herag felt that he could jump and fly away.

"Shenlan, how long can the Wind Elf's blessing last?" This was Herag's first time encountering blessing spells.

"Approximately half an hour," Shenlan replied.

Looking at the blessing, Herag had some thoughts: "Perhaps I can get more blessing spells, let Shenlan optimize Magic Power consumption, and during battles, stack all blessings and Shields on myself; the combat power should be considerable. But blessings are always temporary, if the body could..."

...

A week later, Larry's Magic Potion class started.

"Herag, come here."

As soon as Herag stepped into the classroom, Larry called him over, waving at him.

Larry picked up a thick "Basic Introduction to Magic Potions" from the podium: "This is the textbook I used before, take it and use it."

"Thank you, Mr. Larry!" Herag took the book and found a seat in the front row.

The classroom had twelve people in total, most were First-Class Apprentices, with three Second-Class Apprentices.

Once Larry saw that almost everyone had arrived, he began the lecture: "Gentlemen and ladies, welcome to my Magic Potion class. First, close your 'Basic Introduction to Magic Potions', our first class won't cover any content from the book."

"In the first lesson, we will spend three hours discussing one thing."

He turned around and wrote on the blackboard: "Experimental Standards and Safety Guidelines."

After writing, Larry pointed at the words on the blackboard: "Magic Potion, these words are the most crucial foundation. The properties and formulas of Magic Potions can be learned slowly, but standards and guidelines must be ingrained in one's bones, cultivating good experimental habits is essential."

"There are always Wizards who ignore some basic requirements, even many Official Wizards. If a Magic Potion experiment goes wrong, losing one's life is a minor issue; many potion experiments can cause large-scale disasters."

"Once someone saw ordinary people dying of hunger, he started researching a potion that could make cows grow from the ground. Guess what happened? The moment his potion was spilled onto the ground, it directly opened a passage connecting to the Otherworld. All creatures within a thousand miles of the passage were wiped out, and two Wizard Organizations spent thirty years sealing it at great cost."

"And the reason for this situation was simply that he didn't disinfect the damn test tube before mixing the potion!"

"He never got a chance to correct his mistake, even though it was just a basic guideline."

A Wizard Apprentice raised their hand: "Mr. Larry, so can his potion really make cows grow from the ground?"

"Fool! Of course not!"

"Hahaha!" The classroom burst into laughter.

Larry clapped his hands, and the classroom quieted down.

With a flick of his fingers, the pile of parchment papers on the desk flew up, landing one by one in front of each Wizard Apprentice.

"Here are one hundred sixty-eight experimental rules, everyone must memorize them. While you're just starting to learn, cultivate good experimental habits from the beginning. Next, I will explain each rule one by one, including why they are necessary; many are marked by blood lessons."

Larry held a parchment containing the rules and began explaining them from the first one.

Three hours quickly passed, and he finished explaining the one hundred sixty-eight rules, clearly showing his experience.

"Magic Potion experimental standards and safety guidelines have been recorded." Shenlan documented all the content throughout.

"Shenlan, remember to remind me in a timely manner if there are any non-standard practices when I conduct experiments." Herag instructed.

"Task archived."

While tidying up the desk, Larry spoke: "That's it for today; today's lesson is the most important one. I hope none of those who have attended my class will suffer injuries or even die due to potion experiments."

Larry's basic introduction to Magic Potions class consisted of five sessions, completed over two weeks.

The first session covered experimental standards and norms, followed by two theory classes and two experimental classes.

Herag listened attentively to each session, and with Shenlan Assistance, he ensured no knowledge points were missed; Shenlan could also correct any errors promptly.

"The raw materials for the Dawn Potion cost forty Magic Stones, and even with Shenlan Assistance, achieving a 100% success rate is impossible. Assuming at least two sets of materials are needed, that totals eighty Magic Stones."

Herag calculated the Magic Stones needed to advance to Second-Class Wizard Apprentice, then glanced at the five Magic Stones in his pocket and instantly understood what true poverty felt like. Furthermore, he owed Larry ten Magic Stones.

"No wonder so many people remain stuck at First-Class Wizard Apprentice; without a background, even accumulating enough potion resources takes a long time to acquire Magic Stones."

"And this is just the advancement from First-Class to Second-Class; the subsequent transition from Second-Class to Third-Class and finally to Official Wizard requires an enormous amount of resources..."

