

The First Order

- Chapter 1161 – 1170

Chapter 1161: Seizing stones!

The sorcerers wore their cloaks, which they used to shield themselves from the rain, and quickly approached the battlefield. The sorcerer who was the first to arrive at the devastation grabbed a patrolling guard by the collar and shouted angrily, “What happened? Who dares act recklessly in the city?”

The patrolling guard stammered, “Two people were involved in a pursuit. We wanted to give chase, but we couldn’t catch up to them at all.”

“Two people?” The sorcerer from the House of Winston was exceptionally angry. “How could two people cause such a big commotion? Why didn’t you raise the alarm earlier?”

The patrolling guard who was being held by the neck was on the verge of crying. “Lord Sorcerer, they were too fast. We didn’t even have time to react. We discovered them near the granary at first, but in just one minute, they ran two kilometers away.”

The soldiers could not tell the truth, of course. They could only vaguely describe what they had witnessed. Otherwise, if the House of Winston found out they had neglected their duties, all of their families would probably get thrown into jail with them.

The sorcerer asked, “What else happened? Tell me quickly. Don’t leave anything out.”

The guard said in a trembling voice, “At the beginning, there were two people, with one chasing the other. Later, it suddenly turned into two steel monsters, with one fleeing and the other giving chase.”

The sorcerer was stunned. “Steel monsters? What steel monsters?”

At this moment, a rumble came from the end of the street. The soldier pointed behind the sorcerer and said, “Those steel monsters... they came back!”

The sorcerer spun around. By the time he saw the steam locomotive, it was almost in his face.

The sorcerer immediately dug out his orange Eye of True Sight from his waist pouch and roared at the steam locomotive, “In the name of the Winstons, I order you to stop! Flame Wall!”

But just as he was done chanting, the first steam locomotive broke right through the wall of flames that had just been raised and zoomed past him.

“Ptui!”

Wang Congyang, who was at the front of the train, spat a mouthful of phlegm into the young sorcerer’s eyes.

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The sorcerer wiped it off his face in rage. He raised his Eye of True Sight and recited a mysterious incantation. But the second steam locomotive had already arrived. Someone reached out from the front of the train and snatched the Eye of True Sight from the sorcerer’s hand.

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The young sorcerer was confused.

The sorcerer stood in the street with his arms raised in confusion as he watched the two steam locomotives zoom past one after another. It was as though he did not exist at all.

A moment later, the young sorcerer flew into a rage. “Inform the Knights of the Hymn in the city. I want those two caught! And tell the garrison forces to lock the gates. From now on, no one is allowed to leave or enter Winston City!”

The young sorcerer had fought in battles against others before, but this was the first time he had encountered a situation where his Eye of True Sight was snatched away!

People who completely disregarded the honor of the Magi had appeared in Winston City. They definitely could not be let off!

At this moment, Wang Congyang was standing at the front of the train and driving it carefully. From time to time, he would turn around to take a look. He realized the steam locomotive Ren Xiaosu was driving was chasing after him at a leisurely pace.

The city’s residents who were sound asleep gradually woke up and looked out their windows. They were greeted by the sight of something they could not understand speeding crazily through the streets.

Ren Xiaosu stood calmly in his black steam locomotive. The chimney at the front was spewing billowing black smoke like a train from hell.

A long time ago, Mu Wan’ge, a movie director in the Central Plains, had always been envious of how people before The Cataclysm were able to film extremely thrilling high-

speed chase scenes. Unfortunately, the current technology he had access to was still unable to reproduce such scenes.

Ren Xiaosu thought to himself that this could also be considered a high-speed chase, right? It was just that the parties involved were driving trains.

Wang Congyang seemed to have thought of where to escape to. The steam locomotive he was driving suddenly turned north.

In the dark of the night, an archmage holding a red Eye of True Sight rushed over. He stood on a roof and watched the approaching steam locomotives as he started chanting a long incantation in a low voice.

In the nearby buildings, a resident suddenly noticed him and exclaimed, "It's Archmage Devonshire! He was actually forced to take action?!"

For nearly a decade now, the monthly worship service in Winston City had been conducted by Archmage Devonshire, so all the residents knew him.

Presiding over the worship service meant the archmage's status was extremely high in the Winston family. Although he could not compare to the head of the family, he was not far from it.

When he was almost done reciting the long incantation, the residents who were peeking shouted in surprise. On the roof, a figure in a white mask suddenly appeared behind Devonshire and stabbed him in the heart from behind with a black saber.

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Old Xu did not stop there. It even took the red Eye of True Sight from Devonshire before disappearing into the rain again.

The residents in the nearby buildings covered their mouths in shock as they watched Devonshire slowly fall to the ground. No one had expected an unknown enemy would be harvesting Eyes of True Sight amid the chaos.

In the steam locomotive, Ren Xiaosu revealed a smile. He had really gained a lot tonight. In just a short while, he had already obtained eight Eyes of True Sight.

Among them, seven were orange and one was red.

It seemed that in a clan like the Winstons, any of the orthodox bloodline sorcerers would at the least be wielding an orange Eye of True Sight. Thinking of this, Ren Xiaosu really sympathized with Mel even more. He really had to find a chance to exchange Mel's Eye of True Sight with a better one.

Tonight, an earth-shattering pursuit had drawn out dozens of sorcerers. Not only had Devonshire been stabbed in the back, but several sorcerers were also ambushed by Old Xu on their way here before they could catch a glimpse of the steam locomotives.

Old Xu moved freely in the rain, and none of the sorcerers could recite a complete incantation before the shadow clone got close to them.

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After the Knights of the Hymn assembled, they galloped out of the military base in the city. The intense sound of the horses galloping was enough to jolt people.

Unfortunately, the horses were still inferior in the face of a steam locomotive's speed. Under normal circumstances, a thoroughbred could only travel at around 56 to 64 kilometers per hour during a race. The mutated warhorses Yan Liuyuan bred in the Central Plains could probably travel faster, but they still couldn't catch up to a steam locomotive that was traveling at 120 kilometers per hour.

Therefore, no matter how great a show of force the Knights of the Hymn were putting on, they could only accept the fact that their targets were getting farther and farther away from them.

News kept coming from the front. Archmage Devonshire was dead. His son, Sorcerer Bede, was dead. His nephew, Cavendi, was dead.

The commander of the Knights of the Hymn was even thinking of rushing over to tell the two culprits who were caught up in their pursuit to stop fucking fighting already. If they kept it up any longer, all of the Winston family's sorcerers would be dead!

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Chapter 1162: Discovery

The House of Winston's sorcerers would not get wiped out that easily, however. Although they were only a second-rate sorcerer clan compared to the Berkeleys, the Tudors, and the Normans, they still numbered in the hundreds.

However, the Winston family's sorcerers were being killed so quickly tonight that it was a little scary.

Eight of their sorcerers had already died in a short duration of ten minutes, but they still did not know who the attacker was. When someone went to question the eyewitnesses, all of them claimed it was done by someone in a white mask who moved elusively among them. In addition to the stormy weather affecting their vision and hearing, they had also encountered a really formidable enemy this time. It was a situation that frightened the House of Winston.

There were only three sorcerers in the entire clan who were more powerful than Archmage Devonshire. If even Devonshire could be ambushed, how many other sorcerers could withstand sneak attacks of this level?

But the Winston family could not understand something. Based on what the patrolling guards and some of the residents had said, it was clear it was a pursuit between two strangers that began in Winston City. It supposedly had nothing to do with the Winston family.

In the end, even though the pursuit was between two strangers in their trains, the Winston family suffered the heaviest of casualties while the perpetrators were unaffected.

Did the two of them come here on purpose to cause trouble for the Winston family?

Who the fuck could they reason with?!

“Summon our sorcerers back to the manor. Tell them not to take on the enemy by themselves anymore. Our enemies this time are unique. I now have reason to suspect the House of Tudor is the one behind this. They’re trying to stop us from joining forces with the House of Berkeley for the northern expedition!” The Winston family’s patriarch gave orders in the manor. “However, they better not think they can escape after committing such a heinous act in our House of Winston’s territory. Have the Knights of the Hymn continue intercepting them, and summon Archmages Abel and Alston over. The three of us will need to join hands tonight!”

Archmage Abel and Archmage Alston were the second and third highest-ranked sorcerers in the Winston family, outranked only by Matthews, the patriarch of the House of Winston. When the three of them teamed up, even the patriarch of the House of Tudor might not be able to get the better of them in battle.

