

# The First Order

## - Chapter 1095 – 1100

### A new quest from the palace! -

#### Chapter 1095: A new quest from the palace!

Melgor did not have as good a memory as Wang Yun. If Ren Xiaosu had not mentioned the Central Plains rider, he would probably not have remembered the detail was mentioned in the biography that he read.

But with Ren Xiaosu's reminder, he realized now that the Eye of True Sight he had sensed was probably the one the Central Plains rider had taken away.

With that, everything made sense!

However, Ren Xiaosu was a little puzzled. It was obvious Melgor regarded his black Eye of True Sight to be the one that Ren He had taken away.

But the Eye of True Sight in his possession was actually granted to him by his mind palace.

What was going on? Ren Xiaosu was deeply puzzled.

Before this, Ren Xiaosu had never thought about the origins of the black saber and black sniper rifle when they first appeared. Therefore, when the Eye of True Sight appeared, Ren Xiaosu took it for granted that it was of the same origins as those two weapons, that they were just materialized items like the steam locomotive.

But now that Melgor suddenly mentioned the Central Plains Rider had taken away one Eye of True Sight, an unusual problem dawned on Ren Xiaosu. The palace had only rewarded him with one Eye of True Sight.

There were two black sabers, which he and "Old Xu" each wielded.

There were two black sniper rifles, which he and Xiaojin each carried.

But the only exception was this black Eye of True Sight. There was no second stone materialized by the palace.

It was clearly a weapon he had unlocked, so why was the Eye of True Sight the only item that was special? This meant the Eye of True Sight the palace had given him had different origins from the black saber and black sniper rifle!

As Ren Xiaosu sat on his horse which slowly trotted along, he suddenly asked the palace in his mind, "How is this Eye of True Sight different from the black saber?"

The palace did not answer. Ren Xiaosu asked again, "Can you tell me the origins of the Eye of True Sight?"

"Unauthorized to answer."

Ren Xiaosu took a deep breath and then asked, "What is my relationship with that Rider, Ren He?" However, the palace did not directly answer his question. Instead, it suddenly issued a quest. "A new side quest has been unlocked. Search for clues related to Ren He within the Magi's territory. 1 of 4."

Ren Xiaosu was stunned. The palace had not issued any quests in a long time.

In fact, ever since he became stronger, the frequency of the palace assigning him quests had lessened. Back to the topic of the quest itself, based on the fact the palace had issued him this quest, it meant he had already found a relevant clue: the relationship between Ren He and the Magi, as well as the fact that Ren He had taken away an Eye of True Sight.

In that case, he still needed to gather the three remaining clues.

"What's the quest reward?" Ren Xiaosu asked calmly.

"Unauthorized to answer."

"Alright then." At this moment, Ren Xiaosu was sure he was indeed related to that Rider, Ren He. Otherwise, why would the palace suddenly assign him said quest?

But Ren He was already a legendary figure before The Cataclysm, so what could his relationship with him be? Ren Xiaosu had a guess in mind, but he found it a little hard to believe.

Next to him, Melgor immediately asked, "What's the matter? Are you feeling unwell?"

"It's nothing." Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "By the way, is that biography of that archmage in your Sorcerer's Tower?" "Yes." Melgor nodded. "Why? You want to read it? I'll look for it for you tomorrow."

"Do it today." Ren Xiaosu said, "I really want to read it."

“Are you in such a hurry?” Melgor wondered.

“Yes. Since that person is from the Central Plains and you also mentioned that you sensed the black Eye of True Sight there, I might be able to find some clues from the book and locate the stone.”

Melgor got excited when he heard that. “Really?”

“Yeah, really.” Ren Xiaosu did not even bat an eyelid when he lied to this inexperienced young sorcerer. “If I can really find some clues in there, I can even return to the Central Plains to search for this Eye of True Sight for you. Then, when I bring it to you, who knows? You might really be able to win back your love’s heart.” Melgor got extremely excited. “Thank you, thank you so much!”

“Gratitude received from Melgor, +2!”

Ren Xiaosu smacked his lips. He felt that Melgor’s gratitude tokens were way too easy to earn. It even made him feel a little bad!

Melgor suddenly sighed and said, “But if you can find it, use it for yourself. After all, you don’t have an Eye of True Sight yet. Although I also want to have that black Eye of True Sight, you would be the one who found it.”

Ren Xiaosu was floored. Was Melgor deliberately saying those words in an attempt to move him? Their band rushed to York County. They traveled from morning until night as green vegetation slowly started appearing on the sides of the road. Then the farmlands of York County came into view, as well as the sights of the county residents farming

Not far away, the tall cornfields were already filled with stalks of ears. They were exceptionally eye-catching.

When the residents of the county saw the knights, they hurried to the roadside and placed their right hands over their chests before bowing.

