

First Order 1071

Chapter 1071 - The Multitalented Yang Xiaojin

Zhang Jinglin and the others had already determined through the "3" marking on the ground that Ren Xiaosu was not in any serious trouble. If someone could really abduct Ren Xiaosu so easily, it would mean he was willing to be abducted.

Currently, there was actually no need to worry about Ren Xiaosu. If it were out of humanitarian reasons, they should be worried about the sorcerers from the nation of sorcerers instead.

After all, Ren Xiaosu's nickname of the Stronghold Destroyer was not just for show. To be precise, it was a summary of all he had done before.

The Great Hoodwinker had already started informing their intelligence personnel in the nation of sorcerers that if they discovered any out-of-the-blue situations such as a Sorcerer's Tower collapsing or a castle collapsing, they should quickly go over and join up with the future commander to see if he needed any intel support.

When Zhang Jinglin returned to Fortress 178, he kept a very low profile. However, most of the high-ranking commanders were aware of his itinerary. Everyone was a little puzzled. Didn't the commander say he would be away for two months to accompany the future commander on a tour to the outposts? Why was he back so soon?

Moreover, where was the future commander? Why wasn't he back as well?

Wasn't he with the commander?! Where'd such an important figure disappear to?

However, no one explained anything to them. Zhang Jinglin, Wang Fengyuan, the Great Hoodwinker, and the others who knew the inside story all remained tight-lipped.

When the high-ranking commanders saw their expressions, they knew this was probably yet another top-secret matter. It was better not to ask about things they should not know about.

The Great Hoodwinker returned straight to Stronghold 144. But before he could return to his residence, he saw Yang Xiaojin blocking the entrance of his house.

Yang Xiaojin asked calmly, "Don't you live in Stronghold 144? Why'd you suddenly head over to Fortress 178?"

The Great Hoodwinker laughed and said, "I'm in charge of field intelligence operations, aren't I? So of course I'd have to go report on my job progress."

"Didn't Mr. Zhang go with Ren Xiaosu to tour the outposts? Who are you reporting to at Fortress 178?" Yang Xiaojin asked.

"Wang Fengyuan, of course. He's a rank higher than me, so I'm his subordinate," The Great Hoodwinker replied. "Ms. Xiaojin, don't think too much about it. Future Commander is only touring the outposts on foot. He'll be fine."

It was not that the Great Hoodwinker wanted to hide it from Yang Xiaojin, but he was worried she would go to the nation of sorcerers on an impulse. It would not be good if she did not manage to find Ren Xiaosu and ended up encountering a sorcerer instead.

After all, even though Yang Xiaojin was a supernatural being, she was still a sniper who needed teammates to cover her. If she were to rashly head into the nation of sorcerers, it would truly be very dangerous.

Just as the Great Hoodwinker was about to continue speaking, Yang Xiaojin suddenly took a step forward and pinched the Great Hoodwinker's wrist with two fingers. Then she stared intently into his eyes. "Did he encounter a spy? Did he encounter danger? Was it some strange creature? Sorcerers? An ambush by a supernatural being from the Wang Consortium?"

"Hmm, looks like he encountered a sorcerer."

Yang Xiaojin did not wait for the Great Hoodwinker to answer her barrage of questions. Instead, she took the Great Hoodwinker's pulse to confirm her speculations!

These questions dumbfounded the Great Hoodwinker. He did not expect Ms. Xiaojin to actually have such a unique skill!

How multitalented was she?

The Great Hoodwinker smiled bitterly. "Ms. Xiaojin, you're really impressive."

Yang Xiaojin smiled. "I was just bluffing you. What can you possibly determine from a pulse?"

With that, Yang Xiaojin turned around and left.

The Great Hoodwinker was stunned. He thought to himself that with the number of people he had bluffed over the years, it was really rare he would get fooled instead. It was no wonder she could keep the future commander in check so well.

Looking at Yang Xiaojin's receding figure, the Great Hoodwinker called over some intelligence personnel anxiously. "Keep a close watch on Ms. Xiaojin's movements. If anything happens to her, the future commander will probably turn the whole world upside down!"

Yang Xiaojin did not return home. Instead, she headed straight to the black market outside the stronghold. On her way there, she even called up Zhou Yingxue.

When she arrived at the black market, Zhou Yingxue was waiting at the entrance for her obediently.

"Um... madam, would you like to go inside and shop around?" Zhou Yingxue asked meekly.

"I'm not interested. Follow me," Yang Xiaojin said.

"Follow you?" Zhou Yingxue asked curiously, "Where to?"

"Something might have happened to your master. I want you to go with me to a place beyond Fortress 178." Yang Xiaojin turned around and left.

Zhou Yingxue hurriedly caught up to her. "Master? What happened to Master?"

"It's related to the sorcerers." Yang Xiaojin said, "First of all, Ren Xiaosu is most definitely fine at this moment. Otherwise, the Great Hoodwinker wouldn't have returned to Stronghold 144 as though nothing had happened."

"Since Master's fine, what are we going there for?" Zhou Yingxue asked.

"Just because he's fine now doesn't mean he'll be fine later." Yang Xiaojin said calmly, "Why? You're not willing to go?"

Zhou Yingxue said meekly, "Of course I am..."

After Yang Xiaojin left the black market with the maidservant, the intelligence agents in the black market immediately relayed the news to the Great Hoodwinker.

The Great Hoodwinker smiled bitterly. It looked like he had not managed to deceive Yang Xiaojin after all.

However, Ms. Xiaojin did not seem to be a reckless person. She actually went to find an assistant first.

With Zhou Yingxue protecting her, she should not have any problems.

Other people might think Zhou Yingxue had only made the superhuman rankings because of the Eight Vajras. But as the future commander's trusted aide, the Great Hoodwinker knew Zhou Yingxue was a legendary superhuman on her own who was capable of destroying cities and ransacking strongholds.

And legendary was probably a general term for any superhuman capable of taking on 10,000 enemies by themselves.

The Great Hoodwinker thought that if even Ms. Xiaojin and Zhou Yingxue were about to enter the nation of sorcerers, could it be that the future commander's Prosperous Northwest 3.0 plan was to destroy the magus order?!

What was Fortress 178's reason for existence? Logically speaking, it was to prevent the magus order from plundering the Central Plains' population.

What was their purpose for carrying out the Prosperous Northwest plan? Logically speaking, it was also to prepare for wars in the future, and the enemy they were going to face was the Magi.

In that case, wouldn't destroying the Magi also be considered as fulfilling the Prosperous Northwest plan?

Mhm, this was in line with the future commander's logic!

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At this moment, Sorcerer Melgor was leading Ren Xiaosu, Liu Ting, and Li Chengguo westwards.

However, Ren Xiaosu realized Sorcerer Melgor was very cautious on the journey. Even though he had already left the outposts' surveillance perimeter, he still chose to travel under the cover of darkness. Furthermore, he would often change his route as he advanced.

The farther northwest they went, the heavier the sandstorm became. Sometimes, it would only take a few minutes for a violent sandstorm to erase everyone's tracks.

"Hey, you, sorcerer up front, don't make haste with such a heavy sandstorm blowing." Ren Xiaosu used his shackled hands to pull up the bandana covering his mouth and nose to prevent sand from getting into his orifices. "Make those two sheeple set up the tents so we can rest for the night!"

Sorcerer Melgor had no expression on his face.. At some point, he wondered when he could fully reform the young man from the Central Plains.

Chapter 1072 - Eye Of True Sight

"Hey, sheeple, set up the tents already.

"Hey, sheeple, bring me some water.

"Hey, sheeple..."

The two servants, Li Chengguo and Liu Ting, felt like their nightmare had started once the young man from the Central Plains was appointed as the sorcerer's steward.

Moreover, he wasn't even truly considered the sorcerer's steward yet!

The young man could already order them around even though he was still handcuffed. What would happen if he were freed?!

A heavy sandstorm was blowing. Melgor and Ren Xiaosu took shelter behind a large boulder while Li Chengguo and Liu Ting were put in charge of putting up the tents despite the conditions.

Originally, they had brought along three tents, one each for Melgor, Liu Ting, and Li Chengguo. But now it seemed like the two servants would have to squeeze together in one tent.