It was at this time that the sorcerers around realized their patriarch was really furious and wanted to personally kill those two troublemakers no matter what.

At this moment, Wang Congyang was standing in the steam locomotive and looking into the distance through the window. Actually, he knew very well that Ren Xiaosu’s willpower was much stronger than his. This was something he could observe from the number of carriages alone.

Therefore, he knew it would be impossible for him to get away from that ruthless person behind him even though he was driving the steam locomotive.

If he wanted to escape, he would have to rely on external help!

What external help was there in the city that could stop Ren Xiaosu? Wang Congyang already had an answer in mind: the House of Winston.

As Winston City was the political center of the House of Winston, 80% of the archmages in the entirety of the House of Winston's territory resided here. The rest of the cities were left to be overseen by just a few junior sorcerers.

So there should be a large number of sorcerers in the manor north of Winston City now, right? That would be the key to Wang Congyang's escape.

The steam locomotive rumbled north. Wang Congyang knew it would be very dangerous to do so, but what else could he do? He was in great despair!

Suddenly, Wang Congyang looked behind him and saw that Old Xu had joined up with Ren Xiaosu again.

Old Xu, who was wearing the white mask, was standing on top of the steam locomotive's railcar with its clothes flapping loudly in the wind. Its black saber was raised, ready to slash down on anything at any moment.

On the roof of the steam locomotive, Old Xu was waiting for an opportunity to strike. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu stood calmly below inside of the train. It was an exceptionally harmonious yet terrifying scene.

Wang Congyang suddenly realized that Ren Xiaosu probably did not kill him immediately because he was planning to use him to create chaos and lead him towards the Winston Manor!

Ren Xiaosu was not familiar with Winston City and did not even know where the Knights of the Hymn were garrisoned or the location of Winston Manor.

As such, Ren Xiaosu did not know how he should avoid the Knights of the Hymn's assault once chaos broke out, nor did he know where he could take advantage of the situation and attack the House of Winston.

But it did not matter. Wang Congyang definitely knew all of that.

Based on Ren Xiaosu's understanding of Wang Congyang, that man was extremely crafty. Having been in the Kingdom of Sorcerers for so long, the first thing he would do would definitely be to understand the environment here before thinking about how to deal with the situation if he got into trouble.

All Ren Xiaosu needed to do was to follow close behind Wang Congyang. At the very least, the Knights of the Hymn definitely couldn't catch up with them. On top of that, Wang Congyang would surely choose to borrow the strength of others to get away from his pursuit. As for who he could make use of to do that, that was obvious.

Between the roles of hunter and prey, Ren Xiaosu always played the role of the hunter.

To hunt prey, he would first have to figure out what the prey was thinking. Just like how he had dealt with the expeditionary army's barbarians, he would never lose as long as he was a step ahead of his prey.

Wang Congyang was extremely frustrated at this moment. Even though he had guessed that Ren Xiaosu was trying to make use of him, he still had to go along with it. After all, he might still have a chance of survival by barging into the Winston Manor. But if he were to turn around to face Ren Xiaosu, he would definitely die.

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Seeing the two steam locomotives getting closer and closer to the Winston Manor, Wang Congyang felt even more anguished.

However, Wang Congyang was probably not the one most in anguish. That would have to be Melgor.

After Mel was left behind on his own, he slowly found his way back to the relay station. Along the way, he could hear the chaos in the city.

Without even needing to think, he knew that had to all be Ren Xiaosu's doing.

After Ren Xiaosu took off in pursuit before his eyes, it immediately turned chaotic in Winston City. How could that be a coincidence?

It was also at this time that Comrade Mel deeply understood how ferocious the monster he had abducted was.

So it turned out Ren Xiaosu had been telling the truth all along. His claims were never him boasting.

Melgor could not help but wonder just how "high" Ren Xiaosu meant when he said he would help him reach the pinnacle of his life.

Afterwards, he saw two steam locomotives whizzing past the street he was standing on. Through the window, Melgor even saw Ren Xiaosu discreetly waving at him from the second train!

'Why the hell are you waving to me at a time like this?!' Melgor quickly pulled his cloak's hood lower over his face as he was afraid the nearby residents would remember it. It wasn't until Mel realized there were no residents in the vicinity that he finally felt relieved.

No, he had to hurry back to the relay station. The world was way too scary!

Wait. Melgor suddenly froze. Wasn't there a saber-wielding person standing on top of the steam locomotive that Ren Xiaosu was in? And that person seemed to be wearing a white mask too?

Melgor instinctively knew this was bad. Someone was lurking on the roof of the train and was about to attack Ren Xiaosu!

However, Melgor quickly realized the person was not fucking trying to sneak attack Ren Xiaosu. That was obviously Ren Xiaosu's companion!

No wonder Ren Xiaosu did not panic once whenever they were being pursued previously!

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Chapter 1163: Tragedy

White Mask evoked so many of Melgor's memories. Ever since he returned from Fortress 178, Old Xu became a sore point that bugged him.

After all, anyone who was hunted the entire way back, even getting pursued all the way to their residence, would surely feel a little traumatized.

At that time, the two sorcerers who were trying to assassinate Melgor had been killed by Ren Xiaosu. Melgor did not even get to see those two bounty hunters and had only seen Old Xu.

So in Melgor's mind, he was always under the impression it was the strange White Mask who was hunting him.

While they were returning to the Kingdom of Sorcerers, someone suddenly cast a spell in the middle of the night that nearly killed him and the sheeple. After returning to York County, the other party even committed arson wantonly in the city.

Faced with such a ferocious assailant, Melgor was really scared.

Since he was not an archmage, it was only normal he would feel afraid when being pursued.

Now, Melgor realized the truth seemed completely different from what he had imagined. The so-called sorcerer who attacked them was actually Ren Xiaosu's accomplice? In that case, what were Ren Xiaosu's motives?

Was Ren Xiaosu trying to kill him? No, that was definitely not the case.

It was not that the naïve Melgor placed too much trust in Ren Xiaosu, but he now understood it was actually not difficult for Ren Xiaosu to kill him.

Seeing that Ren Xiaosu was about to demolish Winston City, wouldn't it be a piece of cake if he really wanted to kill him?

Furthermore, Melgor believed his own judgment that his friendship with Ren Xiaosu was still real!

Thinking of this, Melgor ruled out the possibility that Ren Xiaosu was trying to have him killed. In that case, there must be some other misunderstanding.

But Melgor felt that there were still a lot of things that did not make sense. When they first encountered White Mask, they got buried in the ground by a spell cast by someone. However, Ren Xiaosu and White Mask had just recently arrived from the Central Plains and did not even have any Eyes of True Sight, so how were they able to cast spells?

Melgor was very sure it was the Liquefy Ground spell that nearly killed him back then!

Wait. Melgor slowly stopped in his tracks. Who said there were definitely no Eyes of True Sight in the Central Plains? Wasn't one of his motives in abducting Ren Xiaosu to ask him some questions related to the black Eye of True Sight?

At that time, Melgor had felt the energy fluctuation when the black Eye of True Sight went through a change of ownership. After that, Ren Xiaosu suddenly appeared at the outpost and even deliberately allowed himself to be abducted to the Kingdom of Sorcerers by Melgor.

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Initially, he had said to Ren Xiaosu, "Some people might not even be able to obtain an Eye of True Sight in their entire lives, so you'd better not harbor unrealistic dreams of becoming a sorcerer."

What was Ren Xiaosu's reaction then? He looked like he didn't care at all, and it was as though he knew he could easily get his hands on an Eye of True Sight.

Melgor finally figured out a lot of things!

Was the black Eye of True Sight in Ren Xiaosu's possession? Melgor felt that he might have guessed the truth!

But even after he figured it out, he still found it a little unbelievable. This was the black Eye of True Sight they were talking about!

And there were still many things that did not make sense regarding this matter. For example, Ren Xiaosu had not mastered the language of the Magi at that time yet. On the night of the attack, Melgor only cast a Fireball by reciting its incantation “fire,” so Ren Xiaosu could not have learned Liquefy Ground.

What was with that then?

“It’s too confusing.” Melgor shook his head a few times and headed off again in the direction of the relay station based on his memory. He decided to return there first.

Melgor made up his mind. After he returned to the relay station, he would pack everything first. Then he would get someone to prepare the horse fodder and hay for the carriage and be ready to flee at a moment’s notice!

