

Magic Era 1241

Chapter 1241 Grimm

Lin Yun was a bit surprised that an assistant dean appeared instead of a Griffin Rider, because as he chased the dark mage, he had sensed at least three powerhouses that could get rid of him going to his laboratory.

With the appearance of an assistant dean, getting rid of Layford would be impossible.

As the assistant dean landed on the floor, the crimson disk under his feet went up in flames and disappeared.

The pale Layford looked as if he had seen his savior, his eyes moist.

“Sir Grimm, being able to see you is great, I thought I would never see you again...”

Layford appeared to be choking with emotions as he spoke. He had really been terrified. Lin Yun leaking his Heaven Rank aura hadn't scared him, but that strange ghostly wolf caught him off guard. He interrupted his curse and that strange power actually caused a backlash from the curse. He could only stare blankly as the other side rushed over.

The terrifying soul tearing power shining on Shawn's claws had truly terrified Layford...

He thought he was about to die and truly hadn't expected that Grimm would appear at such a crucial time.

“Sir Layford, what is going on?”

Exaggerated surprise could be seen on Grimm's face and his tone sounded like he was chanting an aria.

Layford instantly became calm and hatefully glared at Lin Yun.

‘Damn Mafa Merlin, you didn't expect Sir Grimm's arrival, did you? He is the best friend of our Jackson Family and is also my close friend, I even taught him a few Devil's whisper curses.

‘Now that Sir Grimm is here, the fact that Mafa Merlin came to plunder what I wrote down will be known as truth. When the time comes, we will be able to force him to take out his transcript and his wealth in the Raging Flame Plane.’

As he thought of that, Layford got even more confident and resentment could be heard in his voice as he pointed at Lin Yun.

“Sir Grimm, thankfully you came right on time. This Mafa Merlin is really too despicable, he actually came to attack my laboratory and snatch the results of my research. My Family's fighter even died in front of me, suffering a deadly blow from Mafa Merlin...”

After saying those words, Layford acted as if he was too sad to say more.

Lin Yun remained silent, Layford was the perfect example of a thief crying thief, he really was shameless to the extreme...

“Sir Grimm, you only need to use one Temporal Recall to check. My laboratory has already been destroyed and I chased down the repulsive culprit back here...”

But Lin Yun didn't get to finish his words before he was solemnly interrupted by Grimm.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, I'll properly investigate the ins and outs of this matter, I don't need you to teach me how to do it!”

Lin Yun almost choked. He noticed Grimm standing next to Layford, thought of something and then remained silent...

Grimm's tone was still solemn, but he ignored Lin Yun and instead asked Layford.

“Sir Layford, you said he came to snatch your research results? You can't just make random accusations, do you have any evidence?”

Layford gritted his teeth and acted like a victim as he pointed at Lin Yun.

“He didn't want to just snatch it, he used despicable methods to steal it and was discovered by me. My closest friend and brother died under his hands, he was still breathing as he died in front of me.

“The transcript of 1,500... No, of 1,600 truth runes is in his hands. You'll definitely find it as long as he hands over his spatial ring!”

Grimm had an ugly expression. He sensed that a Heaven Rank powerhouse had died here as his aura had yet to dissipate. He no longer asked questions and instead turned his head to look at Lin Yun with a heavy expression.

“Mafa Merlin, what else do you have to say now? A Heaven Rank powerhouse died here and Layford's laboratory went up in flames. There is no one else here.

“Hand over your Spatial Ring. If I don't find the thing Sir Layford mentioned, I would naturally make it up to you. But if I find the thing Sir Layford mentioned, you can only wait for the Starry Sky College's punishment!”

Lin Yun suddenly smiled when he heard this. If he still couldn't figure out that this assistant dean was Layford's friend, then he would definitely have a problem with his brain.

‘The transcript of the research of 1,600 truth runes, would anyone believe it if he said that?’

‘Even if he researched the whisper crystal for a millennium, he also wouldn't figure out the mysteries of so many truth runes.’

Based on the progress of the others, not a single person in the Starry Sky College should have researched over 1,500 truth runes!

Because that was the restriction of the whisper crystal. Out of 108,000 truth runes, that evil whisper crystal wouldn't let anyone research too many. At best, it would let one person research a bit over a thousand truth runes.

What the Starry Sky College accumulated when it came to truth runes wasn't the comprehension of truth runes themselves, but rather some of the mysteries concerning alchemy contained within the truth runes. These mysteries couldn't be compared to truth runes.

Whether they had a proper understanding of Layford's abilities or not, everyone would know if that guy had the ability to research 1,600 truth runes, even idiots wouldn't believe it. Yet Assistant Dean Grimm unexpectedly believed his words and didn't even let Lin Yun talk. What else could he say?

This incident was too noticeable. Anyone within the Starry Sky College should have seen that light pillar, it was visible within a few dozen kilometers.

'Is that guy an idiot?' Lin Yun thought.

"That idiot? Comprehending 1,600 truth runes? What an absurd joke. Shawn, pay attention, we might be able to see flying cows in the sky. Ehhh I can't see, are they hidden by the sunlight?..."

Enderfa's three hands covered his eyes from the sunlight as his three faces loudly shouted with bewilderment.

Shawn bared his fangs and sneered.

"I haven't seen anyone as shameless in years. Look at this stupid rat, he actually thinks he is smarter than a Dragon. Heavens, I feel that my intelligence is taking a blow. Enderfa, is stupidity contagious? Am I going to become stupid too?"

Enderfa and Shawn worked together in mocking Grimm. Grimm was angry and his complexion turned red, but hearing about the 1,600 truth runes, his eyes slightly reddened.

'That Andlusan country bumpkin actually understood 1,600 truth runes? What a joke.

'That idiot Layford is really stupid, he actually failed to snatch the transcript. But no one has paid attention to this place yet, so if I say that Mafa Merlin came to snatch Layford's research, no one would say anything.

'The transcript of 1,600 truth runes, I can make a copy as long as I get a hold of it. I don't know when I would be able to access it once it's given to the college. It might be the same as before and I would have to rely on merits and contribution to be able to see some of them.

'At most I would be able to see the transcripts of a few dozen truth runes' mysteries, but those would have been studied by many people. If that Mafa Merlin really researched that many, then there must be new things within. As long as I master those new things and transform them into alchemy achievements at the fastest speed, then I would obtain a steady flow of wealth and natural resources.

'I would get everything I need while also giving a favor to Layford. The Jackson Family would express their gratitude, right?'

Grimm automatically sided with Layford from the start. After all, they had a pretty good relationship and Layford was backed by the Jackson Family, which could be considered a pretty decent force in the Odin Kingdom. The other one was a lone Artisan who just arrived in the Odin Kingdom, why would he need to think about it?

Now that it came to this, Grimm suddenly had a new idea...

But before Grimm could say anything, Layford suddenly appeared behind Lin Yun, holding his magic staff once again with a cold light flickering in his eyes.

“Sir Grimm, this Mafa Merlin is very crafty and very powerful, we can’t let him get away. If he runs away, he’ll definitely brand my research as his own and give it to the Starry Sky College!

“He definitely won’t acknowledge it, we have to subdue him first and take away his spatial ring. Naturally, if he resists and carelessly dies, that would be his own fault for going against the Starry Sky College.”

Grimm no longer hesitated since Layford was ready to attack. After thinking for a bit, directly killing him was fine. He wouldn’t admit to it anyway and was planning on offering up Layford’s research to the Starry Sky College. No one could say anything and no one would make things difficult for him for the sake of an Andlusan.

As he thought about it, Grimm immediately started releasing his own mana. Orange flames started burning around him and rapidly spread out. The Extraordinary Power’s aura was like waves putting pressure on Lin Yun.

“Mafa Merlin, I’ll give you one last chance. Hand over your spatial ring or don’t blame me for personally making a move. In order to uphold the rules of the Starry Sky College, your mana has to be sealed and you have to undergo an investigation. You won’t be able to handle the consequences if I have to make a move!”

Grimm released mana as he talked, his aura rapidly and sharply increasing to the peak of the 4th Rank of the Heaven realm. He was only a step away from the 5th Rank.

His massive Extraordinary Power pressured Lin Yun’s body and made him slightly frown. And behind Lin Yun, Layford already took the initiative to attack.

A dozen-meter-big Hand of Darkness swatted towards Lin Yun’s back. This was Layford learning from his mistakes. He knew that the dark curse had no effect on Lin Yun, thus he directly released a dark spell to attack.

But Lin Yun didn’t even glance at him, he only watched Grimm attentively. Compared to Grimm’s pressure, Layford was only a trivial matter. His spell couldn’t even shake Lin Yun’s Fusion Shield.

The Hand of Darkness fiercely swatted at Lin Yun’s Fusion Shield. A magic ripple spread over the surface of the shield, but the shield remained intact and resisted that spell containing Extraordinary Power as if it was a 1st Tier Spell.

But then, Grimm, who had been shrouded in orange flames, suddenly attacked. Thick golden flaming spears fell down from the sea of flames like a rainstorm centered around Lin Yun.

Then, two 100-meter-long hands stretched out of the sea of flames and slapped Lin Yun’s sides.

The terrifying pressure and flame power instantly forced all the air away in Lin Yun’s surroundings, only leaving the terrifying heat’s spatial distortion behind.

The golden spears and flaming hands instantly submerged Lin Yun and set everything within several hundred meters aflame. The burning power burnt everything within five hundred meters to ashes in an instant. Layford had to retreat to a certain distance under this kind of power.

Flaming hands slowly rose up from the ground, leaving two imprints behind. The flames burning over the ground seemed able to burn everything.

Grimm proudly smiled as he couldn't see Lin Yun's silhouette. Layford also laughed heartily.

"Foolish Mafa Merlin, you dared to go against the Jackson Family, you dared to oppose me. Look where that got you. Killing you is really letting you off lightly. I'll help myself to the resources you left behind..."

Layford walked towards the scorched black hole while laughing when he suddenly froze and raised his head, only to see Lin Yun floating in the air.

Lin Yun's body was shrouded in a layer of red light with a continuously transforming red-colored rune on his forehead. A few parts of his body were exposed, as the flames swayed, and revealed pure golden tattoos. Terrifying power filled the atmosphere, it was as if a ruler of flames graced them with his presence.

Lin Yun held the Draconic Staff emitting purple light in his right hand, and the Book of Death in his left hand. Behind him was a hundred-meter-tall Purple Dragon holding a thirty-meter-wide wheel shadow in which countless law runes were floating.

In the centermost part of the wheel, there was one more circle, other than the four elemental ones, flickering with a silver light.

The Book of Mantras and the Spell Wheel floated on both sides as the scales' shadow could be seen under Lin Yun's feet. The two Magic Tools floated onto the scales' trays as the terrifying transformation happened.

A hundred-meter-tall huge gate on which lingered the power of flames and wind suddenly appeared. As the gate slowly opened, two worlds could be seen floating inside, a pure wind world and a pure flame world...

And after this gate appeared, unfathomable power suddenly surged from the void. That power poured into the Spell Wheel but didn't make it explode, it instead supported the Spell Wheel until a huge hundred-meter-wheel appeared with power of the four elements roaming within.

Shawn manifested his Ghost Wolf shape and turned into a ten-meter-big Ghost Wolf with his evil eye slowly opening on his forehead. He bared his fangs as he looked at Grimm.

"Merlin, let's get rid of these two idiots! I want to study the difference between the souls of Heaven Rank powerhouses and mortals, they are the best source of materials. I won't charge you for the help this time, as well as for helping you manage your Demi-plane, but I want these two idiots' souls as a reward."

Shawn was drooling, his eyes red. He kept tempting Lin Yun to get rid of these two...

Layford was about to say something when the evil eye on Shawn's forehead suddenly shot a light beam that submerged Layford. In an instant, Layford froze as if he had been hit by a Petrification. Fear could be

seen in his eyes, he wanted to use a spell, but he discovered that his mana was out of control and it wasn't getting transferred like he wanted.

At that time, Grimm suddenly became serious. He was floating in the air and the huge flame disk reappeared under his feet before transforming into a flaming space covering over a hundred meters. Countless fire spells flew out from within like a storm and a pillar over a hundred-meter-thick fell charged towards Lin Yun.

At the same time, boundless destructive flames and gales flew out of the windfire gate the Book of Mantras had transformed into.

The Spell Wheel also created an elemental storm that covered over several hundred meters. The pure destructive power looked like a horizontal tornado.

The power of the Book of Mantras and the Spell Wheel converged together to form a force that surpassed that of the Heaven realm's 2nd Rank. The destructive power could definitely compare to a 3rd Rank Heaven Mage.

With the buff of the Equilibrium Law, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel also displayed power comparable to the Book of Mantras.

But that power was forced back under Grimm's fire attack, they couldn't rely on power to block and were instead suppressed by the other side.

The power of these flames suppressed Syudos and Enderfa, but when they were within a hundred meters of Lin Yun, the flood of flames seemed to sense something and spun towards the side.

Those terrifying elemental flames were really hot, but they were only elemental flames. Lin Yun was using the Fire Spirit King Incarnation and was completely immune to these elemental flames, even if they had been summoned by a Peak 4th Rank Heaven Mage.

But Lin Yun wasn't completely spared by the impact of Grimm's attack. After all, Grimm was higher ranked and his comprehension of the Law of Fire was greater than Lin Yun's. Being able to reduce the damage of the flames was already pretty good.

Chapter 1242 Gandaph

The elemental flames on the edge of the flood of flames were stripped and exposed a golden hand covered in flaming patterns. It looked like it had been carved from a pure flame crystal.

The huge pressure immediately increased as that large hand appeared and the bursting Extraordinary Power sharply increased a few times.

The windfire flood and the elemental storm released by Syudos and Enderfa were instantly crushed by this large hand.

Then, the large hand's pressure reached Lin Yun. He was still over a hundred meters away, yet his Fusion Shield started fiercely fluctuating, it would definitely be shattered if that large hand hit it.

Lin Yun frowned, the flame rune on his forehead started transforming and three more law auras were added to the strong flaming aura.

The Laws of Wind, Earth, Water, and Wind were flickering. The rune on Lin Yun's forehead was now flickering with four colored lights and he emitted an even more terrifying aura. The surrounding elements started cheering as they converged towards Lin Yun out of their own volition.

After fully displaying the Elemental Spirit King Incarnation, all elemental power within several kilometers, and not under anyone control, started frantically converging towards this place.

And this kind of convergence caused a chain reaction within ten kilometers. The elemental concentration rapidly plummeted and the surrounding elemental power was also replenished independently.

A kilometer-big vortex of four elements took shape in the air, and that huge elemental power kept frantically converging towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun was pale, the Elemental Spirit King Incarnation wasn't so easy to use. Without the almost endless mana reserves of the Natural Demiplane, one second would be enough to drain all his mana.

But even so, the Natural Demiplane's replenishing rate couldn't compare to the Elemental Spirit King Incarnation's consumption. At this rate, Lin Yun could only use it for ten seconds before his mana was completely exhausted. Even if there was a steady stream of mana coming from the Demiplane, he couldn't keep it up.

Thus, it was most efficient to directly release the most powerful Four Element Runic Bomb and use the Law Runes and Elemental Spirit King Incarnation to forcibly accumulate power exceeding his own rank and limits. That barrier wouldn't be there to restrict it and it would completely destroy everything within a few kilometers. The shockwave would spread even further.

The terrifying convergence of power immediately attracted a large number of powerhouses towards this side, this gave Grimm a headache, he really hadn't expected Lin Yun to be that powerful. As for Layford, he was extremely pale, he had yet to regain control over his body and mana. He thought about moving his leg, but his hand moved instead.

His mind ordered his body to release a shield, but with his mana being a mess, he couldn't even release a 1st Tier Spell...

Layford was in disbelief as he looked at Lin Yun flying in the air, despair could be seen in his eyes. How could he have expected Lin Yun to be powerful enough to resist against Grimm.

'Shouldn't he have died instantly?

'He was still an Archmage half a year ago...Even if he already advanced to the Heaven realm, how could he resist the attack of a Peak 4th Rank Heaven Mage? That gap is so great that I can't even begin to fathom. How come he hasn't been instantly killed? How could it be like this?'

Layford couldn't escape or block, he could only watch. He didn't need to think to know that the mere fluctuations of the upcoming magic collision would be enough to get rid of him.

It was too late for Grimm to de-escalate the situation, he didn't know what to do. Such a commotion would definitely cause a huge mess...

Just as Lin Yun's extreme Four Element Runic Bomb was about to fully condense, and just as Grimm's flaming hand was about to clash with it, silver light flickered and a Spatial Door appeared in the center of the battlefield.

An old man with hair flickering with a silver white radiance walked out of the Spatial Door. As that old man appeared, the mana in his surroundings was suddenly smoothed. The old man raised his hand and waved at the approaching flaming hand, routing and dissipating it easily.