Melgor maintained a spell with the white stone in his hand, which made the sandstorm go around him. Finding this rather novel, Ren Xiaosu asked, "What spell is this?"

"It's the Wind Bind spell." Melgor calmly explained, "It's supposed to be used against enemies to slow them down, but I've cast it on myself. I'm making use of the air revolving around me to shield me from the sandstorm."

Ren Xiaosu felt that the sorcerers must have a lot of spells they could use. He had considered trying to obtain a Perfect Skill Duplication Scroll to copy Melgor's sorcery if the palace assigned him another quest.

That was probably the fastest way for him to learn about sorcery.

But it seemed the sorcerer knew quite a few different spells. If Ren Xiaosu used the Skill Duplication Scroll on him, he might end up learning only one type of spell.

Ren Xiaosu stood up to get closer to Melgor. "Erm... cast your Wind Bind spell on me as well. You're terrible. How can you be so selfish when you have such a good idea?"

Melgor was dumbfounded. He realized the young man from the Central Plains did not see himself as a stranger at all.

Honestly, he did not want Ren Xiaosu to get so close to him. After all, Ren Xiaosu had such immense strength. What if he were to attack him?

But before he could reject him, Ren Xiaosu had already sat down next to him. "Hurry up!"

Melgor had no choice but to recast Wind Bind with mixed feelings.

He kept his guard up for over half an hour, but Ren Xiaosu did not seem like he had any intention of attacking him. Only then did Melgor rest easy.

Melgor believed that if Ren Xiaosu were no longer constantly thinking of attacking him, it signaled a good start to their relationship!

While waiting for the two servants to set up the tents, Ren Xiaosu got a little puzzled. "Y'know, y'all really have nothing better to do. There's the vast Gobi separating the Central Plains and your nation of sorcerers, yet y'all still spared no effort in coming here to attack us. What's up with that? Wouldn't it be better for everyone to live peacefully?"

Melgor said, "We're only traveling through the Gobi to prevent Fortress 178's troops from pursuing us. Actually, there's a much easier route to take that's not so tough."

"But you're a highly revered sorcerer. Why'd you come all the way here by yourself?" Ren Xiaosu still could not quite understand. "Didn't you say that a sorcerer's steward has the same status as a prince? There should be at least tens of millions of people in your kingdom, so shouldn't the recon be carried out by foot soldiers instead?"

Melgor's expression darkened. He said nothing further.

Ren Xiaosu glanced over him. Melgor looked quite young and was probably around 27 years old. He had sunken cheeks, brown hair, deep-set eyes, and a high nose bridge, making him look very different from the Central Plains people.

Ren Xiaosu had been thinking about this question for the past two days. Since being a sorcerer was supposed to be so prestigious, why did he only bring along two servants to do reconnaissance? That didn't make any sense!

Just look at how many subordinates Luo Lan brought along whenever he went on a trip. Even when Luo Lan went to the Central Plains, he had everything provided for him. This was the embodiment of authority.

Meanwhile, Melgor was leading such a tough life here, so it clearly showed he actually did not have any authority.

When Ren Xiaosu saw Melgor not speaking up for a long time, he chuckled, "Are you not liked within the nation of sorcerers? Were you ostracized and forced to come here? Don't worry, you can tell me. I won't look down on you."

Melgor's face completely darkened. At this moment, the tents were finished being set up, so he went into his tent to sleep.

Ren Xiaosu got bored and shouted at Liu Ting, "Hey, sheep, was Melgor sent here because he was ostracized?"

Liu Ting and Li Chengguo's expressions also darkened. As the sorcerer's servants, how could they gossip about their master behind his back? They simply ignored Ren Xiaosu and went into their tent together to sleep.

"I guess that's really the case," Ren Xiaosu muttered. He wondered what Melgor had done to get ostracized. If Melgor had been shut out of the Magi's inner circle, would it mean Ren Xiaosu would not be able to infiltrate the core of the magus order and learn about their secrets?

Ugh, it was not easy for him to find an opportunity to infiltrate into their organization. In the end, Mel was a little disappointing.

Ren Xiaosu went into his tent with his mind running wild. Then he used the nanomachines to unlock the shackles before putting them aside.

He only pretended to put on the shackles during the day, but it would be too uncomfortable to continue wearing them while sleeping. Anyway, no one outside of the tent could see him.

Ren Xiaosu laid down and rested on his arm acting as a pillow. He wondered what Yang Xiaojin was doing.

The strong winds stopped blowing in the middle of the night. Ren Xiaosu suddenly heard a sound come from another tent not far away, so he got up and put on his shackles again before walking out. Then he saw Melgor looking at the night sky with a solemn expression.

It was like Ren Xiaosu's questions had struck a sore point in him. As such, even though it was late at night, Melgor was still unable to fall asleep as he kept tossing and turning in bed.

When Melgor heard the crunch of footsteps, he turned around and looked at Ren Xiaosu. "Why are you still awake? Are you looking for an opportunity to run off while we're asleep? I suggest you dismiss that thought. No matter how strong you might be, you can't break free from my shackles. If you head into the wilderness with your arms bound, you'll have absolutely no chance of surviving. Death is all that awaits you."

"Run? Why? I'm already prepared to go enjoy life in the nation of sorcerers. I'm not planning to escape." Ren Xiaosu chuckled. "Rather, I'm a little worried for you. I'm afraid that your situation won't be as favorable as you claim after you return to the nation of sorcerers."

Melgor felt stifled. He thought the young man from the Central Plains was really good at rubbing it in. He said coldly, "No matter how unfavorable it might be, it's better than your captivity."

"What's so bad about being a captive? Don't I have two sheeple serving me?" Ren Xiaosu said nonchalantly.

Melgor shot him a look but did not say anything. When he thought about his situation, he suddenly asked Ren Xiaosu, "By the way, did you hear anything about a violet eye when you were in the Central Plains?"

Ren Xiaosu grew anxious. "What violet eye? Everyone in the Central Plains has black eyes."

"I'm not talking about human eyes.." Melgor said, "I'm asking you whether you know anything about a violet eye on a black stone."

Chapter 1073 - Secret Of The Stone

"A violet eye?" Ren Xiaosu said in shock, "And it's even an eye on a stone? What joke are you cracking? How can there be eyes on a stone?!"

While they were talking, Ren Xiaosu's mind started racing. Not only had he seen the stone Melgor was talking about, but it also happened to be in his possession!

When the third weapon was unveiled that day, Ren Xiaosu even complained about it because he did not know how to use it.

In the end, the stone he had criticized actually became very important when described by Melgor.

Melgor was probably asking about this stone in frustration because he thought it could help turn his situation around if he could obtain it.

Thus, Ren Xiaosu thought the third weapon should be very important.

But how would Melgor know what the third weapon looked like? The other party had clearly not seen Ren Xiaosu's stone before.

Ren Xiaosu pondered it. Perhaps something similar to this stone had appeared in the nation of sorcerers before, and the emergence of his third weapon had caused a specific event that got noticed by Melgor.

However, Ren Xiaosu would definitely not admit the stone was in his possession, so he could only continue playing dumb. At some point, he even wondered if he could star in a movie helmed by Mu Wan'ge's studio after this trip to the nation of sorcerers.

His acting chops were definitely top-notch!

Melgor said disdainfully to Ren Xiaosu, "What's so strange about a stone having an eye? You're way too ignorant."

After that, he took out a white stone from his sleeve. In an instant, the brilliant purple eye sigil on it started glowing.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu asked, "What exactly is that stone in your hand?"

"You don't have to know that much yet." Melgor put the stone back into his sleeve and said, "All I'm asking is if you've ever seen a similar marking to this eye?"

"No." Ren Xiaosu shook his head and said, "Why don't you let me go so that I can return to the Central Plains to help you search for it?"

Melgor said coldly, "Do I look stupid to you?"

Ren Xiaosu thought to himself, 'As I managed to convince you to help with my infiltration plan this easily, I would write you off as stupid.'

"You sorcerers require this stone to cast spells, right?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

Melgor did not answer his question. Instead, he looked at the sky again in a trance.

Ren Xiaosu started contemplating. He was a 100% sure of his deduction. In that case, the third weapon might be the key to his understanding of sorcery and the magi.