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Thousands of people from the House of Winston had openly gathered at the Winston Manor.

Everyone was either holding a torch or a kerosene lamp, and most of them were from the Knights of the Hymn who came to guard the manor, with a minority being the House of Winston’s sorcerers.

Everyone present looked silently at the three archmages in front of them as they waited for them to come up with a plan of counterattack.

However, it was not peaceful in the manor during this period either. From time to time, people sent by the Knights of the Hymn in the city would relay news back. “Patriarch, your son is dead!”

Awhile later, someone else would come and relay news again. “Patriarch, another of your sons is dead.”

“Patriarch, one more son of yours has died.”

“Patriarch, your son...”

Honestly, this was the bad thing about having too many sons. More than five of his sons had died before he could even meet the enemy. This story would be too tragic if told. It was almost as though their entire clan had been wiped out.

If this happened in the Central Plains, any organization’s leader would probably get a heart attack when they heard this news. But when it happened in the Kingdom of Sorcerers, the Winston family’s patriarch appeared very calm. It was impossible to tell how he was feeling.

The Winston family's patriarch had just turned 50 this year, which was considered relatively young among all the sorcerer clans' patriarchs.

Among those of the privileged class in the Kingdom of Sorcerers, youth represented ambition, as well as virility.

Wasn't it just the deaths of a few sons? At the age of 50, he could make up for it in a fortnight by taking an alchemical decoction and putting in some extra work.

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At this moment, the Winston family's patriarch said to the Knights of the Hymn and his family members in front of him, "Now that everyone has assembled, the perpetrators won't dare to take us on directly since there's only two of them. We only need to think about how to surround them. As such, I've decided to split everyone into three groups, led respectively by me, Archmage Abel, and Archmage Alston, to encircle those two fanatics."

Tonight, all of the Knights of the Hymn in the city had turned out in full force. However, Wang Congyang was indeed an expert at fleeing. He even knew exactly how the Knights of the Hymn would react if they encountered an emergency.

Therefore, when the Knights of the Hymn started pursuing Wang Congyang and Ren Xiaosu, they realized that other than being led around in circles, there was nothing else they could do.

In the Kingdom of Sorcerers, cavalry represented mobility. In the history of the Magi, whenever the cataphract brigade was mentioned, they would be described with words such as "blitzkrieg" and "quick raid."

It might sound very powerful, but in the eyes of Ren Xiaosu and Wang Congyang, that speed of 50 kilometers per hour was a joke.

The Knights of the Hymn also tried setting up roadblocks and splitting up their troops to surround them. But with Ren Xiaosu and Wang Congyang's strength, it would be a surprise if they were scared of the lance-wielding soldiers.

Every time Wang Congyang saw a roadblock or the cavalry, his steam locomotive, paired with the black cauldron, would run them right over without slowing down.

Under such circumstances, no one was able to do anything about these two unless the archmages made their move.

After the Winston family's patriarch assigned everyone to their teams, he looked at them with a solemn face. "Remember, they'll definitely try to avoid us, but your responsibility is—"

Before he could finish speaking, the Winston family's patriarch could already hear the whistle of the steam locomotive outside the manor.

Choo choo! Choo choo!

A sorcerer hesitated for a moment before saying, "It doesn't seem like they're trying to avoid us?"

Chapter 1164: Slaughter

Going by common sense, if 70% of the clan's sorcerers had gathered at the manor, the enemy would definitely avoid coming here.

Under such circumstances, even the patriarchs of the House of Tudor or the House of Norman might not be so arrogant as to attack the place personally, much less two fanatics.

Therefore, the Winston family's patriarch naturally wanted everyone to think of a way to surround the trespassers and not let them escape.

The Winston family's patriarch must have thought there was nothing wrong with his words. But now, when he heard the aggressive whistle of the steam locomotive, he suddenly felt like he had been surrounded by the enemy instead.

"Clear the way! Get ready for battle!" The Winston family's patriarch roared, "Knights, set up roadblocks! Junior sorcerers, stand behind us!"

As he spoke, everyone could vaguely see the steam locomotive appearing at the end of the long path through the manor's main gate. When the patriarch of the Winston family saw the train, he was a little puzzled. How did something like that appear in the Kingdom of Sorcerers?

The magus order had placed a lockdown on knowledge after The Cataclysm. They firmly believed that the less knowledge the residents had, the easier it would be to manage them. However, they would not go as far as to fool themselves. Therefore, most of the sorcerer clans still retained some information from before The Cataclysm. For example, the patriarch of the Winston family had seen old photos of trains and information about them in his home.

Common folk in the Kingdom of Sorcerers might not know what a train was anymore, but the Winston family's patriarch did.

When he saw that "steel monster," he could only wonder how the enemy had driven the train into the kingdom!

However, there was no time to think too much. The first steam locomotive arrived in an instant. The patriarch exchanged glances with Archmage Abel and Archmage Alston and started chanting.

When the archmages recited their incantations, they did so with a strange rhythm. The mysterious chanting sounded like opera.

A moment later, dozens of flaming birds with golden wings flew out in front of the three of them. The temperature suddenly rose, and the Knights of the Hymn felt a heatwave coming at them. There was even a burnt smell coming from their eyebrows and hair.

But even before their incantations ended, the flaming birds materialized further in midair and turned into strange, hawk-faced flaming birds with human bodies. When they spread their arms, their huge feathered wings spanned three meters across.

The name of the spell was Garuda. In legends, the Garuda was a celestial mount.

Every sorcerer clan had exclusive spells of their own. This was the foundation they relied on to gain a foothold in the magus order. Under normal circumstances, the power of exclusive spells would almost determine the status of a clan in the magus order—it was one of the important considerations.

The Garuda spell was extremely explosive. When they collided with the enemy, the enemy would probably get burned before they could even make a move.

By right, the House of Winston should have become a top-tier clan like the Berkeleys. But over the years, their Flaming Garuda spell had always been restrained by the Tudor family's Ice Rend spell, to the point of being suppressed by the Tudor family until they could not even lift their heads.

This was also one of the important reasons why the House of Winston was allied with the House of Berkeley.

At this moment, one by one, the Garudas' wings fluttered as they dived at the steam locomotive in front. Wang Congyang was left dumbfounded by what he saw from inside the train.

In that instant, he controlled the steam locomotive and made an abrupt turn. When the front of the train turned, the carriages behind swerved like a divine dragon swinging its tail.

The entire five-car train started drifting horizontally across the ground, and the train's metal wheels even produced huge sparks as they scraped against the ground.

Ren Xiaosu lamented it from the back. This really was a thrilling, high-speed chase.

As the train's body drifted, Wang Congyang managed to dodge the attacks of the dozens of Garudas.

Time seemed to slow down. The Winston family members watched in shock as the steam locomotive's body moved horizontally towards them.

When the Winston family's patriarch saw Wang Congyang, who was at the front of the train, approaching closer and closer, he sneered and made the Garudas fly back towards him.

However, he was a little puzzled. The person on the train opened his mouth like he wanted to say something to him.

"Pa-tooeey!"

A mouthful of phlegm suddenly flew through the air for seven or eight meters. It headed straight at the head of the House of Winston with the inertia of the steam locomotive!

The Winston family's patriarch was confused.

Fortunately, his steward was no weakling either. Before the spit could hit the patriarch, his steward had already moved in front of him.

Immediately after, Wang Congyang accelerated. It was like he was cornering sharply in a race car as he sped west.

The Winston family's patriarch angrily pushed away his steward in front of him, just in time to see Ren Xiaosu looking straight at him through the other steam locomotive's window.

There were nearly a 100 meters between them.

Half of Ren Xiaosu's face was shrouded in the shadow of his hood, but the Winston family's patriarch could still feel the other party mocking him silently.

"Kill them!" the Winston family's patriarch roared.

Wang Congyang's steam locomotive had very few carriages. Since a smaller car was easier to turn, it would be harder for Ren Xiaosu to avoid the Garudas' attack.

But fortunately, Ren Xiaosu did not intend to dodge at all.

The steam locomotive accelerated crazily. This was a battle between the kingdom's sorcery and the superpowers of the Central Plains.

Between the steam locomotive and the Flaming Garudas, which was more powerful? An RPG was more powerful, of course.

Wang Congyang, who had already evacuated from the main battlefield, turned around hoping to see how Ren Xiaosu would deal with the sorcerer clan. However, he saw the other party taking out an RPG from somewhere and holding the launcher right out of the train window. Then he pulled the trigger for the Winston family's patriarch!