A person looked at Melgor and asked, “Pardon me, are you Lord Melgor?”

Melgor nodded. “Yes.” “My esteemed Lord Melgor,” the resident in his forties said with a bitter expression, “we weren’t expecting you to suddenly return. We’re supposed to submit our taxes to your Sorcerer’s Tower... but we haven’t collected them fully

yet.”

Melgor was taken aback. “Why is that?” “Last year’s harvest wasn’t good, so the crops we were preparing to pay as tax to you were used to tide us through the famine this year.” The resident explained, “Please give us half a year’s grace. The crops are growing well this year, so we can definitely make up for all our taxes by autumn. We

heard that in the neighboring county, some people got executed by the sorcerer lord there because they couldn't pay their taxes. But with your good reputation in York County, we were hoping to plead with you for more time." Melgor sighed and waved him off. "Alright, I'll consider it."

Upon hearing this, the residents of York County who were standing on the edge of the farmland knelt down together. "Thank you, Lord Melgor."

One of them even walked forward while bowing, trying to go in front of Melgor's horse and kiss Melgor's boot.

Melgor quickly said, "You don't have to do that. Get up."

Off to the side, Ren Xiaosu pondered this. So it turned out the Kingdom of Sorcerers was also like Fortress 178. They had also suffered a famine caused by the harsh climate.

However, it sounded a little brutal that the sorcerer in the neighboring county just executed his residents for not paying their taxes.

Ren Xiaosu said, "These residents aren't lying to you. They're all skin and bones, which means they don't even have much fat left in their bodies to burn. This is caused by long-term hunger." Honestly, when Ren Xiaosu looked at these black-haired and yellow-skinned residents of York County, he felt like he was looking at the Zhou Consortium's refugees. He nearly had the impulse to bring all of them back to the Prosperous Northwest.

After all, he had been planning to bring a lot more Central Plains refugees to the Prosperous Northwest, but he got stopped by the Wang Consortium's troops. Right now, he felt quite sure of where to go to make up for the remaining population shortfall.

The Prosperous Northwest 3.0 plan was taking shape and becoming even more substantial now!

## **Chapter 1096: Sorcerer City**

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Ren Xiaosu asked Melgor, "What's the rough population of the Kingdom of Sorcerers?"

Melgor was put on the spot. "If you ask about matters related to sorcery, I can tell you about them. But if that's your question, I've got no answer."

"As a sorcerer, you're really not in touch with the people," Ren Xiaosu ridiculed.

"As a sorcerer, why would I need to care about that?" Melgor retorted, "I'm not the only one who's like that. All the other sorcerers are the same as well. Such secular matters just need to be left to the royal family while we sit back and relax"

Ren Xiaosu gave an emotional sigh. It was probably due to this mindset that the Kingdom of Sorcerers had gradually fallen behind Fortress 178.

What was the point of a nation of sorcerers built on a nonexistent foundation?

They were not real gods! They also needed a solid societal base to support their pyramid of power!

However, it was pointless for Ren Xiaosu to tell the naive Melgor about such things.

He turned to look at the knight commander. "What's the population of York County?"

The knight commander replied humbly, "Around 900,000, sir, based on last year's census."

"Do all of them lead such awful lives?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"More or less," the knight commander answered. "But York County is only a relatively small county of the kingdom. It has a small population, so the residents here are still able to get by."

Ren Xiaosu was relieved to hear that. He would not have to worry about the

population of the Kingdom of Sorcerers anymore. By abducting the residents of York County, it would be enough to fulfill the Prosperous Northwest plan.

Of course, he could also abduct more people if he wanted. But as Wang Yuexi had said, there was a limit to how many people each stronghold could fit.

There was no need to blindly pursue numbers.

Gradually, Ren Xiaosu came into view of a city in the distance.

Unlike in the Central Plains, Ren Xiaosu found that the tallest buildings in the city were only about four stories tall when he looked down from a hill. Only the cathedral in the city center stood slightly taller, followed by a “relatively magnificent” tower-shaped structure.

Although described as a tower, its base did not actually look too different from the cathedral. If Ren Xiaosu had to describe it, it probably resembled more of an ancient castle he had seen in a book once.

This place was filled with an exotic charm. Ren Xiaosu could not help but feel that a city with such style was actually quite beautiful.

But he knew very well the city also depicted an underdeveloped construction technology, as well as low potential for population expansion.

Ren Xiaosu even wondered whether there was a complete sewage system and water supply network in the cities of the Kingdom of Sorcerers. If there weren't, it would mean that as he got closer to the city, he might often smell a pungent stench in the air.

“How do the residents get their daily water ration in the city?” Ren Xiaosu asked.

Melgor said proudly, "That's a problem I'm well-versed in. After I came Yorktown, I used my first year of tax revenue to build 180 wells for the city's residents. That solved the water supply issues that had been troubling them for many years."