But what the hell were the Proficiency Stones in the vending machine? He even crushed one previously.

But since a single gray Proficiency Stone could be exchanged for one gratitude token, he wondered what the difference was between that and Melgor's stone.

Ren Xiaosu turned to look at Melgor's melancholic expression and suddenly said, "Mel..."

Melgor immediately turned around. "What did you call me?"

"Ahem, Lord Melgor." Ren Xiaosu said, "Why don't you get me out of these shackles first? I'll study sorcery diligently from you, and who knows, I could help turn your situation around with my outstanding talent?"

Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, "Sure you can study sorcery under me. Even my two servants will be studying sorcery in my Sorcerer's Tower, so a steward like you is definitely qualified."

Ren Xiaosu's eyes lit up. "Really?"

Was this what they called searching high and low for something only to find it when it was least expected?!

He wondered how the Great Hoodwinker conducted his intelligence operations previously. How dare he claim they had no way of figuring out the sorcerers' powers or the hierarchy of the Magi's inner circle! He even said Fortress 178 did not know how the sorcerers were trained. But as soon as Ren Xiaosu showed up, he solved all of those problems!

Of course, the Great Hoodwinker could not be blamed for this. It could only be said that the future commander of the Northwest was amazing!

But Melgor added with a sneer, "Don't be too happy yet. Learning sorcery doesn't mean you can become a sorcerer. It could be nothing but a futile attempt. There's too many people in the Kingdom of Sorcerers who hope to become sorcerers after their apprenticeship. But the reality is that they can't surpass the threshold and become a sorcerer in their lifetimes. What causes true despair is that it has absolutely nothing to do with talent."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. What did he mean by that? Were there certain requirements to become a sorcerer?

After that, Melgor turned around and went back into his tent. He did not even say anything about removing the shackles for Ren Xiaosu.

"Hey, finish explaining before you sleep!" Ren Xiaosu said.

How could he go back to sleep now that he had been left hanging? Therefore, Ren Xiaosu tried to bait Melgor into telling him everything he knew.

But no matter what he said, Melgor decided to ignore him.

Out of desperation, the sleepless Ren Xiaosu could only wake the two servants up.

Liu Ting and Li Chengguo's eyes were completely bloodshot after they were woken up by Ren Xiaosu. They looked at each other and wondered if they should take this opportunity to teach Ren Xiaosu a lesson while Lord Melgor was asleep. That would teach this Central Plains young man from climbing over their heads and pushing them around.

The two servants were thinking that even if this young man had immense strength, his hands were still handcuffed. There were two of them, so surely they could beat him easily, right?

At 4:11 AM, the two servants' anger reached a boiling point. They banded together to act on their grievances.

At 4:12 AM, the two servants were mercilessly beaten back down by Ren Xiaosu and made to answer for their criminal intent.

The two servants, now sporting a black eye each, sobbed, "Both of us are servants of a sorcerer. Why do you keep treating us like that?"

"I'm his steward while you two are just servants. Is there anything wrong with me ordering you two around?" When Ren Xiaosu saw that they were on the verge of tears, he could not help feeling sorry for them. Thus, he patiently consoled them, "As long as you two behave obediently, why would I hit you?"

As a matter of fact, the average physical fitness of those from the nation of sorcerers was only at the level of normal people. They were much weaker than the expeditionary army's barbarians. Therefore, even if Ren Xiaosu had his hands bound right now, it shouldn't be a problem for him to take on a 100 of them at once.

"But you're not his steward yet. You're only a captive," Li Chengguo said aggrievedly.

"It only takes a word from me to change that, right?" Ren Xiaosu snapped, "Don't keep talking about this. I want to ask you two something. Melgor said earlier that even if I studied sorcery, I still can't become a sorcerer. Why's that?"

The two servants looked at each other before asking Ren Xiaosu, "You don't know?"

Ren Xiaosu frowned. "I'm from the Central Plains, so how would I know anything about this? From what you just described, this is something known by everyone in the nation of sorcerers?"

"Of course." Li Chengguo said, "There's a lot of people who want to be sorcerers in the kingdom, but very few manage to become one."

"So why can't I become a sorcerer?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Because you don't have the stone Lord Melgor has."

Chapter 1074 - Secret Of The Magus Order

The servant's words unlocked the last of Ren Xiaosu's doubts like a key.

So it turned out the stone in Melgor's possession was the critical component to becoming a sorcerer.

With that stone, one would be qualified to become a sorcerer. Without it, you could study sorcery forever and still never become a true magus.

However, it so happened that Ren Xiaosu really did have such a stone.

He looked at Li Chengguo and asked, "What's that stone called?"

"It seems that you really don't know anything about the Kingdom of Sorcerers." Li Chengguo shook his head. "It has the same name as the magus order. It's called the Eye of True Sight. All the stones possessed by the magi are called Eyes of True Sight."

The Eye of True Sight's name implied a sorcerer could use it to seek the truth of the world and see powers normal people couldn't.

The Eye of True Sight could be considered an open secret in the magus world. Perhaps normal people did not know about them, but most people who understood even a little about the magi were aware of its existence.

"Where did these stones come from?" Ren Xiaosu wondered.

"Actually, it wouldn't matter even if we told you this." Li Chengguo said, "The Eye of True Sight is basically controlled by the magus order. They control the mines where the stones are found, and normal people aren't allowed to trespass into them."

"So, whether one can become a sorcerer or not, that's all decided by the magus order?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Yes." Li Chengguo felt that since it was not a secret, he could just share this information with Ren Xiaosu.

Besides, it was just as Ren Xiaosu had said. Seeing that the young man from the Central Plains was bound to become the sorcerer's steward, the two servants had better quickly accept their fates.

Of course, there was nothing they could do even if they did not accept their fate. They really couldn't win against this guy!

Seeing how it was child's play for the young man could beat them up even though he was shackled, they believed he would utterly thrash them once he was freed from the restraints.

Liu Ting, sporting a black eye, said, "But there's also exceptions."

Ren Xiaosu asked, "What exceptions?"

"Like I said just now, the Eye of True Sight is found in the mines. But over time, there will always be rocks that fall into the river and get washed downstream." Liu Ting said, "So some lucky people who pick them up can also get inducted into the magus order. However, even though the magus order also acknowledges the status of such sorcerers and confers them a fiefdom where they're allowed to build a Sorcerer's Tower to collect taxation, the organization doesn't actually like them."

Ren Xiaosu wondered why this sounded so similar to a type of jade stone found in the Northwest. There were even some collectors who particularly liked such jade found in the river. The ones dug out from the mines were called mountain material, while those found in the river were called seed material.¹

Under normal circumstances, the ones found in the river were much more expensive than those mined from the mountains.

However, it was a different situation in the nation of sorcerers. Those who gained the title of sorcerer through means not controlled by the magus order were seen as bums of society. Although they were formally part of the organization, they were ostracized and kept out of the inner circle.

"The magus order is a very small circle." Li Chengguo said, "They insist they're gods sent from Heaven, and the Eye of True Sight is usually passed down through the family line, from father to son, then son to grandson. These are the people that control the entire Kingdom of Sorcerers. Those who became sorcerers through finding the Eye of True Sight are known as the Children of Heaven. That name was probably given to explain how they came to gain the power of the magi by saying the gods bestowed it upon them. However, the status of the Children of Heaven is much lower than that of most sorcerers. Furthermore, their Eye of True Sight cannot be passed on to their descendants after death. It has to be turned back in to the magus order."

"Oh." Ren Xiaosu nodded. "In other words, those who are Children of Heaven can only bask in their glory for one generation. And after their deaths, that status is taken away."

"That's right." Li Chengguo nodded. "Furthermore, in most circumstances, the Children of Heaven will be the ones performing the organization's dirty work. The good thing is that the magus order will still provide them with some training so they can live up to their status as sorcerer and not disgrace the order."

Children of Heaven. This term might make them sound extremely powerful, but if the sorcerers of the magus order referred to themselves as gods, wouldn't that make those sorcerers their children? It sounded more like they were being taken advantage of!

It was no wonder Melgor was so weak. Although the magus order still provided him with serious training so he would not embarrass them, the exclusive spells remained a secret that could only be passed down through the heirs.

