

## **Magic Era 151**

### **Chapter 151: Mysterious Language**

Besides being an Extraordinary Magic Tool with boundless power, the Book of Death was also the control center of the Bone Plane. Lin Yun wanted to get the Book of Death so urgently because of its ability to open the Bone Plane anywhere, anytime.

And now, Lin Yun was in dire need of this ability.

'Fuck, what's this?' But when Lin Yun reached out his hand, he found that the Book of Death was shut, as if it had been locked by a mysterious force. "Are you kidding me? It's not the time for that!"

The entire Bone Peak shook with the Bone Dragon's roar. Lin Yun could even feel the boundless death energy within the approaching Dragon Might.

"Kane! Come out now!" Lin Yun tried to call him out, but the Book of Death's Incarnation didn't answer... He seemed to have disappeared.

Lin Yun really felt like crying, feeling very flustered. This was simply not leaving him a way out... The Bone Dragon was chasing after him.

'Wait, wait, the Sage Chapter! Let's try the Sage Chapter...' Lin Yun wasn't able to think much at this time as he quickly grabbed the Sage Chapter from his pocket. Ever since he entered the Bone Plane, the stone tablet had absorbed countless Soul Fires and had already become sparkling and translucent, just like a crystal.

In any case, he didn't have much choice at this moment, so he took the Sage Chapter and inserted it into the Book of Death.

Surprisingly, it fit in pretty well.

The Book of Death flashed with light as the palm-sized Sage Chapter merged with the Book of Death.

Then, the first page of the Book of Death opened!

'Sure enough...' Lin Yun wiped his cold sweat and poured mana in. Characters immediately appeared on the originally blank page.

These were characters Lin Yun had never seen before.

They had gorgeous design and were filled with a mysterious aesthetic, and Lin Yun felt that they carried some mysterious power.

But it was very strange.

Lin Yun had obviously never seen those characters before, but as they slowly appeared, he blurted an incantation out of nowhere.

'This...' Lin Yun was suddenly startled. 'What is this?'

He hadn't even thought about opening his mouth, yet he had subconsciously incanted.

But what made him feel even more creeped out was that after he chanted the incantation, he clearly understood the use of this spell. Of the characters that showed up, three characters were used to open the Planar Path, two were used for positioning, and the last two were used to complete the Planar Teleportation.

Cold sweat was trickling down Lin Yun's back at this time.

Only three characters were needed to open a Planar Path.

What kind of frightening power was this? It meant that the power contained within these three characters was equal to that of a Master Alchemist's alchemy array. Lin Yun couldn't believe that in the entirety of Noscent's history, there was a language able to hold such a frightening amount of power.

After all, nearly all the languages in Noscent's history were recorded in the decaying library several millennia later: Common, Elven, Draconic, Abyssal, Dwarven, Infernal... They all originated from mighty races in Noscent's history, or from powerful civilizations. But no matter where they originated from, none of them were as powerful as this one.

This wasn't power that words could reach.

As Lin Yun sighed, the space around him distorted, and in a split second, he appeared in his home in Thousand Sails City.

Lin Yun looked around and noticed that he was in the secret room. The Book of Death was in his hand, the first page still opened.

"Kane?" Lin Yun tried to call the Magic Incarnation of the Book of Death once again, but there was still no answer.

This made Lin Yun very angry. There were too many secrets around the Book of Death, and the clues he had grasped came from thousands of years in the future, leaked by the Ivory Tower's Heaven Mage. Knowing something was better than not knowing anything at all.

Lin Yun had planned to ask Kane after escaping danger, but it looked like he would have to slowly research it, just like when he got the Sage Chapter.

He looked at the Book of Death's first page and looked over all the characters.

The first thing that fell in Lin Yun's eyes were those five Ultimate Spell Slots.

Right, five...

When the Sage Chapter absorbed the Soul Fires, the only upgrade in its effect was to allow 2nd Tier Spells to become Ultimate Spells, but it still only had three slots at the time. From this, it could be seen how rare it was to upgrade the number of slots for Ultimate Spells.

But now, the Sage Chapter merged with the Book of Death and became an Augment of an Extraordinary Magic Tool, increasing the number of slots by two at once!

'Worthy of an Extraordinary Magic Tool.' Lin Yun couldn't help feeling somewhat apprehensive. This kind of upgrade was too frightening... This was giving him two more 2nd Tier Ultimate Spells, adding more variation to his strategies. With five 2nd Tier Ultimate Spells, as long as he combined them properly, he might still be able to fight a 5th Rank High Mage.

Moreover, apart from the five Ultimate Spell Slots, there were thirty-three characters on the first page. Seven of them had been used for the Planar Path, and ever since Lin Yun unconsciously chanted them, they had already been carved into his mind, as if he had always known about them. Lin Yun felt that he could use the power contained within these characters at any time he wanted.

But Lin Yun was unable to understand the remaining twenty-six characters.

This was a bit regretful. If seven characters were enough to use a Planar Path, what kind of shocking power would the remaining twenty-six have?

But at least he had mastered these seven characters. As long as he was willing to spend the time, he would be able to solve these characters sooner or later, and moreover, his Magic Array and his advanced knowledge of formulas gave him the greatest computing ability of the entire era.

Lin Yun felt that he would need at most a year to be able to understand these twenty-six characters.

But the rest was more troublesome...

This simply couldn't be the only ability of the Book of Death, an Extraordinary Magic Tool. But now, the Magic Tool Incarnation, Kane, was refusing to communicate. Lin Yun yelled, but didn't get the slightest bit of a response. He didn't know how long it would take to dig the secret of the Book of Death out from Kane.

'Looks like I truly have to find a way to force Kane out.'

After a few days, Lin Yun had yet to leave the secret room. Besides computing the use of the twenty-six characters, he would supply mana to the alchemy array from time to time. If he only relied on the Abyssal Magic Diamond and a Frost Lich Heart, the Planar Path would remain closed for a long time.

Finally, on the morning of the 7th day, Lin Yun was spreading open a piece of paper, planning to continue the work of the previous day, when the space around him suddenly distorted. William appeared.

"What about Faleau?" Lin Yun asked while he continued with his calculations.

"Still unwilling to leave..." William felt that his experiences during the last few days were still a dream. When he looked at Lin Yun, his eyes were full of admiration. "Cousin, your move was truly amazing. Some of the fifty 5th Rank Mages broke through to the 6th Rank after a few days, and now they are all staking their lives to remain in the camp. The mana inside the camp had transformed into a mist, so meditating there is a hundred times faster..."

"Then let them stay for three days, but they have to come out after those three days. That place's environment is different from Noscent's, staying for too long would cause problems." Lin Yun thought for a bit, and seeing that William had yet to leave, he put down his quill and sorted everything out before standing up. "Let's go take a look at the Gilded Rose, shall we?"

“Okay, I have a batch of Nether Iron Ore to bring there.” William flashed a spatial ring. It had been given to him by Lin Yun before entering the Bone Plane. The work of the mining puppets had already filled the ring. Had that not been the case, William would have been unwilling to leave the Bone Plane after the Planar Path opened.

After heading outside, the two didn’t call a carriage and instead just walked to Victorious Return Street.

The Gilded Rose was still booming. A dozen carriages were parked outside, and every major force of Thousand Sails City was there, carefully watching. The Silver Moon Mercenaries, the Viper Nest, the Snow Fox Mercenaries, and even the Sage Tower and the Alchemist Guild. These were all the first-rate forces of Thousand Sails City, and they were the most faithful customers of the Gilded Rose.

“What’s going on?” Lin Yun was about to enter when he suddenly found out that William was frozen in front of a carriage.

“Someone from the family came...”

### **Chapter 152: Magic Hand**

Lin Yun was stunned for a moment as he looked at the carriage in front of William, and sure enough, it had the crest of the Merlin Family, a flaming staff.

“Would you like to say hello?” Lin Yun asked without thinking. After all, William was now staying in the Gilded Rose, but he was still a member of the Merlin Family. Now that someone of the Merlin Family came, if William didn’t greet them properly, things might become awkward for him afterwards.

“Not going, not going...” But William immediately shook his head as a reply.

What a joke... If it had been in the past, William might have hesitated a bit. After all, although his Master Alchemist cousin had boundless prospects, it would be a very long time before the Gilded Rose become a force that could stand shoulder to shoulder with the Merlin Family. Before that, keeping a good relationship with the Merlin Family would be good to keep a potential escape path.

But now, William’s thoughts had changed.

As one of the few outstanding members of the young generation of the Merlin Family, William Merlin was already entitled to some of the secrets of the Merlin Family. William knew to some extent how the Merlin Family had been able to rise so quickly in the last millennia to the point that they were now on par with the Watson Family. It was all because the worthy ancestors of the Merlin Family managed to conquer four planes in over a millennium.

The income brought in by those four planes was five times that of the Merlin Family’s territories!

This was just in the field of money and resources...

Apart from this, the land reclamations and campaigns in the four planes would provide a great number of elite warriors to the Merlin Family. These warriors would experience the baptism of blood and battles, and they were the most valuable resources of the Merlin Family. At least two-thirds of the Archmages of the Merlin Family had advanced in these four planes.

There was no need to mention other hidden benefits, as just these two points were enough to know how important a private plane was.

Now, William knew that this cousin also had his own private plane...

Moreover, that private plane was very rich. Just the Nether Iron Vein was enough to arouse greed from any major force in the kingdom, and furthermore, William didn't dare to imagine what was past the black wasteland. If the black wasteland was like that, then how many riches awaited beyond it?

But it didn't matter if William couldn't imagine it. William knew that with this rich and shocking private plane, surpassing the Merlin Family was only a matter of time. Maybe even the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower would have to bow before the Gilded Rose in the future.

Thinking of such a beautiful future, how could William still worry about keeping an escape path? How could he still have the time to deal with the Merlin Family?

"Let's go say hello." After thinking about it, Lin Yun rephrased his sentence, using an imperative sentence rather than a question.

Lin Yun recalled that he still had some use for the Merlin Family.

"Okay, understood." William had been in Thousand Sails City for long enough that he already knew his cousin's character. Hearing this, he understood that his cousin had some plan and immediately nodded before entering the Gilded Rose with the latter.

The business of the current Gilded Rose was booming.