Wang Congyang was shocked. What a fucking ruthless person!

The launched charge spun out with a long trail of smoke behind it. Meanwhile, the Winston family's patriarch recited a short incantation, and a circular flame aura burst outwards with him at its center.

The RPG exploded the moment it made contact with the flame aura, the shockwave sending the surrounding Knights of the Hymn flying backwards.

However, the Winston family's patriarch was not affected. He was protected by a thin layer of the flame aura, which not even the shattered shrapnel could penetrate.

Ren Xiaosu silently praised it. The sorcerers here were indeed quite skilled. It was no wonder they could trouble the Northwest in the past.

It seemed like he had to be more cautious in the future. He could not always judge the sorcerers of the entire magus order based on Mel's strength.

A second later, Ren Xiaosu allowed the Garudas to charge at the steam locomotive freely.

The white-masked Old Xu did not bother with these Garudas. Instead, it crouched slightly and sprang airborne from the front of the train at such a fast speed it looked like an apparition.

The Winston family's patriarch instinctively looked up. The dark shadow above enshrouded his figure as Old Xu raised the black saber and slashed downwards.

The protective flame aura on the Winston family's patriarch suddenly cracked like an eggshell. In the face of the black saber, nothing in the world could claim it was impenetrable!

In the blink of an eye, Ren Xiaosu dispelled the steam locomotive as well. Using its inertia, he flew forward like a cannonball. Before he landed, the nanomachines in his body formed into extremely powerful armor in the most visually stunning of ways.

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Chapter 1165: Bloodline spell

Everything was kickstarted by the inertia of the steam locomotive. It was like this for Old Xu's airborne jump, and it was also the same for Ren Xiaosu who broke through the Garudas' defense in his armor.

Before the 16-car steam locomotive crashed into the Winston Manor, it was acceleration all the way for Ren Xiaosu. He kept accelerating and accelerating!

He knew exactly how he should deal with sorcerers. All he needed to do was to close the distance between them, and he could... kill them.

On the final stretch of the charge into the Winston Manor, the steam locomotive was traveling at a maximum speed of 120 kilometers per hour. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu, using the train's inertia, pushed off from the front of the train at an even faster speed!

On his train, Wang Congyang looked behind him and realized at this moment he was never Ren Xiaosu's primary target. The other party had pursued him so he could find out the whereabouts of the Winston family and use the huge chaos in the city to gather these sorcerers together.

Wang Congyang understood the other party had not treated him as a serious opponent at all.

Although it sounded very humiliating to say that, he actually felt a sense of relief!

"Good luck to all of you," Wang Congyang said with a sigh at the Winston Manor as he gradually got further and further away. Ren Xiaosu had activated his armor, so it could be considered as resorting to his ultimate move.

As a battle-hardened person himself, Wang Congyang knew full well how it would end for those fragile sorcerers if they allowed someone like Ren Xiaosu to get close to them.

It might not be realistic to say all the sorcerers would get killed. After all, the Winston family still had some trump cards of their own. However, it would probably not be an issue to kill half of them.

The black saber in Old Xu's hand had already slashed down at the Winston family's patriarch's head. Under the force of the black saber, the defensive shield formed by the flame aura started cracking with a honeycomb pattern and spreading inch by inch.

But just as the black saber was about to split the patriarch in half, his sorcerer's robe started burning.

In an instant, a huge flame enveloped the Winston family's patriarch. When the black saber's blade slashed through the flames, it cut through air. There was nothing within the flames at all!

Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu, who was wrapped in armor, had already arrived in front of Archmage Alston and threw a punch at him!

Alston held his red Eye of True Sight and recited an incantation. A circular flame aura similar to that of the Winston family's patriarch spread out, seemingly material.

However, the moment that layer of flame aura collided with Ren Xiaosu's fist, a copious wave of fire erupted at the point of impact. Ren Xiaosu was fine, but the archmage in front of him was sent flying by the blast.

But just as Ren Xiaosu was about to follow up with a hit to finish him off, Alston's sorcerer's robe also started burning. After the flames dissipated, the spot where Alston should have been lying was empty.

In the distance, two balls of flames started burning out of thin air. When the flames dissipated, the figures of the two archmages could be seen again.

Ren Xiaosu frowned. This was probably a unique skill the Winston family used to protect themselves from dying. It was the kind of skill not revealed to the rest of the world after it was discovered.

However, Ren Xiaosu was a little curious about something. What was the principle behind this spell? Could it be that his opponents could keep using flames to take their place in death? That would really take him some effort to overcome then.

In the end, when Ren Xiaosu looked around, he was surprised to see two young sorcerers a short distance away bleeding from their orifices and dying. Their blood had formed a mysterious magic circle on the ground.

At this moment, Ren Xiaosu realized the Flame Substitute spell was probably similar to the Tudor family's Bloodline Summoning spell. They were both cast through blood ties, and the caster would have to use one of their children as "fuel" for the spell each time it was cast!

Ren Xiaosu gasped. It was no wonder the sorcerer clans liked having so many children. So it turned out they could be of great use at critical moments.

This Bloodline spell was very powerful, but it was just a great waste of sons.

Ren Xiaosu wondered if his black medicine would sell well here since the sorcerers were getting on in years. There would definitely be times when they could not perform as well anymore.

Of course, thinking about a sales strategy for the black medicine at this moment was a little arrogant. Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu might as well take out the young sorcerers around them first.

Since the archmages were using their sons as scapegoats, rather than going after them directly, wouldn't it be easier to kill their sons instead?

However, the sorcerer clans really had quite a few youngsters. Ren Xiaosu wondered where he should start from.

Ren Xiaosu was very calm in battle. His combat awareness far exceeded that of normal people. In just an instant, he knew who he should make his moves on first. Whoever had a higher grade of Eye of True Sight would get targeted first!

When Old Xu and Ren Xiaosu rushed into the crowd, some members of the Knights of the Hymn rushed forward to protect the sorcerers. But without exception, their bones were all shattered by the collision.

Without the protection of the archmages, Ren Xiaosu was like a wolf rushing into a herd of sheep. He did not give the junior sorcerers a chance to recite their incantations at all!

In just a few seconds, Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu had already killed more than 30 young sorcerers and even stolen their Eyes of True Sight.

It was slightly easier for Ren Xiaosu since he could put away the Eyes of True Sight in his storage space without any hassle.

But it was different for Old Xu. It had to use the hem of its jacket to temporarily hold the Eyes of True Sight while slashing at the enemy with its black saber.

Some of the junior sorcerers recited their incantations speedily while retreating. However, they suddenly realized these two enemies that came rushing at their Winston family were too ferocious. They did not even dodge at the sight of Flame Wall and barged right through it!

Meanwhile, spells like Fireball, which were projectiles, all missed their targets.

In the face of Ren Xiaosu's athleticism, the fragile sorcerers looked as though they were moving in slow motion.

The three archmages who had gone a distance away to avoid the attacks immediately turned anxious. If these two monsters continued on with their slaughter, the House of Winston might very well get wiped out.

“Sea of Fire!”

Alston, Abel, and the patriarch of the House of Winston suddenly held each other's hands. Intense flames spread out from under their feet and quickly set the ground ablaze as though someone had poured gasoline on it.

The buildings in the Winston Manor were instantly burned to ash, and the magnificent decorations were all gone in an instant.

But they could not care so much anymore. If they did not risk everything tonight, the Winston family could cease to exist!

Ren Xiaosu looked at the sea of fire that was coming to surround him. Then he laughed.

To be honest, he really had no intention of wiping out the entire Winston family tonight. After all, he still needed the Winstons to work together with the Berkeleys for their expedition against the northern counties. That was supposed to be the main event.

Ren Xiaosu's voice boomed through the armor, "The House of Tudor already knows about your ambitions with the House of Berkeley. The patriarch asked me to send you his regards."

When his voice reverberated through the armor, it became exceptionally deep.

Ren Xiaosu knew this was a very unbelievable statement to make and that the other party might not be convinced by it either. However, he was already used to doing things spontaneously anyway, and who knew if it might just prove useful somehow?

Chapter 1166: The walls collapse!

When the patriarch of the Winston family heard what Ren Xiaosu said, his expression turned even darker. "Burn him to death!"