Ren Xiaosu thought for a moment and suddenly asked, "Is that why Melgor was ostracized? Did he find his Eye of True Sight in the river?"

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting looked at each other. "Well, I guess there's no harm in telling you that. The people in his fief already know about this anyway. Yes, you're right, he's a Child of Heaven."

"No wonder he was sent to such a godforsaken place." Ren Xiaosu muttered, "So that's why he looks so depressed every day."

"Please don't think of it that way." Li Chengguo said, "Even though he's a Child of Heaven, he still holds a very high status in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Whoever disrespects him is pitting himself against the entire magus order. Even if he's low-ranking, that's only within their organization. However, he did not find his Eye of True Sight..."

Upon saying that, Liu Ting tugged at Li Chengguo's arm and signaled him to stop talking.

Ren Xiaosu chuckled and said, "Oh, there's more to it, huh? Look, do you two want to tell me now, or should I beat it out of you instead?"

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting, the two servants of Sorcerer Melgor, felt aggrieved for quite a while. Then Li Chengguo finally said, "Lord Melgor's Eye of True Sight was purchased. However, not just anyone can buy one. It depends on luck."

Ren Xiaosu thought about it again. "Since he is a Child of Heaven, why do you two still follow him? Why not follow a more powerful sorcerer?"

"We'd like to as well, but they have to accept us first." Li Chengguo said bitterly, "The magi are all high and mighty gods, and we common folk can only interact with the Children of Heaven. Our family spent a lot of money in order to let us study under him."

"Study?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "But you two don't have the Eye of True Sight, so why're you learning sorcery from him?"

"We might find an Eye of True Sight someday?" Liu Ting said.

Ren Xiaosu smiled. He knew that things were not that simple. The two sheep had to still be hiding something from him. However, there was no hurry. They still had a long way to go, so he could take it slowly with them.

Wasn't their pleasant exchange tonight a good start?

"One last question." Ren Xiaosu chuckled and asked, "Melgor asked me if I've come across a black Eye of True Sight in the Central Plains. What's with that? Is it any different from the one he has?"

"The black Eye of True Sight?" Li Chengguo said, "That sorta thing is usually only heard of in legends. Some people say there's no more than three black Eye of True Sight in the entire magus order. Meanwhile, the white one Lord Melgor possesses is the lowest grade."

Chapter 1075 - Liberated Serfs, Sing

After Sorcerer Melgor woke up, it felt like his entire world had become a little different.

His two servants stayed by Ren Xiaosu's side and tried their best to please him. It was a complete 180 from their cold attitude yesterday.

Previously, Li Chengguo and Liu Ting refused to accept Ren Xiaosu. After all, they had been working for Melgor for two years and were only recently acknowledged as his servant apprentices. They had only just been allowed entry into the Sorcerer's Tower to learn sorcery from Melgor.

For the past two years, not only did they have to eat grass, but they also had their wool sheared by herdsmen. Sometimes, they were even targeted by female sheep for mating.

The bitterness of their experience was not something outsiders could truly understand.

And as soon as Ren Xiaosu joined them, he was appointed the sorcerer's steward. Disregarding the difference in seniority, he even had the nerve to order Sorcerer Melgor around, and this left them feeling very resentful.

But last night, Ren Xiaosu had a friendly exchange with the two servants of Melgor and convinced them of the importance of teamwork.

They were also made to understand that teamwork was extremely important for their own safety.

After Melgor walked out of his tent, the two servants quickly came over to greet him. Again, Melgor felt that other than the black eyes on their faces, the world did not actually seem to have changed much.

Ren Xiaosu walked up to Melgor and said in seriousness, "Remove my shackles. I want to learn sorcery from you."

"Do you really want to learn sorcery?" Melgor wondered.

Ren Xiaosu chased the servants off to pack up the tents before saying to Melgor, "I feel that with my talent, I can definitely achieve great things after learning sorcery. Your current situation must not be too good, right? But it's alright. After I become a sorcerer, I can help you improve your situation."

In Ren Xiaosu's opinion, it was very necessary to help Melgor improve his situation. After all, it was impossible to rely on his own Central Plains status to infiltrate the inner circle of the magus order. Even if he could become a sorcerer, the magus order would not trust him, a young man from the Central Plains.

Therefore, he had to push Melgor to the fore, and helping him to be the next rising star in the magus order should be the best approach.

Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu and did not know whether to laugh or cry. "You probably spoke with the sheeple... ahem, I mean Li Chengguo and Liu Ting, so you know they're following me because they want to be sorcerers, right? But actually, you're different from them. You don't have the conditions to become one."

"Conditions? What conditions?" Ren Xiaosu was taken aback.

"Although the two of them might look meek, their families are actually some of the most influential clans in my fief. As such, they stand a chance of buying an Eye of True Sight." Melgor guessed that Ren Xiaosu must have asked Li Chengguo and Liu Ting many questions last night, so he should also know about the secret of the Eye of True Sight. Therefore, he decided to be honest about it.

Melgor continued, "Their families are willing to use all their resources to ensure that a sorcerer emerges from their clan so their standing in the secular world can rise further. But you're different. You don't have the financial means, so you can't buy an Eye of True Sight, and even the two of them might not be lucky enough to get one.

"It's extremely difficult to become a sorcerer. I was only able to become one because I got really lucky. After getting the Eye of True Sight, there's still a need to assess if your mental strength is strong enough and whether you have the potential to advance as a sorcerer. I suppose you might not be aware of all that yet?"

"Oh." Ren Xiaosu nodded. So it turned out Melgor believed he couldn't get an Eye of True Sight.

However, this was actually the simplest of Ren Xiaosu's problems, for he had already obtained an Eye of True Sight.

"So my advice to you is still to give up on this unrealistic idea." Melgor tried to persuade him nicely. "I know it's a good thing to have dreams, but you haven't seen it before. There's people back in the Kingdom of Sorcerers who wasted their entire lives pursuing that dream only to end up with nothing."

When this topic was brought up, Melgor's mood visibly dropped. Ren Xiaosu could sense that there was a story behind this.

Ren Xiaosu said, "You don't have to worry about whether I can succeed or not. As long as you're willing to teach me, I'm willing to be your steward and protect you. Don't worry, you'll be fine with me around."

Melgor could not help but laugh. "You're just a big oaf. Who gave you the balls to talk big like this in front of a sorcerer? But since I've given you my word, I'll teach you sorcery."

In Melgor's opinion, there was no loss for him to teach Ren Xiaosu sorcery. What did it matter to him whether Ren Xiaosu could become a sorcerer? Besides, if teaching Ren Xiaosu sorcery could win him over to his side, why not?

Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu and smiled. He felt that he had struck a good deal here.

Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu was thinking about how to continue using this dumb sorcerer to complete his infiltration plan when he saw Melgor smiling at him.

Ren Xiaosu had set a target of half a year for his Prosperous Northwest 3.0 plan to be completed. In other words, he was planning to fully understand the situation in the nation of sorcerers within six months.

After half a year, it would be great if the plan turned out to be successful. But if it failed, he wouldn't wait around. He would just kill a few of the more important magi before returning to the Northwest.

After all, if he stayed there for too long, his family would get worried for him.

After hesitating for a moment, Melgor finally undid Ren Xiaosu's shackles. Awhile later, he finally breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that Ren Xiaosu had no intention of attacking him.

Then Melgor asked Ren Xiaosu, "Since you're my steward, I should at least know your name, right?"

"Ren Xiaosu," Ren Xiaosu said with a smile. He was not afraid the man might have heard his name before. After all, he already concluded that the people from the nation of sorcerers had not fully infiltrated the Northwest yet.

Not far away, Li Chengguo and Liu Ting were packing the tents and whispering, "Is that kid really serious about learning sorcery?"

"Let him learn if he wishes to learn." Liu Ting said nonchalantly, "Most people in the world would also want a power that transcends nature after finding out about it. That's only human nature."

"But he can't get his hands on an Eye of True Sight," Li Chengguo said.

"Why do you care whether he can get one or not?" Liu Ting said, "We'll just have to bear with him for now so that we won't have to suffer his beatings. When the two of us become sorcerers, we can turn the tables on him. At that time, he'll still be an oaf while we'll have become honorable magi. He'll only be able to look up to us when he meets us again."

