

## **Magic Era 131**

### **Chapter 131: No Way**

If a Master Alchemist was annoyed enough, he could even sign a contract to sell his services to a major force in order to get his revenge.

Especially now that the Master Alchemist had the power to fight against a High Mage, these forces wouldn't dare to make a move once they learnt about this...

"Okay, I understand..." William understood after thinking about it for a bit. It turned out that his earlier actions had actually been a good move for the Merlin Family.

Originally, he had been frustrated that he had acted against this cousin before ending up bowing to him.

But he hadn't expected that bowing would actually secure a deal for the Merlin Family.

Now that he thought about it, if he had insisted on setting himself against his cousin, he would end up like Raven, going back to Okland and perhaps gathering a force to retaliate. And meanwhile, the Watson Family might have been the one having dealings with his Master Alchemist cousin.

William knew that this cousin didn't have any concept of family relationships. He chose to sell Nether Iron Ore to the Merlin Family purely to prepare for the path ahead of him.

William believed that if the Watson Family had come first, with a proper attitude and a proper price, this cousin of his would have chosen to sell the Nether Iron Ores to the Watson Family.

It would be a completely different situation then...

Thinking back on what a close call it had been, cold sweat trickled down William's back. 'Thank god, thank god I gave up, otherwise I might have been the one that got slammed on the ground and burnt...'

"So, Cousin William, you are training those 5th Rank Mages carefully, right? I'll help them find a special training ground next month at the latest."

"Special training ground?"

"Yes, a training ground filled with undead lifeforms." After Lin Yun explained, he planned to leave the Gilded Rose to take a look at the alchemy workshop to check on the mining puppet production.

Lin Yun had stayed in the prince tomb for a bit over a month, and the Planar Path recharging cooldown had already finished. He hadn't left for it yet because he needed this batch of mining puppets.

"Wait, Cousin..." But William stopped him just as he got up.

"What is it?"

"I came over because I came across a Great Mage named Solon. He said he was the disciple of the Sage Tower's Solomon. He also said that Solomon is looking for you very urgently and that you must take some time to go over..."

“Solomon is looking for me?” Lin Yun scratched his cheek, thinking of what he wanted. He was thinking of establishing a relationship with the Cloud Tower through Solomon and then borrowing the True Spirit Magic Tool from the Cloud Tower.

He hadn’t expected Solomon to be the one calling on him first.

“Okay, I’ll go over at once.” Lin Yun nodded, but before he left the Gilded Rose, he added, “Oh, right, Cousin William, if you have time, can you take a trip to the alchemy workshop to ask when they will be finished with that batch of mining puppets?”

“Yes, no problem.”

Lin Yun took his leave from the Gilded Rose and quickly arrived at the Sage Tower.

“Great Mage Merlin, you finally came...” Solon had already been waiting for a long time when Lin Yun rushed over, and he still looked very anxious.

“What’s going on?” Lin Yun felt strange. From the times they had met, Solon had always been very calm. He would rarely display his emotions in such a way. Even when Lin Yun advanced to become a Great Mage, Solon only slightly forgot himself. But today, he looked as if he had lost his head.

“Let’s talk while walking, Teacher has been waiting for too long...”

“Let’s go.”

The two entered the Sage Tower and quickly walked through the spiraling stairs.

“Good Morning, Great Mage Merlin.” Solomon got up to welcome Lin Yun when the latter entered his study.

“Good Morning, High Mage Solomon.” After Lin Yun greeted him, he sat down with Solomon. But he was feeling a bit apprehensive.

Lin Yun clearly remembered that during the Black Horn Auction, he had taken out several hundred thousand golds to help Solomon win the Hell Destroyer incantation during the face off. It was tantamount to helping the Sage Tower keep their reputation, but at that time, the High Mage had only invited him to his box with a “please come in” and greeted him with a smile without getting up to welcome him.

But today, Solomon actually stood up to receive him.

In other words, the matter today was more important than the pride of the Sage Tower.

Sure enough, after the two sat down, Solomon didn’t exchange niceties and went straight to the point.

“Great Mage Merlin, I won’t hide it from you, I had Solon ask you to come over today because there is a matter I need your help with...”

“I wonder what I could do for High Mage Solomon?” Lin Yun’s sentence sounded very respectful, but it was the same as saying nothing.

“Haha...” Solomon chuckled. After standing at the peak of Thousand Sails City for so many years, he had seen all kinds of people. Hearing Lin Yun’s words, he knew that he should first tell him what this was

about. Otherwise, the young Great Mage wouldn't give a positive answer. "I wonder if you remember looking at a book a few months ago in the Sage Tower's library, it was about the Fanrusen Formula."

"Fanrusen Formula? Eh? I do remember..." When Solomon brought this up, he recalled that period. He had been at a loss back then so he had gone to the Sage Tower's library to read books about the current era, and when he was bored, he had done some light reading to pass the time. The book on the Fanrusen Formula was one of the latter.

"About this... I have to give you my apology first." After saying this, Solomon stood up and bowed in front of the shocked Lin Yun and Solon.

"High Mage Solomon, how could I accept this!" Lin Yun hurriedly helped Solomon to stand up. No kidding, Solomon's power had shaken Thousand Sails City for dozens of years. In the eyes of many, he was considered Thousand Sails City's Guardian. It would anger the public if he bowed to someone.

"No, no, Great Mage Merlin, listen to me..." After Lin Yun helped him take a seat, Solomon had a fit of coughing. After a while, he sighed and said, "When Solon told me there was a 1st Rank Mage reading about the Fanrusen Formula, I felt quite interested. And without your approval, I used Temporal Recall."

"Haha, High Mage Solomon, you are too polite." Lin Yun chuckled. He was only a 1st Rank Mage at the time, there was no expectation of privacy in front of a High Mage's eyes. If not for him now having the qualifications to stand on equal footing with Solomon, he might have never heard this apology.

"At that time, from your mouth, I gleaned four pieces of data..."

'Turns out it was like this...' Hearing this, Lin Yun suddenly felt it was rather funny. 'No wonder Solomon paid so much attention to me.'

It turned out that this had started because he had carelessly mumbled about four pieces of data when reading the Fanrusen Formula. This was quite coincidental, as in the future, these four pieces of data would be known to all. Many mages liked to use them to make jokes, and it even reached the point that the jokes had been so overused that they became running gags.

It could be said that Lin Yun had grown up while hearing those jokes, so he carelessly mumbled about those four pieces of data when he read the Fanrusen Formula.

But he hadn't expected Solomon to have observed it.

"I then wrote a letter to my teacher because I knew that he had always been researching the Fanrusen Formula. Not long afterward, he answered and let me know that the Fanrusen research had made some important progress. And this had all been because of those four pieces of data."

"Haha..." Lin Yun didn't feel it was too strange. The key parts of the Fanrusen Formula were those four pieces of data, the others were just details.

"Oh, right, Great Mage Merlin, I forgot to give you an introduction. My teacher is named Jouyi, Cloud Tower's Star Sage Jouyi." Solomon saw that although this young Great Mage had always been very respectful and courteous, he didn't seem to be too interested in this matter.

Thus, Solomon clenched his teeth and spoke of the most important piece of information. "He recently sent me another letter, he hopes you can join the Cloud Tower and participate in the Fanrusen research."

With these words, Solomon stopped and slowly leaned back in his chair, his eyes staring motionlessly at Lin Yun, wanting to see what kind of reaction would come out from the young Great Mage.

'Will it be shock and disbelief, or animated ecstasy...'

Solomon waited for a while before Lin Yun straightforwardly answered.

"No way."

"Eh?" Solomon froze. His gaze was empty as he looked at Lin Yun, and it took a while before he managed to recover.

'It wasn't shock, it wasn't excitement, it was a blunt refusal! How could you refuse?'

Solomon couldn't understand.

'That's the Sage Tower! That's Star Sage Jouyi! Did you get too excited and mess up your answer? Could it be that you don't know that the Cloud Tower is one of the two great mage forces of Andlusa? Entering the Cloud Tower is a shortcut leading to the peak of magic. Could it be that you don't know that Star Sage Jouyi is my teacher, an Archmage towering among the masses? How could you say "No way" like that?'

At this moment, Solomon even wanted to touch Lin Yun's forehead and see whether that Great Mage was sick.

'An answer like this isn't logical!'

### **Chapter 132: Remote Participation**

Although Solomon was very humble today, even welcoming Mafa Merlin and apologizing, it wasn't like he didn't also feel strongly about his offer.

'Although I eavesdropped your four pieces of data, I also gave you an introduction to the Cloud Tower. This favor isn't small, you definitely can't neglect it...'

If it was before, Solomon might not care about what he got out of this favor, but with the Gilded Rose rising every day and Lin Yun's strength becoming more and more mysterious, Solomon felt that this favor was truly necessary.

'I might not be able to use it at this time. But can I still live for a few more years?'

Solomon was worried about his legacy.

'How could I not know what state my body is in? At most, I'll be able to live for another ten to twenty years. The Sage Tower's situation won't be good when I die. What I can do for the Sage Tower right now

is to make this young Great Mage feel indebted to me, and that way, in the future, the Sage Tower would be able to have a few hundred years of peace under that youth's protection.'

But Solomon truly hadn't thought that the other side would unexpectedly answer like this!

'This isn't logical...'

"High Mage Solomon, this is really impossible..." Before Solomon could try to convince him, Lin Yun shook his head with a resolute attitude. But he then heard Solomon burst into a violent cough, so he eased his words a bit. "At least not at the moment..."

"May I ask why?"

Lin Yun thought for a bit before giving an answer that couldn't really be considered an answer. "I can't leave Thousand Sails City for the moment."

To be honest, Lin Yun wasn't against entering the Cloud Tower.

As one of the two major forces of mages in the kingdom, they had resources that would make anyone feel envious. Lin Yun believed that with the help of the Cloud Tower's resources, the time he needed to advance to the High Mage rank would be reduced to half a year.

Moreover, Lin Yun knew of the Cloud Tower's glory, lasting through the Plane Colonization Era and the Peak Magic Era. It lasted until Noscent's mana slowly became exhausted, and the Cloud Tower slowly fell alongside other forces. If he joined the Cloud Tower, he would be able to rely on this tall tree that stood for several dozen millennia.

Naturally, the most important part was still that True Spirit Magic Tool...