Sea of Fire was a ridiculously hot spell. When the heatwave hit him, Ren Xiaosu understood that this was probably the Winston family's trump card. He could not take the attack head on.

It was no wonder Fortress 178 was bullied by this group of sorcerers before they rose to power in the Central Plains. Frankly, the sorcerers' methods were indeed very ruthless and bizarre.

Ren Xiaosu had a chuckle inside the armor. The commotion he had caused tonight was still not enough to dispel the House of Berkeley's determination to invade the northern counties. The approaching war would come sooner or later. By then, he should already be waiting patiently in Ghent City for an opportunity.

Tonight's battle was just to collect some interest payment on the blood debt owed to the 200,000-odd martyred spirits. He had not experienced a high-intensity battle like this in a long time, so it was a good opportunity to warm himself up.

A moment later, the steam locomotive he had just dispelled drove out of thin air again. The Winston family's patriarch said anxiously, "Stop him! Don't let him get away before he is enveloped by Sea of Fire!"

But his angry roar fell on deaf ears. The youth of the House of Winston were so frightened by Ren Xiaosu that no one dared to step up to stop him.

It was not that the people of the Winston family were timid, but that they knew very well they couldn't stop the attackers based on their strength. In that case, there was no need to make any unnecessary sacrifices.

Moreover, so what if they really managed to stop them? If those two ruthless people were to put up a desperate fight to the death, the archmages could still use them to take their place in death. At that time, who could the younger generation go to reason with?

Bloodline spells were not something they could simply learn even if they wanted to. The meditative visualization diagrams were generally only held by a few archmages.

When the steam locomotive arrived next to Ren Xiaosu and Old Xu, they grabbed hold of the train's metal handrail and went with it towards where Wang Congyang had disappeared.

Just as the members of the Winston family thought Ren Xiaosu was leaving, Ren Xiaosu suddenly took out a large black sniper rifle from somewhere and fired it casually across the fiery sea.

The ear-piercing explosion startled the young sorcerers. Right after, they heard an exclamation from Archmage Alston coming from the other end of the fiery sea. "Abel! Abel, what's wrong?!"

This shot was taken too quickly and suddenly. Archmage Abel did not even have time to use his Bloodline spell before he was dead!

Ren Xiaosu was sure the other party still had to go through the process of reciting the incantation to use the Bloodline spell to find a scapegoat to die in his place. It was an active skill, not a passive one!

As long as it were not passive, it would be easy to deal with the archmages of the House of Winston if he encountered them again in the future.

The archmages of the House of Winston had wanted to join forces to pursue Ren Xiaosu, but this shot had blown all of their plans awry.

Ren Xiaosu did not try to use Shadow Door to get across the fiery sea to seize the opponent's Eye of True Sight this time. He still wanted to keep this ace hidden for other purposes.

He had already gained a lot tonight. Ren Xiaosu put away the Eyes of True Sight Old Xu was carrying into his storage space. The number of stones in his possession almost exceeded 70, and one of them was even a red one, while the others were orange.

On the Winston family's side, the raging sea of fire had burned the manor down to ruins. The Winston family's patriarch stood in the manor in a daze and looked quietly at the corpses of his family and the ruins around him.

The Winston family's patriarch said, "Fucking—"

Before he could finish speaking, another rumbling sound came from the west side. It sounded like something had collapsed.

The Winston family's patriarch roared, "Hurry up and check what's going on. What are you all still standing there for?"

When the Knights of the Hymn heard the order, they hurriedly mounted their warhorses and rushed west. About half an hour later, they returned to the ruined manor and panted out, "Patriarch, the city walls were destroyed by that first steel monster that escaped!"

"It collapsed?" The Winston family's patriarch was stunned. A city was a symbol of a clan's authority. If the city walls were breached, they would get mocked by the other families.

After all, if you could not even guard your own door, it just meant you were not strong enough.

The chaos had come to an end. After being attacked in Winston City tonight, it was one thing for the clan to suffer heavy casualties, but now that someone had also broken past their city walls and escaped, they would not even have the chance to seek revenge anymore.

The commander of the Knights of the Hymn hesitated for a moment before saying, "We checked the area where the walls collapsed and found that only the outer surface of the walls was made of brick. The rest of the insides were filled with sand, and there was even straw mixed within..."

The Winston family's patriarch froze for a moment. Although they were not as rich as the House of Berkeley, they should have had more than enough money to construct the walls.

Although the outer surface of the walls looked a little dilapidated, the House of Winston had paid a lot of money to erect them. They even used the toughest materials in its construction.

It was done this way because the Winston family's patriarch knew they would have a war with the northern counties sooner or later, so he didn't hold back on expenditures.

The Winston family's patriarch's voice turned even grimmer. "Which section of the walls is this?"

"The section built seven years ago," the knight commander replied. "The enemy who fled seemed to know there was a problem with this section of the walls, so they dared to charge right into it."

This was where the brilliance of Wang Congyang lay. Ever since that guy arrived in the Kingdom of Sorcerers, he concentrated on figuring out a lot of details from the sidelines first. For example, he found out from some of the fringe groups that certain parts of the city walls were shoddily built, so he decided to use them in his future retreat route.

If it really came down to the critical moment, who would expect him to crash straight through the city walls to escape instead of going by the main entrance?

The Winston family's patriarch flew into a rage. "Seven years ago? Daniel, get your ass over here!"

"Sir, Daniel is dead," a sorcerer at the side replied.

The Winston family's patriarch was momentarily taken aback. Then he stood there numbly and did not say anything more. After a long silence, he said, "Search the entire city. Although those two enemies have fled, the people whom they plotted with might still be around. Also, watch the north of our clan's territory and see if any suspicious people appear, especially if they're coming from Ghent City. If this matter were really orchestrated by the Tudors, they must still have a contingency plan in the north. This might be the prelude to their expedition to the south."

The knight commander reminded him, "Patriarch, do you think this was really done by the House of Tudor? That person might not be telling the truth."

"Of course I know that. That's why I asked you to investigate." The Winston family's patriarch said, "Also, send a chronological writeup of everything that happened tonight to Vaduz City and hand it personally to the head of the House of Berkeley."

"Yes, sir." The knight commander obeyed and left.

News of what happened in Winston City was relayed by the spies of the various clans. There was no such thing as an absolute secret in the world. In just one night, news of someone causing a ruckus in the Winstons' territory spread.

In the end, Ren Xiaosu did not manage to catch up to Wang Congyang. After leaving the Winston Manor, he chased after Wang Congyang in the direction he had escaped, leaving through the section of the collapsed city walls.

However, Wang Congyang had fled far away while Ren Xiaosu was busy dealing with the young sorcerers of the Winston family.

As such, Ren Xiaosu scaled the walls and went back into the city to wait for the next storm to arrive.

Actually, he had deliberately activated his armor many times tonight because he wanted the Northwest's intelligence agents to know their future commander had arrived.

But Ren Xiaosu was still a little worried. What if the sorcerers were not accurate in their transmission of intel and the Northwest's spies did not realize that it was armor?

Now that Wang Congyang had crashed right through the city walls, Ren Xiaosu felt relieved. Surely that signal was obvious enough, right?

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Chapter 1167: The future commander appears!

The top of the magnificent walls in Ghent City was empty. There were no patrolling guards nor any flapping flags in the wind. The House of Norman and the House of Tudor had been fighting openly and covertly here for more than 80 years. For now, a careful truce was being maintained.

Ghent City occupied an extremely large area. There was a saying that if someone were to ride their horses in Ghent City, they wouldn't get out of the eastern district even after riding for seven days.

This was undoubtedly an exaggeration, but it showed the capital city held an unparalleled status in the hearts of the Kingdom of Sorcerers' citizens.

It represented dreams, ambition, and prosperity. This place even had a sewage system that existed nowhere else in the Kingdom of Sorcerers, and the sewer mainlines were as wide as a bomb shelter. This made Ghent City never have to worry about heavy rainfall in the summer, which in turn made the entire city look much cleaner.

In the hearts of the people, it seemed that all beautiful words suited the definition of the city. However, only those who had lived in Ghent City before would understand that this place was actually not that special.

That huge sewage system had given birth to a large number of outlaws who relied on it to survive. The largest underground casino in the entire Kingdom of Sorcerers was situated inside it. Someone once made a scene in the sewers before, and even if a sorcerer were to enter this place, they could not return alive.

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As for the veracity of this statement, it was never confirmed.