"That's right." Li Chengguo was also getting excited by Liu Ting's explanation. When he thought about how he could turn the tables on this boor in the future, he was elated.

"Hey, sheeple, what are you two blabbering about? You still haven't finished packing the tents after this long?" Ren Xiaosu shouted at the two of them. "Hurry up, Lord Melgor wants to be on his way. Don't delay his journey."

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting hurriedly replied, "Sorry, sorry, we're almost done packing!"

Chapter 1076 - Sorcery 101

Ren Xiaosu was still Ren Xiaosu, and the servants were still the servants. No matter how wonderful Li Chengguo and Liu Ting's future vision was, they still could not win against Ren Xiaosu right now.

Based on what Melgor had said, it would probably take a dozen days for them to arrive at his fief.

Melgor's fief was situated at the edge of the nation of sorcerers.

Along the way, Melgor said to Ren Xiaosu in a serious tone, "If you want to learn sorcery, you have to systematically learn the theory of magic first. If you can't even get through that, you should just give up the idea of becoming a sorcerer."

With that, Melgor had Li Chengguo retrieve a thick book from his backpack and handed it to Ren Xiaosu. "This Introduction to Sorcery is something every sorcerer needs to be familiar with."

Ren Xiaosu looked at the Introduction to Sorcery textbook in his hand and asked, "Can't you teach me sorcery directly?"

The book was extremely heavy. Just to completely finish reading it would probably take a dozen days.

Melgor shook his head. "Sorcery has its own logic. If you only have a superficial understanding of it, how can you become a real sorcerer? Furthermore, you have to learn the language of the Magi after you're done reading this book. Although the Central Plains' language has become the common tongue in our kingdom, it can't be used for chanting incantations."

Actually, Melgor was using the Introduction to Sorcery book to brush off Ren Xiaosu. Melgor had not even finished reading the book himself. Moreover, it was not true that every sorcerer had to be familiar with it. This was purely a book for supplementary knowledge.

Melgor was wholly taking advantage of Ren Xiaosu's ignorance of the subject. As such, he found a book for him to read first.

Only a few people in the entire magus order had finished reading this book. This was probably because everyone felt it was not too useful since the author was just some unknown sorcerer.

Moreover, the book talked about the origins of sorcery and the Magi, how the Eye of True Sight was discovered, and the principles of sorcery and alchemy. However, there was no mention of how to master sorcery.

There were no incantations, nor how they should be recited. There was also no mention of what a sorcerer should meditate about while chanting spells.

To real sorcerers, there was a simpler way to master sorcery. They only needed to master the methods of meditation and incantation to be able to use spells.

As such, the Introduction to Sorcery could sometimes be found in the nation of sorcerers' black markets. Although it was rare, they could still be bought.

However, only a sorcerer could truly master how to cast spells.

Melgor had brought the Introduction to Sorcery to Fortress 178 because he wanted to kill time with it. After all, he would be spending two years there.

However, in the two years that he had been here, he did not even open the book ten times.

Melgor said he wanted to teach Ren Xiaosu, but how could he possibly teach him the real thing right off the bat? He was still observing Ren Xiaosu, so it would take some time for him to verify if Ren Xiaosu had willingly become his steward.

During this period, Ren Xiaosu roughly started to understand Melgor too. Although the man had become a sorcerer, he was just a very low-ranking one.

Moreover, he was not too scheming as a person. Aside from his status as a sorcerer, he was just a normal young man.

In comparison, some of the younger people Ren Xiaosu had encountered in the Central Plains were either monsters like Qing Zhen, or geniuses such as P5092 and Wang Yun. Therefore, it felt quite refreshing to suddenly encounter a young sorcerer with a normal mentality and standard intelligence.

Off to the side, Li Chengguo and Liu Ting were envious and jealous when they first heard Melgor would teach Ren Xiaosu sorcery along the way. But when they realized Melgor had given the Introduction to Sorcery to Ren Xiaosu, they were secretly delighted. They knew full well that Melgor still did not trust Ren Xiaosu, so he used the book to dismiss the young man from the Central Plains.

The two servants followed behind at a distance and spoke in whispers, "Have you ever read the Introduction to Sorcery?"

"I've never read it before. How about you?"

"I haven't read it either. What proper sorcerer would need to read that book?"

"How can a sorcerer who reads the Introduction to Sorcery be a proper sorcerer?"

However, Ren Xiaosu did not hear what they said. He picked up the book and read it as he walked. It was like he had hit the jackpot.

Ren Xiaosu loved reading, so he would always read whenever he had the chance to do so. The Introduction to Sorcery was just one of the many books in a vast sea of books to him.

Back when Zhou Yingxue asked him why he liked reading so much, he answered it was because he could quickly understand the world through them.

Even though the Introduction to Sorcery could not help him to learn sorcery directly, it had become the key to his understanding of the nation of sorcerers.

The origins of sorcerers began with alchemy.

There were no records of the Magi that existed before The Cataclysm in this book. Ren Xiaosu guessed the magus order at that time was not as prominent as they were now. Therefore, the current "gods" did not want mortals in the secular world to know how dim their past was.

After all, gods had to have their own authority.

After Melgor handed the book to Ren Xiaosu, he could not help but observe the young man from the Central Plains more often.

Although Melgor had read this boring book many times, Ren Xiaosu was finding it a very enjoyable read. For a moment, it even made Melgor wonder if he had missed out on any details that were in the book.

Eventually, when Melgor went to get the book back, he realized Ren Xiaosu was reading about the theory and practicality of alchemy.

After Melgor returned the book to Ren Xiaosu, he wondered why Ren Xiaosu was still reading it so enthusiastically even though that was probably the driest portion of the entire book.

In the end, Melgor could not help but ask, "Is the book that interesting?"

"Yes, it is," Ren Xiaosu replied with a smile.

"But you don't have to read it while we're walking, do you?" Melgor asked.

"I just want to become a sorcerer as quickly as possible." Ren Xiaosu said, "It's a race against time in the quest for knowledge. Don't worry, I'll finish reading it as soon as possible."

The two servants chuckled at the back. It would be a wonder if one could become a sorcerer just by reading this book.

Melgor knew they were laughing because they were well aware the Introduction to Sorcery was not an important book.

However, Ren Xiaosu's sincere attitude made Melgor feel a little embarrassed. He thought it would not be too good if his newly appointed steward trusted him so much and he brushed him off with a book.

He thought for a moment and asked, "Why don't I get you a different book to read?"

Ren Xiaosu happened to come across the part where it talked about the principles of sorcery, which captured his full attention.. He offhandedly answered, "No need, I'll finish reading this first."

Chapter 1077 - The Inner World Of Meditation

The principles of sorcery. This chapter in the book explained how the Eye of True Sight worked.

Through Li Chengguo and Liu Ting's explanation, the "Eye of True Sight" was a tool used by sorcerers to view the world for what it was and recognize the natural laws that governed it.

However, Ren Xiaosu had also held the Eye of True Sight before, and it was even the most powerful Eye of True Sight they had mentioned. However, he did not sense a single thing they had pointed out, nor did he feel any difference in how he saw the world after he came into possession of the stone.

But in the book, the opening quote read, "The Eye of True Sight is a tool used by sorcerers to concentrate their willpower."

Compared to the mystical explanation of the two servants, Ren Xiaosu was more inclined to believe the explanation in the book. This way, it was clear the commonality between sorcerers and superhumans from the Central Plains was their willpower.

Now that he thought about it, what Yang Xiaojin had told him back then really was true. It could serve as an explanation for all the events that transcended nature. "When disaster comes, mental strength becomes the highest caliber of weapon humanity has in the face of danger."

When Ren Xiaosu first started reading the book, he had done so with the mindset it would be fun. But when he saw that quote, he turned serious and continued reading it.

"The willpower of humans is imperceptible, and no one has ever been able to accurately measure it before. It's as though it's non-existent.

"However, using the Eye of True Sight as a foundation, the Magi created a system to materialize their willpower.

"These methods are either incantations or meditative visualizations. This author had a discussion with a certain Central Plains rider who believes this could prove to be an obstacle to the advancement of the Magi, and this concern will be explained in detail later on."