As for his other hand, he waved it towards Lin Yun. At this moment, Lin Yun felt an irresistible and terrifying power emerge. It was like an invisible giant hand lightly brushing him away. The huge elemental vortex above Lin Yun's head was instantly defeated and the extreme Four Element Runic Bomb Lin Yun had condensed also turned into a huge wave of elemental power charging into the sky.

That irresistible and terrifying power was like the will of the world itself, even Lin Yun with his Elemental Spirit King Incarnation couldn't stop his attack from dispersing.

"Enough."

The old man calmly hovered in the air, his white gown embroidered with gold threads not fluctuating in the least. Moreover, the mana surging in the surroundings completely dissipated.

Seeing this old man appear and end the battle in such a dazzling and tyrannical way, Lin Yun decisively scattered his Elemental Spirit King Incarnation. Its mana consumption was something even Lin Yun couldn't support. If he was careless, just a little bit negligent when absorbing mana from the Demiplane, then his vitality and soul would start being consumed.

As for Grimm, shock could be seen on his face when he saw that old man and he also stopped casting. He scattered the mana surging over his body and respectfully greeted him.

"Dean Gandaph."

Gandaph looked like a gentle old man wearing a white robe. No strong aura could be felt coming from his body, but just by standing there, Lin Yun felt as if he was standing in front of a peaceful sea and that a single wave could crush him.

Dean Gandaph was one of the three Saint Alchemists of the Starry Sky College. It was the first time Lin Yun encountered a Saint Alchemist and shock could be seen in his eyes. That wasn't the pure terrifying aura of a Heaven Mage, it wasn't fierce, nor did it feel powerful, it instead felt deep and immeasurable. This was the most terrifying part.

Just the fact that he forcibly opened a Spatial Door in the middle of the battlefield explained a lot. Gandaph was a lot stronger than Grimm and Lin Yun, he had to be able to completely overpower them or he wouldn't have been able to open a Spatial Door in the middle of the battlefield.

Gandaph had a calm expression and a gentle smile, but his thoughts didn't align with his expression. He felt embarrassed as he looked at Lin Yun and Grimm.

As one of the deans of the Starry Sky College, Zeith had already reported the ins and outs of this gathering to him. He had a rough understanding of how many truth runes every Artisan was able to research.

He had been waiting for Lin Yun to copy the mysteries of the truth runes he had researched and was even prepared to pay a huge price this time. But no matter what, the price couldn't compare to the mysteries contained within the truth runes. As long as they had these mysteries, the Starry Sky College would remain as the Holy Land of alchemists. They might even be able to nurture a Saint Alchemist.

Maybe more than one Saint Alchemist would be nurtured. For that, even trading ten planes rich in resources wouldn't be a loss.

But it was like this now. The battle's fluctuations would definitely be sensed by all mages within a few dozen kilometers. If it became known that an Artisan was robbed of his research in the Starry Sky College's territory, no one would attend their future gatherings.

But this was a thorny problem now that an assistant dean of the Starry Sky College personally participated in this matter. If he stood on the side of the Starry Sky College's assistant dean, then the Starry Sky College would lose all credibility.

But if he stood on Lin Yun's side, he would have to deal with the Starry Sky College's assistant dean impartially while also offending the Jackson Family. Offending a Family and causing internal strife for the sake of an Andlusan Artisan, was it worth it?

In any case, the copy of these mysteries would definitely be obtained by the Starry Sky College. Thus, it was for the best to play peacemaker and de-escalate the issue. At worst, they would just pay more for the trade.

If not for that fight, Gandaph wouldn't have appeared, but the internal matters of the Starry Sky College could clearly be seen.

Gandaph smiled as he decided to mediate and de-escalate the situation...

As for Layford, he didn't even dare to speak when he saw Gandaph. Gandaph was a legendary figure in the Odin Kingdom, one of the three deans of the Odin Kingdom and a Saint Alchemist. Not to mention, he was extremely powerful. No one knew exactly how powerful Gandaph was, but from what just happened, the onlookers could guess that he was at least at the 6th Rank of the Heaven realm.

Seeing Gandaph, Grimm immediately made up his mind and pointed at Lin Yun before accusing him with a cold expression, "Dean Gandaph, I received a request for help. This guy intended to steal someone else's research and assaulted someone inside the Starry Sky College's territory. He refused to cooperate with my investigation and even attacked me.

"According to the rules of the Starry Sky College, he has to be punished severely! We can't let everyone believe that our Starry Sky College is easy to bully!"

Grimm loudly accused Lin Yun, but he gave up the accusation that Lin Yun already stole Layford's research, instead focusing on the fact that Lin Yun violated the rules of the Starry Sky College.

Lin Yun squinted, his eyes flickering with a dangerous radiance as he roused the Natural Demi-plane. If that dean acted like Grimm, then Lin Yun couldn't be blamed for causing havoc. Gandaph was truly powerful and Lin Yun didn't have the power to resist. But he wouldn't just sit still.

“Dean Gandaph, I’ll only ask you this. That moron Layford said that I stole his transcript of 1,600 truth runes. But can he research 1,600 truth runes? No, can he even research 500?”

Hearing Lin Yun’s question, Grimm’s face turned ashen and embarrassment could be seen flickering in Gandaph’s eyes.

As a Saint Alchemist, telling lies in the field of alchemy was something he couldn’t do, let alone for an Artisan of another force.

As the situation was in a stalemate, Gandaph smiled and ignored both Layford and Grimm, instead using a peaceful tone to try and persuade Lin Yun.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, the Starry Sky College would definitely investigate this matter properly, I will use my name as a guarantee. I definitely won’t wrong an innocent...”

Gandaph didn’t get to finish his sentence. He suddenly raised his head and looked into the distance with an appalled expression. He took back the convincing words he had originally planned to use to persuade Lin Yun and closed his mouth for a few seconds. The horror visible on his face slowly turned into a solemn expression.

“Sir Mafa Merlin, rest assured, we have already properly investigated this matter and we will definitely give you a satisfactory explanation!”

After saying that, Gandaph turned to look at Grimm and Layford.

“Sir Grimm, as the assistant dean of the Starry Sky College, your duty is to protect the Starry Sky College’s peace and guarantee that alchemy remains pure, but you have disappointed me too much. We have already clearly investigated the truth of this matter.

“You violated the rules of the Starry Sky College. I don’t need to remind you, do I? Go to the lava well to undergo your punishment. You’ll stay there for a hundred years!”

Grimm paled as he heard those words. He was about to speak when he saw a few law runes flying towards him. They transformed into chain imprints and entered his body.

Then, there seemed to be an illusory chain connected to the depths of the Starry Sky College. Seeing this chain, Grimm immediately kept his mouth shut and didn’t dare to utter a single word.

Outsiders might not know what the lava well was, but every member of the Starry Sky College knew. Neverwinter City was located on a huge underground sea of lava. If the lava burst out, it would affect everything over a hundred kilometers. It could even influence the climate and environment of the entire northern part of the Odin Kingdom...

The lava well was the place guiding the power of the lava sea. It was also the source of power supporting the Starry Sky College’s huge arrays. But many mages needed to work there to make sure there was no problem when guiding the power. Moreover, the environment was quite nasty. Weaker mages would fall there...

Only powerhouses at the Archmage realm or above could live normally in that place. But that definitely wasn’t a location mages were willing to go to. Let alone since the Starry Sky College was the Holy Land of alchemists and they couldn’t experiment there.

Only those punished would be dispatched there.

Grimm didn't wait for that chain, whose length was unknown, to tear him apart and immediately flew in the distance to follow this illusory chain.

Then, Gandaph looked at Layford with a loathful gaze, his expression even darkening a little. Thinking of the voice that echoed in his mind a moment ago, Gandaph's face became even darker.

"Sir Layford, you have just become one of the members of the Starry Sky College's blacklist. You are forbidden to get close to Neverwinter City!"

Before Layford could speak, Gandaph waved his hand and a palm sent Layford flying. Although the palm impacted Layford, it also enveloped him in mana. Layford was sent flying without being able to resist, he instantly disappeared. Even with his outstanding eyesight, Lin Yun couldn't see how far Layford was sent flying. At the very least, he had been sent flying out of Neverwinter City.

Lin Yun actually knew about the Starry Sky College's blacklist. They couldn't get within ten kilometers of Neverwinter City. They would also be blacklisted from all industries, shops, and even by the members of the Starry Sky College.

As long as they got within ten kilometers of the Starry Sky College, they would immediately be expelled. If they tried to force their way in, death would become their only option. As for Starry Sky College's shops and properties, they would immediately be stopped at the door. No member of the Starry Sky College would be willing to interact with blacklisted people.

This was an even worse punishment than being killed, especially for an Artisan. Any alchemist related to the Starry Sky College would completely ignore Layford.

Even the alchemy shops would refuse to do business with Layford in order to show respect to the Starry Sky College.

This kind of blacklisting was very terrifying. In the future, if Layford needed to buy a chunk of magic metal, he would have to look for someone to help him secretly buy it for him, from big shops and small shops alike.

After finishing this, Gandaph summoned a Griffin Rider team and solemnly ordered, "Use the name of the Starry Sky College to pass this announcement. Members of the Jackson Family used vile methods to commit a crime inside the Starry Sky College. For trying to steal someone else's research, no member of the Jackson Family is allowed to participate in the ten year gathering for the next 300... No, for the next 500 years."

After giving that command, Gandaph secretly sighed in relief and looked at Lin Yun with curiosity.

He had obtained Zeith's report before and speculated that this youth might have researched 1,700 to 1,800 truth runes' mysteries. This was already very scary, but he truly hadn't expected that Lord to actually speak up for him.

'That idiotic Grimm is short-sighted, he can't see further than his own nose. How could he not know what an Artisan that researched 1,800 truth runes mean?

'Letting him work in the lava well for a hundred years is already looking after him. As for that idiot of the Jackson Family, he actually dared to make a move inside the Starry Sky College's territory. The Jackson Family truly doesn't put our Starry Sky College in their eyes. Three hundred years is too little, they have to be banned from the gatherings for at least five hundred years...

'I also have to send orders to stop all cooperation with the Jackson Family. Moreover, the college's alchemists can't go to the Jackson Family. We can't say it outright, but we must convey our stance...'

"Sir Mafa, we will treat any issue you encounter in the Starry Sky College's territory with impartiality. We definitely won't let you feel wronged. Are you satisfied with this process?"

What else could Lin Yun say? That punishment was already quite serious. Layford wouldn't be able to do anything in the Odin Kingdom, at least openly. Although gold would make everything easier and he might be able to get a hold of the things he wants, large-scale businesses would still refuse him out of respect for the Starry Sky College.

Chapter 1243 Trade and Expansion

After all, anyone with a brain would know who to choose between an ordinary Heaven realm Artisan and a terrifyingly powerful Saint Alchemist.

Lin Yun nodded and said nothing. Gandaph personally arranged a laboratory for Lin Yun and let him continue his transcription of the truth runes. Lin Yun heard the news the next day.

The Starry Sky College's announcement already spread and everyone knew about it. The Jackson Family echoed the announcement by expelling Layford from their family, he was abandoned...

"Merlin, let's get rid of that guy. He has been abandoned by his family. Kill him and get his soul for me..."

Shawn had become addicted to tearing apart Heaven Rank powerhouses' souls. He wanted Lin Yun to capture a Heaven Rank powerhouse, and it couldn't be better now that one of them was already Lin Yun's foe.

Lin Yun ignored the excited Shawn and kept transcribing the result of his research. With this arrangement, being alive was worse than dead for Layford. He ended up truly isolated. Not only did the Starry Sky College blacklist him, his family expelled him. Even if this was only what happened openly, it would be really hard to take.

The next day, Lin Yun got ready to take the crystal plates to the Starry Sky College. These things were worth quite a bit, and more importantly, these things could be exchanged for a lot of benefits from the Starry Sky College. According to previous trades, the research of these 1,800 truth runes could be traded for at least three planes from the Starry Sky College. And these wouldn't be ordinary planes.

But the Starry Sky College didn't immediately take possession of these crystal plates. Instead, Lin Yun was led to Gandaph's mage tower.

Seeing the small mountain of crystal plates in front of him, Gandaph's eyes flickered with a fanatical expression. Even if he was a Saint Alchemist, these crystal plates contained a lot of knowledge even he didn't know.

There is no end to truth-seeking. This was the alchemists' motto.

More importantly, Lin Yun hadn't recorded his research on paper, he had used crystal plates. This ensured that the recorded information would remain as close as possible to their true meaning. This was critical.

Gandaph didn't immediately check the crystal plates after receiving them and instead directly handed a box made out of Star Essence Gold to Lin Yun. The box was covered in numerous seals, and once the seals were removed, the content of the box was exposed in front of Lin Yun.

The box was divided into six small slots, each with their own seal ensuring that the content of each slot wouldn't affect the others.

There were six crest-like things inside the box, but they all had different designs. Even their aura was completely different.

Amazement flashed in Lin Yun's eyes as he saw these six crests.

Six planar keys!

The keys recording planar coordinates. Under normal circumstances, there would only be one planar key by plane. This represented six planes!

Making a planar key wasn't easy, a Saint Alchemist had to take care of the most important part. The coordinates were sealed inside the planar key and entering the plane could only be done with the planar key. Without the planar key, even if one knew the coordinates and arranged a Planar Path, it might lead them directly into the endless void.

In the future, a planar key represented a plane. Many alchemists would craft counterfeits and sell them as independent planes.

But that kind of counterfeit techniques didn't exist in this era. Every planar key carried the aura of a plane's origin.

"Here are keys of planes our Starry Sky College completely conquered in exchange for those crystal plates. They have just been conquered and we didn't have the time to start exploiting them, these planes are still very rich in natural resources. All these planes have unique resources not found in Noscent."

Gandaph smiled as he introduced the six planes, but Lin Yun unexpectedly didn't take them right away.

The six planes had just been conquered and had yet to be exploited, but the requirements for the planes to be exploited were already met. He only needed to send manpower to get benefits. And these were planes with resources that weren't produced in Noscent.

This was equivalent to spending time and labor to process raw materials into a sweet cake and offering it to him. It was such a good thing, and there were six of them. Lin Yun didn't believe that the research of 1,800 truth runes was worth that price.

After all, every conquered plane was a huge expense for a mage force. The process from the start of the conquest until they obtained the natural resources of the planar path could take a few hundred years. Even if it went well, it could take a few decades.

It cost so much time and resources to get those planes ready to be harvested, yet they were given to Lin Yun. That price was too high, it was at least double what Lin Yun had been expecting. In terms of value, it might be two or three times more important.

Lin Yun didn't believe that the Starry Sky College could be generous enough to take a loss.

"Dean Gandaph, although the transcript of the mysteries contained within 1,800 truth runes is valuable, it can't completely express those truth runes' mysteries. Six completely conquered planes that hadn't been exploited is far too much for that."

Gandaph immediately understood what Lin Yun wanted to ask by pointing out this issue.

"Comprehending 1,800 truth runes during your first gathering has already broken our Starry Sky College's record by more than double the number of truth runes. There are many truth runes' mysteries that we have never researched among those.

"Six completely conquered planes might be a lot under normal circumstances, but it isn't in this case. This can also be considered as an explanation from our Starry Sky College to you for yesterday's matter.

"Naturally, there is another matter I hope Sir Mafa could agree to. There is a certain Sir that'd like to meet you."

Hearing this, Lin Yun instantly understood, it was due to that person.

They spent so much effort just to meet, how could Lin Yun refuse? Moreover, from Gandaph's expression, it didn't seem to be a bad thing.

"I wonder which Sir wishes to meet me?"

Lin Yun started pondering. Someone that even a Saint Alchemist like Gandaph called Sir... There weren't many of them in the Odin Kingdom. He made some guesses, but he couldn't be certain.

Gandaph shook his head, still smiling.

"I can't speak of this matter at will. You'll understand when the time comes, if you agree."

Lin Yun didn't pursue his questioning and agreed.

"Alright, I agree to this matter. But not now, it'll be left for another time..."

Gandaph didn't say it had to be now and nodded instead.

After leaving the Starry Sky College, Lin Yun pondered about managing these six planes. The best method was to directly let the Gilded Rose manage them.

While Lin Yun was still in the Raging Flame Plane, the Gilded Rose had already expanded to over eighty branches. Over eight hundred alchemists had been nurtured in the stores, from the most ordinary Alchemists, to Master Alchemists, they had everything.

As for Lin Yun, after returning from the Raging Flame Plane, the Gilded Rose started rapidly expanding once again. With the territories Lin Yun possessed in the Raging Flame Plane as a foundation, and the

Steel Fort, which had become the plane's center of commerce, no one could stop the Gilded Rose's expansion.

