

Magic Era 181

Chapter 181: Slap

Lin Yun would have loved to shoot that Frost Lance too... If he did, Dylan would look ten times worse than he did now.

But he had no time left...

A few mages had already walked over. There was Osul, Shadow Ashes Kave, who Jouyi had introduced earlier as Dylan's teacher, and several other mages at the peak of the kingdom.

"What's going on?" The 9th Rank Archmage who came over didn't have a good expression. Although Kave had already retreated from his seat as Council Chairman of the Ash Tower, he could still be partially considered a former master of the tower. How could he not feel embarrassed about what happened in the Banquet Hall?

"Teacher..." Dylan saw his teacher and respectfully greeted him.

Kave threw a fierce glare at Dylan. Although he didn't say anything, this expression alone showed how dissatisfied this 9th Rank Archmage was.

This was the Magic Hand's gathering, after all.

Countless peak mages of the kingdom had come to attend. But in the end, his only disciple wanted to show off and ended up almost losing to a 5th Rank Great Mage!

This also hurt his own reputation...

"What the hell happened!" Kave's expression grew even more severe as he said this.

"It's like this, Teacher..." Fear appeared on Dylan's face when he noticed Kave's extreme displeasure. He had been carefully serving under his teacher for a few decades and was now already the Ash Tower Council Chairman, but he still didn't dare to relax, afraid to anger Kave. Cold sweat dripped down Dylan's forehead.

He was even more cautious as he tried to explain, afraid of making a mistake. "That... That Great Mage Merlin was brought in from Thousand Sails City by Solomon. I already explained to him that today is the Magic Hand's gathering and that besides esteemed characters such as yourselves and your disciples, no one can casually join in. But he insisted anyways, and thus, thus..."

"Yes?" Kave's expression slightly alleviated when he heard this, thinking that Dylan had a reason at the very least and wasn't just bullying a 5th Rank Great Mage meaninglessly.

Otherwise, his reputation would take a huge blow...

A 9th Rank High Mage wanted to bully a 5th Rank Great Mage, yet failed miserably at it. If news of this spread, the Ash Tower would certainly lose some reputation.

But it was a bit different since he had a reason to make a move. In that case, Kave could step forward and deal with the matter.

“Is he right?” As he thought about that, Kave’s eyes fell on Lin Yun. This time, his gaze wasn’t just filled with dissatisfaction...

Lin Yun felt a bone-chilling pressure when Kave glanced at him, making it feel like he was in the middle of a snowstorm. He knew that this 9th Rank Archmage was already harboring some killing intent towards him.

“More or less.” Lin Yun knew that facing this killing intent, he would neither have time to escape, nor an opportunity to fight back. He would be thoroughly crushed.

But this wouldn’t happen here.

“Teacher, you see!” Dylan grasped onto his last hope. How could he easily let go when the other side was basically admitting to it? Dylan seemed delighted as he pressed his case. “He is too unbridled! Too condescending! How could I not try to put him in his place!”

“...” If there weren’t so many people were watching, Kave would have already slapped him. At this time, Kave really wanted to ask Dylan if he knew that the reason for his actions wasn’t the important part, but rather, the fact that he had failed?

‘Do you have to talk if no one is talking? No one thinks that you are a mute!’

In the end, Kave simply ignored Dylan, his eyes focused on Lin Yun. “I shall remind you. This is the Magic Hand’s gathering. Intruding upon this place means provoking the entire Magic Hand. Do you know the consequences of doing so?

“I’ll be honest, you cannot afford to bear the consequences. And the family, clan or force behind you also cannot afford to bear the consequences...” After talking up to this point, Kave gave a disappointed look at his disciple. “Right, which force does that young Great Mage come from?”

“He is called Mafa Merlin, he comes from Thousand Sails City’s Gilded Rose!”

“Very good, Mafa Merlin...” Kave chuckled, and was about to continue when he was suddenly stumped. “Hold on, Mafa Merlin?”

“Yes, Teacher, he is called Mafa Merlin...” Dylan nodded while smiling. One could tell that he was rejoicing from Merlin’s calamity. ‘How does it feel to be glared at by a 9th Rank Archmage?’

“Slap!”

But in the end, just as he was rejoicing, the sound of a loud slap echoed in the Banquet Hall...

“Teacher...” Dylan was foolishly covering his cheek while looking at his teacher with a confused expression. “Teacher... Why?”

“Mafa Merlin!” Kave was looking at Dylan with eyes that were almost emitting fire. And when he saw Dylan’s confusion, Kave became even angrier. He raised his right hand, planning to slap him once again.

But fortunately, he quickly remembered that there was quite the audience still looking at the show from the sides.

Thus, he lowered his already raised right hand...

But even so, Kave's expression was downright murderous he scowled at Dylan for no less than a minute. Kave then said, "Fuck off downstairs and check the guest list!"

"Yes, yes, yes..." Dylan didn't dare to raise his head as he awkwardly left, gloomily heading for the door.

Kave's furious expression still persisted even after Dylan left. 'That disciple is truly unable to accomplish anything, he only knows how to spoil everything. An esteemed 9th Rank High Mage was unable to defeat a 5th Rank Great Mage... That would already be disastrous for one's standing, but he hadn't even verified the identity of the person he was after. He is truly ruining my reputation...'

Who was Mafa Merlin?

He was a new member jointly recommended by Jouyi and Osul. One of the important points of the gathering was to vote on whether this young Great Mage had the qualifications to become a member of the Magic Hand. His name was clearly written on the guest list, and it was inexcusable for Dylan, as the host, to make such a low-level mistake!

Ordinarily, Kave wouldn't have gotten so angry about it.

But by coincidence, he had been the one who had argued against this recommendation the hardest.

In Kave's eyes, because that young man was only a 5th Rank Great Mage, regardless of how profoundly knowledgeable he was, regardless of how much he contributed to the Fanrusen Formula's research, his rank was set in stone. How could he be qualified to sit together with these numerous Archmages?

At that time, Kave even used Dylan and Solomon as examples.

He explained how Dylan and Solomon had sufficient magic-related knowledge and other qualifications as 9th Rank High Mages, yet they were unable to become full members of the Magic Hand because they had yet to advance to the Archmage realm.

But the argument he had just used... Was torn apart by Dylan.

How could this not make Kave feel angry and indignant?

Jouyi chose this time to walk up with a wide, comforting smile on his face. "Haha, Kave, it's a trivial matter, a trivial matter, no need to get angry over it..."

"..." Kave almost spat blood.

'Shit, do I need you to comfort me? If it had been Solomon instead of Dylan, would you still say it was a trivial matter? You might have gotten so angry that you would lift the Ash Tower...

'Moreover, you are the one who recommended this Mafa Merlin... Why are you saying those words now? What do you mean, "no need to get angry over it"... Didn't you come to watch me becoming a laughingstock?'

The more Kave thought about it, the more his blood boiled...

But he couldn't say anything back. Mafa Merlin had been recommended by two people, after all, and Kave didn't dare to offend both...

There was no need to mention Osul, as only a handful of people could afford to offend this Artisan. As for Jouyi... Even though they were all 9th Rank Archmages, Kave knew that there was a relatively wide difference in power between those in the 9th Rank. Jouyi had already touched upon the Extraordinary Realm and might be able to take the last step anytime. Even if Kave were more courageous, he wouldn't dare to become directly hostile with Jouyi.

This was a hot potato.

"Haha, it's nothing, it's nothing..." Kave chuckled as he suffered inwardly...

"Well, I'll take advantage of this opportunity to make an introduction, Merlin, come over..." Jouyi saw Kave's distorted smile and nodded, feeling quite pleased. He beckoned at Lin Yun, and after the latter drew closer, Jouyi solemnly introduced him. "In the past month, many people sent me letters, wanting to know how I managed to break through the Fanrusen Formula. Now, I can finally let everyone know that I wasn't the one who cracked the Fanrusen Formula, but rather, it was this young Great Mage, Merlin..."

"How could this be!" Jouyi's words created a huge stir in the Banquet Hall. Although many of them had heard rumors that this Great Mage Merlin had been in the center of the Fanrusen Formula's cracking, making a huge contribution, they had only taken them as exaggerated rumors...

Chapter 182: Dilemma

Clearly, Mafa Merlin had been jointly recommended by Jouyi and Osul due to some achievements he had attained while working on the Fanrusen Formula. Otherwise, a peak Archmage and an Artisan wouldn't have recommended him together.

But in everyone's eyes, his achievement would at most have been suggesting some new train of thought during the research, or perhaps performing a particular calculation that had been causing trouble. They felt that the "huge contribution" was most likely an exaggeration from Jouyi and Osul.

Originally, everyone had only assumed their proposal was something routine.

But now, everyone felt weird.

What was this situation!

Jouyi's words seemed to suggest that this young Great Mage was the one that personally cracked the Fanrusen Formula.

Their first reaction was to wonder whether Jouyi was a bit too drunk...

Why else would he say something like this?

Who didn't know that during research, the contribution of the participants would be mentioned as achievements, but "cracking" the greatest obstacle was something that only the leader of the research could take credit for?

Unless some people achieved incredible results far beyond what all others did during the research, only then would it be accurate to say that they "cracked" it.

The one in charge of the Fanrusen Formula was Jouyi, but now, Jouyi himself said that Merlin had cracked the Fanrusen Formula.

What was happening?

One person couldn't hold it in anymore.

"Sir Jouyi, I have a question!" The one who interjected was a 5th Rank Archmage. Lin Yun remembered Jouyi introducing him earlier; he was called Erjin. He came from the frozen wasteland in the northern part of the kingdom.

"Ask away."