When Ren Xiaosu saw this, he was taken aback. He instantly flipped through the book to see its publication date. However, there was nothing other than content related to sorcery in it. There was no indication of when the book was written nor its publication date.

"Mel, which era was the author of this book from?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Can you show a little respect?!" Melgor's anger soared.

"Wasn't I just trying to be endearing?" Ren Xiaosu said, "In order to express our affection, the people in the Central Plains call each other that."

"Bullshit." Melgor said angrily, "There's so many people from the Central Plains in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Don't assume I don't know your traditions."

"Oh, you're a smart one," Ren Xiaosu muttered. "So Lord Melgor, who's the author of this book?"

"I don't know," Melgor snapped. "In any case, he's ancient. This book has already gone through seven editions."

"Then have you heard of the Central Plains Rider mentioned in the book?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Central Plains rider?" Melgor shook his head. He glanced over what Ren Xiaosu was reading and said disdainfully, "You mean like a knight? I've never heard of them before. Why would a sorcerer interact with a knight? The most honorable role for a knight is to assist a sorcerer. They know nothing about sorcery, so what's there to discuss with them? And they're even Central Plains knights?"

Ren Xiaosu lowered his head and pondered it for a moment. The author had described the person as a rider from the Central Plains. Perhaps those in the nation of sorcerers would think of them as knights who rode on horseback into war.

However, Ren Xiaosu knew full well that "rider" as a term in the Central Plains specifically referred to those who were members of the Riders organization.

He had asked Li Yinglong, Qin Sheng, and the others about it. It seemed that after The Cataclysm, no one from the Riders had ever left the Central Plains. Now that the Riders had made a trip to the southwestern mountains, that was considered going away on a distant journey.

Then who was the person that had a discussion with the author? Could it be Ren He, the founder of the Riders and the Qinghe Group?!

In that case, the author had to also be someone from the Pre-Cataclysm times, and he should be a very powerful figure as well. Otherwise, how could he be qualified to interact with a Rider?

For some reason, Ren Xiaosu felt a sense of endearment when he saw the familiar name in a book about sorcery.

Thinking of this, Ren Xiaosu suddenly placed more emphasis on this book, because the founder of the Riders was a true legend.

When Ren Xiaosu saw the hesitant expression on Melgor's face and also the two servants snickering, he guessed Melgor was just using the book to brush him off.

However, he was too excited to care about that now.

Moreover, he thought he might be able to learn more from this book than a fringe sorcerer like Melgor.

At night, Melgor sat at the campfire and meditated. His mouth was slightly open while his eyes were slightly closed. He was in an extremely relaxed state.

Ren Xiaosu put down the book he was reading and asked, "Do y'all sorcerers all need to meditate?"

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting hurriedly pulled him away and whispered, "You must never interrupt a sorcerer while they're meditating."

"It's that serious?" Ren Xiaosu asked, "What's the use of meditating?"

"Only those who meditate daily can become stronger." Li Chengguo explained, "Let me put it to you this way. For those who don't meditate, they might reach their limits after casting one or two spells. But for those who have meditated for ten years, they can cast more than 10 or even 20-plus spells a day."

Ren Xiaosu thought to himself that this must be a way to slowly increase one's willpower.

Melgor suddenly opened his eyes and explained, "Meditation is the way for a sorcerer to get stronger."

"Then how do I meditate?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"You can't learn that yet." Melgor said, "Without the Eye of True Sight, you won't be able to enter a meditative state at all."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. Meditation actually required external help?

He said, "Then teach me the method first. How should I meditate if I have the Eye of True Sight?"

When Melgor saw Ren Xiaosu's determined gaze, he said helplessly, "Hold the Eye of True Sight and then close your eyes. After a hundred respirations, you'll naturally enter your inner world of meditation."

"What's the inner world like?" Ren Xiaosu was curious.

"For some, it might be a pool, while for others, it can be a stream, a windmill, or even farmland. It varies from person to person." Melgor said, "Of course, the different inner worlds have something in common. The more powerful a sorcerer is, the more magnificent their inner world is. There was once a great sorcerer named Oz who said his inner world consisted of only a single leaf. However, the size of the leaf was a mountain floating in the air. It was so big it was difficult to look up at."

Ren Xiaosu suddenly said, "I'm going to sleep."

With that, he went back into his tent.

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting looked at each other. "He must have gone to meditate, right? Didn't Lord Melgor tell him that he must have the Eye of True Sight to do that? Why doesn't that kid believe him? He's way too stubborn. Besides, Lord Melgor hasn't even retired to bed, yet that guy dares to head back to his tent first?"

"Forget it, just let him be." Melgor sighed.

Melgor was still feeling guilty about brushing off Ren Xiaosu with the book.

Chapter 1078 - A Sea

Breathe.

This was something Yang Xiaojin had purposely taught Ren Xiaosu. She said that for an excellent sniper, breathing should be like a hint to oneself. The moment you adjusted your breathing, all of your willpower should serve you alone.

Ren Xiaosu breathed slowly and started trying to get into condition so he could completely relax.

Melgor said that some sorcerers' inner world of meditation was a pool of water, while others were streams. In that case, Ren Xiaosu was very curious about what his inner world would look like.

In Ren Xiaosu's opinion, it would be more appropriate to call this inner world of meditation an inner world of spirituality. Since the Eye of True Sight was a willpower concentrating device, the world it led its owner into should naturally be an inner spiritual world.

The nation of sorcerers was very magical and strange, but in truth, Ren Xiaosu felt their powers should be similar in theory to the willpower of superhumans in the Central Plains.

He sat in his tent and quietly took out his Eye of True Sight. It was a black stone with a purple eye sigil on it.

However, Ren Xiaosu was not in a hurry to enter a meditative state. Instead, he quietly waited to see if Melgor would have any reaction.

Melgor had said he wanted to search for this stone because he had sensed its presence.

Ren Xiaosu did not know how the other party had sensed it or what the explanation for it was. Therefore, he would have to be careful just in case Melgor sensed it again after Ren Xiaosu took the stone out of his mind palace.

After waiting for some time, Ren Xiaosu finally felt at ease when he saw no reaction from Melgor.

It seemed that when the third weapon appeared, it was that huge phenomenon in the sky rather than the Eye of True Sight that Melgor had sensed.

But what was an inner world of meditation like?

Willpower was imperceptible, but ever since he became a superhuman, he had never been worried about his willpower drying up like the others.

Therefore, what would his inner world look like?

Ren Xiaosu closed his eyes and slowly settled down. When his entire world fell into darkness, he noticed the Eye of True Sight in his hand seemed to be breathing in tandem with him.

If an outsider were present, they would discover the Eye of True Sight was also pulsing.

Melgor said one could enter their inner world after a 100 respirations.

But Ren Xiaosu did not deliberately count. He just allowed his mind to continue wandering before refocusing again.

Ren Xiaosu could hear his own footsteps in the darkness. He felt like he was walking down a dark corridor. Every breath he took was a step forward in here.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu saw a door appear in front of him. The complicated wood grain patterns on it were extremely abstract, but when Ren Xiaosu took a closer look, he was surprised to discover they

were actually a collection of all his superpowers: the steam locomotive, the black saber, the black sniper rifle, the shadow clone, the Potato Shooter....

Meanwhile, at the centermost position were two playing cards. The two Jokers wore strange smiles.

Ren Xiaosu took a deep breath and pushed the door open. It creaked, but he did not find it ear-piercing. Rather, it made him rest easy.

"This is..." Ren Xiaosu was stunned. He was already extremely familiar with the place in front of him. That was because the inner world he entered was the palace.

Ren Xiaosu's consciousness had been in here. But at that time, it felt like he was overlooking the entire structure of the palace. He did not "exist" in here, nor did he have a "body." It was only his ethereal consciousness that had been to this place.

But now, Ren Xiaosu was like a visitor to the library who could stroll around freely.

He slowly walked over to the brass typewriter and tried pressing the brass keys. Although he heard the typewriter making mechanical sounds, nothing was typed out.

Everything in the palace had taken on a physical form after his meditation.

So the palace was his inner spiritual world? Ren Xiaosu pondered this seriously.