When Lin Yun was in charge of the Merlin Family, he took advantage of that opportunity to tutor Faleau. Faleau rapidly progressed under Lin Yun's special care and he could now barely count as an Artisan.

After the Gilded Rose annexed the Merlin Family's business network, their expansion met no resistance. In addition to their original potioneering business, they were now dipping into refining, puppeteering and the field of array.

With a developed business network as a foundation, good alchemy techniques, and an outstanding research team, the Gilded Rose could regularly come up with new potions that would be considered superior goods.

When comparing products with the same effects, the Gilded Rose was the most stable and had the best results. The side-effects were minimal or non-existent, and more importantly, they had the cheapest prices. This was critical.

In addition, the Gilded Rose had things that other shops didn't possess and goods that couldn't be imitated. With potions as their weapons, they rapidly took over the entire Andlusa Kingdom's market.

The biggest share of the Raging Flame Plane's potion market was also held by the Gilded Rose. With unique alchemy products as their foundation, their business was flourishing. In addition to the raw materials produced within Lin Yun's territories, the few big Beastman Tribes within the Raging Flame Plane were all cooperating.

As for the Grey Beastmen that followed Lin Yun early on, they had broken away from the times when they couldn't eat until satiety. They were all very rich and in terms of wealth, the average Grey Beastman could absolutely compare to the richest Beastman of the other tribes.

The Grey Beastmen's fort was already a true city of steel. It had already expanded three times and there were eight huge mana reactors within, offering a steady flow of mana to the entire city. The city's defensive abilities could definitely withstand the pressure of a steel army and a dozen Heaven Rank powerhouses, and no one would dare to cause trouble.

With the alchemy team already able to research independently, alchemy potions was no longer the main focus, they had already started studying magic battleships.

The Gilded Rose has already researched floating battleships stronger than what was currently available in Noscent. Under Faleau's lead, although they couldn't compare to the worst magic battleship available in the future, the prototypes displayed some power.

Faleau clearly remembered the words Lin Yun had casually said. The Bone Plane had already been opened for the Gilded Rose, and at the time, Lin Yun had said that if they had a magic battleship, a team of Great Mages might be able to casually sweep through the entire Bone Plane.

But that kind of research required huge funds, it needed a lot of golds. Faleau had kept those words in mind and the Gilded Rose's current development was greatly linked to Lin Yun's casual words from back then.

As for the Andlusa Kingdom's alchemist guild, they were now fully cooperating with the Gilded Rose. The first item was a large-scale mana reactor researched by the Gilded Rose. Many mage towers would be using it to increase their defenses or to allow them to research even more things.

The core of the large-scale mana reactor of the Andlusa Royal Family's defenses had been made with the Gilded Rose' help. With the support of wealth and power, the Gilded Rose could expand as long as they wished to. It could truly be said to have wealth equivalent to an entire nation.

In addition to having over eight hundred alchemists, there was several thousand Apprentice Alchemists, and the mercenary groups, small families, autonomous alchemists and mages amounted to a huge number.

But now, those that knew that the Gilded Rose was related to the Merlin Family, to Lin Yun, were extremely few in numbers. Instead, Faleau had become quite famous. The Andlusa Royal Family was paying attention to Faleau. If the Gilded Rose fell, the entire Andlusa Kingdom would suffer.

Because the mages and swordsmen that survive thanks to the Gilded Rose were just far too numerous to be counted. The Gilded Rose had earned the trust of the masses.

There were people who wanted to go after the Gilded Rose, but very few of them would dare to act upon their urges. A middle-sized force of the Andlusa Kingdom ended up having their entire residence turned into a big hole the day after they robbed a caravan of the Gilded Rose.

The wealth equivalent to an entire nation wasn't just for show, even the Odin Kingdom didn't dare to ignore the Gilded Rose. When Lin Yun came to the Odin Kingdom, the Gilded Rose was already preparing to expand to the Odin Kingdom. Lin Yun calculated the time and figured out that the negotiations should have been more or less settled.

The Starry Sky College's six planes rich in natural resources would be managed by the Gilded Rose. There was no pressure at all, it didn't matter even if they weren't completely conquered. The Gilded Rose's team in charge of conquering planes had been enlarged a while ago. With the Intrepid as a research study, even if their magic battleship imitations couldn't compare to future Noscent's magic battleships, they could compare to the smallest magic battleships.

Moreover, their mana crystal cannons had broken through a bottleneck, even if their researched mana crystal cannons couldn't compare to the Intrepid, they weren't too inferior.

As Lin Yun was thinking about these things, someone from the Gilded Rose came to give a report to Lin Yun.

"Sir Merlin, Sir Faleau's negotiations with the Odin Kingdom are more or less complete. A total of eight major forces, as well as some smaller forces, agreed to cooperate with the Gilded Rose. The Odin Royal Family even sent a prince.

"Sir Faleau intends to organize an exhibition in ten days to reveal the power of our Gilded Rose. Sir Faleau sent me to inquire if Sir Merlin has any instructions."

Lin Yun inwardly sighed, 'Faleau is really talented. The Gilded Rose is becoming more and more prosperous with every passing day. If gold is mentioned in the Andlusa Kingdom, the first reaction would

be to think of the Gilded Rose. Alchemy items are originally profitable, but if the success rate is higher, the profits would increase a few times...'

Lin Yun put the six planar keys in a box made of Eternal Gold Essence and handed it to the person before him. This was Faleau's closest assistant and he could be said to have a high status in the Gilded Rose. He could be at ease leaving it with him.

Moreover, this box could only be opened by Faleau. If anyone else tried to crack the box open, the six planar keys would instantly be delivered to Lin Yun's Demiplane. He didn't have to worry about anyone snatching them.

"Give this to Faleau, this contains the planar keys of six conquered planes rich in natural resources, tell him to take care of them."

Faleau's assistant was terrified and received the box very cautiously. He couldn't hide the reverence in his eyes as he looked at Lin Yun.

'So powerful... When the Gilded Rose just started operating, most of the core alchemy techniques were managed by Sir Merlin. Although Sir Merlin doesn't participate in the management, without the materials he provided, the Gilded Rose would have been unable to stay open.

'Six planes rich in resources, this is something that gold can't buy. With these six planes, the Gilded Rose's materials would never be under others' control and we might be able to expand even further. No wonder Sir Merlin is confident in the growth of the Gilded Rose in the Odin Kingdom...'

Ignoring the reverence in the eyes of Faleau's assistant, Lin Yun thought for a bit and took out a dozen sheets of paper before writing down a large number of raw materials he needed. A few of them couldn't be found openly.

"Give this to Faleau and tell him to prepare these for me, I need them."

The assistant didn't care how precious the materials were and professionally put away the note. To the Gilded Rose, there may be alchemy items that couldn't be found, but the materials that couldn't be found were very few in numbers. After all, many alchemy items made from specialties of the Abyss could only be found in Lin Yun's shop! And there were many similar things.

Lin Yun shook his head with a smile as Faleau's assistant left. He had been hearing Faleau's name in the past few days. He had just reached the Artisan realm, yet he was already more famous than some first-rate Artisan of the Starry Sky College.

Even if someone didn't know the name of a mage family's patriarch, they knew about Faleau. The rich and tyrannical Gilded Rose expanding to the Odin Kingdom didn't require a small amount of gold. When it came to spending money, the merchant family of the Odin Kingdom, the Henry Family, couldn't compare to the Gilded Rose. In the past six months, Faleau's spending could be likened to burning through money.

With such huge benefits, the Families of the Odin Kingdom would definitely act like sharks attracted by blood. But, after seeing the strength of the Gilded Rose first-hand, the sharks would naturally turn into good-natured collaborators.

Chapter 1244 Debate and Exploration

Everyone knew that Faleau was the highest administrator of the Gilded Rose, even Heaven Rank powerhouses didn't dare to show off in front of him. He had so many golds that it could really crush someone to death.

Lin Yun's research of truth runes had become increasingly more profound these past few days. The mysteries he had previously comprehended slowly transformed into alchemy results and it has reached the point where he could start experimenting with materials.

He had too little materials on hand, and they weren't varied enough. He needed Faleau to make preparations for him, but he could already start some experiments.

At this time, Gandaph came over once again.

After meeting Gandaph, Lin Yun heard many rumors about him. He was one of the three deans of the Starry Sky College and was known as the white-robed mage. This wasn't just expressing that he was always wearing a white robe, it was also a display of his strength and alchemy proficiency.

Gandaph was already at the 5th Rank of the Heaven realm a few hundred years ago, and no one believed that a Saint Alchemist would remain stuck at the 5th Rank after so many years. "The Truth is in Alchemy" wasn't just a catchphrase.

When it came to alchemy, researching the mysteries of the world was equivalent to directly studying the laws. It's just that the way of studying the laws was different from ordinary mages.

Powerful mages might not necessarily be powerful alchemists, but powerful alchemists were definitely powerful mages. This was common knowledge.

None of the Starry Sky College's three deans was below the 5th Rank of the Heaven realm when they reached the Saint realm. Furthermore, many mages wore white robes, but only one became known as the white-robed mage, Gandaph.

Gandaph chuckled as he entered Lin Yun's alchemy laboratory and Lin Yun immediately stopped his calculations.

"Dean Gandaph, could it be that you already want to organize the meeting with that Sir? You should at least let me know who it is ahead of time so that I can prepare myself mentally..."

Gandaph smiled and dodged the question.

"Youths are truly impatient. This isn't good, you'll understand when you meet that person. I didn't come over for this matter, rather, I came as an alchemist."

Since Gandaph said so, Lin Yun didn't continue probing, but he couldn't help feeling curious. Someone that could make Gandaph invite him must have a really high status...

"Eh... Is this the antithesis compounding method? Sir Mafa, you actually understand this technique?"

Gandaph threw a quick glance at the sheet of paper Lin Yun had been writing on and instantly saw through Lin Yun's notes. Antithesis compounding wasn't something ordinary Artisans could master. It

was using multiple medicinal ingredients, with a minimum of two, to transform them into materials. The process was very unstable.

The materials had to come in contact with each other, destroy each other, until a new kind of material would be left behind as a main material for an alchemy potion. But even good potioneer Artisans would have a hard time compounding two kinds of materials with this method.

Because it required high control and knowledge of medicinal ingredients. If the subtle differences between every kind of medicinal ingredient weren't calculated accurately, or if the alchemist slipped up for a moment, then the compounding would fail.

And Lin Yun was currently calculating the antithesis compounding of eight kinds of materials.

Gandaph sighed, "I really didn't expect Sir Mafa to have already reached the peak of the Artisan realm, and you are far stronger than the average Peak Artisan. The antithesis compounding of these eight kinds of materials isn't easy to grasp, and the calculations might need several years to complete. Putting these three kinds of materials together is a bold idea..."

Lin Yun shook his head.

"These three kinds of materials oppose each other and are highly toxic when combined together. But with proper calculations, the best effect would be displayed as their toxicity would turn into a huge amount of energy..."

After that, Lin Yun followed Gandaph. When it came to alchemy, Lin Yun wouldn't back down. He expounded on his own theories and designs with Gandaph.

They discussed alchemy for three days, from potioneering to refining, and then to puppeteering.

"Although the Full-Right Angle Mana Reactor's design has merits, there would be restrictions on the burst of mana. It does have more endurance, but it is quite weak during critical times..."

"All mana reactors have to be studied based on their entire properties. A Full-Right Angle design could make the mana reactor react even more intensely, which meant that the mana that would erupt would be stronger while also having better endurance. This is an overall increase..."

"But the arc patterns' energy transmission is even stronger. Using the strong mana reaction of an explosion alongside the arc strengthening, a puppet's burst power could increase up to three times..."

"That requires at least three times the materials. With these materials, a mana reactor ten times as powerful could be crafted..."

Gandaph and Lin Yun were like two mad scientists leaning on both sides of a crystal table and arguing. Suddenly, Gandaph laughed and stood up, before looking at Lin Yun with an appreciative gaze.

'He is really a terrifying youth. Whether it is in potioneering, refining, puppeteering, or in the field of arrays, he is extremely skilled. And the most terrifying thing is that he studies problems from all angles. His potioneering knowledge can be used to puppeteering, and with the smallest cost, he can bring out the best outcome.

'But he isn't restricted by this line of thought. Instead, he could also use high cost to bring up the strongest effect.

'He is in his thirties. For a Heaven Rank powerhouse, his life could be said to have just started. I wouldn't be surprised if he became a Saint Alchemist before 100. His knowledge is comprehensive and too outstanding. Moreover, he has farsightedness and creativity, which is hard to come by in alchemists.

'An alchemist who lost their creativity is no different from a craftsman. He'll definitely advance to the Saint realm, it's only a matter of time.'

Gandaph looked at Lin Yun in a daze, recalling the process of his own breakthrough with a complex expression.

Lin Yun suddenly noticed that Gandaph stopped in the middle of their heated debate.

Lin Yun awkwardly smiled and stopped. He didn't feel that he had persuaded Gandaph. As a Saint Alchemist, Gandaph really widened Lin Yun's horizon. Even if he just mentioned knowledge that would only appear in the future, Gandaph would immediately figure out the benefits and shortcomings, he could even make deductions...

Lin Yun had many undeveloped ideas which ended up being developed by Gandaph while they discussed alchemy. Lin Yun brought up some of his components ideas for the Shelter Tower to get some suggestions from Gandaph.

This was a true Saint Alchemist. Even if Lin Yun was already at the peak of the Alchemist realm and could clearly feel the Saint realm in the distance, he wasn't much closer than an Apprentice Alchemist.

It is said that Saint Alchemists are existences that mastered a part of the truth. Lin Yun could feel it now that he was acquainted with one. They really were very powerful. They are a lot more powerful than expected. Now that he was able to observe a Saint Alchemist, Lin Yun knew what path he should take.

It also explained one problem, why he was unable to keep researching truth runes after the 1,800th.

It was due to his rank. As a 2nd Rank Heaven Mage, the peak of the Artisan realm was already his limit. To continue researching, he would need to use law runes comprehension as a foundation. Without it, he would be unable to continue and the path to Saint Alchemist would remain a distant goal.

Gandaph sighed with a complicated expression, apparently making a decision.

"Sir Mafa, would you like to go somewhere with me?"

Lin Yun was slightly stunned.

"Is it to meet that person?"

Gandaph shook his head.

"Its another place, just follow after me."

Lin Yun nodded. Places that Gandaph would attach importance and would hesitate to bring up were definitely scarce.

He followed Gandaph as he flew out of Neverwinter City. After travelling ten kilometers, Gandaph stopped in the air and a terrifying aura surged from his body. But no matter if it was mana fluctuations or Extraordinary fluctuations, they were all limited to a meter around Gandaph...

Lin Yun remained a dozen meters behind Gandaph and couldn't help but release his Fusion Shield. That terrifying power made Lin Yun feel as if a terrifying monster suddenly opened its eyes in front of him. Even if it didn't target him, even if not a single wisp of air touched his body, the pressure it brought was far more terrifying than the all-out pressure of a 5th Rank Heaven powerhouse.

Breathing was hard under this pressure. It was like an ordinary mortal standing in front of a Dragon. Even if the Dragon held no malice, that terrifying pressure instinctively brought up fear that couldn't be prevented. This was no longer a gap in power, but rather, a gap in essence.

Lin Yun was shocked, Gandaph was truly too terrifying. This strength wasn't limited to the 6th Rank of the Heaven realm, it might even belong to the 7th Rank!

Even though Lin Yun was stunned, Gandaph's next move surprised him even more. Countless law runes throbbed at the tip of Gandaph's finger. Every law rune was condensed from at least twelve basic runes. The data and power they held was terrifying.

After these law runes appeared, they rapidly shrunk and joined together to form gloves of light.

Gandaph's expression turned solemn as he inserted his hands into the void in front of him and moved them in opposite directions. It looked like Gandaph was tearing through the void as a spatial rift appeared.

Fierce chaotic energies surged from the rift, but they were suppressed by Gandaph's aura in an instant. The halo on Gandaph's hands transformed into a colored ribbon which attached itself to this spatial rift, supporting it. Light then pierced into the void and a Planar Path could be seen a few seconds later.

"Sir Mafa, let's get moving, this Planar Path won't last long."

After saying that, Gandaph took the lead and stepped into this forcibly opened rift.

Lin Yun could hardly hide his shock, because Gandaph had forcibly torn open a Planar Path, this required one to be at least at the peak of the Heaven realm.

But Gandaph was clearly far from the peak of the Heaven Rank, yet he could still accomplish this feat. This explained one thing. Gandaph was stronger than powerhouse of the same rank, and his comprehension of law runes had reached a terrifying stage. He didn't need to use an array or supporting items to tear open a Planar Path out of nothing.