Ren Xiaosu stared at Melgor dumbfoundedly and thought to himself, "What's there to be so proud of, bro?"

Building 180 wells was nothing compared to the measures Ren Xiaosu had implemented in the Prosperous Northwest. Perhaps the nation of sorcerers had not been in contact with the rest of the world for a long time, or maybe the magus order did not want them to do so. Therefore, these people were wholly unaware of how other places had developed.

Come to think of it, Fortress 178 had previously regarded the nation of sorcerers as a formidable enemy purely because one side had superpowers while the other did not. This, including the fact that Fortress 178 did not have a strong military foundation at the beginning, contributed to them suffering many defeats in the past.

But looking at the Kingdom of Sorcerers now, this place would be nothing if not for the sorcerers.

At this moment, Melgor pointed at the cathedral in the city center from afar and said, "That's the Church of the Eye of True Sight. All residents, as followers of the faith, head there for worship service every weekend. The other magnificent building next to it is my Sorcerer's Tower. How about it? Isn't it spectacular?"

Ren Xiaosu snapped, "I didn't cut you off because I don't want to annoy you further, but you can't keep showing off either. Let me ask you this: Have you never seen Fortress 178? In terms of magnificence, you're still far from it."

Melgor was left speechless for a moment. "That's a defensive fortress, and this is where I live. How can it be the same?"

"Alright, let's double time it. I'm in a hurry to read," Ren Xiaosu urged.

After that, he clenched his legs around the horse's ribcage and spurred it into a canter. Melgor, who was left behind, had a helpless look on his face, yet he could not say anything about it.

To a certain extent, Melgor actually regarded Ren Xiaosu as a friend already.

However, the Li clan's knights to the rear were left looking at one another. This was the first time they saw a sorcerer's steward dare to speak to the sorcerer like that.

The knights looked at Li Chengguo in confusion. "Young Master, why's he talking to Lord Melgor with that attitude?"

Li Chengguo wore an impassive expression, and he didn't answer their question.

He only hoped Ren Xiaosu would not come and speak to him for the time being

Otherwise, he would surely get humiliated in the presence of his clan's knights.

However, life often threw curveballs, and Ren Xiaosu suddenly turned around and shouted at him, "Sheeple, what are you two doing? Keep up with the group!"

The knights were speechless



Li Chengguo and Liu Ting's eyes kept twitching. They felt it was time to have a good talk with Ren Xiaosu. As long as he stopped calling them "sheeple," they were even willing to pay him money!

As the group slowly entered the city, Melgor finally heaved a sigh of relief, because whoever was trying to kill him would probably not try to attack him anymore.

But Ren Xiaosu suddenly said after sweeping his gaze across the crowd, "Be careful, someone suspicious is around."

Melgor's heart skipped a beat. When he looked around, he only saw the city's residents greeting him on one knee by the roadside. There was nothing unusual about them.

"Stop looking around." Ren Xiaosu whispered, "Be careful not to alert the enemy."

The city in York County did not even have walls. It was as though the thought of being invaded by foreign enemies never crossed their mind.

When they entered this place, Ren Xiaosu noticed that even though the residents had bowed their heads to greet and welcome Melgor, one of them was staring intently at him.

Ren Xiaosu did not intend to make a move in public, nor did he want to frighten the other party away. If that person really got scared away by him where would he go to get another Eye of True Sight?

Although Melgor did not discover anything unusual, he still sat upright on his horse. If Ren Xiaosu had not been alert previously, he would have died to that

Flame Pillar spell. Hence, Melgor trusted Ren Xiaosu's judgment.

He just couldn't understand something. Was the enemy planning to attack him in the city?

Melgor whispered, "Who's the suspicious person? You can tell me. I'll immediately order the knights to capture him. I have authority over everyone in York County."

There's no need to make it public. The suspicious party has quietly left." Ren Xiaosu suddenly asked, "If I kill a bounty hunter in public and take his Eye of True Sight, what will the magus order do to me?"

They'll resort to any means necessary to retrieve the Eye of True Sight from you, of course." Melgor said, "Don't you get any ideas about that. You can't defeat a bounty hunter. Not even I might be able to."

## **Chapter 1097: Sorcerer Russell**

As half of the city's streets were still made up of dirt roads, Ren Xiaosu could just imagine how muddy the streets would get on rainy days.

There was no sewage system in this city either. While Ren Xiaosu sat on his horse, he even saw some residents transporting human waste out of the city. He could even smell that foul stench from a distance away.

Although the residents had neatly combed hair, the texture was extremely greasy. At a glance, Ren Xiaosu roughly understood that even though Melgor had used his first year of tax revenue to build 180 wells, there was still a severe water shortage in the city. Ren Xiaosu and Little Liuyuan were in a similar situation while living in town.