He had always been curious about the origins of the palace. Other people's superpowers could be traced back to how they came about, but only his power of the palace had suddenly appeared after he fell unconscious one day.

Ren Xiaosu asked a lot of people before, but he had never heard of anyone needing to fall unconscious to awaken their powers.

Therefore, he was always puzzled by the origins of the palace. So this was the manifestation of his willpower?

More importantly, everyone said that the power of materialization was related to one's subconscious. For example, Yang Xiaojin had awakened the power to materialize a sniper rifle because she liked sniper rifles, while Luo Lan awakened the Martyr's Palace due to his desire to keep his comrades by his side. Zhou Qi, who liked to swim, awakened his power of parting water. Because Li Shentan hoped that those who had witnessed his mother's tragedy would repent sincerely, he awakened the power of hypnosis. As Xun Yeyu was particularly afraid to die, he awakened his radar-esque power.

When Ren Xiaosu was discussing this topic with the Great Hoodwinker, Wang Yun, and the others, he asked them why Wang Congyang's awakened power was the steam locomotive.

Wang Yun guessed it could be that Wang Congyang yearned for freedom, so he wanted to use the steam locomotive to escape the control of the consortiums.

That also made some sense.

Of course, there were other, relatively abstract powers, such as Zhang Baogen's saliva bubbles.

In that case, what was with his power of the palace? The circular walls of the palace were filled with cabinets and looked like a library. While this could be understood as Ren Xiaosu's thirst for knowledge, what the hell was the Potato Shooter power about? Weren't his powers too diverse?

Back to the topic at hand, he had entered his inner world this time because he was curious about how big it was.

Just as Melgor had said, the more powerful a sorcerer was, the more magnificent their inner world would be.

Someone's inner world was comprised of a mountain-sized leaf, so why did it become just a palace when it came to him?

Actually, having a palace was still much stronger than many other people. But the problem was that this did not match Ren Xiaosu's usual performance. After all, Wang Congyang's steam locomotive only had four carriages, while his had sixteen.

It was not that Ren Xiaosu was trying to be narcissistic, but the truth was that he had the right to be so.

Ren Xiaosu stood in the middle of the palace and shouted, "Hey, Palace, you there?"

There was no answer.

Alright, even the palace had stopped talking after he came here through meditation.

Left with no choice, Ren Xiaosu could only figure things out on his own to see if there were any other secrets to the palace.

But just as he looked around, his gaze landed on the cabinet that was supposed to be holding the Eye of True Sight.

There was an empty hole in the walls of that display cabinet, which looked just big enough to fit an Eye of True Sight.

Ren Xiaosu glanced at the Eye of True Sight in his hand before gently placing it into the gap.

With a crackle, the chains and mechanisms holding the palace together started moving, pulling open the cabinets on both sides of the palace walls and revealing a door. This door was exactly the same as the one he first entered the palace through.

Ren Xiaosu resolutely pushed it open and was greeted by a vast expanse of the sky outside. Clouds were even floating past him.

There was no path that led outside, and Ren Xiaosu stood at the edge of the door.. He was teetering on a cliff on the edge of an island in the sky as a blue sea stretched out under his feet.

Chapter 1079 - A Complete World

'Oh, sea, you're just filled with water!'

This was essentially the only thought in Ren Xiaosu's mind as he stood on the threshold of the doorway.

As he walked through the palace, he was thinking that this should not be all there was to his inner world of meditation.

Although the palace was huge, it was nowhere near the mountain-sized leaf of that great sorcerer.

But now, he realized his true inner world was the vast sea beyond the door.

In other words, this was his inner spiritual world.

It was no wonder his steam locomotive was way better than Wang Congyang's. It was no wonder his black saber could slash through practically everything. If mental strength were the highest caliber of weapon humanity had in the face of danger, then his willpower was probably the highest caliber one among all superhumans.

However, Ren Xiaosu was a little puzzled. Didn't Melgor say there should only be a single item in one's inner world? And that thing should be representative of the sorcerer himself?

But Ren Xiaosu felt that something was wrong in his inner world. Weren't there also clouds floating in the sky? Although clouds were, strictly speaking, just water vapor, it somehow did not feel right to him.

With a thought, the floating palace in the sky quickly flew off into the distance.

Ren Xiaosu stood on the threshold as the raging wind blew in his face.

The palace soared over the blue sea for several hours. Just as Ren Xiaosu thought the sea was boundless, he suddenly saw land.

Ren Xiaosu looked ahead in a daze. The mountains and vegetation were dense, but there were no birds or land animals in sight.

Therefore, his inner world was actually not the sea but a complete world.

"Let's end it here," Ren Xiaosu muttered to himself. After that, he turned around and walked out of the palace, bringing his meditation to an end.

At this moment, Melgor was probably still doing his meditation. Ren Xiaosu peeked through the gap in his tent and could see the flickering campfire and a figure sitting cross-legged in their tent.

Actually, when Ren Xiaosu saw Melgor meditating a few days ago, he thought it was a sorcerer's way of resting. After a session of meditation, he would appear a hundred times more energetic.

But today, Melgor explained that a sorcerer's meditation could not substitute for sleep. Although one's mental state would be great after meditating, their bodily functions still required deep sleep to recover.

When a sorcerer meditated, their bodily functions remained active throughout, so meditating was not a replacement for sleep.

In Melgor's opinion, it was rather tiring to meditate because he had to coordinate that with his sleep schedule.

But Ren Xiaosu was hardly affected. To be honest, he did not even know if there was any point in meditating. After a long meditation session, he might only gain an additional drop in the sea, but that would be just a trivial improvement overall.

It was not that Ren Xiaosu was lazy, but he felt he could make use of this time to do something more meaningful. For example, he could sit at the campfire and read the Introduction to Sorcery to see if its author had ever expressed any meaningful insights.

Before Ren Xiaosu could page through the book, he saw Melgor ending his meditation and walking out of his tent.

Melgor did not seem to have expected Ren Xiaosu to still be reading. "Why aren't you asleep?"

"Oh, I've just finished meditating." Ren Xiaosu said, "But I couldn't sleep yet, so I wanted to read a bit more so that I can quickly become a sorcerer."

"Any results from your meditation? Did you get to see your inner world of meditation?" Melgor asked.

Ren Xiaosu's acting chops as the Northwest's best actor was put into use once again. He shook his head and said in a dejected tone, "Maybe it's just as you said. It's better not to waste time meditating if I don't have the Eye of True Sight. But I'm still very curious. What's the scale of most sorcerers' inner worlds when they first start meditating?"

Melgor laughed. "Actually, the majority of sorcerers are the same. When they first start meditating, they might only see a small puddle or a small stone in their inner world. Only a few are talented enough to see a river at the beginning. So if you really manage to find an Eye of True Sight someday and only see a pebble in your inner world, you don't have to feel disheartened. That's how it is for most people."

Ren Xiaosu thought to himself, 'If I were to tell you what I saw, I'm afraid that all of the sorcerers in the magus order would get depressed....'

Of course, it was more likely that they wouldn't even believe him.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly said, "Then if I want to search for an Eye of True Sight, how should I go about looking for it? I heard from the sheeple that I can find it in a river. Can I go to that river and search for the rocks there?"

Melgor started laughing. "They lied to you.... Wait, what are you doing?"

Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu in surprise as he turned around and went over to the two servants' tent. Then he woke them up and gave each of them another punch before returning to the campfire.

Ren Xiaosu said to Melgor, "Please, carry on."

Li Chengguo and Liu Ting's wails could be heard coming from the tent next to them, leaving Melgor speechless. What the hell!

Initially, Melgor wanted to tell Ren Xiaosu, "Actually, I was only messing around by getting you to read the Introduction to Sorcery."

But looking at Ren Xiaosu's attitude, he was starting to feel apprehensive about confessing!

He was clearly a sorcerer, so how could he be afraid of a boor like him? However, Melgor felt extremely guilty.

When Ren Xiaosu saw that Melgor did not say anything, he asked again, "What did they lie to me about?"