Lin Yun took a deep breath and didn't dare to delay. That kind of Planar Path was actually a very unstable Planar Path, it was very dangerous. He wouldn't go in unless he had absolute confidence. If this Planar Path appeared anywhere else, Lin Yun definitely wouldn't take the risk to go in. Who knows how long that Planar Path could last, what if it collapsed on the way?

But since this was created by Gandaph, this shouldn't be that dangerous...

He stepped into the Planar Path and noticed that it was different from ordinary Planar Path. There was only a narrow path of light leading into the distance. As Lin Yun stepped into it, the light path rapidly transformed into a flowing light rushing into the endless void.

The entrance behind him instantly disappeared and the endless void on both sides transformed into a flowing light in an instant. It was as if the entire world was flashing as he moved at the speed of light, his surroundings blended into blurry flickering lights.

After a few minutes, the flowing lights suddenly dissipated and another irregular rift appeared before his eyes. Lin Yun hurriedly followed Gandaph and passed through that irregular rift.

After walking out of that rift, Gandaph waved his hands and the fluctuations caused by the sudden tearing of the space were forcibly smoothed within a few hundred meters. He even forcibly controlled the several thousand meters around him so that no different fluctuation could be transmitted.

He only released his control when the rift behind them closed and no more spatial fluctuation appeared.

The thick taste of rust filled the entire space. The sky wasn't blue, it looked like the void was directly exposed while the ground looked like one of the huge meteorites floating in the void. It was a planet without an atmosphere.

There was little oxygen in the air, in fact, the air itself was sparse. A mortal wouldn't last more than a few minutes in such an environment before they suffocated. The ground didn't look like soil, it felt like it was made of steel covered in rust. The surrounding mountains looked like they were covered in corrosion. Some of them still looked like the ruins of steel buildings.

A few kilometers away, a huge steel building that was at least a thousand meters high was like a huge sword stuck on the ground, and many things were fluttering around it.

Cracking sounds echoed as Lin Yun woke up from his daze. He looked to the side and saw a swarm of thumb-sized eight-legged small mechanical insects gnawing on the steel's rust. The small mechanical insects were very fast and the surface of the steel was bright and clean after their passage, as if it was completely new.

He then saw a small insect's body shake and split into two identical insects before continuing to feed on the rust.

Rust Eater Insects...

They were puppets specialized in eating away the rust of metals and using it to reproduce.

The name of that insect instantly flashed in Lin Yun's mind, but he couldn't help exclaiming afterwards.

"This is the Puppet Plane!?"

Gandaph nodded and said with a prideful tone, "Indeed, this is the Puppet Plane. This is a place I managed to find after quite a bit of struggle. There is no powerful puppet within the surrounding thirty kilometers so this is the safest place to open a Planar Path."

Lin Yun nodded, shock visible in his eyes.

He had previously obtained a key to the Puppet Plane but hadn't dared to use it casually. Who would have thought that Gandaph's Planar Path would lead to the Puppet Plane. After all, the Puppet Plane was a high grade plane inhabited by many powerful puppets. Moreover, it would later be recorded that terrifying puppets surpassing the Heaven Rank inhabited this plane.

The ones in charge here were the Cybertan Race composed of Heaven Puppets that awakened wisdom. These guys didn't welcome the appearance of creatures of flesh and blood. It didn't matter how powerful Gandaph was, there were many puppets that could instantly kill him here.

"Be careful, last time I met a troublesome guy. We will be in trouble if we get caught by that guy..." Gandaph warned Lin Yun.

He led the way and passed in between two small mountains of discarded parts. After Lin Yun and Gandaph left, a large number of Rust Eaters emerged from their hiding spots and continued gnawing onto the rust of those structures and parts.

Lin Yun picked up a palm-sized component that had just been cleaned up by a Rust Eater. It was already bright and clean, as if new. But the most important part was that runes and patterns were changing irregularly on its surface and transformed into another property.

Although Lin Yun already knew about it, he still couldn't help sighing.

Rust Eaters could be said to be at the bottom of the food chain. These kinds of discarded components could be seen everywhere, forming small mountains. There was even a 600-meter-tall metal mountain in the distance. There was no need to think to know that it was formed from discarded components.

Rust Eaters were only interested in rust and had no interest in intact parts. More importantly, after they finished nibbling on a component, the component might not appear different to the touch, but its function might change to another kind.

A kilometer away, a dozen Level 10 Puppets were rummaging through the wrecks, seeking suitable components for themselves. If they found something better, they would immediately change the components and throw the old ones where they stood.

This was how low level puppets grew. They instinctively sought new parts for themselves in these wrecks, continuously increasing their level that way.

Chapter 1245 Exploring and Dismantling

The fights between low level puppets was over this kind of territory. Those with the biggest territory and the most Rust Eaters would find more high grade parts and would level up faster.

Gandaph led Lin Yun out of this dozen-kilometer-wide wreck. On the edge, they saw a dozen puppets around level 10 fighting. They were clearly fighting over territories.

Those puppets were completely different from human-made puppets. Their bodies were covered in welding marks and the parts didn't fit with one another. The weapons and shields they wielded were made of relatively large parts and looked very crude.

The battle ended quickly and the victorious puppet didn't even care about its own injuries as it rapidly tore open its opponents bodies and dismantled their parts to upgrade its own parts.

Lin Yun and Gandaph turned invisible and walked through these ruins only to see an endless black earth spreading in front of them. Large chunks of steel could be seen exposed on the ground. In many locations, the purity of the ore had already reached a very high degree and the ground over a few kilometers already looked like pure black steel.

They kept walking over the black earth and would see mountains of parts every few kilometers. There was even a mountain range spreading over several dozen kilometers.

Gandaph was right, this was indeed the safest entry point. They flew at a low altitude for a few dozen kilometers and could only see a pure forest of steel. The strongest puppet they saw was only at level 33.

They saw a steel tower over a kilometer in height after flying over seventy kilometers. Terrifying energy flickered at the peak of the steel tower and lightning condensed into a several-dozen-meter-big sphere of lightning which then shot into the sky.

“This kind of scene is hard to come by.” Gandaph sighed.

He stood where he was and looked towards the depths of the sky.

Three seconds later, Lin Yun saw a meteorite falling down from the sky with a terrifying speed, it was at least seven kilometers in width. At that time, the several-dozen-meter-big sphere of lightning came in contact with that meteorite.

The lightning bolts were like countless sharp blades flashing and instantly wrapping around the meteorite before cutting it into countless pieces.

Those countless fragments scattered and fell over a few dozen kilometers. Over that range, and with the size of the fragments, the damage to the earth would be almost negligible.

Gandaph glanced at the fragments and said with a regretful tone, “Did you see that meteorite’s color? It seemed to have been carrying some rare metal, this should be Eternal Dark Gold. Unfortunately, the sky of the Puppet Plane has no anti-meteorite defense. It could be said that the Puppet Plane’s anti-air defenses are very weak, and thus, meteorites are frequently falling down.

“Those lightning towers are built by Heaven Puppets as anti-meteorite defenses. This should be the territory of a Heaven Puppet. Seeing a lightning tower means that we aren’t far from a city of steel. Let’s wait, since there is a kilometer-tall lightning tower, that means that the steel city shouldn’t be small. It might have many Heaven Puppets.”

Lin Yun didn’t say anything and observed the lightning tower instead. Just now, the power of that several-dozen-meter-big lightning sphere was comparable to a Heaven Rank powerhouse’s all-out spell. But that lightning tower only took a second to condense that lightning sphere and it perfectly deduced the meteorite’s trajectory.

Seeing Lin Yun’s appearances, Gandaph didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

“Sir Mafa, I urge you not to attack the lightning tower. If you do so, we might end up attracting a puppet army and a terrifying puppet might appear.

“Alright, here it is!”

As soon as Gandaph's words echoed, Lin Yun looked into the distance and saw a seven-meter-big puppet flying in the air and rapidly catching those falling fragments of meteorite. Every piece was flickering with metallic luster, clearly containing highly pure metal.

Gandaph scattered his invisibility and calmly floated in the air. At that moment, that seven-meter-tall four-arm puppet turned towards them, its blue crystal eyes flickering with light as it immediately discarded the ores in its hands. Four 5-meter-long greatswords slashed towards Gandaph.

Gandaph calmly hovered, looking at that level 43 puppet. An impressive blue law rune suddenly shot out of his fingertips, turning into a light blue radiance flashing towards the puppet and trapping the puppet in a dozen-meter-big sphere of water. No matter how much the puppet struggled, it was no different from an insect that stepped in glue.

Gandaph floated over, put his palm onto the surface of the water sphere and the rays of light flickering within the puppet's eyes instantly dissipated.

Lin Yun wasn't too surprised by the fact that Gandaph easily took care of that puppet, with Gandaph's strength, getting rid of a level 43 puppet shouldn't be too difficult, even if it had an ability rune. But Lin Yun didn't even see how Gandaph got rid of that Heaven Puppet...

As he descended, Gandaph casually threw a few law runes to cover over a hundred meters, sealing everything.

At the same time, several dozen small streams of water formed within the sphere of water before transforming into knives or tools. Using the streams' continuous power, that Heaven Puppet was slowly dissected.

But every water knife was vibrating at an inconceivable frequency, shortening the meticulous work to a few seconds. And using that method to dismantle the puppet didn't cause any harm to the components. Instead, it cleaned the rust of some components, making the parts stronger.

The puppet's four limbs were disassembled into parts, each of which was undamaged. These parts floated within the water sphere, very close to their original emplacement, making it look as if the puppet hadn't been dismantled.

Gandaph was very fast and the puppet's movement parts were dismantled one by one. But seeing the circumstances within the puppet's body, Lin Yun could no longer remain unperturbed, he was surprised.

Gandaph's dismantling skill didn't look like much, but as a Peak Artisan, Lin Yun could see the technique contained within, Gandaph wasn't relying on strength...

This kind of dismantling could also be done by Lin Yun, dismantling inside a sphere of water could undoubtedly bring many benefits and wouldn't damage the components, it would even polish old parts.

But Lin Yun couldn't do what Gandaph was doing, transforming several dozen water streams into tools every second. Moreover, these tools were continuously changing, they were formed from streams. This tested alchemy proficiency and knowledge of puppets.

What tool needed to be used where, this kind of basic knowledge had become the most difficult part here. The way Lin Yun dismantled puppets in mere moments was actually a kind of violent dismantling.

In order to get all of the parts, that kind of dismantling wouldn't be chosen, it would only be used in battle.

Because forcibly dismantling a puppet in a moment would damage some weaker components. But what really shocked Lin Yun wasn't the dismantling technique Gandaph was displaying, but the fact that this puppet was in perfect condition.

All the parts of the puppets, all the systems were in perfect condition. In other words, this puppet was still alive, this was the true dismantling technique able to keep all the parts in perfect condition.

Gandaph dismantled the torso of the puppet little by little and every part remained in perfect condition. The control system, mechanical system, wisdom system, weapon system,... Everything was in perfect condition. Even after the puppet's head was dismantled, Lin Yun didn't discover any damaged part.

This was the most terrifying part, letting a Heaven Puppet live while all of its components were dismantled.

Lin Yun stared blankly. With his current strength, he wouldn't be able to flawlessly dismantle a puppet and keep it alive during dismantling, even if he disassembled a level 30 puppet.

He could see Gandaph's experienced movements, this was clearly a new developed technique in the Starry Sky College.

After Gandaph thoroughly dismantled every part, the puppet only looked slightly bigger. After a careful examination, one would discover that although every component was at their original spot, there was a very small gap between them.

If Gandaph wanted to, he could instantly reassemble this puppet and revive that level 43 puppet. But because all the parts had been processed and some of the old parts had been polished and strengthened, the puppet's strength might still be stronger than before.

After finishing his dismantling, Gandaph shook his head and released the water sphere, letting it collapse to the ground with the parts.

"Not this one, let's go..."

Then, without throwing a second glance at the parts, he turned around to leave. Lin Yun's mouth was wide open. He glanced at the parts and conveniently collected them.

Gandaph didn't care about these parts, but that didn't mean that it was the same for Lin Yun. He had previously gotten rid of quite a few Heaven Puppets, but due to the battles, the components of these Heaven Puppets had been unusable and could only be treated as raw materials. He hadn't been able to gather some of the more fragile key components in a long time.

It's been a while since the patched puppet got an upgrade, he had been unable to upgrade it recently, but he now had intact components from a Heaven Puppet, it could definitely make the patched puppet recover its Heaven Rank strength.

And thus, Lin Yun collected these components without shame and kept following Gandaph. As for what Gandaph wanted to do, it wasn't important anymore. Lin Yun would get a few intact Heaven Puppets to upgrade his patched puppet.

After flying over thirty kilometers, they encountered a puppet army of thirty four thousand Level 25 to Level 39 puppets led by a Level 42 Puppet. These puppets looked extremely strange.

Human-shaped puppets were actually a minority, most of the puppets were beast-shaped, and many of them were in the shape of spiders, ants, and other insects. The Heaven Puppet leading them was an extremely large beetle over a dozen meters in length. When lying on its stomach, it was close to two meters in height. A huge rune the size of an adult head could be seen atop its carapace.

That was one of the rare defensive Heaven Puppet's ability rune. It's just that its specific effect was unknown, even if the ability rune was the same, the effect would vary from puppet to puppet.

Gandaph was hovering in the air and released a barrier covering them.

"There is no other Heaven Puppet within thirty kilometers, only that one." Gandaph casually said.

It sounded as if that army, which could wipe some of the Andlusa Kingdom's middle-sized forces at will, could casually be erased.

Gandaph looked at the sky and threw a blue rune. The rune transformed into a blue ray of light that flew into the sky. It instantly roused the Puppet Plane's rarefied atmosphere and started condensing a dozen-kilometer-big black cloud in midair.

After a few seconds, black drops of water started dropping from the sky and dripped onto the earth. Upon contact with the ground, the black drops created wisps of white smoke, as if they were made of acid.

This was the characteristic of the Puppet Plane, the atmosphere was rarefied and when looking up, they could still see a scorching sun in the depths of the void. The rain was also completely made of acid, even if it was in very small quantities.

As the rain fell, the ores spread over the black earth slowly started melting. Once the rain evaporated, what remained would form a flat and smooth steel ground.

The acid rain was the thing puppets disliked the most, especially low level puppets. Many of their components would be corroded by the acid rain and their durability would decrease after the rain, increasing the damage over time. To some low level puppets, the acid rain was even deadly.

This puppet army encountering an acid rain was like a swarm of insects encountering a deadly crisis, the army instantly fell into chaos.

And at that time, Gandaph extended a finger and threw a blue law rune. The vapor coalesced on the ground rapidly condensed and several thousand blue water spheres suddenly appeared on the ground, each of them containing a puppet.

From the Heaven Puppet to the lowest Level 25 puppet, they were all wrapped inside the water spheres. Aside from the Heaven Puppet's, streams of water started frantically revolving inside the water spheres.

Whether they were Level 25 or Level 39 puppets made no difference, in less than a second, several thousand puppets were forcibly dismantled into piles of components, and most of the components were distorted until they couldn't be used anymore.

Seeing Gandaph and Lin Yun floating down, the eyes of that beetle-like Heaven Puppet started frantically flickering. It also let out roars which created shockwaves that continuously attacked the water sphere, which in turn reflected back to the beetle.

The rune on the back of the beetle suddenly shone brightly and a layer of dark silver light enveloped its entire body, thoroughly protecting it. It looked as if the beetle had completely turned dark silver and his defensive ability rose by one level.

Lin Yun indifferently looked at the beetle, he didn't think that this pitiful beetle could stop Gandaph's dismantling.

Sure enough, Gandaph extended his hand and touched the surface of the twenty-meter-wide water sphere. Like before, it took an instant for the eyes of the puppet to lose their radiance and for its mana fluctuations to dissipate. The ability rune on its back also darkened.

Lin Yun frowned as he saw Gandaph's movements, even after seeing it twice, he still didn't know how he did it. He didn't feel any Extraordinary Power fluctuation, nor did he feel any mana fluctuation. This was obviously not the result of Gandaph's physical strength, but rather a kind of mix of power and powerful alchemy mastery allowing him to perfectly dismantle the puppet's core.

But it was clear that Gandaph didn't plan on giving that alchemy technique to Lin Yun for nothing. But it didn't matter if Lin Yun saw the later dismantling steps, after all, any skilled alchemist could do that.

Gandaph once again performed the perfect dismantling of a Heaven Puppet as if it was a performance.

But this time, his expression changed as he reached the last step and that huge blue water sphere changed shape. The parts other than the core of the puppet were separated and thrown aside like trash. Gandaph didn't even spare a glance at that carapace with the ability rune.

In the end, the water sphere was completely dispersed, only leaving a 1-meter-big part of the torso of that beetle puppet. Gandaph took out a pair of mana insulating gloves and a dozen kinds of tools before solemnly and cautiously using both hands to dismantle it...