With the backing of Star Sage Jouyi, there probably wouldn't be too much resistance when trying to borrow that True Spirit Magic Tool

Unfortunately, he couldn't leave Thousand Sails City.

Firstly, because of the Bone Plane...

He had yet to get the Book of Death, so the control center of the Bone Plane was still resting in that area. Lin Yun still needed to gain the ability to enter and leave the Bone Plane anywhere and anytime. Leaving Thousand Sails City to join the Cloud Tower at this time was the same as giving up on the Bone Plane.

There was also Barov's tomb.

At first, Lin Yun was only interested in the Reincarnation Eyes, but after signing a master-slave contract with Shawn, Lin Yun had realized that the tomb was a huge treasure trove. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that if Lin Yun were able to take over the tomb, building another Cloud Tower wouldn't be an issue.

Such a huge fortune, how could Lin Yun bear to watch it remain sleeping the Poison Fog Canyon?

Unfortunately, he couldn't tell these reasons to Solomon.

“Great Mage Merlin, this is truly a hard opportunity to come by...” Solomon tried to persuade him once again, out of a selfish desire. He was still hoping that Lin Yun would enter the Cloud Tower under his recommendation.

After all, the resources of the Cloud Tower simply couldn’t compare to what was available in Thousand Sails City. If this young Great Mage could enter that place, there would be no issue with him becoming a High Mage before the age of thirty, and he might even become an Archmage in his fifties.

This was truly a rare opportunity...

Many mages would strive for all their lives and might not be able to come across such a chance. And Solomon truly didn’t want to see such a talented young Great Mage miss such a rare opportunity because of a personal matter.

Unfortunately, Lin Yun still shook his head as an answer.

“Haaa...” Solomon sighed in disappointment.

“High Mage Solomon, don’t try to persuade me. I really have some special reasons, I cannot leave Thousand Sails City. How about this, I have some understanding of the Fanrusen Formula. If Esteemed Star Sage Jouyi is interested, I can write some of my crude ideas and you can deliver them to him.”

“How about, you wait and I’ll ask my teacher right now...” Solomon smiled bitterly and left the reception room.

After a short time, Solomon appeared in a secret room at the top of the Sage Tower.

The room was very narrow, and besides a few books and scrolls, there was only a huge crystal ball. Solomon was now standing in front of that huge crystal ball as he chanted a few lines with a deep voice...

Then, an older, gray-haired mage appeared in the crystal ball.

“Teacher...” Solomon’s voice was full of reverence.

If anyone saw this, they would immediately think that this sounded exactly like Solon when he stood in front of Solomon.

“Solomon, what kind of expression is this? Don’t tell me that the negotiations with that young Great Mage broke down?” The old mage was still busying himself with his work while asking impatiently.

From this, it could be seen that disciple-blaming was something that had been inherited.

“N... No. But Teacher, this Great Mage Merlin might not be able to come to the Cloud Tower...” At these words, Solomon noticed the old mage’s expression becoming quite unpleasant, so he hurriedly explained, “No no no, Teacher, don’t misunderstand. I meant that this Great Mage Merlin is very willing to participate in the research of the Fanrusen Formula, but due to some special circumstances, he cannot go to the Cloud Tower.”

“Then why do you have that expression, are you trying to scare your teacher?”

“Definitely not!” Solomon hurriedly denied. “I only feel that this is quite unfortunate, Teacher. I explained to you before, this Mafa Merlin is a rare talent. He was only a Magic Apprentice half a year ago, but he is a Great Mage now. If this kind of talent could join the Cloud Tower and receive Teacher’s pointers, his future would be extremely bright and becoming an Archmage wouldn’t be out of the question...”

“Solomon let me tell you something good for you...” After hearing Solomon’s thoughts, Jouyi actually shook his head. “You think that with his attainment in magic knowledge he would still need my pointers?”

“But...”

“Do you want to say that this had been due to someone telling him the information?”

“Ye... Yes.”

“Then that’s the end of the matter, isn’t it? If someone already taught him that kind of knowledge, wouldn’t I be looking for trouble if I were to give him pointers?”

“...”

“Alright, it’s fine if he cannot come to the Cloud Tower as long as he is willing to participate in the research. Give him this crystal ball so that he can contact the Cloud Tower anytime.”

“Okay...”

Solomon wiped cold sweat off his forehead before returning to the reception room. The conversation afterwards was a lot smoother. Lin Yun didn’t have to ponder about it and easily agreed to participate in the research through a crystal ball.

In fact, when Lin Yun was leaving, he was called again by Solomon.

“Oh right, Merlin, for some reason, the Ash Tower has been making huge moves. They already attacked several forces of Thousand Sails City. You have been moving around quite a bit recently, so be a bit careful. After all, you made them lose reputation at the last Black Horn Auction.”

“Alright, thanks for the warning, High Mage Solomon.”

Lin Yun nodded and left the Sage Tower.

On the way, he thought a bit more about Solomon’s parting words. Why would the Ash Tower make such big moves? Lin Yun had some guesses... It was most likely had something to do with that youth named Colin that he had saved in the Poison Fog Canyon. He had yet to see Colin again since he came back.

It seemed that after returning, he would have to go talk to Colin.

Such a young 9th Rank Swordsman was rare, and if properly nurtured, the Gilded Rose’s mercenary group might have a Sword Saint in the future. He shouldn’t allow this kind of talent to be snatched away by the Ash Tower.

But in the end, after returning to the Gilded Rose, Lin Yun didn't have the time to look for Colin before the people of the Sage Tower arrived.

One Great Mage and two Alchemists came to the Gilded Rose to install the huge crystal ball at Solomon's orders.

Soon, the three of them installed the huge crystal ball in Lin Yun's alchemy laboratory without issue. After sending them away, Lin Yun softly chanted the incantation that Solomon had told him.

Then, a gray-haired old man appeared on the crystal ball.

"Hi, Merlin, I'm Cloud Tower's Jouyi. You can just call me Jouyi."

"Haha, Sir Jouyi is jesting..."

Someone else might have thought that this was a straightforward and candid old man.

But Lin Yun had read many rumors about that Star Sage Jouyi in the decaying library. Solomon being so unreasonable was entirely due to that old man's teachings.

If Lin Yun truly thought that this was a sincere, old man and simply called him Jouyi, he would be causing troubles for himself.

"Haha, Solomon wasn't wrong, you are quite polite, Merlin."

"Haha..." Lin Yun let out a dry chuckle.

"Good, Merlin, I'm very pleased that you can participate in the Fanrusen Formula research. There are now seven people participating in this research, you included. But there are only five here today. I'll introduce the other four..."

Jouyi waved his hand and the crystal ball at his side suddenly floated up, and as he made his introductions, it showed the other four people.

### **Chapter 133: Mistake**

Star Sage Jouyi introduced each of them one by one.

Lin Yun listened attentively and he could feel himself paling. Indeed, Lin Yun did think that the research Star Sage Jouyi was heading definitely wasn't simple.

But he truly hadn't thought that it would be to this degree.

Quite shockingly, among the five people he could see, there were three Archmages. The remaining two were 9th Rank High Mages, and one of them was even a Master Alchemist!

This was too frightening.

How many Archmages were there in Andlusa? To have three of them gathered here... If this news spread out, who knew how many people would be scared?



Lin Yun resisted the shock that he felt and greeted the other four powerhouses. But they were busy exchanging knowledge, and Lin Yun's qualifications were too shallow, so their attitudes were far from enthusiastic. Nodding to Lin Yun out of respect for Jouyi was considered pretty good already.

"Okay, Merlin, you just joined today and I didn't arrange too much work for you. I heard Solomon say that you are gifted in performing data calculations. How about this, Hogg over there has a few calculations that he has yet to finish. You should work with him for some time." After introducing everyone, Star Sage Jouyi put the crystal ball in front of a 9th Rank High Mage.

This 9th Rank High Mage was the youngest of the five people. He looked to be still in his forties and was now debating with the Master Alchemist. But those High Mages didn't seem to be paying attention to Lin Yun's conversation with Jouyi. It might have been because they were too focused on their work or perhaps because they were arguing too intensely. His hair was dishevelled and his eyes a bit red. When he noticed Jouyi motioning for his attention, he temporarily stopped arguing with the Master Alchemist and stood up.

"Sir Jouyi."

"Hogg, how is the progress on those magic matrices?"

"Give me ten days and I'll definitely complete it."

"Hmm, good..." Jouyi nodded, satisfied with the response. He pointed at Lin Yun within the crystal ball and explained, "Hogg, Merlin joined today and has yet to take on any work. I was thinking of having him work with you, how about it?"

"I am willing to help you, Sir Jouyi."

"Good, I'll trouble you." Jouyi gave a few words of encouragement and then turned over control of the crystal ball to Hogg.

After the meeting, Hogg waved his hand, making the crystal ball float and follow behind this 9th Rank High Mage. He quickly arrived at an independent study room.

Through a glance from the crystal ball, Lin Yun quickly noticed that this was a specialized room for research that involved matrix calculations. There were all kinds of tools used for magic calculations inside this room, complicated magic diagrams were hung on the walls, and a small mountain of discarded pieces of paper was stacked in a corner. Lin Yun could tell that this 9th Rank High Mage had already spent a lot of energy studying the Fanrusen Formula.

After Hogg returned to his study room, he first sorted out the recently completed pieces of data and translated them into Nesser before activating an alchemy array. After inputting the translated data, he made the alchemy array do some computations for him. This was one of the common ways of calculating used by Noscent's mages.

Although mages had wisdom far beyond that of ordinary people, they would use alchemy arrays of magic tools to deal with these dull and repetitive tasks.

After about ten minutes, the alchemy array finished its calculations and displayed the results on a huge crystal screen. Hogg took out a quill and a piece of paper and copied down those results before starting a new round of calculations.

It felt as if he had forgotten Lin Yun as he did his work.

An hour later, Hogg felt thirsty and got up to pour himself a glass of water. As he drank, he walked up to the crystal ball.

“Mafa Merlin, right?” Hogg nodded at the crystal ball as he explained, “As you have seen, this is the task awaiting you. Not only do you need to be exceptionally knowledgeable, but you also need endless patience. If you feel that you aren’t suited for it, you can tell me now and I’ll help you tell Sir Jouyi so you can smoothly withdraw from this research.”

