

Magic Era 1301

Chapter 1301: Homecoming

“The void storm was truly terrifying. It almost got me. However, I didn’t expect to fall onto a giant desolate planet while I tried to escape from the void. The gravity here is dreadful. I couldn’t escape, and almost became the first Heaven Rank to die in a fall...

“After three years, I finally got used to the gravity here, and found a way to flee from this desolate planet...”

Lin Yun frowned and continued reading. He had thought that Santon Merlin would write about the space battlefield in his diary, such as what it was exactly, and whom they were fighting, but it wasn’t in the diary at all.

There was a long gap between the dates of the records in the diary. They were all unusual experiences. It seemed that the daily stuff wouldn’t be written down at all...

He turned the pages, and finally found something different as he reached the middle of the diary.

“I saw him...”

That was the only sentence on the entire page, written in a slightly different style. Reading the sentence, Lin Yun could almost feel Santon Merlin’s complicated feelings when he wrote it.

Lin Yun frowned, and didn’t know whom “him” referred to. It seemed that Santon Merlin hesitated when he wrote the word. That person had to be very formidable, and might detect something if his name was written in this powerful magic book. Therefore, Santon Merlin only used a pronoun.

However, in this unpopular magic language, “him” was just a generic pronoun. It was impossible to tell the gender of the person, or whether it was even a person at all.

Looking at the page for a long time, Lin Yun analyzed the sentence and speculated about Santon Merlin’s emotional changes. However, he didn’t find any useful leads.

He turned to the next page, which seemed to have been written a long time after the last page as the style and ink were clearly different.

“Damn it. He almost saw me. This part of space is too desolate and quiet. Any intruder is as eye-catching as sunlight on a dark night.

“I’ve followed him for a long time. I smell a plot. I have a bad, catastrophic feeling...”

The writing was messy and rushed. It seemed that the author didn’t have a lot of time when he wrote the diary.

Lin Yun continued reading, and the writing became even more illegible. The man seemed to be interrupted in the middle of writing.

“Damn it, I saw 72 Gods and Demons. Living Gods and Demons...”

Lin Yun’s hand trembled when he read that. Living Gods and Demons? And there were 72 of them?

That had to be bullsh*t. The Gods and Demons had already perished a long, long time ago. Were any of them still alive at this moment?

While reading, Lin Yun seemed able to envision how shocked and panicked Santon Merlin had surely been.

There was a long gap between the last few entries of the diary. Through the records, Lin Yun closed his eyes, and quietly speculated what Santon Merlin went through.

Santon Merlin had surely discovered someone, or some sort of creature, by chance. The race, gender, and age of that target were unknown.

Santon Merlin was very shocked to see the “person”. Then, he quietly followed the “person”, who seemed very strong. It wasn’t easy for Santon Merlin to chase him. He was almost caught, even though he was very careful.

It was very easy to follow someone in the boundless void because there were no obstacles at all, not even air. Anyone in the Heaven Rank could easily see things that were tens of thousands of kilometers away.

Therefore, it was very easy to tail a target. As long as the distance in between was large enough, one might not be discovered even though one was following a target on an iron warship.

Considering how strong Santon Merlin was, he didn’t have to see the target at all if he wanted to follow him. He only needed to chase the traces that the target left behind.

However, even so, he was nearly caught.

He discovered something incredible about the person he followed. Because he was unable to control his shock, he was discovered in the middle of his writing.

The escape began. When he passed by the desolate planet, he tossed the magic book to it, or accidentally dropped it here.

That was uncertain. There were too many unknown factors. Judging from the reaction of this magic book, Santon Merlin had certainly escaped and survived. This magic book was preserved probably because of this desolate planet.

Neither Santon Merlin nor those who were chasing him were confident of getting away after being caught by this planet’s gravity.

Therefore, this magic book was no different from being destroyed. It could be used as coordinates with the bloodline connection at best. Unfortunately, the space here had been too solidified to break apart.

Only Void Owls, amazing creatures that could make use of spatial power as they used their wings, could possibly escape from this place.

This planet didn’t have the greatest gravity in the boundless void. The desolate planets with the greatest gravity were only accessible to horrifying beings as strong as Gods and Demons. Planar Paths, teleportation arrays, and spatial gates didn’t work on such planets at all.

Lin Yun continued reading, and saw nothing but blank pages. He had all sorts of speculations, but wasn't sure of anything.

Who was the person that Santon Merlin described? Which race was he from?

Also, there were Gods and Demons...

Santon Merlin was so shocked that he had surely seen more than one God and Demon that he was 100% sure should've been dead.

However, if he had encountered Gods and Demons, how did he survive? If they had been malicious, he would've been killed the moment they spotted him. Even his soul couldn't get away.

Was it an illusion? Or did someone create horrifying existences, such as incomplete Gods and Demons, with the soul pieces and blood of the Gods and Demons?

Lin Yun put away the magic book, and rubbed his head. He had thought Santon Merlin was here, so he came to this planet to meet the legend of the Merlin Family.

He didn't expect to see a diary with unbelievable records. However, the descriptions in the diary were too ambiguous for him to understand.

"Let's get out of here."

The Void Owl was floating on Lin Yun's shoulder. Hearing that, it immediately adjusted the frequencies of Lin Yun and itself, taking him back to the subspace. It didn't want to spend any more time on the desolate planet.

Even the Void Owl had to leave the desolate planet whose gravity was tens of thousands of times higher than normal. It couldn't just fly away from the planet. Agalon might be strong enough to do that, but they couldn't...

They returned to the low yet boundless subspace again. Lin Yun looked back at the projection of the desolate planet, and pointed at it.

"Can you mark the planet so that we can return if we want to?"

The Void Owl sent back soul waves, indicating that it was easy, although it didn't want to go to that planet ever again...

Lin Yun smiled and didn't say anything. There was only one type of resource on the desolate planet. Even if other resources were buried deeply in the planet, they would turn into black crystals after they were dug out.

When he needed a lot of black crystals in the future, but didn't have any stock, this place would be very useful.

Walking for some distance in the subspace, Lin Yun finally asked the Void Owl to look for a safe planet.

It searched for hours, and finally found a desolate planet whose gravity wasn't too great. It wasn't surrounded by any void storms and strong creatures.

It was undoubtedly a safe place.

The Void Owl took Lin Yun out of the subspace to a desolate world whose surface was red rocks. Those rocks were ordinary. The gravity here was only half of that in Noscent. There was not a star anywhere close. So, it was unlikely for any void beast to appear here.

After all, most void beasts couldn't live without the light of stars. Their energy source was partly the prey they hunted, and partly the energy they absorbed in the void. The greatest energy source was undoubtedly the stars.

Also, they had to set up a nest near an appropriate star to procreate.

After ensuring the safety of this place, Lin Yun set up nine alchemy arrays, and consolidated the space with a protective barrier to avoid any accidents.

After all the preparations were done, Lin Yun entered his Natural Demiplane with the Void Owl. He left the spatial coordinates in the center of the alchemy arrays.

They were the coordinates where Lin Yun entered the Natural Demiplane. They would be left whenever Lin Yun entered the Natural Demiplane. It was also the connection between the Natural Demiplane and the outside world.

In a way, the coordinates were where Lin Yun was connected to the Natural Demiplane. The reason why Lin Yun could enter the Natural Demiplane from anywhere was that Lin Yun himself had always been the coordinates. It didn't matter where he was.

Entering the Natural Demiplane, Lin Yun solemnly appeared on the top of the pillar, and examined the Natural Demiplane with his eyes closed. He was connected to the Natural Demiplane through countless lines.

One of the lines was the coordinates that Lin Yun left in the outside world. He invoked the Natural Demiplane's power and his own power, letting them collide.

Immediately, one of the lines that connected the Natural Demiplane and Lin Yun crumbled.

Immediately, Lin Yun snorted, and his head was ringing. Even his soul and the Natural Demiplane trembled at the same time.

Lin Yun couldn't detect the coordinates he left in the outside world anymore. His absolute control over the Natural Demiplane was weakened too. This could be a huge weakness on many other occasions, and could affect Lin Yun himself.

However, it was much better than expected. The core of the Natural Demiplane had developed faster than its size. In particular, thanks to the pillar, all thousands of the truth runes he grasped were fused into the pillar.

The 100,000 truth runes that he had yet to grasp were engraved on the pillar too. Although the Natural Demiplane couldn't benefit from them, they made the pillar powerful enough to suppress the shaking.

Lin Yun was dizzy for more than 10 seconds before he recovered. He spread out his senses, and detected the coordinates he left in the Gilded Rose.

Having no time to rest, he invoked the coordinates, and linked one of the broken lines to them. When the connection succeeded, he immediately vanished from the Natural Demiplane, and appeared inside the Gilded Rose.

After he left the Natural Demiplane again, the temporarily linked line crumbled in five seconds. Then, the Natural Demiplane automatically fixed its coordinates on Lin Yun, and the line that was broken at the beginning was restored.

Lin Yun was rather pale. The Natural Demiplane accommodated his laws. If the pillar hadn't been so terrifyingly powerful, he would have had much more to worry about than a pale face.

He had shaken the foundation of laws, and couldn't do it again in a long time. Also, the laws in his Natural Demiplane had been greatly disturbed. He couldn't set up a pair of spare spatial coordinates until it was fully recovered.

Lin Yun smiled bitterly. He didn't expect the consequences to be so bad. However, this price was negligible compared to being lost in the void forever...

He only needed to take a good rest, and regain control over the Demiplane by sorting through the laws in it.

Recalling his trip to the space battlefield, Lin Yun finally realized why getting lost was even more dangerous than encountering beasts in the boundless void.

He was taken elsewhere after the small lizard ate him. Even though he survived, it was absolutely useless because he'd already been lost.

There were too many accidents that could make one lost in the boundless void. Everything could get one completely lost, such as void beasts, spatial traps, and void storms.

Had it not been for the Natural Demiplane, he would've been lost in the Natural Demiplane for good on his first trip to the space battlefield.

Even if he remembered countless coordinates, it would be useless when he was lost. After all, the coordinates in the void weren't fixed, but only relevant.

Only if he confirmed his own coordinates could he calculate the coordinates of his destination and the route to go back. If he didn't know where he was, he would be lost forever.

When Noscent was at its peak, it had developed the resources in the boundless void. Many star maps were drawn to mark every useful place so that the miners wouldn't get lost in the explored range. However, the boundless void was just too big.

There were still countless people who got lost in the void, especially those who crazily explored for new resources. It was nothing unusual that they left and never came back.

Three after Lin Yun reappeared, Faleau came.

"Sir Merlin, what happened to you?"

Faleau was greatly shocked by Lin Yun's appearance, but Lin Yun waved his hand before the former could continue.

"I'm fine. I just suffered a recoil. I only need a rest. Go find me a magic pet that carries a bloodline of spatial power. I need it."

Faleau hesitated, and then left with worry.

The Gilded Rose had risen to a point that it could get anything unless it was too precious to be sold on the market. The precious magic pets that carried spatial power weren't difficult to get for the Gilded Rose. They were available in Neverwinter City.

In only three hours, Faleau returned with three magic pets which were all shorter than half a meter.

One was a silver leopard, one was a four-legged snake that was constantly changing its skin color, and the last was a black owl.

All three of them were no higher than level 20. They all had great bloodlines, but they were all growing.

Seeing the black owl, Lin Yun put on a smile. That looked like the offspring of common owls, which could fly very fast, and were often used by mages as messengers or sentinels after they built their towers.

This owl had surely mutated, and carried some spatial power. Had it not been for the shackle that blocked mana, this owl would have flown away from the cage.

Lin Yun took away the owl, and returned to the Natural Demiplane. He summoned the Void Owl, and asked Lord Shawn to take apart the owl's soul. Then, he melted the Void Owl with the owl.

Lin Yun only provided help, and Lord Shawn was the person who did the task. In no more than 10 minutes, the Void Owl had been completely melted into this black-feathered owl. There would be nothing wrong after they were completely embedded.

Nothing could possibly go wrong now that Lord Shawn, a great manipulator of souls, had taken action. The Void Owl was adept at running, but unfortunately, this was Noscent, and not the boundless void.

If preparations were made, there would be plenty of experts who were capable of catching the Void Owl's soul entity, or even killing it.

Chapter 1302: Old Friends

It would be a lot safer with the body. Even if its body was destroyed, its soul could still escape.

Half an hour later, the Void Owl woke up. It walked on the ground, but seemed to be tripping itself over constantly. It didn't seem to be used to the body at all.

Not daring to express its anger with Lin Yun, it simply glared at Lord Shawn with its big round eyes.

Lord Shawn grinned, and then slapped the Void Owl a dozen meters away.

"What an idiot. You dare to glare at the great Lord Shawn? You're even dumber than Xiuban..."

Xiuban, who was sound asleep, didn't even open its eyes. It replied drowsily, "Who's calling the great Xiuban?"

The Void Owl became a lot more obedient now that Lord Shawn taught it a lesson. An hour later, Lin Yun left the Demiplane with the Void Owl, which wasn't fully accustomed yet. He then gave it to Faleau.

"This is Xiusi. Teach him the language of Noscent, and let it inform me if anything goes wrong."

After that, he gave Xiusi the permission to access his Natural Demiplane, and listened to Faleau's report. He then returned to his Demiplane for rest. Until he recovered from the previous accident, nobody could access his Natural Demiplane even with a Planar Path. Only the authorized creatures such as Xiusi could enter the Natural Demiplane through a Planar Path.

Recently, everything had been going well with the Gilded Rose. The Roosevelt Business Alliance, which caused trouble for it earlier, had been fully suppressed by the Lincoln Business Alliance, and only survived because of the desert ethnic group's support.

However, in the Odin Kingdom, many forces that had cooperated with the Roosevelt Business Alliance before were turning to the Lincoln Business Alliance. After all, they didn't care about the internal conflicts of the Sten Kingdom. Since the Lincoln Business Alliance's products were much better, they either sought cooperation with the Lincoln Business Alliance, or demanded that the Roosevelt Business Alliance lower the price.

The Roosevelt Business Alliance could hardly survive the disaster, and had no time to deal with the Gilded Rose. It avoided any more conflict with the Gilded Rose because it would be in even greater trouble in the Sten Kingdom if the Gilded Rose retaliated.

It had already lost a seat in the Upper Parliament. Although one seat was no more significant than one vote, it could change the result of a motion at a critical moment.

The Gilded Rose had no time to deal with the Roosevelt Business Alliance, either. The Roosevelt Business Alliance was suppressed, but could hardly be destroyed, not with the support of the desert ethnic group in the Sten Kingdom. That was the internal business of the Sten Kingdom.

The Gilded Rose seized the opportunity to expand. The third batch of stores had been established. Not counting the headquarters in Neverwinter City, the 38 branch stores had covered all the important cities in the north of the Odin Kingdom. Its potion market share was at the top in the north of the Odin Kingdom, and surpassed the Lodney Family's.

The Lodney Family didn't react. Nobody from the Lodney Family would ever appear in the place where the people of the Gilded Rose participated. Even if they were angry, they wouldn't really dare to escalate the conflict, and could only secretly curse them.

Wilder and the powerful elders of the Lodney Family all flinched from the Gilded Rose. Who else dared to do otherwise?

Lin Yun returned to his Natural Demiplane, and sat on the top of the pillar. He sorted through the dislocated laws. The Natural Demiplane had a great self-recovery ability. Most laws would be recovered in a couple of months. But Lin Yun didn't let go of the opportunity.

If he sorted through the laws in person, the recovery would be faster. Also, his connection to the Natural Demiplane and his control over it would be better.

Lin Yun rested inside the Natural Demi-plane, and didn't worry that anybody would do anything to the mark he left. After all, he was in the central area of the Gilded Rose in Neverwinter City. Nobody could possibly sneak into that place.

While Lin Yun was away, Faleau was having a lot of trouble...