Chapter 1246 Substance and Exhibition

It took less than three minutes for Gandaph to complete the dismantling. He dug out a fist-sized pitch-black substance with his bare hands and it looked like he was kneading a black slime ball. It looked just like melted asphalt.

There was no subtlety, no mana aura, nothing. But Gandaph very cautiously put that mass into an obsidian box. He then put three layers of seal on the box. The inner seal was a gelatinous layer made of a Trapa Tortoise's shell while the other two layers were an array and a mana seal.

The seal wasn't powerful, but it had one property, it could seal mana!

The obsidian that Gandaph brought out was a relatively famous mana repelling material that stopped mana from being sensed. As for the gelatinous matter formed after a Trapa Tortoise's shell was slowly cooked, it was used to seal off some special items. Its purpose was to stop mana from coming in and avoid mana erosion.

Lin Yun frowned as he saw Gandaph's actions. He easily got rid of a level 43 Heaven Puppet and perfectly dismantled it in less than five seconds.

Yet, he already spent five minutes just to process that last part, that black mass. Moreover, Gandaph appeared to be extremely cautious and meticulous as he packed that black mass in the box before standing up.

"Sir Mafa, do you know what this thing is?"

Lin Yun had never seen it before. The Heaven Puppets he had dismantled before never had that kind of thing. Lin Yun shook his head.

"I've never seen this kind of thing before and I don't recognize it..."

Gandaph straightforwardly threw the box to Lin Yun.

"Then take it back and study it. If you manage to successfully research it, then you'll understand why I want you to meet that person."

Seeing Gandaph's expression, Lin Yun knew that he wouldn't get any more information from Gandaph even if he asked and directly put the box away.

Then, Gandaph led the way. He flew to the spot they had appeared at a few hours ago, encountering increasingly weaker puppets on their way, up until they reached that large wreck. There, Gandaph once again tore through space and took Lin Yun back.

As they walked back, Lin Yun spat out a rune and merged it with the space, leaving coordinates there.

This area was an extremely desolate wasteland. It had a large number of discarded components that suffered from corrosion or rust. Only puppets below level 20 would appear in this area.

This was also a birthing ground for puppets. The acid rain, Rust Eaters, and other peculiar things formed this strange place. Almost all the components that could appear in the Puppet Plane would appear in this wasteland of parts.

There was also a desolate sea in the Puppet Plane. The sea of Noscent contained seawater, while the desolate sea of the Puppet Plane contained all kinds of discarded parts, all kinds of precious materials. Moreover, a large number of puppets were living in that endless sea.

It was a place where Heaven Puppets would frequently go to look for components.

Strictly speaking, the powerhouses of the Puppet Plane were a lot more powerful than the powerhouses of Noscent in the current era, and their strength wasn't just one rank higher.

The first hurdle in conquering the Puppet Plane was the air. No human could breathe the air of this plane. Along with all kinds of things, this made the Puppet Plane almost impossible to conquer.

Lin Yun hadn't dared to rashly open a Planar Path before because he was scared of ending up appearing next to a city of steel. If he was truly unlucky, he might have ended up opening the Planar Path inside a city and would have died an ugly death while opening a path for these iron cans.

With the safe coordinates, Lin Yun would be able to enter this part of the Puppet Plane next time.

After returning to Noscent, Lin Yun immediately started researching that black substance. Gandaph had been so cautious and afraid of making a mistake. And Lin Yun had never seen this kind of thing, he couldn't even find anything like it in the treasure trove of knowledge inside his head. He didn't dare to be careless.

He returned to the laboratory and made a set of tools based on what Gandaph had previously used. Ordinary alchemy tools have extremely good mana malleability, very few weren't good in that regard, and they also could stabilize mana. But the tools Gandaph used all had mana repelling effects.

These tools never appeared in alchemy experiments. Lin Yun opened the obsidian box once he was done crafting these tools. After removing the seal, he cautiously cut a fingernail-sized part of the asphalt-like blob to study it. The rest of it was put back in the box and sealed.

He put that small lump on a tray on a crystal table and instantly sensed something abnormal. That tray was only an ordinary porcelain item, which was usually used by alchemists because it had no influence on experiments, it was just like a drinking cup.

But now, he could clearly feel that the little bits of mana remaining within the porcelain tray were absorbed by that small black substance. Moreover, because the mana was devoured, the porcelain was shattered and the black substance fell onto the crystal table.

Then, the black substance rapidly polluted the transparent crystal table and the area around the point of contact rapidly became turbid. And it didn't stop, it rapidly spread towards the surroundings and it took a few seconds for half of the crystal table to become turbid, without a single transparent spot.

Lin Yun subconsciously released a Mana Hand to grab that small black substance, but upon contact with it, Lin Yun immediately felt as if a part of his Mana Hand had been bit off and his Mana Hand's mana was leaking towards the black substance.

Lin Yun decisively scattered his Mana Hand, and the absorption targeted the crystal table once again.

Lin Yun calmly observed, but didn't try to control it again. A minute later, the originally transparent crystal table had transformed into gray limestone, it had completely lost its shine.

This meant that the mana within the crystal table had been completely absorbed. And after absorbing the mana within the crystal table, the black substance started slowly absorbing the mana within the air. Although it was at a very slow rate, it was apparently unstoppable.

Lin Yun remained silent. He hadn't expected that black substance to be able to absorb mana. Not only was it not picky, its absorbing power was tyrannical.

The previous pottery tray was usually used as mana repelling material because it could barely hold any mana. After being used inside the alchemy laboratory for a long time, it was normal for mana to slowly seep into it, but that amount of mana was so infinitesimally small that it couldn't be felt, and it already fused with the tray.

But that black substance could forcibly devour the tray's mana, and it was the same for the crystal table. The crystal contained mana, but this mana came from the crystal itself. It was a kind of stable mana material. The mana contained within these kinds of crystal tables couldn't be used.

But it was still absorbed by this black substance. A spell's mana could also be absorbed, and so could the ambient mana.

After testing a dozen different methods, Lin Yun confirmed that mana, or anything with mana, would be absorbed by that black substance. Only something like that obsidian, which had a complete mana repelling effect, could touch that black substance.

Just by standing there, the black substance could still absorb the ambient mana at a very stable speed. It looked like it wouldn't stop.

After crafting a set of mana repelling tools, Lin Yun immediately decomposed that black substance. But no matter how small the pieces, that thing wouldn't stop devouring mana. However, he figured out that the bigger the piece, the faster it would absorb mana.

He calculated the ratio and found out that it wasn't proportional, it was exponential.

Even after three days of research, he still couldn't discover where the absorbed mana went to. That black substance had no mana fluctuation, it was like the mana fluctuations went into a black hole. After the mana went in, it could no longer be found.

It was only a small piece, but over the course of three days of experiments, that small piece had absorbed mana equivalent to a Level 20 mana crystal.

But even after using a dozen kinds of detection methods, he still couldn't figure out where the mana went. Even when using a special energy that could be tracked into the black substance, the only result was that it could no longer be tracked. Apparently, as long as it had mana, anything would disappear after being absorbed.

Lin Yun used various methods, but there was no way to deal with this black substance, it was still devouring all the mana in the surroundings without stopping.

Lin Yun put back that piece of black substance back into the obsidian box and it fused back with the rest just like a drop of water falling into a cup of water. It was as if Lin Yun never cut a piece out.

Lin Yun frowned. He sealed the box once again and left to find Gandaph.

Half an hour later, Lin Yun was leaving Gandaph's mage tower with a frown, sighing in frustration.

'That damned Gandaph, he can definitely chat about any alchemy topic for a couple years without stopping, yet he just smiles and remains silent when that black substance is mentioned...'

Thinking of Gandaph's terrifying strength, Lin Yun decisively chose to leave his mage tower. He didn't end up asking, but through a few sentences of discussion, he thought of some new alchemical theories.

After returning to his laboratory, he researched for a couple more days, but his research didn't make any progress. Without a starting point, aside from researching the speed at which it absorbs mana, and what kind of mana it could absorb, Lin Yun made no progress.

And during this time, more and more people came to Neverwinter City as the exhibition was about to start.

Lin Yun walked on the main street of Neverwinter City. On a street, eighteen shops had changed their signboard and the Gilded Rose's sign could be seen from three streets away. The best eighteen shops of this main street all had a change of ownership and now belonged to the Gilded Rose.

Moreover, the gaps between the eighteen shops had been removed to form one big shop, and with the use of spatial expansion, although the shop looked like an eighteen-building-wide, six-storey-high building, the inside could definitely compare to a small town.

The main road was even blocked as a platform, on which stood many people, could be seen in the center of the street.

Lin Yun walked over and immediately felt the bustling atmosphere. 9th Rank Archmages were looking at the people on the platform with admiration.

"I don't know the Gilded Rose's influence, but they are actually able to open eighteen shops in this alchemy street and link them all together..."

"Who knows, for the store owners to sell their shops, they definitely should have quite a bit of influence. Haven't you noticed that not only is there an assistant dean of the Starry Sky College in attendance, there is also a prince? A few important members of a few major families also came over..."

"It is said that the Gilded Rose obtained these shops because the royal family spoke on their behalf. Do you think the original store owners would sell so easily if that wasn't the case? Even the less successful shop here has several times the business of shops in other areas..."

"Stop talking, let's go in. I heard that on the Gilded Rose's opening day, any Archmage or Sword Saint coming in would get a free Mana Cleansing Potion. Moreover, the Gilded Rose re-developed it. You must know that only first-rate Master Alchemists or Artisans could make a Mana Cleansing Potion, so let's hurry up..."

Lin Yun smiled as he heard the envious tones of these two Archmages. The Mana Cleansing Potion was a potion that had been researched by the Gilded Rose. It was at least seven to eight times more effective than the one on the market. It would purify mana or Aura of a mage or swordsman and would even rinse their body, eliminating all impurities and negative effects.

The results were similar to the Mana Baptism Potion, but it was aimed at Sword Saint and Archmages. After all, Sword Saint and Archmages' potential would be exhausted to some extent at that point. Without a special opportunity, progressing would be impossible and the Mana Cleansing Potion was such an opportunity. Although that kind of thing existed on the market, it was very expensive.

In order to pave the way for the Gilded Rose in the Odin Kingdom, Faleau could be said to have spent quite a bit of funds. At least four hundred Sword Saints and Archmages showed up today. That many potions would usually sell for a few million golds, and it would be the purple gold coins of the Odin Kingdom.

However, the processing cost of that kind of potion was only a few hundred Andlusan golds after heavy research and development.

As the exhibition started, five Griffin Rider Squads kept patrolling the skies, all of them led by Heaven Rank powerhouses. As for the ground, aside from the Gilded Rose's own guards and Neverwinter's army, there was still over a thousand puppets of all kinds.

Whoever tried to cause trouble would definitely die an ugly death.

After entering the shop, Lin Yun felt as if the space was ten times bigger. There were all kinds of transparent cupboards, each containing the outcome of a research with a detailed introduction on the side. Especially the potions, every single potion was strictly differentiated by grade.

The same potion would be divided into four grades according to the quality. The effect of every grade, side effect, and even the positive and negative effects were clearly written down. Every single detailed data was displayed.

Common, Excellent, Premium, Perfect. Those were the four grades of the Gilded Rose's articles.

Lin Yun looked at the cupboard in front of him and saw four Volcano Potions which just happened to be of the four grades researched by the Gilded Rose and the alchemist guild. The Common Volcano Potion was selling for 6,000 golds, while the Perfect Volcano Potion was selling for 50,000 golds!

But seeing the data and effect of the Perfect Volcano Potion, no one would feel that 50,000 golds was too expensive, they would instead rejoice that they could buy one at such a cheap price. After all, a potion with such good effect would end up in an auction in the past as there was too few of them. They would end up selling for 200,000 golds to 300,000 golds, and if they met a competitor, that price might still increase.

On the way, he saw that this was the same case for all kinds of potions, even lower potions. It's just that many lower potions didn't even have potions at the Common Grade, the lowest grade one was at the Excellent grade.

Lin Yun smiled as he saw these, he thoroughly understood. He had previously mentioned to Faleau how to mass-produce a potion, but Lin Yun hadn't expected that Faleau would have successfully developed it just from the mention of a few steps.

Lower potions could definitely be mass-produced successfully now, because if they were sold at that price without being mass-produced, then the profits wouldn't be high enough. And the Gilded Rose's required constant improvement to guarantee that they could successfully compound certain potions.

Thus, there was no Common quality among lower quality potions.

Lin Yun silently made calculations, and according to the profit policy of the Gilded Rose, the profits of the sold potions needed to be ten times that of the compounding cost. The Gilded Rose could keep their prices down because of their low compounding costs.

After making calculations for a few lower potions, Lin Yun calculated that at least three hundred copies of these potions could be compounded at a time. And after being mass-produced, the bottles were ready to be filled and sealed. Not only was the compounding cost lower than compounding the potions one by one, the success rate was guaranteed and so was the quality.

Chapter 1247 Enmity and Friendship

In fact, when Noscent's development was at its peak, only Heaven Grade Potions had to be compounded one by one. All potions under the True Spirit Grade could be mass produced, with the only difference being the scale. It was just like the low grade potions in this case. At the peak of Noscent, once an alchemy workshop was outfitted with a full set of production machines, they would be able to produce over ten thousand potions in a day. And aside from raw materials, there was close to no production cost.

As he walked in, Lin Yun discovered that the space was getting bigger and bigger. No matter how many people there were, it didn't give off a crowded feeling. Runes flashed in Lin Yun's eyes as he instantly analyzed everything here.

This spatial expansion array wasn't an ordinary expansion enchantment, but a kind of flexible expansion. The space grew bigger as more and more people entered and shrunk as the number of people shrunk. This made the place feel less crowded, but at the same time, it gave the illusion that the business was very good.

Aside from the pretty good potions and the display cupboards, there were also shop assistants spread around. The staff inside the alchemy shop stood out. They were wearing very distinct clothes and were very polite, they also had good specialized knowledge.

Everything gave out a very professional feeling.

Continuing through the alchemy shop, Lin Yun soon reached the puppets' display cases. To his surprise, there were over a hundred kinds of puppets.

Most of them were battle puppets, but the ones getting the most interest were actually housekeeper auxiliary puppets.

"This kind of puppet can emulate people. Not only can they be used as versatile housekeepers, they can also help with some magic experiments and alchemy tests. Most importantly, they also have the unique transformation skill of the Gilded Rose and look no different from a real person. Moreover, their structure is 90% similar to that of an ordinary person..."

Lin Yun's expression became strange after he looked past the crowd... Because these puppets all had female designs.

Without the steel skin, these puppets looked just like real people. Their skins were glossy, their appearances were superb, and their figures were perfectly proportional.

Lin Yun's expression became even more strange as he looked at the surrounding people. He couldn't believe that these non-fighter puppets crafted from simple materials were worth looking at.

He then turned around and explored the Magic Tool area and the array area. There were many people there, the powerful consumable Magic Tools and the Magic Tools with special functions were very popular.

There were even some devices to rapidly set up arrays. The only requirement was for the user to know the simple installation method and even a swordsman would be able to set up an array. These were well received among the swordsmen.

After walking around and looking at the mages and swordsmen spending golds, Lin Yun knew that the Gilded Rose had already established itself in the Odin Kingdom. Some forces even asked the staff about some long term cooperation.

The potion area was taking 50% of the place, the puppet area was taking 20%, the Magic Tool area had 20%, and the last 10% were for the arrays.

This arrangement was directly linked to the Gilded Rose's current benefits. It was perfect, Lin Yun couldn't find anything wrong and a satisfied smile could be seen on his face.

'Faleau did a good job, letting him manage the Gilded Rose was a wise decision. I wouldn't be able to spend that much time managing it and I wouldn't have done such a good job.'

'Faleau had barely advanced to the Artisan realm, I should let him spend some time in the Demiplane to comprehend truth runes in order to increase his strength. After all, as the administrator of the Gilded Rose, his strength can't be too low. He is fascinated by alchemy, so might as well let him keep walking on that path.'

Lin Yun hadn't expected Faleau to have done such excellent work and didn't know what to reward him with. The only two rewards he could think of was alchemy and increasing Faleau's strength. After all, Faleau's wealth was enough to crush people to death.

As Lin Yun stood in front of the showcase of a first-rate True Spirit Potion, thinking what reward he should give to Faleau, a figure was unwaveringly staring at his profile from a distance, with an extremely complicated expression.

Layford was at a loss, he definitely hadn't expected to see Lin Yun here...

'How could that damned guy appear here? Shouldn't he still be studying alchemy within the Starry Sky College? How could that Andlusan country bumpkin have money to spend here? There are not that many things useful to Heaven Rank powerhouses here, and every one of them is very expensive.'

