

## **Magic Era 171**

### **Chapter 171: Flame Spirit**

In exchange, he would make the Flame Spirit of the Dusk Fire awaken ahead of time.

This was a profitable deal for both of them. Lin Yun needed the Dusk Fire to open a fertile plane, while Osul urgently needed the Dusk Fire's Flame Spirit to awaken ahead of time. Thus, the two hit it off and reached a deal in the carriage.

To be honest, Lin Yun hoped to have his own Flame Spirit.

Of Noscent's six great Magic Spirits, the Flame Spirit was the one with the most uses, especially an Upper Rank one, which would be almost omnipotent. Not only did it have a formidable fighting strength, but it could also improve an alchemist's level of alchemy by one whole rank. Naturally, a Flame Spirit of such level was rarely seen. Even the Dusk Fire in Osul's hands was only a High Rank Flame Spirit.

But after hearing Solomon's words, Lin Yun actually felt that there might be a Flame Spirit buried under the Ash Tower. Even if it wasn't Upper Rank, it would very likely be High Rank...

At that thought, Lin Yun's heartbeat accelerated.

"How about it, Merlin? Do you want to take a look at it with me? If we get to Rudolph's Relics we can share the spoils equally."

"Haha..." Lin Yun stared at Solomon for a long time but didn't answer. Rather, he asked with a strange smile, "Looks like there are many alchemy arrays in Rudolph's vestiges..."

"..." Solomon suddenly stopped smiling. Indeed, there were many arrays inside Rudolph's vestiges.

Otherwise, Solomon wouldn't have come over to seek him out in the middle of the night.

Originally, the best candidate to explore the place would have been Thorpe of the Sage Tower, a High Mage only one step away from entering the Master Alchemist realm. And more importantly, Thorpe was truly on his side.

The problem was that Thorpe couldn't come...

Oddrock City was within the range of influence of the Ash Tower...

Solomon was only able to enter Oddrock City because his teacher was participating in the Magic Hand's gathering, but if Thorpe came, wouldn't the Ash Tower start complaining? How could two of the three big shots of the Sage Tower enter the Ash Tower?

Thus, the only one that fit the situation was Merlin.

Speaking of which, Merlin was a good candidate, too. Whether it was magical strength or alchemical prowess, he was completely superior to Thorpe. The only problem was that Merlin was never one to suffer a loss. Even if Solomon was the one to find Rudolph's vestige, he would have to share half of the gains.

Lin Yun thought about it for a bit and decided not to refuse. "Half each, but I get to choose first."

"Deal!"

Solomon then explained a bit about Rudolph's vestige. The entrance was located on the lowest floor of the ash Tower, in the basement that was used to store all kinds of magic materials, and the rune to open the door was on the Hell Destroyer scroll. It was a rune made of seven characters. Lin Yun only listened to it once before recording it to heart.

"Oh, right, someone seemed to be monitoring you."

"I know. It's fine to leave a substitute." Lin Yun nodded. As soon as he started walking up the stairs, he had known that a young mage had been following him. He probably had been dispatched by Dylan, but since the young mage didn't take any overt action, Lin Yun also felt disinclined to make a move.

"Good." Solomon directly cast a Clone spell and a copy of Solomon appeared in the room.

Lin Yun also softly whispered an incantation and summoned a Water Elemental, and the Magic Array quickly rotated. The Water Elemental soon adopted Lin Yun's physical characteristics. Even Lin Yun's mana fluctuations were identical. As long as no one entered the room, nobody would find out about these substitutes.

"Merlin, if I had invited you to join the Sage Tower earlier, would you have agreed?" Solomon couldn't help sighing when he saw that Water Elemental.

This Water Elemental didn't feel as realistic as the clone and was also more troublesome than his own Clone spell, but it shouldn't be forgotten that the person before him was only a 5th Rank Great Mage. Being able to use a Water Elemental instead of a Clone spell was already a very amazing achievement.

No wonder his teacher, Jouyi, kept praising this young Great Mage to no end. Just from this, it could be seen how Merlin's magic simulation ability was far better than that of a High Mage, even as a 5th Rank Great Mage. This already couldn't be described as mere talent. Solomon even felt that this young Great Mage was born for magic. Maybe one day, Thousand Sails City would have its first Heaven Mage.

Unfortunately, he hadn't agreed to join the Sage Tower.

This wasn't the first time Solomon felt regretful about this.

Each time he looked at this young Great Mage, Solomon would feel as if he had just met him, feeling surprise and shock every time. And this also made Solomon sigh as he thought about what might have been. If he had made a move earlier, Merlin might have joined the Sage Tower.

"This is hard to say..." Lin Yun didn't know how he should answer at this moment.

Solomon sighed once again and cast a Mage Eye to check outside the room. After confirming that there was only one young mage, he cast an Invisibility spell and muttered, "Let's go, we will meet up at the entrance."

After saying that, Solomon directly left the room.

“This is bullying...” Lin Yun scratched his cheek. Invisibility was something unique to High Mages. Although he could use the Magic Array to simulate it, he wouldn’t be able to maintain it for more than thirty seconds.

But naturally, this minor matter wouldn’t stump Lin Yun...

He took out his Book of Death, put his hand on the first page, and quickly cast Haste. And one of the five empty Ultimate Spell Slots quickly lit up.

After finishing this, Lin Yun cast a Shadow Walk and suddenly turned into a faint shadow. Although he didn’t completely hide himself, it was no different from being invisible among the shadows. Moreover, Shadow Walk had an advantage. As long as Lin Yun was amidst the shadows, the mana fluctuations would tightly converge, and even a High Mage like Dylan wouldn’t be able to notice.

At the same time, he poured mana into the Book of Death and activated the upgraded spell.

Lin Yun’s speed rose greatly, and with the effect of Shadow Walk, Lin Yun almost effortlessly avoided the surveillance of that young mage. It took less than a minute for him to pass through layers upon layers of guards before reaching that basement.

Lin Yun waited for a moment in the basement until Solomon arrived.

“So fast?” Solomon was started when he saw Lin Yun.

Solomon originally thought that unless he met Dylan himself, he would be completely unimpeded on his way down, so it would be impossible for Merlin to overtake him.

But he hadn’t expected that Merlin would already be waiting for him when he arrived in the basement. Moreover, it looked as if he had been waiting for a fair bit.

‘Fuck, I really should have tied him to the Sage Tower back then!’ Solomon fiercely cursed inwardly before whispering the rune to open the secret entrance.

The two then saw an alchemy array slowly appearing on an empty wall.

“This is...” Lin Yun frowned when he saw that array.

“What is it?”

“Nothing...” Lin Yun wasn’t sure, so in the end, he could only shake his head and warn, “But after going in, you had better be careful...”

“Can you break this alchemy array?”

“I’ll try.” Lin Yun crouched in front of the array and carefully looked over every magic circuit while frantically rousing his Magic Arrays as he started analyzing the alchemy array’s layout.

Seconds slowly passed, but Lin Yun’s frown actually grew more severe.

“How is it?” Solomon looked more and more anxious as he waited on the side, urging him two or three times during the process.

“Don’t rush me, it’s fine...” Lin Yun impatiently waved his hand.

In fact, there was no trouble breaking the alchemy array.

This alchemy array was only Master level, and breaking this kind of layout wasn't an issue for a Master Alchemist like Lin Yun. What truly troubled him was the alchemy array itself.

When he saw the alchemy array, a thought appeared in Lin Yun's mind. 'Planar Path!'

That's right, the entire array's layout was a custom-made Planar Path!

But then, Lin Yun found out that the source of that Planar Path was too huge.

No no, it wasn't a huge mana crystal, but rather, it was the entire Ash Tower...

The mana source of this array was the Ash Tower itself. In other words, if the alchemy array became active, the Ash Tower would be supplying the mana for it. This was abnormal. There was only one explanation...

This Planar Path was unstable!

This was the real reason Lin Yun didn't dare to activate it.

It was extremely dangerous to set foot on an unstable Planar Path. One moment of carelessness and one would be torn apart by the spatial cracks.

Lin Yun was a bit uncertain at the moment.

Was it worth getting through so much danger for the possibility of getting a Flame Spirit?

The Magic Arrays never stopped working, and the entire alchemy array had been dissected by Lin Yun as he kept analyzing it over and over.

"Eh?" By the 6th analysis, Lin Yun finally made a new discovery.

## **Chapter 172: Demiplane**

And it was a big discovery...

'Turns out it's a Demiplane...' Lin Yun didn't know whether to laugh or cry as he patted the dust off his hand.

He had actually been confused by an alchemy array.

And it wasn't because the array was too profound...

It was because the array was too simple.

And it was a Master Alchemist level array!

Lin Yun had never heard of a Demiplane being attached to a Master level array, this was like using fodder to feed a large Dragon, this was abuse!

Only those peak Heaven Mages had the power to open a Demiplane. They would use countless arrays to open their own worlds from nothingness. These worlds stood outside of Noscent since their inceptions,

not receiving any binding from the laws. The laws of these worlds were an embodiment of the master's will, and these worlds also depended on their masters to function.

What kind of frightening power was needed to keep a world working? Even transmitting it couldn't be handled by a Master Array.

Thus, Lin Yun hadn't even considered it...

Until later, when Lin Yun had analyzed that alchemy array for the sixth time, and he suddenly discovered that the crucial magic patterns of that alchemy array didn't seem to be completely aimed at opening a Planar Path. Although it had some spatial stabilization magic patterns, more of them were used for mana transmission and rune transmission.

What kind of plane would use mana transmission and rune transmission? Only a Demiplane...

Everything became clear to Lin Yun then.

That's right, a Demiplane was most likely hidden behind that Planar Path, or else this array's crucial magic patterns wouldn't have used mana transmission and rune transmission, and neither would the array have been connected to the Ash Tower. After all, a tower like the Ash Tower was already a true fortress. When fully operational, it could only be described as an extinction-level firepower. That power supplying the mana of a Master Array was simply unimaginable.

The only explanation was a Demiplane.

But if it was a Demiplane, then a Master Array wouldn't be enough...

Arriving at this point, Lin Yun frowned once again.