As a natural-born extraordinary life and a soul entity, Xiusi wasn't born by any void beast at all, but was born naturally in some special places. Otherwise, it wouldn't have boasted such great spatial abilities.

For Xiusi, it could live in any space as naturally as fish that swam in the water...

It was a natural-born extraordinary life with congenial wisdom, so it picked up Noscent's language easily. It was already able to speak in the Noscent's language instead of soul waves after being taught for the first time.

While learning the language, Xiusi, as a creature that had been wandering in the boundless void, was gradually attracted to Noscent, which was so prosperous that even a tree was more interesting than the desolation in the void.

As a bumpkin, Xiusi was interested in everything, especially after it had a bite of the food in Noscent.

In only one month, Xiusi the bumpkin had grown into Xiusi the fox.

"Faleau, I'm hungry. The great Xiusi is hungry. Where is my mousse? Oh, damn it. This is the mousse made by the small-eyed fool in the east of the city. He added sweetener to the mousse. I don't want that. Let's destroy his store someday.

"He dares to fool the great Xiusi. I want the cake from the noble store in the west of the city. Their pastries are made of the finest sap..."

With a bitter smile, Faleau slightly shook his head.

He didn't know where Sir Merlin found Xiusi, but the latter was truly terrifying. He had picked up eight languages in one month, and could even communicate in the Nesser language. He had grown from an ignorant bumpkin into a wily old fox who was better at cursing than a vixen...

Never mind. It was just cake, and didn't cost much purple gold. Considering how terrifying Xiusi was, it could carry out a lot of difficult tasks.

It only took Xiusi five minutes to track down the idiot who sold counterfeits of Gilded Rose's products. Also, Faleau didn't even see how it left. He didn't detect any spatial waves. Even the level-5 Heaven Rank spatial mages were probably incapable of doing that...

With a smile, Faleau took out a piece of six-inch mousse.

"Sir Xiusi, it is very difficult to buy such cakes. It's made by the greatest cook with a lot of time and effort, so the productivity is very low.

"Every piece of the cake has to be ordered in advance. I've paid a fortune to buy this one from someone else. Please take your time..."

Xiusi narrowed its eyes in delight. It swallowed the cake that it despised earlier, and then chewed the new cake unhurriedly.

Its soul waves gradually spread out, and it patted Faleau's shoulder with its wings.

"Faleau, well done. If Master hadn't warned me that I shouldn't cause trouble in Neverwinter City, I would've fetched the food myself.

"It's not bad that you can buy the food with a normal method. If you're in any trouble, just tell the great Xiusi. I'll take care of it for you..."

"Wow, it tastes so delicious! How wonderful my life is!

"It's truly lucky for me to come to this place with my master. I couldn't even find sh*t in the goddamn void..."

Xiusi spoke in a blurry tone with its mouth full of cake. It ignored Faleau. The latter narrowed his eyes and left quietly. Xiusi wasn't easy to deal with, but there wouldn't be any problem as long as they had delicious pastries...

At the same time, another two visitors came to the Lodney Family.

Two weird female mages, both in their thirties and wearing gray robes, were seated in the Lodney Family's meeting room. They seemed to have completely melted into the environment, and could barely be detected. The servants who served them even ignored them several times.

On the other hand, Wilder, after a whole day of meditation, listened to the report and pulled a long face. He was almost gnashing his teeth.

"What? Those two b*tches are here again? Tell them to f*ck off! I won't see them!"

The chief elder seemed worried.

"Leader, their family is more powerful than ours. Also, their family consists of all kinds of weird talents. I don't think it's appropriate to offend them so openly..."

Wilder sneered.

"Have you forgotten who's to blame for the Lodney Family's misfortune? Had it not been for those two b*tches, would we have challenged Mafa Merlin and sought to claim the Gilded Rose?"

"Would our ancestor have been imprisoned in the forbidden land for 100 years without them? We'd better keep a low profile in these 100 years. We must not let anyone else know that our ancestor is imprisoned.

"Those two b*tches must be here to deal with Mafa Merlin again. They're not doing anything, yet they expect us to deal with Mafa Merlin at great costs. Not a chance!

"If it weren't for the ancestor, I would kill both of them here today!

"Tell them that I'm learning from the ancestor in the forbidden land. Let them leave!"

Wilder stormed off, and did leave for the forbidden land...

The chief elder smiled helplessly, and went to the meeting room.

“Honorable guests, I’m truly sorry. Our family leader was summoned by the ancestor. We are not allowed to enter the forbidden land without permission. I’ve prepared a delicious banquet for you. I hope you can forgive us...”

The chief elder spoke apologetically and courteously.

However, both of the female mages stood up at the same time, and distant voices spread out of their illusionary bodies.

“That’s alright. We shouldn’t have come uninvited. We hope to see Mr. Wilder next time. We have other business to do. Thank you for your hospitality...”

They left the Lodney Family, and soon came to the Roosevelt Business Alliance’s headquarters in the Odin Kingdom.

They stayed for more than an hour in the meeting room, but didn’t see the Roosevelt Business Alliance’s director.

Two hours later, Reynolds, who had just left a noble’s banquet, received his subordinates’ report.

Reynolds put on an awful expression before he heard all the report...

“Two female mages in gray robes? They look rather docile?”

Hearing the keywords, Reynolds felt that his eyelids were cramping.

Those two wretched b*tches were here again. Were they trying to fool him into dealing with the Gilded Rose?

He was truly stupid to have been convinced by them that the Gilded Rose had no powerful supporter and only advanced technology.

He was not an idiot. If he hadn’t trusted those two bitches, he wouldn’t have tried to claim the Universal Core technology of the Gilded Rose.

If he had frankly negotiated with the Gilded Rose, he might have been able to strike a deal with them easily. He was the first to notice the Gilded Rose, not the idiots of the Lincoln Business Alliance.

Those idiots didn’t realize the Universal Core’s value until a long time later. No. At first, they probably only cooperated with the Gilded Rose because they hated the Roosevelt Business Alliance.

Damn it, he was so stupid. If the people in the headquarters learned that this fiasco was because he believed those two b*tches, he probably would die before the sunrise next day...

The headquarters had already done research. The Universal Core wasn’t sophisticated at all, and could be manufactured by Masters, but the material was the key!

It was made of a material that had never been seen or exploited in any of the known planes. There wasn’t even a similar material. The Gilded Rose didn’t have any powerful support? Stop kidding...

Their usage of the material indicated that they had discovered and developed a plane.

Could an organization that had conquered and developed a plane only have technology? Also, the technology was not something that the dumb alchemists in the business alliances could've developed...

He couldn't let anybody know that he made the stupid decision because he was tricked by outsiders. Absolutely not. Should he kill the two b*tches? But they came from powerful backgrounds. Killing them might get him exposed...

Changing his expression quickly, Reynolds looked at his trusted subordinates, and spoke in a low voice.

"Those two... women. Just tell them that I was invited to a marquis's banquet, and that because of the Roosevelt Business Alliance's trouble, I haven't returned in one month. I've been on business trips..."

Seeing that his subordinates didn't seem to follow, Reynolds heaved a sigh.

"Don't piss off women, especially powerful ones. They're all thorny, poisonous roses..."

"Hey, remember not to tell anyone else about this..."

Immediately, the people of the Roosevelt Business Alliance were enlightened, and all put on a smile of understanding.

The subordinate who came to report, in particular, remembered that the two women were both Heaven Rank experts, and looked at Reynolds in admiration.

"Don't worry, my lord. Nobody else will know this. Just rest assured."

They all left. Reynolds fled in a hurry. Those trusted subordinates looked at each other with a smile, and clearly thought that the visitors were Reynolds' mistresses. Naturally, they had to cover up for him.

In no more than half an hour, the two female mages were courteously sent away by the people of the Roosevelt Business Alliance...

Looking back at the Roosevelt Business Alliance's manor, the two mages were so cold that the air was almost frozen.

"Those wretched fools. None of them is willing to meet us!"

One of the mages trembled with fury. She seemed to be surrounded by gray mist. As she unleashed her scary aura, the insects that disregarded and approached them were all killed. All the insects turned black and gray before they were corroded and dissolved.

"Never mind. Those people are untrustworthy. They're idiots. If they see returns, they'll all be as motivated as hyenas that smell blood, but if they don't see returns, they'll immediately bite back. We can't count on them. We must do something."

"If the Gilded Rose continues developing like this, it won't be easy to deal with..."

"Any progress in the Raging Flame Plane?"

"None at all. All interests in the Raging Flame Plane have been divided, and Mafa Merlin is involved in almost everything. Even the stupid orcs whose heads are filled with nothing but brawn and magma think very highly of them. If we sabotage their cooperation, those stupid orcs won't hesitate to start a war..."

“All forces in the Raging Flame Plane will be our enemies. A lot of things about us will be exposed. Forget about the Raging Flame Plane. We must deal with the Gilded Rose in the Odin Kingdom, and seize a chance to kill Mafa Merlin.”

The mages left quietly, and soon came to a plain-looking material store in Neverwinter City.

They came to the rear of the store, where there was a room that was full of all kinds of alchemy arrays. A mage who seemed quite ordinary was waiting for them.

“Madam Emmy, Madam Sunny, good day.”

The two cold-looking mages nodded. Emmy looked at the male mage calmly.

“Mr. Neo, you fought Mafa Merlin before. What do you think we need to do in order to kill him?”

Chapter 1303: Assault

Neo bowed, and didn't seem as poised as before.

“Madam Emmy, Mafa Merlin is much stronger than those on his level. When he just came to the Odin Kingdom, I was unable to kill him, and he couldn't kill me, either.

“I'm one of the stronger rock mages. Few Heaven Rank mages on my level can compare to me. However, I was unable to kill Mafa Merlin.

“Besides, he once dueled against Wilder, leader of the Lodney Family. Many people didn't know about the duel, but Mafa Merlin was the winner. He's been growing fast, and is now at least in the fourth level of the Heaven Rank. If you want to kill him, you'd better take action together.

“However, it won't be easy to lure Mafa Merlin out. He hasn't shown up in public for months. He was last seen in the Gilded Rose, and has never left Neverwinter City ever since.”

Before Neo finished, Sunny's expression had changed. She took out a magic beacon, and read the message from it. Then, she spoke in a hurry.

“Urgent business in the headquarters calls me. I have to leave Neverwinter City. Neo, ask your teacher to help. I don't think Madam Emmy can kill Mafa Merlin on her own!”

Frowning, Emmy watched Sunny leave in a rush, and didn't say anything.

“Neo, you must ask your teacher to help. I'll create an opportunity for you by letting Mafa Merlin leave Neverwinter City so that your teacher will have a chance to kill Mafa Merlin.

“We will let Mafa Merlin answer for what he did. Anyone who offends us must be punished with death!”

Neo nodded, and didn't say anything else. He simply looked at the direction in which Sunny left, puzzled.

Madam Sunny was a liaison officer from the headquarters and an important diplomat. Why did she leave in such a hurry? Did something happen to the headquarters?

Not a chance. How could anything happen to the headquarters? There had to be something important that needed her. The thing about Mafa Merlin was trivial. He'd better mind his own business.

The failed assassination when Mafa Merlin just arrived in the Odin Kingdom alarmed him. Although the Lodney Family and the Roosevelt Business Alliance were unable to kill Mafa Merlin, they were great distractions. He could take action again.

It was a shame that Mafa Merlin didn't die last time, or all this trouble would've been unnecessary. He had to ask his teacher to help...

Considering the questions, Neo quietly left. Emmy, who was enshrouded in gray dust, took out a magic beacon too. A few uncanny messages popped up on the magic beacon.

As time went by, Lin Yun had completely recovered. He seized the opportunity of the earthquake in the Natural Demiplane to sort through the laws in the Natural Demiplane, and gained much more understanding of the laws than he usually did.

As he recovered, he naturally rose to the fourth level of the Heaven Rank, without feeling anything uncomfortable or unnatural. It was as simple as eating or drinking. He didn't do anything special, and when he realized it, he was already at the fourth level of the Heaven Rank.

That was because his understanding of laws as well as his other aspects were all much higher than the third level of the Heaven Rank. Still, he stopped himself from crossing the obstacle. This setback turned out to be a good thing.

After the recovery, Lin Yun went to the hill where Agalon had been. He climbed on the hill, only to see no sign of Agalon. Everything was the same as when he left. It seemed that Agalon hadn't returned yet.

Lin Yun wasn't worried that anything might happen to Agalon. While the void beast was strong, it wasn't as strong as Agalon. The latter might be busy with something else.

Leaving a mark on the hilltop to inform Agalon of his safe return, Lin Yun turned around and left.

Although the breakthrough was natural and smooth, he had to conduct regular consolidation.

Lin Yun came back to the Gilded Rose, and returned to the Natural Demiplane again.

While everything was in peace, in a city in the northwestern corner of the Odin Kingdom on the border with the Sten Kingdom, one of the Gilded Rose's convoys that were transporting materials was attacked. When it passed a valley, the mountain on its sides crumbled, and rocks fell from the sky, filling up the entire valley like a rampant torrent.

The valley was filled up in no more than one minute. The convoy was almost entirely wiped out. The survivors managed to rush to the ends of the valley, only to discover that two enormous rock walls had risen and blocked their way.

The escorting human beings and puppets were all buried in this long, narrow valley.

In three days, five suppliers that provided materials for the Gilded Rose were assassinated. One family leader died, and the other four families had a lot of victims too.

In the northwest of the Odin Kingdom, the Gilded Rose's material convoys endured 13 attacks in three days, and lost almost half of the materials.

The Gilded Rose was expanding faster, and growing bigger. It sold an astronomical amount of potions every day, and hired countless alchemists. The amount would've been bigger without Lin Yun's rule about work hours. He knew that it was better to keep the products in demand.

Because of the store's expansion, it had a great demand for raw materials. Its potion sales in the Odin Kingdom had surpassed those in Andlusa.

In Andlusa, the Merlin Family was undoubtedly the most powerful mage organization. It was close to the other powerful forces in Andlusa, and nobody dared to cause trouble. The supply of raw materials was never a problem.

However, in the Odin Kingdom, due to the Gilded Rose's demand for raw materials, the Gilded Rose had to work with the Odin Kingdom's local material suppliers. It had been negotiating with some of the biggest plantations.

However, in light of recent events, none of the negotiations worked out.

The raw material supply was stuck, and the Gilded Rose didn't have much in stock. Even if it were to relocate resources from the Raging Flame Plane, it wouldn't work out in the long run.

Faleau's hair was almost turning white because of worry. The men he sent out fought the convoys' attackers several times, but they didn't catch anyone alive. Even the dead bodies dissolved and disappeared quickly.

The material suppliers who were attacked could all tell that someone was dealing with the Gilded Rose. However, that person didn't follow the rules of the game at all. It even assassinated the leader of an herb plantation family. In no more than three days, four of the Gilded Rose's material supplies terminated their cooperation, and voluntarily compensated with a large sum of purple gold.

"Sir Xiusi, this is truly an important matter that must be reported to Sir Merlin. Please deliver it first. After you come back, I'll give you three pieces of the latest pastries of Father Hans' Cottage!"

Faleau was quite anxious. The troublemaker this time didn't follow the rules at all, and was doing things that nobody could benefit from. It was understandable that they hated the Gilded Rose and attacked its convoys. However, assassinating the material suppliers, and even killing a family leader might raise public indignation.

Whoever did that couldn't benefit from it at all. They could unlikely ever cooperate with those material suppliers again. Or rather, they could unlikely find any partner in the future.

Xiusi swallowed the last piece of the pastry before it finally squinted at Faleau.

"You said it. I didn't force you to do anything. Five pieces of the latest noble pastries!"

Faleau was stunned. He was going to say that he offered three pieces, but he considered for a moment, and changed his words.

"Alright. Five pieces of the latest noble pastries. I guarantee that they'll be made by Father Hans himself!"