“There shouldn’t be any problem...” Though Lin Yun said this, he wasn’t a hundred percent certain. To be honest, if that task required a great amount of time and energy, Lin Yun would truly feel that it wasn’t suitable for him.

After all, there were too many matters waiting for him to handle.

Apart from the countless runes he had to digest, he still had to explore the Bone Plane, excavate the prince tomb, and rebuild the Mercury Mercenary Group. All of these matters needed a lot of time and energy. Lin Yun didn’t have a cloning spell, so how could he take a long amount of time to participate in some research?

But fortunately, it was only the Fanrusen Formula.

This wasn’t a big problem for Lin Yun, since he could actually complete it by himself. It would only be a matter of two or three days, which couldn’t be considered wasting time.

“Okay.” But these words made the 9th Rank High Mage frown when he heard them. He let out a stiff word of acknowledgement, but in his heart, his assessment of this young Great Mage had instantly lowered.

Magic itself was incomparably contradictory, dull, and mysterious. Over decades, Hogg had seen who knew how many young geniuses who walked this path because of the mysterious part of magic, but in the end, over ninety percent gave up because of how dull it was to research it.

A mage had to be able to endure loneliness.

‘This Mafa Merlin showed a hesitant expression just by seeing me do my dull work. This is a typical example of someone that is unable to endure loneliness. With this kind of nature, he is bound to be a failure in the future.’

“Now, help me sort out these pieces of data.” Thus, Hogg didn’t plan to say anything else and only took a stack of papers. “Oh, and on the last piece of paper, there are a few formulas and some data I left for you, give them to me after you calculate them.”

“Okay.” Lin Yun nodded and then softly chanted the incantation that Solomon had given him, causing the crystal ball to flicker. The stack of paper quickly flipped over and in a short time, the contents of the

stack of paper had been received by the crystal ball. Lin Yun activated an alchemy array on the side, and along with the flickering of the mana circuit, a stack of paper was spit out from the alchemy array.

This was a unique technology from the Cloud Tower. At this moment, only High Mages and Archmages were qualified to use it. Lin Yun could use now it because of Star Sage Jouyi.

“Send it to me once you complete it.” After Hogg said this, he directly shut off the crystal ball’s transmission and threw himself back into his work.

To Hogg, the young Great Mage in the crystal ball was just an insignificant nobody, even though Jouyi had referred to him as a genius.

A 9th Rank High Mage like Hogg was already an existence that was just a step away from the Archmage realm. He had seen many geniuses during his time, but how many eventually still stood out? In the magic world, geniuses that didn’t mature were nothing.

Saying a few sentences to him at the start was already making an exception for him.

And furthermore...

He still had to wait for the genius to grow up so they could chat as equals.

To Hogg, calculating all those spell matrices was the most important task at hand. Because Hogg knew that being able to participate in the Fanrusen Formula’s research was the best opportunity in his life. It was a chance to change his fate, because he would be valued by Star Sage Jouyi as long as he was outstanding enough. At that time, with the resources supplied by the Cloud Tower, becoming an Archmage wouldn’t be impossible.

Moreover, the Fanrusen research made great progress after Star Sage Jouyi obtained those four crucial pieces of data. In one or two years, the results of the Cloud Tower’s research would shock the entire world. His name was bound to be written in history, and he would be looked up to by generations to come.

In a daze, Hogg seemed to be looking at a path filled with flowers as he threw himself amidst countless formulas and pieces of data.

At the same time, Lin Yun took the thick stack of paper in his hands.

‘Looks like this High Mage Hogg is truly in need of an assistant...’ Lin Yun only needed a glance to understand that these papers were filled with completed calculations. All he had to do was sort them out. There was no problem, it was only dull work.

Having thought this far, he looked at the last piece of paper.

Listed on the paper were eight pieces of data and a Quad-Formula. It was one of the spell matrices needed for the Fanrusen Formula.

But Lin Yun frowned after a simple glance.

He could tell that if this information was computed in its current state, he would never obtain the correct result during his lifetime.

‘Isn’t that High Mage Hogg too careless?’ Lin Yun didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. There were two mistakes within one of the eight pieces of data, and one of the formulas of the Quad-Formula had to be changed. It was hard to imagine that this kind of mistake would be made by a 9th Rank High Mage.

Lin Yun thought for a bit and decided to help himself. He first modified one of the pieces of data and then changed the offending formula. Once he was done, Lin Yun began calculating. After a few minutes, he wrote the final result on the piece of paper.

### **Chapter 134: Who Do You Think You Are?**

For Lin Yun, this didn’t require much brainpower.

Not to mention a minor spell matrix, even if the entire Fanrusen Formula was in front of him, Lin Yun would still be relaxed.

After writing down the final result, Lin Yun took a look at the stack of paper and began sorting them. This was the more troublesome part for Lin Yun. After spending a full night, Lin Yun finished this dull task.

After doing all of this, Lin Yun slept for a bit until it was the afternoon and then chanted the incantation once again to request a transmission with Hogg.

“What is it?” Hogg suddenly appeared in the crystal ball. His expression was off and his tone was somewhat stiff.

Hogg’s eyes were red, and his chaotic hair was worse than it had been the day before. With one look, it could be seen that he had stayed up through the night. He had been completely focused on his calculations, but Lin Yun interrupted him. So how could he be in a good mood?

“Well, High Mage Hogg, I finished the work you gave me.”

“What? Finished?” Hogg frowned, a gloomy expression on his face. “Show me.”

“Okay.” Lin Yun transferred the thick stack of paper through the crystal ball.

“Wait a bit...” After picking up the pile, Hogg quickly flipped the pages. He quickly went through the sorting and collecting task, and saw that it was indeed completed overnight. But the last page with the calculation of the Quad-Formula and eight pieces of data would have taken him at least ten days if he had done it himself, so how could this Mafa Merlin have been so fast?

The first thing Hogg thought about was that this fellow had skimped on that part!

Sure enough, Hogg’s expression changed when he saw the piece of paper.

“Fuck, who made you change the data? Who made you change the Formula?” Hogg’s pale face suddenly turned red due to anger. The crystal ball shook under his roar.

“What is it?”

“Take a look at what you have done! These pieces of data, these formulas, who allowed you to alter them?!” Hogg was already speaking incoherently because of his great rage. “Who do you think you are!? You are just a Great Mage, a fucking Great Mage! What kind of knowledge do you have? You are a child playing in the mud, what do you think you can do?”

“Hey, High Mage Hogg, aren’t you being a bit too excessive...” Lin Yun’s face darkened.

“Excessive? Ha, ha, ha, this is such a funny joke...” Hogg coldly laughed with a mocking expression. “The task I gave you was to complete the calculations of the spell matrix, it wasn’t to have you change my formula. If you can’t even do something like that, I advise you to hurry and get the fuck out of this research. Don’t think that we are here to play with you!”

“Haha...” Lin Yun coldly chuckled and then shut down the crystal ball’s transmission. ‘Fuck, I have many things I need to take care of. Just dealing the Bone Plane’s Nether Iron Vein is enough to hire ten 9th Rank High Mages to help me calculate these broken formulas, how could I have so much time to waste on you?’

“Yo-yo-you... You dare...” On the other side of the crystal ball, Hogg almost had a heart attack from being so angry. Looking at the crystal ball that had just had its transmission cut, his mouth couldn’t close.

‘Too brazen, too arrogant... Some immature 20-year-old Great Mage dares to confront a 9th Rank High Mage like me? He dares to laugh at me? Does he not know what manners are? What respect is? ...No, I have to tell Sir Jouyi!’

Hogg grabbed that sheet of paper and went to the research room of Star Sage Jouyi, even forgetting to knock on the door.

“Sir Jouyi!” Hogg walked over in pure anger, and he heavily slammed the sheet of paper on the table. “That Mafa Merlin you handed to me, I can’t bear him, find someone else.”

“What happened?” Jouyi raised his head from a pile of data and glanced at Hogg with a doubtful expression.

“I gave him a Quad-Formula and eight pieces of data to compute a spell matrix. In fact, considering his age and the fact that he was only a Great Master, I gave him the simplest spell matrix, along with a very lax deadline, giving him ten days. But look at the outcome...”

After saying that, Hogg handed the stack of paper to Jouyi.

“Take a look at this, that brazen oaf not only changed one of the pieces of data I gave him, but he also replaced one of the formulas. And when I couldn’t stand it and gave him a piece of my mind, he, he... he directly shut down the transmission. This is too arrogant! Sir Jouyi, I definitely can’t take care of this Mafa Merlin! You should find someone else!”

“Don’t be that angry, let me take a look first...” Jouyi looked at the last sheet of paper.

But after looking, the smile on Jouyi’s face vanished. It was replaced by a grave and solemn expression. He then picked up a piece of paper and a quill pen despite Hogg’s doubts and began calculating carefully.

Jouyi went at this for half an hour.

After half an hour, Jouyi raised his head and sighed. He looked at Hogg with strictness and disappointment.

“What is it, Sir Jouyi?” Hogg’s heart suddenly tightened.

As a member of the Cloud Tower, how could Hogg not know that the old man before him usually looked very kind, always carrying a faint smile on his face? But once he was involved in magic studies, he would become temperamental and extremely unreasonable.

“Check it yourself,” Jouyi coldly snorted as he threw the piece of paper on the table.

“O-okay.” Hearing this cold snort, Hogg immediately lost his confidence. He carefully took the paper and checked it, character by character.

Afterwards, Hogg felt cold sweat on his forehead...

The more he read, the more his face paled and the more scared he became.

Because Hogg clearly found out that Jouyi also changed one of the pieces of data on the calculations and also replaced a formula, yet the final result fit perfectly in the Fanrusen Formula.

What did this mean...

This meant that Mafa Merlin hadn’t switched them for some random reasons, it was because Hogg himself had made mistakes.

If it had only been a careless mistake, then Hogg still wouldn’t think much about it. But it couldn’t be explained as a careless mistake anymore. The spell matrix had already been computed and all that was left was fitting its results in with the Fanrusen Formula. Who was right and who was wrong was obvious at a glance.

But he hadn’t even verified it before sending a harsh scolding through the crystal ball. Moreover, after scolding that Mafa Merlin, he even stormed off to Sir Jouyi.

That was truly stabbing the hornet’s nest.