In Ghent City, the House of Norman and the House of Tudor each occupied half of the city, with the Normans in the east and the Tudors in the west.

Under normal circumstances, the sorcerers from these two clans would not casually venture into each other's territory unless absolutely necessary.

At this moment, in a huge manor in the northern part of the eastern district, hundreds of servants suddenly busied themselves even though it was just dawn.

The sorcerers got up one by one after they were summoned by the patriarch. They came to a huge banquet hall in their pajamas and had a rapid discussion over a piece of information the patriarch had shared.

The intel was transmitted through the mirror, and it was an extremely important piece of news.

The servants remained silent as though they could not hear the sorcerers' discussion. If they wanted to earn a living in a clan like that, they had to learn how to play deaf and dumb.

The sorcerer clans might appear glamorous, and their sorcerers had a classy air of gentlemanliness, but only the servants of the clans would know that most of these sorcerers had strange fetishes. Some of these fetishes were even exceptionally bloody and cruel.

In the banquet hall, the words "Winston City," "House of Berkeley," and "House of Tudor" were constantly being brought up.

The sorcerers were sipping from transparent crystal glasses filled with a scarlet-red wine.

Amid the commotion, a male servant cleared away some of the drained wine glasses and walked towards the kitchen to send them for washing.

He walked down the long hallway where ornate window lattices were inlaid with stained glass. It was past dawn, and the faint morning light outside shining through the colorful windows made it look exceptionally mysterious and eerie.

When the other servants came over, he smiled and nodded at them before walking past them.

When he arrived at the scullery, the male servant placed the glasses into a stone sink. Then he quietly dipped a finger into some leftover wine and wrote something on a dry dishcloth.

Very quickly, he placed the dishcloth into his arms and turned around to leave. When he passed by a chef, he secretly stuffed the dishcloth into the chef's pants pocket.

All of this was carried out quietly, and the chef's expression did not change.

After the male servant left, the chef excused himself from the huge kitchen on the pretense of needing to visit the water closet. He hid in the restroom and unfolded the dishcloth and saw the words: "Winston City has collapsed. Future Commander has appeared. Armor, steam locomotive."

In just a dozen words, all of the meaningful information had been passed on.

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At the dilapidated walls of Winston City, a huge breach was exposed in everyone's sight.

In the ruins of the opening, the substandard sand and straw were an exceptional eyesore, and it was as though they were silently mocking the authority of the House of Winston.

The person in charge of erecting this section of the walls was named Daniel, the 73rd son of the Winston family's patriarch.

But now, Daniel had been added to the list of martyrs in the city. In another few days, there would be a ceremony dedicated to them at the entrance of Winston Cathedral.

Although the sorcerers knew full well their prayers meant nothing, the residents firmly believed the people could reach the divine kingdom after the prayer ceremony.

Sixty-two sorcerers of the House of Winston had died tonight, including Archmage Devonshire and Archmage Abel.

This was an unprecedented disaster for the House of Winston.

The loss of 61 Eyes of True Sight was the most devastating of all. Among the dead, other than Abel's red Eye of True Sight, even Devonshire's red Eye of True Sight was lost!

The Winston family's patriarch did not get any sleep at all. He angrily urged the Knights of the Hymn to go after the perpetrators and search for all evidence.

At dawn, the Knights of the Hymn finally found some clues. Someone in a northern village had seen a steel monster escaping northwards, likely towards Ghent City. But strangely, they only saw one steel monster while the other was nowhere to be seen.

The "steel monster" was the steam locomotive.

Everyone was aware it was not a living thing, but they did not know how else to describe it accurately, so they just called it a steel monster.

As for how this steel monster came to this place, the Winston family's patriarch initially thought someone from the Central Plains had driven it over. But later, when he realized the enemy could actually summon and disperse it at will, he started to wonder if this was a new spell one of the clans had just discovered.

But none of this could be verified yet.

By noon, the sorcerers stationed in a northern town suddenly transmitted back another piece of news via sorcery. A suspicious person was spotted entering the Winston family's territory in the past two days. Through an informant, it was reported they suspected the person to be Kayle Jefferson William Kris Tudor of the House of Tudor. He also brought dozens of followers with him, and one of them was thought to be Gull, a gladiator who made a name for himself five years ago.

When the patriarch of the House of Winston heard this news, he was shocked. That person was the third-in-command of the House of Tudor and had become a famous archmage over 20 years ago.

Could it be a coincidence the other party had suddenly come to the Winston family's territory two to three days before the incident at the Winston Manor?

No, it was definitely not a coincidence. The other party was probably the mastermind behind this farce, and the controller of the steel monster was likely heading north to join up with Archmage Kayle.

After all, why would Archmage Kayle, a core figure of the House of Tudor, quietly leave Ghent City if there was nothing important to see to?!

The Winston family's patriarch trembled in anger. "The House of Tudor has gone too far. Go and report this matter to the Berkeleys. The northern expedition must be brought forward. I want this person's head sacrificed to our crest!"

Meanwhile, Archmage Kayle, who had been longing to personally deal with Melgor and Ren Xiaosu, was unaware he had provoked huge hatred from afar.

Meanwhile, the perpetrator, Ren Xiaosu, had just woken up in his room at the relay station and was thinking about what to have for lunch.

Chapter 1168: Wanted: Wang Congyang

After creating a commotion in the middle of the night, Ren Xiaosu slept all the way until the afternoon.

Having not fought any high-intensity battles in a long time, he felt a great sense of satisfaction after this warm-up. As such, he slept even more soundly.

As for whether the Winston family's people could fall asleep, that was not his concern.

But when Ren Xiaosu went out to the lower level of the relay station, he realized it was full of people.

As the person in charge of the trade caravan, Qian Weining stood in the middle while other people surrounded him noisily and shouted, "Vice President Qian, why are we suddenly not allowed to leave the city? What should we do with all the goods we brought?"

Someone else next to Melgor said, "Lord Melgor, why don't you try discussing with the Winston family as a fellow sorcerer and see if they might let us leave? If we get delayed for a day, it's an additional day of costs we have to bear. Feeding the horses and cattle requires money."

Ren Xiaosu looked around and saw a few hundred of Qian Weining's subordinates standing guard around the relay station. The relay station had been fully booked by the trade caravan led by Qian Weining and was no longer receiving other guests.

Meanwhile, those crowding around Qian Weining and Melgor were the actual merchants in the caravan.

No one knew what had happened in the city. Throughout the entire night, they only heard the chaotic sounds of structures collapsing and the galloping of the Knights of the Hymn's horses in the streets. The entire caravan was now in a state of panic, and no one dared to hang around here any longer.

Qian Weining tried to appease everyone by saying, "I've already sent someone to check out the situation. Winston City's gates have been shut since yesterday, so we can't leave now even if we wanted to. Everyone, please calm down. We'll discuss what to do after my people have investigated the situation."

Nearby, Melgor said, "Mhm, we'll listen to Vice President Qian's arrangements for now."

When Chen Cheng and An'an saw that Ren Xiaosu had woken up, they went up to him and asked in a whisper, "Did you come back to the relay station directly after the banquet last night?"

Ren Xiaosu said with a smile, "Yeah, Lord Melgor and I came back immediately. We didn't dare get involved either when we heard the chaos outside and went straight to sleep after we got back."

Chen Cheng and An'an looked at Ren Xiaosu suspiciously. Since last night, they had been discussing only one topic: Was Ren Xiaosu responsible for all that chaos?

Chen Jingshu said it might not be him, but Chen Cheng and An'an still felt that even if Ren Xiaosu was not responsible, it definitely had something to do with him.

Ren Xiaosu looked at the two of them and asked curiously, "So what happened?"

Chen Cheng and An'an remained silent for a moment before saying, "We don't know the exact details yet. We only know someone attacked the House of Winston. As for the rest, we'll have to wait for Qian Weining to find out."

"Alright then." Ren Xiaosu walked up to Melgor and asked in a low voice, "What's for lunch?"

Melgor was clearly taken aback. "What's for lunch?"

"Yeah," Ren Xiaosu answered matter-of-factly.

Melgor pulled Ren Xiaosu aside unhappily and said in a suppressed voice, "You're still in the mood to ask what's for lunch? Don't you know you've turned the whole world upside down?"

"Don't worry, it's not that serious." Ren Xiaosu assured him, "Although it was a rather big racket, it's not as terrible as you might think."

Melgor said skeptically, "Really?"

"Yeah!" Ren Xiaosu chuckled.