"As everyone knows, Sir Jouyi, you have spent decades on the Fanrusen Formula. It could be said that in the entire Andlusa Kingdom, there are no mages that can understand the Fanrusen Formula better than you. I'm very curious, what kind of achievement did Great Mage Merlin attain during the research for you to praise him this much?"

"Haha..." Jouyi only chuckled before fishing out a piece of paper from his pocket as he replied, "This is a very good question. I cannot give you a concrete answer, because Merlin's contribution to the Fanrusen research simply cannot be explained in a short time. If you must know, then I suggest you take a look at this piece of paper. This is something Great Mage Merlin spent an hour to compute..."

"Thank you, Sir Jouyi." Eljin nodded and took the piece of paper before studying it.

At first, his expression was still quite calm, but the more he looked into it, the more his expression changed.

In the end, cold sweat dripped down his forehead.

Eljin didn't even care about the Magic Hand's gathering as he suddenly fished out a quill from his pocket and looked for a table to check something.

"How could this be..." As Eljin's went deeper and deeper into the calculations, he grew more and more agitated.

After no less than ten minutes, Eljin carefully collected the piece of paper...

He then nodded to Merlin. "My apologies, Great Mage Merlin."

"You are too polite..." Lin Yun only smiled.

Eljin's reaction attracted the attention of every mage that was present. Almost everyone was looking curiously at Eljin, and several Archmages that were acquainted with him even walked over to take a look at the piece of paper...

Those able to participate in the Magic Hand's gathering were all peak mages of the kingdom. Ordinary mages couldn't understand the way that these lofty figures looked at things or their insights. They only needed to study the piece of paper for a bit to understand the pros and cons.

The kind of computing ability shown by the work was too frightening...

Not to mention a 5th Rank Great Mage, 5th Rank High Mages and even 5th Rank Archmages wouldn't possess such terrifying computing ability. Although the pieces of data on the paper were dull and complicated, to all these Archmages, these dull and complicated pieces of data hid horrifying calculations, efficient and accurate, like a machine.

At this time, everyone understood why Merlin could resist a 9th Rank High Mage despite being a 5th Rank Great Mage.

It was all because of his frightening capacity for performing computation.

To mages, computing ability and fighting strength were closely linked. The more formidable the computing ability, the more efficient and accurate the casting. It wasn't surprising for a Great Mage with such incredible computing to be able to breach the limits of ranks and withstand a High Mage.

But that Merlin's rank-skipping was a little too excessive...

It looked like this was the real reason behind Osul and Jouyi recommending this young Great Mage...

"Jouyi, what can a piece of paper explain?" Just as a few Archmages wanted to nod in acceptance, an ill-timed voice suddenly interfered.

That voice was icy cold, and it addressed Jouyi quite rudely.

In the entire Andlusa Kingdom, only one person dared to talk to Jouyi like that: the Council Chairman of the Black Tower, someone that also touched upon the Extraordinary realm, the one Jouyi called the "Ghoul", Harren!

Indeed, the one who interjected was Harren.

This Black Tower Chairman slowly came out of the crowd, his eyes sweeping past Lin Yun, not feeling that a 5th Rank Great Mage was worth his attention. Even if this 5th Rank Great Mage had managed to withstand a 9th Rank Great Mage, even if this 5th Rank Great Mage had terrifying computing ability...

And in fact, let alone a Great Mage, among the thirty people in the room, Solomon was the only one out of the twenty Archmages that was worth Harren's attention.

"Jouyi, as a senior member of the Magic Hand, you should know what the Magic Hand has always pursued, sharing and exchanging magic knowledge. Take a look, who among the members of the Magic Hand doesn't have their own unique understanding? Yet you want to push forward a Great Mage who only has some decent computing abilities, this is simply ridiculous..."

"Harren, you feel that this is ridiculous?" Jouyi glanced at the Black Tower Chairman with a somewhat annoyed expression.

The other Archmages of the Banquet Hall tacitly agreed to retreat a few steps, consciously leaving enough space for these two Archmages.

They'd gotten used to it, as this kind of scene was too common.

These two would fight at every gathering, sometimes with words, sometimes for real... It was better to leave them someplace so that the others wouldn't accidentally get hurt.

"Haha, Jouyi, you don't think this is ridiculous? Look, the members of the Magic Hand are all at least 1st Rank Archmages. To be able to reach this rank, who would have computing ability worse than him? As long as you find one, I'll agree to let Mafa Merlin join the Magic Hand!"

"I..." Jouyi started to say something, but he trailed off.

Harren's words could only be described as sinister.

Those that saw that piece of paper knew that the young Great Mage's computing ability was definitely far superior to that of most Archmages present. How could Jouyi not know this? But Jouyi couldn't say those words...

How could he? Could he point at an Archmage and tell everyone that he fell short of a Great Mage.

That would be a huge joke...

Archmages also had their reputations to think of!

Jouyi knew it, but he couldn't say it in front of everyone, or it would be like slapping someone in the face and they wouldn't be able to stand it.

"Kave..." After sneering, Harren nominated Kave. "You say something, can someone with merely decent computing join the Magic Hand?"

"Right, Kave, you say something!" Jouyi didn't show weakness either.

"This..." Kave almost cried on the spot.

'How can I be so unlucky? I was just shamed by a disappointing disciple, and now I am being drawn into the middle of the fight between the two of you. Are you bullying me? The choices are clearly either supporting Jouyi to offend Harren, or supporting Harren to offend Jouyi...'

The problem was that Kev couldn't afford to offend either...

The two of them were existences that touched upon the Extraordinary realm, each of them being backed by one of the two major mage forces of the kingdom. Whether it was in strength or in backing, they were existences that Kave, who had been forced to move away to the eastern part of the kingdom, couldn't afford to provoke. Offending either of them would be enough to give Kave nightmares.

While Kave felt like crying, he noticed Harren's right hand moving behind his back, making a strange gesture.

“Sir Jouyi, Sir Harren...” Seeing that gesture, struggled for a bit before his hesitation disappeared. “Since the both of you are showing me so much respect, I’d like to offer my humble opinion. I feel that just having decent computing ability isn’t enough to join the Magic Hand...”

Chapter 183: Are You Deaf?

After saying that, Kave secretly raised his head to look at Jouyi a bit guiltily. Nothing could be done about it, as his words clearly expressed the intention to set himself against Jouyi, against the Star Sage who had already entered the Archmage realm several hundred years ago, against a peak existence in the entire Andlusa kingdom...

But after Kave glanced at Harren again, that hesitation disappeared, replaced by fervor and greed.

“The pursuit of the Magic Hand has always been the sharing and trading of magic knowledge. No one cares about innate skills and no one care how much he contributed in the research of the Fanrusen Formula. We are only concerned whether he has sufficient knowledge of magic.”

At first, Kave’s voice was still somewhat shaky, but the more he talked, the more steady he became, because Kave himself had been opposed to Jouyi and Osul’s recommendation to begin with.

At the time, Kave hadn’t been fighting it so resolutely. With Jouyi and Osul there, one threatening him and one luring him with benefits, Kave had quickly started to yield.

But it was completely different now.

There were so many people in the Banquet Hall and only Kave knew what was behind Harren’s gesture. It meant that he was willing to share the information about the Black Tower’s unique Magic Conducting Rune, the Dark Sun, with the Ash Tower. That was one of the core secrets of the Black Tower. The powerful Dark Sun was one of the main reasons that the Black Tower could stand side by side with the Cloud Tower at the peak of the kingdom.

Kave was simply unable to refuse this offer.

“If I’m not wrong, when Sir Eljin became a member of the Magic Hand, he brought to us the long lost Extreme Winter Meditation Law. When Sir Mogg joined the Magic Hand, he directly made public the secret Storm Heart Magic Conducting Rune. As for myself, I’m sure everyone remembers that research report on magical flames. Thus, I want to ask you, Mafa Merlin, you want to join the Magic Hand, but what did you bring?”

In truth, Kave was expressing thoughts that many had been thinking. And many of them let out sounds of approval.

But Harren didn’t say a word.

From start to finish, Harren only looked at Jouyi with a smile that wasn’t a smile.

To Harren, a Great Mage was incapable of becoming a member of the Magic Hand, this was simply impossible.

Harren only cared about dealing with Jouyi.

Usually, Harren would turn a blind eye to this kind of trivial matter, especially with Osul promising all kinds of benefits. But it was out of the question this time, because in Harren's eyes, this was the best opportunity to give a blow to Jouyi's reputation!

After all, the Magic Hand gathered all these Archmages of the kingdom, creating a huge, incredible power, and it could be said that as long as the Magic Hand said a word, the entire kingdom would shake.

But in the past few years, Jouyi's status in the Magic Hand had been rising higher and higher. How could Harren not feel anxious when he noticed that?

With time, the Magic Hand might become a tool that Jouyi could use to suppress the Black Tower. By then, Harren would only be able to regret not acting earlier...

Fortunately, he found an opportunity today.

A chance to land a blow on Jouyi's reputation.

'It's great that you are putting so much effort into recommending a Great Mage. I'll give you trouble without even acting personally. I only needed to promise some benefits for Kave to help me deal with you. I'll see how you can keep your reputation when Kave humiliates you. And as for that Great Mage, he will be unable to recover from that setback and will lose himself to despair.' That young mage was basically cannon fodder. Getting involved in the struggle between two Archmages was very dumb. He would only have himself to blame for any consequences.

Here, Harren gave Kave a meaningful glance.

"You aren't very smart, Mafa Merlin..." Kave instantly understood and looked at Lin Yun with a smile. But that smile felt somewhat unkind. "A mage's greatest sorrow is not being able to understand oneself. You want to join the Magic Hand? Sure, but let me ask you. What accomplishment do you have outside of the bit you did with Fanrusen Formula? Have you come up with a widely accepted theory? Have you ever earned the right to name a formula?"

"Not for the time being."