Herag felt overwhelmed by the resources required, far beyond his expectations.

"Tomorrow, I'll go to the Moonlight Forest to gather mushrooms. It's July now, and Sleeping Mushrooms only grow in summer, I must seize this opportunity to earn more."

Herag calculated that based on previous progress, he could earn five to six Magic Stones per day, and by gathering mushrooms for a month, he could earn one hundred fifty-six in an ideal scenario.

Early the next morning, he went to the entrance of the Moonlight Forest again, and not far in was the place where Macken was defeated; traces could still faintly be seen on the ground.

Few people had come to the Moonlight Forest in recent days; due to Macken and Sunny suddenly dying here, other First-Class Wizard Apprentices were afraid to come, providing Herag with the perfect opportunity to gather Sleeping Mushrooms.

Over three days, Herag gathered one hundred seventy Sleeping Mushrooms.

In the following two days, Herag found fewer and fewer Sleeping Mushrooms, making it challenging to find any on the outskirts of the Moonlight Forest.

"Could it be I need to delve deeper into the Moonlight Forest..." Herag pondered this issue.

Chapter 49: Chapter 49: Silence

Herag was now quite a distance from the Moonlight Forest entrance, roughly needing half an hour to walk back there.

"Relying on Shenlan's detection, let's go a bit further, but not too deep. If anything feels wrong, we retreat immediately." After some thought, Herag decided to cautiously venture a bit deeper.

The outskirts of the Sleeping Mushroom area were getting hard to find. He had to take a little risk and go in a bit deeper.

The main dangers deeper within the Moonlight Forest stemmed from two sources: the various fierce magical beasts and bizarre plants, and the potential encounter with the Wizards of Green Cottage.

In the forest depths, the ground was covered with thick foliage; Herag felt the leaves were several centimeters deep as he stepped on them.

With Shenlan's detection functionality, he didn't need to worry about pitfalls hidden beneath the leaves.

Herag didn't dare to venture too far in, he just wandered around this area and managed to dig up eight Sleeping Mushrooms in about an hour.

"There are indeed more here compared to the outskirts, but... it's just a bit too quiet."

Herag noticed that during his time here, there wasn't a sound around, exceedingly quiet, eerily so.

Realizing the abnormality here, he immediately halted his steps.

Herag carefully observed his surroundings, the details he noticed made him furrow his brow.

Normally, there would be a slight breeze in the forest, causing leaves and vegetation to sway gently, but now everything—flowers, trees, grass—seemed like a frozen photograph.

Herag began to retreat, but after a few steps, he realized he couldn't leave this place.

The nearest tree was ten meters behind him, and he kept walking toward it, but no matter how he proceeded, he couldn't get any closer.

Herag stopped and tried to calm himself.

He squatted down, noticing a plant reaching his waist.

Herag gently touched it, and the entire plant quickly withered and collapsed into a pile of ash.

"Shenlan, during this time, did you detect any unusual magic power fluctuations?" Herag was puzzled that he hadn't noticed anything peculiar, yet suddenly encountered this bizarre situation.

"No unusual magic power fluctuations detected," Shenlan replied.

"Shenlan, check if my mind is normal, see if I am in an illusion state."

Shenlan immediately replied, "Everything is normal."

Herag pondered that wandering around now wouldn't solve anything; wandering aimlessly might lead him to an unknown space, akin to the Lost Mist.

"Wait... the Lost Mist..."

Herag thought of his Starry Sky Meditation Technique, which helped him orient himself and escape the Lost Mist previously.

He entered a meditative state, beginning to sense the positions of the stars overhead.

Moments later, Herag's expression turned a bit grave.

Not only couldn't he sense his four stars, but he also noticed that the positions and numbers of stars in the sky had changed, completely different from before.

"This constellation... it's almost like appearing on a foreign planet."

Herag felt a tricky situation; normally, stars move regularly, it's impossible for the whole sky to look different overnight unless you're not on the original planet anymore.

Herag took a deep breath and began contemplating a solution.

At this time, he couldn't rush around recklessly to avoid triggering unknown taboos, turning into dust like that plant.

Cough... Cough...

He heard faint, labored breathing, the sound very distant and small, but in this deathly silence, it seemed especially conspicuous.