At this moment, the guard sent out by Qian Weining trotted back to the relay station. He stood in front of everyone and panted out, "I've roughly found out what happened and why the city gates are closed."

"Hurry up and tell us," Qian Weining urged.

The guard hurriedly said, "62 sorcerers of the House of Winston died last night, including Archmage Devonshire and Archmage Abel. Not only did the murderers kill them, but they also stole 61 Eyes of True Sight, including a red one!"

Melgor burped.

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When Melgor heard Ren Xiaosu's assurance just now, he really thought the matter was not too serious. But when he heard the truth, he was so shocked he belched!

How's that fucking not serious? You call a heinous crime in which 62 sorcerers were killed not serious?!

If it weren't for the fear of giving themselves away, Melgor would have questioned Ren Xiaosu angrily on the spot.

Fortunately, he managed to keep his cool and stopped himself from acting impulsively.

Everyone looked over at Melgor when they heard the belch. "Lord Melgor, what's the matter?"

"Nothing." Melgor said, "When I heard that so many of my fellow sorcerers had died so tragically, I couldn't help feeling a little sad!"

Eager to know the truth, Qian Weining only glanced at Melgor for a moment before turning back to the guard and urging, "What else happened?"

"The Knights of the Hymn isn't too affected. The perpetrators were here for the sorcerers, so they didn't engage the knights much," the guard said.

"Have they caught the perpetrators yet? Who is it?" Qian Weining asked.

"There were three perpetrators, but they didn't manage to catch them. One of the identified was Wang Congyang, who recently showed up at the black market, while the other two remain unknown." The guard said, "Oh, right, the perpetrators used some kind of steel monster to break through the city walls and escaped last night."

The guard continued, "But I heard Wang Congyang was likely just an accomplice. Although he was the one who broke through the city walls, the sorcerers were all killed

by the other two. Wang Congyang's role in the incident was just steering the steel monster, and his main attack method was spitting. He isn't strong at all. So the truly strong ones were the other two. By the way, I also brought back a wanted portrait of Wang Congyang."

After that, the guard took out a wanted portrait of Wang Congyang that looked like it had just been torn off a wall.

Everyone stepped closer to have a look. In the portrait, Wang Congyang's facial features were proper. He had a high nose bridge, bushy eyebrows, and big eyes. If they had not heard about this man's story, no one would have thought the man could be such a vicious person.

Ren Xiaosu also went over to have a look. After he did, he immediately thought the artist was really good at capturing Wang Congyang's likeness and characteristics accurately.

It was indeed Wang Congyang.

But since the guard said there were three perpetrators, it seemed like the House of Winston had included Old Xu as well.

Last night was an encounter battle between Wang Congyang and Ren Xiaosu.

In his panic, Wang Congyang did not have anything to cover his face with. Meanwhile, Ren Xiaosu was wearing a black cloak throughout the battle, so no one could clearly see how he looked.

In the end, Wang Congyang got a wanted poster drawn up while Ren Xiaosu got away scot-free.

The trade caravan was in an uproar.

The deaths of 62 sorcerers overnight was a major incident that shocked everyone in the entirety of the Kingdom of Sorcerers. Moreover, according to the guard, there were only three perpetrators.

The trio had massacred over 60 sorcerers even as they fended off the Knights of the Hymn? In the end, not only did the three of them escape totally unscathed, but they even crashed through the city walls and fled?!

What the fuck?! Were they gods who descended from Heaven or what?

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Chapter 1169: Scapegoat

Before this, Melgor was somewhat aware Ren Xiaosu had been hiding his strength. However, he wasn't clear just how much he was hiding.

One's imagination was limited by their horizons. As such, Melgor thought that even though Ren Xiaosu was hiding his strength, it shouldn't be by too much.

But after this incident, Melgor thought he was mistaken. He was far, far mistaken.

In the entirety of the relay station, he was the only one who really knew everything that happened.

Ren Xiaosu was not in cahoots with that bothersome Wang Congyang at all. It should have been a spur-of-the-moment decision by his steward to create chaos while he was pursuing his enemy.

Qian Weining looked at the caravan members and said with a sigh, "I'll think of a way to speak with the House of Winston. But as you guys can see, too much has happened overnight. I'm afraid that I, a lowly vice president of the York County Chamber of Commerce, can't handle it. So let's wait patiently here at the relay station and not rush the matter."

"So how long do we have to wait?" someone said with a bitter expression.

Qian Weining did not answer the question. To be honest, he was not sure either. This event was a complete surprise to him.

But after some thought, Qian Weining still advised, "The House of Winston will definitely be sending people to question those of us at the relay station soon. I hope everyone can cooperate when they arrive. Don't resist. We must believe our innocence will prevail."

After that, Qian Weining signaled to the guards to lock down the entire relay station before heading out by himself.

Melgor dragged Ren Xiaosu back to the room. He even deliberately closed all the doors and windows before asking in a whisper, "Were you responsible for all that?"

Ren Xiaosu scattered more than 60 Eyes of True Sight noisily onto the table. "Pick one. It's better than always having to use your white Eye of True Sight. Look, I collected so many of them last night, but not a single one of them is white. Speaking of which, you're really not doing great as a sorcerer."

Melgor could swear he had never seen so many Eyes of True Sight in his life before. Moreover, they were all placed so densely together in front of him!

Looking at what was before him, Melgor trembled. “D-Did you get all of these last night?”

“No.” Ren Xiaosu shook his head. “I obtained a white and an orange one from two bounty hunters. Remember that incident where you were attacked by the Flame Pillar spell? I chased after one of them and killed him, then waited around to ambush the other one that arrived later.”

Ren Xiaosu did not mention this before because he did not want to reveal he had stolen some Eyes of True Sight. However, the truth of last night’s incident could not be hidden from Melgor anymore, so he simply confessed to everything.

Melgor looked at the Eyes of True Sight on the table and hesitated for a long time. “No, I can’t accept it since I can’t explain where I would have gotten it from.”

“I didn’t think you’d still be so clearheaded,” Ren Xiaosu praised as he put away all of the Eyes of True Sight into his storage space. “I’ll help you find an opportunity in the future to replace your Eye of True Sight. Don’t worry, no one will care where you got it from at that time.”

When Melgor heard this, his heart skipped a beat. Hearing that Ren Xiaosu was planning to continue his killing spree, he asked curiously, “So were you serious when you said you wanted to destroy the Kingdom of Sorcerers?”

“Yes, but now, the strategy has changed,” Ren Xiaosu said with a smile.

On the same afternoon, just as Qian Weining had expected, a large group of the Knights of the Hymn’s troops came to conduct a search of the trade caravan’s members and goods. The direction of their investigations was to find Wang Congyang.

The Knights of the Hymn believed that even if they did not know what the other two perpetrators looked like, they could find them as long as they could locate Wang Congyang.

However, they did not carry out the search seriously. After all, everyone knew the perpetrators had already broken through the city walls and left, so they would have to be crazy to return to Winston City during this period.

Therefore, the key search areas were in the cities to the north.

It seemed like Qian Weining had already found his liaison. After the Knights of the Hymn’s troops arrived at the relay station, they searched through all the goods except for the oak barrels that contained the “wine.”

In the evening, the Knights of the Hymn quickly assembled all of a sudden in full armor.

Half an hour later, a group of people left the city in a grandiose manner from the north gate. In the middle of the group, the House of Winston's patriarch was being protected, along with dozens of other sorcerers of the Winston family, including Archmage Alston.

At first, many people thought the Winston family was planning to evacuate the city. But later, everyone felt that something was off. Even if the Winston family were evacuating, they shouldn't be heading north, right? Their enemies were the House of Tudor and the House of Norman, both of which were located in the north.

Therefore, no one knew what the purpose of the Winston family's patriarch personally leading the group was.

After the group set off for the north, they continued marching through the night with no intention of resting. Everything was done with a sense of urgency.

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Sun City, located in the north and a suburb near Winston City, was one of the key cities of the House of Winston.

At this moment, dozens of burly men dressed in light clothing were going about their day around a residential building. They were not doing anything specific and just discreetly keeping the building surrounded.

Among them, there was an exceptionally muscular man with a dagger tied to his belt.

No one could get close to this residential building. The moment someone passed nearby, they would immediately attract the attention of this group of men and get chased away.

It was heavily rumored someone very, very important had come here.

After sunset, a man came back from the market with a large quantity of cooked food.