After all, Rudolph was a Court Mage in the 3rd Dynasty, his authority was sky-high. As long as he wanted, he could invite an Artisan that was proficient in arrays, so why would he use a Master Array to connect to his Demiplane?

"Merlin...Merlin..." When Solomon saw Lin Yun standing up, he was looking forward to hearing the results.

But he waited a long time and Lin Yun was still daydreaming...

Solomon couldn't wait any longer and waved his hands in front of Lin Yun's eyes, calling out to him several times in a row before Lin Yun managed to recover.

"Eh? What's going on?"

"You're asking me?"

"Oh..." Lin Yun completely recovered after hearing Solomon's question. He took two steps back and pointed at the array on the wall. "This array can open a Planar Path. If you are truly interested in Rudolph's vestige, you should use the rune to go in and take a look. But you shouldn't spend more than an hour, or else you might be lost in that plane forever."

"Planar Path?" Solomon was startled. The Sage Tower had attracted talents for over a thousand years, and three Archmages had even graduated from it, but it had always remained trapped within Thousand

Sails City. Besides being restricted by its mortal enemy, the Sage Tower, it was also because they didn't have their own plane.

Solomon, who came from the Cloud Tower, knew the importance of having their own plane...

Why was the Cloud Tower able to stand together with the Black Tower, why was it above the countless mage forces of the Andlusa Kingdom?

Wasn't it because the Cloud Tower had no less than seven private planes? Each of them supplied the Cloud Tower with a large amount of natural resources, and resources were important to any power. Regardless of how long a power had been around, regardless of how much territory it owned, if it couldn't keep up sufficient resources to support itself, its long reign would become history and the large territory would be taken by others.

Nurture of talents, skill development, everything was inevitably linked to being backed by resources.

Solomon never imagined that he would find a Planar Path in the Ash Tower...

As he thought of that, Solomon couldn't help stamping his feet. 'Those bastards are so lucky, they actually have a Planar Path below the Ash Tower. If one day they find it, wouldn't they receive the support of this plane's resources? Wouldn't the Sage Tower end up in trouble then?'

"Merlin, do... do you have a way..." This outcome was definitely not what Solomon wanted to see, so this High Mage forced himself to try to ask, despite feeling embarrassed.

But Solomon didn't even finish asking when Lin Yun shook his head. "I don't."

"I didn't even finish asking!" Solomon interjected.

"You don't need to finish asking. You wanted to ask if there was a way to destroy this array and make it so that the Ash Tower can never find this Planar Path, right?"

"Right, right, right... How about it, can you come up with a way?"

Lin Yun shook his head and patiently explained, "Impossible. High Mage Solomon, even if I destroy this array, it's impossible to destroy the plane itself. As long as the Ash Tower finds the existence of this plane itself, it won't take much effort to arrange another alchemy array to take advantage of it..."

"Then what can we do? If... If the Ash Tower gets hold of this Planar Path, wouldn't the Sage Tower be in extreme danger?"

"This is something that you should leave for me to worry about," Lin Yun cryptically muttered.

"What?"

"Since I have the right to choose first, do you think I can afford to leave a whole plane for the Ash Tower?"

"..." Solomon's expression suddenly darkened. 'Damn, to think the right to loot this plane first would be his priority...'

In the end, Solomon almost cursed as he whispered the opening rune while grinding his teeth.

Immediately afterwards, Lin Yun only felt the space twisting around him. If he didn't pay attention, it would seem like it was the same feeling as when he opened the Bone Plane.

But Lin Yun knew that there was some difference between both sides, such as the mana flow. This was the opening of a Demiplane, and the mana flow far surpassed that of the Bone Plane because of the Ash Tower being linked with the array. The large amount of mana released in that split second couldn't be compared to a few Abyssal Magic Diamonds.

After the space distorted, the surroundings cleared up.

Solomon then let out a peal of unrestrained laughter.

"Hahaha, Merlin, you can use your right to choose, hahahaha..."

No wonder Solomon laughed like that. What appeared before the two wasn't a plane, but rather, it was a piece of land floating in the void. It was only a few kilometers wide. As they stood there, they could see a meteor streaking across the sky, lightning tearing through the void, with a red sky and endless darkness below. Time and space were in chaos. The plane felt like a speck of dust compared to the Bone Plane.

The entire plane felt empty. There was no life, no Laws, and even the four basic elements, earth, water, fire, and wind, were missing.

Seeing this, it was no wonder Solomon had suddenly laughed. This was a small plane with no value.

At this time, let alone Solomon, even Lin Yun himself felt somewhat stunned.

Indeed, Lin Yun already knew that this Demiplane would most likely be average at best.

After all, Rudolph was a peak Heaven Mage and wouldn't have opened this Demiplane for long. It could be said that the entire Demiplane was merely in its embryonic form, and a thousand years had passed since the Dusk War. During these thousand years, Rudolph hadn't been here to maintain this Demiplane, so it would have definitely worsened.

But Lin Yun truly hadn't thought that it would be this bad...

When a Demiplane was first established, the first step would be to set up the living areas of the four elements. This was the foundation of all Demiplanes, because without these four basic elements, a Demiplane wouldn't remain stable. It might be destroyed in the Netherstorm, or be swallowed by the chaotic passage of time and space.

In other words, the Demiplane that Lin Yun just set foot on was no different from a newly established Demiplane...

"We should first check whether we can find Rudolph's relics..." Fortunately, Lin Yun didn't have much expectations for this Demiplane. After being stunned for a bit, he threw the disappointment to the back of his mind. In any case, this trip through this plane was free. Even if there was no reward, it would only be akin to taking a walk...

It was actually Solomon who was nervous.

Solomon had made a lot of preparations this time, after having spent several hundred thousand golds on the Hell Destroyer scroll and a few dozen days and nights to crack the scroll, before finally figuring out the secret hidden underneath the Ash Tower. Solomon had done everything for the chance to find Rudolph's relics.

These relics were too important for the Sage Tower. It was the most likely opportunity for him to make the Sage Tower rise...

### **Chapter 173: Library**

The entire Demiplane was only a few kilometers long. It was truly like a grain of dust compared to an ordinary plane. It only took the two men five minutes to search through the entire Demiplane.

They found a tower amidst the desert.

This was the only place emitting mana fluctuations in the entire Demiplane. If Rudolph truly left relics behind, they were most likely stored there.

"Quick, quick, let's check it out!" Solomon stood in front of the tower, his eyes lit up and an impatient expression on his face, clearly ready to go inside.

"Hold on, don't be in such a hurry..." Lin Yun quickly pulled Solomon back.

"What is it?"

"Look at this..." Lin Yun pointed at the gate, where a dark golden veined pattern was flickering. "If I'm not wrong, it should be an Elemental Summon enchanted by the Heaven Mage himself. What kind of Elemental would come out of it?"

"Damn..." Solomon looked at it and almost broke out in a cold sweat. As a peak High Mage, how could he not see that this was an Elemental Summon?

And a Heaven Rank Elemental Summon wasn't to be trifled with...

If the one summoned were an Elemental King, he would certainly suffer. For a Heaven Rank Mage, an Elemental King with the strength of an Archmage would be used to guard the house. But to a 9th Rank High Mage and a 5th Rank Great Mage, such a being would be an invincible existence.

"Merlin, do you have an idea?"

"I need some time..." Lin Yun nodded and slowly crouched down, rotating his Magic Arrays once again to start analyzing this Elemental Summon enchantment.

Fortunately, Rudolph didn't leave behind this Elemental Summon to guard against other mages; that much was certain. Although the pattern on the ground used complicated spell enchantment and mana patterns, it wasn't hidden, so it didn't accomplish much when it came to defending from the intrusion of other mages.

Let alone Lin Yun, who had the Magic Array that was well suited to cracking enchantments, even an ordinary High Mage would be able to break it as long as they had enough time.



Lin Yun didn't need much time before he was able to crack the Elemental Summoning. He then whispered a few Nesser Runes and the characters on the ground melted at a shocking speed, just like ice exposed under the midday sun.

"Go."

"Looks like you didn't take up the loot priority for nothing..." From watching Lin Yun decipher the array outside, Solomon could still say that his own level of skill in alchemy wasn't nearly good enough and he normally didn't see any problem with it, but he was thoroughly convinced this time.

He knew to some extent how much trouble that array on the ground could have been. It was an Elemental Summon enchantment left behind by a Heaven Mage after all.

Even though it was out in the open, it still wasn't something that could be broken so easily. It would have taken himself at least 3 hours.

But in the hands of that young Great Mage, it only took ten minutes...

At this time, Solomon had no choice but to admit that he truly deserved the loot priority.

"Haha..." Lin Yun absent-mindedly chuckled, and remained quiet.

He was lost in his thoughts.

Why would Rudolph put this Elemental Summon enchantment here?

It definitely couldn't guard against other mages...

If it had been for that purpose, the array wouldn't have been arranged like this. Not being hidden at all meant that it had no defenses.

But if it wasn't to guard against other mages, what was it guarding?

Was it to guard against lifeforms born from the Demiplane?

'This... Was he that far-sighted?'

After all, the four elements didn't exist in this Demiplane, so countless years would need to pass before a lifeform could be born. Did Rudolph have so much free time that he prepared an Elemental Summon in advance?

"Wait..." As the two were about to enter, a thought appeared in Lin Yun's mind, 'What if that Demiplane hadn't been created by Rudolph?'

'A Demiplane born naturally?' When this possibility occurred to him, it made him jump up, startled.

There were an endless amount of planes scattered through the void. Even the mages at the peak of the magic era didn't dare to say that they understood the secrets to the endless planes. Demiplanes weren't something that could only be established by Heaven Mages. Among the Demiplanes, some were also naturally born.

But there were very few of them...

In Noscent's long history, there were no more than five mages who possessed a naturally born Demiplane. They were all legendary existences, becoming outstanding figures in the Plane Colonization Era because of their Demiplanes giving them superior advantages.

Lin Yun clearly remembered the Great Astrologian, Agalon.

That man came from the Starry Sky College. He had never really studied magic before turning forty. At around 38 or 39 years old, he was only a 5th Rank Mage.

But at 39, Agalon found a totally new Planar Path in an experiment.