'Right, he must have come to receive the potion. The Gilded Rose's boss has a lot of golds to spend to actually present every Archmage with a Mana Cleansing Potion. It is said that Heaven Rank powerhouses would get even more special gifts, he definitely came for that.'

'It's that, or he came to buy some low grade potions to study them...'

'Damn, that country bumpkin's strength is increasing so fast, he became even more terrifying and courageous after advancing. If I trouble him here, he might directly get rid of me.'

'It's not worth it, I don't want to die an unjust death...'

Layford was staring at Lin Yun, his expression continuously fluctuating. Next to him, a mage in his thirties wearing a golden robe noticed Layford's actions and light flashed in his falcon-like eyes. He followed Layford's gaze and noticed Lin Yun.

"Cousin Layford, what are you doing? It's only a kid getting some experience. He can watch, but can't afford it..."

Layford hesitated, before moving closer to Fortmore and lowering his voice, "Cousin Fortmore, that's Mafa Merlin..."

Fortmore's expression changed before Layford even finished his words and his sharp eyes turned toward Lin Yun with a sneer.

"That guy is that damned Mafa Merlin? The reason why the Jackson Family can't study truth runes for five hundred years and why you were expelled from the Family?"

Fear flashed in Layford's eyes as he recalled his near-death experience.

"It's him, but we don't want to provoke him. That Andlusan country bumpkin is rough and doesn't have an education. He won't care if he makes a ruckus here, but we will definitely be implicated.

"Isn't the family discussing with the Starry Sky College? Maybe in a few years our Jackson Family will still receive an invitation to the gathering..."

"It's better not to provoke him..."

Layford gritted his teeth, he wished he could snap Lin Yun's neck, but he shivered in fear as he recalled being almost killed.

Fortmore had a cold expression as he attentively watched Lin Yun's silhouette, his sneer not leaving his face.

"Cousin Layford, you don't need to worry about it. The Jackson Family only expelled you out of respect for the Starry Sky College, you will be able to return to the Family two years later. Moreover, aside from your reputation being slightly tarnished, there should be no difference with your previous lifestyle.

"Let's go, let's let this Andlusan country bumpkin know. He thought he won, but it was just for the sake of appearances, I want to see his shocked expression. Who knows, maybe he'll turn mad on the spot..."

Layford was still fearful, but hearing Layford's words, he couldn't help being pulled in.

'Right, that Mafa Merlin definitely thinks that I'm very miserable now. The Starry Sky College should have informed him that I've been expelled from my family and lost my wealth.

'He'll definitely be shocked if he sees me appearing with swagger and followed by Cousin Fortmore. He might become enraged and attack on the spot.

'But we don't need to worry about it, someone will definitely take care of this damned Mafa Merlin, the Gilded Rose is very powerful. The rumor that the Gilded Rose is from the Andlusa Kingdom is a joke.

'Can the Andlusa Kingdom have this kind of alchemy technology? Their items, potions, and power can compare to the Odin Kingdom's first-rate alchemy forces'. No, many of these technologies are high-end techniques surpassing the Odin Kingdom's shops, while also being cheaper.

'The Gilded Rose wouldn't have been able to buy those eighteen best shops if they didn't have the strength. Not to mention, the Starry Sky College and the royal family wouldn't have dispatched someone to participate in this exhibition.

'No one would be able to save Mafa Merlin if he dares to cause trouble here!'

A smile slowly appeared on Layford's face. He turned his head and saw that Fortmore was already walking towards Lin Yun and quickly caught up to him.

Fortmore and Layford walked to Lin Yun's side. On the way, Fortmore leaked a wisp of his own aura around his body before walking towards Lin Yun. The aura of a 2nd Rank Heaven powerhouse was perfect to suppress others.

Layford opened his mouth, but he wasn't able to say anything. He was almost killed in the Starry Sky College, but that event wasn't divulged since the Starry Sky College wasn't particularly willing to expose the fact that an assistant dean participated in that farce. They only exposed the fact that Layford got caught stealing someone's research and was treated impartially.

Fortmore's aura covered everything within ten meters and was specifically targeting Lin Yun, others didn't sense it.

His aura pressed down towards Lin Yun like an invisible hand, yet Lin Yun's robe didn't even sway...

Feeling that aura, Lin Yun indifferently looked towards Fortmore, before turning towards the smiling Layford.

But at that instant, the proud smile Layford carried froze as Lin Yun didn't even seem surprised to see him.

'Sh*t, how could this guy not be surprised? Didn't he see me swaggering over? Did that not shock him? Or has he already lost his mind?'

Lin Yun naturally wasn't shocked. As a Heaven Rank powerhouse, he had very sharp instincts. Two Heaven Rank powerhouses had been a dozen meters away, observing him for such a long time. He would have never lived that long if he hadn't noticed them.

Seeing Layford once again didn't surprise Lin Yun. He hadn't cared about the Starry Sky College and the Jackson Family's announcements to begin with.

Unless the Jackson Patriarch had brain damage, he would never truly expel a 2nd Rank Heaven Dark Curse Mage because of this situation.

After all, Layford's actions were for the sake of getting more benefits for the Jackson Family, it's just that he failed. A public announcement was only for the sake of the Starry Sky College's reputation. Then, how much they had to pay to the Starry Sky College to solve this matter was another issue altogether.

Lin Yun wasn't surprised, but Fortmore was surprised. Although he couldn't release his full power there, the bit of power he leaked could even make a 1st Rank Heaven powerhouse stagger, yet Lin Yun acted as if he hadn't even felt his aura.

But his surprise soon disappeared and he looked at Lin Yun with a condescending attitude, "What are you looking at, Country Bumpkin. Is this place even a place you can afford to visit? Hurry up and get out of the way. Go to the door, get your potion, and f*ck off. You are truly a country bumpkin, you immediately rush over after seeing something cheap.

“Check the outside areas, there might be something you can afford. But you should hurry up before its too late. The things here start at a million purple golds. You poor wretch shouldn’t be here, you are polluting the scenery...”

Fortmore didn’t speak loudly, but it was enough to be heard by the surrounding people. Compared to a familiar face like Fortmore, Lin Yun didn’t emit any aura and wasn’t carrying a powerful Magic Tool, he looked just like a penniless villager.

Many people watched the show and no one came over. Lin Yun indifferently looked at Fortmore and Layford before completely ignoring them.

Today was the day the Gilded Rose’s opened its door in the Odin Kingdom after all. Faleau had been going through difficult negotiations for half a year to be able to operate the business here. As the boss, causing a disturbance here would be inexcusable. Not to mention, many forces of the Odin Kingdom were eager to see what would happen to the Gilded Rose.

If he couldn’t get rid of these two idiots here, then he might as well just ignore them. Moreover, he mostly came here today to get some materials. The materials he had requested from Faleau should have already been ready.

After taking a look around and collecting his materials, he would be returning to his laboratory.

After indifferently looking at Fortmore and Layford, Lin Yun turned around and walked towards the depths of the store, leaving the Jackson duo stunned.

“That guy dares to ignore us!”

Fortmore’s eyes flickered with a sharp light while his nose pointed towards the sky.

“Let’s go! This damned guy actually walked towards the depths of the shop. Over there is the place where they receive VIPs. He is just an Andlusan country bumpkin yet he dares to go there? Our Jackson Family could also be said to be a partner of the Gilded Rose, how could we just watch as someone is stirring up trouble!”

Fortmore dragged Layford to chase after Lin Yun in a fit of rage.

When they arrived, Lin Yun had already entered that area. That area’s space appeared to be even bigger than the previous one. There was a lot less people and there was a huge gap between everyone in order to ensure privacy.

This was the first day of the Gilded Rose’s opening, there was almost no one in the VIP area, most of the people were just employees waiting for customers. The main function of the exhibition was to show the fruits of the Gilded Rose’s research, and this was happening on the market outside. The cooperation with the forces had already been negotiated prior to the exhibition.

No major force came to shop, the only ones who came weren’t there to talk about cooperation, or weren’t from the major forces.

Thus, there was very few people in the back. An old promoted staff member of the Gilded Rose led the way and took Lin Yun to a hall. There was only a thirty-meter-big crystal table covered in all kinds of

materials in that hall. They were all extremely valuable and would definitely be seen in an auction in the Andlusa Kingdom, yet there were three hundred items arranged on the crystal table.

With the big boss Lin Yun appearing, Faleau definitely wouldn't dare to not appear personally. Faleau was completely different from the last time they met, he was in high spirits and was wearing a light purple robe. It looked very simple, but a decent alchemist could see the huge number of fierce spells enchanted onto the robe.

Even those not proficient in alchemy could feel the terrifying mana fluctuations emitted by that robe. The robe alone could resist a few attacks of a 9th Rank Archmage. When staking everything and destroying the robe, the user would be able to resist the attack of a 1st Rank Heaven Mage without dying.

The robe had been crafted by Lin Yun and was very powerful. Faleau was the highest administrator of the Gilded Rose after all, he had to have defensive measures.

And after half a year, Faleau had reached the 3rd Rank of the Archmage realm. This was also the reason why Lin Yun said that he could barely count as an Artisan.

He could only craft one or two potions that required the strength of an Artisan. Strictly speaking, his foundation hadn't reached the Artisan realm yet, he was restricted by his rank. His understanding of magic and truth was still lacking. He would truly set foot on the Artisan realm once he reached the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm.

Lin Yun smiled after sensing Faleau's aura. He felt that Faleau would suffer no obstacle before he reached the 9th Rank of the Archmage realm. He would be letting down the name of the Gilded Rose if he remained stuck in the Archmage realm as its administrator.

Chapter 1248 Foolish and Stupid

Seeing Lin Yun, Faleau promptly walked over with an extremely respectful expression.

"Sir Merlin, I have prepared the materials you requested..."

Lin Yun nodded and didn't do a thorough check of the materials, he only threw a casual glance. He was at ease letting Faleau take care of things.

Before Lin Yun finished checking on the materials Fortmore and Layford, who had been chasing after Lin Yun, appeared. Seeing the three hundred kinds of materials on the table, Fortmore's eyes suddenly shone.

He simply ignored the Gilded Rose's personnel blocking the way and walked over with large strides.

'No wonder this country bumpkin wanted to come here, there are so many valuable materials here, everything is a premium product. Anything crafted with these materials, Magic Tools or other things, would definitely be a lot stronger than if they had been crafted with ordinary materials. When these materials are combined, the effects would improve several times.

'That's great, I wouldn't have been able to discover this if I hadn't followed this country bumpkin.'

When Fortmore strode over, he heard Lin Yun ask for these materials to be sorted out and a happy expression instantly appeared on his face.

'Turns out this country bumpkin wants this batch of valuable materials, great, it would be a waste to give it to him. Thankfully I discovered this place...'

"I want these materials! Give me a price!"

Fortmore walked to the crystal table and looked at the valuable materials while drooling.

'Even the treasury of our Jackson Family doesn't have that many high-quality valuable materials, and even if we could gather such a huge amount, they could definitely not be taken away by one person...'

Fortmore's words made Faleau frown. The staff members in the surroundings were all old members of the Gilded Rose, they had been around since the Gilded Rose's store in Thousand Sails City, they all knew who the owner of the Gilded Rose was. At this time, they couldn't help looking towards Lin Yun.

Seeing the actions of the surrounding people, Fortmore couldn't help glaring at Lin Yun. He didn't dare to say anything to Faleau, he knew that the weak guy in front of him was the Gilded Rose's leader. Even if he was weak, his enormous wealth could definitely be used to crush him.

"Mafa Merlin, what are you looking at. The Gilded Rose opened its doors to do business, but they aren't a charity. Did you take out any gold for these materials? You just took a fancy for this batch of materials?"

Lin Yun frowned and shook his head.

"Indeed, I didn't take out a single gold."

Hearing those words, Fortmore took out a black crystal card. That crystal card was unique to the Odin Kingdom. When dealing with extremely large sums, crystal cards would represent millions of golds, and that black crystal card would represent over ten million golds.

"Perfect, these materials just happened to have caught my fancy. According to the rules, since both of us are interested in these materials, whoever pays the highest price can get this batch of material. I offer 1,000,000 purple golds."

After saying that, Fortmore couldn't help showing a prideful smile.

'Country bumpkin, the value of that batch of material isn't particularly high, but they are quite rare. Gathering them outside would take a long time even if we made use of our Jackson Family's name, and the quality wouldn't be that high. A million is a small price to pay...

'No, let alone a million purple golds, even ten million purple golds would be cheap. These premium materials would sell for a lot in an auction and there would be a lot of buyers, their prices might end up being ten times higher than normal, unlike this charity.

'If that country bumpkin dares to challenge me, I'll use golds to crush him...'

Faleau looked at Fortmore with a strange expression, before looking at Lin Yun. The spectating staff members also looked at Fortmore as if he was a stupid human-shaped rat, but no one dared to say anything.

As for Lin Yun, he chuckled and casually raised the price, "2,000,000 purple golds."

Fortmore didn't care and increased the price, "3,000,000..."

Lin Yun suddenly became silent when Fortmore bid 10,000,000.

Fortmore waved the black crystal card in his hand, unable to conceal his complacent expression.

"You must not know what this is. Let me tell you, this is a crystal card issued by the Odin Kingdom's royal family and a few top-notch forces, this is a black crystal card worth over ten million purple golds. At least ten million purple golds could be obtained with it."

Layford, who had been staying on the side, no longer seemed afraid. He straightened his back and a smile appeared on his face.

'That damned Mafa Merlin might be more powerful than me, but so what? He is still a country bumpkin. So what if you are a more skilled alchemist, it means sh*t if you are poor.

'Strength isn't everything in the Odin Kingdom, wealth is. Whoever has the most golds would be stronger and have a higher status. A country bumpkin from the countryside definitely wouldn't know. Purple golds might not even circulate in the Andlusa Kingdom, let alone something high-end like a black crystal card.

'Without money, he can only endure. These valuable materials are going to end up in our hands anyway. 10,000,000 purple golds is quite cheap for these things. I just happen to have gotten some results while researching truth runes. I could make fifty to sixty million purple golds worth of profits after using these materials.

'No, selling would be a pity, these things could be made into a dozen True Spirit Magic Tools, and since the materials are of such high quality, the success rate would be very high and the crafted Magic Tools would be very powerful. With these things, I would be able to return to the Family with my head held high, and the matter with the Starry Sky College would be settled.

At that time, Mafa Merlin would be a clown in everyone's eyes.

Thinking of this, Layford kept smiling. His fear had completely dissipated and he was now looking at Lin Yun with a mocking smile.

"Mafa Merlin, why did you even try to compete with us. This is the Odin Kingdom, wealth is the most important thing here. Without wealth you are nothing, without purple golds you can only watch as we take the materials away."

Fortmore had never seen Lin Yun's strength first-hand, and thus, disdain could be seen in his eyes. He slightly raised his head and ignored Lin Yun. Instead, he looked at the staff members not far from him and swayed the black crystal card in his hand.

"Pack these things for me, I want everything."

Unfortunately for Fortmore, no one paid attention to his words. Those staff members all maintained indifferent expressions, they were all doing their best not to laugh, but they were looking at Fortmore and Layford as if they were two brainless idiots.

Faleau's expression was a bit strange, his facial expression was serious, but his eyes shone with an amused gaze as he looked at the two idiots.

'Morons, is the Jackson Family full of idiots? It looks like they had some conflict with Sir Merlin, but with the influence of the Jackson Family, how could they have not dug out the fact that the Gilded Rose was built by Sir Merlin?

'They are actually competing over wealth with Sir Merlin... In the Gilded Rose? Their stupidity is beyond cure, they are stupid to the point of being pitiful... Truly, sympathizing with idiots is really easy.

'Sir Merlin must be pitying these idiots' intelligence.'

Since Lin Yun didn't speak, no staff member of the Gilded Rose would intervene.

While Fortmore had his head raised in contempt, Layford was firmly staring at Lin Yun. He wanted to see Lin Yun's dejected and annoyed expression, he even hoped he could see Lin Yun fly into a rage out of humiliation. That would be perfect.

Unfortunately, Layford looked for a while but didn't see any change in Lin Yun's expression. Lin Yun had kept a strange smile on his face all along. It even felt like he was taunting them.

"Layford, you are right, I really can't come up with that many purple golds..."

Lin Yun didn't have time to finish his sentence as Layford burst into a loud laughter. His face was glowing, it was as if all his pores had been cleansed.

"Mafa Merlin, we are just teaching you a simple principle. In the Odin Kingdom, wealth is far more useful than in your rural kingdom. This is a lesson teaching you the gap between us. This is an abyss that can never be crossed, how could you compare to us!"

While Layford rushed to speak, Lin Yun simply said his piece without care.

"But while I can't get that many purple golds, I can make the decision to not sell these materials to you."

