

Magic Era 341

Chapter 341: Link's Return

'Shit...' The more Leon thought about it, the more afraid he felt. He wished he could bury his head under the table... When he suddenly noticed that the middle-aged man next to him was recklessly raising his hand!

Leon was terrified.

'You are crazy!' Leon's expression changed as he kept his head lowered while desperately shooting his companion meaningful looks.

But...

Leon Merlin's gaze wasn't easy to understand.

The middle-aged man seemed doubtful as he noticed Leon's gaze. 'What's going on with Young Master Leon? Does he have something in his eye? Or is he trying to tell me something? ...Right, he is definitely trying to tell me something!'

The middle-aged man suddenly understood. Leon had gone to Thousand Sails City and had run into some trouble there. He was completely changed when he came back. 'Isn't that Mafa from Thousand Sails City? It looks like the trouble Young Master Leon had was most likely related to him...'

As he thought of this, the middle-aged nodded to Leon in a way that seemed to say, "be at ease."

'Looks like he isn't too stupid.' Leon visibly relaxed when he saw that.

But...

Leon didn't feel that way for long. He watched as the middle-aged man stood up and said in a loud voice, "I agree with Elder Logan's suggestion. It would be a huge loss to the Merlin Family to leave the Gilded Rose in the hands of the young Mafa Merlin..."

After saying that, he threw a provocative glance at Lin Yun...

"..." Leon watched this scene unfold, dumbstruck. He could only hear thunder rumbling in his mind. Leon threw a dull glance at that middle-aged man, weeping and smiling mixing together on his face.

"Young Master Leon, rest assured..." After announcing his stance, the middle-aged man softly whispered to Leon.

'Fuck, rest assured what!' Leon almost went crazy. 'You nutjob, how could you make me feel at ease? Are you afraid I wouldn't die fast enough without your help? I'm already in such a miserable state, yet you are trying to push me into the fire? Would I ever feel at peace if that monster thinks that I was the one who instructed you to say those words?'

'Shit, how could I have such a pig-like teammate... You are truly digging a hole for me...'

'It's bad, this is bad, I have to clear my name or I might not be able to walk out of the Merlin Family Manor alive once the Elder Council is over.'

Leon clenched his teeth as he looked at the middle-aged man next to him while shifting uncomfortably in his chair to lower his head even more...

He then started thinking hard...

Hearing all these Elders supporting his suggestion, Logan pressed on. "Mafa Merlin, we are doing this for the benefit of the Merlin Family." Hiding a proud smile, he added, "This isn't something I decided, this is something the entire Elder Council decided."

"That's right, Mafa Merlin!" Aube stood up after Logan was done talking. "You are still too young! You can't control the Gilded Rose, and you are only a 1st Rank High Mage. That power might be decent in Thousand Sails City, but open your eyes, this is the core of the Andlusa Kingdom, this is Okland! What does the strength of a 1st Rank High Mage amount to in this place..."

"Look at Ross, he is a 5th Rank High Mage, yet he was easily defeated by Stan Watson in the Raging Flame Plane..." Aube took a convenient shot at Ross.

"Haha..." To everyone's surprise, Ross, who had been unjustly attacked, didn't take offense and only issued a sneer.

Because Ross knew that he didn't need to do anything. His cousin would naturally settle it all...

Ross only wanted to tell Aube, 'It's sad that you don't know that Stan Watson didn't even last ten seconds in front of this 1st Rank High Mage...'

Aube kept chattering endlessly because of his ignorance.

"Think about it, if your Gilded Rose is one day targeted by some force, one that has at least a few 5th Rank High Mages and a few dozen Great Mages... This wouldn't even be a major force in Okland, it'd be a second-rate one. Yet, if such a power attacks your Gilded Rose, would you be able to protect it with your strength as a 1st Rank High Mage?"

"Indeed..." Logan echoed Aube's words. The previously quarrelling duo was now in sync. "Mafa Merlin, truth to be told, your Gilded Rose won't be able to survive without the protection of the Merlin Family. It would be swallowed by someone sooner or later..."

As the two talked, a thin silhouette wearing black leather armor abruptly entered the Family's conference hall...

He seemed to be in his thirties and had an ordinary face that gave a familiar feeling to everyone who saw him. He also had a pale countenance and his armor was worn down.