The residents knelt on one knee on both sides of the street to welcome the return of Lord Melgor. To them, sorcerers were gods and also the most sacred people in the kingdom.

It could be seen that their clothes were very different from the people in the Central Plains. The women were mostly dressed in layered skirts with lace collars and sleeves and wore tight corsets around their torso.

On the other hand, the men were dressed more plainly, with most of them wearing a short vest over a tattered shirt.

“People used not to dress like this, but that style made a comeback some 20 years ago,” Melgor explained to Ren Xiaosu with a laugh. “So what do you think? It’s quite different from Fortress 178, huh?”

“It really is very different.” Ren Xiaosu nodded.

The knights prepared to leave after respectfully escorting Melgor and Ren Xiaosu back to the Sorcerer’s Tower. However, Melgor was worried the bounty hunter would come to kill him, so he ordered two knights to stand guard outside his tower for the time being. Not only that, he also told Li Chengguo to have the Li clan deploy more guards there after the knights escorted Liu Ting and him back to their families.

Ren Xiaosu was a little annoyed. With such security measures, the bounty hunter would probably not dare to come to the Sorcerer’s Tower to assassinate Melgor. Therefore, Ren Xiaosu might need to make an effort to lure the other party out. But honestly, Ren Xiaosu really admired Melgor’s sense of cowardice.

So what if he was afraid of dying? Everyone could only live once, and dying for something that was not worth it would be the dumbest thing to do.

For some reason, Ren Xiaosu was even more tempted to abduct Melgor to the Prosperous Northwest.

As they walked into the Sorcerer’s Tower, Ren Xiaosu thought the interior would definitely be covered in dust since Melgor had not been back for two years.

But after stepping inside, he was surprised to find there were actually more than 20 middle-aged women cleaning the floor and doing housekeeping.

“I’ve really underestimated your authority in York County.” Ren Xiaosu sighed.

Melgor laughed and said, “There’s many more things you’ve underestimated about me.”

Honestly, Ren Xiaosu could not be faulted for thinking so lowly of Melgor. As a sorcerer, Melgor only brought two lowly servants with him on the reconnaissance mission and did not have a proper attendant to see to his needs. He couldn’t be more pathetic on their way back to the Kingdom of Sorcerers either.

Ren Xiaosu found it rather difficult to associate someone like him with an important figure. This even caused Ren Xiaosu to underestimate the entire magus order as he felt that Melgor's status as a sorcerer was not that prestigious.

Meanwhile, the inside of the Sorcerer's Tower looked opulent and magnificent. Many of the ornaments and decor were gilded with a thin layer of gold.

Curious, Ren Xiaosu asked, "Since you have so much authority, why didn't you bring some subordinates and maids with you to Fortress 1782"

Melgor sighed and said, "They'd only have ended up suffering over there. Look at these people. They're just working hard for a salary. How can I bring them to a dangerous place like the border? If we encountered any of Fortress 178's troops, I couldn't have protected them with my ability."

Ren Xiaosu sighed. "What a sweet idiot."

When Fortress 178 got invaded, the people there started to subconsciously demonize everyone from the nation of sorcerers. This was only human nature.

Just like when Ren Xiaosu faced the expeditionary army, he also demonized them in his mind.

But in fact, there were good and bad people no matter where you went. Melgor was undoubtedly a typical example of a good person in the nation of sorcerers. As the environment in the Far North became too harsh, the expeditionary army had headed south in search of a better environment. Furthermore, they were instigated by Black Robe.

It was not that Ren Xiaosu was trying to justify the sorcerers' and barbarians' actions. If another war broke out, he would still massacre them even if he knew there were good people among them. Even if the expeditionary army were to attack the Central Plains another 100 times, Ren Xiaosu would still do the same as before.

A middle-aged woman walked up to Melgor and curtsied with a smile. "Lord Melgor, you're finally back. I'll have the maids prepare dinner for you."

Ren Xiaosu started sizing up the other party. This "housekeeper" was not from the Central Plains. She had an exotic look with blonde hair and blue eyes, but she still spoke in Chinese. This made him feel a little out of place. It somehow felt like the world was a little unreal.

Melgor said, "Alright, make dinner quickly. Is the hot water ready? I'll take a bath first."

The middle-aged woman smiled and said, "We always have it ready. What would you like for dinner?"

Melgor thought for a moment and said, "Shredded pork with garlic sauce, spicy tofu, twice-cooked pork, stir-fried Napa cabbage with hot and sour sauce..." Ren Xiaosu was confused.

What the fuck?! Shouldn't sorcerers be eating something different? Did the culinary tastes in the Kingdom of Sorcerers also get influenced by the flavors of the Central Plains?

Melgor looked at Ren Xiaosu. "I'm afraid we'll have to wait a while until dinner is ready. Why don't we take a bath first?"

Ren Xiaosu immediately frowned. "Be clearer. If you say it like that again, I'll beat you up."