The burliest man walked up to him without saying a word. Then he drew the dagger from his belt and picked up a piece of meat. He brought it close to the mouth of the person returning from the market. "Eat it."

The man who delivered the food over gobbled up the meat in one bite and chewed for a bit before swallowing. Ten minutes later, when the burly man saw he was fine, he carried the food and walked towards the residence.

He knocked lightly on the door. "My lord, dinner is ready. The food's safe to eat."

"Mhm, bring it in." A booming voice came from inside. "Are there any updates?"

“No. Based on the news I’ve received, we only know someone plunged Winston City into chaos. But I’m not too sure about the details yet,” the burly man responded.

The person in the house was none other than Archmage Kayle Jefferson William Kris Tudor, who said he would personally deal with Ren Xiaosu.

This man was a middle-aged man with a rosy complexion and graceful bearing. He instructed the burly man, “Gull, keep a close watch on the surroundings. I’m going to meditate after dinner.”

But just as he finished speaking, intense shouting came from the vicinity of the residence.

Archmage Kayle took out his gold Eye of True Sight and went outside. He frowned as he looked at the soldiers who had come to kill him and wondered why the Winston family would suddenly make a move on him.

But someone suddenly shouted, “Kayle has shown himself. This man ordered his subordinates to commit murder in Winston City, so we must execute him in Sun City today!”

Kayle was clearly taken aback. “... What the fuck are you babbling about?!”

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Chapter 1170: Swan song

During the afternoon, Archmage Kayle of the Tudor family had received intel that Winston City was plunged into chaos by some people. Even part of the city walls had been smashed through by them, and dozens of sorcerers had died.

When Archmage Kayle heard about this news, his immediate reaction was one of joy. First of all, this was definitely not their Tudor family’s doing. After all, as the third-in-command of the Tudor family, the clan would definitely keep him informed if there were such a ruthless plan in place.

Therefore, Archmage Kayle speculated if this might be the Norman family’s doing.

In the Kingdom of Sorcerers, it seemed that other than the Normans, no one else should be capable of pulling this off, right?

However, Archmage Kayle was also skeptical about this speculation. He felt that even the Normans might not be able to do it.

He had been completely sucked into this matter as an audience member watching from the sidelines. However, just as he was enjoying the show, he suddenly became involved in it.

When he heard the shouting outside the house earlier, he was still a little puzzled. Their Tudor family and the Winston family were indeed on bad terms. But he had come on a covert operation to kill Melgor, so even if the Winston family did discover his whereabouts, they shouldn't have such great determination to kill him, right?

If something were to happen to him, it would be equivalent to provoking a war between the Tudors and the Winstons.

'Have you Winstons thought it through before resorting to this? Have you reported your actions here to the Berkeley family's patriarch?'

However, it was only at this moment that Archmage Kayle realized the Winston family had fucking pinned the blame on him for the chaos!

Archmage Kayle frowned as he looked around. "What does what happened in Winston City have anything to do with me? Do you Winstons think you can go against us Tudors just because you have the Berkeleys' backing? This will be a futile attempt!"

As a matter of fact, Archmage Kayle was used to being arrogant. In Ghent City, since he was ranked third in the Tudor family, he would be welcomed wherever he went. It had been a long time since a sorcerer from other than the House of Norman dared to challenge the honor of the Tudors.

Archmage Kayle had never considered a house like the Winstons as a serious threat before. The Tudor family had given the Winston family a pounding on more than one occasion.

Therefore, Archmage Kayle was still very confident in himself at this moment.

If this were the past, the House of Winston would probably not dare to do anything to him. But it was different now. More than 60 of their clan's sorcerers had died overnight, and the Berkeley family was about to start a rebellion anyway, so the Winston family's patriarch was really enraged. They wanted to settle all the old and new grudges here today!

In addition, the Winston family's patriarch also had his own plans. They had been fully overpowered in the battle overnight, so if they did not kill someone reputable as a sacrifice this time, they would probably get cast aside as useless trash by the House of Berkeley.

If that happened, the Winston family would really get relegated in status.

The Winston family's patriarch had to prove to the Berkeley family he was still a valuable ally.

In an instant, the Winston family's patriarch and Archmage Alston joined forces and cast a spell, filling the sky full of golden Garudas. Those strange hawk-faced birds with human bodies dived down from the sky, leaving a scorching wave of fire behind them.

Archmage Kayle's expression darkened. When the Garudas appeared, he realized he was probably going to die here today.

Although Archmage Kayle was usually arrogant, he was also a very smart person. He shouted to Gull who was engaged in battle, "You and I have a master and servant relationship! I've treated you well, and the House of Tudor has never mistreated you either. You don't have to protect me this time. It's my turn to protect you. After I die, the moment the Bloodline Summoning spell is activated and the patriarch gets here, you must inform him that the House of Berkeley has revolted!"

If it wasn't for the backing of the Berkeleys, how would the Winstons dare to surround and kill him at this time?

The gladiator, Gull, said anxiously, "Lord Kayle, I'm your steward. I can't hide behind your protection!"

Archmage Kayle shook his head. "We're surrounded by dozens of sorcerers from the House of Winston, and there's even two archmages. You might still be able to escape, but I definitely can't. Remember, you mustn't die before you see my father."

Gull teared up a little. "I'll be sure not to!"

"For the glory of the Tudors!" Archmage Kayle shouted as he stared at Gull.

Gull nodded vigorously. "For the glory of the Tudors!"

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This battle in Sun City lasted until night. Huge explosions boomed nonstop as the golden Garudas flying in the sky glowed brilliant as fireworks.

The Ice Rend spell, which was exclusive to the House of Tudor, turned 10% of Sun City into a glacier. All of the Knights of the Hymn who did not manage to escape in time were turned into ice statues.

Truly, Archmage Kayle was indeed very powerful. Including the Winston family's patriarch, dozens of sorcerers surrounded and attacked him together. In the end, they still fought for several hours before they finally killed him.

Normally, the Winston family's patriarch's power should be on par with Archmage Kayle, and both of them also possessed a gold Eye of True Sight. But in the end, their battle was still stretched to such an extent. This only showed the House of Tudor really did command their standing in the magus order.

However, this was Archmage Kayle's swan song in life.

After the death of Archmage Kayle, his father, the Tudor family's patriarch, used the Bloodline Summoning spell to descend upon Sun City and killed more than 30 junior sorcerers of the House of Winston with his Ice Rend spell.

If the Winston family's patriarch and their archmages hadn't made a quick escape, they would probably have died there as well.

After all, the Tudor family's patriarch was a terrifying figure whose portrait had been featured on their kingdom's gold coin for 40 years.

The huge glacier stretched across Sun City, and not even the hot and stuffy summer night could melt it quickly enough.

The residents in the city felt like it was winter now, not summer.

The entire city's residents were forced to dig out their winter clothing so they could feel a tinge of warmth.

This was the power of the Bloodline Summoning spell. Its power did not depend on the caster but on the strength of the dead. A summoned sorcerer could unleash all of the dead's strength in an instant, making it a truly terrifying spell.

Ren Xiaosu had met the Tudor family's patriarch when he killed the bounty hunter. However, that bounty hunter was so weak Old Xu shattered the ice sculpture with a single slash of its black saber.

Meanwhile, Archmage Kayle was a very powerful sorcerer, so the potential of the Bloodline Summoning spell was completely fulfilled. It was equivalent to having an extra life that could be used to self-destruct and bring down the enemy together.

After the battle ended, news of the Sun City incident immediately spread throughout the Kingdom of Sorcerers through various intelligence channels. Everyone suddenly understood that an all-out civil war was about to begin!

That night, the nine counties controlled by the House of Tudor started gathering their troops. The main forces of the Knights of Tudor were assembled overnight and started pressing south.

It was not only the House of Tudor. Even the House of Norman had started gathering their troops.

According to the agreement between the Normans and Tudors, they could fight each other openly and covertly. But the moment other enemies appeared, the two clans would have to team up to suppress any forces that dared challenge their authority. Only in this way could they ensure their status as the two top sorcerer clans.

A lot of people would find it a little unbelievable that these two clans' could team up with their long feud. But in fact, human desire for power usually led to many peculiarities surfacing in the world.

The Winston family's patriarch started leading his clan in retreat back to Winston City. Initially, their plan was to start the war against the top clans in Ghent City. But now that the war had been declared in advance, the main battlefield would probably get shifted south.

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