"Good, not for the time being..." Kave nodded, a visible sneer plastered on his face. "If that is the case, I don't need to ask more. You haven't done any of that, and you haven't even led any magic research yet. Mafa Merlin, I am baffled. Where does your courage come from? Take a look. Aside from disciples, who in this Banquet Hall doesn't have to be addressed as Sir? Are you qualified to stand next to them?"

"Jouyi, do you see that?" After Kave's words settled in everyone's minds, Harren slowly stepped out, his eyes staring at Jouyi. As for Lin Yun, he still didn't pay him any mind.

Because he was unworthy of Harren's attention.

"Harren, you're insisting on opposing this?" Jouyi's expression was very unsightly, not because of Harren and Kave's opposition, but because these two foxes echoing each other were humiliating that young Great Mage, and doing that only in order to attack his own reputation.

Jouyi didn't care about their attack on his reputation, but he couldn't put up with Harren and Kave involving this young Great Mage just for that purpose.

"Jouyi, your words are a little wrong. Am I the only one opposing him? Take a look, how many members of the Magic Hand are in favor of accepting this Mafa Merlin? This isn't my opinion, this is the will of the majority. Jouyi, I don't think you'd be so stubborn as to go against the majority?"

"I..." Jouyi opened his mouth, but nothing came out. Indeed, there were some opposing voices in the Banquet Hall. Even if he had the will, he wouldn't be able to persuade everyone.

"Haha, good, Jouyi, the gathering will soon start, you should lead your kid out..." Harren knew that he had already won. As long as that young Great Mage left the Banquet Hall, Jouyi's reputation would definitely fall.

Jouyi was able to have such a lofty reputation because besides being a peak Archmage, all the strategic decisions he made for the Magic Hand never ended in failure.

But Jouyi had finally made a mistake.

Just once was enough.

After this, no matter what Jouyi said in the future, he wouldn't be able to avoid being doubted by others. What if was wrong again?

Once, twice, thrice...

After a few times, Harren would supplant Jouyi's position in the Magic Hand.

"Harren, it's not up to you to decide when the event starts!" Jouyi's expression was very indignant, but he was powerless to counter Kave and Harren's arguments.

Jouyi was truly regretful now...

He regretted overestimating his influence in the Magic Hand. He originally thought that with Osul and his own joint recommendation, Merlin would be able to join the Magic Hand without any problems. But he hadn't expected that Harren would use this to attack his own reputation and Merlin.

If he had known earlier, he would have waited for Merlin to become a High Mage. By that time, Merlin would have inevitably obtained shocking achievements. In that situation, there would have been no problem for him to enter the Magic Hand.

By then, even if there were ten Harrens opposing it, it wouldn't have had any effect.

But now...

Jouyi looked at Lin Yun apologetically.

But as he looked at him, Jouyi realized that there was no change in that young Great Mage's expression. He had been faintly smiling this whole time, as if Kave and Harren had been talking about someone else.

'Hm?' This smile even made Jouyi recall that miraculous night when that young Great Mage calculated a dozen core spell matrices of the Fanrusen Formula.

Jouyi's heart was moved. 'Don't tell me...'

"Sir Kave, are you deaf?" Sure enough, as Jouyi looked at him, Lin Yun asked with a smile.

"What did you say!" Kave was startled.

An insignificant 5th Rank Great Mage dared to ask a 9th Rank Archmage if he was deaf!

So arrogant!

Because of the matter with Dylan, Kave had already been very angry, but Lin Yun's question made him become outraged on the spot. Jouyi and Harren didn't take him seriously, but that was normal. They were peak Archmages who touched upon the Extraordinary Realm. But how could Mafa Merlin act like that?

'Do you think that you have the same qualifications as Harren and Jouyi, looking down on me like that?'

Chapter 184: Plagiarism

"Mafa Merlin, are you provoking an Archmage?" Kave's eyes were already filled with the flames of anger. Anyone familiar with the 9th Rank Archmage knew that this was a bad habit that appeared when he was extremely angry. Many people secretly squeezed their hands, feeling cold sweat for the poor Merlin.

After all, this young Great Mage had been brought here by Jouyi. No one was willing to see an accident happening to such a promising mage because of Kave.

"No, of course not..." Lin Yun remained unmoved. His smile didn't change as he looked steadily at Kave. "I'm just very curious. Since Sir Kave is not deaf, why would you be so eager to conclude that I am not qualified to stand here?"

"Why?" Kave's voice suddenly became louder. "You are still asking me why? You didn't put forward any widely acknowledged theory, you never earned the right to name a formula, and you haven't even taken charge of a magic research project. What do you think you are? How could you stand together with numerous Archmages?"

"Sir Kave, you are forgetting yourself..." Lin Yun regretfully shook his head as if he felt sorry for Kave, and he then asked with an expression filled with ridicule, "But didn't you hear? I said, 'Not for the time being!'"

"I heard it!" Kave flew into a rage, almost roaring back.

"You see, you are saying that you aren't deaf, yet you are speaking so loudly. Sir Kave, you should know as an Archmage that having damaged ears would be very unfavorable for magic research because it might cause you to make some minute mistakes..."

"My research has nothing to do with you!" If not for Jouyi standing there, Kave would have already flung out a Fireball to scorch that chattering mouth.

“How could it have nothing to do with me?” This was what Lin Yun had been waiting for. “I already said I couldn’t for the time being, do you know the meaning of that expression? In other words, it meant that I couldn’t at that earlier point...”

“You are saying that now you can?” Kave couldn’t hide his snickering smile.

“Sir Kave is very clever,” Lin Yun praised with a nod. That expression, that attitude, it was like an elder praising a youth.

“...” A vein was pulsating on Kave’s forehead, his heart filled with thoughts of murder. An insignificant 5th Rank Great Mage actually dared to use that tone to speak with an Archmage? If not for Jouyi, that Mafa Merlin would have already died ten times!

Kave couldn’t say much more at this time.

Because all of the youth’s words, even when he mentioned deafness, had been refined and courteous in tone, speaking politely the entire time. In these circumstances, even if Kave wanted to make a move, he didn’t have any justification.

“Good, good, worthy of a talent being recommended by Jouyi. In a few minutes, you made great achievements in some sort of magic research. Mafa Merlin, you had better use this opportunity to enlighten everyone as to what shocking achievements you attained just now and let us judge whether you have the qualifications to stand here with us.”

“Okay.”

“Ha?” Kave froze. His words had obviously been sarcastic. Everyone there was an Archmage. Who among them didn’t know how time-consuming it was to conduct complicated research? Who would say that they could easily come up with unprecedented formulas that would take decades of research in a mere handful of minutes?

‘What achievement? This is a joke. Let alone minutes, you couldn’t do something like that even in a few decades...’

Kave was clear about this...

No matter how talented this Mafa Merlin was, he was only two decades old. At this age, even if he had started learning magic since the day of his birth, he couldn’t have taken in that much magic knowledge. That would defy common sense. Magic research needed time and a deep background with sufficient knowledge. Two decades were clearly not enough! Merlin hadn’t had time to build this deep pool of knowledge, yet he was arrogantly declaring that he now wanted to publish some theory or formula?

Kave had originally felt some regret about implicating Jouyi with his words.

But he hadn’t expected that while he was secretly regretting, that young mage would nod and straightforwardly agree with his sarcastic comment.

What did that mean?

Kave took some time to react...

'Could it be that this young Great Mage truly wants to let everyone judge whether he has the qualifications to join the Magic Hand?'

This was a bit irrational...

"Sir Jouyi, sorry to bother you, but do you have a pen and some paper?" While Kave was still in shock, Lin Yun had already walked over to Jouyi.

"Merlin, you are..." Jouyi fished out the tools from his pocket while speaking worriedly.

"It's fine, rest assured." Lin Yun nodded at Jouyi before spreading the paper on a table nearby very quickly. He then wrote one rune after another at an extreme speed.

It only took him a few minutes to fill the first piece of paper.

"Eh!" Jouyi who glanced at it suddenly seemed delighted. This was an unprecedented formula. Although there were some key parts of the formula using some never seen before characters, causing to the formula to seem incomplete or damaged, a learned person could see that this wasn't someone lacking the ability to completely lay out the formula, but rather, it was a common way to maintain secrecy.

This method wasn't rare, as almost every mage would use it or something similar if it involved unique magic knowledge that they owned. Mages could use some special characters instead. Only they would be able to understand the true meaning of these characters. This was also the reason that magic inheritances were so precious. If one wanted to obtain a mage's true magic inheritance, they would have to learn their secrets, like the meaning of any magic characters that they used to encode their writings.

"Fuck..." Kave looked at it from a distance and felt startled. This was indeed an unprecedented formula. It would shock all of Andlusa if it were published.

'Isn't this too irrational? How could such a young mage unearth such a remarkable formula? Did he plagiarize someone?'

Kave latched onto that thought.

'Yes! This must be it! But even if he plagiarized it, I don't have any proof...' Kave couldn't help inwardly complain, 'If I had known, I wouldn't have said so much. It's too late to go back on my words now... What can I do? Do I truly have to let that Mafa Merlin slap me in the face?'

'No! I have to prove that he plagiarized someone! Only then can I redeem my reputation!'

But here, he hit a stumbling block.

'There is no evidence... Do I have to fabricate some?'

As Kave racked his brain, he found that Lin Yun had completed the first page and started writing on the second page at the exact same speed, quickly noting down character after character, thus completing the 2nd page, the 3rd page, the 4th page...

The entire Banquet Hall was silent, and everyone looked at Lin Yun in alarm, as if they weren't looking at a young Great Mage, but a true miracle...

This was already the 5th formula...

And not a single part had ever been seen in Noscent!