Soon, three people entered Shenlan's detection range—three men running desperately, looking quite distressed.

The leading man wore an exquisite gold-trimmed wizard robe, and the other two wore ordinary wizard apprentice robes.

Herag noticed all three robes bore the mark of a wooden house, representing them as Wizards of Green Cottage.

"Shenlan, assess their power."

After Herag gave the order, detailed data appeared above the heads of the three men, for him to examine.

"Power 6.2, Agility 6.8, Constitution 7.0, Spirit 18.9."

"Power 3.7, Agility 2.9, Constitution 4.1, Spirit 9.5."

"Power 3.5, Agility 2.5, Constitution 3.5, Spirit 8.3."

All three men's attributes surpassed Herag's, especially the leader, whose spiritual power was already at the standard of a Third Class Wizard Apprentice, with his other physical data also clearly at that standard.

Herag had nowhere to retreat and could only hide in a dense shrub, but hiding would be meaningless in front of these three.

The bushes' plants, like that single plant, would shrivel instantly into ash upon contact.

"Lune, sir! We've already entered the Moonlight Forest area; it's easy to encounter their people!" The man with the lowest spiritual power gasped while running, reminded.

Lune was the Third Class Wizard Apprentice, and with a look of terror at what was behind them, he angrily said to the person next to him, "What choice do we have! I'd rather die at the hands of the people in Moonlight Forest than at that monster behind us."

The other person said, "Sir Lune is Sir Malcolm's own brother, they wouldn't dare to easily kill him in Moonlight Forest. By luring Shivara here, we could instead trap them once."

"Idiot! There's no guarantee we'll escape! I had to use a precious demonized item just to buy us some time!" Lune sped up, quickly widening the gap with the two behind.

The two looked at each other, realizing the severity of the situation.

Lune's speed was much faster, so the monster behind would surely catch the two of them first.

Realizing this problem, the two began sprinting, their faces flushed red, seemingly exerting all their strength.

"Malcolm's own brother..." Hearing this name, Herag recalled the massacre of the Baron's entire family in the castle by Malcolm.

He remembered Malcolm introducing himself then, saying he came from Green Cottage.

"What a coincidence? His own brother also has the power of a Third Class Wizard Apprentice." Herag felt somewhat overwhelmed.

Lune's trio quickly ran towards Herag; Lune noticed Herag's presence immediately, but without sparing him a glance, kept running forward.

They soon discovered the eerie aspect of this place, and Lune's expression drastically changed: "What's going on! Why can't we get through?"

"Could it be the Moonlight Forest's people have set some barrier here?" someone beside him speculated.

Lune glanced at Herag's hiding place, extended his hand, rapidly forming a Fireball Technique, and sent it flying toward Herag's location.

"Ice Shield!"

"Mana Shield!"

"Dark Energy Shield!"

Having kept an eye on their movements, Herag prepared to flee as Lune turned. He instantly deployed three shields and activated the Wind Elf's ring to evade the fireball.

The fireball exploded where he stood, incinerating countless plants into ash and stirring up a cloud of dust.

Chapter 50: Chapter 50: Shivara

"Running quite fast!" Lune snorted coldly, "What's happening here? Is this your doing?"

Herag shrugged: "It's got nothing to do with me. I'm also figuring out how to get out."

"It's someone from the Moonlight Forest, it has to be his doing!" The other two recognized the robe from the Moonlight Forest on Herag.

Lune glanced at Herag: "It shouldn't be him. A mere First-Class Wizard Apprentice couldn't possibly know such high-level Spatial Magic; there's something strange about this place."

He changed his tone: "But since that's the case, keeping him is useless. Just kill him casually."

Seeing the situation go south, Herag turned and ran, trailing spells were thrown by the two behind him, but they were all blocked by the three thick shields.

"Why does this guy have so many shields!" The two were dumbfounded watching Herag running far, not daring to pursue.

After tentatively running a distance, Herag stopped, observing from the sideline woods.

He didn't dare to run forward, as whatever was chasing those three must be even more terrifying.

Lune, seeing the two were dawdling, got a bit angry and urged again: "Kill him first!"

His two followers, gritting their teeth, had no choice but to chase, spells ready in their hands.

At that moment, both involuntarily shivered.

Herag also felt a chilling presence creeping from behind, a deep fear arose within him.