"Shameful! Is the Family's conference hall a place you can charge inside? Hurry up and disappear from my sight!" Logan was quite annoyed at being interrupted by a stranger after he had built up so much momentum. It was natural for Logan to be extremely rude here.

"Elder Logan, please sit down." Ofran frowned before surprisingly exerting his authority as the Patriarch.

“Yes?” Logan froze. In fact, Ofran had assumed his authority as the Patriarch for over twenty years, but he had always been patient and accommodating towards the Elder Council, to the point that Logan and many Elders seemed to have forgotten that Ofran was the Patriarch.

It took some time for Logan to react when seeing Ofran suddenly use his authority, but he ended up sitting down.

“What is it?” After sitting down, Ofran calmly nodded and indicated to the man who had just entered the conference hall that he could start talking.

Only Ofran himself knew what kind of mood he was in... He wasn't as calm as he face let on.

This was because the man who had just barged in the Elder Council's meeting was Link.

Yes, the Link who had followed Santon Merlin and had been guarding the Family for the past three centuries.

He had originally sent Link to keep an eye on Mafa in order to stop this youth from doing anything stupid, but he hadn't expected Link to go missing for all this time, even when the news of Stan Watson's death spread the next day.

For over a month, Ofran had been wondering where Link had been, and how exactly Stan Watson had died.

Unfortunately, these questions couldn't be answered until Link came returned.

But now he was back.

And although Link had yet to say anything, Ofran could feel that something big must have happened...

This feeling made Ofran's mood unstable.

Under the puzzled looks of the Elders, Link took a few steps to reach Ofran's side and whispered a few words.

“Yes?” At first, Ofran only nodded perfunctorily, but the more he heard, the more his expression changed. He was pale and appalled as he looked at Link, his eyes filled with disbelief. “Really?”

“Yes...” Link's emotionless face was showing a hint of anger for the first time...

“Uhh...” Ofran let out a cold breath. If Link's words were true, then today's Elder Council might trigger a calamity for the Merlin Family.

‘What should I do, what should I do...’

“Patriarch Ofran, the Elder Council finished voting. The patriarch should decide the final outcome...” Logan grew impatient at the delay being caused by this stranger when they were on the verge of getting the Gilded Rose.

“Hold on, hold on...” Ofran, who had turned a blind eye to this situation so far, now seemed to be struggling with something.

Only Ofran knew the terrifying scenes that had been seen by Link, who had been missing for over a month.

Link had seen two things.

One of them had nothing to do with today's Elder Council, but the other one was enough to make Ofran's blood run cold.

Link clearly described this Mafa Merlin's terrifying strength.

The Red Dragon Mercenary Group's fifty elites, the 5th Rank Expert Swordswoman Anna, as well as the 8th Rank High Mage Stan Watson. This group could take down an Archmage.

But...

Link told Ofran that this group didn't even last ten seconds in front of Mafa Merlin. All along, Mafa Merlin seemed to have been walking down his own hallway as he casually took Stan Watson's life.

Ofran felt his mind going numb as he heard that...

Originally, Ofran thought that a 1st Rank High Mage in his early twenties was quite formidable, especially since he came from Thousand Sails City, so Ofran had always regarded Mafa Merlin as very important.

Chapter 342: Leon's Decision

But...

No matter how much he'd valued him, Ofran had never thought that Mafa would be this formidable.

When Stan Watson died unexpectedly, Ofran had first thought that he had met some danger in the Aurij mountains, and he then thought that Mafa Merlin had spent money to hire a hitman. But he'd never ever considered the possibility that Mafa had personally done the act, let alone in such a simple and domineering way...

The Red Dragon Mercenary Group was stably within the top three mercenary groups of Okland, and the power of fifty of their elites gathered together was quite shocking, not to mention the beautiful Expert Swordswoman, Anna Achilles. Ofran had seen her more than once; how could the disciple of the Storm Sword Saint be weak?

And there was Stan Watson.

Ofran felt that even if he had personally made a move, he might not have been able to kill Stan Watson.

Yet, Link told him that such a powerful line-up was easily broken down by Mafa Merlin, that he was able to take Stan Watson's life in front of Anna Achilles and the others.

What kind of power was that?

Ofran didn't dare to keep thinking about it.

Mafa's strength far surpassed his own.