"Don't misunderstand." Melgor snapped, "We have eight bathrooms in the tower. I never said that I wanted to share the same bathroom as you!"

"I won't wash up yet." Ren Xiaosu shook his head. "First, find me that book we talked about. I want to read it."

"Alright, do as you wish." Melgor shrugged and got someone to retrieve a thick book from the tall bookshelf. He brushed off the dust and said, "This is the book. The Sorcerer Chronicles was published 80 years ago. You can't find it now."

"What was the name of that sorcerer?" Ren Xiaosu asked.

"Russell."

"Got it." Ren Xiaosu found a chair and started searching for clues in the book. A maid walked over to him and offered him some tea and snacks, her dress skimming across the floor. She even asked if he needed a neck and shoulder massage. She served him red tea and mini twisted doughnuts.

Ren Xiaosu did not know whether to laugh or cry. The sorcerers really knew how to live lavishly. Being at the top of the kingdom's vested interest pyramid, even a fringe sorcerer like Melgor was able to enjoy the benefits of that authority.

'As Melgor's steward, Ren Xiaosu was now the highest-ranking person in the Sorcerer's Tower after Melgor.

He shook his head and turned her down with a smile. "There's no need for that, just leave me to my reading."

Ren Xiaosu was not acting pretentiously. He was really eager to read his book!

Acertain curiosity was prompting him to search for all information related to the Central Plains Rider Ren He.

He somehow felt that when all his questions were answered, a lot of doubts in his mind would disappear.

Ren Xiaosu checked the table of contents and realized the first biography in the The Sorcerer Chronicles was about Russell..

## **Chapter 1098: Beaten into seclusion**

The yellowed pages introduced Russell's biography. "Russell, born in 1981 AD, was one of the greatest sorcerers of his era.

"He had dedicated himself to the development of the magus order and advocated recruiting civilians and foreign nationalities as new sorcerers so as to introduce new blood into the sorcerers' lineage.

"During The Cataclysm, he had led the magus order to search for new lands with civilians to restart civilization. At that time, Russell was the idol of everyone.

"However, Russell was not only a great sorcerer but also one of the most powerful archmages in sorcerer history.

"He was one of the wielders of and a past protector of the black Eye of True Sight.

"He dedicated his entire life to mastering the Meteor Shower spell, secondarily supplementing it with Resist Fire and Fire Dragon..."

Russell's biography was over a 1,000 words long, Ren Xiaosu only realized after reading for a while that the man was really powerful. Even the author of The Sorcerer Chronicles was a fan of the guy.

However, his inclusive ideology was not in line with the blueprint of the magus order of that era. That was why the Introduction to Sorcery was edited seven times to the point where even the author's name was not printed anymore.

Meanwhile, The Sorcerer Chronicles in front of him, which dated back 80 years ago and had written Russell's biography, could be considered fortunate to have survived the censorship.

Ren Xiaosu skimmed through Russell's biography. However, the earlier portions were all about what this guy had done before. For example, it talked about how the young Russell was a cheerful and energetic person, how he helped his classmates, how he organized young sorcerers, and how he established a new sorcerer association.

It was clear that Russell was very good at networking, At that time, he was likely very active in the magus world.

It was written in the book. "Russell has the most outstanding talent in the history of

sorcerers, so much so that a large number of young magi who gathered around him saw him as a role model for their own progression.

“With the arrival of a new era, Russell could not stand the feudal conservatism of the magus order’s old guard and started gathering forces around him to seek a revolution.

“The magus order of the old era believed the Magi should prioritize protecting their pure bloodlines, as well as protecting the secret of the Eye of True Sight from being exposed. The old era’s magus order insisted the fate of the Magi was tied to the Eye of True Sight, and that outsiders should not interfere as it could very well lead to the Eye of True Sight becoming lost through the generations.

Tingens: Respected Russell, please frankly tell me what caused this great change in you. I’ll be dropping by to visit on the 15th of next month. I hope you won’t turn me away then.

Russel: Tingens, I don’t wish to see anyone right now. Life is short, and I have to explore the infinite mysteries of sorcery within my limited lifespan. It’s greatly distressing me.

‘Tingens: Dear Russell, I’m fine with not going over to bother you, but I hope you can tell me what this is all about. Did a sorcerer from the old aristocracy take your family hostage?

This time, the contents of Russell’s letter finally mentioned the most crucial clue. “Dear Tingens, I encountered that powerful Central Plains rider, and he took a black Eye of True Sight from me. You and I both understand what this means. I’m no match for him.” To put it more simply, “I can’t fucking defeat him. The black Eye of True Sight has been taken away, and I’m embarrassed to continue on as the leader of the Sorcerer Association!

“Get someone better, I’m way too ashamed!”