Although the Magic Hand gathered every peak Archmage of the kingdom who had been researching magic for several hundred years, none of them had ever seen such a scene. Five entire formulas had appeared! This was quite a shock!

Moreover, before they could recover, Lin Yun started writing the 6th formula...

'Damn, there are more!?'

This time, the only one who wasn't paying attention was Kave.

Because Kave was deep in thought, trying to figure out how to prove that it was plagiarism.

After thinking for a long time, he came up a way.

'No evidence? It's fine. I'll make my own! I, Kave, am a 9th Rank Archmage, a peak existence in the entire Andlusa kingdom. My prestige and reputation can't be compared to that of a 5th Rank Great Mage. The entire situation will be reversed as long as I go forward and say that the formula this 5th Rank Great Mage is writing is a copy of my own work!

'Who would they believe? A 9th Rank Archmage? Or a 5th Rank Great Mage?'

With this supporting him, Kave slowly calmed down. After clearing his throat with two coughs, he shouted, "Mafa Merlin! You shameful plagiarist!"

After uttering those words, he didn't say anything else and only looked at Lin Yun with a gaze full of dignity and pity.

In Kave's eyes, his words should be enough to end this farce.

They were all Archmages, and everyone was smart enough to understand. After hearing those words, wouldn't someone come and ask him why he accused Mafa Merlin of plagiarism? At that time, he would only need to say a few sentences to convince everyone that Merlin had stolen this work.

Kave then waited, full of self-confidence.

But what awaited him were contemptuous looks...

Even Harren wanted to spit at him right now. 'You aren't just deaf, aren't you blind, too? Can't you see the seven new magic formulas!'

Chapter 185: Pig-like Teammate

Unfortunately, Kave was unaware.

Nothing could be done about it, Lin Yun's writing speed was too fast and Kave was simply absent-minded, missing the other six new formulas. To this moment, Kave was still thinking that this young Great Mage had been writing the same formula.

Kave was full of confidence, thinking that one formula was nothing, with his reputation and the prestige he gained over decades, he could completely reverse the situation.

He might even obtain some benefits...

Such as expropriating this formula.

Kave looked at it before and although the key points to the formula used some special characters, he felt that this wouldn't pose too much trouble. The difference in magic knowledge between a 9th Rank High Mage and a 5th Rank Great Mage was an unbreachable gap. As long as he spent some effort, cracking these special characters wouldn't be very difficult.

Thus, Kave didn't have any qualms bringing this up.

"Sir Kave, once you say something, you cannot take it back..." Lin Yun had already finished writing the 7th formula and put Jouyi's quill down while all the other Archmages looked at him in shock.

"Phew..."

The moment Lin Yun laid down the quill, everyone let out a sigh of relief.

Too frightening...

Lin Yun's crazy performance gave rise to a kind of misconception, as if Lin Yun would just keep writing formula after formula... Fortunately, Lin Yun stopped after writing seven of them.

If this had been before and someone displayed magic knowledge in such a generous way, the Archmages present would have unanimously asked him to continue. But now, they only wanted to ask Merlin to reign in his ability.

They were frightened after all.

The seven new formulas just appeared like that and gave a strong blow to all the Archmages, stunning them on the spot. This action could only be described as too crazy. They were really afraid that there would be an 8th, and then a 9th.

Looking at Lin Yun's resting hand, one Archmage stealthily wiped the cold sweat dripping down his neck while secretly rejoicing that it was finally over.

Unfortunately, Kave neglected these details.

This 9th Rank High Mage had been immersed in his own world. Although he didn't have time to break these special characters, he was convinced that he would have no issues in the ensuing confrontation.

Only because of the difference in status.

The gap of over twenty ranks would crush this Mafa in the clash.

Kave even assumed the arrogance of a 9th Rank Archmage, "Mafa Merlin, I'll give you one more chance. Leave the Ash Tower now and I can think of it as if nothing ever happened..."

“Sir Kave is too polite...” Lin Yun spread the pieces of paper on the table and then raised his head with a smile directed at Kave.

“Looks like you want to resist to the bitter hand...” There was a sneer on Kave’s face as he walked towards the center of the Banquet Hall, “Since it’s like this, don’t blame me for exposing you. Mafa Merlin, do you dare let everyone know where you were yesterday from 1am to 3am?”

“What does it have to do with plagiarism?” Lin Yun was suddenly startled, ‘Was the Demiplane exposed?’ But Lin Yun’s nerves had already been tempered through the end of Noscent, even though he was startled, nothing showed on his face.

“Haha, you don’t dare to answer?” Kave’s smile slowly vanished, “Let me explain on your behalf. During the night, between 1am and 3am, you quietly infiltrated the Ash Tower’s secret research room and stole this extremely important magic formula. You think you can trick everyone?”

“Sir Kave, I did tell you that you can’t take your words back. You cannot make irresponsible remarks...” Lin Yun almost cursed, ‘Damn you were only framing me, I was almost scared and nearly told the truth...’

“Good, Mafa Merlin, give up your pathetic struggles. Ask any of the Archmages present what kind of person I am. My reputation, my morals, how could you compare to them as a mere 5th Rank Great Mage?” After Kave said everything full of confidence, his gaze swept past numerous Archmages.

By Kave’s estimate, a dozen Archmages should back him up.

But Kave didn’t think that none of the Archmages he looked at would support him. Rather, they all lowered their heads as if they were discussing with each other. No one was willing to look him in the eye.

What kind of situation was this?

Kave didn’t know what to do...

‘Did Jouyi’s influence in the Magic Hand reached this degree? To make it so that no Archmage would be willing to speak for me? Isn’t this a bit too freakish?’

‘No way, no way, even if Jouyi’s power was this great, Sir Harren wouldn’t be scared, right?’

‘Why is Sir Harren also lowering his head?’

Kave would have never expected that Harren would be currently cursing all his ancestors...

‘Fucking Pig-like teammate, how could I be so naive...’

‘There are a few dozens Archmages in the Banquet Hall, why did I have to choose a swine like Kave?’

‘Fuck, he has already written seven new formulas, yet you don’t want to admit defeat at this time? You would only need to give him some praising words, talk about his bright future, say bullshit about thinking highly of him and it would have pulled us out of this awkward situation!’

'This wasn't your fault, who would have expected him to write seven completely new formulas. This is a disaster that no one could have prevented. Even I, Harren, am not an unreasonable person, I wouldn't take my anger out on you, Kave, for this disaster.'

'But you are good, Kave...'

'What do you think you are doing now? Do you feel happy trying to take one formula away from someone who wrote seven in such a short time?'

Harren didn't feel any guilt!

But neither did Kave...

'Shouldn't everyone be supporting me? Why are you all lowering your head? Especially you Harren, you are the mastermind, why are you lowering your head now?'

Unfortunately, Kave was like an arrow that had been shot, he had no choice but to go forward. After sweeping a glance around the Banquet Hall, even though he didn't get the support he had imagined, he could only brace himself.

"Mafa Merlin, I'm advising you. Stubbornly resisting has no benefits. Your only choice is to immediately explain your crimes. In consideration of Sir Jouyi's reputation, I won't haggle with you..."

"Kave, you shut the fuck up!" Jouyi had been provoked several times today and was already holding back his anger. Now he was obviously on the winning side, yet Kave was still talking about considering his reputation. Every Archmage present could naturally guess what Jouyi's reaction would be...

A vein twitched on his forehead as he grabbed those seven pieces of paper and walked to Kave, "Kave, tell me, which one is the stolen formula of your Ash Tower!"

"Which one?" Kave froze, wondering why nothing was going according to his plan.

'Hold on, why is there so many pages?'

As Kave's thoughts reached this point, he suddenly felt cold. An outrageous possibility appeared in his mind...

'Could it be...'

As he thought about it, his face suddenly paled. If that was really the case, he would be finished. His reputation would never recover...

Impossible, impossible...

At this time, Kave already didn't dare to lay claim to this new magic formula, he only hoped that things weren't as serious as he thought.

Unfortunately, this bit of hope had been thoroughly crushed by Jouyi.

Because the next instant, Jouyi placed one page after the other in front of him, asking, "Is it this one? Or this one? Or this one..."

The seven pieces of paper as light as feathers were like seven heavy slaps. Each time they slapped Kave's face, everyone seemed to hear a loud slapping sound echo.

The entire banquet Hall was incomparably still. Besides Jouyi's angry roars, only the desperate and helpless breath of Kave could be heard.

Some Archmages couldn't help averting their gaze, not having the heart to look. They knew that Kave had already cleanly trashed his reputation.

An esteemed 9th Rank Great Mage had wrongly accused a 5th Rank Great Mage, moreover he even thought of expropriating his knowledge... This couldn't just be described as shameless, he was a failure of an Archmage...

If this spread, this would be the biggest scandal of the kingdom.

At this time, even Harren, the mastermind behind this, only wanted to say that he really didn't know Kave.

"You don't even know what these seven formulas are, yet you claim that one of them is the result of the research of your Ash Tower? Kave, you truly have good prospects..." After saying that, Jouyi pointed at the seven pieces of paper, "Look at them yourself and see what these seven formulas are!"

Chapter 186: 8th Formula

"..." Kave picked up a page and stood there in a daze, alone. At this time, Kave had already understood. These seven new magic formulas had never been seen in Noscent.

He could now understand why everyone would look at him strangely and lower their head when he looked at them for support. This wasn't due to Jouyi's influence, it was because they couldn't bear to look at his humiliation...

And he was still continued to trash his own reputation.

Now that he finally got his wish and things reached this stage, the reputation he had slowly build up over the years was wrecked.

But who could he blame?

He could only blame himself for underestimating Mafa Merlin...

Indeed, he had pulled too much attention to Mafa Merlin...