Almost all of the major forces of Thousand Sails City sent their people. Large orders were queued one after the other, lining up until the next year, yet they were unwilling to give up. The Twin Moons Splendor was only a street apart from the Gilded Rose, and although there was a gap between the quality of their items, with the advantage of lower prices, how could it not take some business away from the Gilded Rose?

But the strange thing was that...

The Twin Moons Splendor was now completely deserted. Let alone orders for the next year, who knew if they would even have an order for the day? If the major forces went over, they might be able to directly get what they needed.

But none of them were willing to go to the Twin Moons Splendor.

In the alchemy business, the winner would win everything and the loser would starve. Alchemy items were directly related to fighting power. Even if it was only slightly better, it might determine one's life or death in battle. Under such circumstances, no one would be foolish enough to pick substandard products.

Moreover, the alchemy products of the Twin Moons Splendor weren't just slightly inferior.

Weapons and armors forged from Nether Iron... In the entire eastern kingdom, only the Gilded Rose sold those. In these circumstances, no matter how much the Twin Moons Splendor lowered their prices, they simply couldn't contend with the Gilded Rose...

After Lin Yun entered, he directly walked to his alchemy laboratory.

He had William go to the reception room to greet the person from the Merlin Family.

After entering the alchemy laboratory, Lin Yun noticed the huge crystal ball flashing continuously. This was a communication request from the Cloud Tower. Lin Yun just realized that he had foolishly stayed at in that secret room at home for a week and completely forgotten Star Sage Jouyi.

Lin Yun promptly accepted the transmission from the Sage Tower.

Sure enough, the person appearing in the crystal ball was Jouyi.

“Eh... Hello, Star Sage Jouyi.” When Lin Yun saw Star Sage Jouyi’s appearance, he understood that this communication request must have been going on for a long time.

“Merlin, you are very busy...”

Jouyi had a fake smile on his face, which made Lin Yun feel somewhat guilty. But it’s not like Lin Yun could explain himself, so he just let out an awkward “ha ha”.

“...” Jouyi’s temper was able to calm down; this was an advantage of age. The youth in front of him was no more than twenty and was acting like a youth, what could Jouyi say? He shook his head with a sigh and asked, “The matter I mentioned last time, did you think it through?”

“That...” Lin Yun found it quite tricky. When Lin Yun had asked to borrow Black Death Rune, this Star Sage straightforwardly agreed, but he raised a condition to Lin Yun, or rather... A request.

Jouyi hoped that Lin Yun would become a member of an organization called the Magic Hand.

Lin Yun was startled at first, thinking it was a cult.

But after hearing Jouyi’s explanation, it turned out that the Magic Hand was actually an academic organization. It was first established by a few peak mages of the kingdom to exchange magic knowledge. It gradually expanded over a few hundred years and had now admitted nearly all the peak mages of the kingdom.

This also meant that regardless of whether it was the Cloud Tower or the Black Tower, the Sage Tower or the Ash Tower, as long as one had enough qualifications, one could join the Magic Hand without being affected by the hostile relationship between the various sides.

Jouyi did this out of good intentions.

After considering it, Lin Yun did have a certain amount of interest.

This was normal. Although Lin Yun had mastered knowledge that was beyond this era, this didn’t mean that he was already omnipotent. This was simply impossible, as the field of magic was as vast as a sea, and Lin Yun only possessed one library in the end of the magic era. Regardless of how huge, no matter how well furnished that library was, it simply couldn’t include everything. Becoming a member of the Magic Hand and exchanging magic knowledge with peak mages could potentially be very beneficial to Lin Yun.

“Sir Jouyi, since you so generously offered, how would I dare to refuse...”

“Good, good...” Hearing Lin Yun’s positive answer, Jouyi laughed from his crystal ball.

Jouyi had hardly concealed his admiration for this young mage in the distant Thousand Sails City. In fact, if the other side wanted, Jouyi wouldn’t mind making him his inheritor and handing him the Cloud Tower in the future.

Because Jouyi could see that this was a true genius that would walk the path of magic to the peak.

Solomon’s insight couldn’t compare to Jouyi’s.

Solomon might be able to see that this young mage would most likely become an Archmage, but he couldn’t see beyond that.

But Jouyi could see.

Not only could he see that youth would reach the Archmage realm, but he could also see him reaching a higher place.

That place might not be limited to the Heaven Rank.

Unfortunately, that young mage had his own goals. Not only was he unwilling to join the Cloud Tower, but he was also unwilling to leave for Okland. Thus, Jouyi had no choice but to settle for second best. He would first make him join the Magic Hand, and the rest could be discussed later.

When his thoughts reached this point, Jouyi once again shook his head regretfully. After a short moment of silence, he reminded, “By the way, Merlin, there is the yearly meeting of the Magic Hand on the 15th of next month. The meeting will be held in Oddrock City. You must come, I’ll formally introduce you into the Magic Hand.”

“Oddrock City?” Lin Yun suddenly mused, ‘Isn’t that the domain of the Ash Tower...? That isn’t so good... I just got rid of a Great Mage from the Ash Tower and I am still holding on the Lava Dominator. If I go to Oddrock City, wouldn’t I be walking into a trap?’

But he then thought that since it was the yearly meeting of the Magic Hand, the Ash Tower wouldn’t dare to try anything, and if they did, others would help deal with it, so he nodded as he agreed, “Okay, I’ll definitely go.”

After obtaining a positive answer, Jouyi shut the transmission with a satisfied expression.

The crystal gradually darkened. Lin Yun then took out the Book of Death and then spread a piece of paper on the refining table to continue the work he had yet to complete in the secret room.

### **Chapter 153: Recruit**

After calculating for a week in the secret room, Lin Yun almost completed a small part of the analysis of the 8th character. He gradually was able to tell that this character was far more powerful than the previous seven. If he succeeded, it would most likely give him a huge strength boost and might even help his Magic Array become more refined.

This discovery immediately made Lin Yun look forward to mastering the 8th character, and eventually all the rest, too.

After all, Lin Yun hadn't found a good opportunity to break through ever since he completed his 5th Magic Array in the prince tomb. Although Lin Yun had gained several tens of thousands of runes, he had yet to find a suitable opportunity to turn these runes into another Magic Array.

Now that this opportunity finally appeared, Lin Yun could hardly wait. He put all his energy into it. Once the transmission was over, Lin Yun immersed himself in the world of magic. Time slowly passed and the sun had reached its peak when Lin Yun finally lifted his head away from his piece of paper.

'It looks like it would take a month...' Lin Yun massaged his aching arm before carefully looking at the results of his work with a satisfied smile. This speed could be considered quite astonishing. After all, Lin Yun had no knowledge of that language besides these seven characters. This required an exhaustive amount of computing, and being able to complete it in a month was already outstanding.

Lin Yun then checked the time and saw that it was time to go grab something to eat.

After leaving the alchemy laboratory, Lin Yun was rather absent-minded, still lost in his calculations, so he didn't hear people greeting him. When he passed the reception room, he suddenly recalled that Faleau and that group of Mages were still in the Bone Plane.

Lin Yun thought about it and felt that he should make William bring them out today.

As he considered this, he opened the door to the reception room.

But after opening it, Lin Yun felt something wrong. William wasn't the only one in the reception room... those people from the Merlin Family were still there.

Lin Yun felt a bit embarrassed about barging in.

But just when he thought of apologizing and leaving, a youthful voice echoed from the other side of the table. "Fuck off."

"Ah?" Lin Yun froze and subconsciously glanced at the person sitting on the other side. This young man in his early thirties was staring at him very coldly. That young man looked very similar to William, but his presence was more steady.

"You never learned to knock?" the young man coldly berated before looking back at William. "Looks like our little cousin is extremely busy, busy to the point that he doesn't even have the time to discipline his subordinates..."

"Eh..." William's expression became strange, and he remained stunned for a moment before recovering and said in a mumble, "Leon, he is Mafa..."

"Eh?" The young man's gaze settled back on Lin Yun. After sizing him up for a bit, a milder expression appeared on his face, and he gave a quick nod as he said, "Take a seat."

'Shit...' William's heart suddenly accelerated. 'Something is going to happen...'



Leon was the most outstanding member of the Merlin Family's younger generation. He had always shown shocking magical talent ever since his birth, and he was already a 1st Rank High Mage despite being only 33 years old. Let alone in the Merlin Family, even in all of Okland, few of his age could contend with him.

As early as a few years ago, the Merlin Family had unofficially decided that Leon would compete with Aube from the Mercury Tower over the spot of next Patriarch. Thus, while the members of the younger generations made great efforts in the past few years to improve and solidify their positions in the Family, Leon and Aube already had a seat at the Elder Council.

A young man in his early thirties having a seat in the Elder Council had only happened three times in the recorded history of the Merlin Family. Sitting in that seat meant entering the core of the authority of the Merlin Family. Their words and actions would decide the fate of the family.

Sitting in this place for years made Leon more steady, and he even gained an imposing presence.

But...

'This isn't a good place to act imposing... Leon, ah, Leon... You don't even know what's good for you...'

As he thought about it, William couldn't help having a headache.

'If you want to show off your imposing stature as the future Patriarch, why not do it in Okland? Why would you come to the Gilded Rose to show off, and tell Him to "Fuck off", do you know who you were rude to? That's the owner of the Gilded Rose, a Master under the age of 20!

'You know Allen Watson of the Watson Family, don't you? He is a 1st Rank High Mage just like you, and he dared to act rampant in the Gilded Rose. The outcome? He was scared shitless by the Cloud Tower's 9th Rank High Mage. And when he wanted to leave, it was the person in front of you that didn't give him the chance to leave with his dignity and sent him flying. You shouldn't be thinking of giving him a try, are you?

'Oh, and that 9th Rank High Mage of the Cloud Tower... You should know Hogg, he is a good friend of your teacher, yet he lowered himself to help Him deal with the mess. His excessive boot-licking made even me blush... Is that the kind of person you can be rude to?

'It would be fine if you only said "Fuck off" because you didn't know him, but I already reminded you, I was clear, I told you, "Leon, he is Mafa." And even after I made it clear for you, you still went and proudly told him to "Take a seat."

'Who do you think you are talking to? Why didn't you think as to why a smart person like me would shamelessly remain in the Gilded Rose. Did you think it was to get the Nether Iron Ores for the family?'