He turned to see a person lying on the ground, in an extremely strange pose, limbs twisted grotesquely.

This person seemed to be crouching on the ground, but his head was twisted 180 degrees around, as if his neck had been twisted in a circle.

"Shivara..." The term emerged in Herag's mind, it was mentioned by Lune and the others just recently.

"Shenlan, search information on Shivara."

"Shivara, a demon from the Abyss Plane, extremely dangerous." Shenlan extracted a simple entry on Shivara from the database, offering just this one sentence without additional details.

Herag recalled reading about this demon in a book, leaving only an impression as it supposedly existed only in rumors with few having witnessed it in person.

"How could something like this be in the Moonlight Forest?" Herag pondered endlessly.

He wanted to turn and run but found his muscles very stiff, magic flow turning obscure, unable to move, could only helplessly watch Shivara crawl slowly towards him.

Shivara's long black hair dragged on the ground, resembling countless tentacles crawling.

"Shenlan, make me move!" Herag shouted inwardly.

"Stimulating relevant muscle tissues..."

Herag felt a tingling sensation in his muscles and some joints, similar to being shocked.

Moments later, his ability to move freely returned.

Without hesitation, Herag turned and ran, dashing into the forest aside.

Shivara still crawled leisurely on the ground, seemingly indifferent to Herag's escape.

Lune and his two accomplices were still frozen in place, watching helplessly as Herag ran farther away while Shivara drew closer, their eyes filled with despair.

As Shivara crawled up to the trio, he halted, his hair continued forward, sliding into the trio's pants.

The trio's expressions turned terrified, mouths agape to scream yet nothing came out.

Black hair emerged from their noses, ears, mouths, eyes, stained with fresh blood and red flesh.

Through Lune and the others' skin, threads of hair could be seen rapidly passing, their skin slowly caving in as if hollowed out.

The dense sound of chewing echoed from within the trio, reverberating in the silent Moonlight Forest, making Herag's scalp tingle just hearing it.

He hadn't run far, more precisely he couldn't escape far.

Looking around, all was an unreachable edge, no means of escape.

Through Shenlan's detection, Herag beheld the scene over there, Lune and the trio were reduced to skins before his eyes, leaving not even a trace of bone shards.

After Shivara finished, the hair gradually retracted, leaving only three thin human skins behind.

Shivara then turned and slowly crawled towards Herag.

An indescribable malevolence enveloped Herag like a tidal wave.

Herag found himself immobile again, no matter how Shenlan stimulated the muscle tissues, he couldn't regain control over his body, could only watch Shivara getting closer.

"Shenlan, control the magic power, activate the pocket watch, use Holy Healing Technique!" Now Herag couldn't control his own magic flow.

"Executing..."

Shenlan directed magic power into the pocket watch, manifesting a woman's phantom, white light enveloped Herag.

Herag felt a warmth surging through his body, dispelling much of the malice clouding his mind, yet he still couldn't control his body.

Shivara paused for a moment, his dense hair halted on the ground, but only for a fleeting instant.

Shivara resumed crawling forward, the Holy Healing Technique apart from alleviating Herag's chill, had no effect on Shivara.

Gritting his teeth, Herag's mind raced, contemplating how to survive this ordeal.

Croak! Croak! Croak!

An abrupt toad's croaking sounded, Shivara halted suddenly.

Not far from Herag, a basketball-sized toad emerged from somewhere, croaking towards Herag.

Herag felt the constraint on his body lessen slightly, arduously turned his head, spotting this peculiar toad.

He sensed his fingers heating up, glanced down and saw the space ring Lillian gave him warming up.

"What's inside?" Herag used magic power to probe, discovering a nearly forgotten item inside the space ring glowing.

"This is..."

Herag recalled that during their ship's stopover at Colombo island, he and Lillian had spotted this hexagonal wooden disc while strolling outside.

The disc had a hexagonal tower etched at its center, now emanating a faint yellow glow, seemingly floating out.

Since buying this disc, Herag had studied it for a time, discovering no anomalies, subsequently storing it in the space ring and forgetting it as time passed.

Now, with the disc exhibiting peculiar activity, Herag promptly retrieved it.

Once out, the disc's yellow glow intensified, the toad croaked more fervently.

Shivara slowly turned his head, white eyeballs swiveling to gaze at the wooden disc.