He had only lost himself a bit while thinking of countermeasures, yet he wrote seven new formulas? He was only a mere 5th Rank Great Mage in his eyes. With outstanding computing abilities and outstanding magic abilities, but who would have expected him to have such profound magic knowledge?

How could he be this fast?

Kave couldn't understand this part...

Unfortunately, no one cared whether Kave understood. The previous disturbances made Lin Yun the leading role of the Magic Hand's gathering.

To be exact, it was those seven new formulas that took the spotlight...

As Archmages of the Magic Hand, they all had superior insight. If Lin Yun had taken out those formula somewhere else, it would at most made people exclaim in admiration.

But it was different today, no ordinary mage was standing here today.

They were like sharks who smelled blood when they saw the formulas, pouncing over in a hurry.

The Archmages who had been arguing whether Lin Yun was eligible to join the Magic Hand or not were now incomparably enthusiastic, calling him "Merlin" with an affectionate tone as if they were old friends.

No one mentioned the qualifications anymore...

If a Great Mage who wrote seven new formulas in a row wasn't qualified to join the Magic Hand, then who was?

The Magic Hand's goal was the sharing and trading of magic knowledge.

It didn't matter who you were to these mages standing at the peak of the kingdom, as long as you grasped the knowledge they beseeched, even if you were a mere goblin, they would still take you in the Magic Hand.

Now that Lin Yun already proved that he met the requirements, he already became a part of the Magic Hand in their eyes. This kind of approval was a hundred times more effective than Jouyi and Osul's recommendation.

"Merlin, is it possible for you to transfer the right to these seven formulas? Rest assured, our Whistle Island is always fair. We will take out the entire set of Hurricane Meditation Law to trade for these seven formulas. This is Whistle Island's core magic knowledge, you can only find it in the Whistle Island..." The first to offer a trade was the master of Whistle Island, Hurricane Envoy Mogg.

Although this 7th Rank Archmage wasn't equal to Kave, his insight was far superior to him. He was an old monster like Jouyi after all, it's just that he wasn't as talented and had been stuck at the 7th Rank for over a hundred years.

Mogg identified Lin Yun's seven formulas as a complete set of Meditation Laws.

The benefits and drawbacks of Meditation Laws had always been decided by the amount of formulas.

The more formulas, the more amazing the Meditation Law.

The Hurricane Meditation inheritance had been passed down for so many years, but it only consisted of six formulas, while the Meditation Laws Lin Yun had taken out was actually a seven formula set. After being improved for a few centuries, it wouldn't be impossible for it to reach eight or nine formulas.

Moreover, these Meditation Laws weren't targeting a specific rank.

From what they could see, the seven formulas ranged from Magic Apprentice to Mage, from Mage to Great Mage, from Great Mage to High Mage, each stage had its own specialized Meditation Law. From the arrangement, it was totally possible for a qualified Magic Apprentice to rank up till 9th Rank High Mage.

Such a Meditation Law was rare in Noscent...

Thus, Mogg didn't even think and revealed his own cards.

"Sorry, Sir Mogg, I currently don't need Meditation Laws, in fact, I am very interested in resources..." Lin Yun directly rejected him.

Lin Yun already knew the Hurricane Meditation Laws...

The meditation efficiency was average with its six formulas. When Lin Yun saw it in the library, he skipped it. Nothing could be done about it, meditation efficiency was everything in the future, an average Meditation Law was very likely to let Lin Yun's body be lost to the Netherstorm.

Strangely, Mogg wasn't offended by the refusal, he was rather happy about it.

"Resources? Hahaha, Merlin, you found the right person. Our Whistle Island might not have much of everything else, but we have resources..."

Whistle Island was sitting on five large private planes, the natural resources within were abundant like an endless sea. They have gathered a huge amount of resources for the past thousand years.

If Lin Yun insisted on trading for magic knowledge, Mogg might have a headache. After all, besides the Magic Conducting Rune Storm Heart, Whistle Island could only trade the Hurricane Meditation Laws. But Mogg wasn't confident in using a 6-Formulas set to trade for a 7-Formulas set of a Meditation Laws.

But he hadn't expected Lin Yun to say that he wanted resources.

This time, Mogg was emboldened, no no no, he was filled with confidence.

Mogg was confident that there were few Archmages in this Banquet Hall who could compete with him in natural resources, it might only be Jouyi, Harren, Osul, and a few others...

"Don't be in a hurry, Sir Mogg, can you wait a bit..."

"Ah?" Mogg froze, 'Did I say something wrong, why do you want me to wait?'

But Mogg then saw Jouyi coming over.

"Merlin, choose between South Nolun and North Nolun..."

Mogg held his breath, 'Damn, Jouyi is willing to go that far?'

What was Nolun...

That was one of the most fertile territory of the Cloud Tower. That place was located in the northern part of Okland. The southern part would be blistering hot all year round while the northern part was permanently covered in snow. The south and the north were two extremes. But these extremely strange environments made Nolun strangely fertile. North Nolun produced all kind of magic materials while

South Nolun contained a large amount of magic metals veins. The south and north combined would bring ten millions golds of profit every year to the Cloud Tower. Moreover, it was easily guarded and hard to attack. The Cloud Tower only needed to station a few troops to operate the entire Nolun.

Yet Jouyi was actually offering half of Nolun!

Let alone Mogg, even the remaining Archmages wanting to compete for the seven formulas remained silent. They couldn't compete anymore.

"What is half of Nolun..." As everyone fell silent, Harren suddenly walked over, "Merlin, what do you think of a plane?"

The Archmages in the Banquet Hall were shocked once again.

A plane...

Harren was mad!

What did a plane mean? How could Harren not understand? No matter how precious a Meditation Law was, it couldn't be as valuable as a plane!

"Sir Harren, the plane you are talking about should just be a Planar Path?" Lin Yun politely smiled, as if he had completely forgotten that this Sir Harren was setting himself against Jouyi by trying to prevent Lin Yun from joining the Magic Hand.

This was very normal.

Business was business. Grudges and hate would vanish in the face of profit. If Harren truly wanted to take out a plane, Lin Yun would definitely be willing to shake hands with him.

"Haha, correct, that plane was just found by the Black Tower, we only have coordinates at the moment and the Planar Path had yet to be established. If Merlin is interested, I can give you the coordinates. You can decide yourself where you want to open the Planar Path. Naturally, the Black Tower will take responsibility for the manufacturing costs..."

"Please wait a moment, Sir Harren..." Lin Yun was still smiling as he nodded politely.

"Of course, of course." Harren displayed his graceful manners, but Jouyi next to him couldn't help muttering, "Damned ladyboy..."

"Everyone, please allow me to say a few words." Lin Yun slowly walked to the center of the Banquet Hall, cleared his throat a few times before talking, "This Meditation Law is a set of eight formulas."

Lin Yun's voice wasn't loud, but his words were like a bomb that silenced everyone.

"God..."

"How could this be! 8th Formula!"

"Quick quick, Merlin, write down this 8th Formula!"

Lin Yun smiled as he looked at these excited Archmages. It took five minutes before they managed to calm down... Until Lin Yun threw another bomb.

“Moreover, the 8th Formula of this Meditation Law set isn’t fixed...”

Chapter 187: My Apologies

Everyone laughed when Lin Yun’s words came out...

“Haha, Merlin, that was a good one...”

“Haha, indeed, a good one. How could there be a Meditation Law with an unfixed formula...”

“Wouldn’t that be like being able to have a different Meditation Law Set with each formula?”

At this time, the entire Banquet Hall was filled with kindhearted laughter. A few Archmages even made some harmless jokes with Lin Yun.

But they couldn’t keep laughing for long...

Because they found out that Lin Yun was very serious.

‘No way...’

Those who were the most familiar with Lin Yun, like Jouyi and Osul, suddenly felt nervous when they saw his expression. Although there was still a smile on his face, it was slowly stiffening.

The others seemed to have noticed the changes in those two and felt something wrong. The laughter gradually faded and the gazes of over a dozen Archmages fell on Lin Yun.

These Archmages had nerves of steel. They wouldn’t even frown if a meteor fell from the sky and crashed in the center of the Banquet Hall. But at this moment, over a dozen Archmages stood still, looking at Lin Yun with worry and anxiousness.

The Banquet Hall became quiet once more.

It took some time before Mogg managed to ask, “Is it... Is it really not fixed?”

“Yes.” Lin Yun nodded with certainty and said, “I currently have three formulas that could be added to this Meditation Law Set. In other words, I have three completely different Meditation Law Sets...”

The Banquet Hall burst with noise once again.

It was to the point that no one heard what Lin Yun said afterwards. Everyone was immersed in this shocking news... Three distinct Meditation Law Sets, each containing eight formulas. Only one such set had appeared in the past century...

That Meditation Law Set came from the famous Starry Sky College.

Indeed, it was that famous Starry Sky Aria.

But now, three such Meditation Law Sets had appeared in the Magic Hand’s gathering!

Moreover, they came from a young Great Mage...

All the Archmages felt as if they couldn’t process this information.

“Merlin, give me a set!” Jouyi was the first to react. While the others were still dumbstruck, the master of the Cloud Tower already rushed to speak first. But this time, he didn’t mention North Nolun or South Nolun, because he already knew that all of Nolun still couldn’t compare to such a Meditation Law Set.

That was the meaning of an 8-Formula Meditation Law Set...

Something so valuable couldn’t be exchanged for with just Nolun.

“Sir Jouyi, just South Nolun is fine...”

“South Nolun?” Jouyi froze...

After all, Jouyi had offered half of Nolun earlier for a 7-Formula Meditation Law Set. But with the addition of an 8th formula, this Meditation Law Set already became a many times more expensive, yet the other side only asked for South Nolun.

Even a fool would know that Jouyi was getting a great deal...