Xiusi was immediately delighted. It narrowed its eyes, and flew to the central part of the Gilded Rose before it disappeared.

Entering the Natural Demiplane, Xiusi flapped its wings, and flew towards Lin Yun's lab. It was used to traveling between spaces when it didn't have a body, but now that it had acquired a body, it felt great to have wings. It couldn't taste the delicious pastries if it weren't a corporeal owl.

Flying into Lin Yun's laboratory, Xiusi shouted at the loudest of his voice. "Sir Merlin, Sir Merlin, Faleau wanted to tell you that someone had come for trouble. They must all be taken down!"

Xiusi flew to the door of one of the rooms, and craned its head, peeping into the room with fear. It was bold and unafraid of any other creatures or dangers. However, it was terrified of Lin Yun...

Lin Yun quickly assembled an alchemy puppet. He was frowning, as if he wasn't satisfied.

Hearing Xiusi's cry, Lin Yun put aside the alchemy puppet he just made, and looked at Xiusi, who was standing on the shelf obediently.

"What happened?"

Xiusi lowered its head, and couldn't help but shrink its body. It seemed half as big as usual. That was the black-feathered owl's natural reaction when it encountered a formidable enemy...

"Sir Merlin, Faleau didn't really explain it to me. He simply asked me to report the matter to you. He must be seeking your help because he was too incapable to take care of the problem..."

Xiusi unconsciously mocked Faleau, but it stopped halfway.

Although Faleau was dumb, he had indeed offered plenty of delicious pastries. If Sir Merlin killed that dumbass, who would buy Xiusi delicious pastries in the future?

Fine, it probably should help him. After all, it had enjoyed plenty of delicious pastries that he offered...

"Sir Merlin, it's said that the troublemakers are very strong. They've killed many people, and destroyed many things. That's not Faleau's mistake..."

Lin Yun ignored Xiusi's sudden change in attitude. He vanished from the Natural Demiplane. Seeing Lin Yun leave, Xiusi seemed frightened. It turned its head, and left the lab as sneakily as a thief. It glanced at Lord Shawn, who was enjoying the sunlight on a rock, and then quit the Natural Demiplane in great relief.

Lin Yun arrived at the Gilded Rose. Soon, Faleau reported everything that happened recently to him. Hearing Faleau's report, Lin Yun put on an awful expression.

"Is someone attacking the Gilded Rose's material suppliers again? Have you found out who they are?"

Faleau shook his head miserably.

"Sir Merlin, things seem to be different this time. Our enemy just killed the convoys, but didn't loot anything. The lost goods were all picked up by passers-by after the convoys died.

"I wonder who did that. After all, they didn't just attack the convoys; they also assassinated a few families that had been cooperating with us. They're all the Gilded Rose's most important suppliers.

"The leader of one of the families was killed, which is truly terrible. Whoever did that cannot benefit from it at all. Those material suppliers have offered a high reward for anyone who can provide any information on the culprit.

"In the coming days, anyone that they've been in touch with might be considered a suspect. Two of the suppliers even believe that the Gilded Rose did it, or even if we didn't, we must be related to the matter.

"Therefore, they have terminated their partnership with the Gilded Rose..."

Lin Yun frowned, and didn't think that it was right. This didn't seem to be a method that his business competitor would adopt, as nobody could benefit at all even though the Gilded Rose's material supply was cut off.

After all, whoever benefited from a crime was likely the suspect. Although it was impossible to tell who the assassins were, they could've only been sent by those who would benefit from the targets' death.

The reasoning was so simple that only the brainless would do that. Earlier, the Lodney Family threatened the Bojinsen Family not to provide raw materials for the Gilded Rose too, but it didn't resort to such violence. Whoever killed the leader of a material supplier family had broken the rules of the game, and would raise indignation.

Every material supplier had more than one partner, especially those who provided rare materials. They might have a dozen partners. Now that the leader of the family had been killed, everybody would suffer a huge loss. This was truly terrible.

Lin Yun considered for a moment with his eyes closed. He suddenly opened his mouth.

"Have the convoys and the Gilded Rose's supplier partners all been assassinated? Are you sure they're more like assassins than bandits?"

Faleau was dazed for a moment, and realized something.

"Sir Merlin, are you suggesting that someone paid for the assassins to do that? Are they from the Shadow Tower?"

Lin Yun shook his head.

"I don't think so. The assassins of the Shadow Tower never fight head-on battles. They kill their targets with minimal cost every time. None of the attackers could make use of the power of shadows, right?"

Faleau shook his head. "No. It's said that the family leader who was killed in the assassination died not far away from his house. It seems that someone set up traps and illusions in advance.

"After the illusions were canceled, the family leader's body appeared out of nowhere, with battle traces in a range of hundreds of meters. His opponent seemed to be a rock mage who was at least on level two of the Heaven Rank..."

At the mention of rock mage, Lin Yun's eyes glittered.

“A rock mage? There were illusions?”

Slightly puzzled, Faleau nodded.

“Indeed. After the illusions disappeared, the family leader’s dead body was found penetrated by a thick rock pillar from the ground. The other battle traces suggested that his opponent was a rock mage too.”

Lin Yun’s eyes glowed. He remembered the assassination he endured outside Neverwinter City when he just came to the Odin Kingdom.

Illusions, a rock mage, and the habit of killing the target in front of their house. Unsurprisingly, that assassination had surely been conducted by the very same rock mage who attacked him.

The assassination also suggested that the rock mage was not anyone important. If he had been a powerful big shot, he wouldn’t have assassinated the leader of a material supplier family in person. It had to be noted that the victim was only at level one of the Heaven Rank.

In the Odin Kingdom, such families would’ve been destroyed countless times for their wealth that was disproportionate to their strength if they hadn’t been crucial in providing the necessary raw materials that many people needed.

Lin Yun would’ve forgotten the attack if it hadn’t been for the recent assassination, because at least 80 percent of the members of the Lodney Family were earth mages.

After they advanced into the Heaven Rank, they would likely choose a branch of the earth laws, and embark on the path they chose. There were a lot of rock mages in the Lodney Family. They were only second to the steel mages in the family.

Lin Yun had thought that the rock mage came from the Lodney Family. Ever since the Lodney Family’s submission, the rock mage had never shown up again, which previously confirmed his speculation. However, it now seemed that the rock mage was from another organization...

Chapter 1304: Reconnaissance

Lin Yun considered the connection, and suddenly realized that the troublemaker might not be his business competitor at all. They were simply trying to cause trouble. If it was done by the rock mage or whoever was behind the rock mage, their only purpose had to be killing Lin Yun, or stopping him from rising in the Odin Kingdom.

When he thought of it that way, he realized that everything they did made sense. Because they were not the Gilded Rose’s competitor, they were only seeking destruction without wanting anything in return.

Lin Yun had a headache when he thought it through. He was more scared of such lunatics than he was of business competitors. To make things worse, he hadn’t found out who those people were exactly just yet.

Unable to figure out who they were, Lin Yun simply stopped thinking. He took out the 20 alchemy puppets that he had made in his Demi-plane.

Most of those puppets weren't in human shape. Some were giant insects, and some were beasts. Only a few looked like human beings because they were usually not as apt for fighting as beast- and insect-shaped puppets.

The insect-shaped puppets with a suitable energy system, in particular, could accommodate more weapon systems than human-shaped ones did, and were more powerful.

Lin Yun handed over the new puppets to Faleau.

"Those are all my experimental products. All of the puppets are level 40. Although their wisdom hasn't awakened yet, their combat ability is as good as that of a level-1 Heaven Rank expert. Distribute the puppets, and ensure that the shipment of raw materials isn't cut off.

"Due to the shortage of raw materials, transfer some of the materials from the Raging Flame Plane to the Odin Kingdom to ensure the Gilded Rose's operation. I believe some of the herbs can be acquired from Andlusa too.

"That's all for now. Let's wait until we find the culprit."

The convoys should be safe with those alchemy puppets. After all, even the most powerful organization only had a limited number of Heaven Rank experts, who couldn't all be sent to deal with the Gilded Rose's convoys.

Sending one or two of them to attack the convoys was already very costly. It was impossible for more to be deployed. With the protection of the alchemy puppets, the convoys would be safe.

This age was sort of the beginning of the Great Colonization. Noscent's infinite planes were conquered starting from this age.

All the powerful organizations in this age were seeking Planar Paths to other planes. Very few experts were left in Noscent. However, colonization was not so easy. In particular, the mages had to complete the conquest with their own strength in this age. Their efficiency was extremely low.

It required at least decades to conquer a plane. It was not unusual to attack planes that had strong natives for hundreds of years to conquer them.

Also, even after those planes were conquered, they were mostly used as resource fields that had to be guarded. Moreover, the guards had to be replaced constantly.

After all, the mages in Noscent carried the life marks of Noscent, which were different from the marks of other planes. The stronger a mage was, the more closely they would be linked to Noscent. The Heaven Rank experts couldn't stay in other planes forever. They could fight there, but couldn't stay for a long time as garrison troops.

As a result, all organizations could never have enough Heaven Rank mages. Until the overall alchemy technology in Noscent had groundbreaking breakthroughs, this situation was unavoidable.

The idle Heaven Rank mages Lin Yun saw in the Merlin Family's ancestral land had returned from other planes. After they stayed in another plane for a while, they had to return to Noscent.

It was impossible for any organization to send a dozen Heaven Rank mages to attack a convoy. If the enemy was so strong, they could've just attacked and crushed the Gilded Rose. It shouldn't be a problem for them to kill everybody of the Gilded Rose, including Lin Yun, right in Neverwinter City.

The level-40 alchemy puppets were deployed. As expected, the attackers suffered major setbacks. The puppets ripped apart five mages who were at the peak of level 39, and killed more than 20 Archmages and Sword Saints...

The convoys were safe for now, but the attackers didn't completely vanish. There was no telling what they were up to, but none of the Gilded Rose's stores were attacked.

Faleau had been running the business well. He made friends with a lot of people and nobles of the Odin Kingdom. Even though their friendship was not very reliable, nobody really dared to blatantly attack the Gilded Rose's branches inside the city. If they did, they would be labeled as invaders who were trying to take over the city. That was a blame that nobody dared to take.

After taking care of the incident, Lin Yun thought that it wasn't the best choice to let outsiders provide materials. Last time, the Lodney Family messed with the Gilded Rose's material supply too, except that they were rather dumb, and affected other people's interests.

Some of the materials could be provided from the Andlusa Kingdom. The Raging Flame Plane yielded a lot of materials. There was a mountain next to the Four Seasons Plain that had all sorts of herbs. The Four Seasons Plain itself was suitable for the growth of herbs too.

However, those weren't enough. Potions required too many kinds of materials. No alchemy store could guarantee that they had all the materials they needed.

The Andlusa Kingdom was generally colder than the Odin Kingdom, and had a longer winter. Most local herbs were accustomed to the climate. The Raging Flame Plane was hot, and had a broader category of herbs. But there were huge limitations too.

The two places included the frigid zone and the tropics. As for the herbs grown in the temperate zone, the Gilded Rose had been purchasing from the Odin Kingdom when they were in demand.

Of the three kingdoms in Noscent, the Odin Kingdom had the greatest productivity of herbs. It was very vast, and had temperate and tropical herbs. At least 70 percent of all types of kinds could be found in the Odin Kingdom.

The remaining 30 percent of herbs had to be imported from Andlusa or the Sten Kingdom.

Lin Yun wondered if he should seize the source of materials, and provide materials for himself. In such a way, materials wouldn't be the Gilded Rose's weakness anymore.

In order to control the materials, there was only one solution: to grow them in other planes. His Natural Demiplane had abundant mana, and was more suitable to grow plants than any other place. However, it was too small.

He couldn't grow herbs and other plants everywhere in his Natural Demiplane, as it wouldn't benefit the development of the Natural Demiplane.

In the future, Noscent would colonize countless planes. By then, an alchemist would build a lab using an entire plane. The planters would be too ashamed to call themselves that unless they had a couple of planes that were full of plantations.

The herb suppliers would plant herbs in the entire plane. They would grow whatever suited the plane.

It was nothing unusual for the same herb to occupy the entire plane. Also, thanks to the development of alchemical technology, not many laborers were needed. Several dozen alchemy puppets and Archmages could manage all the herbs.

Also, even bandits were unwilling to rob such planes, because nothing worthwhile could be found except the herbs, food, and plants that were large in stock.

Lin Yun considered that the Gilded Rose needed its own plane for material supply. He would rather not have a plane that was only suitable for one type of plant. He was looking for one that could provide temperate herbs. Also, it had to cover a wide spectrum of climates.

It wouldn't be smart to build plantations in the plane, as too many laborers would be needed. It would be best if the plane was naturally resourceful. The yields of such a plane should be enough to support the Gilded Rose.

He remembered a lot of plane coordinates. Most of them were famous and readily usable in Noscent.

Unfortunately, he didn't dare to open the Planar Path, and go to any of those famous planes.

It was because those coordinates marked and led to places that would have been constructed and developed for countless years in the future. They were almost all in the cities in those places. Anyone with those public coordinates would teleport and arrive at the cities.

However, Lin Yun didn't know where the coordinates would lead to in the undiscovered planes at this moment. Since the cities were mostly established in the central and best parts of the plane, those places were likely still occupied by the most powerful locals of the planes as their nests at this moment...

If he opened a random Planar Path, and embarked on a trip, he would definitely die painfully. None of the planes with accurate coordinates was of a low level. It wouldn't be very surprising even if one of the locals was an extraordinary creature above the Heaven Rank.

The low-level planes weren't qualified to leave their coordinates recorded in history books at all. It wouldn't be bad at all if their descriptions were mentioned.

In addition, it was impossible to modify the coordinates until one landed in the plane and recalculated. With the slightest modification, the Planar Path that he opened might lead to a dangerous place in the boundless void.

Lin Yun had never dared to open the Planar Path, even though he had coordinates. He wasn't sure whether or not an extraordinary creature would come to him first through the Planar Path if he opened it...

However, at this moment, he could try his luck with the planes that were less dangerous and that the Gilded Rose needed.

He could give the coordinates to Xiusi, and let it investigate. He wouldn't establish a Planar Path unless the plane could be developed and conquered.

Lin Yun stared at Xiusi, which was enjoying pastries. Immediately, its expression froze, and it swallowed the food in its mouth before it grinned, and flew to Lin Yun.

"Great Sir Merlin, do you have any instructions for Xiusi, your most loyal servant?"

Looking at Xiusi's obsequious owl face, Lin Yun couldn't help but wonder how it could put on so many expressions. Also, as it learned the language and picked up knowledge in Noscent, it seemed to be growing into a lackey...

"These are the coordinates of a plane. Go there and investigate."

Lin Yun snapped out a rune from his fingers into Xiusi's head. Instantly, Xiusi grinned.

"Alright, Sir Merlin. Just wait a moment. I'll be right back."

Xiusi flapped its wings and disappeared. In no more than one minute, Xiusi broke out of the location of the coordinates, and reappeared in the normal space.

However, the moment it appeared, it saw a one-eyed monster, which was a dozen meters tall and had hundreds of tentacles, turn around and glance at it.

The moment it saw the monster, Xiusi's feathers were almost exploding. It vanished with the power of space without hesitation.

After Xiusi disappeared, the one-eyed monster had glittering light in its eye. It disappeared along with Xiusi...

In the cracks of space, Xiusi was about to catch its breath when it had a grim sense of foreboding. It turned back, only to see the monster following it.

Immediately, Xiusi's eyes were filled with fear.

"Goddamn it, a Soul Swallower..."

That was a terrifying monster that was strong, and could simulate its target's soul power. Also, it specifically devoured souls.

Usually, such monsters couldn't possibly keep up with Xiusi. However, as it happened, Xiusi had emerged right in front of the Soul Swallower.

The Soul Swallower wouldn't let go of the food that had delivered itself to it. The distance between them was short enough for it to simulate Xiusi's soul abilities.