At that point, Agalon had two choices. One was to sell this completely new Planar Path in order to obtain great wealth. By then, a new Planar Path was worth at least three Level 30 mana crystals, which was enough to buy two of the current Gilded Rose.

And the other choice was to explore it himself.

Thus, Agalon, who loved travelling and adventuring, quickly made his own decision, choosing to explore this new plane by himself.

And as a result, after Agalon passed through the Planar Path, he found a naturally born Demiplane on the other side.

And that choice, which he had made due to his hobby, created the Great Astrologian that shocked the entirety of Noscent!

Agalon's rise was too frightening.

At 39, Agalon was still a 5th Rank Mage, but at 40, Agalon became a 9th Rank Great Mage, and at 43, he was already a High Mage. He reached the Archmage realm by 50, and at 70, Agalon finally stood in the Heaven Mage realm.

That was when Agalon finally displayed his frightening power to others.

In that year, Agalon and a peak Heaven Mage who had already established his own Demiplane had a fight that shocked all of Noscent. It was due to that fight that people learnt how frightening naturally born planes were. Giving close to unlimited mana reserves, and nearly invincible bodies... This was the power of a full world.

If the Elemental Summon array left behind by Rudolph was truly there to guard against the intrusions of the lifeforms born from this plane, then Lin Yun would be at least 50% certain that this was a naturally born Demiplane.

But this was still a mere conjecture.

At least until now, Lin Yun had yet to discover any trace of life in this Demiplane, it was to the point that even the four elements were missing. If not for the mana fluctuations emitted by this tower, Lin Yun would have already thought that this was a dead plane...

"Merlin, take a look, quick!" Just as Lin Yun was lost in his thoughts, Solomon's voice came over.

“Ah, What?” Lin Yun followed the direction Solomon was pointing at. In the center of the tower’s lobby, there was a huge carved array.

Lin Yun’s breathing stopped.

“Fuck, True Spirit level!”

This was the first time Lin Yun had seen a True Spirit level array since he came to this era.

Fortunately, this True Spirit level array was used to seal something. Besides the stifling mana fluctuations being spread outside, it didn’t react to their intrusion. But even so, Lin Yun still anxiously reminded Solomon, “By all means, don’t get close to this array...”

“I know...” Solomon nodded, fear showing on his face. Although he didn’t know what kind of array it was, but those stifling mana fluctuations made Solomon particularly afraid.

Solomon knew that if these mana fluctuations burst out, even tens of him would be unable to resist.

The two carefully walked past the True Spirit level array and quickly went through the second floor via the stairs on the right.

Solomon’s eyes then shone.

Because arranged in front of him was a huge library!

“I understand! I understand...” Solomon stood at the door to the library, excited. This was the knowledge left behind by a Heaven Rank Mage. It would raise the level of all the mages if he could move it to the Sage Tower.

But when Solomon tried to walk in, a soft sound echoed from inside.

“Careful!” Before Solomon could react, Lin Yun had already fiercely pulled him from behind, making him retreat a few steps.

A light sound was heard as an ice cold light almost cut his hair as it brushed past his eyes...

Solomon was covered in cold sweat.

That was a 6th Tier Spell, Frost Ray...

If not for Merlin pulling him back, this Frost Ray would have froze his head in half in an instant.

That was too close.

Solomon’s heart was furiously beating as he glanced inside the library, trying to see what trap let out such a fierce spell.

What fell into his eyes were two alchemy puppets...

## **Chapter 174: Mana Vine**

“Puppets!” Solomon’s face darkened.

Solomon originally thought that the Frost Ray had been cast from a trap and had been considering how to break it. But after glancing over, Solomon understood that it would be more troublesome than a trap...

Frost Ray was a 6th Tier Spell...

Two puppets enchanted with Frost Ray, this firepower was no worse than a 9th Rank High Mage like himself.

This was worthy of a Heaven Rank Mage.

At this time, Solomon couldn't help inwardly admiring him. Only those existences who stepped in the Extraordinary realm could consider a 6th Tier Spell as nothing and casually enchant it in alchemy puppets.

After all, enchanting a spell came at the cost of runes. A 6th Tier spell like Frost Ray needed no less than several hundreds runes. Besides someone unconventional like Lin Yun, those existences who stepped into the Extraordinary realm might be the only ones who could spend so much on puppets.

"And those are Mage Breaker models..." And the annoying part was that Lin Yun had to explain to him.

"..." Solomon panicked when he heard that, 'Damn, enchanted Frost Rays weren't enough, they are also Mage Breaker models?'

Mage Breaker alchemy puppets, these were true mage killers. Their magic resistance was frighteningly high. A low level spell was nothing more than a tickle to them, and their enchanted spells would inevitably have mana burn. This mana was very nauseating. Once hit, the target would feel its own mana igniting to the point of making any mage feel like dying.

Solomon was even more afraid of making a wrong move now.

Two puppets enchanted with 6th Tier Spells and of the most disgusting Mage Breaker model, this had already surpassed Solomon's abilities. With his current strength as a 9th Rank High Mage, handling one puppet was possible, but he didn't think his chances of success were more than 30% if they both rushed at him...

"Merlin, we are in trouble..." Solomon said, depressed.

"Yeah, it's a bit troublesome..." Lin Yun nodded, agreeing with him, 'This is quite troublesome, if I had known, I wouldn't have given that spatial ring to William and Faleau

At that time, he thought that since they were taking that group of Mages to fight in the Bone Plane, they would need the Soul Essences stored in the Spatial Magic Tool. But he hadn't expected that he would enter a Demiplane while coming to participate in the Magic Hand's gathering in Oddrock City. Let alone that he would encounter such powerful puppets...

'What can I do...'

'I can't bring these two puppets back!'

'Do I have to dismantle them? That's too wasteful...'

At this time, Lin Yun's face had also darkened...

"This is Rudolph's library..." Solomon was only a step away from the library, but how could he dare to step in? He knew that this single step would immediately trigger the two puppets' attacks. But Solomon didn't want to give up either, as he said, this was Rudolph's library, the knowledge inside was enough to make the Sage Tower reach a whole new level!

"Merlin, what do you say? Should we stake it all? You and I can both take one... No no no, you don't need to take too much risks, as long as you can stall for time and wait for me to deal with the other one, I'll be able to back you up, how about it?"

Solomon didn't pause as he said everything, Lin Yun asked with an amazed expression, "What stake it all? You are talking about these two puppets?"

"Yes yes, these two puppets. I know that making a 5th Rank Great Mage like you facing such a powerful puppet is quite awkward, but I'll owe you a favor. It doesn't need to be for long. As long as you can stall for twenty minutes... Twenty minutes... Hey... Hold on, what are you up to!"

Before Solomon could finish his words, his eyes suddenly opened wide.

The young mage he was trying to convince gave him a strange smile before entering the library.

"Fuck!" Solomon suddenly cursed.

Indeed, he wanted Merlin to make a move, but he never asked for him to make a move so fast! Those were deadly puppets with 6th Tier Spells, mana burn, and magic resistance. What could he do if he went unprepared?

'No good, no good, I have to help Merlin...'

'Forget it, I'll go with the bare minimum.'

After Solomon quickly incanted a few low tier spells on himself, he followed with a Runic Shield and rushed towards the library.

"Ah?"

The 9th Rank High then froze, his expression went through a multitude of changes. From lifeless to doubtful, from doubtful to shock. Solomon felt like a mouse trapped between a cat's paws.

The two puppets were already collapsed on the floor and the young mage was stepping on one of the puppet with a foot, trying to dismantle the puppet with force.

Moreover, he was cursing as he dismantled, "Shit, this is too heavy. I can't carry it back..."

"Me... Merlin?" Solomon looked like a ghost as he watched this scene, he was frighteningly pale. Even his voice couldn't help shivering...

"Ah? What is it?"

"How... How did you do it?"

"I shut down their mechanical system?"

“...” Solomon almost spat blood, ‘Aren’t alchemists too broken? Facing two puppets, I almost burnt my brain thinking of a plan, not even finding a decent one, and when I finally decide to risk it, a single alchemist went in and shut down the two puppets!’

“What? You lost interest in the rewards?” Lin Yun wiped the sweat off his forehead as he casually asked Solomon.

“Right, right, I’ll take a look first...” After being reminded by Lin Yun, Solomon recovered. At this moment, he didn’t bother to ask how Lin Yun shut down the puppets and rushed to a bookshelf to look at the loot.

After reminding Solomon, Lin Yun got busy.

To Lin Yun, these magic books inside the library didn’t have too much importance, and even if there was a need, he could always ask Solomon to make a copy.

What truly mattered were these two puppets.

‘The Runic Magic Iron frame definitely can’t be taken away...’

Runic Magic Iron was a rare magic material. The yearly output of the Andlusa Kingdom was barely enough to make ten puppets. This was also one of the reason why Mage Breaker models were so rare. Among the major forces, only those with a plane that could produce Runic Magic Iron had Mage Breaker models.

Fortunately, the mechanical system could still be dismantled.

This mechanical system could be studied. Lin Yun intended to make the group of alchemist at the alchemy workshop emulate it and see if they could use it on mining puppets.

A few alchemy arrays could actually be dismantled, but they were useless to Lin Yun. As long as he had enough materials, Lin Yun could draw a dozen such arrays anytime.

The only things left were the four arms.

These four arms had Frost Rays enchanted onto them, as long as enough mana was supplied, it would form a complete cross-fire defense system which would be perfect for the camp in the Bone Plane.

“Merlin... Merlin, come over quickly, look at what I found...” Just as Lin Yun finished dismantling the second puppet, Solomon’s voice could be heard.

“What did you find?”

“Take a look...”

Solomon handed him a black book. What caught Lin Yun’s eyes were the burnt letters of – Mana Vine Breeding – on the cover.

“Mana Vine, Merlin, Mana Vine...” Solomon attentively watched the black book while smiling and squirming.

“Yes, Mana Vine...” Lin Yun casually flipped a few pages. This black book was indeed explaining how to breed Mana Vines. It looked like Rudolph considered this Demiplane important, otherwise he wouldn’t have started gathering knowledge on Mana Vines while the four elements were still missing.