After recovering, Jouyi understood... That young Great Mage was expressing his gratitude for the consideration he had shown him...

When that occurred to him, Jouyi felt somewhat ashamed. He had indeed thought of trying to help this young mage, if only because of the fact that he was a genius that would appear only once in a millennium. This was the reason he treated that young Great Mage favorably to the point that he wouldn’t hesitate to convince Osul to recommend him as a new member of the Magic Hand.

But in reality, he didn’t have much success at helping him...

Speaking of Osul, Merlin himself had helped him by saving that bottle of Heaven Awakening Potion, causing Osul to joyfully open up to him. Then in the Banquet Hall, he was the one who confronted Harren and Kave with his 7-Formula Meditation Law Set, making both of them thoroughly yield.

Although Jouyi wanted to help Merlin, he truly didn’t do much.

But now, the young Great Mage didn’t even think about it and paid him back with an 8-Formula Meditation Law Set.

“Merlin...”

Jouyi opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but he was suddenly interrupted by a smiling Lin Yun. “Sir Jouyi, regarding South Nolun’s defenses, could the Cloud Tower...”

“Haha...” Jouyi knew that this was showing consideration for his reputation. Everyone knew that South Nolun and North Nolun had always been easily guarded territories that were very difficult to attack. As long as a few troops were stationed, they would have well-fortified defenses. Although the Gilded Rose couldn’t compare to the Cloud Tower in terms of financial clout, couldn’t it hire about ten Great Mages and ten Great Swordsmen?

Why would he still ask the Cloud Tower for help...

Merlin was only saying this to bolster Jouyi’s reputation.

But Merlin already made it clear: if he kept being modest about it, the others would laugh at him. Jouyi only chuckled, and immediately answered.

“Alright.”

The two shook hands, startling a dozen Archmages!

What kind of situation was this!

Before they could even recover, one of the set had already been traded away. This was too quick, were the rest even being considered as potential clients?

Then, a dozen Archmages rushed over like a swarm of bees...

No, it looked more like a horde rushing for their lives.

The young Great Mage had been very clear. He only had three of these unfixed 8th formulas. In other words, he could only take out three Meditation Law Sets. Just now, Jouyi took one away in one breath, if two more breaths passed, wouldn't there be nothing left?

In the end, Harren was the first to walk in front of Lin Yun...

The dozen other Archmages didn't dare to offend him. Harren was just like Jouyi, an existence that touched upon the Extraordinary Realm. Standing behind him was the Black Tower, a force that could shake the entire Andlusa kingdom, one of the two peak mage forces of the kingdom alongside the Cloud Tower. Although all those present were Archmages, not many would dare to offend Harren.

“Great Mage Merlin, I'll get straight to the point, I can add something to my previous offer.”

“Oh?”

“Within three years, the Black Tower will help you sweep that plane of obstacles and you and your Gilded Rose can just wait to receive it...”

“...” Harren's words caused everyone in the Banquet Hall to hold their breaths.

Harren's offer could only be described as crazy.

Providing the coordinates and shouldering the cost of establishing the Planar Path aside, the latest condition of clearing the plane within three years was like cleaning and packaging the plane to gift it.

That was an entire plane...

This showed how powerful Harren was...

Depending on what the circumstances dictated, he wouldn't hesitate to give up or go all-out.

Indeed, Harren first thought of using the young Mage to deal a blow to Jouyi's reputation, but when he found out that he'd picked a pig-like teammate, Harren didn't hesitate to give up on Kave and instead cordially talk business with Lin Yun, as if nothing had ever happened.

Even bringing up a whole plane now to trade for a full Meditation Law Set.

Because he knew that this Meditation Law Set was too important...

The eight formulas weren't that important by themselves, as they wouldn't be too different from the core Meditation Law Sets of both major forces. But the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower were bound to have formidable research teams. After obtaining the Meditation Law Set, they could likely push their core Meditation Law Sets to nine formulas, or even ten formulas.

With such a Meditation Law Set, the power of the two forces would advance by leaps and bounds.

This was a deathly battle for the two irreconcilable mage forces.

Regardless of whether it was the Black Tower or the Cloud Tower, they couldn't let the other side be the only one profiting from a Meditation Law Set. Nothing would happen at the start. But after decades, hundreds of years, the research team of the other side would have finished using this set to complement their core Meditation Law Sets to nine or ten formulas, and it would be too late by then...

A powerful Meditation Law Set would not only nurture new mages faster, but it would also increase the power of the entire force. In most cases, what determined if a force of mages had enough growth potential was whether or not they had enough powerful Meditation Law Sets.

Since the Cloud Tower already held one of these new Meditation Law Sets, the Black Tower absolutely couldn't return empty-handed.

For this, Harren would spare no costs!

It was really too bad, as Jouyi had a deep friendship with that young Great Mage. The reason that young Great mage could join the Magic Hand was Jouyi and Osul's recommendation. Harren was at a great disadvantage compared to him.

He could only raise his offer...

Moreover, he had to raise it quite a bit, offering a whole plane.

Sure enough, when that price came out, even Jouyi's gaze became strange. Harren believed that no one in this world could refuse such an offer. It was a full plane, the chance for any mage to rise up!

But then, that young Great Mage answered...

"My apologies, Sir Harren..."

Chapter 188: Ruins of the Sun King

"Eh?"

When Lin Yun's answer came out, over a dozen Archmages, including Harren and Jouyi, were all stunned. Some of them were wondering whether they had misheard him. That was too irrational... He was offering a full plane, the opportunity for instant success.

They thought that Merlin had been too nervous and answered wrong.

"My apologies, Sir Harren, three years is too long..." While they were all feeling confused, Lin Yun elaborated on his answer.

This time, they all understood clearly...

Afterwards, the entire Banquet Hall burst into an uproar once again.

'He refused! He actually refused!'

Harren took out a whole plane, but he was refused by that young Great Mage!

'This... This is crazy!'

'How could anyone refuse such a deal? You were presented with a whole plane, yet you are actually giving it away on the basis that three years is too long...'

Some of the Archmages thought in shock, 'A planar conquest would normally be counted in decades... Even the Pale Plane that the Cloud Tower discovered two centuries ago has yet to be completely conquered. Harren dared to promise you to conquer that plane in three years due to his confidence in the Black Tower's strength, yet you actually think that three years is too long?'

At this time, many Archmages started to doubt whether that young Great Mage knew what owning a plane truly meant.

Otherwise, how could he decline like this?

"Great Mage Merlin, may I ask why?" Harren was still maintaining a very graceful pose, worthy of Jouyi nicknaming him 'ladyboy'. After being refused by Lin Yun, he didn't act offended and only asked with a smile.

"It's complicated..." Lin Yun awkwardly chuckled.

Nothing could be done about it, as he couldn't tell the true reason.

He couldn't let Harren know that he already had a few planes and had his hands full with them, so he didn't have the time to deal with an unknown plane.

This explanation truly couldn't be used...

Otherwise, let alone Harren going berserk on the spot, even the other Archmages would be spitting at him. In this era where planar coordinates were invaluable, using such an immoral reason was simply flaunting his wealth, and he would deserve to be spit at.

But it was a fact...

Let alone the plane coordinates he learnt of during the end of the magic era, even just those he'd earned through various channels after arriving here were plenty enough.

First was the Bone Plane...

And now, although Lin Yun had yet to conquer the entire Bone Plane, he held the Book of Death and could open the Planar Path anytime, anywhere. William and Faleau were also occupying the black wasteland. As long as he was patient, he would sooner or later conquer the Bone Plane.

This was Lin Yun's foundation. There was no need to speak of other planes, as all his energy and resources would be spent on the Bone Plane first.

Moreover, the depths of the Bone Peak were linked to the neighboring Demon Plane. The two planes were already overlapping, and a Planar Path would be established sooner or later even without external help. What Lin Yun needed to do now was to consolidate his strength so that when the time was ripe, he would be able to force the entrance to the Demon Plane open in one go. Lin Yun estimated that the Demon Plane should be as fertile as the Bone Plane...

Moreover, Lin Yun already talked with Osul about borrowing the Dusk Fire, a key needed to open the Shattered Sun Plane.

But this would be later on. Lin Yun didn't have enough power to enter the Shattered Sun Plane at the moment. He needed to be a 5th Rank High Mage at the very least to make sure that he could survive there.

And he couldn't forget about the Demiplane left behind by Rudolph.

All these planes...

Lin Yun had three and a half planes waiting to be conquered, and that was without the planar coordinates he still had from the decaying library.

Lin Yun only hated the fact that he couldn't clone himself to take care of multiple planes at the same time.

As for the plane mentioned by Harren, Lin Yun could only refuse. He wasn't going to let them explore a plane before him and then hand it over, and he already had a lot on his plate.

Moreover, Lin Yun already knew what he wanted from the Black Tower...

Compared to that unknown plane, that was something Lin Yun truly wished to get.

"Sir Harren, I heard that the Black Tower found ruins from the 3rd Dynasty a few months ago."

"Oh?" The disappointed Harren suddenly frowned when he heard that. "How did Great Mage Merlin learn about it?"

"Haha, I incidentally heard about it when chatting here."

"That's right, three months ago, the Black Tower indeed found a ruin of the 3rd Dynasty on the East Coast. We finished removing the traps a few days ago and now, three Master Alchemists of the Black Tower are taking care of the arrays. They should be able to excavate it within a month..." After saying this, Harren threw a strange glance at Lin Yun. "Why? Great Mage Merlin has some understanding of the ruins?"

"I've learnt a bit about it, and if I'm not wrong, this should have been left behind by the Sun King from the middle of the 3rd Dynasty."