Unfortunately, William didn't dare to say these words aloud and they remained a long and pointless inner monologue. He could only stare at Leon with a meaningful glance to try to remind him.

But regretfully, Leon wasn't paying attention to him.

After all, when compared to the other members of the younger generation, Leon was already in a completely different world. Even if William was a well-known figure, in Leon Merlin's eyes, he could only

be considered a capable subordinate. They could joke and even have brotherly chats, but on formal occasions, how could Leon care about William's opinion?

Moreover, Leon had discovered a more worthy person to recruit.

That was Mafa Merlin, the one who held the Nether Iron Vein.

With a seat at the Elder Council, Leon was privy to all the secrets of the Merlin Family.

Leon naturally knew that the Mafa Merlin before his eyes was definitely an offspring of the Merlin Family. And as long as the Elder Council approved it, he could directly become a member of the Merlin Family.

Leon wouldn't be concerned about this normally, but now, he knew that there was a Nether Iron Vein in Mafa's hands. Furthermore, besides providing the Merlin Family with the much needed Nether Iron, he had also amassed a huge amount of wealth.

A wealthy subordinate, this was very important to Leon.

The fight over the position as the next Patriarch had reached its climax. Aube and Leon already had their pawns, but who would become the final victor was still undecided.

If he could recruit Mafa Merlin to his side, he would be able to take advantage of his wealth and reverse this deadlock.

As he thought about this, Leon displayed a rare, lukewarm smile.

"Regarding your return to the Merlin Family, there are indeed some opposing voices..." Leon stopped there and then gazed at Lin Yun with a pondering smile.

"Are there?" Lin Yun threw a strange look at William, wondering if that older cousin had been acting meddling.

William was startled and didn't wait for Lin Yun to say anything before shaking his head to deny Leon's words. What a joke, this Master Alchemist cousin of his was clearly uninterested in returning to the Merlin Family. If Lin Yun misunderstood and thought that William had been trying to get him recruited, wouldn't he slap him again? Or he might even send him flying like he had done to Allen Watson, swatting him like a fly.

Seeing William's reaction, Lin Yun understood that he had guessed wrong.

However, if William didn't say anything, why did the Merlin Family think that he wanted to return? Moreover... What was this about opposing voices?

Thinking about this, Lin Yun gave Leon a doubtful look, wanting to ask this newly arrived cousin of his who had told him that he wanted to return to the Merlin Family?

Unfortunately, Leon misunderstood Lin Yun's expression.

And thus, the future Patriarch smiled once again.

“You should know that the Nether Iron Vein in your hands is very important to us. There are many people in the Merlin Family insisting that if you want to return, you will have to hand over the Nether Iron Vein first.”

“Oh?” Hearing this, Lin Yun’s expression became unpleasant. ‘This Merlin Family doesn’t know when to be satisfied. I already gave them so much Nether Iron Ore, yet they are still scheming for my Nether Iron Vein. Do I really have to beat them twice like the Watson Family to make them give up?’

## **Chapter 154: Mana Shackles**

In fact, this was the part that he didn’t understand about the influence of a Family.

That power was maintained by bloodline. They were greedier and more guarded against outsiders than anything else, and they were used to controlling everything.

To them, having to get Nether Iron Ores through a deal also brought a kind of a problem.

In contrast, they were much more willing to directly control this Nether Iron Vein.

This was a common problem of all Families and Clans. The Merlin Family was like this, and so was the Watson Family. Even Thousand Sails City’s Monchi Family was like this.

“I can give you an opportunity right now.” Leon saw the other party’s unsightly expression and felt that it was the crucial moment to extend his olive branch.

“What?” Lin Yun had been inwardly thinking about how to teach a lesson to the Merlin Family when he suddenly heard the word “opportunity” and immediately looked at Leon suspiciously.

“I can let you return to the Merlin Family, and I can also let you keep the Nether Iron Vein...”

“Ahah...” Lin Yun understood when he heard this. ‘Turns out he was trying to recruit me all this time!’

At this point, Lin Yun didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. ‘How come the rank decreased? Earlier, Star Sage Jouyi tried to recruit me, yet, a few hours later, it’s now just a 1st Rank High Mage trying to recruit me!’

Oblivious to these thoughts, Leon continued, “Moreover, after returning to the Merlin Family, you can directly server under me as my manager of business and financial affairs...” After saying this, Leon glanced at William with a domineering expression. “You can ask William... Not just anyone can join my circle.”

“Ff...” William suddenly felt like cursing.

‘Fuck, it’s fine if you are courting death, but don’t drag me in! Saying something like managing finances and business, didn’t you just take a fancy to the Gilded Rose’s wealth? So annoying... Those old guys of the Elder Council are obviously just thinking about the Nether Iron Vein. And did you think that the person in front of you will agree?’

‘Please, don’t bother... Just look, He has such an unsightly expression on his face, if you keep going, I can’t guarantee that you will be able to leave the Gilded Rose in one piece.’

Unfortunately, Leon didn't understand his painstaking worries. After not getting a response for a bit, he angrily said, "I already gave you the opportunity, it's up to you to grab it."

"Well, High Mage Leon, I have a question..."

"Yes?" Leon suddenly frowned. He saw that Lin Yun was somewhat dissatisfied and thought, 'This Mafa isn't very tactful. I'm giving him such fair treatment, yet he is pushing it. Looks like people from such a small place like Thousand Sails City don't have a sense of propriety. Just because I was being nice to him, he would dare raise some conditions...'

This made Leon quite unhappy...

In Leon's eyes, a subordinate should have the appearance of a subordinate. They should receive what they are offered and not reach their hands for more.

As he thought about it, Leon's frown accentuated. Although he didn't say it, he inwardly decided to wait until he thoroughly subdued this Mafa Merlin before teaching him a lesson. He had to make him understand that meddlesome subordinates were an eyesore.

"I want to ask, are you dreaming?"

"What?" Leon suddenly froze. He hadn't expected this question, and furthermore, why did it sound so antagonistic?

"I mean, if you are still dreaming, I can introduce you to a few hotels where you can finish your night..." Lin Yun clapped his hands and stood up from his chair. Ignoring Leon's reaction, he called William over and told him, "Cousin, help me take care of High Mage Leon, I still have some matters to take care of. Also, next time High Mage Leon comes sleepwalking by, remember to get a room at the Oak Inn on the other side, you can accompany him back over here once he wakes up..."

"Yes, yes, yes..." William nodded repeatedly while mentally hurling curses at Leon. 'Damn, I kept reminding you to not provoke him. You can daydream, but why are you dragging me in? Now you provoked him and implicated me... Forget it, it isn't that bad today, it didn't reach the point of a fight breaking out, that's rare enough. I'm tired of eating a loss because of the Family, I'll just send you out...'

But William didn't have the time to say anything before Leon flared up. "Mafa, what is this attitude?" The High Mage loudly struck the table, making a few drops of water spill from the cup in front of him.

"Don't be impulsive, don't be impulsive..." When William saw this, he knew that it was too late. He couldn't deal with the future Patriarch of the Merlin Family, but he straightforwardly went all-out to try to stop Leon Merlin's arm, urging him as if his own life depended on it., "Leon, Leon, you have to be careful with your words. Don't be impulsive, by all means, don't be impulsive..."

"Let go."

"You have to talk nicely, by all means, try to remain friendly..."

"I told you to let go." Leon gave him a cold glance. "William Merlin, pay attention to your status. You are speaking for an outsider, and this is affecting my assessment of you..."

William Merlin almost felt like crying...

'Fuck your assessment, I'm trying to save you, and you are still talking about my status? If I were really paying attention to my status, I would have already let go and let you rain curses while hitting the table, and then you would know why Raven and Allen Watson made themselves scarce after returning to Okland. They had been scared to death by this person...'

Unfortunately, Leon didn't know or care about that. Although his arm had been held by William, he still hurriedly shouted at Lin Yun's back, "Mafa Merlin, I shall let you know that you will regret refusing me sooner or later. I want to see who will stand by your side when Aube Merlin comes to get the Nether Iron Vein from your hands."

'It's over, it's over...'

William felt his sight darken when he heard that...

"Eh?" Lin Yun stopped just as these words echoed. "You are saying that the Merlin Family is going to send more people?"

"Ahaha, you are truly naive. Did you think that you could keep a Nether Iron Vein to yourself with your strength as a mere 5th Rank Great Mage? Let me tell you, you are dreaming. Without my protection, don't mention your Nether Iron Vein, you won't even be able to keep your Gilded Rose..."

"Your words are reasonable..." Lin Yun nodded, paused, and then stretched his hands out.

Suddenly, it felt as if a huge vortex had appeared in the reception room. Leon didn't even have time to understand what had happened before he flew towards Lin Yun. The latter only opened his hand and grabbed Leon's neck.

"Wh... What do you think you are doing!" Leon was startled, but he immediately roused his mana to retaliate against this frightening power.

But unfortunately, Leon's mana was suppressed by a more frightening mana. Leon then suddenly discovered that the magic power he had been so proud of since his childhood was simply unable to contend with that astonishing mana.

'Ho... How could this be!'

Leon almost went crazy on the spot. 'How could this be? I'm a true High Mage, how could I be suppressed by a 5th Rank Great Mage?'

"I want you to take some words back with you."

After Lin Yun said this, he chanted a mysterious and abstruse incantation. Leon then felt as if the mana within his body had been shackled by some sort of force. No matter how much he tried, he couldn't get his mana to show any signs of circulating.

'Wh-wh-wh... What's going on?'

Leon's eyes suddenly became filled with fear. The mana that he had accumulated for over twenty years had been sealed. He was now like an ordinary person, when he had been a High Mage just before. Such a huge change made Leon feel frantic and desperate.

'Isn't that Mafa Merlin a 5th Rank Great Mage? How could this be... How could a 5th Rank Great Mage have such frightening magic power, to actually suppress a High Mage in an instant... And what kind of incantation was that, how could he suddenly shackle my mana?'

An esteemed High Mage was transformed into an ordinary person. The feeling of having his life in the hands of someone else completely broke Leon Merlin's imposing pretense. That young High Mage's face was filled with fear as he opened his mouth one more time to ask with a shivering voice, "Wh-wh... What words?"