Mana Vines were a very mysterious type of plant. Almost every mage wanted to breed some Mana Vine because they could automatically absorb mana from the void. Usually, the poorest the void environment was, the more mana they could gather.

Moreover, after absorbing mana from the void, they would automatically transform and purify it before forming a pool of mana under the Mana Vines, storing all the mana.

Just this was enough to make Mana Vines priceless. Just thinking about it, having a few Mana Vines inside a tower, absorbing mana day and night before storing it in a pond... This was a never ending source of mana.

Unfortunately, Mana Vines grew in a very harsh environment. Harsh to the point that it was impossible for them to survive in Noscent. No Mana Vine had appeared in Noscent for the past millennium.

But from this it could be seen that Rudolph’s Demiplane was most likely a naturally formed plane.

Because only a naturally formed plane would give Mana Vines a chance to grow.

But it seemed that Rudolph didn’t find any Mana Vine Seed, otherwise this Demiplane wouldn’t be in this death-like state. Just a Mana Vine alone would be enough for the Demiplane to not have to rely on the Ash Tower, and that array outside simply wouldn’t need to exist.

Naturally, Rudolph being unable to find the seed of the Mana Vine didn’t mean that Lin Yun couldn’t find it either...

In fact, Lin Yun was fairly certain that the plane he could open with the Dusk Fire had at least one Mana Vine Seed. In the days of mana exhaustion, a few Heaven Mages joined hand to invade that plane and seized that Mana Vine Seed. But unfortunately, that seed wasn’t able to survive in Noscent.

“Send me a copy later.”

“Sure.” Solomon straightforwardly answered. Although a book like – Mana Vine Breeding – was precious, it didn’t have a huge importance to the Sage Tower. It would at best be used for the breeding methods, to test whether they could be used to breed other magic plants.

‘Eh? What is that...’ After returning – Mana Vine Breeding – to Solomon, Lin Yun wanted to return to the puppets and see if he could dismantle something else, but a red colored book caught his attention.

It was – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture –.

### **Chapter 175: Unexpected Guest**

“Ha?” Lin Yun suddenly froze. It was a truly neglected magic book. Almost no mages would be able to encounter an Elemental Spirit during their lifetimes. Unless they truly had the need for it, most mages wouldn’t bother even skimming through that knowledge.

Based on this, Lin Yun was almost certain that Rudolph had already discovered an Elemental Spirit, and it was most likely in this Demiplane...

Lin Yun thought about it and took – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture – from the bookshelf before casually flipping through a few pages. Sure enough, the several pages explaining how to capture Elemental Spirits had been frequently searched through before. There were clear signs of wear and some finger traces could be seen among some lines.

Seeing this, Lin Yun knew that he didn't have to keep looking any farther.

There was definitely a Flame Spirit in that Demiplane, and it was most likely an Upper Rank Flame Spirit. He deduced it from Solomon's story about the whole Ash Tower being burnt to cinders. If everything had been burnt to the ground, even the Heaven Mage's relics would have become ashes.

"It's unfortunate, there are so many precious magic books, but they can't all be taken away..."

Solomon's spatial pockets weren't much more spacious than Lin Yun's, and sadly, there were too many books in the library. Solomon spent ten minutes filling the two spatial pockets with about three to four hundred books, but this was like a drop of water in the ocean compared to what was left in the rest of the library. If he didn't look closely, it wouldn't even be possible to tell that the stock of books in the library had decreased.

"You should be happy with what you have..." Lin Yun twitched as he casually put the book in his pocket.

"How about this, Merlin, let's continue exploring. I have a feeling that we will get more rewards if we keep exploring deeper..."

"The danger would definitely increase..."

Lin Yun's words made Solomon hesitate. "This..." He paused to think. It was true, the Demiplane Rudolph left behind did have a lot of danger. Just the entrance of the tower had an Elemental Summon. A mere library actually had two Mage Breaker puppets defending it. Who knew what danger they would meet if they kept searching?

But Solomon was quite unwilling to give up...

This was a heaven-sent opportunity. It wouldn't be easy to come back if he missed it. And that group of scoundrels from the Ash Tower wouldn't be passive. Once they found out the secret of the Demiplane, that Dusk Tower would certainly come whining, too.

"How about we try a bit more? Twenty minutes. After twenty minutes, we will return, regardless of what we gain!" Solomon wanted to leave, but he was still a bit unwilling.

"Okay, twenty minutes it is." Lin Yun nodded and didn't try to dissuade Solomon.

Because Lin Yun knew that the true danger of the tower was actually underground, or else it wouldn't be covered by such a fierce alchemy array.

It could be understood just by looking at this library.

It seemed huge, but when Lin Yun glanced at the book, he only saw common knowledge. To Solomon and the Sage Tower, this information might be very important, but those were just ordinary books to a



Heaven Mage. The only particularly important one might be the – Mana Vine Breeding – and – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture –.

Otherwise, there wouldn't have been two puppets guarding this library...

After they left the library, they made a circle around the 2nd floor. On the way, Lin Yun broke seven or eight arrays, but they didn't find anything major.

As they were getting discouraged, the two planned to stop the exploration and head back, when Solomon suddenly exclaimed, "Merlin! Come check!"

"What?" Lin Yun followed Solomon's finger and couldn't help being surprised.

Flames were suddenly seeping out of a hidden door, about a hundred meters ahead of them...

Mana fluctuations were slowly leaking, neither large nor fierce, but Lin Yun could feel that the Fire Elements within were incomparably pure. These were a sort of mana fluctuations that Lin Yun had never met before. It felt as if he were suddenly looking at actual flames instead of just sensing mana.

'Could it be...' When Lin Yun thoughts reached this stage, he hurriedly fished out – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture – from his pocket and flipped to the pages mentioning Flame Spirits.

"Merlin?"

"Don't press me, I have to check something first..." Lin Yun checked three times before feeling sure that he had grasped the key points and raising his head from the book. "Okay, let's go."

Those mana fluctuations were too strange. The two didn't dare to be neglectful and stood in the hallway, buffing themselves with all kinds of spells and abilities. Fire Resistance, Elemental Sharpness, Quickened Casting, strengthening themselves to the limits. Once they were done, they slowly walked to that hidden door.

"Wait..." Just as the pair arrived a dozen meters away from the door, Lin Yun felt an icy aura spreading over.

This was definitely abnormal.

When the flames were seeping out of the hidden door, they actually carried out incomparably pure fire elements. But how could the incomparably pure fire aura suddenly turn icy?

Lin Yun remained on guard.

He sent a Mage Eye over. When the Mage Eye reached the door, Lin Yun's eyes widened.

Because he noticed a middle-aged mage fighting!

'Dylan!' Lin Yun's jaw almost dropped to the ground. A few hours ago, he had almost fought with Dylan in the Ash Tower, and to his surprise, Dylan was now fighting a group of Frost Elementals.

A huge array was set up inside the room, it was a Teleportation Gate that covered nearly the entire room with its blue, flickering radiance. Now, a lot of ice elements were spreading from the center of the room, one after the other, rushing out of the Teleportation Gate...

Those were Frost Elementals...

They were Elemental lifeforms with strength equivalent to that of Great Mages. One or two wouldn't be an issue, but more than twenty... That definitely wasn't something to be trifled with. The concentrated attack of over twenty Frost Elementals wasn't something a High Mage could easily deal with.

Moreover, there were far more than twenty Frost Elementals in that room.

At first glance, Lin Yun counted over a hundred, and packed together, they made the room look like an ice world.

Fluttering ice and snow, whistling gales...

Dylan was simply drowning in an ocean of Frost Elementals.

Indeed, even if the power Dylan displayed was quite formidable, rousing the fire elements in the atmosphere, his staff continuously flickering as he kept incanting all kinds of spells, each of which would make a Frost Elemental collapse, there was just too many of them...

The huge array on the ground felt as if it had to lead straight to the Elemental Plane, incessantly summoning Frost Elementals, one after the other, faster and faster. Its rate already surpassed Dylan's casting speed.

"Fuck..." Lin Yun couldn't help cursing when the Mage Eye entered the room.

Sure enough, just as Lin Yun cursed, Dylan retreated.

Then, the three individuals froze in the hallway.

Staring at each other...

"How could you be here!" In the end, Dylan was the first to recover.

"Right, how could we be here?" Lin Yun awkwardly chuckled.

This was too awkward...

This was the domain of the Ash Tower. The two had snuck inside, but were caught red-handed by the master of the Ash Tower...

Although Dylan didn't dare to offend Jouyi or the Magic Hand, he was still the master of the Ash Tower in the end...

"Right, how could we be in here?" Solomon shamelessly passed the hot potato.

But in his mind, Solomon was cursing Dylan and his ancestors. 'How can that bastard be so loathsome? I barely managed to convince Merlin to accompany me in this exploration, thinking of getting so benefits, but in the end, a bastard like you showed up?'

In his worry, Solomon's thoughts became rather drastic.

'Damn, what should I do now? Do I have to kill you?'

But even if Solomon wanted, he unfortunately couldn't.

Solomon clearly understood that he only had around a 30% chance of beating Dylan in a fight. Even if Merlin joined in, it would only increase the odds to perhaps 50%, by Solomon's estimate. Dylan wouldn't be able to kill them, but he could easily escape. Once he returned to the Ash Tower, the two would definitely be in huge trouble...

Dylan actually didn't need to do anything. He only had to disable the array outside, and at that time, the two of them would be stuck in the Demiplane forever.

"Merlin, let's go! Quick!" Solomon made a prompt decision, giving up on the Demiplane's riches!

Although the heritage of a Heaven Mage was very precious, it wasn't worth risking their fate for it.

But after saying this, Solomon still couldn't help secretly cursing, 'Fucking Dylan, how is your nose so sensitive? Are you a dog? How come you aren't meditating in your room? Why did you follow us to this Demiplane instead? ...Forget it, regardless of why Dylan followed, we still have to leave first...'

If the two could get away, then they might be able to use the array as a threat to get some benefits from the Sage Tower...

Solomon's heart recovered as he thought of this, vigilantly guarding against a potential attack from Dylan while quietly pulling Lin Yun behind him.