And this wasn't the most important part...

In the world of magic, one would carefully choose their inheritor. No matter how talented a mage was, they couldn't become a genius on their own. The more powerful a mage was, the more powerful and shocking their background would be.

It could be seen from Okland.

Jouyi, Harren, and others... Which of them didn't have a famous teacher giving them pointers, which of them didn't have a shocking background?

Ofran wouldn't think too much about it if Mafa Merlin were only an ordinary 1st Rank High Mage, but Mafa Merlin was far beyond that. What Link told him was enough to prove that Mafa Merlin had the power to kill an Archmage.

Killing an Archmage despite being a 1st Rank High Mage...

How could that person have been taught by an ordinary teacher?

How could he not have a shocking background?

Cold sweat trickled down Ofran's forehead.

'This is going to blow up! What should I do...'

Ofran's brain was working at full capacity. He wanted to stop the Elder Council, but there was one problem. How? If this continued and Mafa Merlin was infuriated by their antics, a conflict could hardly be prevented. If Mafa came out worse and suffered a loss, it might provoke his backer, and the Merlin Family might run out of luck.

He was someone that had the power to kill an Archmage as a High Mage... Who was his backer?

Jouyi or Harren?

If one of these two demons were triggered, the Merlin Family would definitely face an imminent disaster...

But...

"I have something to say!" As Ofran was crumbling under the pressure, someone interjected.

This would surely pour oil on the fire...

Ofran then saw Leon slowly standing up...

'Shit!' Ofran cursed to himself, 'How come it's Leon!'

Others might not know...

But Ofran, who had been in contact with William, knew about it. Leon had gone to Thousand Sails City in order to recruit Mafa Merlin, but he had failed and ended up suffering a huge loss. He spent a few months in the Pale Plane after returning before finally being able to recover from that blow.

The relationship between the two of them wasn't good.

'Why are you standing up now! Shit, Leon, you little bastard, what the hell do you think you are doing?'

Ofran couldn't sit still.

The situation was bad enough to begin with, and if Leon tried anything to aggravate it, today might be the last day of the Elder Council. They would all suffer the consequences for their actions.

"Ha... Haha, it's you Leon, you... Let us hear what you want to say..." But as the Patriarch of the Merlin Family, Ofran could only follow the procedures with a smile on his face. But his eyes were staring fixedly at Leon when he prompted him to continue. Even a fool would know that he was trying to say, 'Bastard, don't fucking talk!'

"Yes, I have something to share..." Ofran hadn't expected Leon to keep going despite his stare.

Leon was terrified right now and want to quickly get it off his chest.

If he could, he wouldn't stand up right now.

But that pig-like teammate...

Leon's original plan was to remain careful and not say anything in this meeting. No matter what the other Elders did or said to Mafa Merlin, in the end, the ones who would suffer would be them. All he needed to do was make himself as invisible as possible, and make it so that Mafa Merlin didn't even pay attention to him. He only had to survive this meeting...

But his plan was shattered by the other Elder that supposedly supported him.

Leon wanted to curse as he thought of this. After obtaining a seat at the Elder Council, he'd felt that he should be more vocal in order to become more noticeable, which would give him an advantage in the future competition over the patriarch position.

Thus, when that terrible teammate expressed the wish to join his faction, he didn't hesitate to accept him.

To be fair, that Elder did help him many times over the years, and although he didn't give him any tangible benefits, he allowed him to not have to fight alone in the Elder Council. When needed, he was someone he could discuss with...

But...

Today...

With only a few sentences, that man had destroyed all the goodwill he had accumulated over the years!

'Is Mafa Merlin someone you can offend? Star Sage Jouyi stands behind him! You won't even know how you died if Star Sage Jouyi is unhappy with you!

'You don't know shit, yet you dare to openly support Logan's proposition. Logan's side is courting death, are you ready to die with them?

'You give me no choice but to personally stand up to wipe your ass! You are really incapable, yet you are very good at causing disasters...'

"I believe everyone in the conference hall knows that I went to Thousand Sails City a few months ago. To tell the truth, it wasn't a pleasant experience..."

"..." Ofran felt like weeping as he heard him. 'That's right, we know you got sorted out by Mafa in Thousand Sails City, you resent him deeply... But please, Leon, don't say anymore, okay?'