"Return to let the Merlin Family know that when they have someone that is able to undo the shackles on your body... At that time, they can start thinking about the Nether Iron Vein."

After saying this, Lin Yun loosened his grasp on Leon's neck. After helping pat the dust off of him, he opened the door to the reception room and left. Before leaving, he told William, "Cousin, don't forget to help me send High Mage Leon to Oak Inn to rest."

### **Chapter 155: Ancestral Land**

After coming out of the reception room, Lin Yun had someone deliver some food before he went back to the alchemy laboratory. As for Leon, Lin Yun had quickly put him to the back of his mind.

One Leon Merlin wasn't enough to make him worry at all. What future Patriarch of the Merlin Family, what 33-year-old High Mage, he was nothing in Lin Yun's eyes. Lin Yun was a 5th Great Mage with three Magic Tools that were at the Spiritual rank or higher. It could be said that any High Mage below 5th Rank would be crushed by him at this point.

Leon was already considered lucky. If it weren't for Lin Yun having noticed the flaming staff crest when he entered, he would have directly snapped Leon's neck and wouldn't have bothered spending the effort to use Mana Shackles.

It was this crest that made Lin Yun remember a certain place, a place that could let him advance to become a High Mage.

Advancing would inevitably be difficult for him. Who told Lin Yun to choose the most complicated Magic Conducting Rune, the Magic Array, among the countless Magic Conducting Runes?

If Lin Yun had chosen a different one, he wouldn't have such a headache figuring out the best way to advance right now. Even with the most complicated Extreme Forge, Lin Yun would still have three ways to directly reach the High Mage Realm.

But the Magic Array was completely different.

The Magic Array had the most complicated and detailed structure among Magic Conducting Runes. Even someone like Lin Yun, who transcended this era, wasn't sure of fusing the nine Magic Arrays into one to enter the High Mage realm.

It wasn't because Lin Yun wasn't capable enough, but rather because the Magic Array was too powerful.

In fact, Lin Yun had taken time to work out numerous calculations ever since he came back from the prince tomb, but regardless of how he looked at it, the result was still the same. Unless he was willing to remain a 9th Rank Great Mage for a few years and use extreme patience and willpower to slowly fuse the nine Magic Arrays into one, Lin Yun would have only a five percent chance of becoming an Archmage.

Moreover, every failed attempt at reaching the High Mage Realm would harm his own Magic Conducting Runes. The first one or two might not be that important, but he might lose the chance to step onto the High Mage realm after the 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th failures.

Lin Yun didn't want to remain a Great Mage forever.

But earlier, he saw the flaming staff crest on the carriage.

Lin Yun had always felt that the Merlin Family sounded a bit familiar. It was only when he saw the crest that he remembered that a millennium later, there would be an Archmage who rose like a comet, and he would be known as the Flame Ruler, Doug Merlin, one who was invincible below Heaven Rank.

And this Flame Ruler wasn't a startling genius at first. He became a High Mage when he was sixty. This was far from equal to Leon Merlin.

But thirty years later, that man had become someone known as being one undefeatable under the Heaven Rank, sweeping aside all the Archmages of the era.

Indeed, the Magic Conducting Rune of that Flame Ruler was the Magic Array.

Lin Yun clearly remembered that at the time, the Merlin Family had already vanished. The millennium-old Family would be exterminated after a few hundred years. Although the Flame Ruler was a Merlin, his rise had nothing to do with the Merlin Family. He rose up from the ground, step by step, and the only relationship to the Merlin Family were those fifty-odd years spent in the Merlin Family Ancestral Land.

But when Doug Merlin came out of that land, it only took him three months to become a High Mage and then another ten years to become the strongest Archmage of Noscent.

Thus Lin Yun couldn't help making a conjecture.

What kind of secret was behind the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land? Doug Merlin managed to fuse nine Magic Arrays in one after coming into contact with that secret and reaching the High Mage realm in one go.

Thus, once Lin Yun had nine Magic Arrays, he had to go check the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land; otherwise, he would have two choices left. One was to take his time and spend a few years to slowly fuse the Magic Arrays, and the other was to bet on the 5% chance by forcibly charging into the High Mage realm.

The secret of the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land seemed much simpler in comparison.

But it wasn't suitable to be truly at odds with the Merlin Family.

Naturally, this didn't mean that Lin Yun could sit and watch the Merlin Family just after his own Nether Iron Vein.

Thus, after some hesitation, Lin Yun had chosen to use Mana Shackles. This was a common method for higher ranked mages to crush lower ranked mages, sealing away their magic. There was only one way to undo the Mana Shackles, that was to find the key to the Mana Shackles.

That key was actually a word incanted when the Mana Shackles were applied.

And Lin Yun had actually used one of the seven characters that he had learnt from the Book of Death. Besides him, there should be no one in all of Noscent that was able to undo it.

Lin Yun wanted to use this to make the Merlin Family know that if they wanted the Nether Iron Vein, they had to be prepared to pay the price.

He knew that a force like the Merlin Family was greedy and cunning. If they could effortlessly obtain the Nether Iron Vein, they definitely wouldn't have one iota of leniency towards him just because he was a child of the Merlin Family.

But once they found out that this child was not to be trifled with, they would consider his potential worth.

They would be even more restrained if that child had some power that they couldn't understand, and they would even use some appeasing methods, and perhaps make a business deal or try some other way to entice him. In short, only benefits were important to a force like the Merlin Family. As for what method they would undertake, it would depend on how they intended to maximize their benefits.

Lin Yun believed that the Mana Shackles on Leon's body would stop the Merlin Family for a while.

What he needed to do now was to quickly form nine Magic Arrays.

Only then would he leave for Okland to pay a visit to the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land.

But if he wanted to form the remaining Magic Arrays, Lin Yun had to go to Vaughn Laboratory. It was because Vaughn had a set of Crystal Scales, and although each part was only Spiritual level, together they were not inferior to a True Magic Tool. Furthermore, besides the shocking strength of the Crystal Scales, they also had an extremely special Magic Tool Spirit. It was said that this Magic Tool Spirit was created by Vaughn himself by using a soul. It could push the computational ability of the user to a frightening realm.

Lin Yun had promised Lys that he would join the exploration with the major forces of Thousand Sails City mainly because of this set of Crystal Scales.

If Lin Yun could get a hold of these Crystal Scales and use them while analyzing the 8th character of the Book of Death, the speed at which he carved the Magic Array would be raised ten times!

After Lin Yun returned to the alchemy laboratory, he once again opened that piece of paper and continued working on the calculations that he had yet to complete.

At this time, Leon still had yet to leave the Gilded Rose's reception room.

The future Patriarch of the Merlin Family looked at William with a dull gaze.

"Didn't you say he is a 5th Rank Great Mage?"



“Indeed, he is a 5th Rank Great Mage...” William couldn’t help shaking his head when he saw the dazed expression of this proud scion.

‘Why did you bother saying all that? I did remind you several times that our cousin’s temper is not very good. You insisted on showing off the imposing might of a future Patriarch, putting on the halo of a High Mage, and you thought you could easily convince our cousin? Did you think he had never seen a High Mage? And now, the High Mage has turned into an ordinary person, how can you explain when you go back...’

“5th Rank Great Mage... How could this be...” Leon couldn’t believe it no matter what. How could a 5th Rank Great Mage use restrain him with Mana Shackles?

“Okay, don’t talk about what’s possible and what’s impossible...” Seeing his appearance, William was disinclined to talk about it again, so he only kindly reminded, “I advise you to quickly return and think of a way to remove the Mana Shackles. Otherwise, you might be in great trouble when Aube comes back from the Mercury Tower.”

After saying that, William left the reception room, leaving Leon Merlin by himself. He was standing there, a bitter smile on his face.

‘Return quickly? It’s not that easy...’ he thought. ‘How I can return like this? I sneaked to Thousand Sails City this time because I heard that besides the Nether Iron Vein, that Mafa Merlin also had gained a vast amount of wealth from the Gilded Rose. That’s why I wanted to recruit him.

‘I had thought that by using my strength as a High Mage and the status as the future Patriarch of the Merlin Family, that Mafa would definitely throw himself under my wings once I promised to help him return to the Merlin Family. At that time, not only would I get hold of the Nether Iron Vein, but I would also gain the wealth produced by the Gilded Rose. At that time, I would be almost certain to win the competition for the Patriarch’s seat. There shouldn’t have been an issue...’ He lamented.

‘So why did it end up like this?’

## **Chapter 156: Jouyi’s Arrival**

‘Even if the strength of a High Mage didn’t work, the status as a future Patriarch of the Merlin Family was still there, and my seat at the Elder Council isn’t fake... If Mafa wanted to return to the Merlin Family, I would have a lot of say in it. So how did it end up like that? Does that Mafa Merlin, despite being a child of the Merlin Family, actually have no plan to return to the Merlin Family?’

The idea seemed incomprehensible to Leon.

‘This... This is impossible, right? That’s the Merlin Family... To a child stuck outside the clan like Mafa Merlin, isn’t it a dream to be able to return to the Merlin Family? What was all this, then?’

Leon thought for a long time in the reception room, but couldn’t think of the reason behind all this.

But he knew that he couldn’t ask the Merlin Family for help in this situation, or else Aube’s people might impeach him from his Elder Council seat for misconduct.

‘Should I go ask for help from Teacher in the Cloud Tower?’

As this idea suddenly popped in his mind, Leon’s eyes brightened. ‘That’s right, Teacher is a 9th Rank High Mage, only one step away from becoming a truly distinguished existence. Undoing the Mana Shackles would be as easy as blowing off dust. If I take advantage of this and seek Teacher’s help and have him personally come to Thousand Sails City, not only will I be able to get rid of this resentment, I’ll also win the Nether Iron Vein from Mafa Merlin, and even the entire Gilded Rose...’

After carefully thinking about it, Leon’s dazed expression was swept away, replaced by self-confidence. He didn’t bid William farewell as he directly left the Gilded Rose.

...

Lin Yun had stayed in his laboratory for the greater part of a month, spending all his energy on studying the 8th character, the stack of paper on his refining table becoming thicker all the time. The 8th character was also becoming clearer in Lin Yun’s mind. His entire research was reaching the end, and it would take a week at most to finish this task.