"Let's go..."

"No, wait..."

At this time, Lin Yun's eyes were still fixed on Dylan and the previous awkward smile had already disappeared, replaced by a faint sneer.

"That's a very good disguise you have there..."

## **Chapter 176: Syudos**

"What disguise?" Solomon asked.

The 9th Rank High Mage looked at Dylan carefully, before turning to look at Lin Yun while full of doubt. 'What does he mean? Is Merlin trying to say that this Dylan is an impersonator? That doesn't seem right...

'I've been struggling with Dylan for decades, we even fought over ten times. It could be said that I'm more familiar with Dylan than the mages of the Ash Tower. That person before us, whether it is his motions, expressions, or even mana fluctuations, they are all exactly the same as Dylan's.' On this, Solomon was certain that he wasn't wrong.

"Merlin..." Solomon would usually remain silent and not say anything out of respect for that young Great Mage, but this couldn't happen now. The situation wasn't very good, so after a slight hesitation, he asked, "Aren't you mistaken?"

"Won't you understand if you keep watching?" Lin Yun didn't explain. He only smiled before fishing out – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture – from his pocket...

“Let me see... How to capture Upper Rank Flame Spirits...” Lin Yun said, before also reminding “Dylan”, “What are you watching me for? Your army has already arrived!”

“You...” Dylan was startled and angry, but he hastily turned due to Lin Yun’s reminder and noticed over a dozen Frost Elementals breaking through the wall of flames blocking them and forcing their ways towards him.

Although there were only a dozen Frost Elementals, they would have a steady flow of reinforcements. At this time, Dylan didn’t dare to neglect them and hastily started chanting his incantations, getting ready to fight the dozen Frost Elementals.

At this time, sparks flew within the world of ice and snow as the intensity of the battle was enough to leave any High Mage dumbstruck. The Frost Elementals were almost suicidal, hindering Dylan’s every move. And despite the latter only taking a short time to deal with the first dozen Frost Elementals, unfortunately, many more Frost Elementals were already surrounding him.

Lin Yun’s side was completely different. Those rushing Frost Elementals didn’t seem to care about Lin Yun, and not even a single attack flew his way. But Lin Yun was getting busy. He first put up an Ice Wall before starting to browse – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture –.

“Oh, right, what’s your true name?” Lin Yun looked at a few pages, looking as if he had failed to grasp the crux of what he needed to know before raising his head to ask.

“My true name...” Dylan suddenly froze when Lin Yun asked him that question...

As a result of that distraction, a Flame Barrier was cast a second too late and three Frost Elementals suddenly found a gap. A sharp sound was heard as the three Frost Elementals ruthlessly aimed at Dylan’s chest.

Dylan managed to mend his Runic Shield with great difficulty before being able to stop their attack. But as he was flustered, he immediately started cursing, “Fuck, what do you have to do with my true name!”

“I’m just asking, nothing more...” Lin Yun’s lips twitched before he returned to being immersed in the book.

“...”

“Ah, I remember, isn’t it Llanliss? Or was it Eliss? Doesn’t matter, I can just try them...” As Lin Yun said that, he attempted the incantation written in the book, using one true name after the other.

Naturally, these attempts didn’t work.

Llanliss and Eliss definitely weren’t his true name...

The incantation itself had the power to bind Elemental Spirits. Even if the true name was incorrect, that kind of power wouldn’t change. And with Lin Yun acting shamelessly, using true name after true name, that incantation had been chanted over ten times, with ten true names being used. The dozens of chants were enough to put Dylan on edge.

“Shut up!” Dylan, who had been busy being surrounded by more and more Frost Elementals, suddenly lost his mind under Lin Yun’s incessant chanting. After making quite a few mistakes, Dylan was thoroughly flooded by Ice Elements.

At that time, numerous Ice Elements had piled up in the entire hallway, and the visible blue mana fluctuations could be seen converging, almost freezing the air as various Ice Spells indiscriminately rained over. Even Dylan, a 9th Rank High Mage, had completely lost the ability to counterattack. He was completely relying on the Runic Shield for defense.

“Don’t be in a hurry, I remember the names of a few dozen of Upper Rank Flame Spirits. Just wait, I’ll try them one by one. Who knows, maybe the next one is the one...”

“Enough!” Dylan was going berserk.

“That’s your attitude? Then I’ll try other incantations...” Lin Yun wasn’t fazed by him, as he simply turned another page.

“You...” Dylan’s words abruptly stopped. He restrained his anger and tried to use the calmest voice possible to ask, “What do you want in the end?”

“What do I want? I should be asking you that. What are you trying to do? You, an Upper Rank Flame Spirit, disguised yourself as a human and want to scare us?”

“I didn’t want to scare you, I only...”

“Only what? Only wanted to use us to show you the way...?” Lin Yun’s smile carried a hard-to-conceal ridicule. “Deliberately activating the array to be besieged by Frost Elementals before trying to scare us back to Noscent as Dylan, all that to get access to the Planar Path. Your idea was very good...”

“I... I don’t know what you are talking about!”

“Haha, don’t deny it so fast, wait till I’m done talking. Then I’ll have plenty of ways to make you recognize it...” Lin Yun sneered as he continued, “If I’m not wrong, you definitely saw Dylan, which is why you can transform into him and imitate his mana fluctuations. You even know that the one Dylan wants to kill the most is the High Mage standing behind me, Solomon. Thus, you revealed killing intent towards Solomon. Unfortunately, you didn’t know that Dylan wouldn’t dare to kill Solomon today...”

Each of Lin Yun’s words made Dylan panic. After those few sentences, Dylan already made eight casting mistakes. This was simply impossible for a 9th Rank High Mage. Thankfully, the Runic Shield was still powerful enough to hold. Regardless of whether it was taking physical attacks or magic attacks, it displayed a shocking defensive ability.

At this time, there were close to two hundred Frost Elementals surrounding Dylan. And with Dylan making all kinds of mistakes, the Runic Shield could be said to be the only thing protecting his life.

But even so, Dylan couldn’t keep holding on.

At this time, Lin Yun said, “If you want to refute me, it’s pretty simple, just use a non-Fire System spell.”

“I...” Dylan immediately made another mistake.

“Pretending to be Dylan while only using Fire Spells, do you think we are fools?”

“...” Solomon’s face suddenly turned red. ‘Pah, I’m not as cunning as you, how the hell could you tell that this was a Flame Spirit pretending to be Dylan?’

But while Solomon cursed inwardly, he had no choice but to show an “it was obvious from the start” expression on his face.

Nothing could be done about it, he couldn’t admit that he was a fool, could he?

“Speak... What do you want!” At this time, the Upper Rank Flame Spirit pretending to be Dylan no longer attempted to refute him.

Because he simply couldn’t try to refute anymore.

Two hundred Frost Elementals were besieging him, and one human was there holding the – Key Points for Elemental Spirit Capture – while trying to figure out his true name. Each incantation would bring a short binding effect. This wouldn’t normally matter, but in this situation, it was simply pouring oil on the fire. Even a proud Upper Rank Flame Spirit had no choice but to show some flexibility.

“Serve me.”

“Impossible!” The Flame Spirit coldly snorted, “As a king among Elemental Spirits, how could I serve a mere Great Mage? Change your condition, Human. I admit that you are very clever, but honestly, you still aren’t worthy to make me acknowledge you. Wait until you reach Rudolph’s level of power, you might be able to convince me to serve you then.”

“You are wrong again...” Lin Yun shook his head, not getting angry because of the Flame Spirit’s dismissive attitude. “But worthiness is not decided by strength. Rudolph, despite his power as a Heaven Mage, didn’t manage to escape you after falling. You even burnt his corpse to ashes. I do not want this kind of servant, I want complete acknowledgement!”

“You are insane...”

“Haha, do you really think that I don’t know what your true name is?”

“Ridiculous, even Rudolph didn’t know my true name. Is a mere Great Mage like you really trying to guess my true name? Human, I’ll give you a final bit of advice, don’t waste your time with scheming and changing the condition, or else you’ll get nothing in the end.”

“Really? Syudos, that’s what you’ll go with...” Lin Yun flipped to the last page of the book. There was only one spell, which used blood energy to bind an Elemental Spirit. This was the most direct, and also the most dangerous method to bind an Elemental Spirit in the book.

Succeed, and a soul contract would be signed with the Elemental Spirit.

Fail, and the caster would die from his blood being drained to the last drop.

## **Chapter 177: Blood Binding**

“I... I don’t understand what you are talking about!”

After Lin Yun said the true name, Syudos, the Flame Spirit’s voice became more flustered. And not only was it more flustered, but it quickly began to feel endless fear and despair. “No... No! Fuck! What do you think you are doing? Stop, now!”

Unfortunately, no one could stop the Blood Binding once it started...

Lin Yun slightly cut his left wrist, letting blood drip on the hallway’s floor as he chanted a long incantation in Nesser in a deep and hoarse voice. It sounded like an ancient ritual.

“Impossible... How could you know my true name!” The Flame Spirit’s voice wasn’t as arrogant as before. He had already stopped caring about the battle against the Frost Elementals, only keeping up a few basic defensive spells as they swarmed over him.

Because these Frost Elementals were no longer his most threatening opponent.

Even if they drowned him, he would only have to return to the sealed array. There was no difference between a millennium or ten thousand years to an immortal Flame Spirit. But if the Blood Binding was successful, he would have no opportunity to get free.

As he recalled the effects of a Blood Binding, the Flame Spirit started struggling frantically.

With an explosion, Dylan’s silhouette disappeared, turning into a clump of raging flames. Blazing mana fluctuations spread out and a few Frost Elementals around him instantly evaporated, transforming into a white mist. It felt like lava was flowing down the entire hallway as the flames spread everywhere, sharply elevating the temperature.

Facing the threat of the Blood Binding, the Flame Spirit almost burst with full power, rousing the fire elements to a boil, making it seem like even the air was burning.

Unfortunately, half of the Blood Binding had already been completed.

The dripping blood on the floor had turned into a scarlet mist, outlining some sort of complicated mana pattern in the air. As Lin Yun’s incantation progressed, that mist turned into blood-colored chains, coiling around Syudos one after the other...