It was no wonder The Sorcerer Chronicles’ author did not mention this affair. The author clearly had these verifiable exchanges and knew the reason for Russell’s change of heart, yet he did not mention a word about it in the biography.

Ren Xiaosu suddenly felt like he understood the author’s thought process.

Imagine how it would feel when you realize your idol had suddenly been beaten into seclusion.

‘The reason why The Sorcerer Chronicles author did not mention this was because he had also been plunged into depression!

In truth, Ren Xiaosu found this matter quite surprising. He did not expect Ren He to be such a terrifying figure in that era.

He continued reading and suddenly had his attention captured by another exchange of letters.

Tingens: Dear Russell, I'm very sorry to hear about this. I feel very sad for you too... but I don't understand why that Central Plains rider would want to take the Eye of True Sight away from you.

Russell: He said he wants to use the Eye of True Sight to save his child..

## **Chapter 1099: The second clue regarding Ren He**

"Use the Eye of True Sight to save a person?" Ren Xiaosu was shocked. The Eye of True Sight was not medicine, so how could it be used to save someone?

'Wasn't it a weapon?

However, Russell did not specifically mention anything about the person who needed saving in the letters. It seemed like he was not sure of what was going on either.

In any case, he probably felt so utterly defeated that he painstakingly turned to studying sorcery.

However, it was quite a pity. Ren Xiaosu read about Russell's entire life in The Sorcerer Chronicles and knew he did not manage to achieve any success in his research of nonverbal spells.

Russell was just like a researcher who worked tirelessly their entire life to find a new breakthrough in the field of sorcery.

However, reality was cruel. Even though many scientific researchers were hardworking geniuses, they could still end up wasting their entire lives in their respective fields of research.

They dedicated all of their youth and passion to the research lab and writing research papers, yet they might not get any results in return.

This was the real world. No one was the protagonist.

Ren Xiaosu read further and saw that it was not only the letters between Russell and Tingens that were included. There were also letter correspondences with other people.

Fletcher: Dear Russell, there's been a lot of unrest in the world lately, and even we Magi will likely get embroiled in it. Some of the aristocrats have quietly withdrawn from society. After they took the authority of the Magi from you, they only cared about seizing benefits and did not shoulder the



corresponding responsibilities. Russell, something is about to happen to the world. We need you.

When Ren Xiaosu saw this, he was taken aback. Could this refer to the beginning of The Cataclysm?

Although the letter did not mention what exactly happened and everything was described very obscurely, how could anyone not link the words “a lot of unrest in the world” and “something is about to happen to the world” to The Cataclysm?

Ren Xiaosu quickly flipped to the back to read Russell’s reply.

Russell: Dear Fletcher, I’ve already decided to make a return and go through the baptism of life and death alongside you guys. The faction the Central Plains rider established in our kingdom before he left has already contacted me. To apologize for taking away the black Eye of True Sight, his followers will be assisting us in overcoming the difficulties we’re facing, I’ll be returning next week, but before that, I still need to reach a consensus with the aristocracy. We’ll have to face this disaster together.

At this point, Russell finally decided to give up his research of nonverbal spells and get back to society for the sake of the Magi.

Judging by the timeline, he would be in his 50s.

Ren Xiaosu more or less figured out the subsequent incidents that followed. Russell was already far more powerful than the aristocrats when he was in his younger years. Only after he went into seclusion did the old aristocratic families come out and mess around.

When Russell returned to the secular world, the consensus he mentioned in the letter was probably the same as Ren Xiaosu’s definition—it would have to be beaten out of them. From this, Ren Xiaosu felt that Russell really had the right temperament to be a leader.

‘When he read further, he was surprised to see a letter from Russell informing all the sorcerers, “Everyone, now that it’s a matter of life and death, we should put aside our differences...”’

For some reason, Ren Xiaosu felt an overwhelming sense of tragedy arise spontaneously.

Other than the loss of a black Eye of True Sight, there was almost no blemish on Russell’s record. After someone like him emerged from seclusion, he stepped forward for the survival of his entire class of people and led the entire magus order in surviving that disaster.

Truly, the bulk of the credit for the magus order’s survival and the fact they became a completely superior power to Fortress 178 at the beginning of The Cataclysm was down to Russell.

However, the old aristocracy seemed to have gained some real power soon after the magus order successfully survived The Cataclysm. It was normal since Russell did not leave behind any children of his own.

Gradually, the old aristocrats started chipping away at the influence Russell had on the Magi. At first, they slowly felt their way around. Then they revised the Introduction to Sorcery seven times and even deleted his name as its author.

Ren Xiaosu felt a little emotional. Peace was determined by a general who was not fated to see peace. There was a hint of ingratitude in that saying.

Wait a minute! Ren Xiaosu froze for a moment and went to look back at the previous letter's contents. He saw in Russell's letter: "The faction the Central Plains rider established in our kingdom before he left has already contacted me... his followers will be assisting us in overcoming the difficulties we're facing..."