But Leon continued talking...

"I also got the opportunity to get close to the Gilded Rose back then. No one here can imagine how shocking the Gilded Rose is. It could be said that the Gilded Rose rules over Thousand Sails City. All the magic materials are flowing towards it before coming out as magic items that are then distributed to every major force..."

"..." Ofran was already rolling his eyes. 'You are courting death, you'll die...'

"Then, I excitedly entered the Gilded Rose and saw Cousin William. We chatted for an entire two hours. Cousin William was the one talking most of the time, and he told me how Cousin Mafa built the Gilded Rose from the ruins of the old Gilded Rose all on his own, how it had a monopoly over the alchemy market, how it became Thousand Sails City's true ruler..."

"It sounded like fantasy at the time, I simply couldn't believe it. How could such a young mage achieve all this? I was just like you are now, unaware how outstanding Cousin Mafa was. You are now trying to take away the Gilded Rose from such a genius. This is truly ridiculous! Do you even know how the Gilded Rose is operating?"

"That's why I'm opposing Elder Logan's suggestion!"

'You are courting death, you are courting death, you are...' Ofran's thoughts had been repeating like a broken record, but then he heard Leon voicing his opposition to the decision of the rest of the Elders...

'He's opposing?'

Ofran almost stood up on the spot...

'Why is he opposing? Did something happen to him?'

Ofran wasn't the only one who was startled...

Leon's declaration was like a bomb exploding in the conference hall, shocking all the other Elders.

'How could it be!'

'Is Leon crazy!?'

'Why is he opposing the decision!'

'Doesn't he know that this is a meat pie falling from the sky for the entire Merlin Family, for all the Elders? That is incredible wealth ripe for the taking. Is he sick?'

“Leon Merlin.” As his rival for the patriarch’s seat, Aube didn’t fail to live up to everyone’s expectations. He stood up and said, “Please understand, we are worried about Mafa Merlin’s abilities. You should be well aware that he doesn’t have the ability to protect the Gilded Rose. Instead of having it taken away by others, it would be better for the Elder Council to manage it...”

“Hahaha, Aube, you mean to say that you can protect the Gilded Rose?”

“Leon, stop causing trouble!” Aube suddenly got mad. “Once Mafa hands over the Gilded Rose, the whole Elder Council would be managing it, including you, Leon!”

“I don’t have the ability...” A sneer appeared on Leon’s face. “In fact, no one here has the ability...”

Chapter 343: Veto Power

“Is that a joke? Mafa Merlin is a 1st Rank High Mage, aren’t there many more people in the Elder Council that can protect the Gilded Rose? I, Aube Merlin, am a 5th Rank High Mage, a whole tier higher than Mafa. Moreover, I’m also a Master Alchemist. Tell me, do you think I don’t have the ability to protect the Gilded Rose?”

“...” Hearing these words, Leon looked at Aube with a strange smile. After a pause, he chuckled, “Haha, Master Alchemist?”

“Is there a problem with being a Master Alchemist?” Aube didn’t know why, but he lacked confidence.

“Forget it, Aube, you just don’t know. In short, I’m telling you that the Gilded Rose isn’t as simple as it looks...”

“Okay, okay, Aube, Leon, stop being noisy...” Logan intervened at this moment. “Everyone is working for the interests of the Merlin Family, there is no point in quarrelling needlessly over a trivial matter. The purpose of our Elder Council’s meeting is to discuss whether the Gilded Rose should be managed by the Elder Council. Now, the Elder Council has already made its decision. Mafa Merlin must hand over the Gilded Rose and let it be managed by the Elder Council temporarily. Once he matures, it will be handed back to him.”

“Haha...” Leon sneered, but no longer said anything. ‘What a joke...’

He had only spoken up to correct the error of that piglike teammate. Leon didn’t intend on actually going against the Elder Council. He was only openly showing his stance. ‘Mafa Merlin will end up cleaning this mess anyways, he doesn’t need my help...’

“Since Leon abstains from voting, I believe that we have come to a conclusion. Patriarch Ofran, you should announce the outcome...” A proud smile appeared on Ofran’s face.

“Hmmm...” Ofran thought for a bit, before clenching his teeth. “I think I have to use my veto power...”

“What!?” Logan’s proud smile disappeared. He jumped up, startled, at Ofran’s words.