“How could I know your true name? Simple... I guessed.”

“...” Syudos, who had already returned into his Flame Spirit Incarnation form, nearly fell down when he heard that.

‘Gussed... Gussed...’

Fortunately, Syudos was already a Flame Spirit Incarnation, or else he might have spat blood. Dylan spent decades, three people from the council spent a few hundred years, Rudolph spent a thousand years, but none of them managed to find out his true name... but the person before him had guessed it!

‘Is there any fairness in the world?’ he thought.

“This is impossible, this is impossible!” Syudos was completely unable to accept such a cruel reality. He frantically struggled amidst the Frost Elementals and the blood chains, but unfortunately, no matter

how much he struggled or roared, it was all for naught. It was like he was stuck in quicksand; the more he struggled and roared, the faster he would sink.

"I guessed right." Lin Yun smiled, not explaining. He only urged the blood shackles to tighten around Syudos.

Lin Yun wasn't toying with him.

He really had been guessing what Syudos' true name was.

Syudos couldn't believe it because he still didn't know. 20,000 years later, Noscent would progressively suffer from mana exhaustion, and at that time, even the Upper Rank Elemental Spirits would be unable to keep surviving on their own. They had no other choice but to attach themselves to a master, hoping that their master would supply them with the mana they needed to keep existing.

Lin Yun clearly remembered that in Noscent's history, there had been about 500 Upper Elemental Spirits with known true names. Out of those spirits, about four hundred appeared during that period.

The appearance of a large amount of Upper Rank Elemental Spirits gave the mages an opportunity they had never dared to think of before: studying the Upper Rank Elemental Spirits' system. Thus, one true name after the other had been analyzed. The distinctive traits, the abilities, the timeframe, and what matched with the Upper Elemental Spirits' true names. And in the end, they completed an – Upper Rank Elemental Spirits Compendium –, greatly simplifying the capture of Elemental Spirits.

Naturally, this book was stored in the decaying library.

Why was Lin Yun talking so much to Syudos?

It was in order to probe Syudos...

Changing into Dylan explained that this Flame Spirit had a shapeshifting ability at the very least. Burning Rudolph's corpse showed that this Flame Spirit's flames could reach a shockingly high temperature when they burst out. After gradually going through the process of elimination, there were few Upper Rank Flame Spirits left. And from the way he spoke, it seemed that he had already reached some sort of agreement with Dylan, and thus he would have probably been unable to escape the Ash Tower even if he was able to escape this Demiplane.

At that time, he had narrowed it down to only three true names.

If Lin Yun still couldn't find this Flame Spirit's true name at the point, then he might as well jump off the plane.

From start to finish, it took him only a few minutes to find Syudos' true name.

At that time, the situation was already decided.

In fact, Syudos wasn't completely unprepared for that attack. After turning into his Spirit form, Syudos' strength had risen up one whole level, being infinitely close to the Archmage level. But at that time, the siege of the mass of Frost Elementals, along with the bane of Elemental Spirits, the Blood Binding, formed a pincer attack that Syudos couldn't handle. Although he burst out with power a few times, evaporating dozen of Frost Elementals, the blood chains on his body were getting tighter and tighter.



Moreover, there were only two or three at first, but now, there were no less than twenty blood chains coiling around his body from which blood energy leaked out and infiltrated his body. When that power completely infiltrated his body, he would be finished.

The haughty Upper Rank Flame Spirit finally gave up.

“What... What do you want in the end?”

“Syudos, acknowledging me as your master is your only choice.”

“Okay...” After a short silence, Syudos loosened his expression for the first time. “I can serve you, but only for a hundred years!”

“No no no, Syudos, you still haven’t understood me. I don’t want an Upper Rank Flame Spirit that can betray me anytime, that would mean nothing to me. I’d rather break your true spirit. Like that, you could still become a magic material. I feel that this kind of magic material could be crafted into a peak Spiritual Magic Tool. It might even evolve into a True Spirit Magic Tool with sufficient good fortune...”

“Fuck, Are you blind? I’m only worth a peak Spiritual Magic Tool? Do you know what Upper Rank Spirit Elementals are?” Syudos flew into a rage.

“A Spiritual Magic Tool wouldn’t burn down its master’s corpse...” Then, Lin Yun continued with a cold snort. “You know what I want...”

Lin Yun was excited, sure that the answer was coming.

But after grunting in dissatisfaction, Syudos didn’t say anything else. Lin Yun waited for a long time, and when he lost patience, he urged power into the blood chains. In a flash, a hundred blood chains tightened around Syudos, like a wide net. The blood energy surged in his body like a tide, continuously corroding him. The originally dazzling flame had already turned into a faint scarlet layer.

“Two hundred years... No, three hundred years. Moreover, I swear to not betray you!”

At this time, Syudos didn’t dare to remain silent and offered three hundred years instantly.

“Too late.” Unfortunately for him, Lin Yun didn’t relent, and the final blood chain coiled around the spirit. Lin Yun chanted the last part of the incantation and the blood chains lit up with a scarlet light. Syudos, who had originally been spread out like a sea of fire, was compressed into a small ball by the hundreds of blood chains.

“No!”

Syudos was only able to let out a desperate shriek before being turned into a ball of fire and dragged back to Lin Yun’s body.

When Lin Yun pulled the ball of fire within his body, his five Magic Arrays began to rotate frantically. Several thousand runes formed an inescapable cage to lock Syudos in the middle of the five Magic Arrays.

'As expected of an Upper Rank Flame Spirit...' After making sure Syudos couldn't struggle, Lin Yun wiped the sweat off his forehead. It looked like Lin Yun had controlled the outcome of the previous confrontation all along, but Lin Yun himself knew how dangerous the situation had been.

It could be said that ever since he decided to use the Blood Binding, Lin Yun had been walking on the edge of a cliff.

Even when the Blood Binding successfully caught Syudos, Lin Yun still wasn't out of danger. But fortunately, Lin Yun had no lack of Magic Arrays and set several thousand runes in motion to build a cage that could tie Syudos securely. Otherwise, if Syudos broke out, wouldn't Lin Yun follow after Rudolph's fate and become a pile of ashes?

### **Chapter 178: Suppression**

But unfortunately, Syudos had been too unwilling and hadn't given the answer Lin Yun wanted.

Lin Yun had always wanted to know what Rudolph had done for Syudos to hate him so much. Not only did he struggle free of his binding when the Heaven Mage died, but he also burnt his corpse to ashes. After all, Rudolph and Syudos had been together for a few hundred years, perhaps even as long as a millennium. Why would Syudos do something so excessive?

Unfortunately, Lin Yun had already used his five Magic Arrays to suppress him...

That Upper Rank Flame Spirit would have to wait at least a month if he wanted to say anything. By that time, Lin Yun would have already carved all kinds of runes on his body, thoroughly fusing it with himself, no longer fearing a repeat of Rudolph's tragedy.

But before that...

"Well, High Mage Solomon, should we..."

"Let's return, let's return..." Solomon didn't wait for Lin Yun to finish and quickly called for a retreat. The spirit disguising itself as Dylan had startled Solomon greatly, and he no longer had the courage to continue exploring this Demiplane.

Fortunately, Lin Yun had successfully caught Syudos making the array stop gushing Frost Elementals. It took the two of them about ten minutes to clear away the Frost Elementals in the hallway, and then they left this Demiplane that hid countless secrets...

But Solomon didn't notice that when Lin Yun opened the Planar Path, he said five unknown characters...

These five characters came from the Book of Death. One was used for localization, three for opening the Planar Path, and Solomon would have never expected the final one to be a delayed burst character. After a few minutes, that character would cause an explosion and destroy the Planar Path, thoroughly cutting off any hope for others to enter this Demiplane.

In other words...

Lin Yun only used five characters to seize the Demiplane that Rudolph left behind. From now on, the Book of Death would be the only key to open this Demiplane.

Just like he had said earlier: “Do you think I can afford to leave a whole plane for the Ash Tower?”

After the two returned to the Ash Tower, Lin Yun asked for – Mana Vine Breeding – from Solomon and went back to his room to transcribe a copy of it. This was the most important book to Lin Yun among Solomon’s over four hundred magic books.

In this era, a Mana Vine might only be akin to icing on the cake for a mage tower, but to Lin Yun, having a Mana Vine was truly indispensable.

Lin Yun had already gained the Demiplane that Rudolph left behind. Although Lin Yun had only explored a part of the plane, and he only had a Planar Path in his hands, there would inevitably be a day when he fully controlled the entire Demiplane. He might even tread on Astrologian Agalon’s path.

This was why the Mana Vine was truly indispensable. The mana that a Demiplane needed to grow was far more than what a mage could provide.

Rudolph’s situation was the perfect example. Even an esteemed Heaven Mage like him still left this Demiplane to become desolate. It wasn’t that Rudolph didn’t want to take care of it, but a Demiplane needed too much mana to sustain it. If anything, just stabilizing the four elements would need a peak Heaven Mage’s mana. If that mana wasn’t provided by the Mana Vine, but by Lin Yun, then who knew how many years it would take for that Demiplane to truly grow?

Naturally, it was too early to say this now.

Before he could completely explore the Demiplane, Lin Yun wouldn’t dare to make excessive moves. Especially with that True Spirit rank array in the lobby... Lin Yun was very vigilant about it. That was a True Spirit rank Array, with power comparable to that of an Archmage. Even a fool would know that it was suppressing something dangerous.

Lin Yun felt that he needed to become a 5th Rank High Mage at the very least before he could approach that array. It would be better to keep his distance before that.

Moreover, he didn’t have a Mana Vine in his hands.

Just before dawn, Lin Yun completed the copy of – Mana Vine Breeding –, and he finalized his future plans on one side while going to sleep with a yawn.

But not long after, just as the sun was shining in the sky, Jouyi came over...

“Merlin, get up quickly.”

“So early?” Lin Yun drowsily got up and opened the door. Jouyi was standing in front of him, with a sleepy Solomon next to him.

“Why do you both look as if you haven’t slept?” Jouyi looked at Lin Yun and then at Solomon before suspiciously asking.