At this time, Hogg truly wished that he could just bury his head in the piece of paper. At least that way he wouldn’t have to face the wrath of Sir Jouyi.

Unfortunately, this could only happen in Hogg’s imagination.

Because Hogg heard Jouyi’s sharp words immediately afterwards.

“Look at what you have done. He helped you change the data, he helped you replace the formula, and not only did you not feel grateful, you actually scolded him. Who do you think you are? You think you’ll never make a mistake? Do you think that a Great Mage doesn’t have the qualifications to point out your mistakes?”

“No no no, Sir Jouyi, I didn’t mean that...”

“Then what did you mean?”

“1...”

“Good, Hogg, do you think I don’t know what you are thinking? Aren’t you thinking that a Great Mage doesn’t have the qualifications to participate in the Fanrusen Formula’s research? Aren’t you feeling that doing this research with a Great Mage would lower your status as a 9th Rank High Mage?”

“Sir Jouyi, let me explain...”

“Explain? Haha, Hogg, didn’t you always want to know who supplied these four crucial pieces of data? I can tell you now that the one who supplied those four pieces of data was that Great Mage that didn’t have the qualifications to point out your mistakes!”

“...” Hearing this, Hogg couldn’t catch a breath, his mind completely blanking out.

There were a total of seven people participating in the Fanrusen Formula’s research, but among them, besides Sir Jouyi, no one knew who provided those four pieces of data. They could only gossip in private, admiring that mysterious mage, feeling that he definitely was an old erudite. They even guessed that he was a powerhouse that had surpassed the Archmage realm.

But now, Hogg actually heard Jouyi’s confirmation. The one who supplied those four pieces of data wasn’t some incredible elder, he also didn’t exceed the Archmage realm.

It was a Great Mage that had yet to reach his twenties!

Moreover, Hogg just cursed at him, calling him a “Fucking Great Mage”...

Hogg only felt cold sweat trickling down his back.

“Now, go apologize to Merlin!”

“Yes yes yes...” Hogg left Jouyi’s research room in a panic.

After returning to his own research room, Hogg immediately requested a transmission to Lin Yun’s side.

But there was no answer.

Because Lin Yun had already left the Gilded Rose. There was not one soul in sight in the alchemy laboratory, so naturally, no one could answer Hogg.

### **Chapter 135: How Could It Be So Fast?**

“No!” Hogg cried out. ‘How could that Mafa Merlin get so angry from a few sentences? It’s normal to have fierce debates when discussing research. If you are unhappy, you can just curse back! Instead of coldly stewing in your dissatisfaction, how about you answer back? Damn, this is so troublesome.’

Hogg thought about Jouyi’s anger and couldn’t help wiping the cold sweat dripping from his forehead. This person had been able to supply four key pieces of data that had resulted in an unprecedented breakthrough! His importance to the Fanrusen Formula’s research was even greater than that of Jouyi himself.

If Merlin was offended because of Hogg’s arrogance...

The consequences would be far more terrible than Hogg could imagine...

That would definitely be a major issue!

Hogg felt the sweat trickling down his back. He didn't care about losing his reputation and directly requested a transmission with the Sage Tower in Thousand Sails City. At this moment, he could only think of contacting Solomon...

The transmission went through, but when Solomon heard Hogg's reasons for contacting him, he immediately got angry. "Hogg, is there something wrong with your brain? I spent so much effort, so much time, just to convince Merlin to participate in the Fanrusen Formula's research, and now you tell me that you drove him away just because of a few alterations to your work? Who do you think you are? What qualifications do you have to look down upon Merlin? I'll let you know, Hogg, ten of you can't keep up with Merlin!"

"I... I didn't do it on purpose!" Hogg looked very unpleasant after being scolded, but he couldn't say anything back.

The two of them were both 9th Rank High Mages from the Cloud Tower, so in theory, they should have similar status, but when Solomon first became Jouyi's disciple, Hogg was still nothing more than a Magic Apprentice. The difference in status because of this relationship was too great. Hogg didn't dare to retort when facing Solomon's anger.

"Look at the mess you created, and you still have the cheek to come ask me to clean up your mess? Why don't you go to my teacher and see if he is going to kick you from the Cloud Tower?"

"It's a misunderstanding High Mage Solomon, this is truly a misunderstanding..."

"Misunderstanding? What misunderstanding? Didn't you say that Merlin, as a mere Great Mage, shouldn't research the Fanrusen Formula with a 9th Rank High Mage like you? You still have the nerve to talk about it being a misunderstanding? If it really was a misunderstanding, would you have given him a task for a Magic Apprentice, like sorting papers? Nice try, Hogg, don't play the pitiful card in front of me. Didn't you come to me to ask for help with persuading him to come back? I'll tell you now, I can't afford to lose that person!"

After saying this, Solomon directly shut off the transmission.

"This..." Hogg didn't know what to feel when the crystal ball shut down. 'What should I do now, even Solomon doesn't want to help. Do I have to watch helplessly as that Mafa Merlin withdraws from the research project? This isn't funny.'

Hogg was on the verge of panic. If that actually happened, then Sir Jouyi really would act as Solomon had said and kick him from the Cloud Tower...

Hogg had been in the Cloud Tower for so long, how could he not know how much effort Star Sage Jouyi spent on the Fanrusen Formula in the past decades? It could be said that Jouyi spent all his time on it, and for that reason, he didn't even hesitate to halt his own magic training, or else Jouyi might have already surpassed the Archmage realm.

'If I become the one who destroyed everything...'



Hogg felt that taking the initiative to jump down from the top floor of the Cloud Tower would be more straightforward.

‘No, I have to think of another way! I absolutely can’t let that Mafa Merlin withdraw from the research, or I’ll be the one to bear the consequences. Right, I have to go to Thousand Sails City, I have to go now!’

Thinking of the serious consequences, Hogg didn’t dare to hesitate and quickly packed up his clothes and even prepared two precious magic materials to ask for forgiveness.

But, just as Hogg pushed open the door to the research lab in order to go to Thousand Sails City, a transmission request came.

“Fuck...” Hogg suddenly became angry. ‘This isn’t the time! Damn, I got scolded by Sir Jouyi, and then by Solomon, who dares to delay me now that I want to go to Thousand Sails City to apologize? I’ve already been kicked down, don’t you make it worse!’

Hogg accepted the transmission and loudly declared, “I don’t care who you are, if you have something to say, hurry up. I have to hurry to Thousand Sails City!”

“Thousand Sails City?” On the other side of the crystal ball, Lin Yun was rather stunned. ‘Is that High Mage holding that much of a grudge? A small argument during the research and he wants to come over for revenge? He wouldn’t go that far, right...?’

“I’m going to Thousand Sails City...” Hogg didn’t finish his words before his fierce eyes became wide open in surprise. “Eh! Mafa Merlin... No no no, Great Mage Merlin, weren’t you... weren’t you...?”

“Ah? I was away.” Lin Yun looked suspiciously at Hogg as he wondered, ‘Did that High Mage think that I would withdraw from the research team because of that argument?’

Thinking about that possibility, Lin Yun didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

‘Isn’t this High Mage Hogg a bit too foolish? Having arguments during magic research is quite normal, how could I withdraw just from getting angry? I’m not a 3-year-old child that won’t play with you if you don’t agree with me...’

The reason Lin Yun left his alchemy lab was to run a few errands while giving this 9th Rank High Mage some time. After all, this data modification and formula replacement would cause a huge change to the spell matrix calculation. Lin Yun felt that this 9th Rank High Mage would most likely need some time to digest it.

Moreover, after he shut down the transmission, William came over and informed him that the alchemy workshop had finished the framework of the six mining puppets, so he came to ask if Lin Yun had any special requirements or additions.

Thus, Lin Yun remembered that the mining puppets that he had custom made should also need some fighting abilities. This would be a backup in case the Battlemage puppet from the Black Tower wasn’t enough to protect them from the countless Skeleton Warriors.

Lin Yun went to the alchemy workshop, made a design and had the workshop’s workers follow it.

But when he returned, it actually turned out this way.

“Right, High Mage Hogg, I was away for a bit. I hope I didn’t delay your work?”

If it had been before, Hogg would have flown into a rage when told that Lin Yun left without warning. But after what had happened, would Hogg still be troublesome? He immediately answered while waving his hands, “No, no, Great Mage Merlin, if there is something you need to take care of, you can take care of it anytime. You definitely didn’t delay my work...”

“Eh...” Lin Yun nodded, reassured.

“That...” After seeing Lin Yun’s attitude, Hogg secretly relaxed. But after thinking for a bit, he still felt worried. After hesitating, he lowered his head and said, “Well, Great Mage Merlin, my reaction earlier... My reaction was a problem. I have to apologize to you. I hope you won’t take it to heart.”

“It’s normal to argue and debate about magic research.” Lin Yun chuckled. Although he was a bit doubtful as to why this Hogg’s attitude had changed so much, regardless of the reason, it was a good thing. After all, no one wanted to work with an overbearing companion all the time. “Oh right, High Mage Hogg, besides that, do you need help with other tasks?”

“This...” Hogg hesitated when he heard this.

Hogg started to think of all kinds of ways to mend this relationship. He felt that it wasn’t suitable to give Merlin too much work, but he had second thoughts after thinking about it. This Great Mage Merlin was different from himself... Perhaps what was heavy work to himself would only be trivial matters to Merlin?

Thus, Hogg nodded.

“There is some, Great Mage Merlin. I have a total of 18 spell matrices that need to be computed. How about I give you two?”

“Okay.”

Hogg quickly handed over the two spell matrices.

Lin Yun took a glance at them and quickly did the calculations. Computing the spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula was no trouble for Lin Yun, and only a dozen minutes later, he sent back the results.

“Eh? So fast...” Hogg froze. ‘It shouldn’t be this quick?’

After all, Hogg would need at least a day to calculate these two spell matrices, how could it be done in a dozen minutes?

Feeling doubtful, Hogg spent some time inspecting it, and as a result, he almost had a heart attack.

Because Hogg could clearly see that not only had the completed spell matrices been computed, but completely new matrices were established. In fact, expounding on how a mistake could appear was already not within the scope of Hogg’s job. To be more precise, in a dozen minutes, this Great Mage Merlin had already completed the work of Star Sage Jouyi.

‘Is this even human?’ Hogg gazed sluggishly at the work. It took no less than ten minutes for Hogg to recover from the shock.