The veto power was the greatest authority of the Patriarch, it was the right to make a stand against the Elder Council!

In other words, as long as the Patriarch disagreed with any decision, even if the Elder Council decided on it unanimously, the Patriarch could use that right to set aside that decision for an indefinite period of time.

But...

In the entire history of the Merlin Family, the veto power was used less than ten times.

Because it was a double-edged sword.

Once used, it meant that the Patriarch was no longer standing with the Elder Council. It was often that anything the Patriarch would approve of from then on would be rejected by the Elder Council and anything the Patriarch disagreed with would be approved by the Elder Council.

And the most terrible part was...

The veto power had its own restriction.

It could only be used once every three years.

In other words, after the Patriarch used that right, he would be unable to exercise his greatest authority as a Patriarch for three years. It would normally be fine, but once the Patriarch lost his veto right, he would thoroughly become a puppet of the Elder Council.

The united Elder Council would go right over the Patriarch's head.

This was a situation no one wanted to see...

Neither side would truly win.

Otherwise, how could there be less than ten instances of the veto power being used in the Family's history?

Yet, the always careful Ofran suddenly used this double-edged sword, shocking everyone. They all looked at Ofran as if they were looking at a crazy person.

'Is he insane? How could he use his veto power, doesn't he know that this would push the Merlin Family in a very dangerous situation by using it now? It might even divide the three main branches!'

"The decision will be put aside for the time being, and brought before the Elder Council again when the time is right..." Ofran's voice echoed clearly in everyone's hearts.

"How... How could you use your veto here, Ofran! You are crazy!" Logan completely forgot himself. He pointed at Ofran, a vein pulsating on his forehead and his eyes almost coming out of their sockets. "I don't agree! I definitely don't agree!"

"Elder Logan, it doesn't matter if you don't agree, the veto power of the Patriarch can freeze any decision. You are the most reputable Elder of the Merlin Family, don't tell me that you don't understand this?"

"Ofran, don't forget that besides being an Elder, I am also the Patriarch of the Lorraine branch..."

"Hmm?" Ofran frowned when he heard Logan's words...

In an instant, the entire conference hall turned silent.

It was scarily quiet, to the point that if a fly flew in there, it would attract everyone's attention.

Everyone could feel the oppressive atmosphere in the conference room.

Something huge was about to happen.

And sure enough...

"On behalf of the Lorraine Merlins, I impeach you. I believe that you are unqualified to act as the Patriarch of the Merlin Family. Your actions aren't for the benefit of the Merlin Family. Who is in favor!? Who disagrees!?" Logan roared with a hoarse voice as he looked at Ofran with crimson eyes.

Of course, one arm after the other was raised following Logan's declaration.

"I am in favor."

"I am in favor."

"I am in favor."

...

In an instant, over half of the Elders agreed with the impeachment and raised their hands.

Eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve...

It was over...

Soon, two-thirds of the Elders were in favor. In other words, the impeachment was a foregone conclusion. Next would be Ofran's official statement... If Ofran couldn't give them a satisfactory answer, he would lose his position as the Patriarch.

Ofran sighed as he shook his head. He didn't plan on defending himself, nor would he try to salvage the situation. He knew that it would all be in vain.

In these Elders' eyes, he was blocking their path...

They had a fanatical longing for the value shown by the Gilded Rose. To them, it meant endless wealth and a way to become rich overnight. Faced with such incredible benefits, none could resist, making them view others as obstacles.

Standing up at such a time meant becoming everyone's enemy.

Ofran didn't feel anger when he saw them all standing against him... He only felt exhaustion, as well as worry for the future of the Merlin Family.

He didn't feel anything wrong about being impeached. In fact, he would have done the same were he in Logan's shoes. Ofran was only worried about the consequences once Mafa Merlin shed all pretense of cordiality due to the Elder Council's decision. He was worried that the Merlin Family wouldn't be able to handle it...

A disaster might occur...

"I'm a bit curious..." Just as everyone thought that this matter was set in stone, Lin Yun, who had been sitting on his chair in silence since the start, slowly stood up.

"Mafa Merlin, you have no right to speak!" Logan had been in an extremely good mood after successfully impeaching Ofran, so he rudely berated Lin Yun when he heard him talking.