“...” Solomon almost choked on his own saliva. ‘How can I answer that? I can’t tell Teacher that I haven’t slept at all yesterday because I spent the night plundering our hosts?’

Fortunately, Lin Yun was shameless enough to give an unquestionable explanation. “Maybe we aren’t used to the climate...”

“Climate?”

“Yes, yes, we’re not acclimatized...”

“Forget it...” Jouyi shook his head. Although he knew that this was a fake excuse, it was beneath him as a peak Archmage to dig deeper. Thus, he gave a warning look at Solomon and stopped arguing with them, only nodding at Lin Yun. “Almost everyone in the Magic Hand is present, follow me there.”

“Oh, okay...” Lin Yun hastily sorted himself before following Jouyi to the 10th floor of the Ash Tower, the Banquet Hall.

As the host of the Magic Hand’s gathering, the Ash Tower had obviously made enough preparations. Although the decorations in the Banquet Hall weren’t extravagant, they used a considerable amount of money to make a low-key, cozy, and harmonious setting that mages liked. Puppets served as waiters, several hundred Light enchantments were used as illumination, and even the most unremarkable goblet was a premium product from the Crystal Workshop. The whole Banquet Hall was filled with a dense aura of mana...

“This is Mogg, the Master of Whistle Island. He is called the Hurricane Envoy, and is an Elder of Oddrock City’s Fenn Family who had already become an Archmage several hundred years ago... He might be a bit older than Osul and me. That person is the Shadow Master, Dylan’s teacher. He was the one who opposed you joining the Magic Hand the most yesterday...” After walking in the hall, Jouyi greeted a few people while softly introducing them to Lin Yun.

‘It truly is the Magic Hand...’ Lin Yun felt a bit apprehensive as he heard the status of these people. They were top mages of the kingdom, and it could be said that this was a group of people standing at the peak of the magic world. They had enough power to rule countries...

“Oh right, Mercury Tower’s Nolan. You have already met his disciple Karon.”

“Oh...” Lin Yun followed Jouyi’s line of sight and noticed an old man with a white beard and white hair. He had a kind smile as he nodded towards him.

The Master Alchemist of the Mercury Tower, Karon, seemed to have told his teacher Nolan quite a few good things after coming back from the Cloud Tower. He most likely told him about Lin Yun’s help on the Fanrusen Formula, or else he wouldn’t have shown a youngster he was seeing for the first time such acknowledgement.

“Jouyi, long time no see.” As the two were speaking, a middle-aged mage walked over.

The middle-aged man seemed to be in his forties. He was rather handsome and had a tall build. His hair was meticulously combed, and although he looked pale, his smile seemed very friendly. Lin Yun couldn’t help having a good first impression, comparing him to Jouyi next to him.

Naturally, the results of the comparison couldn’t be argued.

Jouyi's gray robe was not only wrinkled, but it was also stained. When compared to the middle-aged man in front of him, he looked like a beggar.

"Harren, move a bit, I still have stuff to do..." After seeing the new arrival, Jouyi, who had just been greeting people with a smile, seemed upset and his face darkened. He took Lin Yun to walk away from him.

"Sir Jouyi..." Lin Yun was curious, but after calling out to him, he hesitated, not knowing whether he should ask.

"That's Harren, the Chairman of the Black Tower's Council. He had already been a 9th Rank Archmage a hundred years ago. Don't be deceived by his young appearance, he is already a few hundred years old, but he had absorbed the essence of a Dark Azure Tree in the Dark Azure Plane in his earlier years, gaining the ability to maintain his appearance, dressing gorgeously every day as a 9th Rank High Mage, feeling pride instead of shame... Such a shameless ghoul..."

"..."

The two walked around the Banquet Hall and quickly found Osul...

"Osul, how is it?"

"There aren't that many issues, I've contacted all the members since yesterday and discussed with them. Most of them agree to Merlin becoming a member of the Magic Hand, but there might be some questions he needs to answer first, to make sure he mastered sufficient knowledge of magic. You know that this has been a standard rule."

"Yes." Jouyi nodded and patted Lin Yun's shoulder. "You'll be on your own in a bit."

"That's not a problem." Lin Yun wasn't worried. Those that had the slightest chance to stump him in magic theory had yet to be born.

## **Chapter 179: Gathering**

"That's good, Merlin, you wait here with Solomon, I'll go with Jouyi and confirm with those who agreed yesterday. We will go all-out and make sure that you can enter the Magic Hand!"

"Thank you." Although Osul didn't say anything about making a deal, Lin Yun knew that in order to get him accepted in the Magic Hand, the two elders had definitely put forth a lot of effort. These kind intentions made Lin Yun grateful.

After watching the two of them leave, Lin Yun chatted with Solomon.

Naturally, the topic of discussion was Rudolph's Demiplane.

After returning, Solomon couldn't sleep properly. Those magic books were all the relics of a Heaven Mage! Just casually taking one out would be enough to shock the entire region. But they had now fallen in the hands of the Sage Tower. Solomon could already see the Sage Tower relying on that huge wealth to rise up to the point it could pressure the Ash Tower and unify the entire eastern side.

The allure of such a beautiful future kept Solomon up the entire night. Excitement had been showing on his face all this time, and when he chatted with Lin Yun, his face would sometimes go slack with an inexplicable smile.

“Okay, stop laughing...” This was the third time Lin Yun had stopped Solomon. It wasn’t that Lin Yun wanted to spoil the man’s fun. It was just that this 9th Rank High Mage didn’t know how to be careful. It was fine to be happy, but there was no need to inexplicably burst into laughter at random moments.

“Okay, okay, I won’t laugh, I won’t laugh...” Solomon nodded repeatedly while chuckling.

“Forget it, laugh if you want to laugh...” In fact, even Lin Yun wanted to laugh. This was a masterless Demiplane suddenly falling into his hands, who would not be ecstatic in this situation?

Lin Yun couldn’t help rejoicing. Fortunately, he had the Bone Plane’s Book of Death. Otherwise, even if he entered an ownerless Demiplane, he still wouldn’t be able to take it for himself.

“Hey, Merlin, it looks like someone is looking for you...” While Lin Yun was thinking, Solomon gently nudged him before indicating the center of the Banquet Hall.

“Ah?” Lin Yun looked over and saw Dylan walking over from the distance.

“How could it be Dylan again?” Lin Yun immediately frowned. He just stole a Demiplane from the Ash Tower, so Lin Yun was embarrassed to some extent.

“Mafa Merlin, you are not welcome here. Get the hell out of here immediately.” Dylan walked over but didn’t even look at Lin Yun. He only pointed at the door of the Banquet Hall as he coldly uttered those words.

“Is the Ash Tower in charge of this gathering?” Lin Yun had a shocked expression on his face.

“No!” Dylan was startled. Everyone knew that this was the Magic Hand’s gathering. The Ash Tower was only the host, providing the place and service. The rest wasn’t up to the Ash Tower. Dylan was able to enter because of the reputation of his teacher.

Even if Dylan was bold, he wouldn’t dare to recognize this gathering as being the Ash Tower’s. What would the Magic Hand’s people think in that case? Each and every one of these mages was a peak existence of the kingdom, and they all had strong tempers.

‘Fuck, that Mafa Merlin is too cunning...’ Dylan couldn’t help grinding his teeth as he thought, ‘You know this is the Magic Hand’s gathering, yet you pretend to act stupid in front of me. If I wasn’t careful and said that this was the Ash Tower’s gathering, then the Magic Hand would definitely make me suffer...’

“Eh? Turns out it’s not...” Lin Yun nodded and asked with a strange expression, “Then why are you telling me that I’m not welcome here?”

“You...” Dylan was being played by Lin Yun, and he felt his heart tighten. He took a deep breath and said in a calm tone, “That’s right, this is the Magic Hand’s gathering, but as the host, the Ash Tower has a duty to stop unrelated people from entering this Banquet Hall. You should clearly understand that the only ones able to enter here are the members of the Magic Hand and their disciples. Don’t think that just because you know Sir Jouyi, you can casually come in such a place. I’ll let you know, Mafa Merlin, there are some places one can’t enter as they please.”

“Ah?”

“Okay, Mafa Merlin, stop playing dumb, leave immediately or you’ll regret it.” With those words, Dylan pointed at the door to the Banquet hall once again. Compared to earlier, Dylan seemed even more resolute about it now.

Because Dylan knew that this Mafa Merlin wasn’t Jouyi’s disciple...

Dylan’s teacher was Shadow Ashes. In those years, Dylan followed Shadow Ashes and participated in four Magic Hand gatherings. Dylan was very clear that if a mage of the Magic Hand brought in a disciple, he would definitely introduce his disciple to everyone upon arrival.

And this time, when Jouyi brought Solomon and Mafa Merlin into the Banquet Hall, besides greeting a few of his acquaintances, he didn’t bother to introduce Mafa Merlin.

Moreover, Dylan had also investigated this fellow.

The previous night, after that young mage gave him a report, Dylan immediately mobilized the intelligence division of the Ash Tower to check Merlin thoroughly.

The son of the Leader of the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce, quickly rising after his father’s death. The Gilded Rose under his control had already become one of the peak forces of Thousand Sails City and he even had the power of a 5th Rank Great Mage. Even if it was still a rumor, he had apparently defeated a 1st Rank High Mage.

To be honest, when Dylan saw that report, he was startled.

This abrupt rise was too frightening.

After Locke Merlin’s death, the Flashing Gold chamber of commerce had already gone bankrupt. It could be said that this Mafa Merlin had rebuilt everything from scratch, and in a short year, the Gilded Rose had become a peak force of Thousand Sails City, and he himself had become a 5th Rank Great Mage... And he was only approaching his twenties! There weren’t many Great Mages under twenty in the entire kingdom!

‘The only good thing is that there doesn’t seem to have been much contact between Mafa Merlin and Jouyi.’

It could be seen from the fact that Jouyi had always been in the depths of the Cloud Tower, studying the Fanrusen Formula. In this decade, let alone meeting a young Great Mage from Thousand Sails City, even his Disciple, Solomon, had a hard time meeting Jouyi.

In this case, who had the most contact with Merlin?

This could only be Solomon, who was in the same city...