Running from the cracks of space to the shadows and then to the subspace, Xiusi was almost desperate. The level-48 Soul Swallower kept tailing it. At such a short distance, it could simulate whatever ability Xiusi might use.

The Soul Swallower didn't stop at all after entering the subspace. Seeing the projection of an enormous planet a dozen meters tall, Xiusi gritted its teeth and screamed, running to it.

“Damn you, bastard, you want to kill the great Xiusi, and stop him from enjoying delicious pastries ever again? Not a chance! You will surely die if you dare to come close...” Xiusi shrieked, but the Soul Swallower didn’t care. It simply followed Xiusi and simulated Xiusi’s abilities, jumping into the projection of the planet in the same trajectory.

On the surface of a round, smooth silver planet, Xiusi appeared out of nowhere, and immediately fell to the ground.

Vague spatial waves surfaced. Xiusi stabilized its body, and resisted the enormous gravity. It consolidated itself in the space, and then gradually moved its body away one centimeter after another with mana.

A few seconds later, the Soul Swallower appeared too. However, its body was pressed to the silver ground immediately. Half of its tentacles collapsed. Its blood fell to the ground, and spread out before it sprang.

The Soul Swallower roared in panic, and hurriedly consolidated the space around itself by simulating Xiusi’s ability to keep itself steady.

However, after the space was consolidated, it couldn’t move anymore. It could only watch Xiusi move away bit by bit.

With satisfaction in its eyes, Xiusi sent out soul waves.

“Idiot, what can you do now? I have a body. I can move without using my soul ability. You want to eat me? Dumbass. Just wait to die here. I’m going back for my pastries...”

Xiusi was even happier about its body. It had been using its soul power during the escape, but it suddenly remembered that there was spatial power in its bloodline. Although it was negligible compared to the soul power, it became a lifesaver at this moment.

It was impossible for the Soul Swallower to simulate bloodline power.

The power pushed Xiusi away one centimeter after another. It moved for only two meters after half an hour, and was so exhausted that its eyes were almost shivering. It wasn’t sure that it was far enough from the Soul Swallower, so it kept pushing itself angrily.

“My level is too low anyway. I must improve my physical level after I go back. I have to raise it above level 40 for a start, or my body will be too weak. The bloodline power is truly great...”

After three hours, Xiusi finally pushed itself a dozen meters away, which was a remarkable achievement on this planet which had a horrifying gravity.

Looking back at the Soul Swallower, which seemed to have been frozen in ice, Xiusi grinned and burst into laughter.

“Idiot, come bite me! Come eat me! Why are you not moving? What can you do? I have bloodline power! Do you? Just keep copying me! We’re more than 10 meters away from each other. Can you copy me? Just rot in hell. I’m going back for my pastries...”

Xiusi cackled and then disappeared. A dozen meters behind, the Soul Swallower glared at it, and the glowing brilliance in its only eye had covered its pupil. However, it could only watch Xiusi go away without being able to do anything.

Chapter 1305: Final Choice

On this planet where gravity was unimaginably strong, space had been significantly compressed. A dozen meters here equaled to 100 kilometers in normal space. Adding the enormous pressure, it was impossible for the Soul Swallower to simulate Xiusi's soul ability anymore...

Since it couldn't simulate Xiusi's ability and continue chasing it, it could only keep itself in the current status at best. When it ran out of soul power, it would be torn apart into shreds by the enormous gravity. No, it would be ripped apart into tiny particles, and become part of the planet...

Xiusi returned to Noscent after all the trouble. It lay on the ground like a dead bird the moment it returned.

"Sir Merlin, I'm dying, I'm dying..." Xiusi screamed miserably on the ground. Both of its wings had been fractured. Its bones were broken too. Half of its feathers had dropped. It looked like a chicken that had been processed, and was about to be made into food...

Lin Yun's eyelids shivered. He took out a bottle of vitality potion for Xiusi, and then covered it in another bottle of vitality potion. A dozen minutes later, Xiusi finally recovered tiredly. It wasn't easy for the body to recover. If Xiusi hadn't been a soul entity but a normal life form, it would've died a long time ago...

"Xiusi, let me get another body for you—"

Before Lin Yun could finish, Xiusi's eyes glittered, and it quickly shook its head.

"No, no, no. Sir Merlin, this body is great. I'm very satisfied with it. It can eat pastries and fly..."

Lin Yun was puzzled. He didn't know why Xiusi tried so hard to prevent the body from being destroyed. For Xiusi, a body should be no different from a set of clothes. Changing a body wouldn't affect this pure soul life at all...

However, since Xiusi was unwilling to accept the offer, Lin Yun took out another few bottles of potion, and helped cure the wounds.

Seeing Xiusi's miserable look, Lin Yun knew that he could ignore the first plane he selected. Whatever almost killed Xiusi had surely been above level 49, if not in the Heaven Rank. There might be even more extraordinary lives...

The plane that he sent Xiusi to investigate was the most suitable one for the Gilded Rose at this moment. That plane had a vast continent, and was suitable for the growth of herbs and plants. Almost all sorts of herbs could be grown in this place. Unfortunately, just as expected, the plane was too dangerous. Even Xiusi, which was very good at running, was almost killed...

So, he had to try the other planes that were less satisfactory. After Xiusi was cured and given a rest and a few pieces of pastries, the silly bird immediately forgot that it almost died, and began to boast about itself.

“Sir Merlin, I was hunted by a level-48, no, a level-49 Soul Swallower just now. I appeared right next to the Soul Swallower’s mouth. How could it possibly let go of the great Xiusi? It chased me relentlessly. I didn’t have any choice except to bring it to a silver planet that had horrifying gravity.

“Haha. That idiot thought simulating my soul abilities was enough. But it was too stupid. I had a body. I am an owl with a spatial power bloodline. Eventually, it imprisoned itself with the soul ability it simulated, while I got away with my bloodline power. That dumbass must be dead now...”

Xiusi cackled, and had a few pieces of pastries that were more expensive than gold of the same weight. It then left delightedly with the second pair of coordinates that Lin Yun produced.

Five minutes later, Xiusi hopped out of the shadows of space while shrieking. Its feathers seemed to have been burnt up, and it reeked of the smell of barbecue...

“Sir Merlin, help me! I’m dying! I’m dying!”

Frowning, Lin Yun gazed at Xiusi, and turned vitality potion into a ball of water that contained Xiusi. Xiusi didn’t recover until five minutes later, but its burnt feathers didn’t have replacements. It looked like a chicken whose feathers had been plucked.

Lin Yun heaved a sigh. He could easily imagine what happened. It was impossible to go to this plane, either. Even Xiusi, which was unparalleled in terms of escaping, had lost all its feathers. If Lin Yun had been there, he probably would’ve been killed instantly...

Revisiting the spatial coordinates that he had noted down, Lin Yun abandoned most of them. The most suitable and satisfactory planes could all be given up. The coordinates all pointed to the prosperous locations in those planes that had abundant mana. Whoever controlled those planes would definitely control those places. Or maybe, those planes were highly dangerous forbidden lands that would kill any trespasser.

Abandoning the most favorable planes, Lin Yun found only three pairs of coordinates left. They were the coordinates that led to the weakest and worst known planes. But that was only if they were compared to the previous planes. They were still quite great for Lin Yun at this moment.

He sent Xiusi to investigate the planes again. The first two planes were hopeless. In one of the places marked by the coordinates, a level-48 behemoth was sleeping. The other was the nest to a horrifying group of creatures which almost destroyed Xiusi’s body.

Only the last plane remained. Lin Yun frowned in dissatisfaction. While the last plane satisfied all of the Gilded Rose’s needs, it was the worst plane among all the planes that met the Gilded Rose’s demands.

Lin Yun heaved a sigh, and sent Xiusi to investigate. In no more than 10 minutes, Xiusi returned and reported good news. There was no danger around the location of the coordinates. It was spacious and safe.

However, Lin Yun wasn’t happy at all. The last suitable plane left was a special one, whose spatial barrier was very weak compared to others. Also, the coordinates pointed to somewhere in space, so one would appear in space after opening the Planar Path, and couldn’t enter the plane without breaking the spatial barrier. Because of the plane’s uniqueness, it was impossible to establish a stable Planar Path inside the plane.

Confirming that it was safe, Lin Yun asked Xiusi to take him there. In only a few seconds, Xiusi had set the spatial wave frequency around Lin Yun exactly the same as that around itself. Then, it disappeared from Noscent along with Lin Yun.

They reappeared in the boundless space. There was nothing within a radius of a billion kilometers. Several billion kilometers away, an enormous star was burning, and constantly emitting heat.

Seeing the void in front of him, Lin Yun calculated silently for a moment, and then examined a certain direction. After a dozen minutes, he finally detected unusual waves from that direction.

The strange waves that occurred now and then were caused by the friction between the spatial barrier and this space. Such situations were very rare even tens of thousands of years later.

To find the entrance to a plane in the boundless void purely depended on luck. Only Lin Yun, who knew the exact location of the plane and the precise direction it lay in, could possibly find the point of breakthrough.

Otherwise, to find an opening that was only several kilometers long in the boundless void would've been even more difficult than to find a grain of sand in the Noscent's ocean.

Examining the environment for a while, Lin Yun asked Xiusi to bring him back. A few seconds later, Xiusi and Lin Yun disappeared together.

Such space travels were very exhausting. Xiusi could only carry Lin Yun alone. The time it cost to prepare each trip was quite great too. It was impossible to travel unless safety had been confirmed.

Returning to Noscent, Lin Yun began to wonder how he could conquer that special plane. The conquest should be easy, but the special plane was quite dangerous. It was only accessible from space. Also, it was impossible to send a large garrison to that plane.

That was the conclusion that would be drawn in the future after the deaths of countless experts. In the future, the coordinates would point to an enormous void island that the Noscent mages created in the void. The garrison that protected the plane all stayed on the island, keeping their distance from the entrance of the plane. In order to develop the plane, the Gilded Rose would need to occupy the entrance to the plane.

If so, they would need magic battleships, which were compulsory. Although there wasn't even a desolate planet nearby, nobody was 100% sure what might happen in the void. To defend against invaders and spies was necessary. Only the magic battleships could carry out such a task.

The Intrepid could be used in battles. However, *The Intrepid* was a special creature. As an enormous battleship that was built with the remains of Gods and Demons, it was sort of a life form, even though it didn't have a soul. *The Intrepid* carried the mark of the Raging Flame Plane, and could only be deployed in the smaller planes that were attached to the Raging Flame Plane, or the Raging Flame Plane itself. It couldn't stay in other places for a long time.

The Intrepid used the remains of Gods and Demons as its keel, and was horrifyingly powerful. However, it had a fatal weakness in this situation. It could be used in battles, but only magic battleships could be deployed to garrison a place.

However, in this age, the magic battleships had just been invented. Even Agalon only boasted an iron warship 500 meters long, which had been torn into pieces by a space beast instantly. That was impossible to happen in the future.

A 500-meter-long magic battleship, if caught in the same situation, could've torn the void beast in three minutes at most. Only experienced Archmages were required to sail such battleships.

The best warships in Noscent were airships. However, such airships wouldn't even be qualified as carriers 7,000 years later. They could only be used as garbage vessels to dispose of rubbish at best.

Agalon's iron warship could only be used as a vehicle, and it could only deal with the wandering stones in the void to save the mages' time. Were it caught in any battle, the iron warship would be a moving target.

Even the lowest-level magic battleship, which would be usually 100 meters long, could easily rip apart dozens of iron warships under the control of a few Great Mages.

Lin Yun frowned and thought hard. Then, he had a strong headache. The Firerock Dwarves, one of the three races under his command, had been on *The Intrepid*. He sent many alchemists to study *The Intrepid* too. However, they hadn't found out anything yet. *The Intrepid* was itself a high-level Heaven Rank alchemy array. The research results so far were only laying the groundwork. It was impossible for his subordinates to build a magic battleship—at least for now.

Also, as the Gilded Rose was expanding, it required more and more alchemists. Low-level alchemists could be hired easily. Everything would be fine as long as they signed a contract with the Gilded Rose.

However, to create even the lowest-level magic battleship, the alchemists required were Artisans, or at least Master-level ones. They also had to be very familiar with the technology of current airships. It would be even better if they had already invented some valuable technologies.

Lin Yun heaved a sigh. The construction of a magic battleship was a huge project that couldn't be accomplished by one or two people. Even he couldn't master all the details of a magic battleship. He only knew the basic direction and the technologies needed. He was familiar with the most crucial technologies that were applied in magic battleships, but it was impossible for him to build one.

Where could he find so many Artisans and Master Alchemists? Lin Yun couldn't think of another place except the Starry Sky College.

There were a couple of alchemy organizations. Some of them were fairly close to the Gilded Rose. Also, the Sky City's alchemists were the most suitable for the research of magic battleships, which were similar to what the Sky City was working on.

Unfortunately, it was impossible for Lin Yun to borrow anyone from the Sky City. They would be happy to lend the alchemists to him because the alchemists would eventually return to the Sky City with the important knowledge after doing him the favor. In every organization, the Artisans and the Master Alchemists were very important.

The Starry Sky College was the only exception. That was the only place which didn't have so many rules, and which had a lot of senior alchemists. Also, with Agalon as an intermediate, it would be fine even if the alchemists decided to work for the Gilded Rose. Agalon was going to hand over the Starry Sky

College to Lin Yun anyway. They would eventually be working for him. Besides, Agalon would be very happy to let those alchemists study advanced alchemy technologies.

The three deans of the Starry Sky College were probably already aware of the matter. It wouldn't be difficult for them to give Lin Yun a few Artisans and Master Alchemists if he talked to them.

Lin Yun left the Gilded Rose for the Starry Sky College. When other people learned the news, they became anxious.

In the Lodney Family, Wilder listened to the report nervously.

"What? 20 Heaven Rank alchemy puppets appeared in Gilded Rose's convoys? And Mafa Merlin went to the Starry Sky College?"

Wilder wore an awful expression. His cold sweat was popping up too.

He knew that it wasn't over. Mafa Merlin didn't react at all when his convoys were attacked. He was only defending himself. That was truly weird. Something was definitely wrong.

The 20 Heaven Rank alchemy puppets had to be the Great Astrologian's gift. Only the Starry Sky College could've been generous enough to offer so many. Because of the unexpected Heaven Rank alchemy puppets, the attackers would suffer a heavy loss. Mafa Merlin wouldn't let them go so easily. He had to be going to the Starry Sky College for help.

Mafa Merlin surely didn't know who attacked his convoys. He wouldn't give up even if he didn't find anything. As long as he asked for the Starry Sky College's help, the three deans would definitely try their best to help Mafa Merlin because of the Great Astrologian. Those idiots couldn't possibly hide themselves any longer. After offending the Great Astrologian and the Starry Sky College, they could never rise in the Odin Kingdom.

As long as the Great Astrologian gave a word, even the royal family of the Odin Kingdom would help suppress those idiots out of respect for him.

Wilder regretted listening to those two b*tches, and helping them deal with Mafa Merlin. This was truly bad. If Mafa Merlin found out that the two b*tches had visited the Lodney Family, it would be impossible for him to explain himself. This time, the Great Astrologian wouldn't show any mercy...

Chapter 1306: The Ring of Roses

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

Wilder paced back and forth anxiously in the room. A few minutes later, he summoned his trusted subordinate, and stared at the man with bloodshot eyes.

"Go meet Mafa Merlin, and tell him everything you know. Make it clear to him that we have nothing to do with any of this. As for those idiots, they might think they can do anything they want because they are not within the bounds of Neverwinter City. They're in great trouble!"

Shocked, the subordinate turned around, and was about to leave. At this moment, Wilder gritted his teeth.

“In the name of the Lodney Family, send words that whoever killed the leader of a material supplier family has violated the rules of the game!”

The subordinate left the room in fright. Seeing how Wilder was gnashing his teeth, he didn't dare to say a word.