Lin Yun's sentence confused Layford and Fortmore, but they were still sneering at him. Clearly, they felt like Lin Yun was going insane and was speaking nonsense.

Lin Yun ignored them and turned towards Faleau.

"Pack up these materials."

The few staff members, who had been standing still, didn't even wait for Faleau's instructions before organizing the materials according to their types and putting them into boxes of various sizes. They even wrote down the names of the materials on the boxes so that they could be found more easily.

As for Faleau, the manager of these staff members, he just moved next to Lin Yun.

“Sir Merlin, is there anything else you need? Also, when you do have time, I’ll give you a report on the store’s complete situation.”

Lin Yun shook his head.

“These materials should be enough for now. If I do need something else later, I’ll just send someone to inform you. As for the Gilded Rose’s situation, there is no need. I’m at ease knowing that you are handling it. If you need anything or see anything that you can use inside the shop, just use it. If you need any potion that the Gilded Rose can’t make, just let me know.”

Lin Yun and Faleau echoed one another as they looked at the motivated staff members moving about. Layford and Fortmore were quite confused, they couldn’t make sense of the situation.

‘Why is Sir Faleau so cordial to that country bumpkin? Did these employees eat something wrong?’

Fortmore vaguely understood something, but he was still confused. As for Layford, his smile froze, he couldn’t understand as he looked at his surroundings.

The Gilded Rose refused a black crystal card and instead prepared these materials for Lin Yun. He could only look with confusion as the employees put boxes into a Spatial Ring. By the time they put the Spatial Ring in Lin Yun’s hands, Layford suddenly came back to his senses.

“Mafa Merlin, you country bumpkin, how...”

Layford seemed to have lost his mind when he saw the Spatial Ring being taken. But just as he raised his voice, the gentle expression on Faleau’s face disappeared and was replaced by an icy coldness as he turned towards Layford.

“Sh*t up! What qualifications does your Jackson Family have to interfere with the Gilded Rose’s internal affairs? Are you trying to meddle with our Gilded Rose?”

“The Gilded Rose has always belonged to Sir Merlin. Does our Gilded have to give an account to the Jackson Family if Sir Merlin wants to take something from his own business?”

“I’ll personally discuss this matter with your patriarch!”

Hearing this, Layford and Fortmore were thoroughly stunned and instantly paled. As Heaven Mages, they would never sweat even when standing under the scorching sun during summer, but they were now covered in cold sweat.

Lin Yun took the Spatial Ring and nodded at Faleau.

“I’m leaving first. If there is anything else, just send someone to report to me. You should properly take the time to increase your rank, and if there is anything you need, just take it from the Gilded Rose.”

Lin Yun ignored Layford and Fortmore, turned around, and left. At the same time, Faleau was half-bowing as a sign of respect, a warm smile could be seen on his face.

“Take care, Sir Merlin. If you have any command, use the magic beacon to notify me.”

The staff members all bowed as Lin Yun left.

“Take care, Sir Merlin...”

Seeing this situation, Layford and Fortmore really felt like the sky was collapsing.

Layford was pale and his vision was blurry, despair could be seen on his face. As for Fortmore, horror and fear could be seen on his face. Cold sweat was continuously dripping down his back as his eyes followed Lin Yun’s back. He then fiercely glared at Layford next to him.

‘That idiot Layford harmed me. How is this a country bumpkin from the Andlusa Kingdom? This is a Dragon forcibly inserting itself into the Odin Kingdom.

‘Damn, ever since the Gilded Rose was preparing to open a shop in the Odin Kingdom, they had displayed just how formidable their wealth was. And those damn b*stards didn’t give up their principles and let the Gilded Rose, an Andlusan business, open a branch in the Odin Kingdom after seeing their wealth and alchemy abilities.

‘Just how many purple golds did they get, that idiot Layford definitely hid too many things. He even tried to steal Mafa Merlin’s research before, why didn’t he just die there. If he had died, he wouldn’t have implicated me

‘If Mafa Merlin was just an Andlusan country bumpkin, why would a dean of the Starry Sky College treat that matter impartially? And would the Family compromise and expel that idiot?’

‘Sh*t, this was a trap, that Layford still thinks he has some authority. If the Patriarch knew about this matter, he might really kill Layford in cold blood. No, I’m afraid I would also get in trouble...

‘It’s over now, the Family had looked upon the Gilded Rose’s terrifying wealth and creativity and spent quite a bit of energy to cooperate with the Gilded Rose. There are also many cooperation projects. Now that the Gilded Rose is open for business, a large part of the family’s income is linked to the cooperation projects we have with the Gilded Rose.

‘But we just offended the true owner of the Gilded Rose... This is most likely going to be a big deal. I think I can already see a lot of purple golds flying away...’

Fortmore rapidly thought of the consequences and his expression paled. He felt like something big was about to happen.

As for Layford, his gaze was still unfocused, the words “Gilded Rose” were still echoing in his mind.

He finally remembered. When he went over Mafa Merlin’s information, there had been a mention of a small shop called Gilded Rose. All Artisans have shops. After all, they all needed materials to continue their research. Without a way to amass wealth, how could they continue their research?

He hadn’t cared back then and hadn’t even linked the two together when he learned that the Gilded Rose was opening a branch in the Odin Kingdom...

After all, he felt that one was the small shop of a country bumpkin and the other a giant business of the Andlusa Kingdom that could crush a Heaven Rank powerhouse with their wealth.

Even later, he felt that it was Mafa Merlin using the name Gilded Rose to pass off as a branch of the Gilded Rose, that he had been luckily overlooked by the Gilded Rose...

'Who would have thought that the Gilded Rose was really the Gilded Rose...'

Fortmore and Layford were stunned, they were even more scared when they thought of the consequences of this matter. Layford's eyes were gleaming with light, only fear remained in his mind.

'Formidable strength, outstanding alchemy abilities, enormous wealth. With that kind of status, the Jackson Family wouldn't move a finger if he killed me...

'Heaven powerhouses are really precious, but a 2nd Rank Heaven Mage isn't precious enough to make the family give up on their wealth and offend a powerful and wealthy force...'

Layford and Fortmore kept thinking of the consequences when Faleau started driving them away.

He faced the two Heaven Rank powerhouses without fear and said, "Sirs, this is our Gilded Rose's VIP area, those who haven't received an invitation aren't welcomed here. Please leave now."

Although Faleau appeared polite, his tone wasn't welcoming at all. It was as if he was just a bit short of kicking them out.

But this time, Layford and Fortmore didn't even think of arguing and straightforwardly left the Gilded Rose's VIP area, regretting that they couldn't rewind time.

Chapter 1249 Upgrade and Memory

Lin Yun didn't care about these things after he left the Gilded Rose, he had no energy to care about people like Layford. Not to mention, there was no need. The business opened by the Gilded Rose in the Odin Kingdom was in the most prosperous part of Neverwinter City, where the Starry Sky College was located. They even opened eighteen stores and linked them into one huge shop, and with the battleships being tied to the Gilded Rose, Lin Yun could no longer be said to have no foundation in the Odin Kingdom.

Lin Yun was in a hurry now that he had the materials, because he could finally restore the patched puppet back to the Heaven Rank.

It had been unable to display the power of the Heaven Rank before due to a large number of damaged parts. Not only had the energy system been damaged, its strength fell under the Heaven Rank over time and many systems could no longer display their power.

When he followed Gandaph to the Puppet Plane, he obtained the parts of two Heaven Puppets, many of which were quite good and could directly replace the patched puppet's components. Furthermore, some of these premium materials could be made into high quality components.

It would definitely let the patched puppet recover its Heaven Rank strength and greatly increase its strength. But that wasn't what Lin Yun was focused on, he was more interested in the things contained within the puppet.

The words he had heard when he obtained the puppet had almost scared Lin Yun to death. The patched puppet had a secret that Lin Yun had the urge to know. The sentence: "Is there still someone alive?" horrified Lin Yun when he thought about it.

The biggest clue to unveil the truth behind Noscent's destruction might very well be in the puppet.

How could Lin Yun not feel hurried under such circumstances?

After returning to his laboratory, Lin Yun arranged three layers of defenses and thoroughly sealed the place before entering the Demiplane.

The prosperous transformation of the Demiplane, caused by the truth runes, had already stabilized and the mana consumption already decreased. These days, the mana lake had regained a bit of its depth, but it was still not even at 10% of its peak state.

But there was enough Mana Water to replenish Lin Yun's mana over ten thousand times!

The Natural Demiplane's horrifying strength was thoroughly displayed. With Lin Yun's mana consumption, the wall of Mana Vines spreading over ten kilometers was enough to guarantee that Lin Yun would never lack mana.

After entering the Demiplane, Lin Yun went to check on the hibernating Reina and Xiuban.

Xiuban was in a blood-red cocoon pulsating just like a heart and emitting several kinds of draconic auras. There was even a divine aura at the top of the cocoon.

Once Xiuban awakened and emerged from the cocoon, he would have thoroughly fused with these bloodline powers and would have become a true Heaven Rank powerhouse.

And on the other side, Reina was staying in the northernmost area of the Demiplane, in the depths of the ice field formed from seawater. That was where the Demiplane was at its coldest. Reina had taken her original shape, but unlike an ordinary Frost Dragon, she looked even more graceful and her aura was completely different. She would also advance to the Heaven Rank by the time she woke up.

Lin Yun watched for a bit. The two Beastman Ancestor Souls were obediently taking care of the Three-Eyed Wolf. The small wolf was also growing at a rapid pace, his body had grown a few times bigger.

Recalling the Three-Eyed Wolf's ability, Lin Yun felt that he could soon take him out and that it wouldn't be long before he could use the small wolf to implement his next plan.

After checking the Demiplane, Lin Yun entered a huge laboratory. This was his personal laboratory, which he had personally built and equipped. Its specs far exceeded this era's laboratories. Many of its functions and alchemy devices had yet to appear in this era and it had taken Lin Yun a lot of time and energy to craft them.

After entering the alchemy laboratory, Lin Yun immediately took out the bodies of the two Heaven Puppets... The dismantled bodies of the two Heaven Puppets.

All the materials he had obtained from Faleau had been taken out, and the first time was to complete the preliminary processing of all the materials to form a material that could be used. The following processing would be situational, getting different effects from the same materials required different processing methods.

He first took out all the parts that could be used and remodelled them. Although he could use them directly, he had to alter them if he wanted them to fit perfectly.

The remodelling didn't take too long, in less than three hours, all the components used had been completely remodelled. All that was left were the parts that needed to be crafted.

With the truth runes' mysteries he had previously researched, Lin Yun's train of thought had changed and his crafting speed increased a few times. It took him one day to craft all the components and he only had to fix the patched puppet now.

The energy system replaced the previous heart energy, it was a remodelled version of that Level 43 Puppet's mana reactor with a new design. The mana produced by that mana reactor absolutely exceeded the patched puppet's needs. This also meant that the patched puppet's bursts of mana would be more powerful. Moreover, the puppet could last until level 45 without needing an upgrade.

Furthermore, he had also obtained ability runes before. With the ability rune transplanting method, he transplanted a first-rate Lightning Speed ability rune, an Elemental Strengthening ability rune, and a Defense Strengthening ability rune.

Unfortunately, even if the puppet could support five ability runes, transplanting three was the limit of Lin Yun's current abilities.

After all, even some of Cybertan race's first-rate Heaven Rank Puppet Kings could only hold two ability runes.

Even the puppet that could autonomously transplant ability runes never transplanted two runes to himself.

With the Lightning Speed ability rune, the puppet's mechanical system was altered to let the puppet fight in close quarters. Its weapon was a laser sword Lin Yun had just researched. By relying on a huge burst of mana, he was able to compress and condense a laser with terrifying cutting abilities. When not in use, it could be put away and didn't take up much space. When using it alongside the Lightning Speed ability rune, common Heaven Mages' Fusion Shield would be torn apart in an instant.

As for the Elemental Strengthening Rune, it was accompanying new weapons, two Firebolts, two Frostbolts, and a Lightbolt systems.

Finally, the Defense Strengthening ability rune could integrate with the puppet's armor Lin Yun had just crafted and spread the damage to every part of the puppet's surface, undoubtedly reinforcing the puppet's defensive ability.

But Lin Yun frowned after the design was complete. This Heaven Puppet was a human-shaped puppet commonly seen in Noscent, but it wasn't so common in the Puppet Plane. In terms of fighting abilities, human-shaped puppets were often inferior to other kinds of puppets.

Their flexibility and speed wasn't comparable to spider-shaped puppets, their defense was inferior to insect-type puppets, and their offensive abilities couldn't compare to other shapes. This was a natural flaw. The only good part about human-shaped puppets was they were balanced, they weren't outstanding in any area, but similarly, they didn't have any specific weakness.

But in a battle between puppets, a powerful advantage could influence the outcome of a battle.

The patched puppet now had a very powerful energy system and a terrifying weapon system, but its defensive abilities were still on the weaker side even after transplanting an ability rune.

Even if the puppet's weapon system could use spells, it was still stronger in melee battle. After all, while bolt spells were powerful, the farther from the target, the less efficient they would be. In a battle between Heaven Rank powerhouses, a bolt spell flying in a straight line could hardly hit an opponent from a hundred meters.

And to shorten the distance, a strong defense was needed.

Lin Yun was still dissatisfied after crafting a few of his designs, when he suddenly froze and took out the sealed box holding the black substance.

Looking at the box, Lin Yun suddenly had an inspiration. Although that black substance was continuously devouring mana, it didn't seem picky and would absorb any kind of mana. But Lin Yun remembered that Gandaph had taken it out of a Heaven Puppet.

If that black substance couldn't completely be controlled and kept absorbing mana, it might cleanly drain all of the puppet's mana. Even if there was a mana reactor that continuously produced mana without running dry, it would still devour part of the puppet's energy.

'I could add this black substance to the puppet's body by designing a special new system, an absorption system!'

The puppet's defensive ability rune scattered damage all over its body. That way, even if it received a fatal attack, it could endure it with its entire body.

But if the attack was a large-scale spell attack that could cover the entire puppet's body, then the effect of this defensive ability rune would be weakened.

But if he manufactured a new absorption system, the puppet would be able to endure spell attacks, redistribute them and lead the power towards the black substance. This would greatly increase the puppet's defense.

Moreover, the black substance's devouring power could even be used to attack. It'll continuously absorb the enemy's mana in close range. Not only would it weaken the enemy, it would be a huge psychological pressure. All mages would be frightened when facing that.

With that idea in mind, Lin Yun immediately got to work. First, he had to vacate a spot for the black substance. He then used obsidian mixed with a few kinds of mana repelling magic materials to craft a shell to put the black substance into. Then, through another design, a dozen channels were linked to the core of the absorption system.

These channels linked the puppet's absorption system to the surface of its body and would only open when attacked by a spell or in melee battle.

That black substance couldn't absorb the puppet's own mana, it could only devour the mana from an enemy or a spell.

A day later, the designs, production and assembly had been completed. The patched puppet's appearance had drastically changed, both outside and inside. From the outside, it looked like it was

covered in a layer of mercury. That silver layer was constantly moving and circulating due to the power of the ability rune.

Its body looked more like a melee puppet now. The crucial parts were relatively thick, but its body was slender for speed purposes.

And its weapons were hidden, unless they were in use, it was impossible to figure out what weapons the puppet held.

Lin Yun stood in front of the puppet and exhaled as he looked at his masterpiece, before rebooting it.

A second later, the puppet's dark crystal eyes suddenly gave off a crimson light and mana almost burst out of its body. Its three ability runes activated almost simultaneously and pacified that fierce burst of mana. These three ability runes used a large amount of mana, but if not for them, the puppet wouldn't be able to withstand this powerful mana reactor with its current power.

The puppet looked at Lin Yun, its scarlet crystal eyes flickering repeatedly. It then knelt and put its right hand on its stomach, like a knight having an audience with its monarch.

"Esteemed Master, Pabiete is yours to command, I am your blade aiming at all your enemies."

A calm voice came out from Pabiete's closed mouth, he then calmly waited in his kneeling position, just like a statue.

Pleasant surprise could be seen in Lin Yun's eyes and he sighed in relief. Since that puppet recalled its own name, this meant that it regained its wisdom and was no longer that cold lump of iron that only knew how to listen to orders, he should have already regained his memory.

"Pabiete, stand up. Do you remember your past?"

Lin Yun asked Pabiete about his past, but Pabiete seemed at a loss as he stood up, as if he had no idea what Lin Yun was asking.

"Pabiete, I'm asking about what happened before you re-awakened your wisdom, how much do you remember?"

Pabiete's tone was still emotionless as he meticulously answered, "Esteemed Master, your most loyal knight only remembers you bestowing me life and letting me open my eyes to look at this world. Pabiete remembers everything from the time I opened my eyes until now."

Lin Yun frowned.