This clearly stated that Ren He had left behind an organization similar to the Riders and the Qinghe Group in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Moreover, if this organization had survived to the present times with the Magi, there should be a similar organization that existed in the Kingdom of Sorcerers at this moment.

Earlier, the palace gave him a quest to search for four clues related to Ren He in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. However, Ren Xiaosu did not even know where to start looking for them at that time.

But now, it was Russell's letter that gave him a hint. 'The organization established and left behind by Ren He is the second clue. As long as I can find the whereabouts of this organization, the quest will be considered half-completed: Thinking of this, Ren Xiaosu felt an ineffable sense of excitement.

Back on Mt. Zuoyun, Zero had asked Ren Xiaosu if he felt lonely. At that time, Ren Xiaosu indeed felt a sense of loneliness.

He did not know where he came from or where he was going, nor did he know if he had any family before and why they had left him alone in the wilderness.

Such a feeling was actually very lonely.

But now, all the clues were hinting that his situation was not like that. He had never been abandoned. It was just that no one in that era could protect themselves.

Of course, he could not yet be sure of what exactly happened. He would have to gather all the clues first before coming to any conclusion.

After a while, Melgor came out after his bath. "How was it? Did you find any clues?"

“Some.” Ren Xiaosu said, “What I can be sure of is that the Central Plains Rider really did take away an Eye of True Sight, but it’s impossible to find it now since the Central Plains are so vast.”

Melgor comforted him, “It’s alright. Even if you can’t find this one, you can definitely still buy your own Eye of True Sight in the future.”

Melgor said so because he was no longer thinking about getting that black Eye of True Sight. If Ren Xiaosu could find it, it would be his.

Ren Xiaosu changed the subject. “But I did find some other clues. In a letter sent by Russell to Fletcher, he said that a faction left behind by the Central Plains Rider worked together with the Magi to overcome the difficult times to compensate for him taking away the black Eye of True Sight. Have you heard of this incident? Perhaps that faction knows about the black Eye of True Sight.”

During The Cataclysm, a much more serious disaster swept through the Central Plains than the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Therefore, the Riders there suffered a temporary disruption in their legacy. They knew that Ren He’s son was still alive, but a lot of information regarding him had been lost.

Everyone was struggling to survive, so it was quite normal that some of the Riders would accidentally die and not be able to pass on that information to their companions.

But it was different for the Riders in the Kingdom of Sorcerers.. They had survived the disaster together with the Magi, so there was a high chance they retained all the information regarding Ren He’s son!

### ***Chapter 1100: The sophistication of the Kingdom of Sorcerers***

“Do you know about the organization that was established by the Central Plains Rider?” Ren Xiaosu asked Melgor. \*

‘I’ve never heard you mention them before.’

Since they helped the Magi survive The Cataclysm, their reputation should be as prominent as Russell’s after the disaster passed. At the minimum, everyone should know of their existence, but

‘When Melgor heard that, he pondered it for a moment before saying, “I had the same questions as you when I first read The Sorcerer Chronicles, but please believe me when I tell you I’ve really never heard of them before.”

“How can that be?” Ren Xiaosu was a little puzzled.

“Perhaps they did not follow the orders of that Central Plains rider?” Melgor analyzed.

"That can't be." Ren Xiaosu had met the Riders before. How could such a cohesive group with strong faith suddenly turn against each other?

"Or they could have all perished in The Cataclysm?" Melgor raised another possibility.

"Perhaps." Ren Xiaosu sighed. The Cataclysm that affected the entire world was way too terrifying. Although it was a little unacceptable that all of the Riders might have died in it, it was not impossible.

But at this moment, Ren Xiaosu had another thought. Something was not right. If they were dead, the palace would not have guided him to search for these clues in the first place.

He still had three more clues to look for. If the organization had been wiped out, where was he supposed to find those clues?

The palace would not mess with him. Therefore, there had to still be some clues regarding the organization Ren He had established here. However, for some reason, they just did not appear in the history of the Magi. It looked like he would have to slowly try his luck.

'Then Ren Xiaosu asked another question, "By the way, what happened to Russell in the end? I don't think it was mentioned in The Sorcerer Chronicles either."

"The author didn't mention it. 'm guessing he probably didn't know or was afraid to write about it," Melgor said.

"Why's that?" Ren Xiaosu was taken aback.

"My father related to me the unofficial history and mentioned that Russell died three years after helping the Magi survive The Cataclysm. However, his cause of death has always remained a mystery," Melgor explained. "The magus order's explanation to the public was that Russell had suddenly died from excess fatigue before quickly cremating him."

Without an autopsy or anyone investigating the cause of death, Russell was cremated just like that.

"So that made a lot of people suspicious of the circumstance?" Ren Xiaosu asked curiously.