"Strictly speaking, they did not lie to you." Melgor hesitated for a moment before saying, "It's true that the stones can be found in a river, which is due to the accumulation of ore that's been washed into the river over tens of thousands of years. However, the river has long been controlled by the archmages' power in the secular world, so you can't find any Eyes of True Sight in the river anymore. There's only one way for anyone to become a sorcerer, and that's to buy one!"

Liu Ting's bitter voice came from the tent. "Lord Melgor, can you finish your sentences in one breath?!"

Melgor raised an eyebrow. "He didn't even let me finish speaking before he beat you two up! How can you blame me for that!"

Li Chengguo said in pain, "You should at least speak faster!"

Melgor and his two servants suddenly felt that the atmosphere in the group had slowly turned strange ever since Ren Xiaosu joined them.

If it were the past, these two sorcerer servants would not have dared to shout at Melgor like that, though this was also probably related to Li Chengguo and Liu Ting getting beaten up.

But for some reason, Melgor suddenly felt there was no need to be so strict in their group.

Before becoming a sorcerer, Melgor was just a normal young man who visited small taverns with his friends to drink and brag. But ever since he became a sorcerer, his friends started showing him more respect. He was no longer a normal person.

Meanwhile, he had paid a huge price to become a sorcerer.

Melgor suddenly said to Ren Xiaosu, "Do you remember what I told you? Some people waste their entire lives in pursuit of their sorcerer dreams."

"I remember," Ren Xiaosu said.

"Therefore, my heartfelt advice is that you don't pursue this sorcerer dream any further.. Because you'll end up losing more than you'll gain."

Chapter 1080 - Wasting An Entire Lifetime For The Status Of Sorcerer

"What have you lost?" Ren Xiaosu wondered, "I realized that you've had insomnia for the past few days. And now, you're suddenly telling me that I'll lose more than I'll gain if I pursue the sorcerer dream? What exactly have you been through?"

"I don't mind telling you all this, but my Eye of True Sight doesn't belong to me. It's actually my father's," Melgor said.

"Wait a minute." Ren Xiaosu realized the two servants' account did not match up with Melgor's. "The two sheeple told me that if an old sorcerer with a family passed away, the Eye of True Sight in their possession would get taken back by magus order. In that case, how could you possibly have inherited it from your father?"

After that, Ren Xiaosu looked at the two servants hostilely. "Are you trying to fool me or did they lie to me again?"

After being punched by Ren Xiaosu earlier, the two servants could not get back to sleep. At this moment, they had just walked over to the campfire and saw the sinister look in Ren Xiaosu's eyes. They immediately shuddered and shouted at Melgor, "Lord Melgor, can you speak without pausing? Make it clear to him!"

Melgor quickly pulled Ren Xiaosu back. "Listen to my explanation!"

Melgor did not know whether to laugh or cry. What was wrong with this newly appointed steward of his? He was too tyrannical!

"I mentioned some people waste their entire lives in pursuit of their sorcerer dreams. Actually, I was referring to my father when I said that." Melgor explained, "My family was originally based in Ghent City, the capital of the Kingdom of Sorcerers. When I was still a child, my family was very well-to-do and could be considered an influential clan of Ghent City."

Ren Xiaosu realized there was a story behind Melgor's status as a sorcerer.

He did not interrupt Melgor again and listened quietly.

Melgor continued, "When I was young, my family owned a huge manor outside of Ghent City and many businesses in the city. In the summer, we'd have our servants fetch large amounts of ice from cellars situated outside the city and transport it back to our residence in the city to cool ourselves. During winter, we would keep warm using underfloor heating. We had countless servants in our family, and just the professors alone who were responsible for teaching me amounted to six."

In the nation of sorcerers, "professor" was not an academic title but a collective form of address for those of high social standing and profound knowledge.

Melgor reveled in his recollection. "I still remember when I was very young, my father would bring me to the racetrack outside Ghent City to ride horses and teach me how to play polo. He would also bring me to the city's arena to watch passionate battles between gladiators. The victorious gladiators would get the cheers of the audience, and I couldn't help cheering along with them too. It's entertainment that only aristocrats are allowed to watch, and sorcerers enjoy such shows very much as well."

"Ren Xiaosu, I wanted you to become my steward because I feel you have the potential to become a gladiator. Frankly, I need this opportunity to mingle with the aristocrats and sorcerers so I may be admitted into the inner circle of the magus order and get away from my current fief," Melgor said.

"Later, it all changed." Melgor sighed. "My father had dreams of becoming a sorcerer since childhood. This is probably also the dream of all young people in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. The magi are powerful and mysterious, even ranking above the monarch. This filled every teenager with fantasies of becoming a sorcerer."

"However, a sorcerer is not something you can just become because you want to. Moreover, you can't just purchase an Eye of True Sight with money." Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu and said, "You'll need luck, very good luck."

"May I interrupt for a second?" Ren Xiaosu asked puzzledly, "So there's still a luck element involved when buying an Eye of True Sight? I just don't understand. Don't you just pay up and receive the item?"

"Of course not." Melgor shook his head. "This is not how an Eye of True Sight looks before it's unsealed. It's encased by a layer of stone that we have to break apart. Only then will we find out if there's an Eye of True Sight within, or if it's just a plain rock that was purchased."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. Wasn't this the same trick they employed in jade gambling back in the Southwest?!

Melgor explained, "This business is controlled by a certain archmage's family based in the secular world. Normal people can try their luck to obtain an Eye of True Sight at the stone gambling market. The magus order will also acknowledge them as true sorcerers if they manage to get one. The black market that hosts stone gambling activities in Ghent City is the craziest place in the entire Kingdom of Sorcerers. Over the years, rumors of people becoming sorcerers from gambling on stones have caused a large number of people to go and try their luck."

"What are the chances of getting an Eye of True Sight through that avenue?" Ren Xiaosu asked curiously, "How many people have become sorcerers using this method?"

"Very, very few." Melgor said, "At the very least, my father didn't manage to become a sorcerer after spending all the family's wealth."

After hearing this, Ren Xiaosu thought the Magi was really ruthless in how they plundered the people's wealth. But since they were already the actual controllers of the entire nation, why did they still have to resort to such petty ways to swindle the wealth of others? Compared to the necessities economy, the money earned from the stone gambling market was probably too little to bring about any qualitative impact for them, right?

No, Ren Xiaosu carefully recalled how the consortiums were structured in the Central Plains. In fact, the largest manufacturer of lipstick was the Wang Consortium.

What did a large organization such as the Wang Consortium still bother to manufacture lipstick for? Why would they even bother earning this bit of money? The truth was that they did not want to miss out on even a single cent and earn from every market there was.

Ren Xiaosu looked at Melgor and asked, "Then where did you get your Eye of True Sight from?"

"My father was diagnosed with an illness when he was 40. If he had treated his illness, he could've lived for another three years, but that would've required him to spend all the savings we had." Melgor said sadly, "I said we should use the money for his treatment, but he disagreed. He gave all the savings to me and told me to go try my luck at the black market one more time. He wanted to give it one last shot. If he had used it for his treatment, that would really have been the end for our clan."

"I'd never dreamed about becoming a sorcerer, so I insisted he use the money for his treatment. But he dragged me to the black market and forced me to pick a random stone. If I didn't do as he said, he would kill himself." Melgor said, "Helpless, I could only pick one as he told me. But who could've expected I would actually obtain an Eye of True Sight from the stone I had chosen? On that same day, my father died. I don't even know if he felt remorseful or gratified before he passed on."

Ren Xiaosu thought this story was full of irony. His father had exhausted all of the family's wealth in pursuit of his life's dream of becoming a sorcerer only to see it unfulfilled. Meanwhile, Melgor, who never harbored any ambition of becoming a sorcerer, managed to pick an Eye of True Sight randomly and became the next lucky sorcerer.

It was no wonder Melgor said normal people had a lot to lose if they sought to become sorcerers.

"I used all our family's wealth and my father's jinxed life in exchange for the status of fringe sorcerer." Melgor gave a bitter smile. "Was it worth getting sent to a godforsaken place to do the dirtiest and most tiring work for the order? I don't know, but I found out later that sorcerers who bought their Eyes of True Sight were sent to the toughest places to be trained for two years.. Of course, this is not about training your willpower, but the magus order's way of telling you that even if you become a sorcerer, your fate still lies in their hands."