At this time, Lin Yun had opened the Planar Path three times, but he didn’t go in himself. Hunting Skeleton Warriors and collecting Nether Iron Ores were Faleau and William’s jobs. Last time they came out, there were some 9th Rank Mages appearing among those fifty Mages. He estimated that a month later, the first Great Mage would appear within the Gilded Rose’s Mercenary Group.

Everything was progressing methodically.

Time quickly passed and it was finally the 13th of the next month.

Lin Yun had just entered his alchemy laboratory and noticed the large crystal ball starting to flicker. He knew that this was most likely Jouyi.

And sure enough, the elderly figure appeared within the crystal ball.

“Get ready, I’ll arrive at Thousand Sails City tomorrow afternoon.”

“Eh...”

“Oh right, do you have some relatively rare Spells or Formulas in your hands? If not, I can bring some from the Cloud Tower, this way you can participate in the knowledge exchange after arriving at Oddrock City. Whether you gain something or not, it is mostly to let you get acquainted with a few people. You will grow moldy after staying time confined in your alchemy laboratory in Thousand Sails City all the time...”

From the last sentence, it could be heard how Star Sage Jouyi was still somewhat resentful about Lin Yun refusing to go to Okland.

“No, I’ll make my own preparations.” Lin Yun was somewhat moved after hearing this. Even though Jouyi’s words weren’t particularly pleasant, even a deaf person could hear the support in his voice.

But being moved was only being moved. After thinking about it, Lin Yun still refused Jouyi’s proposal.

It wasn’t that Lin Yun was afraid of owing Jouyi a favor...

But Lin Yun had his own plan for the magic knowledge exchange of Oddrock City.

“Good, then we will see each other tomorrow.” After being flatly denied by Lin Yun, Jouyi didn’t seem to take offense and straightforwardly ended the transmission.

The next day, Lin Yun took a rare day off.

After going to the Gilded Rose at dawn, he didn’t go to his alchemy laboratory like usual, and instead, he waited for Jouyi’s arrival.

Jouyi arrived in the afternoon. This Star Sage didn’t look like an Archmage... He looked like an ordinary old man as he entered the Gilded Rose.

The only difference was that an ordinary old man definitely wouldn’t have the Leader of the Mage Guild to wait upon him.

Star Sage Jouyi didn’t politely greet Lin Yun after entering the Gilded Rose and straightforwardly asked him where he had put the papers that he had used to calculate the Fanrusen Formula’s core spell matrices.

“In the alchemy laboratory. What...” Lin Yun wanted to ask what Jouyi was up to, but he didn’t have time to finish his words before Jouyi disappeared with Solomon.

“...” Lin Yun was stunned for a while before helplessly shaking his head. When he planned to follow them in, the Gilded Rose welcomed two more guests.

This time, it was surprisingly Leon...

Leon seemed to have changed greatly.

His face that looked similar to William’s didn’t have the same calm that he’d had when he entered the Gilded Rose the first time. He looked like a totally different person. He was filled with a hard-to-conceal impatience, and even his steps seemed somewhat hurried, as if afraid he would miss something.

It looked like the Mana Shackles on him had yet to be undone. The High Mage’s mana fluctuations had completely disappeared and he simply looked like an ordinary man.

But it was the one standing next to Leon who made Lin Yun frown.

He was a middle-aged man in his fifties, was tall, and had a square-shaped face. Lin Yun only needed one glance to know where Leon had learnt magic from.

But what made Lin Yun frown was the fact that this middle-aged man was a peak High Mage.

If he wasn’t a 9th Rank High Mage, then he was at the 8th Rank at the very least. And when he entered the Gilded Rose, he was already spreading mana fluctuations, pressuring Lin Yun without a word.

“Looks like there is an issue...” Lin Yun was startled. A peak High Mage, that was an existence on the level of Hogg.

“You are Mafa Merlin?” After the middle-aged man entered the lobby, his eyes fell on Lin Yun.

“Indeed, I am Mafa Merlin, and you are...?”

“I am Leon Merlin’s teacher, Head of the Cloud Tower’s Magic Department, Hoen.”

Lin Yun instantly understood.

He introduced himself as Leon’s teacher first and then as the Head of the Cloud Tower Magic Department. In other words, this High Mage Hoen came for Leon today.

But Lin Yun had seen worse. So what if it was a peak High Mage? Solomon and Star Sage Jouyi were both in his alchemy laboratory. Picking this time to look for trouble, wasn’t that too awkward?

Unfortunately, this middle-aged High Mage didn’t know that.

Nothing could be done about that, as Hoen had been fighting in the Cloud Tower’s Pale Plane up until the previous day. Thus, he didn’t know that Jouyi had come to Thousand Sails City, and he also didn’t know that not long ago, a youth had helped Jouyi solve the difficult Fanrusen Formula.

Hoen only knew that his only disciple, Leon Merlin, had suffered a big loss in Thousand Sails City and had his mana sealed by Mana Shackles.

Leon Merlin’s talents in magic were outstanding. Becoming a High Mage at only 33 years of age was something only a few in Okland were ever able to accomplish. It could be said that Hoen had great hopes for Leon, and although he was exceptionally strict on the surface, he had inwardly decided to make Leon his inheritor.

But he hadn’t expected that when he left for the Pale Plane, the disciple that he regarded as most important actually suffered from being bound with Mana Shackles.

At that time, even Hoen, who would never show his anger, suddenly flared up and didn’t even undo the Mana Shackles.

This was because undoing the Mana Shackles should be done by the one who set them up. He would then use Mana Shackles on that perpetrator and make him taste the feeling of having one’s mana sealed.

Early that morning, Hoen took Leon and rushed to Thousand Sails City before making a beeline for the Gilded Rose in Victorious Return Street.

‘Those who dare to make a move on my disciple should be prepared to pay the price.’

As for whether that Mafa Merlin came from the Merlin Family, whether he had a Nether Iron vein, Hoen simply didn’t care. Hoen didn’t care about that, it would be others that had to worry about him.

“Are you the one who left those Mana Shackles on Leon’s body?” After reaching the Gilded Rose, his eyes were fixed sharply on Lin Yun. As he released the aura of a peak High Mage, an invisible pressure filled the entire lobby.

“This...” Lin Yun hesitated. ‘Should I let him know that Jouyi and Solomon are here? He is a member of the Cloud Tower, after all. If this blows up, it might not be so good...’

“No need to explain, you only have to answer yes or no.” Unfortunately, Hoen saw that hesitation as a desire to shirk responsibility, and his square face became heavy.

## Chapter 157: One After The Other

Three carriages stopped at the Gilded Rose at this time.

Three people got off their carriages, Black Horn Auction House's Cadgar, Viper Nest's Sauss, and the last one was somewhat unexpected to Lin Yun, it was Leader Monchi of the Monchi Family.

Among these three, the relation between Cadgar and Lin Yun was the best, the Gilded Rose and the Black Horn Auction House had already formed a very firm cooperative relationship. Thus, after Cadgar got down from the carriage, he didn't treat Lin Yun as an outsider and greeted him after entering.

And there was also Sauss.

Although the leader of the strongest underground power of Thousand Sails City had a disagreement with Lin Yun at the start, after meeting in the Poison Fog Canyon, having a sentry tower exploding, and getting rid of a Great Mage together, Sauss had become extremely well-behaved. Moreover, after becoming well-behaved, Sauss surprisingly found out that the Viper Nest's life had become better.

The most obvious part was that the Gilded Rose was supplying them with the best alchemy items, raising the strength of the Viper Nest by one whole level. It was providing them with the support they were in dire need of for the expansion in the Poison Fog Canyon. Moreover, Sauss was an opportunist, thus, with the deeper cooperation and future prospects, he didn't think much about it and drew a clear dividing line with the Monchi Family and drew close to the Gilded Rose.

Thus, the face of Monchi as he came down from the carriage wasn't very good.

But it's not like Monchi could do something about it. Although Sauss could be said to be a subordinate force Monchi supported in the past, but in recent years, Sauss had already broke away from Monchi's influence and his Viper Nest had been operating in the Poison Fog Canyon away from everyone's eyes like an independent kingdom. Although Monchi was quite resentful, he could only hide it in his heart. Only in front of his two sons would he dare to curse Sauss as a thankless wretch, and other names.

In any case, Monchi had avoided appearing together with Sauss as much as possible in order to avoid being made fun of by others behind his back.

But he couldn't do so today...

Because Lys had already clearly said that the Gilded Rose's Mafa Merlin was in charge of breaking all the alchemy arrays of the Vaughn Treasury and in exchange, he would have priority on choosing magic materials. If they had some demand on magic materials, they only had two choices. One was to replace Mafa Merlin to break those alchemy arrays, and the second was to discuss with Mafa Merlin.

Those were alchemy arrays left behind by the final Artisan of the 3rd Dynasty. Although the three had many Alchemists subordinates and Cadgar and Monchi even had Great Alchemist subordinates, the three didn't even think about breaking the alchemy array of an Artisan.

Thus, they only had one choice, coming to discuss with a certain person.

Cadgar and Sauss were fine, they would usually chat with Lin Yun. But Monchi was a bit bitter...

Not to mention Locke Merlin's shipwreck, just the relationship between Twin Moons Splendor and the Gilded Rose couldn't help but make Monchi feel embarrassed. They were irreconcilable competitors. To defeat the Gilded Rose, he hadn't hesitated to attack both in the open and in the dark, yet he didn't get a single advantage and the Gilded Rose kept expanding every day, leaving the Twin Moons Splendor far behind in the dust. Monchi would feel troubled about it.

After hearing that the Monchi Family would participate in the exploration of the Vaughn Treasury, the Black Tower immediately had someone send a list of items and asked Monchi to spare no efforts to get those three materials. They promised that as long as Monchi was able to meet the requirements of the Black Tower, Monchi would obtain the full support of the Black Tower.

Full support, this temptation was too great for Monchi.

For this, Monchi was ready to lose his self-respect and personally visit Mafa Merlin.

Standing outside the Gilded Rose, Monchi only felt uncomfortable. Besides the betraying Sauss, there was also the one who set off against him time and time again, Mafa Merlin. Monchi felt like a piece of meat getting ready to be roasted.

"Eh..." Monchi couldn't help sighing when he entered. If he had dealt with that Mafa Merlin properly at the start, or if he had paid more attention later then he wouldn't have such a headache now.