Seeing all this, Dylan already more or less understood. ‘The Sage Tower and the Gilded Rose are among the peak forces of Thousand Sails City. There is most likely some business deal between the two forces, and when Merlin learnt that Solomon’s teacher was Jouyi, how could that young Great Mage not be excited? He definitely got greedy...

'And thus, during a deal, he hoped that Solomon would help introduce him. That seems quite reasonable.'

Dylan thought about it and felt that this was the most likely explanation.

After realizing this, everything was simpler...

'Jouyi is participating in the Magic Hand's gathering, and when passing through Thousand Sails City, the young Great Mage got the opportunity to see the legendary Star Sage through Solomon's introduction. He then got a bit greedier and requested Solomon to let him accompany them.

'Unfortunately for him, Solomon doesn't seem to have told this young Great Mage that the Magic Hand's gathering is a very exclusive one.'

Naturally, Dylan could also turn a blind eye if he wanted to. Solomon was also Jouyi's disciple, and if he drove out their acquaintance, Jouyi's temper might flare up.

But the one who brought him was Solomon...

And Solomon was the nemesis of the Ash Tower!

Solomon being able to enter the Ash Tower now was entirely because the Magic Hand gathering was being hosted here. This was like letting Solomon slap the Ash Tower, but now, he finally had an opportunity to return this slap! How could Dylan let this opportunity slip by?

As for Mafa Merlin himself, Dylan didn't put him in his eyes. A 5th Rank Great Mage, no matter how quick his rise was, was still unworthy of a 9th Rank High Mage's attention. The difference in power between the two sides was too great. If Jouyi hadn't appeared, Dylan would only have needed two fingers to easily squash the other side.

And Dylan was settling for just driving Mafa Merlin out.

'Yes, please resist, Merlin, that way I won't have to do anything myself. The more you refuse to leave, the bigger this will blow up! It would be for the best if the entire kingdom gets to know that Solomon of the Sage Tower was an idiot who brought a 5th Rank Great Mage to the Magic Hand's gathering. I bet that by that time, even Jouyi would pretend not to know this disciple.'

Thus, when Dylan appeared, his tone was very rude, but he didn't immediately get physical. He let the other side have a chance to talk. Dylan wanted him to make noise, and the more noise the better.

Sure enough, that young Great Mage didn't disappoint him.

"Haha, High Mage Dylan, I'm very curious. How will I regret it if I don't leave?"

"How?" Dylan was inwardly enduring, unwilling to let his pride show as he cast a glance at Solomon.

"That's definitely not something good to talk about. But I'm certain that whoever took you in will have to take responsibility..."

"..." To the side, Solomon was getting a cramp from trying not to laugh. After he had been giggling and laughing since the previous night, it was very exhausting to resist the urge to burst out in laughter now...

**Chapter 180: Giant Hand and Frost Lance**



Dylan's words were clear.

"Whoever took you in will have to take responsibility..."

Solomon didn't have to think much about it to know that Dylan was aiming at him.

The thing was that Solomon knew who that this "whoever" actually referred to Jouyi...

Thus, Solomon didn't say anything and just waited to see whether Dylan would actually try to make Jouyi take responsibility.

Unfortunately, Dylan still didn't know anything. Dylan was looking forward to it, waiting for that young Great Mage to make a commotion, to drag Solomon down with him, to watch as Jouyi ignored them...

"High Mage Dylan, you said that this was the Magic Hand's gathering, not the Ash Tower's. I don't really understand, what right do you have to make me leave?"

"Ahah..." Dylan saw the other side's reaction and knew that it was already good enough. He was losing his cool, as expected of a youth.

'Why do you think I would stand here and speak so much nonsense if I wasn't able to make you leave? If you were a cunning fox like Solomon, you simply wouldn't ask such a childish question. Solomon would have immediately recognized the situation and looked for a way to leave with dignity. That would be the correct choice.

'But you are arguing with me, what's the point in that? The more you argue, the worse you'll look at the end of it all. Not only will someone throw you out, they will also throw Solomon out, and the one to do it might be Jouyi himself...

'Sadly for you, youths can't understand the meaning of retreating to move forward. If the journey is too smooth, one tends to feel very pleased and will definitely forget oneself. What do you think the standing of a 5th Rank Great Mage is around here? Not mentioning those peak existences from the Magic Hand, even Solomon is at least a 9th Rank High Mage, that's an existence that can easily crush you into pieces, and yet he is only standing on the side.'

"Great Mage Merlin, it looks like you want to disturb this gathering..." When Dylan said that, a smile appeared on his face. There didn't seem to be anything out of the ordinary, and even Solomon was still waiting for his old enemy to become a laughingstock.

"Ah?" But Lin Yun had suddenly felt that there was a slight inconsistency in the surrounding mana fluctuations, making him a bit vigilant.

As expected, as soon as Lin Yun frowned, Dylan stretched his hand out.

There was no other sign at all.

Only a stifling mana fluctuation. And before Lin Yun could react, Dylan's pale right hand was already becoming bigger. It carried a heavy sound as it swatted towards Lin Yun, just like he was swatting a fly.

That was the power of a 9th Rank High Mage...

He simply didn't need to use any spells, he only condensed mana within his palm to crush a 5th Rank Great Mage.

But Lin Yun wasn't an ordinary 5th Rank Great Mage.

Just as that large hand fell, Lin Yun put up an Ice Wall. In a flash, an explosion thundered out, along with shattering sounds. Four walls of ice that were covering four directions had been smashed apart by the hand. All that could be seen within ten meters was shattered ice.

This had all happened shockingly quickly. Only a few moments passed between Dylan's smile and Lin Yun's Ice Walls shattering. Everything had happened in an instant, and even Solomon had been late to react.

But in these few moments, Lin Yun had cast an Ice Wall followed by Elemental Incarnation, turning into a blue Frost Elemental. He contorted himself and got out from the countless ice shards.

"Want to run?" After swatting down, Dylan saw chunks of ice but no blood splatter. He already knew that the young mage had escaped, but Dylan didn't seem surprised or hurried. He reached with his mana-infused hand to grab at Lin Yun, who was escaping at a shocking speed, just like a hawk trying to grab a mouse.

Dylan was a 9th Rank High Mage...

He was very familiar with the Elemental Incarnation spell, so how could he not know of the flaw of the Frost Elemental being its slow movement speed? Thus, Dylan didn't think too much about it as he swung, the huge palm making a beeline for the Frost Elemental.

'Truly young, thinking of contending against a 9th Rank High Mage with a Frost Elemental Incarnation? It's impossible to make up for the gap in power. It's like an adult warrior facing a newborn baby. Even if the baby burst out with all its strength, the most he would be able to do would be to scratch the warrior.

Naturally, thinking of Jouyi's reputation, Dylan couldn't use all his power in this attack. Otherwise, a slight pinch might completely kill the fellow.

Lin Yun in his Frost Elemental form could be seen flickering twice across the Banquet Hall, each time displacing over a dozen meters. But at the same time, the giant palm was stretching like lightning, and it caught up to Lin Yun in a blink.

As long as Dylan grabbed him and exerted the slightest bit of force, Lin Yun would be squashed like an ant.

But just as that palm was about to coil around him, a light burst out from the shadows.

"Fuck..." Dylan coldly snorted. The mana condensed within his huge palm was rapidly dissipating. An ice shard was stuck in Dylan's palm and blood was slowly dripping down from it.

That was a Frost Lance!

In that split second, just as he was facing death, Lin Yun had readied a Frost Lance and forcibly pierced Dylan's giant palm, even injuring him!

The effectiveness of his casting was simply terrifying when likened to a typical 5th Rank Great Mage.

Dylan was in disbelief. A 5th Rank Great Mage under the age of twenty was actually able to cast a Frost Lance to retaliate in those conditions.

No, he didn't just cast a Frost Lance...

Dylan didn't even have time to check the condition of his injury before feeling a chill deep within his bones. He raised his head in shock and caught sight of that young 5th Rank Great Mage already spreading his hands, with several dozens to a hundred Frost Lances filling the hall, flickering with a cold light.

"How can this be!" Dylan's face turned deathly pale. So many Frost Lances... Even if the other side was in his Frost Elemental Incarnation state, such a feat couldn't be instantly completed. Was he using some fearsome Magic Tool?

Unfortunately, there was no time for Dylan to think.

Whistling sounds were heard as dozens after dozens of Frost Lances shot over at him like a storm.

Sharp breaking sounds could be heard endlessly.

Dylan went all-out and cast a Runic Shield. Among the seven bright lights, endless runes continuously appeared. Those were the runes that Dylan had accumulated for decades. The quantity and the defensive power they contained were enough to make any opponent despair.

But this time, Dylan was actually losing confidence against that volley of Frost Lances.

He was even worried as to whether or not he would be able to counterattack.

A 9th Rank High Mage was actually worried about a 5th Rank Great Mage's offensive.

Before now, even if Jouyi himself had told Dylan this would happen, the latter wouldn't hesitate to sneer.

But Dylan was really starting to get anxious.

Facing that volley of Frost Lances, Dylan cast one Runic Shield after the other. The sound of the lances hurling down was like continuous, heavy rain.

It only took ten seconds for that volley of Frost Lances to end. They all struck against the Runic Shield, but to Dylan, these ten seconds were like ten years.

That feeling of not knowing the outcome was the most painful torture for him.

He still didn't dare to open his eyes when the last Frost Lance shattered. He was afraid that if he opened his eyes, he would find out that a Frost Lance had already pierced his stomach.

Time slowly passed, the entire Banquet Hall was frozen. There were no sounds aside from Dylan's heavy breathing.

After some time, Dylan finally opened his eyes...

“Thank god, it’s nothing…” After finding out that he was uninjured, Dylan actually felt like he had gotten a new lease on life. That kind of feeling wasn’t what one would expect from fighting a 5th Rank Great Mage, it would be more appropriate if his opponent had been an Archmage.

“How about it, High Mage Dylan, do you still think that you can throw me out?” Lin Yun had already cancelled the Frost Elemental Incarnation and was now ten meters away, holding one last Frost Lance that hadn’t been thrown while smiling at Dylan.