"Haha, Elder Logan, everyone seems to have been discussing the Gilded Rose. If I'm not wrong, the Gilded Rose is under my name, isn't it? Shouldn't I have the right to ask a few questions since you are discussing my assets?"

"..." Lin Yun's words shut Logan up. The Gilded Rose hadn't been given to the Elder Council yet, and it was indeed still under Mafa Merlin's name, so he did have the right to speak.

Naturally, this was from a theoretical point of view.

The situation had reached this stage and even Ofran had been impeached. How could a mere youth cause any trouble now?

"I was sitting here and listening all this time. I came to the conclusion that the most important part that made the Elder Council feel that I'm incapable of managing the Gilded Rose is my strength as a 1st Rank High Mage being insufficient... Am I wrong?"

"Yes..." Logan nodded after hearing that. "Mafa Merlin, I am very pleased that you can recognize your flaws. Rest assured, the Elder Council will only manage the Gilded Rose. It'll still be considered yours after we deduct a management fee. Moreover, the Elder Council will return it to you at a suitable time."

"That's not it..." Lin Yun shook his head, he looked at Logan with a strange smile. "I'm just curious, who would the Elders think has the qualifications..."

"Well..." Logan thought for a bit before pointing at Aube. Although they were quarrelling earlier, they were in harmony when it came to taking over the Gilded Rose, so he reciprocated the favor to Aube. "I personally believe that Aube is qualified. He is already an Elder, he is a genuine Master Alchemist, and most importantly, he is a 5th Rank High Mage. He is the most outstanding genius of the Merlin Family, so advancing to Archmage is only a question of time.

"Aube, is it..." Lin Yun nodded before glancing at Aube.

For some reason...

Aube, who had been sitting there with a smile on his face, suddenly felt a deep chill when Lin Yun looked at him. It felt as if he was being stared at by a fierce magic beast inspecting its prey.

Chapter 344: Next

Aube was suddenly terrified.

This was a feeling that hadn't appeared to him in years, and every time it did, it meant that danger was descending.

But...

He was now in the conference hall of his own Family, he was participating in the Elder Council as an Elder, he was sitting amidst influential members there, including Patriarch Ofran. There weren't many places safer than here for him in all of Okland.

'How could I feel danger here?'

Aube pondered, but couldn't understand.

'Did I imagine it? ...Yes, I definitely imagined it.'

As Aube comforted himself in bewilderment, Logan's gaze stopped on other people.

"Hayden, he is also a famous person in our Merlin Family. He is an 8th Rank High Mage at the age of forty, his future can be said to be boundless.

"Follen Merlin, he is a 9th Rank High Mage at forty-five. He is one of our High Mages with the greatest chance of becoming an Archmage..."

After pointing to two Elders at his side, Logan's gaze fell on Leon.

"There is also Leon. He is a 7th Rank High Mage at thirty and is the disciple of Hoen, the head of the Magic Department of the Cloud Tower. Whether it is strength or background, he is more than qualified to manage the Gilded Rose..."

"..." Leon raised his head with a stupefied expression. He stared fixedly at Logan, his eyes almost leaving their sockets.

'Elder Logan, you old bastard, I did nothing to you, why are you trying to pull me in...

'Shit, don't you see me trying to bury my head in my arms? Do you think it is easy for me to act like this do so at the Elder Council? I'm doing my best to weaken my presence, yet you are unwilling to let me off...

'Good, good, good... I won't be polite since you won't let me off...'

Leon clenched his teeth and stood up. "You are too polite, Elder Logan. You are a senior figure of the Merlin Family, you have good morals and ample experience. You would be the best candidate to manage the Gilded Rose!"

After finishing, he politely smiled at Logan.

"..." Logan felt baffled. 'What's going on? Is there something wrong with Leon? Who wouldn't want to manage the Gilded Rose, an alchemy behemoth constantly producing massive amounts of wealth...'

Gold was counted by tens of millions there, and just by stretching out his hand, he would be able to obtain unimaginable wealth. Not to mention, the Gilded Rose didn't only have gold; it had all kinds of advanced techniques, all kinds of powerful alchemy items, and all kinds of rare magic materials. Whoever managed the Gilded Rose could use those at will.

Who would give up such a position?

'What's going on with Leon... Why would he push such a position onto me? Is there some conspiracy I'm unaware of...?