"Haha..." Harren knew that since the other side was able to talk about the Sun King, his understanding of the ruins definitely wouldn't be shallow. The origin of these ruins had only been made public within the Black Tower a month ago. There would only be two reasons for the other side to be able to talk about these ruins. He either had been paying attention to these ruins for a long time, or he had a spy inside the Black Tower.

If it had been someone else, Harren would have already become hostile upon realizing this. Whichever reason it was, this was a grave provocation towards the Black Tower.

But Harren only chuckled as he faced that young Great Mage and remained silent...

Not only did he remain civil, but he was even very happy.

He finally felt like he had the upper hand in this gathering...

This was like someone delivering a pillow when he wanted to sleep...

This was the situation Harren was the happiest to see.

'Let's talk about the Sun King Ruins since you are so interested.'

Sure enough, Harren soon noticed greed within the young Great Mage's eyes. "I didn't expect that the Black Tower actually discovered the legendary Sun King Ruins..."

"Haha, it looks like Great Mage Merlin is very interested in these Sun King Ruins. How about you come over when it is completely excavated? Thousand Sails City isn't very far, after all, so I can receive you when the time comes."

"Sir Harren, forgive me for speaking bluntly. I see that you are very interested in the Meditation Law Set, and it turns out that I am very interested in the Sun King Ruins... I feel that we can come to an agreement."

'Sure enough...'

Harren inwardly laughed, remaining calm and collected. "This might be possible, but I have to ask, Great Mage Merlin, which relic of the Sun King are you interested in?"

Greed flashed in Lin Yun's eyes once more as he said, "I want the entirety of the Sun King Ruins..."

"This..." Harren showed some embarrassment.

The other Archmages listening couldn't help holding their breaths, 'The entirety of the Sun King Ruins? Isn't that too greedy?'

"Of course, I know that this request is a bit too excessive, so how about this, Sir Harren. You can choose which of the two Meditation Law Sets I have in hands that you want to get."

"This..." Harren hesitated for a few minutes before reluctantly nodding, "Okay..."

In fact, Harren was inwardly laughing...

Others might not know the situation within the Sun King Ruins, but how could Harren not know?

In the past three months, the Black Tower had actually excavated the ruins while removing the traps. Now, the most precious resources, knowledge, and equipment were already in their possession.

But in order to maintain secrecy, the Black Tower didn't make this information public. Even in the Black Tower, only a few high ranked mages knew about it.

The Sun King Ruins seemed untouched to the outside, but in reality, the most valuable relics had already been taken by the Black Tower. It could be said that the famous Sun King Ruins were now just an empty shell.

Harren never expected that he could trade such an empty shell for an 8-Formula Meditation Law Set.

“Then I wish us a delightful cooperation.” Lin Yun extended his hand with a smile.

At this moment, Harren never could have thought that Lin Yun would also be inwardly laughing at him...

Harren thought Lin Yun didn't know that the Sun King Ruins had already been emptied...

But Lin Yun had already read about the Black Tower's excavation in the books of the decaying library.

This was a classical excavation added to many textbooks.

But it was as an example on what not to do...

In the era of crazy excavations, almost every alchemist would exhort their disciples while teaching them, “If you don't study well, then you'll end up like those idiots of the Black Tower, letting go of the watermelon to pick up sesame seeds while being proud of it for over a thousand years...”

Indeed, the teaching material was the excavation of the Sun King Ruins...

Chapter 189: Covert Auction

For more than a thousand years, the Black Tower had always believed that the excavation of the Sun King Ruins had been a perfect success. There had been no losses during the excavation and all the valuable relics had been moved back to the Black Tower.

But a thousand years later, a young mage tore apart the Black Tower's reputation.

It was only then that people learnt that the Black Tower's excavation was unsuccessful and imperfect. This had been such a big mistake that they regretted for more than a thousand years.

Naturally, Harren couldn't know about this.

Thus, Lin Yun could only try hard to stop himself from laughing.

The deal for the second Meditation Law Set was done while both of them were restraining their laughter.

Thus, two of the three Meditation Law Sets had already been traded, and the remaining one made all the other Archmages' eyes turn red. A dozen of them were standing there and looking at each other, before their gazes filled with unconcealable flames. At this time, they were all thinking that since the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower had bought their sets, the remaining one should belong to them.

The problem was that there were too many of “them”...

Lin Yun's next words were most frightening...

“I wish to trade this remaining Meditation Law Set for some mana crystals...”

“...” When Lin Yun said this, Jouyi and Harren both recovered. They couldn’t help sympathizing and rejoicing. Fortunately, they’d already made their own deals, or else they would have had to compete with those dozen red-eyed Archmages... Using mana crystals, even...

They would have ended up being ripped off...

Jouyi’s South Nolon and Harren’s Sun King Ruins were transactions based on both seller and buyer taking what they needed. They were somewhat worthwhile as they didn’t have any competitors...

But now, they were using mana crystals as a form of currency...

Trades between mages had always been based on mana crystals. The Archmages present had all been famous for decades or centuries and had major forces behind them. Who didn’t have a large stockpile of mana crystals among them? With this, it wouldn’t be like the one-on-one transactions that had just happened. This was turning the business deal into an auction, and with a dozen Archmages participating in that auction, it would be a bloody war...

Eljin was the first to voice an offer. “Sixteen Spirit mana crystals.”

Only mana crystals at the 30th level and above were qualified to be called Spirit mana crystals.

Spirit mana crystals were very pure and could be absorbed by ordinary mages. When used as mana sources, they could be used in all domains of alchemy. The only problem was that Spirit mana crystals were very rare. Magic beasts over level 30 were already Archmage level. Even if the Archmages from the Magic Hand were willing to hunt them, they would still need to take some huge risks.

Those sixteen Spirit mana crystals made up the entire savings that Eljin possessed, and he was ready to empty them for the Meditation Law Set.

“Eighteen.”

“Twenty.”

“Twenty-five.”

“Twenty-seven.”

“Thirty.”

...

After Eljin bid sixteen Spirit mana crystals, he didn’t even have time to relax before several Archmages outbid him one after the other. By the time he recovered, the highest bid for the Meditation Law was already at thirty Spirit mana crystals.

“...” Eljin felt like spitting blood on the spot...

‘Damn, those are Spirit mana crystals...’

‘Each one is worth at least 5,000,000 golds... Those thirty Spirit mana crystals are worth over 150,000,000 golds. That is enough to buy a small city in the Andlusa kingdom. This is too crazy, these

guys would usually hesitate to even buy a few potions, why won't you hesitate today, why are you willing to spend so much today, are you trying to be generous?'

That price was truly frightening. Not only was Eljin unable to bear with it, the other Archmages couldn't handle it either. Some Archmages also had to give up, inwardly scolding those profligate scoundrels while looking at the Meditation Law Set with regret.

After a few bids, the price of the Meditation Law Set already reached forty-five Spirit mana crystals, and only three of the Archmages remained. Out of those, Whistle Island's master, Mogg, was the fiercest.

This 5th Rank Archmage owned five huge private planes. Whistle Island had an endless amount of materials and solid financial resources that were not far behind the two top mage forces. He missed the previous two opportunities and found out that there was only one chance left, so how could he not fight for it as if his life was on the line?

Soon, Mogg made a bid that made the Elder of the Fenn Family give up. Although this 7th Rank Archmage had the support of the entire Fenn family, he still couldn't compete with Mogg on the financial side.

The last Archmage still in the running was actually Nolan of the Mercury Tower...

Among all these Archmages, he was the only one that Lin Yun couldn't see through. He seemed to be an ordinary 9th Rank Archmage like Kave, but Lin Yun always felt that the master of the Mercury Tower, Karon's teacher, wasn't as simple as he looked.

In fact, Mogg had a similar feeling at this moment...

Nolan's performance was too strange...

Each time he bid, he would only raise the current bid by one. Regardless of how much Mogg bid, Nolan would unhesitantly outbid him by one.

This was very embarrassing.

After defeating the Fenn Family Elder, Mogg clenched his teeth and directly bid fifty...

But that still didn't work...

Nolan didn't spend any time to think and directly bid, "Fifty-one."

'Fuck...' Mogg almost burst out. He truly wanted to ask him whether he was deliberately planning to make fun of him...

Unfortunately, Mogg didn't dare...

Just based on strength, the other side was a 9th Rank Archmage, and also one of the three Artisans of the kingdom. And based on his identity and status, he could stand shoulder to shoulder with Harren and Jouyi...

Nothing could be done about it, so Mogg could only brace himself and keep going.

"Fifty-two."

“Fifty-three.”

“Fifty-four.”

“Fifty-five.”

Mogg really wanted to curse as he kept increasing the price, thinking that they might reach a hundred at this rate.

Fortunately, such a case didn't appear.

When Mogg called out his offer of sixty crystals, Nolan, who had been unwilling to let go for so long, suddenly turned silent...

“Okay, I give up...”

“Sixty-tw... Wait, you give up?” When Mogg saw Nolan opening his mouth, he subconsciously wanted to shout “sixty-two”, but he managed to react while in the middle of saying it.

“Yes, I give up...” Nolan nodded, a smile on his face, not showing the disappointment of a loser.

But after saying these words, he threw a glance at Lin Yun.

‘Sure enough...’ Lin Yun sighed when he saw Nolan's glance. ‘That old man had his own plan...’

Usually, with Nolan helping him raise the price to sixty Spirit mana crystals, he should express his gratitude.

But Lin Yun thought about it and felt disturbed.

‘Damn, that old man didn't spend any mana crystals himself and still made me owe him a favor!’

How could that not bother him?

Regardless, Mogg finally won the last Meditation Law Set with sixty Spirit mana crystals.

This was a price any ordinary mage would never dream of for it. Sixty Spirit mana crystals meant a minimum of 300,000,000 golds. If unloaded on the market, this amount could crash the financial system of the kingdom. If used to buy equipment, it could buy at least ten True Spirit Magic Tools. If used to get rid of an enemy, it could be used to hire a full team of Archmages.