"I'm talking about what happened before. Do you remember the Dark Sage? Do you remember the disaster?"

Pabiete shook his head.

"Esteemed Master, Pabiete cannot understand what you are saying."

Lin Yun was disappointed. Although Pabiete had regained his wisdom, he apparently didn't remember the past, he only remembered what happened since Lin Yun restored his mana.

Since he remembered his own name, how could he not remember the matters of the past, how could he have not heard of the Dark Sage?

After opening Pabiete's body and checking his unique memory system, Lin Yun got a flash of understanding.

The unimportant things had been replaced, especially the mana reactor. The memory system was the only thing that Lin Yun hadn't dared to touch. In order to ensure that it wasn't damaged, Pabiete's head had always been protected, and the defenses were the strongest around the memory system.

The puppet's memories were stored there, but a puppet's wisdom awakening was like a new life being born. It didn't seem like a big change, it was very minor, but it birthed the flames of life, this was the source of the puppet's life. Or it was better to say, the source of the puppet's wisdom.

Under normal circumstances, the power of a Heaven Puppet's memory system was linked to the other systems, but it would transform differently, the memory systems of Heaven Puppets and non-Heaven Puppets were different. This was also the reason why Lin Yun couldn't learn about the unique memories within Pabiete's memory system, because only through awakening wisdom could the memory system be known as Pabiete's memory system.

And before he awakened wisdom, the memory system was only the patched puppet's memory system, and this was very different. But seeing the memory system's appearance, Lin Yun frowned.

Because 90% of Pabiete's memory system had regained its original appearance. In other words, Pabiete hadn't lost his memory, it was just sealed by a strange power.

Continuously transforming runes were roaming over 90% of the memory system, and the memories stored there hadn't been lost, they were only sealed.

Lin Yun roused the Magic Array to decipher the runic seal, but he discovered that the runes' transformation speed was too fast. It was unable to fully grasp the information of the runes before they flickered and transformed again.

He couldn't decipher them even when using the Spell Wheel. The runes covering the entire memory system were far too small and there were several thousand of them. Every single rune would also transform every single second, and when combined together, they made that seal's combinations almost infinite.

Lin Yun was stunned. That sealing technique was too familiar. It didn't seem to be very technical. In fact, there wasn't much technical content behind every transformation. If Lin Yun wasn't afraid of damaging Pabiete's memory, he could brute force it and crack it within three minutes.

But this kind of endless combination sealing technique came from the later part of Noscent's peak era, it was even the most common sealing technique in some areas...

Chapter 1250 Heaven Rank and Challenge

Endless Seal Technique...

It was known as the most unreasonable sealing method. Thousands of new combinations would be formed whenever one of these several thousand runes changed. And there were several hundred runes changing every second. The number of combinations appearing every second was astronomical.

After watching for a minute, Lin Yun knew that the total number of transformations the runes went through added to about ten thousands. It would take over a millennium of straight calculations to go through it.

And this was with the help of the Magic Array and the Spell Wheel. If another Artisan did the calculations without eating or drinking, they wouldn't crack the seal, let alone find the core password combination.

The sealing method was simple, but the amount of calculations was too important to calculate.

Seeing this seal, Lin Yun immediately gave up on cracking it. Cracking it without damaging Pabiete's memory system? No way.

He unhesitatingly re-assembled Pabiete's skull, he had completely gave up the notion of cracking it.

He only had two methods: The first method involved finding the core password of the seal covering Pabiete's memory system. With it, he would be able to crack the seal within three hours, but without it he would need a millennium.

The second was simply waiting until the memory system's seal disappeared on its own. The most likely way to make that happen was to continuously increase Pabiete's level. When Pabiete's strength rose to a certain level, he might be able to open that seal on his own.

Although Pabiete had re-awakened his wisdom and hadn't solved Lin Yun's doubts, Lin Yun was even more certain that Pabiete's memory system contained some crucial clues. That "Is there still someone alive?" sentence absolutely didn't come out of nowhere, it was definitely related to the end of Noscent.

Since there was no good option, Lin Yun could only give up for the moment. After all, Pabiete already awakened his wisdom, Lin Yun would inevitably get the answer one day. At the moment, he could only think of ways to increase Pabiete's level, this was the most dependable method.

Not only did Pabiete reach level 40 and re-awaken his wisdom, he was stronger than the average 1st Rank Heaven powerhouse. Lin Yun only increased his strength by one level in fear of ruining Pabiete. Once Pabiete adapted to his strength, strengthening him wouldn't be a problem.

Lin Yun frowned as he sensed the Natural Demiplane's laws fluctuating. The entire world seemed to be reacting and a large amount of mana converged towards the source.

He took one step and instantly disappeared. After establishing the foundation of the Spatial Law, Lin Yun could instantly teleport anywhere within the Demiplane.

As he appeared at the foot of a mountain, Lin Yun watched as a huge crack appeared on Xiuban's cocoon. The runes and bloodline auras had completely disappeared. Over half of the cocoon's power had dissipated and the rest was rapidly being absorbed by Xiuban.

A blood cloud condensed in the sky and a large amount of mana started converging towards this location from the mana lake.

A Three-Headed Gold Dragon's shadow appeared in the blood cloud, followed by an Ancient Poison Dragon's shadow, an Abyssal Blood Dragon's shadow, and finally, a Crystal Dragon's shadow.

These were all the draconic bloodlines contained within Xiuban's body. Xiuban had taken the initiative to fuse with the first three, while the Crystal Dragon's bloodline was actually Xiuban's own bloodline.

The appearance of the Crystal Dragon's shadow was undoubtedly a great surprise.

After all, Crystal Dragons were a race of Ancient Dragons, few in numbers, living during the Mythological Era. But Crystal Dragons didn't like war, instead, they loved hibernating. They could sometimes sleep underground for thousands of years. As time passed, crystal veins filled with draconic aura would be produced, and the quality would far exceed ordinary crystal.

There had been no trace of Crystal Dragons as early as the Nesser Dynasty, and the main reason was that it was very hard for them to reproduce... And they also weren't fond of reproducing, they weren't very energetic so extinction was inevitable.

Yet, Xiuban actually had the bloodline of a Crystal Dragon. This gave Lin Yun a ridiculous feeling.

But Xiuban's bloodline awakening after reaching the Heaven Rank was undoubtedly a good thing.

And after the four kinds of terrifying bloodlines appeared, a human-shaped shadow appeared. The shadow couldn't be seen clearly, but it was huge and the four kinds of draconic shadows were hovering around it.

At the same time, divine aura started spreading.

Lin Yun frowned as he looked at that shadow. This was obviously the power contained within the God's blood. As Xiuban grew stronger, some overlooked soul fragments might have grown stronger within that power.

After advancing to the Heaven Rank, all these auras had to be merged with Xiuban, but it would be troublesome with that God's shadow. Later on, these soul fragments might grow even stronger and attract other soul fragments before ultimately devouring Xiuban's soul and allowing a God to revive within Xiuban's body.

That was completely unacceptable!

On the ground, the blood cocoon wrapping Xiuban suddenly split open and collapsed, transforming into energy that poured into Xiuban's body.

A layer of bloody light covered Xiuban's body and his body grew by more than half a head. He was already 2.2-meter-tall. He then raised his head and roared at the sky.

At that moment, the Three-Headed Gold Dragon's shadow, the Ancient Poison Dragon's shadow, the Abyssal Blood Dragon's shadow, and the Crystal Dragon's shadow rapidly turned into a layer of bloody light and pressured the huge God's shadow. Xiuban was easily controlling these draconic shadows very easily.

That God's shadow didn't react to the pressure, when suddenly, the four draconic shadows pounced towards the God's shadow. The draconic shadows grew stronger under Xiuban's control, and not only

did they have a steady flow of power supporting them, they immediately began an unrelenting assault on the God's shadow.

The God's shadow used a simple move, a several-dozen-meter-big hand kept swatting at one of the four draconic shadows, but its body recovered in an instant. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the other draconic shadows pounced and tore at the God's shadow.

Slowly, the four draconic shadows grew bigger and bigger while that kilometer-tall God's shadow grew increasingly smaller and weaker.

It took less than half an hour for the shadow of the God to be devoured by the four draconic shadows.

Lin Yun was somewhat amazed as he looked at the scene. As for Enderfa and Shawn, the first had his mouth wide open, while the second had a lifeless expression.

Enderfa let out a strange muffled sentence once the God's shadow completely dissipated, "Damn, Xiuban really only knows how to eat and sleep..."

Lin Yun had been planning to give pointers to Xiuban in order to remove potential trouble, yet Xiuban thought of the most perfect and most cruel method by himself.

Letting the four draconic shadows devour the God's shadow...

Their bodies doubled in size after they devoured the God's shadow. They then rushed towards Xiuban and the four blood-colored lights merged with his body.

Blood-colored tattoos started appearing on his skin. The Ancient Poison Dragon could be seen on his left arm, while the Three-Headed Gold Dragon could be seen on the right arm. The Crystal Dragon appeared on his back while the Abyssal Blood Dragon appeared on his chest.

All the powers fused together and formed a flood revolving around Xiuban as layer upon layer of blood light kept cleansing Xiuban's body before ultimately merging with Xiuban's body. Then, the blood-colored cloud turned into a fine drizzle.

All the lifeforms around the mountain coming in contact with the blood red drizzle started frantically evolving. Many insects directly burst into puddles of blood and many turned fierce. Ordinary insects now had a wisp of bloodline power or were filled with mana.

If not for the mountain's pressure, that drizzle would have turned into a heavy rain covering the entire Demiplane. That wouldn't have been a good thing, it would have forcibly changed the Demiplane's evolution process and twist the Demiplane's growth. But since only this area was hit, it would instead increase the Demiplane's biodiversity and was absolutely beneficial.

Xiuban grinned as he looked at the tattoos on his arms and chest, he felt invincible.

"Sir Merlin, the great Xiuban has advanced to the Heaven Rank, I'm already invincible, hahaha..."

Lin Yun ignored Xiuban and looked towards the north. Xiuban had just advanced, but a similar scene was happening in the north as a lot of mana was converging over there.

Lin Yun's body instantly disappeared and reappeared in the northernmost ice field of the Demiplane. As for Xiuban, he stretched his neck and glanced towards the north before loudly saying, "Hahaha, the great Xiuban advanced to the Heaven Rank before that ice woman, I should go and properly tease her. I also have to show her that the great Xiuban is now invincible."

After a laugh, Xiuban suddenly jumped up and flew into the sky like an artillery shell. He forcibly tore through the air as he flew towards the north, cyan gales curling around his body and continuously pushing him forward.

The northernmost area was already the coldest part of the Demiplane, the seawater had already frozen into a few-dozen-meter-thick layer of ice. Looking at it from the sky felt like looking into a huge white mirror.

Now, a large amount of mana was converging towards this area. The ice at the northernmost part of the ice field started emitting blue light and its color turned deeper and deeper until it finally transformed into deep blue ice.

Cold air started spreading from the northernmost side and over a dozen kilometers of ice turned blue before the spread stopped. Mana even condensed into snowflakes and fell over the northernmost part of the ice field, condensing into rhombus crystals.

The cold air became more and more vigorous, and even his own mana circulation was getting affected by the cold air. His body, which hadn't felt cold or hot for a long time, was now feeling somewhat cold under the protection of his shield.

As the snow got heavier and heavier, the extreme north was completely shrouded in a blizzard. A dozen minutes later, the ice field started shaking. Even the deep blue layer of ice was shaking. The blue ice's hardness could absolutely compare to the most solid black diamond. Yet it was now being disintegrated into fragments as a 100-meter-long silver blue ray rushed out of the depths of the ice layer.

At that instant, the snow covering the sky was immediately dispersed and a hundred-meter-long slender silver blue Dragon hovered in the air alongside countless fragments of ice. Everything in the surroundings was getting frozen, even the air itself.

This clearly wasn't the shape of a Frost Dragon, Reina looked more like the fusion of a Frost Dragon and an Ancient Poison Dragon, it was the most suitable and strongest shape.

Reina let out a Dragon Roar and the mana condensed in the sky froze and turned into blue ice crystals falling onto the ice field.

Reina made a circle in the sky before her body rapidly shrunk and turned back into her human-shape, slowly falling down. She now had silver-blue hair and two draconic horns that couldn't be hidden in her human shape. She was also wearing a long skirt that seemed to be made of blue crystal.

At that time, an arrogant roar could be heard in the distance.

"Reina! You are too slow, the great Xiuban has advanced to the Heaven Rank many days ago! I'm already invincible! You are too slow, hahaha..."

Xiuban flew over while laughing heartily, but his flying technique was too rough, he could only push forward by using the gales' power.

Xiuban flew over like an artillery shell and looked as if he was about to test his strength on Reina, but Reina coldly glanced at the flying Xiuban and opened her mouth, letting out a wisp of cold air. In an instant, the cold air transformed into a silver blue rune spanning over several kilometers and hitting the fast Xiuban.

Xiuban's smug laughter came to an abrupt end and his body was instantly frozen into a seven-meter-big chunk before ruthlessly falling on the ice field.

The powerful impact created cracks on the ice field. As the ice broke apart, an enraged Xiuban jumped out of the ice as if he had suffered no injuries.

"Reina, you actually sneak attacked! You sneak attacked the great Lord Xiuban! The invincible Lord Xiuban! If you have the ability, follow me..."

A light blue ray hit Xiuban before he could finish his words and froze him into a huge chunk of ice, once again.

After a few seconds, the chunk of ice exploded and Xiuban's wrath soared. He raised Carnaged and flew towards Reina.

But in less than three seconds, another chunk of ice fell to the ground.

Lin Yun helplessly covered his eyes, and Enderfa couldn't bear to look at the scene.

"That idiot Xiuban, I thought he would gain some intelligence after advancing to the Heaven Rank, but I truly hadn't expected that he would instead become even more stupid. This is stupid to the point where I don't even have the heart to scold him..."

"Reina! If you have power, be straightforward and fight me fair and square! The great Lord Xiuban wants to let you know that my power is invincible! If you have power, endure one of my..."

But his shout once again came to an abrupt end. It wasn't an ordinary chunk of ice this time, Xiuban had been frozen in light blue ice, which froze even the ice field under it.

Xiuban's expression distorted as he was frozen. He stood there quietly for a long time while Reina followed Lin Yun towards the east part of the Demiplane.

An hour later, the puppet army had already assembled in the Demiplane. Pabiete, Reina, and the small wolf were all present. Xiuban suddenly fell from the sky, his joints apparently frozen stiff but with no injury. He only glared at Reina with a poor expression.

Xiuban clearly understood that let alone fighting Reina, he couldn't even get close to her.

Not only could he not beat Reina, Pabiete was currently occupying his position next to Lin Yun.

In a bad mood, he said, "Hey, Iron Can, move. This position is the position of Sir Merlin's strongest subordinate, Lord Xiuban. Why are you standing there?"

But just as he finished his sentence, he saw Pabiete raise his right arm and a pitch-black cannon appearing from within his silver shell. Then, a terrifying white ray of light burst out and fell on Xiuban's body.

Xiuban raised his arms in front of him to block, a crystal armor instantly covering his body, but he was still sent flying a few kilometers away.

After a few minutes, Xiuban returned and dejectedly stood to the side, no longer daring to make noise...

Surprise couldn't help flashing in Lin Yun's eyes. Xiuban's defense had grown increasingly stronger and his body was already powerful enough to resist Pabiete's cannon.

Reina's freeze and Pabiete's cannon didn't harm Xiuban at all. Even if he just stood there to take a beating, a 1st Rank Heaven powerhouse wouldn't be able to kill Xiuban.

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When everyone arrived, Lin Yun left the Demiplane and flew out of Neverwinter City. He then opened a Planar Path in a remote corner and let Reina, Xiuban, Pabiete, and the small wolf out of the Demiplane. He then took out the Planar Key to the Puppet Plane.

That Planar Key wasn't a true Planar Key, but rather a Planar Path that led to the Puppet Plane. He could set the coordinates himself, but if he had used it before, he would have had to rely on the coordinates stored inside the key, thus Lin Yun hadn't dared to use it.

A place like the Puppet Plane was too dangerous, if he was discovered by the powerful existences within the Puppet Plane, they would absolutely ruthlessly chase after him.

And with the coordinates he had gotten last time, marching on the Puppet Plane might be possible.

A steady flow of mana was poured into this key, and after three minutes, the key emitted countless runes. Then, the runes formed a three-meter-tall stable round door and a Planar Path appeared in front of everyone.

After stepping into the Planar Path, they reappeared into that huge puppet cemetery with countless piles of parts. They could faintly see some low level puppets searching for components in the distance.

The air and oxygen was so sparse that no human could live here, it also contained all kinds of gases toxic to humans. Above them was the endless void, and although there was a scorching sun in the sky, it couldn't illuminate that dark void.