Then, that 9th Rank High Mage transmitted two more spell matrices to check if it was a fluke.

### **Chapter 136: Cloud Tower's Cheers**

And after another dozen minutes...

Another machine-like, accurate calculation and completely new spell matrices. Hogg was already feeling a little numb. When this second set of two spell matrices was transmitted back, Hogg was already blanking out. Grabbing the pieces of paper, he activated the alchemy array, acting stiff like a puppet.

When the 8th completed spell matrix was sent back to him, Hogg suddenly found out that he wasn't alone in the research room!

"Don't look confused!" Star Sage Jouyi hissed, hiding in a part of the room that was in a blind spot of the crystal ball. When Hogg looked over, Jouyi immediately gave him a threatening glare.

"Eh, eh..." Hogg, whose brain had shorted out, managed to recover when he noticed the Star Sage.

"Send this spell matrix next..." Star Sage Jouyi secretly slipped a piece of paper over.

"Okay." Hogg nodded. He glanced at the piece of paper and suddenly felt startled. He glanced back at Star Sage Jouyi with disbelief. "Th-thi-... This..."

"Stop being long-winded. Just transmit what I gave you!"

"Okay..." Hogg helplessly nodded and looked at the crystal ball with some sympathy.

'Great Mage Merlin... This is Star Sage Jouyi's idea, it has nothing to do with me... I hope you can solve this spell matrix within the year.'

The entire Fanrusen Formula was comprised of over 300 spell matrices. After over a decade of efforts, the researchers had already solved about a hundred of them. After they solved the more than two hundred spell matrices still remaining, the entire Fanrusen Formula would be completed.

The spell matrices that Star Sage Jouyi was in charge of numbered a bit more than twenty, but the difficulty could only be considered as horrible. Even the other two Archmages were ashen-faced when they saw Star Sage Jouyi's task. They had shaken their heads and declined to take part.

So there was no need to mention Hogg.

Each of the spell matrices in Jouyi's hands could be described as otherworldly to Hogg. It would take him who knew how much time and energy to understand just one of them.

Now, the spell matrix that Jouyi took out was one of those.

Hogg felt that Merlin might have to spend a few months on it.

Lin Yun soon completed the two spell matrices in his hands. When he sent them back, Hogg sent him the spell matrix from Star Sage Jouyi.

Thus, Hogg finally saw the young Great Mage in the crystal ball frown.

'Sure enough...'

Hogg sighed in relief. He then raised his hand to wipe the cold sweat off his forehead.

This young Great Mage's performance had been too shocking and frightening. A month of Hogg's work had been completed in only one hour in the hands of this Merlin. It came to the point that Hogg even thought that this had all been an illusion. How could someone be so abnormal?

'Thank god, thank god, no matter how abnormal this young Great Mage is, he is still human.'

If he still had been unfazed when facing such a spell matrix, Hogg would truly have been left wondering if he would ever wake up from this strange dream.

In this split second, an unexpected thought appeared in Hogg's mind.

"My apologies, High Mage Hogg, I might need more time." When Lin Yun saw that spell matrix, he knew that it wouldn't be as simple. This inevitably was one of the core spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula.

"It's fine, it's fine..." Hogg smiled and asked with a tone of concern, "Would you like the Sage Tower to help you prepare a research room? It seems that you don't have a comprehensive set of Magic Tools on your side."

"Magic Tools?" After hearing this, Lin Yun shook his head. He spread the piece of paper flat on the refining table and began calculating meticulously.

"Sir Jouyi, isn't this spell matrix a bit too complicated?" Hogg pretended to look for something on the blind side of the crystal ball as he asked with an anxious voice.

"Just watch and we'll find out."

"Oh right, Sir Jouyi, these are the eight spell matrices that Great Mage Merlin had completed. I shall report it to you first, this is..." Hogg noticed that Jouyi's mood was quite good, so he promptly gave him the eight spell matrices Lin Yun had finished earlier, hoping he could use this chance to redeem his bad impression in Jouyi's mind.

But he was cruelly interrupted by the latter. "Fuck, shut up!"

"Ah?" Hogg was startled, wondering what mistake he had made this time to provoke this temperamental Archmage.

"Quiet, that kid already sent you the results!"

'Crap!'

Hogg almost started tearing up. He frantically escaped to the crystal ball and saw that Lin Yun had already activated the transmission array and sent over the spell matrix.

"Great... Great Mage Merlin, you... Don't you need to rest?" Hogg wanted to force a smile out while holding the paper. But with the corner of his mouth twitching, the smile turned quite uncanny.

Hogg was no longer worried whether Merlin was tired. Rather, he was worried whether his heart could take it if things continued like this...

Lin Yun massaged his temples. He had done the calculations for so many matrices in a row, one of them being one of the core spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula. It would definitely be a lie to say that he wasn't tired, but Lin Yun didn't want to take time to rest at this moment because with his next trip to the Bone Plane probably coming up in a few days, he felt that he might as well take advantage of this time to work on the Fanrusen Formula's research.

Thus, Lin Yun shook his head and replied, "No need."

"Ha... Ha... Haha, Great Mage Merlin, you are truly..." Hogg laughed stiffly. He wanted to give a few flattering compliments, but he found that he didn't know what to say.

And seeing this, Jouyi, still hiding to the side, immediately unhappily grumbled, "Give him this!"

"Eh, eh.." Hogg took the piece of paper and glanced at it. It was another core spell matrix of the Fanrusen Formula.

Hogg was already numb at this point, so he only rolled his eyes and transferred that piece of paper.

Sure enough, after half an hour...

The 2nd piece of paper, the 3rd, the 4th, the 5th...

One by one, the papers were sent from the Gilded Rose to the Cloud Tower through the crystal ball. Meanwhile, more and more people entered Hogg's room. At first, it was only that Master Alchemist from the Mercury Tower, but then the two Archmages joined in, and when evening came, even the two who had missed the meeting came to Hogg's study room.

No no no, not just them...

At this time, the news spread throughout the entire Cloud Tower. Everyone knew that a young Great Mage was in the middle of computing the Fanrusen Formula's core spell matrices. Furthermore, he had already completed close to ten of them in a few hours. This news was like a bomb cast amidst the crowd, making the entire Cloud Tower explode in a frenzy.

Several dozen High Mages came to Hogg's room just to take a look at how abnormal this young Great Mage was. Even more Great Mages were crowding at the doorway. Their gazes couldn't reach the crystal ball, so they could only listen to the High Mages' comments.

The originally spacious research room was suddenly crowded with people. Star Sage Jouyi even cast an 8th Tier Spell to put up an illusion that could deceive the crystal ball.

Time slowly ticked by. It was already late in the night, but no one ran off. No one could take their eyes off the crystal ball, afraid of missing something marvelous.

10th, 11th, 12th...

When Lin Yun sent back the last piece of paper, the sun had already started to show on the horizon. At the same time, the entire Cloud Tower burst into deafening cheers. All the mages spread the news and all the High Mages in the room were clapping their hands to celebrate. The wall Star Sage Jouyi hit in his research of the Fanrusen Formula had been cracked by Lin Yun today!

“What’s going on?” When he heard the cheers, doubt appeared on Lin Yun’s face.

“Haha...” Hogg stood in front of the crystal ball, and besides chuckling, he didn’t know what to say.

“Move aside...” Star Sage Jouyi walked over, shoving Hogg aside. He smiled as he stood in front of the crystal ball. As everyone watched in shock, he bowed deeply to Lin Yun. “Thank you, Merlin.”

“This...” Lin Yun was shocked. This was Star Sage Jouyi, the master of the Cloud Tower. One of the most powerful Archmages of the kingdom, “Sir Jouyi, you, you... How can I accept this.”

“No, no, let me speak...” Jouyi smiled as he shook his head. “That bow was to thank you on behalf of Noscent’s countless mages. To thank you for everything you did today, helping to let them encounter fewer detours as they travel down their paths to learn magic. The next bow is to express my thanks for fulfilling a wish I had for the last few decades...”

After saying that, Star Sage Jouyi bowed once again.

### **Chapter 137: Black Death Rune**

Lin Yun left the alchemy laboratory two hours later and took a nap in his bedroom.

Working on a dozen core spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula was too troublesome. Even with Lin Yun’s abilities, he had nearly given up several times during the night, just wanting to go to sleep. But the Cloud Tower’s kept transmitting the papers to him too quickly, and a new one would appear whenever he was finished with one, so Lin Yun clenched his teeth and persevered.

Naturally, this wasn’t without reward. At least, Star Sage Jouyi promised that Hogg would come to Thousand Sails City with one of the Cloud Tower’s True Spirit Magic Tools, the Black Death Rune.

Moreover, Lin Yun could use it for three months!

This was a huge favor! Among the Cloud Tower’s True Spirit Magic Tools, the Black Death Rune had always been in the hands of their strongest mage and had never been lent out. If not for Lin Yun computing those dozen spell matrices, creating such a huge sensation, he might not have been able to get the Black Death Rune from Star Sage Jouyi.

Lin Yun wanted to borrow this True Spirit Magic Tool because it could absorb Soul Fires from undead lifeforms and turn them into mana used to strengthen the Magic Tool Incarnation. It was rumored that if the Black Death Rune’s Incarnation reached its limit, its power might even surpass the Archmage realm. If the Black Death Rune evolved like that, it would truly become an Extraordinary Magic Tool.

In fact, the Cloud Tower never gave up on those efforts. In the middle of the Plane Colonization Era, the Cloud Tower even tried to conquer the Undead Plane a few times in order to assimilate the countless Soul Fires and make the Black Death Rune evolve, but unfortunately, their conquest failed. The Cloud Tower was greatly wounded. If not for the Black Tower being in a long and drawn-out war with the Gaugass Battlemares, the Cloud Tower might not have been the strongest force of the Peak Magic Era.

Naturally, the Black Death Rune Hogg was bringing over this time would definitely not be coming with its Magic Tool Incarnation included.

After all, a True Spirit Magic Tool like the Black Death Rune was already one of the foundations of the Cloud Tower. No matter how grateful Star Sage Jouyi was, he wouldn't play with the Cloud Tower's foundation. Lending the Black Death Rune was fine, but if the Magic Tool Incarnation was also in Lin Yun's hands, there would be some possibility that the Black Death Rune might change hands.