This was an irresistible price.

Mogg's expression was very careful. He held those pieces of paper as if they were a rare treasure, afraid to let even a fold appear on them. It had cost him sixty Spirit mana crystals! Even with the financial ability of Whistle Island, he had still used a third of his wealth.

Naturally, Mogg wouldn't randomly carry sixty Spirit mana crystals on himself.

Moreover, even it was Whistle Island, it was impossible for them to take out sixty Spirit mana crystals at once. At most, they would be able to produce forty or fifty immediately and the rest could only be given as an equivalent value of magic materials.

Fortunately, Lin Yun wasn't very picky about magic materials right now.

With the huge factory named the Gilded Rose behind him, more magic materials could always be used.

With the last Meditation Law Set falling into Mogg's hands, the curtains finally closed on the sensational event brought about by Lin Yun. The gathering regained the rhythm that it normally had in the previous years. Half a dozen Archmages brought their latest research materials, hoping to be able to exchange for the magic knowledge they needed in this gathering.

Unfortunately, the previous three Meditation Law Sets had caused too much of a commotion. Many of those who hoped to get some help with their magic research were given the cold shoulder at this moment. It couldn't be helped because most Archmages were still immersed in those three Meditation Law Sets. How could they care about the knowledge exchange now?

It was to the point that Lin Yun, Jouyi, Harren, and Osul were able to pick up a lot of bargains...

Especially Osul, who managed to buy a set of data that a Master Alchemist of the Mercury Tower spent several years computing at a very low price...

Naturally, compared to the three Meditation Law Sets from Lin Yun, this was only a small episode.

Three days later, the gathering of the Magic Hand ended. Lin Yun was sitting on the carriage once again, leaving Oddrock City with his bounteous wealth.

With a total value of sixty Spirit mana crystals in his hands, Lin Yun's many plans could be set in motion.

Such as taking care of the Doom Staff, which was fated to become the Strongest True Spirit Magic Tool!

Chapter 190: A Path No One Ever Took

As they reached Lullaby Forest, the three people stayed there for a month after Osul's invitation.

During that month, aside from having some interaction with Osul regarding alchemy, Lin Yun would also spend time studying the 8th character of the Book of Death. Lin Yun finally cracked it after half a month, and just as he had expected, the 8th character's might was far superior to that of the preceding seven.

This was the true power of the Book of Death...

The 8th character was named "unlimited" by Lin Yun...

This came from a time when Lin Yun left Osul's wooden house at night. He found a pack of Shadow Wolves, and the moment the 8th character appeared, Lin Yun truly got the feeling of being unlimited.

It was a state that couldn't be described with words... There were no more incantations, no more gestures...

Under the unlimited state, with just a thought, the corresponding spell would appear. Moreover, these spells wouldn't be affected by a need for mana, completely freeing him from the possibility of mana exhaustion. The pack of Shadow Wolves around level 18 was instantly annihilated by him.

Only after the unlimited state wore off did Lin Yun dazedly look at his hands. That state was too incredible, too unimaginable.

After all, spellcasting itself was very cumbersome and complicated, but when in that state, those complex things lost all meaning. He didn't even need to think about what to do, he only had to cast one spell after the other...

It was too simple...

But this simplicity had a very high price.

When Lin Yun opened the Book of Death, he found out that the five Ultimate Spells stored within had instantly dimmed, and the huge amount of Soul Fires had been consumed clean.

After all, the Soul Fires were supplying energy for the five Ultimate Spells.

At this time, Lin Yun couldn't help feeling a bit of a headache. The death energy of over a thousand Skeleton Warriors had been used to supply these five Ultimate Spells, but that same energy had only been able to support seven seconds of the unlimited state.

And this was only for the 8th character.

By the time he cracked the later characters, wouldn't the Soul Fires needed to use them soar astronomically?

'Looks like I really have to conquer the Undead Plane. The Bone Plane's Soul Fires won't even support the unlimited state, let alone the rest of the Book of Death's characters.'

He estimated that only the terrifying high-level Undead beings roaming the Undead Plane could keep up with the astonishing consumption of the Book of Death.

Lin Yun finally understood at this time why Bane would always think about conquering the Undead Plane for several millennia.

It wasn't that Bane wanted to challenge his limits, but rather, the black hole that was the Book of Death forced him to challenge the Undead Plane...

Lin Yun pondered about his future path while quietly returning to Osul's wooden house.

But just as he opened the door, he was caught by Osul in the middle of conducting one of his experiments.

For the past month, Osul had been acting like what could only be considered an addict...

As one of the few Artisans of the kingdom, there weren't that many people that could discuss alchemy with him. And now that he had found the unconventional Lin Yun, how could Osul let him off? He would grab Lin Yun to chat every day until midnight. Only when Lin Yun kept yawning exaggeratedly would Osul unwillingly be forced to let him rest.

He couldn't help it since it was far too rare for him to find such a suitable conversation partner.

Although that young Great Mage was only a Master Alchemist, his theoretical alchemy knowledge was very deep, to an extent that Osul had rarely seen in his life. And he would often offer some thought-provoking opinions that would give Osul a flash of insight, despite being an Artisan that had been immersed in alchemy for hundreds of years.

It was the same earlier that day. When the sky started to darken, Osul had let go of the yawning Lin Yun, but when he returned, Osul strangely asked, "Oh, Merlin, how come your mana fluctuations feel a bit more powerful..."

"Oh?" Lin Yun thought of something and hurriedly returned to his room.

Sure enough, as he returned to his room, he noticed that his 6th Magic Array had formed without him noticing.

No, not just the 6th Magic Array, even half of the 7th Magic Array had already formed. Given enough time, he would most likely become a 7th Rank Great Mage!

'What happened?'

Lin Yun couldn't understand, but he did think of a possibility.

'Was it caused by the unlimited state? That's right, thinking about it, that might truly be the case...'

The unlimited character in itself was condensed from an endless amount of runes, forming that character filled with frightening power. Deciphering the unlimited character was another way of carving the Magic Array.

Lin Yun tried rousing his 6th Magic Array.

And sure enough, besides the runes he had obtained from the Reincarnation Eyes, the 6th Magic Array contained a few runes he had never seen before.

After a careful comparison, Lin Yun found out that these runes were shockingly similar to some parts of the unlimited character.

After figuring that out, Lin Yun couldn't help being surprised, prompting him to take out the Book of Death again.

But this time, Lin Yun no longer tried to decipher the characters on the Book of Death, and he instead memorized them before trying to use the thousands of runes stored to start a simulation.

Lin Yun's first simulation could only be described as awkward...

It was sure to happen, as this was a path that no one had ever taken before. In Noscent's long history, not one Magic Array owner could merge such mysterious characters within the Magic Array.

The simulation failed, as expected...

But Lin Yun wasn't the least bit discouraged, he quickly started again, and again...

By the next evening, Lin Yun had already conducted over a hundred simulations, but they all failed.

Yet he still wasn't worried.

Since he chose to walk on a path no one ever took before, he was ready to face the thorns covering that path.

It was a path fated to be filled with danger...

But Lin Yun believed that as long as he kept pressing on, he would reach the end of the path sooner or later. And the scenery he would be able to see then would be something that no other mages, even those from ancient times, would ever be able to see.

Days slowly passed, and the second half of the month soon reached its end. During that time, Lin Yun rarely interacted with Osul, causing this Artisan to complain a few times. Almost all of Lin Yun's time was used to simulate the Book of Death.

Failure, failure, another failure...

This half a month had been spent in failures.

But Lin Yun knew that he was walking on the right path because he could feel his magic power increasing every day at a shocking speed and his Magic Arrays being refined one after the other. Half a month later, Lin Yun possessed nine refined Magic Arrays, becoming a 9th Rank Great Mage!

And this was all due to the Book of Death...

After staying in the Lullaby Forest for a month, the three men returned to Thousand Sails City. Jouyi and Solomon went back to the Sage Tower while Lin Yun rushed to the Gilded Rose. The three men separated after reaching the city.

When Lin Yun reached the Gilded Rose, it was already evening, but the store was still incredibly lively. Lin Yun found William in the alchemy workshop only to learn that the major forces of Thousand Sails City were busy expanding and that the Gilded Rose was crushed by the huge number of orders.

At first, the old butler had raised the price in order to make some of them cancel a few orders...

This was the method most alchemy shops, and sellers in general, would use when they were unable to increase the production. Many of them would choose to raise the prices so that they could lose some orders while possibly gaining extra profits.

But raising the prices didn't help this time!

The old butler raised the prices of most items by 30%, but it still didn't matter! The orders came flying like snowflakes during a storm. Every major force was becoming crazy, fighting as if there was an arms race, frightening the old butler into sending some people to check if something was happening!

After asking, he learnt that something truly was happening!

Moreover, his young master was also involved...

It was the joint exploration of the Vaughn Treasury. Nearly every major force of Thousand Sails City would participate in this exploration. And in order to gain more benefits from the exploration, almost every force chose to spend whatever was necessary to prepare.

It was then that the old butler learnt that raising the prices wouldn't be enough.

He could only force himself to expand the Gilded Rose once again...

But he didn't need Lin Yun this time to find someone important in the Alchemist Guild.

The Gilded Rose's reputation was too widespread right now. By posting a recruitment flyer, he had over a hundred Alchemists apply the next day, completely surrounding the Gilded Rose.

The old butler went in bluntly and recruited a bit over eighty Alchemist after doing a quick selection. It could be said that besides the Alchemists whose skills were too poor or those with ulterior motives, the old butler recruited everyone.

After this recruitment, the Gilded Rose's team of Alchemists had almost doubled...