But it was too late right now.

The Gilded Rose had already thoroughly expanded. Not only did it have huge financial resources, it also maintained a favorable relationship with every major force in Thousand Sails City. If Monchi did anything, he might be attacked by all major forces. Thinking of this, Monchi couldn't help throwing a disgusted look at Sauss. Seeing that scoundrel's smile, he knew that Sauss had most likely obtained many benefits from the Gilded Rose.

What's more, Mafa Merlin was a 5th Rank Great Mage himself, it wouldn't be as easy to deal with him as it could have been before.

Monchi took a deep breath and kept urging himself, 'Must endure, must endure, I have to be patient and accommodating. I have to get those three materials, only then will I get the full support of the Black Tower. This is crucial for the Monchi Family, especially since Solan isn't here this year. The Black Tower support is everything to the Monchi Family.'

'All I have to do is endure for a year. When Solan returns as an Archmage a year later, everything will be different. At that time, the Monchi Family would have the power to sweep through Thousand Sails City. Not to mention a small Gilded Rose, even the Sage Tower and Silver Moon Mercenary would have no other choice but to look up to him. At that time, everything he lost today would be returned.'

Monchi fiercely clenched his teeth and squeezed an unsightly smile, "Great Mage Merlin..."

Lin Yun was surprised when he saw this situation, 'Is there a meeting I'm unaware of? How come they all chose to come at this time?'

First was Jouyi and Solomon, then Hoen and Leon, and now it was the leaders of three major forces in Thousand Sails City. As Lin Yun greeted them, he couldn't help looking outside, wondering if a few more would appear.

"Erm, three leaders, how about you take a seat in the reception room first? I still have something to take care of..." After throwing a few glances outside and making sure that no one else would come, he welcomed the three and asked them to wait in his reception room.

"Merlin, this is..." Cadgar noticed something wrong at this time, there was someone else with Lin Yun besides the three of them.

He was fine before noticing, but once he discovered that this person was actually a peak High Mage, Cadgar suddenly became startled. This was a power that only two or three people could equal in Thousand Sails City.

Moreover, the expression of this peak High Mage wasn't very good. Although he was just standing there, he was unleashing the mana fluctuations of a peak High Mage.

This meant that he wanted to make a move!

Cadgar was suddenly startled and almost retreated one step. At the same time he asked Lin Yun, "Merlin, this is?"

"Eh, this is High Mage Hoen, Cloud Tower's Head of the Magic Department."

"Eh..." Cadgar nodded with exaggeration and enthusiastically greeted him, "High Mage Hoen, it's an honor to meet you. I am Cadgar of the Black Horn chamber of commerce, I..."

"Okay, you don't need to say anything else." Hoen didn't look at him and coldly interrupted his introduction, "Who you are doesn't matter, I came for Mafa Merlin today."

Cadgar and Sauss were suddenly stumped by those words.

It seems that this Mafa Merlin provoked great troubles. A 9th Rank High Mage came to look for him, and when Cadgar introduced himself under the Black Horn chamber of commerce, the High Mage didn't even glance at him. From this, it could be seen how powerful his background was, he didn't even need to show respect to the Black Horn chamber of commerce.

This time, this matter might not be that easy to solve.

"Mafa Merlin, I'll ask you again. Are you the one who put Mana Shackles on Leon Merlin's body?"

"Yes, I did."

Lin Yun's words silenced the entire lobby. Cadgar and Sauss both looked at Lin Yun, shocked at the words Mana Shackles!

The two then looked at the youth next to Hoen and their expression sank. There was no need to ask to know that this youth without a single mana fluctuation was most likely the Leon Merlin he had mentioned. As for the relation between the two, it was clear that even if they weren't family, or master and disciple, it still wouldn't be simple.

In other words, Great Mage Merlin had used Mana Shackles on someone related to a 9th Rank High Mage.

This was definitely drawing a lot of hostility.

Mana Shackles was used to seal mana, as long as it was set up, it could make a High mage turn into an ordinary person. Even when a higher ranked mage crushed a lower ranked mage, they would only use it when there was great hatred between them, because to a mage, losing their mana was no different from death.

Thinking about this, the two couldn't help grumbling, 'Great Mage Merlin, this isn't a game...'

At this time, Monchi's eyes shone as he watched from the side, 'Ahah, Mana Shackles? Mafa Merlin, you doomed yourself.'

At this moment, Monchi stood out, "Hello, High Mage Hoen, I've been looking forward to meeting you. My younger brother Solan Monchi often mentions you..."

### **Chapter 158: Who Called Me?**

"Oh..."

Hoen glanced at Monchi and then nodded, as he indeed knew Solan Monchi. Although the Cloud Tower was the Black Tower's mortal enemy, in the struggles between those forces, there were rarely any major conflicts breaking out because of their large influence. They wouldn't make a move unless one side was at least 80% certain that they could eliminate the other side. Their fights were mostly about who was leading in various fields as well as small-scale conflicts and clashes. A true life or death battle might not even occur once in a year.

Sometimes, the mages of both forces might even cooperate, and their understanding of each other wasn't inferior to their understanding of their own side.

Hoen and Solan were both 9th Rank High Mages and had come into contact on many occasions. And because of one of the times they cooperated, Hoen even owed Solan a small favor.

"High Mage Hoen, it's an honor to see you..." A smile blossomed on Monchi's face. He had heard Hoen's name by accident and had now talked purely based on his instincts as a businessman. It had been a gamble.

In any case, he wouldn't have lost much if he lost the gamble, but if he won the gamble...

And he won the gamble!

Although Monchi wasn't gifted in the field of mana, he was pretty skilled at reading other people. And seeing Hoen's expression now, he could confirm that this person indeed had some degree of friendship with his younger brother.

And sure enough, the originally tense 9th Rank High Mage slightly eased up after hearing of Monchi's identity, and he even greeted him in an amiable way. "Is Solan doing well?"



“Not bad, not bad, last time he returned to Thousand Sails City, he kept talking about you, talking about how your accomplishment in the field of magic was greater than his...” Monchi lied through his teeth. Everyone in Okland knew that Solan would definitely reach the Archmage realm once he returned from the Dark Azure Plane while Hoen had just advanced to 9th Rank High Mage this year and was on a completely different level compared to Solan.

But who would hate flattery?

Especially when the one who was flattering him was Solan’s older brother...

Hoen would spend all his time on magic so he rarely had the chance to come in contact with people. How could he resist such sugar-coated words? A hard-to-discern smile appeared on that square shaped face.

But no matter how faint that smile was, it couldn’t escape the eyes of an old fox like Monchi. Monchi knew that the opportunity had come and immediately showed an embarrassed expression as he gently asked Hoen, “High Mage Hoen, can we speak?”

“Ah?” Hoen gave Monchi a suspicious look, but after thinking for a moment, he nodded and walked over to Monchi’s side. “Speak, what is it?”

“It’s like this, High Mage Hoen, this Mafa Merlin had some business issues with me. He owes me three magic materials and has yet to hand them over...”

“Eh?” Hoen suddenly frowned. Mages cared about honoring their obligations even more than merchants did. Hearing that Mafa Merlin had such vile conduct, his originally poor impression of him had dropped even lower.

“I’m also to be blamed for being too trusting. I thought that the great Gilded Rose wouldn’t short me of my three magic materials, I didn’t expect it...” Monchi shook his head as he explained as if he had truly been cheated of these magic materials.

“Your point is that you want me to help you get them back?”

“No no no...” Monchi was suddenly startled. How could he have them returned now? The Vaughn Treasury was still lying unexplored in the Four Seasons Canyon. Even if Hoen was willing to help out, Mafa Merlin didn’t have them in his hands right now, and thus, Monchi promptly shook his head and said with a helpless expression, “High Mage Hoen, I wanted to see if you could help get Mafa Merlin to sign a contract.” Monchi sighed dramatically and continued, “I had been too trusting and only made an oral agreement so I don’t even have a contract sheet left...”

After saying this, he shook his head and sighed once again. Sympathy could be seen on Hoen’s face as he straightforwardly agreed, “Rest assured, I’ll definitely make him sign a contract.”

“Thank you, High Mage Hoen...” Monchi thanked him profusely while showing a perfectly contented smile. ‘Let me see how you get out of this Mafa Merlin, this is a High Mage on the same level as Solan. Even if that old man Solomon came, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.’

After agreeing to Monchi’s request, Hoen walked back to Lin Yun. He didn’t make any moves, but the fierce mana fluctuations emitted even made Cadgar and Sauss feel breathless.

“Mafa Merlin, it isn’t easy to reach your rank at such a young age... It could be considered quite an accomplishment. I won’t make it too hard on you, I’ll give you one chance. As long as you agree, I can make it as if nothing happened, otherwise...”

“What chance?”

“First, you undo Leon’s Mana Shackles, and then you have to sign a contract for Leader Monchi’s three magic materials...” He then paused. “But as a punishment, I’ll also put Mana Shackles on you. Three years later, you can come look for me at the Cloud Tower.”

“Ah?” Lin Yun was stunned. Lin Yun could understand the matter about removing Leon Mana Shackles, and he could even understand why he wanted to add a punishment, but what was that matter about three magic materials and Monchi?

Lin Yun looked at Monchi, and then at Cadgar and Sauss, not knowing what he should ask.

“Well, Merlin, Leader Lys made us come.”

“Oh...” Lin Yun immediately understood from Cadgar’s expression.

No wonder the three of them had arrived together today, it was due to the conditions he raised with Lys.

“What, you don’t want to agree?” Hoen frowned when he saw Lin Yun’s hesitation. That young mage truly didn’t know how to appreciate kindness. Hoen felt that his three conditions were good to the point that they practically couldn’t be better. Leon was his most cherished disciple. That young Great Mage had the gall to make a move against Leon and use Mana Shackles on him...

Seeing that he was young but still stronger than Leon, he only suggested three years of Mana Shackles, along with the three magic materials he owed, yet he would dare to reject it?

‘Does he think he is too good to speak? Looks like I have to teach him a lesson first.’

Hoen said no more as he composedly brandished his staff. In an instant, a gust swirled in the lobby as nine realistic pythons appeared, hissing loudly as they pounced at Lin Yun.