But this also was what Lin Yun had hoped for. He only wanted Black Death Rune.

He wanted the Black Death Rune's ability to transform Soul Fires into mana. Lin Yun was planning to use it to nurture that group of 5th Rank Mages. If the Magic Tool Incarnation followed, would he still be able to get that transformed mana?

Three months would be long enough to help that group of 5th Rank Mages reach the Great Mage realm.

Unfortunately, the transformed mana wasn't 100% pure. It could still be used to construct the Mana Whirlpool, but it was inadequate for forming a Magic Conducting Rune.

At this moment, the Undead Plane's Planar Path had yet to be found. The Bone Plane in Lin Yun's hands was already the greatest source of Soul Fires in Noscent. In this regard, even the Cloud Tower with their Black Death Rune wasn't as blessed as Lin Yun.

Naturally, the prerequisite was for Lin Yun to obtain the Book of Death so that his 5th Rank Mages could enter the Bone Plane anytime.

Lin Yun already had prepared everything, so he would start enacting his plan once these mining puppets were completed.

He had nothing to do for the next two or three days. He would go take a trip to the alchemy workshop every day to check on the progress of the mining puppets. The rest of the time, he holed himself up in his alchemy laboratory, restocking the potions that he had used in the prince's tomb. From time to time, he would also give Faleau some pointers.

On the morning of the 3rd day, Lin Yun went to the Gilded Rose early, because Hogg was supposed to arrive soon.

But Lin Yun waited for an hour without any sign of Hogg, and on the contrary, it was the Watson Family that visited him.

This time, the Watson Family came with a more formal delegation.

A few dozen attendants, six Great Mages, and two High Mages.

Although this lineup couldn't be considered the best in Thousand Sails City, it was definitely not far from the top. Moreover, this was just the negotiation team of the Watson Family.

The Watson Family truly came to negotiate this time. It could be seen from the way that one of the High Mages introducing himself according to the proper customs after entering the Gilded Rose.

"I am Allen Watson. I come from Okland." The High Mage looked to be in his fifties, which was considered relatively young among High Mages.

"Haha, welcome, welcome." Lin Yun responded to the introduction and led them to a reception room.

Both sides quickly sat down. Lin Yun's entourage consisted of Faleau and William, while the Watson Family's High Mage was accompanied by those six Great Mages and another High Mage.

After they sat down and did their short self-introductions, that High Mage straightforwardly went to the core of the matter. "Great Mage Merlin, we came this time to discuss the Nether Iron Vein with the Gilded Rose."

"Nether Iron Vein?" How could Lin Yun acknowledge this? The Nether Iron Vein itself didn't matter so much, but that vein was growing in the Bone Plane. Let alone the Watson Family, even if the Merlin Family came, Lin Yun would still not acknowledge it. Hearing High Mage Watson asking about it, Lin Yun pretended to be naive. "What Nether Iron Vein?"

"Haha..." The High Mage was stunned for a moment before suddenly smiling. "Great Mage Merlin, I forgot to say something. I am Raven's father. That child mentioned you when he came back. He said that you were very rude, and he asked the family to seek justice for him."

"That was a coincidence."

Lin Yun's words left everyone in the reception room feeling rather strange. Let alone the Watson Family, even William was almost unable to restrain his laugh. 'Damn, saying it was "a coincidence" as an answer, did you even hear what the other side said? They said that you beat their son, they are unhappy, and they came to seek justice, and you answered with that? A coincidence...'

"Haha, indeed, a coincidence..." The corner of Allen's mouth was twitching. He ultimately managed to squeeze out a smile again. "I'm also to blame for pampering Raven too much. How could one use the power for their family to solve an issue between members of the younger generation? What do you say, Great Mage Merlin?"

"Haha..." Lin Yun chuckled and didn't answer.

William and Faleau couldn't help inwardly cursing, 'That old man is more sinister than his son! Raven was more straightforward when he came, he attacked when he said he would, begged forgiveness when he needed to, and got the fuck out of here when he could... Not like that old man wanting to slyly benefit at the expense of others. What issues between the younger generation? Are these people accompanying you your son?'

They felt that this High Mage was being quite shameless.

'And he is even threatening us! Saying that issues between the younger generation can't be solved with the power of one's family... This way of phrasing it, isn't he saying that the power of one's family can be used to solve business problems?'

"Great Mage Merlin, I don't want to talk too much, I only want to let you know that the Nether Iron Vein is something our Watson Family must have. I can't guarantee anything else, but as long as you are willing to make a deal, the price our Watson Family will give you will definitely be above your expectations."

"The problem is, High Mage Allen, I truly don't have a Nether Iron Vein in my hands..." Lin Yun spread his hands with a helpless expression.



At these words, the smile on Allen's face suddenly vanished. "Great Mage Merlin, if I remember correctly, your Gilded Rose had always relied on alchemy potions, from the Hope Potion to the Dragon Strength Potion and Meditation Potion, occupying now over 80% of the potion business in Thousand Sails City. But two months ago or so, it started getting into the business of magic weapons and magic armors. A large number of magic weapons made from Nether Iron Ore allowed the Gilded Rose to accomplish its greatest expansion. It is now the number one alchemy store of Thousand Sails City, and not just in name. Am I mistaken about any of this?"

"That sounds about right..."

"Then, Great Mage Merlin, can you explain why the same alchemy store would have such a large change in their operations in just two months? Great Mage Merlin, I think you should know that a price would be paid when one tries to deceive a High Mage..."

As Allen Watson said his last sentence, his expression darkened. Although he didn't get up, the unique pressure of a High Mage spread out, filling the entire reception room with an oppressive atmosphere. Even a 5th Rank Great Mage like William Merlin felt as if he was unable to breathe.

The only one that was unaffected seemed to be Lin Yun.

Facing the High Mage's pressure, Lin Yun's expression didn't change. He calmly matched Allen's stare as he answered, "I'm not sure about that, our Gilded Rose just started its activities, so it would naturally make items with magic materials. We aren't like the big chambers of commerce and major forces who have the right to be picky. Oh, right, our magic materials have always been provided by the Silver Moon Mercenary Group. How about this, High Mage Allen, shall I help you ask the Silver Moon Mercenary Group?"

After Lin Yun's words, the atmosphere in the reception room froze.

This was too rude.

So what if you are a High Mage? You want an explanation? Sure, go look for the Silver Moon Mercenary Group!

Not to mention the fact that the Watson Family had some dealings with the Silver Moon Mercenary Group, they simply couldn't drop by just to ask Sasu for an explanation.

In fact, even if they didn't have any business with them, Allen Watson still wouldn't dare to.

What kind of person was Sasu? He was a mere step away from the title of Sword Saint. Even if a High Mage like Allen was ten times more courageous, he still wouldn't dare to drop by to brazenly question him.

### **Chapter 138: What Brings You Here?**

High Mage Allen Watson frowned.

This was simply intolerable!

Watson looked at Lin Yun with some anger hidden within his eyes. A Great Mage daring to talk to a High Mage with such a tone, this was unprecedented.

He hadn't even bothered this scoundrel about his altercation with Raven.

Raven was his only son! His only son had been bullied in Thousand Sails City, yet his father didn't help him get his revenge and only downplayed it, even implying that the matter was over.

If it had been another Great Mage, they would have already died ten times!

Allen Watson had acted in good faith.

Yet, this young Great Mage seemed to take that sincerity as weakness.

The High Mage had kept reminding Lin Yun that the sale of the Nether Iron Vein would not only make all his issues disappear, but would also lead to gaining the friendship of the Watson Family. Yet, in that Great Mage's eyes, these reminders seemed to have been turned into requests. When Allen told him that the consequences of lying to a High Mage were very serious...

He was actually threatened!

Indeed, an undisguised threat!

He told him to go to the Silver Moon Mercenary Group to ask for an explanation!

For a moment, High Mage Watson thought he had misheard. 'This Great Mage wants me to get an explanation from the Silver Moon Mercenary Group? Does he think that with the Gilded Rose and the Silver Moon Mercenary Group becoming allies, he can ignore the Watson Family's existence? Utterly ridiculous...'

Although the Silver Moon Mercenary Group was known as the number one Mercenary Group of Thousand Sails City, it couldn't enter the eyes of the Watson Family. The Watson Family had been doing business in Okland for millennia, even longer than the history of the Andlusa Kingdom. If not for the Merlin Family's sudden rise in the last millennium, the Watson Family would have already become the number one Family of the Kingdom.

The influence of the Silver Moon Mercenary Group was only limited to Thousand Sails City. Few people heard of the group outside Thousand Sails City.

Sasu was extremely powerful, and it would be best not to personally offend him... That was an undeniable fact.

But using the Silver Moon Mercenary Group to threaten the Watson Family was utterly ridiculous!

'Moreover, you are just an ally. Do you really think that your ally would be willing to fall out with the Watson Family for the Gilded Rose?'

Allen glanced at Lin Yun with extreme disdain. He felt that it was necessary to make this young Great Mage acknowledge the cruel reality, or else that young Great Mage would feel that the Watson Family... that he, Allen Watson, was someone that could be easily offended.

"It looks like Great Mage Merlin is set on opposing the Watson Family?"

“Haha, High Mage Allen, your words are incorrect. I’m only running the Gilded Rose for business. Anyone can purchase the Gilded Rose’s items, how did this become opposing anyone?”

“Haha, good, good, good...” Allen stared at Lin Yun with a cold gaze and a cold smile as he repeated the word three times. He then gave William, who was next to Lin Yun, a fierce look. “William of the Merlin Family, right?”

“What a coincidence, High Mage Allen.” Noticing that he couldn’t avoid this, William simply showed what he learnt, using the idea of it being coincidence once again.

“Yes, William, what a coincidence...” The smile on Allen’s face didn’t change, but when he looked at William, his eyes seemed to carry some hard-to-resist mana. With a simple glance, he had made William go pale.

“You...” William was startled. This was a spirit attack. This simple glance was actually a hidden attack. If it wasn’t properly guarded against, it could turn the victim into an idiot.

William couldn’t help but inwardly complain at this time. This was truly getting shot while laying down. He had only been sitting there quietly, so how could he have attracted the attention of that damn Allen Watson. And to receive a spirit attack at that. ‘Had I known, I wouldn’t have come to participate in the fun.’