In no more than half an hour, Wilder's trusted subordinate had come to Neverwinter City with a teleportation array. The members of the family in town immediately directed him to Lin Yun before the latter found Dean Gandaph.

“Sir Merlin, please wait a moment. I'm a representative of the Lodney Family—”

Before he finished, Lin Yun frowned and interrupted him. “The Lodney Family? Are you following me?”

The subordinate hurriedly lowered his back with cold sweat.

“Sir Merlin, please make no mistake. I'm here at the request of Mr. Wilder to inform you of certain things. Mr. Wilder is very angry about what happened to the Gilded Rose, and which doesn't follow the rules of the game at all. It jeopardizes the interests of the Gilded Rose and those of the Lodney Family.”

Lin Yun's eyes glittered. He looked at the subordinate without changing his expression.

“Oh? You may continue.”

The subordinate was slightly relieved. He looked around vigilantly, and confirmed that nobody was around. Finally, he spoke in a low voice with mana.

“Sir Merlin, as a matter of fact, the Lodney Family was tricked too. An elder of our family was fooled by someone who claimed that the Gilded Rose didn't have any strength, and only had some relics. They also said that the Gilded Rose was the Lodney Family's competitor...

“That's why the Lodney Family's elder took action against the Gilded Rose. Then, we were unable to stop while things escalated. Mr. Wilder is very regretful. Due to the tricked elder, we've suffered a heavy loss, including the Gilded Rose and Sir Merlin's friendship.

“This time, the two b*tches came, and tried to deceive our family again, but Mr. Wilder wasn't tricked at all. He would've caught the two b*tches, but unfortunately, they were too strong. We could only drive them away.

“Afterwards, the Gilded Rose's convoys were attacked, and the leader of a material supplier family was killed, which is terrible. Mr. Wilder asked me to inform you that those two b*tches are both at least on level 3 of the Heaven Rank, and hail from the south of the Odin Kingdom. But we don't know which organization they're from. The spies we sent to follow them were all killed...”

Hearing that, Lin Yun considered it quietly. The south of the Odin Kingdom? When did he piss off anyone from the south of the Odin Kingdom? No wonder they didn't hesitate to cause such havoc. They had nothing to lose here. Besides, there were many conflicts between a lot of forces in the south of the Odin Kingdom and those in the north.

The subordinate waited patiently. A few minutes later, Lin Yun glanced at him.

“Alright. Got it. You may get back.”

Hearing that, the subordinate was slightly relieved. He bowed and left.

It couldn't have been easy for the Lodney Family to behave so modestly to ease the tension between them. However, Lin Yun didn't need to say anything back. If the Lodney Family decided to submit, then he wouldn't suffer any loss if he made peace with them. After all, the Lodney Family had existed in the Odin Kingdom for years, and had a great network of connections.

Soon after the representative of the Lodney Family left, another person came.

“Sir Merlin, this is a small gift from Sir Reynolds. He hopes that you'll like it.”

Reading the thick book in his hand, Lin Yun put on a smile of amusement. In the book was information about organizations large and small. Although the information wasn't detailed, it was still very valuable for the Gilded Rose. It would take the Gilded Rose a lot of time if it wanted to gather all the information on its own.

After the assault against the Gilded Rose, the Lodney Family became anxious, and so did the Roosevelt Business Alliance. The competition between the Roosevelt Business Alliance and the Lincoln Business Alliance was getting fiercer, so the former couldn't afford offending the Gilded Rose anymore.

If the Gilded Rose increased its supply of Universal Cores for the Lincoln Business Alliance, the Roosevelt Business Alliance would be in even greater trouble. Besides, the Gilded Rose had every reason to suspect them.

The book of intelligence that the Roosevelt Business Alliance delivered was a declaration that it had nothing to do with the attacks. Also, although it wasn't openly stated, Lin Yun knew that the suspects who attacked the Gilded Rose had to be in the book. He only needed to find useful information, and then narrow down the most suspicious suspects.

The book contained a great amount of information, including the looks, strength, and characteristics of the most famous people in every organization. There were even paintings of some strong experts.

Soon, Lin Yun found an important suspect in the book. It was the Ring of Roses from the south of the Odin Kingdom. That organization was exclusively made of women, and had some powerful female mages and Sword Saints. However, there were no paintings, only vague descriptions.

The Ring of Roses' main businesses were intelligence and assassination. A lot of brothels, casinos, and taverns were its property. Anyone who needed intelligence could make exchanges with the Ring of Roses. Also, the Ring of Roses adopted a new method in every assassination. Its members had one thing in common: they were crazy, and would do anything to achieve their goal.

Once, in order to assassinate a Heaven Rank expert, a Heaven Rank assassin of the Ring of Roses pretended to be an Archmage, and worked for the target for three years before she found the perfect opportunity to kill the mage.

The Ring of Roses was brutal, but not bloody. Sometimes, its target didn't even know that the Ring of Roses was after them. So, it was under a lot less pressure than the Shadow Tower. At least, it wasn't as notorious as the Shadow Tower. When people needed intelligence, they would go to the Ring of Roses.

Lin Yun put away the book. He almost confirmed that the two visitors who went to the Lodney Family were from the Ring of Roses. The fact that they had been attracting enemies to the Gilded Rose and the desperate behavior suggested that they were from the Ring of Roses.

More importantly, very few organizations could've easily sent two level-3 Heaven Rank mages to instigate trouble except the Ring of Roses.

After all, there were much fewer female mages than male ones, especially among Heaven Rank ones. The female Heaven Rank mages only took up 10 percent of the total.

Most female Heaven Rank mages wouldn't do such a thing. Having accomplished the extraordinary evolution, they were the ideal targets of many evil mages.

3,000 years later, a level-5 Heaven Rank evil mage, after running out of potential, and failing to make any progress in 3,000 years, would catch a few Heaven Rank female mages and impregnate them. With evil power, he forced the female mages to conceive with all their power.

Their children, as descendants of an extraordinary creature, were all talented. However, the evil mage was unsatisfied. He let the most talented child swallow the less talented ones. Then, he made use of his bloodline power, and swallowed the soul of the last kid, occupying his kid.

Unfortunately, soon after he acquired this unimaginably talented body, he was involved in the battle of two Heaven Rank experts, and died in the most miserable way...

Lin Yun shook his head, and decided to leave it alone. Whether or not the Ring of Roses was behind this, the people who attacked the Gilded Rose couldn't cause any greater damage. They wouldn't be able to kill anyone who was under the protection of the level-40 alchemy puppets, unless the Heaven Rank experts participated.

However, the Heaven Rank experts' participation meant exposure. It might be difficult to find Archmages or Sword Saints, but it was easy to track down a Heaven Rank expert who had unique features.

The news that the Gilded Rose spread out recently had already raised public indignation. After all, this was not business competition, but a complete violation of the game rules. The Gilded Rose's interests weren't the only things at stake.

Reaching the Starry Sky College, Lin Yun found Gandaph. Agalon hadn't returned yet. Lin Yun was not worried that the other might be in danger. After all, Agalon was getting strong enough to ignite his God Fire, and he had a Natural Demiplane. He should be able to return to Noscent even if he got lost.

When Lin Yun found Gandaph, the latter was devoted to the study of an alchemy theory. A lot of law runes were floating around him. Lin Yun waited for half an hour before Gandaph finally ended the study.

"It's you, Merlin. What brought you here? Has Sir Agalon been well?"

Gandaph wore a warm smile. Clearly, he had learned a lot of things from Agalon.

Lin Yun bowed at him with a smile.

“Sir Agalon went to the space battlefield recently. I don’t know when he’ll come back, but I think it won’t be long. I’ve come here because I want to ask for your help.”

Gandaph shook his head.

“There’s no need to be so courteous. Just tell me what you need. I will do my best as long as I can help.”

Gandaph was quite friendly, but Lin Yun still thought that his manners were necessary. After all, he had come to the Starry Sky College for poaching...

“I’m hoping to hire some alchemists from the Starry Sky College as core researchers, preferably Artisans or Masters. Their assistants can be the graduates of the Starry Sky College, preferably those who have studied large alchemy machines, engine cores, and alchemy arrays.”

Gandaph shook his head with a bitter smile.

“You’re truly bold to ask. There aren’t many Artisans who work in that aspect. The technology is so cutting-edge that most research on it is just theoretical. Few people meet your demand. There is one particular person that suits your needs perfectly. However, I’m not sure he’ll go with you. You’ll have to invite him yourself.

“Whoever you’re interested in, feel free to invite them to go with you. We cannot command those Artisans. They have been staying in the Starry Sky College for research after their graduation. They’re specialists in their own field. It’s just that they haven’t become Saints yet...”

Gandaph personally led Lin Yun to an underground lab, where there were a lot of bizarre and exquisite alchemy devices. The people on their way all greeted Gandaph, but none stopped what they were doing.

As they walked to the end of the lab, they heard a fight behind the gate. Angry roars were coming from behind the gate.

Gandaph seemed already used to it, and he opened the gate peacefully. There was a space that was at least 1,000 square meters big behind the gate. All sorts of alchemy devices were on the ground. Near a crystal table that was a dozen meters long, two alchemists, who had unkempt hair and seemed to be in their fifties, were arguing with bloodshot eyes. There were a bunch of manuscripts and the illusion of what appeared to be a reaction furnace on the crystal table.

“Idiot, this theory is absolutely useless without the necessary material. It’s pointless even if you say you can build an object whose mana is as great as that of a God or Demon, because you don’t have the materials. Your research is worthless...”

“Moron, theoretical research is the only path to the truth. You can never find the truth if you only study with the materials that you can find...”

The two old men yelled at each other, flushed with excitement. They also displayed all sorts of data with their runes. Their mana was surging out, as if they were about to fight each other.

It had been a minute since Gandaph came with Lin Yun, but the two old men didn’t see them at all. They were still staring at each other with bloodshot eyes, as if they were going to kill each other.

Gandaph was slightly embarrassed. He coughed and spread out a mana wave. Finally, the two flushing old men noticed the visitors, and turned around angrily at the same time.

However, when they saw Gandaph, the anger on their faces was immediately replaced by respect.

Although Gandaph's field of expertise was different from theirs, he deserved anyone's respect as a Saint Alchemist. He was better than them in terms of alchemy.

"Dean Gandaph, what brought you here?"

"Those idiots didn't tell me that you were coming..."

One of the two old men was so slim that he looked like a skeleton wearing human skin. However, his hands were agile, and seemed to be born to control alchemy devices. The other was fat with a red nose. Judging from the presentation he made, he was the one who was good at theoretic research.

One of them realistically believed that only applicable theories were useful, and the other looked into the future, and believed that new theories were the truth. It was easy to understand that they wanted to kill each other.

"Alright, stop fighting. Let me introduce you. This is Sir Mafa Merlin, a very strong Artisan who has many fields of expertise. He's a genius in alchemy. In terms of potions, magic tools, alchemy puppets, and alchemy arrays, he is an Artisan. The Gilded Rose was opened by him.

"We've come here because Sir Mafa Merlin hopes to invite you to join a research team."

Before Gandaph finished, the red-nosed man, named Pinocchio, glared at Lin Yun.

"You want to hire us? Get the hell out of here, and stop wasting our time. We're too busy for your nonsense..."

Fantexi, who had hollow eyes and messy hair, also sneered.

"Just go back wherever you come from. We don't have time for anyone who has strayed off the path of truth. Genius? We've seen too many geniuses. Not all Artisans are as good as each other. Kid, just f*ck off..."

Gandaph felt a strong headache.

Those two jerks really didn't have any courtesy. Should he tell them about the relation between Sir Agalon and Merlin?

Never mind. It should be kept a secret for now. Nobody knew what Sir Agalon was really planning. Those two unfriendly jerks were truly bold to say such things...

Did they think that Merlin was Gandaph's student, and the dean came to support him? Did they think that he was exaggerating? Damn it. He shouldn't have said the truth. Those two idiots couldn't have been convinced. It was very unlikely that they would accept the existence of a genius such as Merlin.

Lin Yun looked at Pinocchio and Fantexi, who were both angry with him, with a smile. He wasn't infuriated at all. He simply turned around and looked at Gandaph.

“Dean Gandaph, thank you for leading me here. As we agreed upon, if I talk either of them into leaving with me, you will let them go, right?”

Gandaph looked at Lin Yun in amusement, and knew exactly what he meant. He heaved a sigh.

“I always honor my promise. Alright, I’m leaving.. Do whatever you must.”

Chapter 1307: The Visionary and the Realist

Gandaph turned around and left. Then, Lin Yun stared at the two men in front of his eyes with a smile. He planned to hire a few alchemists so that they could create a real magic battleship with his employees. His goal was the most rudimentary type of magic battleship.

He didn’t expect to meet these two celebrities here. Both of them played critical roles in the history of magic battleships.

Pinocchio, the red-nosed man, proposed many sophisticated alchemy theories. Many crucial technologies that were applied to magic battleships were derived from Pinocchio’s theories.

Fantexi was even more remarkable. His craziest record was that he independently created a horrifying warship that was 100 meters long, and could display the power of a Heaven Rank magic battleship. That one warship was already as strong as an expert at the peak of the Heaven Rank. It wasn’t difficult for a person to conquer an entire plane with such a warship.

Also, the first magic battleship that was true to its name would be created by them 2,000 years later, although the battleship, named Little Boy, was only as strong as an Archmage...

Their accomplishments came about because they were pure alchemists who weren’t interested in making money with alchemy at all. They were supported by the Starry Sky College at this moment. However, the Starry Sky College would be destroyed and reestablished. When it didn’t have enough resources and purple gold, it wouldn’t be able to sustain these two guys.

Therefore, they became the weirdos and the penniless among Artisans. Pinocchio was good at theoretical research, but he would be a laughingstock in the coming 1,000 years. Without the Starry Sky College’s support, he would be mocked as a daydreamer...

Fantexi, on the other hand, could easily make a huge amount of money by working for others. Unfortunately, he was very picky, and only served customers who provided the best materials. However, he often used those materials for his own experiments. After his reputation was ruined, nobody came to him again.

Their life was quite miserable until the Starry Sky College rose again. Considering the time, this was probably the period when people started to get angry with them because they had consumed a lot of resources, but didn’t produce anything.

The Artisans, deputy deans, and one of the three deans were already dissatisfied with them. After all, the Starry Sky College wasn’t a charity. Those two guys had squandered a tremendous amount of wealth.

Gandaph had led Lin Yun to this place probably because he wanted to get Pinocchio and Fantexi out of here as quickly as possible too...

The Starry Sky College was a holy land of alchemy. It had to support top Artisans such as Pinocchio and Fantexi, whatever they were working on. As long as they stayed in the Starry Sky College, then the Starry Sky College would be partly credited for whatever achievements they made.

In alchemy studies, nobody could predict whether they would get something valuable. It was anything but unusual that a great amount of resources was spent on a research product that wasn't worth all the time and resources, if there was any research product at all.

All the alchemical products, both theoretical and practical ones, had been created at the cost of countless resources and time. At least 30 percent of alchemy theories and products had been accidentally discovered during the endless time that was wasted.

Still, people like Pinocchio and Fantexi were rare. They had weird tempers. Pinocchio was only interested in bleeding-edge theories, which couldn't bring him any substantial returns for now. Fantexi even swindled other people out of their materials for his own experiments.

The most important reason why they weren't killed after the disastrous destruction of the Starry Sky College was probably that they were quite strong, and they were top Artisans.

Without enough hate and confidence, nobody was willing to mess with them. They were simply rejected...

Lin Yun narrowed his eyes, and looked at the two weird old men with great satisfaction. If these two people were to supervise the magic battleship project, then he wouldn't need to do anything. One of them was good at turning theories into products, and the other was good at in-depth research. They would make a perfect team if they cooperated with each other.

However, the most important thing at this moment was to lure them to the Gilded Rose...

"Kid, what are you looking at? Get the f*ck out of here, and stop wasting our time!"