This was the 4th Tier Spell, Wind Python.

But compared to William’s, Hoen’s Wind Python was on a completely different level. Not only were there nine Wind Pythons, but the difference between the two spells was like heaven and earth. At that time, Lin Yun hadn’t even frowned when William made a move, yet today, Lin Yun felt pressured in front of Hoen. Amidst the whistling gales, Lin Yun only had time to cast a Frost Armor before the nine pythons reached him. A snapping sound echoed as countless small cracks appeared on the Frost Armor.

‘Troublesome...’ Lin Yun couldn’t help feeling a bit startled. After all, the Frost Armor had been combined through the Magic Arrays and its defensive power was far stronger than an ordinary Frost Armor. But in front of these nine Wind Pythons, it felt no different from the average Frost Armor and started showing signs of shattering.

“You dare to resist!” Hoen sneered when he saw that Frost Armor. How could a young Great Mage block a power close to the Archmage realm? He tightened his grip on his magic staff and poured a huge amount of mana into it, making the gem at the top of the staff blossom with a dazzling light.

The nine Wind Pythons hissed as a frightening power burst out and the cracked Frost Armor shattered in an instant.

“Mafa Merlin, still not begging for forgiveness? Don’t you know that I only need to rouse some mana to shatter your Frost Armor...”

“Ahahah...” Lin Yun laughed as if he hadn’t seen those nine Wind Pythons.

Because he could already hear footsteps coming from the 2nd floor.

“Fuck...” Sure enough, just as Lin Yun laughed out loud, Solomon’s withered figure could be seen hurrying down the stairs. “Hoen, do you know what you are doing?”

“Solomon?” Hoen’s hands suddenly slowed, and he stared right back at Solomon. “You want to shelter this Mafa Merlin?”

“I asked you, Hoen, do you know what you are doing?” Solomon raised an eyebrow. ‘This Hoen can’t do anything right, Teacher finally managed to pull Mafa Merlin into the Magic Hand, yet right after you come back from the Pale Plane, you come and attack him!’

“Solomon, you think you can criticize me because you are Sir Jouyi’s disciple? Who do you think you are?” But Hoen wasn’t Hogg. Because Hogg had shallow backing in the Cloud Tower, he couldn’t say anything in front of Solomon. But Hoen was different, as he was the Head of the Magic Department. Even if Solomon was Star Sage Jouyi’s disciple, he couldn’t make the esteemed Head of the Magic Department bow his head.

“I...” Hoen’s words truly infuriated Solomon, but he didn’t know how to deal with him at this moment.

“Okay, Solomon, you are a tactful person. Stand to the side. With your identity, you aren’t qualified to order me around. That Mafa Merlin used Mana Shackles to seal Leon’s mana, and as a punishment I wanted him to be subjected to Mana Shackles for three years, this is fair, is it not?” Hoen stopped there and looked back at Lin Yun. “Mafa Merlin, I already gave you an opportunity, but unfortunately, you didn’t cherish it. I’ll let you know, unless Sir Jouyi personally appears today, no one can save you!”

After saying this, Hoen tightened his grip on his staff once again and the gusts, which had paused while they spoke, once again created a storm in the lobby.

But another set of footsteps came from the 2nd floor.

And the footsteps were followed by a sentence.

“Who called me?”

## **Chapter 159: Saving You**

The old man's voice was very soft, his steps were very gentle, he had a thin figure, and his head was full of grey hair. He looked no different from an ordinary old man.

But after the old man's words, the entire lobby became quiet. Gusts of winds no longer whistled past, mana no longer flowed, and the hostility instantly disappeared. It was as if everything was frozen.

It felt as if that ordinary old man was carrying some indescribable magic power. Just walking down the stairs made everyone feel boundless pressure.

"So?" Although Lin Yun was only a 5th Rank Great Mage, he was the most sensitive to the flow of mana and to the change of the magic elements. In this boundless pressure, Lin Yun could feel that this power wasn't coming from the old man himself, but rather from the world.

Lin Yun, instantly understood that this was most likely the rumored Extraordinary Power.

Star Sage Jouyi was now only a step away from being a Heaven Rank existence. Although he hadn't truly mastered the Extraordinary Power, his understanding of Extraordinary power already surpassed all Archmages. The mana fluctuations he emitted now had a shadow of Extraordinary Power.

When Lin Yun had been dragged into the world of the Book of Death, he experienced the power of a peak Archmage. But this power infinitely close to the Heaven Rank, the power that could cause destruction with a simple move, this was something Lin Yun was experiencing for the first time. This was the power of the world's laws, a frightening power that didn't belong to humans.

Now, that old man who had already touched the realm of Extraordinary Power was slowly walking down the stairs before stopping in the middle of the Gilded Rose's lobby, emitting boundless power. Even Sauss and Cadgar, who were the furthest away, felt breathless.

Not to mention Hoen, who was bearing the brunt of the force.

This 9th Rank High Mage was now holding tightly onto his magic staff, maintaining the gesture of the Wind Pythons, but his square face was twisted. It was a strange expression filled with anger, shock, doubt, and fear.

It was as if a mysterious force had extracted all those expressions before mixing them together on Hoen's face.

At this moment, Hoen was dumbfounded. His eyes were looking at Jouyi with shock and fear, but also still devoid of guilt.

Indeed, he truly felt that he wasn't guilty of anything.

This was the same feeling as innocently walking along the road at night and attracting a wolf by humming. Hoen truly didn't understand. He had only mentioned Sir Jouyi's name, he had only told Solomon not to get involved, how could he be so unlucky as to attract Sir Jouyi's wrath?

"You just said that no one could save Merlin?" Jouyi only stood there, his words not carrying a hint of anger.

But Hoen's face turned deathly pale, and beads of sweat were sliding down from his forehead. This previously imposing 9th Rank Great Mage was now unable to say anything due to fear in front of Jouyi.

Jouyi took over the Cloud Tower three hundred years ago. During these three hundred years, Jouyi carried the Cloud Tower to the peak of the Andlusa Kingdom almost all on his own. Even the Gaugass Battlemages of the powerful Black Tower couldn't make Jouyi retreat half a step. To every mage of the Cloud Tower, Jouyi's position could be said to be supreme. Their feelings towards Jouyi already couldn't be described with just fear and respect.

It wouldn't be exaggerating to say that Jouyi was like a God in the Cloud Tower!

Now, the Cloud Tower's sole God was standing in front of him, and even when he didn't show his anger, Hoen was still paralyzed from fear.

"Solomon doesn't have the qualifications to order you? Then am I qualified to order you?" This was Jouyi's second sentence aimed at Hoen, and he had frowned this time.

And Hoen completely collapsed.

"My apologies, Sir Jouyi, I didn't know Merlin was with you..." Hoen almost cried on the spot.

At this time, Hoen already knew that Leon would definitely suffer in vain. Not to mention the fact that Mafa Merlin was powerful, even if he were ordinary, as long as he was sheltered by Sir Jouyi, it wasn't something an insignificant Leon could deal with.

And it wasn't just a matter of suffering in vain for Leon.

If Mafa Merlin held a grudge and said a few words in front of Sir Jouyi, then let alone Leon, even Hoen might follow Leon in his lack of luck, despite being a 9th Rank High Mage.

Hoen didn't dare to say anything further. He only hoped that Mafa Merlin wouldn't pursue this. What about Mana Shackles, what about magic materials, they had long since been forgotten by Hoen.

But Hoen didn't think that the frowning Star Sage's face would turn grave after hearing his words.

"What, you think I am taking sides with Merlin?"

"No no no, I didn't mean this. Sir Jouyi, please listen to my explanation..." Hoen almost peed his pants, trying to explain as he shook his head frantically.

"Okay, Hoen, you don't need to explain. I watched you grow up. How could I not know what you are thinking? Don't you feel that I'm personally sheltering Merlin? Don't you feel that I'm compelling you to agree?"

"No no no... Star Sage Jouyi, I truly didn't have this idea. Let... Let me explain okay?" Hoen urgently said. With each word from Jouyi, he was feeling more and more scared. Siding, compel, it was as if Hoen was repeatedly being slapped.

Moreover, Hoen still didn't dare to run.

Besides incoherently asking to explain himself, he was unable to actually say anything.

"Idiot!" After reaching this point, Jouyi couldn't help scolding him, "You can't fucking understand? I'm saving you!"

“Ah?”

This time, not to mention Hoen being stumped, even Cadgar, Sauss, and Monchi were befuddled. They doubted whether they had misheard Sir Jouyi saying... that he was saving Hoen?

How could this be?

A 9th Rank High Mage would crush any 5th Rank Great Mage in a fight, so how could the 9th Rank High Mage be the one being saved?

At this moment, the three all wondered if Jouyi had mistaken his words.

“You don’t believe so?” Jouyi coldly looked at Hoen.

Although there was no expression on the face of that 9th Rank High Mage, his eyes were filled with doubt, completely exposing Hoen’s thoughts.

That’s right, Hoen didn’t believe him at all.

He was a genuine 9th Rank High Mage, and although he wasn’t as strong as the Black Tower’s Solan, how could he have a problem getting rid of a 5th Rank Great Mage?

‘Even if that 5th Rank Great Mage is very powerful, it can’t be enough to contend with a 9th Rank High Mage, can it?’

‘True, that Mafa Merlin did defeat Leon, who was also a High Mage. But Leon is only a 1st Rank High Mage, comparing Leon to a 9th Rank High Mage is like comparing heaven and earth. Regardless of whether I’m careless, regardless of how abnormal he is, how could I be defeated by such a young mage?’

“Looks like you truly don’t believe it...” Jouyi attentively watched Hoen for a moment before finally looking at Lin Yun. “Merlin, you should say something. Can you defeat Hoen?”

“I can’t...” Lin Yun didn’t think much and directly shook his head.

Hearing Lin Yun’s words, all the people in the lobby sighed in relief for some unexplainable reason. For Monchi, who had wanted to profit from Lin Yun’s misfortune, the stronger Lin Yun was, the worse it would be for him. But even Cadgar and Sauss, who were on friendly terms, with Lin Yun sighed in relief.

This was enough to show how shocking Jouyi’s words were...

“Tell him the truth...” Jouyi didn’t even raise an eyebrow.