“Allen Watson, you are indeed Raven’s father...” Lin Yun chuckled and gently extended his left hand. The Soul Walker ring on his left hand flashed, causing Allen’s spirit attack to become like a stone thrown into a sea, disappearing without a trace.

The Soul Walker was a True Spirit Magic Tool, and at its peak, its power could rival an Archmage. And the Magic Tool Incarnation, Lord Shawn, was a soul lifeform. He was naturally proficient in all kinds of soul techniques. Although he only had a bit of power left, resisting a soul attack wasn’t anything complicated...

Allen was somewhat shocked that his soul attack failed, but the shock was soon replaced with a determined expression.

“Mafa Merlin, I see that you have set yourself against the Watson Family. To tell you the truth, there are only two kinds of people in the eyes of the Watson Family... There are friends, and there are enemies. Make your choice, being a friend of the Watson Family, or its enemy. The opportunity only comes once, if you cannot grab it, don’t blame me for being too ruthless!”

Allen put his hand on the table and stood up. His black robe fluttered in the windless reception room due to the huge amount of mana fluctuation coming from him. At that instant, everyone felt a terrible pressure.

“I wonder what High Mage Allen is planning?” Lin Yun slowly stood up, his eyes seemingly provoking him.

“Good, good, good...” Allen coldly laughed, repeating the word “good” another few times. As the mana fluctuations spreading from his body grew even stronger, he asked, “Do you think that because you defeated a 9th Rank Great Mage you have the qualifications to challenge a High Mage? Do you think

that because you are allied to the Silver Moon Mercenary Group, the Watson Family won't dare to make a move against you? Let me see how powerful you are!"

Lin Yun's Elemental Incarnation was already ready when the mana fluctuations started spreading. After getting his 5th Magic Array, the Elemental Incarnation produced by Lin Yun didn't just give him resistance to magic damage, the ability to instant cast spells with increased might, and lightning speed.

Now, if Lin Yun burst out with power in his Elemental Incarnation, he would actually display a power no different from that of an elemental lifeform.

It could be said that if this Elemental Incarnation was cast, then even High Mage Allen would be torn apart in moments.

Why would Lin Yun dare to shield William Merlin and take the two High Mages lightly? It was to teach them a lesson.

Fortunately for Allen, a knocking sound saved him.

But sadly for him, he didn't know that.

At that moment, Allen's mind was filled with thoughts on how to teach a lesson to this arrogant young brat and let him know how great the difference between a Great Mage and a High Mage was, and how the decision to become the enemy of the Watson Family was his worst mistake.

Incantation ready, gesture ready, spell ready...

But everything had been interrupted by the knocking.

At this time, Allen simply couldn't restrain his anger. "Who is knocking?"

"Eh, I'm sorry..." Hogg carefully poked his head inside. "I'm looking for Great Mage Merlin."

After saying this, he glanced around, afraid that he had disturbed Merlin while he was with an important guest.

When he noticed Allen Watson in a towering rage, he cautiously greeted, "High Mage Allen?"

The Cloud Tower and the Watson Family were both residing in Okland. There were no outstanding conflicts between them, and they would even have some exchanges from time to time. It was normal for Hogg to know Allen.

Naturally, that was just on the level of knowing.

Hogg, as a 9th Rank High Mage, was only a step away from being addressed as "Sir". Even in the Cloud Tower, he was a peak existence. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been chosen by Star Sage Jouyi to participate in the Fanrusen Formula's research.

As for Allen Watson...

He had entered the High Mage realm three years ago and was only a 1st Rank High Mage at the moment. In front of Hogg, he truly was no different from a Great Mage. Not to mention that the Cloud

Tower was one of the two major forces of the entire kingdom, the Watson Family was far from being able to compare with them.

Thus, Allen's face froze after seeing Hogg entering. When he managed to recover, he was already at a loss, "H... High Mage Hogg, what brings you here?"

"I came to deliver a Magic Tool to Merlin."

"..." Allen Watson suddenly became unable to breathe. 'C... Came to deliver a Magic Tool to Merlin? Could this Mafa Merlin be related to High Mage Hogg? Why else would High Mage Hogg come to deliver him a Magic Tool? If they weren't related, why would he come here?'

Allen's thoughts were all in a mess.

'Moreover, Hogg addressed him with such a familiar tone when he called him "Merlin", isn't it the same as saying they are related? It could be friends of equal status, or an elder to a younger generation. Friends with equal status would certainly be impossible... Then, this Mafa Merlin is most likely Hogg's junior!'

Having arrived at this conclusion, he was flabbergasted.

'Holy shit...'

Allen Watson turned pale. If it had been another High Mage it would have been fine. But this was High Mage Hogg, someone a step away from being called Sir Hogg. 'If Mafa Merlin really has such a backer, then my trip today will definitely be in vain. How could I dare to subdue Mafa Merlin by force in front of High Mage Hogg?'

Even if they were both High Mages, how could Allen Watson not know how huge the gap between a 1st Rank High Mage and a 9th Rank High Mage was? It wasn't exaggerating to say that a 9th Rank High Mage's finger was stronger than a 1st Rank High Mage.

'How could this happen?'

### **Chapter 139: Knowing Too Much**

Although the Watson Family came into contact with the Gilded Rose relatively late, they still went all-out with information gathering. The Watson Family even knew that Mafa Merlin might have been a distant child of the Merlin Family. But the information never said that this Merlin was acquainted with High Mage Hogg.

This happened so abruptly.

At this moment, Allen Watson really wanted to ask the one in charge of intelligence operations how he handled his fucking work. How could he have not discovered such an important matter?

'This is a 9th Rank High Mage, a huge wall, and I ran straight into it...'

Allen's face grew increasingly paler. He understood that if it was truly as he thought, then let alone seizing the Nether Iron Vein, even safely leaving would be an issue. Allen could only hope as he cautiously asked, "Can I ask what relation High Mage Hogg has with Great Mage Merlin?"

"What kind of relationship?" Hearing this, Hogg suddenly paid closer attention to this guest. He stared at Allen, sizing him up.

When he was outside the door earlier, Hogg had already heard some arguing inside the room and had been able to feel the fierce mana fluctuations. Even if he was slow, Hogg would still understand what had been going on now that Allen was asking him this question.

Hogg's expression didn't look too great.

'This Allen Watson is truly bold, he actually dares to quarrel with Great Mage Merlin, even trying to pressure him with his mana fluctuations. Doesn't that mean that he was about to make a move on Great Mage Merlin?'

Looking at Allen incredulously, Hogg really wanted to ask, 'Do you know who is standing in front of you? He is someone that was able to solve a dozen of the Fanrusen Formula's core spell matrices. The entire Cloud Tower cheered for him, three Archmages showed that they held him in high esteem and Star Sage Jouyi himself even bowed to him...Are you tired of living?'

Naturally, Hogg wouldn't say this himself because that was a big secret he was keeping in his heart.

After everyone left following that miraculous night, Hogg saw the three Archmages fighting over that young Great Mage with his own eyes. They burst into an intense struggle... it was an unmistakable scene.

As the only witness, Hogg was still very afraid.

Because he knew too much...

Hogg still remembered the three Archmages' faces contorting as they rolled up their sleeves and cursed at each other. No one would have thought that these three were Archmages standing at the peak of the kingdom based on their appearances at that time. These three had been no different from cursing aunties at the market.

If this spread out, who would believe it? Who could believe it?

But Hogg knew that it was true....

Although the three Archmages agreed to not say anything about that time ever again, and to not show any signs of trying to attract that young Great Mage, Hogg knew that a fierce shouting match had gone down in his own research room.

The three Archmages chose to shut up not because they gave up, but in order to wait...

Those three represented Okland's most powerful forces: the Cloud Tower, the Mercury Tower, and Okland Magic School. The fight between them was the same as a fight between the three major forces. This would be enough to influence the entire kingdom, and the consequences would be so grave that even those three Archmages might not necessarily be able to handle them.

Thus, they agreed to wait.

To wait for a suitable opportunity to let the young Great Mage choose.

Hogg saw everything and was even asked to be a witness, so he knew more than anyone how important this young Great Mage was in those three Archmages' hearts.

It could be said that as long as this Mafa Merlin gave the word, the three Archmages could even destroy a power like the Watson Family.

After recalling this memory, the thought that appeared in Hogg's mind when realizing that Allen wanted to act against that young Great Mage was, 'Allen, do you think that your Watson Family has been around for too long? This already can't be described as courting death, this is purely drawing misfortune towards the Watson Family!'

Naturally, Hogg couldn't say that to Allen Watson...

Not to mention speaking of it to Allen Watson, Hogg didn't want to talk about that in front of this young Great Mage.

Because Hogg would never dare to defy those three Archmages' instructions and reveal what he had seen.

However, Hogg felt that this was a rare opportunity.

"Merlin and I know each other." Hogg didn't dare to say too much. Mafa Merlin was an important person to those three Archmages. Even if he were bolder, Hogg wouldn't dare to carelessly claim to be friends.

When those words landed in Allen's ears, the High Mage's mind shook and a relieved smile appeared on his face.

'Fortunately, fortunately.'

Allen thought that High Mage Hogg was close to Merlin due to his familiar tone and had felt apprehensive due to that, but it now looked like their relations weren't as deep as he'd imagined. Otherwise, High Mage Hogg wouldn't have described it as just "knowing each other".

Knowing each other...

In other words, that might not mean they were real acquaintances!

'Oh right, I remember, Hogg's relationship with the Merlin Family is pretty good. This trip to Thousand Sails City should be some kind of favor to the Merlin Family, like helping them deliver a Magic Tool to that child stranded in Thousand Sails City. Hogg might not necessarily have been willing to come, it should have been a favor for the Merlin Family.'

High Mage Watson went further and further down this train of thought.

'I understand, I understand, they aren't even familiar with each other, I was worried for nothing!'

“Turns out it was like that...” Thinking he understood, Allen gave Hogg an expression of sympathy. The meaning behind it was, ‘Hogg, I understand your troubles, being unable to back out of doing a favor is too annoying.’

“Allen Watson, what happened just now?” Hogg suddenly frowned. He didn’t know why this person would look at him like that. ‘I’m an esteemed 9th Rank High Mage, why would a 1st Rank High Mage give me that sort of a look?’

Unfortunately, Allen was unaware...