"Exactly. Don't presume that we'll respect you because you're Gandaph's relative. I'll give you five seconds. If you still don't leave, don't blame us for going rough..."

Pinocchio put on a cold smile, and was already emitting mana waves, which surged towards Lin Yun like a tide, as if he was planning to simply push Lin Yun out.

Fantexi gazed at Pinocchio with wide eyes, sneering.

"Old fart, you think you're the only one on level 5 of the Heaven Rank?"

While talking, Fantexi released his aura too. His mana waves turned into invisible gigantic hands that pushed Lin Yun, trying to push him faster than Pinocchio did.

Lin Yun heaved a sigh. Those two old bastards were truly competitive. No wonder they didn't create the prototype of a magic battleship until after 2,000 years of cooperation.

They were already on level 5 of the Heaven Rank. Considering their expertise in alchemy, their levels would only rise higher. No wonder they would be despised like rats on the street but never killed.

Lin Yun stood still. Pinocchio and Fantexi both tried to push Lin Yun out of the lab faster than their partner. They glared at each other and gnashed their teeth, as if they were sworn enemies. However, a dozen seconds later, both of them were stunned. They turned around and looked at Lin Yun, who stood still with a smile. The auras they released couldn't make him move at all.

Seeing that they failed to push him out, Pinocchio and Fantexi seemed frustrated, and ignored Lin Yun. They couldn't drive him away with their auras, but if they attacked Lin Yun and beat him out, they would be slapping Gandaph in the face. They had spent a long time in the Starry Sky College. They had the best alchemy labs, yet they hadn't accomplished anything after spending countless resources.

There was already dissatisfaction with them inside the Starry Sky College. They knew that if they kicked out the person that Gandaph brought here, their career in the Starry Sky College would be over.

When one of the three deans proposed to cut off their resource supply, it was Gandaph who disapproved of the proposal. Those two old bastards knew gratitude.

Seeing that there was nothing he could do, Pinocchio snorted. The fat on his face shivered, and his small eyes glittered. He walked to the crystal table.

Fantexi gazed at Lin Yun with his hollow eyes like a skeleton. Then, he left in frustration, and simply considered Lin Yun nonexistent.

The two of them returned to the crystal table. A lot of runes were flowing and circulating, and they continued their argument.

Lin Yun simply watched them argue. All of a sudden, he interjected.

"The warships made of the Abyssal Magic Iron instead of current materials will be 10 times harder than they are right now. We build new warships because we want them to be more powerful. To save on the cost of materials is pointless. Developing new technologies and materials is the real solution. It's not right to conduct research based on the existing cheap materials."

After Lin Yun said that, they stopped arguing. Pinocchio was greatly delighted, and burst into laughter.

"Not bad, not bad. Kid, your eyes are keen. There's always new technology. The only path to the real truth is to study theories and technologies that are ahead of the current age!"

Pinocchio was happy, but Fantexi looked so awful as if Lin Yun had just taken liberties with his daughter. He glared at Lin Yun.

"That's bullsh*t! What do you know? Do you have any idea how much Abyssal Magic Iron is required if you want to make a warship out of it? You need at least 5,000 tons of refined Abyssal Magic Iron as raw materials, in addition to a lot of other resources. To purchase and apply all those materials, you need billions of purple gold, and the warship wouldn't even be as powerful as the Heaven Rank. It's completely useless..."

Lin Yun was smiling.

"Oh, 5,000 tons of Abyssal Magic Iron. It seems that you don't know the Gilded Rose very well, Mr. Fantexi. There's such a huge stock of refined Abyssal Magic Iron in the Gilded Rose's warehouses that

we actually build the foundations of our houses with it. I thought you'd say 50,000,000 tons, which would've been a problem.

"As for the other materials needed, take a look at this. This is the special iron that the Gilded Rose has developed for the weapon system of alchemy puppets..."

Fantexi was quite suspicious. 5,000 tons of refined Abyssal Magic Iron? That's definitely a bluff. No more than 5,000 tons of Abyssal Magic Iron ores were traded in Noscent in an entire year...

He didn't know that there were no Abyssal Magic Iron ores at all in Lin Yun's Demiplane, because they would take up too much space. All of them had been maximally refined, and there were enough of them to lay a foundation for Neverwinter City.

Fantexi didn't consider the Abyssal Magic Iron any further, because he had been distracted by the piece of steel full of black patterns that Lin Yun took out. The metal was not reflecting any light, and the black patterns on it looked like water stains.

Surprised, Fantexi grabbed the metal piece, and his expression immediately changed. He ran to a machine without looking back, and quickly performed a bunch of tests. He shrieked while doing the tests.

"Damn it, it's 60 times harder than regular iron! Mana transmission speed, 189 times higher. Mana capacity, 800 times greater..."

"The warships made with such a material would be 30 times more powerful..."

Fantexi mused for a moment. Then, he suddenly turned around and sneered at Lin Yun.

"Kid, you almost got me. This is the new material that's just been developed in an alchemy lab, right? You're trying to fool me with an experimental material. That's really—"

Fantexi was unable to continue.

Lin Yun waved his hand, and a metal hill appeared on the ground. It was exclusively steel pieces with black patterns. They had exactly the same size and look, which suggested that they were manufactured, and not some experimental material created in a lab...

Looking at the huge amount of materials on the ground, Fantexi wore a complicated expression in silence.

"Mr. Fantexi, can you present the best research design with those materials? Will it take a long time for you to make the best use of those materials? How long will it take for you to combine those materials and change all the details in current designs accordingly?"

"Maybe it will only take a couple of months. But if I bring a new material a couple of months later, will you have to disapprove of all your conclusions, and restart your research?"

Fantexi looked awful and remained silent. The truth was obvious. Also, Lin Yun was right. If new materials kept arising, then Fantexi would have to research over and over, and couldn't make anything.

Nearby, Pinocchio was quite delighted at Fantexi's frustration. He grinned without stopping, and mocked Fantexi too. "Idiot, do you know that you're on the wrong path now? You should've studied the bleeding-edge theories and technologies in advance like I do. That's the only right way..."

Pinocchio's eyes were almost narrowed into a gap. He grinned and approached Fantexi. Ignoring Fantexi's grim face, he kept mumbling.

While Pinocchio was feeling great about himself, Lin Yun started to cool him down.

"Pinocchio, what do you think of the energy channel made of a mana reaction furnace that has two-layer chain reactions with those new materials?"

Hearing the specs that Lin Yun provided, Pinocchio was so confident of himself that he started criticizing without thinking.

"Even the new materials cannot work better than what I've studied. I study the future trend of airships' engine systems. Two-layer chain reaction in the mana reaction furnace. Let's see. Well, the mana output will be 29 times greater..."

Pinocchio proudly demonstrated his calculation ability. He got the result corresponding with the changed parameters. However, as he talked, he put on an awful expression too.

Fantexi, who had been looking awful, stared at Pinocchio with pity, as if he were looking at a moron.

Dumbass, the crucial parameters have already been given, yet you haven't figured out such a simple question yet. Your perfect theoretical design in the past is just garbage now that there are new materials...

Is this young man Gandaph's bastard son? That can't be right. Gandaph doesn't know our research well. This is not his field of expertise. Then who is he? Where did he get the materials and the crucial parameters?

Damn it, he's definitely doing this on purpose. He frustrated me first, and then Pinocchio later. What's he trying to do?

Fantexi already realized the problem. The more Pinocchio calculated, the more awful he looked. He then rushed to the crystal table crazily, and dragged three machines to himself. He worked for more than 10 minutes, and finally looked at the result in his hand in depression.

"Damn it, how can it be like this? Impossible. That's impossible. How can my research be wrong? I've calculated and deduced a million times..."

Fantexi sullenly looked at Pinocchio, and didn't mock him as he often did. He simply stared at Lin Yun, as if there were a lot of precious data on his face...

Lin Yun narrowed his eyes, and looked back at Pinocchio. It seemed that Pinocchio had finished his calculations.

It was very easy to frustrate Fantexi. All he needed to do was present a new material.

The best way to frustrate Pinocchio was to let him disapprove of his own research. That would motivate him to continue the negotiation. After all, new theoretical and technological research was never right or wrong. Until it was 100% confirmed to be false, everybody could claim that their theories were correct.

“Mr. Pinocchio, have you found something? Your bleeding-edge research doesn’t have a foundation. It’s like a tree without a root. Your research direction is wrong. It’s not because of your ability. You cannot accomplish anything without a solid foundation. More importantly, you started in the wrong direction at the very beginning...”

Pinocchio gloomily stopped talking. According to the parameters of Lin Yun’s materials, a warship made of such materials would make the design that he had been most proud of purely garbage. If the new materials were applied to his design, the product would be 50% less powerful than the product of the most suitable design.

Even a two percent difference between the warships made of the same materials would mean that one of them was a total failure, not to mention a 50% gap...

The 50% difference only meant that his research so far was completely wrong.

Fantexi and Pinocchio finally stopped fighting. They both angrily and gloomily stared at Lin Yun.

“Guys, do you need anything else?”

Lin Yun asked them a question, but neither of them responded. They had completely lost interest in what they had been working on.

“You’re Mafa Merlin, right? Just tell us the truth. What do you want from us?”

Fantexi looked at Lin Yun vigilantly. Pinocchio seemed to have realized that Lin Yun was here for them too.

Chapter 1308: Magic Battleship

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

Lin Yun thought for a moment, and decided that it was time. There was only a chance of negotiation if he impressed those two old men first. It seemed that the strategy had worked out well.

“I’m hoping to invite you to a big project. My goal is to create a magic battleship!”

“A magic battleship? What kind of magic battleship?”

“A battleship that’s exclusively powered by mana. It will boast a sturdy structure and a new weapon system. With the energy shield around it, it can travel in space and fight in the void. It will be as powerful as a Heaven Rank expert. The magic battleships won’t be airships or the iron warships so far...

“The airships in Noscent are only used as carriers. Even the most powerful iron warship will be swallowed by any void beast it encounters as a candy in the boundless void.

“Even the weakest of the magic battleships that I’ll create, under the control of several Great Mages, will unleash the power of a few Archmages. The most powerful of them can kill a void beast under the control of a few Archmages!”

As he talked, Lin Yun released a few law runes, which assembled into a holograph above the crystal table, and displayed an arc-shaped warship that looked like a bull's horn. A lot of information, including the weapon system and the general layout, was marked, but there weren't a lot of details.

This magic battleship would be a famous model in the future. Its energy level was on level 6 of the Heaven Rank, but it could unleash the power of 100 level-6 Heaven Rank mages, and could kill any ordinary void beast on its level.

Lin Yun gave Fantexi and Pinocchio a rough introduction of the magic battleship. Their expressions changed in shock. Although Lin Yun's introduction was rough, he mentioned a lot of data and requirements for the materials...

Seeing the shock on Pinocchio and Fantexi's face, Lin Yun was slightly relieved. It was absolutely impossible to create such a magic battleship in this age due to the limitation of materials, which would be easy to get 10,000 years later, but couldn't possibly be gathered on this day.

Only 20 percent of the materials required were available, or had replacements. The rest were all materials that would be found or created later.

Lin Yun simply remembered the design of this magic battleship well, which was enough to awe Pinocchio and Fantexi. After all, they couldn't find any problem or flaw in the design. Considering the trend of technology development, there was nothing wrong with the design at all. The parameters could be confirmed too. It seemed to be the trend of the future...

Pinocchio and Fantexi jointly calculated for confirmation. Soon, they confirmed that the warship was undoubtedly a powerful weapon that could easily kill a level-46 void beast. The energy shield of the warship alone was already formidable. The shield, which was established in the same way as the fusion shield, cost a horrifying amount of energy, but provided such protection that even level-7 Heaven Rank experts could not break in...

Pinocchio and Fantexi were both fascinated. They gathered together, and couldn't see anything except the data. Lin Yun put on a smile, and then left after leaving a note.

He had created a wonderful illusion for those two old jerks, and they would surely take the bait. He didn't need to say anything. They would definitely come to him. It wouldn't even be possible to keep them away from the project. As for their pay? They didn't need any pay. He'd be kindhearted enough to involve them in this project...

Leaving Pinocchio and Fantexi's lab, Lin Yun released a notice for hire in the Starry Sky College in the name of the Gilded Rose. Many alchemy stores came to the Starry Sky College to hire talents every year. The Gilded Rose had hired people several times. It provided great benefits and research opportunities, which made it a great option whether the students wanted to make money or seek improvement in alchemy.

However, there were much more restrictions on Gilded Rose's hire notice this time. The applicants had to be familiar with mana, materials, and large alchemy machines. Also, they were expected to be Master Alchemists. The Great Alchemists could only work as assistants.

After returning to the Gilded Rose, Lin Yun considered what else he needed to build a magic battleship. He could take care of the materials' issue. The materials from the Raging Flame Plane, Noscent, and the abyss should be enough to meet the demand of a beginner-level magic battleship. The steel, which was the most in demand, could be obtained from the puppet plane. The puppet tombs there were full of such materials. They could be refined and reused.

More importantly, the tombs in the puppet plane weren't dangerous at all. Nothing would happen as long as he didn't stay there or visit it too often. The materials to be transported in one batch would be enough for the usage of a dozen magic battleships.

As for the materials for the critical parts, Lin Yun could create a lot of them. For example, the Black Pattern Silver was the best choice for the central components.

There were enough materials, but it required a group of alchemists to turn them into a magic battleship. Lin Yun only knew the basic procedure. There were too many concerns in the making of a magic battleship. Every detail had to be coordinated in order to maximize its power. That was not something that an individual could take care of. Even Fantexi could only build a 100-meter-long magic battleship on his own in his prime.

The construction of magic battleships was already planned. After all, this was already the beginning of Noscent's grand colonization. The resources required for the construction of the Shelter Towers couldn't be found in Noscent at all. Most of them had to be excavated from other planes. To get the resources in advance and occupy more planes, magic battleships were the best option.

It was already proven in history. This was only the beginning of Noscent's colonization. In its heyday, when the magic battleships were deployed to conquer planes, a fleet of magic battleships, led by a few Heaven Rank experts who weren't very strong, could conquer a plane very quickly.

The planes such as the Raging Flame Plane would be conquered within a month 10,000 years later. Not so much time would've been wasted. Even the worst outcome would be that they coexisted with the locals in peace.

A fleet of magic battleships was necessary. The entrance to the newly discovered resource plane had to be guarded. Very few void beasts were there, but they had to defend against other human beings. After all, in history, this plane would be discovered at the beginning of the age of colonization.

On the next day, Pinocchio and Fantexi came to the Gilded Rose together. Both of them had bloodshot eyes, and seemed very exhausted. However, they were so excited that they grabbed Lin Yun by his arm the moment they saw him.

"Mafa Merlin, give it to me. Where is the detailed data? The parameters of the materials? The specific data of the mana reaction furnace? What's its fuel? Mana crystals? But their productivity is extremely low, right?"

"What are the detailed parameters of the weapon system? Tightly bound pulse of mana? But it's only powerful within a radius of 1,000 kilometers. It'll be useless beyond 1,000 kilometers..."

Narrowing his eyes, Lin Yun looked at Pinocchio and Fantexi, who seemed to be going crazy, and waved his hands.

“Guys, can you let me go first?”

Pinocchio and Fantexi smiled awkwardly. They loosened their hands and stepped aside. However, they were still standing vigilantly, as if they feared that Lin Yun would disappear.

“Guys, that was just an idea. The team that’s going to study magic battleships will be led by you two. I have several designs for the weapon system...”

“But first things first, have you decided to work in the Gilded Rose?”

Lin Yun’s suspense made Pinocchio and Fantexi eager and anxious.

“Cut the crap! Just spit it out!”

“Exactly! Stop wasting time, and spit it out!”

Lin Yun took out two contracts for them.

“Guys, sign the contract first. After all, what I showed you yesterday was the classified information of the Gilded Rose...”