“I truly can’t...” Lin Yun resolutely shook his head, but after some time, he added some words. “But High Mage Hoen would definitely die.”

“...” The moments those words fell, everyone in the lobby of the Gilded Rose held their breaths.

“I’d definitely die?” Hoen almost burst with rage when he heard those words.

‘How could a 5th Rank Great Mage have the confidence to decide the life and death of a 9th Rank High Mage! Even if Sir Jouyi is standing behind you, how could you have such confidence in yourself?’

“Hoen, you shut up...” Jouyi was distracted at first. He then frowned after berating Hoen. He was then silent for a dozen seconds before nodding, “Indeed, Hoen, would definitely die. If I didn’t come down with Solomon, both of you would die...”

“Yes.” After nodding, Lin Yun didn’t say anything else.

The people standing in the lobby, including Leon and Hoen, were unable to calm themselves. Although they could understand each word of that discussion between the elder and the youth, their brains still couldn’t make sense of it.

## **Chapter 160: Battle Matrices**

The discussion between Jouyi and Lin Yun wasn’t complicated.

It was just that the information revealed was too shocking. This was like saying that this 5th Rank Great Mage was equal to a 9th Rank High Mage. This was truly preposterous. The first reaction of any regular person hearing this would be to bursting out in laughter before praising the joke.

Even a fool would know that the gap between a 5th Rank Great Mage and a 9th Rank High Mage could be described as almost unbreachable. This wasn’t something that skills or tactics could make up for. The difference in power between both sides was something set in stone, and there would be no fluke in such a battle.

But no one in the lobby of the Gilded Rose was laughing.

Because the one who said that was none other than the master of the Cloud Tower, the strongest Archmage, Star Sage Jouyi.

Even the one involved, Hoen, could only stand there and grind his teeth. Although there was disbelief on his face, he didn’t dare to say anything.

“Looks like you are still not convinced...” Jouyi laughed after seeing Hoen’s expression.

“Sir Jouyi...” Because of Sir Jouyi’s smile, Hoen regained some courage, and after some hesitation, he clenched his teeth and said, “It’s not that I’m not convinced by your assessment, but...”

“Okay, no need to say anything more.” Jouyi didn’t even let him finish and waved his hand to interrupt him. “Since you aren’t convinced, then let’s show you. Merlin, come with me for a moment...”

After saying that, he ignored Hoen’s expression and gave Lin Yun a pat on the shoulder before finding a table to sit on.

“Weren’t you going to head for Oddrock City?” Lin Yun slowly sat next to Jouyi while hoping to find a way out of this situation.

Unfortunately, Lin Yun’s struggles were ignored by Jouyi. This old man called the most powerful Archmage of the kingdom picked up a piece of paper and then divided it into two in front of Lin Yun.

“You are in charge of Hoen, I’ll be in charge of you.”

“Okay...” Lin Yun nodded, resigned to his fate, as he took a quill from his pocket and started writing.

Jouyi and Lin Yun wrote in Nesser Runes as the tips of their quills streaked across the papers, leaving one rune after the other on them, one formula after the other. The two looked extremely focused, and everyone present seemed to be influenced by them, controlling their breaths as they stared at the pieces of paper in front of the two men.

‘Those are battle matrices!’ Cadgar was the first to discover, and that discovery made him feel startled.

To a mage, establishing a battle matrix for combat analysis was an essential skill. But usually, this kind of analysis would only be done partially, it would be at most an exchange of one or two spells, because that kind of analysis needed countless details and possibilities, and the calculations required could only be described as endless.

If a mage could establish a complete battle matrix of a fight lasting thirty seconds, he would already be described as a genius. Even in a place like Okland it would be enough to make a few major forces fight over him.

Furthermore, the difference in rank between both sides couldn’t be too high. If one side exceeded the other side’s rank, the analysis would become incomparably difficult. Let alone a battle analysis, even one spell exchange would have errors that were difficult to predict due to the difference in strength.

But now...

There was no problem with Star Sage Jouyi. As the strongest Archmage of the kingdom, he could establish the battle matrix of any mage. But Mafa Merlin...

Mafa Merlin was only a 5th Rank Great Mage!

How could he establish the battle matrix of a 9th Rank High Mage? Moreover Jouyi had said that the fight would have lasted five minutes!

At that time, Cadgar finally understood why the two would use Nesser Runes...

Because regardless of whether it was Jouyi or Lin Yun, they would reach astronomical figures while calculating. These huge numbers would make countless mages feel despair, and Cadgar felt that if they didn’t use Nesser Runes, their papers would fill half of the lobby.

Only Nesser, that language which mixed Draconic and Elven, praised as characters with mystical mana, could possibly complete this frightening battle matrix.

But could Merlin really do it?

He was only a 5th Rank Great Mage, after all.

Cadgar looked at those pieces of paper spread on the table with worry that was hard to conceal...

And Hoen, who was next to Cadgar, had already put away his disbelief and was now frowning.

At first, Hoen simply didn’t believe that a 5th Rank Great Mage that wasn’t even twenty was able to establish a battle matrix, but the longer he looked, the stranger he felt.

Because the dozen characters and three formulas written on the piece of paper already amounted to seven spells. These seven spells were seven options he had considered back then, but due to the



arrangement of elements, he chose the Wind Python spell, and the remaining six spells had naturally not appeared.

Seeing this, Hoen's frown accentuated. This wasn't a joke, the remaining six spells never appeared. How could that Mafa Merlin guess them?

'No no no, this cannot be, this is definitely a coincidence,' he reassured himself. 'That's right! It's a coincidence!'

Hoen comforted himself to bolster his courage as he kept looking while trembling. The quill streaked across the piece of paper for another ten seconds before his expression changed once again, because those Nesser Runes were now detailing analysis of a few spells he would have chosen after completing his Wind Python. After one glance, Hoen knew that he likely would have used any of these spells.

'No way...'

The more Hoen looked, the more cold sweat trickled down his back. If he couldn't see the piece of paper with his own eyes, he would never have thought that he had been thoroughly so analyzed by a 5th Rank Great Mage in the previous fight!

As he thought about it, Hoen felt some lingering fear. 'Thank god he is only a 5th Rank Great Mage. If he was a 9th Rank High Mage... No, even just being a 5th Rank High Mage would be enough... By controlling 6th Tier Spells and knowing my every move, he would be able to easily kill me.'

'Fortunately, he is only a 5th Rank Great Mage.'

Hoen secretly wiped the cold sweat from his forehead, and when he raised his head again, he didn't dare to look at Lin Yun's piece of paper. He sneakily changed his target and looked at Jouyi's paper, hoping he could find a tiny bit of self-respect from the Star Sage's battle matrix.

But after changing target, Hoen froze foolishly.

At that time, Jouyi's battle matrix had only been half completed, but Hoen could clearly see that although he had overwhelming power, he would have been led around by the nose by that 5th Rank Great Mage, and all that started from that shattered Frost Armor...

At that time, Hoen clearly understood that the shattered Frost Armor had turned into a frightening trap. If not for Solomon's sudden appearance, that shattered Frost Armor would have made him sink into a swamp, rendering him unable to take advantage of his overwhelming power and ultimately causing him to lose control of the battle.

Seeing the Nesser Runes on the paper, Hoen could only feel a chill down his spine, like a viper was slowly crawling across his back.

Hoen had never even dreamed that the battle could have taken such a direction, but now, through the two battle matrices, Hoen suddenly found out that he might have died together with this 5th Rank Great Mage. Thinking about this, dread finally appeared on that square face as he looked at Lin Yun.

"Right, what did you plan to do in the end?" Jouyi's battle matrix was almost complete, but there was still a large gap left at the end of the piece of paper. Thus, that Star Sage tapped the table and asked Lin Yun as if they were deliberating.

After Lin Yun looked at Jouyi bluntly, and then he took Jouyi's piece of paper and used his quill to write another block of Nesser Runes and Magic Formulas.

Jouyi took a look at the paper for a long time before frowning. "If it's like this, you would need to use at least two Spiritual Magic Tools..."

"Three, Sir Jouyi."

"..." Hearing those words, Jouyi rolled his eyes at him. The jaws of the people on the side almost fell off. Three Spiritual Magic Tools, a 5th Rank Great Mage actually had such frightening capital? At this time, whether it was Cadgar, Saus, or Monchi, the way they looked at Lin Yun had changed.

The two completed their battle matrices one after the other. After looking at the battle matrices together for some time, Jouyi walked over to Hoen with his hands behind his back.

"Good, Hoen, do you still have something to say?"

"No... I don't..." Hoen's face was devoid of colors at this time. He was in a daze due to fear and dread and didn't even ask why on Mafa Merlin's battle matrix there were a few times he used the power of a 5th Rank High Mage.

Because he knew...

That young Great Mage had the qualifications to use that power; this was something Hoen had to acknowledge. He was able to use Nesser Runes to establish a battle matrix and completely analyze five minutes of a 9th rank High Mage's battle... this wasn't something a 5th Rank Great Mage could do. Not to mention a 5th Rank Great Mage, even Hoen as a 9th Rank High Mage didn't have such frightening computing ability. With such talent, it wasn't strange if he could burst with power in battle.

At this point, Hoen understood why Jouyi said he was saving him.

He truly had saved him.

As Mafa Merlin said, he might not be able to defeat him for sure, but Hoen would definitely die. He hadn't been talking big, that was a fact!

"Good..." Jouyi smiled as he nodded.

Afterwards, he smacked the piece of paper in Hoen's face.

"Idiot!" Jouyi then burst forth with the fury he had restrained. "Now fuck off to the Cloud Tower and ask anyone you know why your task of gathering the most basic data in the Pale Plane had suddenly stopped. I'll tell you this, if not for Merlin, you might have spent another ten years without having been able to return to Noscent. A hundred of you can't even compare to Merlin's contribution to the Cloud Tower, to all of Noscent's mages, yet you dare to make a move against him? Did you think I already died?"

"Because of him?" Hoen had been collecting basic data for the Fanrusen Formula in the Pale Plane. But recently, for some unknown reason, his task had been stopped. By the time Hoen returned from the Pale Plane, he was directly put at the seat of the Head of the Magic Department for his two years of hard work.

From what Jouyi said, him coming back to Noscent and his seat as the Head of the Magic Department, weren't they both due to Mafa Merlin?