After hearing Hogg’s question, Allen felt that this High Mage wanted to see a performance.

Allen didn’t hide and explained the situation at once, but he embellished it, making the whole matter look like a fair deal.

After explaining, he casually added, “Perfect timing, High Mage Hogg, since you are here, could you advise young Merlin? You know that the Watson Family never treats a friend unfairly.”

“...” But he didn’t expect that Hogg’s face would turn white after hearing that.

‘Fuck, Allen Watson, we don’t have any enmity, why would you try to frame me? Courting death by yourself isn’t enough, you still want to drag me in? Advising young Merlin? Are you crazy?’

Hogg immediately thought of distancing himself from this reckless High Mage.

‘That young Merlin could have three Archmages crush your Watson Family in an instant. Yet you are courting death and trying to take his Nether Iron Vein... What do you mean never treating a friend unfairly... You, Allen Watson, dare to act like Great Mage Merlin’s friend? Isn’t it time to wake up? This is no good, I can’t be dragged down by that idiot.’

“Allen Watson, I’ll give you a piece of advice. Immediately leave Thousand Sails City, don’t invite a disaster onto your Watson Family.” Hogg’s face turned cold.

“Eh... H-H-H... High Mage Hogg, thi... This is...” Allen stared blankly. Seeing himself suddenly falling out with Hogg, Allen didn’t manage to recover for some time. ‘What happened? How did I offend High Mage Hogg? How could we fall out so quickly?’ Allen was at a loss at first, not understanding what had offended Hog.

“I’ll say it only once. Listen or don’t listen, it’s up to you.” Hogg didn’t give Allen any leeway.

“But...”

“There is no but, Allen Watson. If you want to be Merlin’s enemy, then you’ll become my enemy. You should think carefully.”

“I understand...” Noticing Hogg’s cold face and Mafa Merlin’s unchanged expression, Allen Watson ultimately clenched his teeth and chose to endure for the time being.

After all, Hogg was a true 9th Rank High Mage, while Allen was only a 1st Rank High Mage... He was truly no different from an ant in comparison. Hogg would only need one finger to kill him. Although Allen was full of grievance, he could only endure in silence.



Not to mention himself, besides a few elders, only the Patriarch with the strength of 9th Rank High Mage could negotiate with Hogg.

As for the rest, they didn't have the qualifications to do so.

### **Chapter 140: Spirit Storm**

Allen Watson slowly stood up, his face pale, his steps heavy, and doubt in his eyes.

"As you wish, High Mage Hogg. I'll immediately leave Thousand Sails City, but that Nether Iron Vein didn't only attract the attention of the Watson Family. You won't always remain in Thousand Sails City."

"Allen Watson, you should take care of yourself." A faint smile appeared on Hogg's face, but after saying that he, couldn't help glancing at Lin Yun with worry.

Allen Watson's words were clear.

'Indeed, I am nothing in front of you, but don't you forget that behind me is the Watson Family. Even if the Watson Family doesn't appear, other forces might come forward. Unless you, Hogg, remain in Thousand Sails City at all times, I'll find an opportunity sooner or later.'

At that time, it would be very difficult for a Great Mage to be able to keep hold of a Nether Iron Vein.

Hogg was indeed worried.

If they had a normal relationship, then Hogg's actions would be considered extremely benevolent. In order to help Lin Yun, he hadn't even hesitated to offend a major force like the Watson Family. Just this was enough to be considered a huge favor from Hogg. Not to mention, Hogg could wash his hands of this afterwards and leave, allowing the Watson Family could look for another way to make a move. The Great Mage wouldn't be able to keep his Nether Iron Vein and none of it would have anything to do with Hogg.

The problem was that he didn't have a simple relationship with this young Great Mage.

He was someone that could become the disciple of an Archmage whenever he wanted.

There was not enough time to curry favor with that person, so how could he afford to do anything that would arouse dislike?

Thus, when Allen said this, Hogg clenched his teeth. If it seemed that the situation wasn't good, then Hogg would straightforwardly request for Jouyi to let him stay in Thousand Sails City for the long term. In any case, as long as he was able to form a decent relationship with this young Great Mage, he wouldn't have to worry about his future.

Not to mention the fact that that the three Archmages would remember his help, even this Great Mage would bring him boundless benefits. After all, that young Great Mage's knowledge of magic could only be described as terrifying. If he could get his help, Hogg might be able to become successful in Thousand Sails City and reach the Archmage realm.

“Merlin...” With this in mind, Hogg opened his mouth, wanting to take advantage of Allen Watson having yet to leave to straightforwardly announce his decision to remain behind and completely shut down the Watson Family’s intentions.

But he hadn’t expected Lin Yun to slowly stand up.

“High Mage Allen Watson, didn’t Raven tell you that I’m not one to suffer a loss?”

“What?” Allen was stumped. He then remembered that when Raven came back, he did tell him that this young Great Mage was very petty. When Raven chose to leave, that young Great Mage still didn’t agree to let him go before Raven received a Flame Imprint in return.

At the time, that young Great Mage seemed unwilling to take any sort of loss.

‘Then what does that mean now? Could it be that because I used a Spirit Impact on William, he wants also to also return one to me?’

The thought was so amusing that Allen couldn’t stop himself from chuckling.

This young Great mage was very interesting.

‘He wants to deal with a High Mage as a Great Mage? The ignorant know no fear. A mere Great Mage challenging a High Mage in vain! How cute.’

Allen truly felt that the other side would have already died ten times over if not for Hogg’s presence. He wouldn’t have had the chance to say such ridiculous things then.

Allen shook his head, and with a mocking expression, he said, “Great Mage Merlin, no one likes to take a loss, it only depends on your strength.”

“Is that so?” Lin Yun smiled as he glanced at Allen.

Right, just a glance!

But with that glance, fierce mana fluctuations rose up. It was like a storm had filled the reception room. It was the same Spirit Impact, but its momentum was far superior to Allen’s. No, this already couldn’t be described as a Spirit Impact, this was simply a Spirit Storm.

The Watson Family’s six Great Mages’ let out some blood-curdling screeches as blood flowed from the corners of their mouths. Although Faleau and William were outside of the range of the Spirit Storm, they also showed frightened expressions.

As for Allen Watson...

Just as Lin Yun released his Spirit Storm, he landed on the wall with a “bang”.

“You...” Allen struggled up with difficulty, his face pale as a sheet of paper. His lifeless eyes were filled with fear. He pointed at Lin Yun, wanting to say something, but before he could say anything, he stopped, his finger already trembling fiercely.

Allen had been at the center of the Spirit Storm. Of all the people in the Spirit Storm, Allen could feel it the most, he could feel how powerful that storm was.

This time, Allen Watson found out...

This young Great Mage that he hadn't paid much attention to was actually far more powerful than he'd imagined. Allen Watson could feel endless power surging out the instant the Spirit Storm was released. He couldn't fight it, he couldn't resist. And in contrast, his Spirit Impact from earlier was just as ridiculous as a child's toy.

It could be said that as long as the young Great Mage wanted, he could turn him in an idiot even if he chose not to kill him.

This was power far above his own rank.

Allen sat on the ground and thought for a long time, but he couldn't understand. How could this person be a Great Mage?

No wonder he dared to reject him, rejecting the entire Watson Family...

Allen Watson finally understood. Hogg's arrival hadn't saved that young Great Mage, it actually saved himself. If Hogg had been ten seconds later, Allen might have truly cast his spell... And he would have ended up as a corpse.

The might of Lin Yun's Spirit Storm was too terrible, almost instantly destroying Allen's self-confidence. This High Mage who had been aloof ever since he entered the Gilded Rose finally understood that the young Great Mage that he thought he could kill anytime was actually a frightening existence that could kill him anytime.

"Ha... Ha... Unexpected... Truly unexpected..." Facing the huge difference, Allen let out an unpleasant, sorrowful laugh while using his hands to support himself against the wall. Along with the six limping Great Mages and a dazed High Mage, he hobbled out of the Gilded Rose.

Lin Yun smiled, but didn't reach out to stop them.

This wasn't Lin Yun being soft-hearted...

His heart had already turned stone cold after spending more than twenty years at the end of the magic era. It could be said that as long as he could reach his goal, Lin Yun wouldn't hesitate to start a slaughter. One thousand people, ten thousand people, that wouldn't make Lin Yun feel any guilt at all.

But at the same time, Lin Yun wouldn't make a move if it was meaningless.

Now, for example, he had already destroyed Allen Watson's self-confidence. Even if he returned to the Watson Family, he would forever remain a 1st Rank High Mage. Why would Lin Yun need to do anything more?

Moreover, Allen Watson was a member of the Watson Family, one of the major forces of Okland. He had no plan to fight a major force to the bitter end just in order to satisfy some killing intent.

In any case, he could be described as practical and utilitarian. That's how he had survived during harsh those times.

“Merlin, this is the Magic Tool that Sir Jouyi had me deliver.” After Allen left, Hogg thought no further about the Watson Family as he took out a sealed magic box with a smile on his face. This was the most common storage method used by mages and alchemists. An alchemy array was carved on the magic box. It was used to stop mana fluctuations from spreading and mana from scattering. Such boxes were usually used for very expensive alchemy items and magic materials.

Icy mana fluctuations spread when the magic box opened, making the room feel frigid. Lin Yun took a deep breath and reached out toward the box in Hogg’s hands. Within the magic box was a black ring. The ring didn’t have any gem embedded within... Only a strange symbol.

Even Lin Yun hadn’t seen the symbol before. It didn’t make any sense, but when it touched Lin Yun’s hand, it felt as if the symbol had come alive, constantly releasing stifling mana fluctuations. Lin Yun even felt that these fluctuations carried the feeling of hunger.

Lin Yun knew that this was the power of the True Spirit Magic Tool.

Although the Magic Tool Incarnation wasn’t present, the True Spirit Magic Tool itself was already an existence that possessed life of sorts. The feeling of hunger truly came from the True Spirit Magic Tool, this was the Black Death Rune’s thirst for Soul Fire.

“Thanks, High Mage Hogg.”

“Merlin, you are too polite...” Hogg didn’t dare to accept his thanks easily and promptly humbled himself. He then anxiously asked, “Oh right, Merlin, the Watson Family most likely won’t give up so easily, so how about I remain in Thousand Sails City for a while?”