The contract was half a meter long, with plenty of terms and clauses. However, neither Pinocchio nor Fantexi bothered to read it. They simply left their magic signatures on the contract.

On the contract they didn’t read, besides the clause that they weren’t allowed to divulge the Gilded Rose’s secrets without permission, there was also one that stated the effective duration of the contract, which was 10,000 years...

Also, they didn’t notice that the other party who signed the contract was not the Gilded Rose, but Lin Yun himself. It meant that they had to work for the Gilded Rose for 10,000 years as long as Lin Yun was alive.

As a matter of fact, those two men would only live 8,000 years in real history.

Watching the contracts burn into ash, Lin Yun couldn’t help but put on a smile.

It was truly easy to deal with crazy researchers. Their research was their payment. He only needed to provide several ideas to keep them busy for at least a millennium. They didn’t care about benefits or anything else other than their research...

With them leading the magic battleship projection, he wouldn’t need to care about the details. He only needed to give them general ideas for them to work on. After they created a magic battleship, a lot of plans could be put into practice.

After hiring Fantexi and Pinocchio, Lin Yun continued hiring in their name. While they weren’t popular among the leadership of the Starry Sky College, they were top Artisans anyway, and were very strong as individuals. It was easy to hire the Master Alchemists in their name and with the appeal of the Gilded Rose.

Lin Yun signed contracts with all the newly hired alchemists, and then took them to the Raging Flame Plane.

The Raging Flame Plane had already become completely steady. It had changed significantly since the eruption and the trouble that the 73rd God caused. Many resources that were deeply buried were moved to the surface. The mana became more exuberant and active too. There were much more resources than in the past.

Every party had benefited a lot from the change. Even the Raging Flame Beastmen were very happy about the current situation. Having been at war for decades, they lost half of their population, and were a lot weaker than before. They knew that they would be annihilated if the war continued. Now that they had reached a truce, their life was better than before. There was nothing unacceptable.

Potions, food, and magic tools from human beings were influencing the Raging Flame Beastmen in every aspect. Before human beings appeared, some Raging Flame Beastmen starved in every tribe every year. A lot of their babies perished each year too.

Steel City in the Four Seasons Plain was already the biggest city in the Raging Flame Plane. More than half of the deals between the Raging Flame Beastmen and human beings were completed in this city. The resources from the Raging Flame Plane entered the Gilded Rose, and the Gilded Rose sold the daily necessities from the human world.

A high-purity silver ore could be exchanged in Steel City for food that could sustain a whole family of beastmen for an entire year. One kilogram of dried herbs could be exchanged for 10 piglets...

Heavily wounded? Go buy potions in Steel City. Unable to make a breakthrough? Go buy potions in Steel City. Not knowing the value of your ores? Go to Steel City...

In only a couple of years, the Raging Flame Beastmen who lived off hunting were already used to inexhaustible food. The warlocks, who only knew how to increase their power by using beast bones in the past, were starting to order tailor-made staffs in Steel City...

Lin Yun came to the Raging Flame Plane again, and was very satisfied with its development. The strategy he made was proving fruitful.

The other forces had been plundering resources, but Lin Yun chose to establish Steel City at first. Nobody could claim all resources. Even if they could, the excavation would still take time. Also, not all the resources in the Raging Flame Plane would be included. However, when everybody joined their hands, and exchanged what they had, the result would be different.

Steel City became the most powerful force in the Raging Flame Plane, and earned the greatest returns. Also, nobody dared to challenge its position. Whoever did so would be torn into shreds by the Raging Flame Beastmen.

Besides, Lin Yun didn't monopolize the business. He was a partner to many organizations. Whoever jeopardized Steel City's interests would almost become a public enemy to the Raging Flame Plane.

Besides, *The Intrepid* had been staying in the Raging Flame Plane. The warship that floated in the high sky like a cloud was a lethal weapon with enough energy. It had saved enough energy to unleash the Hand of Destruction several times. The Raging Flame Plane was now at absolute peace.

Lin Yun took Pinocchio and Fantexi, as well as the other newly hired refiners, to *The Intrepid*.

Boarding? *The Intrepid*, both Pinocchio and Fantexi were thrilled. This warship looked like a huge ancient boat, but it contained horrifying technologies that had been lost a long time earlier. Besides, the vessel was built on the body of an ancient God. It was a creature in a way.

Pinocchio and Fantexi began to study *The Intrepid*. Lin Yun simply left them alone after dropping a bunch of materials and data. He had given them ideas, and taken care of material problems. They would have themselves to blame if they couldn't make a real magic battleship...

Leaving the research team aside, Lin Yun met the Firerock Dwarves, who had been studying the weapon system smoothly. The Mana Crystal Cannons on *The Intrepid* had been mostly analyzed, and could be duplicated. However, it was impossible to copy the Hand of Destruction just yet, because it was made of unique materials, and was much more complicated than ordinary Mana Crystal Cannons. They were not the same at all.

The magic battleships to be created were mainly meant to guard the new planes to be conquered. They would fight in the boundless void, and probably didn't have a chance to fight inside a plane. That was the mission of the next-generation magic battleships.

The Mana Crystal Cannons weren't suitable for battles in the boundless void. Their range was too short, and their power wasn't good enough. The attack range of the weapon system had to be ensured first. Magic battleships would have no advantages if their weapons didn't have a shooting range of 10,000 kilometers.

Mana Laser Cannons had been worked on. Lin Yun intended to let the Firerock Dwarves work with the alchemist team on Mana Electromagnetic Cannons too.

There were no obstacles at all in the boundless void, not even air. So, air friction was no longer a problem for the electromagnetic cannons. Only the cannonballs needed research. With the help of magic power, the problem that the electromagnetic cannon and the cannonballs couldn't endure the acceleration could be taken care of.

If the barrel of the cannon was long enough, it could accelerate the cannonball to the speed of light...

However, there were still many other problems. After giving them a general idea and a simple electromagnetic cannon model, Lin Yun simply left the matter aside. His alchemist team would take care of everything, or at least most of it, by working together.. After all, the most brilliant alchemists of this age had been gathered here.

Chapter 1309: Fatal Invitation

They were all adept at what they did, and they simply lacked direction. Pinocchio, for example, would be one of the best Artisans even thousands of years later in terms of theoretical research. His progress was only slow because he had been on the wrong track. He spent 99% of his time on wrong ideas. Now that Lin Yun had given him the right idea to work on, the other party would accomplish something very soon.

Leaving the Raging Flame Plane, Lin Yun entered the puppet plane. He arrived at the safest place that the Starry Sky College had found earlier. Around him were tall mountains that were puppet graveyards. The mountains were piled up on the parts of abandoned puppets. Those parts were all from low-level alchemy puppets, and were made of magic iron or similar materials.

Lin Yun flew to the top of an enormous mountain that was more than a kilometer tall. A tornado arose, pushing the parts forming the mountain into a vortex in the sky. In half an hour, the mountain that was thousands of meters in diameter at the base had vanished.

Lin Yun didn't stay. He returned to the Raging Flame Plane, and found a room whose space had been expanded to a dozen square kilometers on *The Intrepid*. He then threw the wasted parts he collected into the room. Those parts weren't of a high quality, but should suffice as the main materials of the magic battleship.

After everything was done, Lin Yun returned to Noscent. Hardly had he returned when he received the bad news that three material suppliers of the Odin Kingdom terminated their cooperation with the Gilded Rose.

The Gilded Rose was short of several materials. The stock was only enough for a couple of months at best.

"Sir Merlin, those three families are almost our closest partners so far, yet they've violated the contract at the same time. This is highly unusual. When some partners quit before, those three families expressly stated that they would continue cooperating with the Gilded Rose, and wouldn't concede.

"I've sent representatives to the three families. However, their family leaders are very firm. They would rather give us a huge compensation than cooperate with us...

"That's very strange. I've investigated with the Gilded Rose's connections. It seems that the three family leaders made the decision out of the blue. The people in their family who tried to stop them have been locked up..."

Faleau worriedly reported the problem to Lin Yun.

Lin Yun frowned too. The Gilded Rose's material supply had always been a major weakness. However, he didn't expect that anyone would take advantage of it so blatantly. Earlier, his convoys and his material suppliers were attacked. After the 20 level-40 alchemy puppets were deployed as bodyguards, nobody died in the attacks anymore, but those people still kept harassing and annoying him like bugs. At this moment, they were up to something else.

Those three material suppliers had signed the harshest contracts with the Gilded Rose. If they violated the contracts, they would have to compensate the Gilded Rose with 100 times more purple gold.

The Gilded Rose was already their biggest partner in the north of the Odin Kingdom. It had the greatest demand for materials, and gave them nearly twice as much profit as other alchemy stores did. However, if they violated the contracts, they would compensate with 100 times of the Gilded Rose's loss, which would mean a net profit of at least 20 years. Unless their family leaders were crazy, they shouldn't have done such a thing.

"How is the investigation on the Ring of Roses going? Do they play a part in this?"

He suspected that it was the Ring of Roses' doing last time. Now that this weird thing had happened again, Lin Yun became even more certain. Only the Ring of Roses would do such a weird thing, which agreed with their style. However, he didn't know when he offended this organization from the south of the Odin Kingdom. The Gilded Rose's business was not in conflict with the Ring of Roses', either...

Did they have to keep hurting his interests without getting anything in return? Even if someone hired them to deal with the Gilded Rose, were they so ruthless as to shake the foundation of the Ring of Roses for the task?

Lin Yun was slightly puzzled, but wasn't truly bothered. With the materials from the Andlusa Kingdom and the Raging Flame Plane, and those already in stock, the Gilded Rose could endure for at least half a year, by conservative estimation.

Half a year should be enough for the first magic battleship to be made. The main purpose of the magic battleships was defense, not to conquer any plane. He could conquer the resourceful plane he found earlier even without the magic battleship. There weren't many powerful creatures in that plane, and there were a lot of resources. The Gilded Rose would remain unaffected in half a year.

Lin Yun didn't bother to consider it any longer. After the two consecutive material supply problems, Lin Yun had decided to completely abandon the material supply in the Odin Kingdom. After the resources were yielded from the new plane, the materials in the Odin Kingdom wouldn't be necessary.

The Gilded Rose didn't panic. It didn't even send more representatives. When the deadline of compensation as stipulated on the contract arrived, someone else panicked first.

In a common noble's manor, Neo was standing still with a bitter face. Emmy, who was enshrouded in gray mist, stared at him coldly from a chair.

"Neo, I hope you can give me an explanation. How have you been doing your intelligence job?"

"Didn't you say that if we attacked the Gilded Rose's convoys and disrupted their material supply, Mafa Merlin would surely take action? What now?"

"What have we seen? Mafa Merlin hasn't shown up yet. He doesn't seem to even care. The 20 level-40 alchemy puppets have killed more than 20 Archmages, 35 Sword Saints, and even a couple of stronger specialists!"

"We've lost half of our people in the north. Even a lot of seeds under our control have been lost too. If things go unchanged, you'll have to explain it to the headquarters by yourself."

"Now that I've personally taken action, and controlled the three family leaders, we're likely to be exposed very soon, yet Mafa Merlin is still not reacting at all. Is your intelligence trustworthy at all?"

"Damn you, if Mafa Merlin had been killed earlier, we wouldn't have been caught in such trouble at all!"

Emmy's voice sounded like a freezing wind. Strange magic waves were spreading around her. Neo stood there bitterly, and couldn't say anything. He was very puzzled too.

Mafa Merlin was supposed to be a very bad-tempered guy. When someone attacked the Gilded Rose, and its guards couldn't deal with them, he always finished off the attackers on his own. This time, the Gilded Rose's convoys and material suppliers were attacked, and three of its best partners violated the contracts.

However, Mafa Merlin didn't react at all. He didn't seem to care. That was quite unexpected. Didn't his profile say that he was bad-tempered? Why was he not responding at all?

Neo certainly didn't see this coming. That guy obviously couldn't stand any loss. Why did he become so patient this time? Damn it...

Neo was quite frustrated too. He had made the perfect plan to lure Lin Yun out, but it didn't work at all. The man who was allegedly short-tempered didn't react at all after he was attacked several times. That was highly unusual...

"Madam Emmy, we'll simply invite Mafa Merlin for negotiation in the name of the three family leaders. Then, we'll set up an ambush and kill him.

"Tomorrow is the deadline of the three families' contracts. They might be getting out of control. We'd better invite Mafa Merlin's enemies as well in the name of the three families.

"When Mafa Merlin comes, we'll attack him. He'll surely die as long as you personally take action. Mafa Merlin's enemies will also have to help us kill him because if Mafa Merlin survives, he will definitely retaliate against them later.

"Besides, Mafa Merlin doesn't know who we are. Just let the idiots of the three families and Mafa Merlin's enemies take the blame!"

Wreathed in the gray mist, Emmy nodded.

"Alright, invite Mafa Merlin for negotiation in the name of the three stupid family leaders. I'll make arrangements. There are more important things in the headquarters right now. We don't have more time for Mafa Merlin. Since those idiots cannot kill him, we will have to do it in person. Neo, you will clean up the traces.

"No sign of the Ring of Roses must be left behind. If you screw up again, you know the consequences."

After she said that, the gray mist around Emmy suddenly became darker. In no more than a second, she was completely covered by the mist. Then, the mist gradually dispersed, and she was nowhere to be seen again.

Neo wiped his cold sweat, and made preparations in a rush.

In no more than an hour, an invitation had been delivered to Lin Yun.

Looking at the invitation, Lin Yun put on a mysterious smile.

Faleau smiled coldly.

"Sir Merlin, tomorrow will be the deadline on our contract. If they don't compensate for violating the contracts after tomorrow, they will learn a lesson about the power of our contracts.

"They've sent an invitation, and invited you for the negotiation. It seems that they don't intend to compensate. They must have thought that we would negotiate with them the moment they cut our supply, but we didn't, so they panicked.

"They're inviting you to negotiations certainly because they want more. Those bloody leeches. The Gilded Rose is already offering them the highest price, yet they're still unsatisfied. They try to extort us in such a way..."

Faleau hadn't fully vented his fury yet, but Lin Yun simply shook his hands with a smile.

"No need to worry, Faleau. If they want to negotiate with me, I'll just go there. As it happens, I want to see what more tricks they have. Do those stupid rats really think I've gotten meek?"

"Now that they're finally jumping out, let's find out who they are exactly."

Faleau was slightly confused, but Lin Yun didn't explain. When the Gilded Rose's convoys were attacked again, the people of the Lodney Family and the Roosevelt Business Alliance all stated that it wasn't done by them. They clearly knew who did it, although they didn't say it explicitly.

What the Lodney Family said was believable. The culprit instigated the Lodney Family at first, and then the Roosevelt Business Alliance. They had nobody else to instigate, so they had to take action in person.

Remembering the ambush he endured outside of Neverwinter City when he just left the Sky City's airship and landed in the Odin Kingdom, he realized that they had to have hated him very much, and that it didn't make sense that they stopped after the failed assassination.

Both the Lodney Family and the Roosevelt Business Alliance had been motivated by them. They couldn't have persuaded the Lodney Family or the Roosevelt Business Alliance because they were diplomatic, or because they threatened the targets. The family had existed for countless years, and the business alliance was founded even before the Sten Kingdom. How could they have been convinced so easily?

Lin Yun recalled the information about the Ring of Roses, which was a weird organization. Selling intelligence was not an easy business. It was very difficult to acquire intelligence from a mage, but the Ring of Roses was capable of doing that. The occasional traces it left behind were weird too.

Lin Yun dragged Lord Shawn out of his Demiplane, and Lord Shawn was still yelling with utmost contempt.

"Idiots, idiots. It has only been several days since Lord Shawn taught you a lesson, yet you seem to have forgotten—"

Lord Shawn hadn't finished yelling yet, when it noticed that the atmosphere was different. It turned around and saw Lin Yun. Immediately, it spoke in an unhappy tone.