"It's not only that." Melgor said softly, "More importantly, Russell's black Eye of True Sight fell into the hands of the House of Tudor after that. You also know that humans are naturally suspicious creatures. How can an important matter that involves the transfer of something that everyone's so interested in not arouse the suspicions of others?"

“And after that?” Ren Xiaosu asked.

“After that?” Melgor chuckled. “The Tudors went on to become the most powerful clan in the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Whether it be in the magus order or the secular world, their influence grew to be the largest. With a black Eye of True Sight in their control, they were able to possess such authority even though they were not as talented as Russell.”

Ren Xiaosu nodded. If there were interests involved, that speculation might very well be true.

At the very least, Ren Xiaosu was more inclined to believe that Russell had been murdered.

“Eh?” Ren Xiaosu was surprised. “Why does the Tudor family sound so familiar? Isn’t that the house of your love interest’s fiancé?”

Melgor said with a bitter laugh, “Yes, that’s why I don’t hold much hope of winning her back. You said you wanted to help me get her back, but it’s better that you don’t make such claims in public. Even if there were a 100 of us combined, we couldn’t shake the Tudor family. Moreover, you haven’t even become a sorcerer yet.”

Every time Ren Xiaosu heard this, he was so tempted to tell Melgor openly, “You know nothing about the Stronghold Destroyer’s power.”

Even if he couldn’t single-handedly wipe out the Tudor family, he could return to Fortress 178 and bring back a train full of people on the steam locomotive to flatten the Tu-Manor!

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Of course, Tudor was their clan name, and there was no such thing as the Tu-Manor. Ren Xiaosu was only thinking this way to make himself feel more imposing.

As the saying went, the unknown is scariest. Previously, he did not understand much about the Kingdom of Sorcerers, so he was always worried there were some particularly powerful people hiding here, or they had some particularly devastating ways of dealing with enemies.

But from the look of things, the Kingdom of Sorcerers that had been around for 200 years was close to ruin.

Ren Xiaosu said to Melgor, “Don’t worry, I’ll definitely help you get her back.”

Melgor muttered, “You’re bragging again. When will you change that habit of yours?”

Ren Xiaosu just smiled and did not explain anything.

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At some point, he truly felt that Melgor was born to be a protagonist. Not only did he encounter Ren Xiaosu, who would become his biggest benefactor, but he had also offended the most powerful clan in the Kingdom of Sorcerers.

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If a story were told depicting Melgor, the moment he met Ren Xiaosu would probably be the beginning of the story, while Ren Xiaosu helping him destroy the Tudor family would be the end of it.

Ren Xiaosu liked storylines like this a lot. It made him feel like a big shot who helped the protagonist from behind the scenes.

“Let’s eat,’ Melgor said to Ren Xiaosu.

With that, Melgor even asked the maids to bring out some fine wine from the cellar of the Sorcerer’s Tower.

Then Ren Xiaosu watched Melgor sit at the end of the long dining table and eat a spoonful of spicy tofu before elegantly taking a sip of the fine red wine.

Furthermore, Melgor looked like he was enjoying the meal a great deal, and his table manners were extremely classy.

It was not that Ren Xiaosu looked down on the spicy tofu and shredded pork with garlic sauce dishes. On the contrary, he loved shredded pork with garlic sauce the most.

But the problem was that he had attended a gala at the Yang Consortium in the past and roughly knew how the upper class would act posh. The Kingdom of Sorcerers should have been the birthplace of that “sophistication,” but why did it suddenly become a melting pot of culture?!

At this moment, Melgor praised, “The shredded pork with garlic sauce is a heavenly dish. It’s prepared from the best quality carrots and tenderloin cooked together with soaked, fresh wood ear mushrooms and julienned bamboo shoots. It’s paired with an exquisite seasoning that makes it unforgettable after having just a bite. After eating a bite of shredded pork with garlic sauce, the oils that stay in your mouth are just enough to offset the astringency of the wine. Quick, have a taste of my tower’s head chef’s cooking,”

This was the first time that Ren Xiaosu had heard someone talking about shredded pork with garlic sauce in such a classy manner. He estimated that if the Central Plains culture were to assimilate the Kingdom of Sorcerers for a few more years, Melgor might

even start pairing his wine with a bite of garlic after every sip.

After all, food paired with garlic tasted most fantastic.

'When it was nighttime, Ren Xiaosu went to the bedroom Melgor had allotted to him to sleep. The velvet blanket was exceptionally soft.

However, he did not sleep. Instead, he quietly flipped through The Sorcerer Chronicles while waiting patiently for something.

"Old Xu' had climbed onto the roof and was hiding in the shadows of the tower's cupola, ready to spring into the hunt at any moment.

Ren Xiaosu was not worried about danger arriving. He was only worried the prey would not bite..

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