"Merlin, what's the matter? I'm scolding those stupid laborers. They're truly terrible. Even the orc laborers are better than them. As mages, they build crooked buildings. Damn it, I'm infuriated. Send me back. I'll let them know how pathetic they'll be if they violate Lord Shawn's orders!"

Lin Yun remained casual, and didn't say anything. He simply gazed at Lord Shawn. The latter was rather crept out, and finally sat down a few minutes later.

"Sir Merlin, is there anything I can help you with? I'm very busy, you know. Those laborers haven't been half as hardworking as before ever since you lifted their seals. They secretly meditate every day, and only spend half of their time working. I have to supervise them..."

Lord Shawn was so scared to see Lin Yun's solemnity that it rolled its eyes quickly and almost cried.

Damn it, I'm getting too cocky. I knew that I'd be stuck with Merlin, even though I'm no longer a Magic Tool Incarnation. He must be thinking of a way to torture me. Xiuban has gotten a lot more obedient. He has no reason to beat Xiuban, so he'll slap me...

While Lord Shawn was feeling uneasy, it heard the sound of flapping wings, and Xiusi flew in through the window proudly.

“Sir Merlin, Sir Merlin, I saw everything. There were so many idiots in the place you mentioned. There was also an annoying woman. She almost saw me. But I was very clever, and she didn't catch me...”

Lin Yun nodded, and threw a piece of pastry to Xiusi. Immediately, Xiusi's grim owl face put on a big smile. It hugged the small plate with its wings, and wobbled out.

“Lord Shawn, go out with me tomorrow. I may have something fun for you.”

Relieved, Lord Shawn quickly nodded.

Lin Yun wore a smile, and didn't say anything.

Xiusi had been quite obedient. It was unable to beat Pabiete after advancing into the Heaven Rank, which was a major stimulus for it. It had been busy training and sleeping every day. Xiusi, on the other hand, was just a stupid bird who would do anything for sweet food.

Lord Shawn was getting cocky. It probably would forget who it was without being taught a lesson...

Lin Yun didn't say anything, but Lord Shawn was already scared. It became much more obedient.

There was a manor 50 kilometers away from Neverwinter City. That was a very short distance for mages. The top experts of the Starry Sky College could attack freely over such a distance. Even if the attacks wouldn't be as powerful as when they personally showed up, they could still kill anyone whose level wasn't high enough. So, they didn't have to show up in person.

However, none of those experts would pay attention to anything outside of Neverwinter City. They never bothered to intervene even if they saw anything.

This manor belonged to one of the three material supplier families. There were all sorts of herbs and magic plants in a radius of 10 kilometers. Even the guards were treants raised by the Wood Elves. They could improve the garden's environment and keep the flow of mana.

The Gilded Rose cooperated with this family because their plantation was very close to Neverwinter City, and transportation was not a problem. Also, the short distance between them could ensure cooperation.

Lin Yun had never been to this manor before. On the two sides of the road were treants almost 30 meters tall. Those treants were rooted here, and guarded the place day and night. There was a mist in the garden, mixed with fragrance and the smell of mana.

Chapter 1310: Ambush

That was nothing unusual for a garden of herbs. Lord Shawn turned into the size of a hand, and stood on Lin Yun's shoulder. Its purple hair made it look like the baby of a Purple Back Wolf.

“Merlin, this place—”

Lord Shawn’s eyes glittered. It looked into the mist, as if it had discovered something. However, Lin Yun interrupted him before it could finish.

“Lord Shawn, do you want to have fun or not? There are very few things that meet your requirements...”

Hearing that, Lord Shawn immediately shut up, and pretended that it didn’t see anything.

Lin Yun paced forward unhurriedly. The other guests had already gathered in the manor.

The leaders of the three planter families weren’t strong. They were only on level 2 of the Heaven Rank. Such families that were devoted to herb plantations weren’t very renowned in the Odin Kingdom, not even as renowned as some mage families that did business. However, while herbs weren’t as profitable as potions, they could always be sold out.

Every alchemy store was worried about its business competitors, but the herb planter families had nothing to worry about. They could sell their herbs to a lot of alchemy stores. Such families were very wealthy, and usually had a lot of experts. They had plenty of Archmages, but not as many Heaven Rank experts.

After all, no Heaven Rank experts could’ve emerged with nothing but resources...

Such families didn’t have a high position, but they were necessary too. The three families in the manor at this moment were virtually the three biggest herb suppliers around Neverwinter City. Some others planted higher-level herbs, but nobody planted more herbs than they did.

Inside the castle in the manor, delicious food and wine had been placed on an enormous table. The leaders of the three families sat there expressionlessly.

Wilder Lodney sat grimly, and Reynolds from the Roosevelt Business Alliance sat still too, with minor confusion.

A few minutes later, Wilder couldn’t sit any longer.

“Why have you invited me here? Damn you, jerks, I’m not here to waste my time. If there’s anything you want to tell me, you’d better tell me fast. My time is too precious to be wasted on silly moles like you.

“Yesterday, you mentioned a new herb that can be manufactured. What is it exactly? You’re still not telling us? Are you challenging my patience or the dignity of the Lodney Family?”

Wilder bashed the table and roared furiously, but the three family leaders sat there expressionlessly just like before. One of them turned around and glanced at Wilder.

“Mr. Wilder, the negotiation will begin when everybody arrives. There are four rare herbs that could only be collected in the wild in the past, but can be manufactured now. If you can’t wait, you’re free to go.”

Hearing that, Wilder gritted his teeth and sat down. His family had been selling potions, and he certainly knew how profitable the manufacturing of the four new herbs would be.

The rare herbs were rare because such herbs could hardly be planted or manufactured on a large scale. Even if they were planted, they wouldn't be as effective as the naturally grown ones. Some of them could only grow in special places.

Wilder had to hold back his fury. Nobody hated money...

Wilder sat back, but Reynolds ran out of patience.

"Guys, the Roosevelt Business Alliance sells magic tools, and you sell herbs and magic plants. Is there any field where we can cooperate?"

To Reynolds' question, one of the family leaders replied expressionlessly, "You'll know how we can cooperate when our last guest arrives."

A few seconds later, the door was slowly opened, and Lin Yun walked in under the direction of a butler.

Lin Yun was slightly surprised to see Wilder and Reynolds. His puzzle was solved when he saw the three expressionless family leaders.

Wilder and Reynolds both put on a weird expression when they saw Lin Yun. Wilder instinctively tried to hide, or get out of this place. Reynolds was much more brazen. He smiled awkwardly and greeted him.

"So, the last guest is Sir Merlin..."

After Lin Yun entered the hall, the gate behind him was slowly closed. Immediately, the mist around the castle became darker, and shrouded the castle within a few seconds. Even the treants that had been standing on guard fell asleep one after another.

Lin Yun looked back, and said casually, "Alright, I'm already here. What's the point of hiding?"

What Lin Yun said changed Wilder's and Reynolds' expression. Both of them could tell that he had an unpleasant history with someone else..

Applause echoed in the hall, and gray mist was arising inside the castle. A person whose face was obscure and whose body seemed to be behind a curtain walked off the stairs.

Her cold voice that was full of hate descended. Immediately, everybody felt that the air was getting colder. On the furniture that was placed in the hall, black ice was appearing.

"Mafa Merlin, great! You're smarter than I thought. But you're much dumber than I thought too. Now that you have come here, you won't be able to leave. I don't have time to play any games with you. I want you to die right now!"

Lin Yun was puzzled, wondering when he had offended this female mage, who was clearly on level 3 of the Heaven Rank, and could make use of soul power.

When he saw the three expressionless family leaders, Lin Yun knew that their souls were already affected. Or rather, their souls had been confined in their bodies. They were only rigid, obedient puppets for now...

As a result, Lin Yun confirmed who had been dealing with him behind his back. They were puppeteers who created soul puppets instead of alchemy puppets.

That was a rare type of mages. It was said that they had devil and demon bloodlines that they transferred into human body through dangerous alchemy experiments, giving them the special power of demons and devils.

For example, the demons' whisper and the devils' bewilderment.

There was also the power to manipulate souls.

Those mages would be very easy to recognize even thousands of years later. Also, they could hardly escape when they were discovered. They were very weak, and didn't have great potential, so they always hid themselves, and never fought in person. The plots they worked were much more powerful than their combat skills.

It would be very difficult to eliminate those guys even thousands of years later. When Lin Yun learned that three families broke the contracts, and the Ring of Roses was involved, he had a lot of guesses.

He thought that the Ring of Roses' mages were either spiritual mages or those who could manipulate souls. Maybe they were spatial mages who were good at hiding, but that wasn't very likely. The spatial mages in this age didn't know so many tricks yet.

He didn't expect them to be a bunch of ghastly warlocks...

"So, this is how the Ring of Roses acquires its intelligence. No wonder you've been hiding, and never show up in public. It's not because you want to stay mysterious, but because you don't dare to show yourself. Let me guess. You must've transplanted a devil bloodline with the undead power, right? Your influence on souls is so rigid. It's probably a low-level hell creature. Was it Hell Soul Beast?"

Emmy shivered when she heard that. Her body was stiffened too. But then, she smiled coldly.

"Mafa Merlin, stop wasting time. This place has been completely blocked by my people. There are at least 50,000 ghosts outside. I've set up sacrificial and soul arrays too. You can't escape. You're doomed however strong you might be.

"Besides me and those three idiots, Mr. Wilder and Mr. Reynolds are here too. Nobody can possibly save you. Mafa Merlin, answer for what you did.

"My family was killed by you. The Shadow Tower was almost destroyed by you. You can go to hell now!"

Before Emmy could finish, Wilder had anxiously screamed out.

"Sir Merlin, this is a misunderstanding. I didn't know this at all. I was tricked into coming here! I've been set up! This b*tch set me up!"

Wilder was frightened, with cold sweat all over his forehead. He tried to explain, but Emmy sneered not far away.

"Mr. Wilder, after everything you've seen, do you really think Mafa Merlin can get away? Even if he does escape, you think he'll just let you go? You should be prepared for his bloody retaliation.

"If he wants to retaliate against the Ring of Roses, he's welcome to come as long as he can find the headquarters of the Ring of Roses.

“But he won’t have a chance. Mr. Wilder, Mr. Reynolds, it’s time to make a decision. Mafa Merlin is as good as dead even without your help. Then, you won’t have any share in the Gilded Rose. However, you’ll be in the place where Mafa Merlin dies. Are you going to explain that it’s a misunderstanding? Who’d believe you?”

“You might as well help me kill Mafa Merlin. His wealth and his everything will be yours...”

Emmy pressured them confidently. Reynolds remained silent with glittering eyes, and Wilder turned paler than ever...

*Damn it, this b*tch is free to kill herself, but why does she have to drag me into this? I don’t want to die yet. What a moron. Isn’t the Ring of Roses always informed? Does she not know that Mafa Merlin is the Great Astrologian’s disciple, and that Dean Great Astrologian of the Starry Sky College is very close to him??*

Do those idiots not know what it means? The Great Astrologian personally helped Mafa Merlin. Considering recent events, Mafa Merlin must be the Great Astrologian’s disciple to inherit his legacy. It’s possible that the Starry Sky College will be his...

Yet, this idiot wants to kill Mafa Merlin?

She wants me to die with him. No. I cannot let Mafa Merlin misunderstand me. If he thinks that I’m part of this scheme, then I’ll be screwed. Not just me, my ancestor and the Lodney Family will all be screwed...

Gritting his teeth, Wilder metalized half of his body and roared at Emmy.

“B*tch, you set me up! You’re truly bold to set me up! I’m going to kill you!”

Wilder roared, with thick iron stings appearing around his body. Those iron stings surrounded Emmy, and made a huge hole in the castle. Those stings seemed to be responding to Wilder’s fury. One of the castle’s walls collapsed. After Wilder broke out, thick iron thorns rose from the ground in a radius of hundreds of meters.

Emmy turned into part of the mist, and flashed consecutively in the iron jungle. She spoke in shock and fury.

“Wilder, think carefully. Do you think Mafa Merlin will believe you? If he survives today, you can just wait for his retaliation!”

Wilder’s eyes turned bloodshot. Drops of silver metal appeared around his body. He unleashed such a violent aura as if he were going berserk...

“B*tch, you set me up. After I kill you, Sir Merlin will trust me...”

Wilder went on a rampage, and chased Emmy crazily without caring about the cost. The precious metal materials were all rare materials to cast steel spells, yet Wilder tossed them away like garbage.

Emmy was stunned too. Neo, who had been hiding, wanted to help, but the moment he showed up, his chest was pierced by a dozen iron stings. His limbs and head were penetrated too. His rock shield was as vulnerable as a bunch of shattered stones. He was immediately killed.

Emmy was almost mad. Inside the castle, Reynolds looked at Wilder, who seemed to be crazy, and couldn't believe what he saw.

Damn it. Was Wilder crazy? Why was he attacking Emmy so relentlessly? Was he not scared of the Ring of Roses' retaliation? Mafa Merlin was his enemy. Did he have to fight so hard for him?

Oh damn it, Wilder isn't crazy. He isn't crazy at all. Reynolds finally understood everything.

No wonder the Lodney Family dropped it after suffering a major setback. They didn't dare to deal with Mafa Merlin any longer. There had to be a good reason for that.

He would rather infuriate the Ring of Roses than offend Mafa Merlin in this situation, and it was probably for the same reason...

Damn it. Reynolds thought he almost accepted the b*tch's proposal. She must've influenced him with her spell. Why else would he want to accept? No, he couldn't stay here any longer. He couldn't be part of this. Never.

Reynolds was sweating hard. He considered how he could leave. The castle was filled with mist, where countless ghosts were hiding. It was hard to escape through all the crazy ghosts.

In the battlefield, Wilder caught Emmy unprepared, but Neo's unexpected entrance bought her some time. Immediately, soundless screams echoed in the mist. Countless ghosts charged from the mist, and turned into a torrent, pushing Wilder into the mist.

Wilder's steel spells didn't really work well on ghosts. Without Wilder's threat, Emmy finally flew out of the mist.

Reynolds took out a magic tool while all the ghosts went to block Wilder. The magic tool emitted light, and brought him to the sky.

"Sir Merlin, I have nothing to do with any of this. I've been set up too. Please trust me..."

Reynolds' unconvincing explanation came from the sky. Then, in the blink of an eye, his mana waves vanished from the sky.

Lin Yun was rather astounded. He almost didn't know what was going on.

Wilder, Reynolds, the three level-2 Heaven Rank puppets, the sacrificial and soul arrays, the countless ghosts outside, and Emmy, a devil warlock who could manipulate souls, could possibly kill him if they worked together...

However, before he did anything, those people were already fighting amongst themselves. Reynolds had run away. The body hanging on the thorns outside of the castle belonged to the rock mage who attempted to assassinate Lin Yun when the latter came to the Odin Kingdom. The man had died a quick death. His eyes that were still wide open suggested how regretful he had to have been...

Wilder roared in the mist without stopping. Floating in midair, Emmy had already activated the alchemy arrays and soul arrays around the castle, completely locking the place down.

Seeing that Lin Yun roamed out of the castle, as if he were enjoying the great drama, Emmy's eyes were flaming. The evil aura of devils and the undead emanated from her, making her look like a strange monster.

"My slaves, kill him..." Emmy whispered. From inside the castle, the three family leaders slowly walked out. But they were no longer expressionless. There was wrath on all their faces.

"Damn you, filthy jerk, you will go to hell!"

"The mage who manipulates souls, you will be burnt in front of Neverwinter City's gate!"

"Unscrupulous bastard, be prepared for our revenge!"

Their souls had been confined in their bodies. They knew everything that had happened in the past days, but they couldn't do anything except watch. Now that they were finally able to move, they couldn't wait any longer.

Lord Shawn soundlessly appeared on Lin Yun's shoulder, and grinned.