'This feels wrong... How could there be such a pleasant conspiracy? But regardless...'

Logan didn't think long before making his decision. Even if there was a plot against him, it would have to wait until he took his position as the manager of the Gilded Rose. He wouldn't be showing any respect to Leon if he didn't take advantage of his praise to take that spot. (Boxno vel. co m)

Logan gave a meaningful glance to the Elders on his side before shaking his head. "I can't, I can't, I'm already under heavy pressure from handling the affairs of the Lorraine branch, I don't have the energy to supervise the Gilded Rose. Elders, please find someone more qualified..."

"Elder Logan!" An Elder from Logan's group stood up. "You can't say that! Isn't the Lorraine branch part of the Merlin Family? I feel that you should make some sacrifice for the benefit of the Merlin Family and put energy into developing the Gilded Rose!"

"Yes! Elder Logan, you cannot favor your branch over the whole Family!"

"That's right, you are the most qualified person, Elder Logan..."

At this time, Logan's faction all stood up and did their best to push Logan into being the manager of the Gilded Rose.

As for Logan...

He resolutely declined, but the more he declined, the less resolute he looked. In the end, his tone relaxed...

"Since that's the case..." Logan said with reluctance.

But he was cut off by Lin Yun's sudden laughter.

"Only these few?"

"You... What do you mean!" Logan's faction had been acting for a while, and he was just about to agree to take over the Gilded Rose when Mafa Merlin stood up. Naturally, Logan's expression wasn't good.

"Haha, nothing, it's only a few people..." But Lin Yun just kept chuckling.

Then, berserk mana fluctuations suddenly filled the atmosphere.

"What!?" The one who endured the brunt of the pressure was that forty-year-old 8th Rank High Mage, Hayden. He was originally sitting, but under the pressure of those berserk mana fluctuations, he crumpled on his chair.

The mana fluctuations were so shocking.

They burst out in the conference hall like a tsunami and caused complete chaos.

And this wasn't over...

A bright moon rose up behind Lin Yun...

Before they could understand what was going on, that moon blossomed with a bright light as the two gems, one red and one blue, seemed especially dazzling.

“I’m curious about one thing. What if no one is able to manage the Gilded Rose?”

After Lin Yun said those words, the bright moon behind him flew out as the two lights flashed.

Then...

The seventeen Elders and the Patriarch of the Merlin Family saw an unforgettable scene.

The berserk mana fluctuations seemed to have reached their peak in an instant, before being followed by a loud explosion.

That ascending bright moon burst with endless spells in an instant: Frost Spike, Fire Arrow, Wind Blade, Earth Spike, Flame Spear, Frost Lance... It was as if countless mages attacked at the same time, making the endless spells turn into a wave of magic.

And the target was that 8th Rank High Mage, Hayden...

To be honest, that Hayden’s reaction was pretty fast. When targeted by all those spells, he quickly jumped off his chair, already aware that the situation wasn’t good. He cast a Mana Shield and a Runic Shield, and not feeling safe with just these two shields, he cast an additional Ice Wall in front of him.

But...

It was no use.

Under the frightening flood of spells, the Ice Wall instantly disappeared, followed by the Mana Shield. The last layer of defense, the Runic Shield, only lasted one second.

In that second, everyone could see Hayden’s expression turning from terror to despair, before finally turning into ashes.

It only took one second for Lin Yun to kill an 8th Rank High Mage. Lin Yun’s ferocity frightened the entire conference hall.

But it felt like a trivial matter to Lin Yun. He only beckoned the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel back and smiled, as if he hadn’t killed an 8th Rank High Mage, but only squashed an ant.

“First one.” After saying that, Lin Yun’s gaze turned towards that forty-five-year-old 9th Rank High Mage, Follen...

“Mafa Merlin! What do you think you are doing!” Logan was stunned, a mix of anger and alarm on his face.

The Merlin Family had been around for over a millennium, but never before had someone attacked someone in the conference hall, let alone going so far as to kill an Elder like just now.

This was a provocation to the entire Merlin Family!

No Merlin could tolerate such an action.

After Hayden died, Lin Yun was staring at Follen.

Then, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel emerged once again...

The mana fluctuations turned berserk in an instant.

As the red and blue lights interweaved once more, the shadow of death covered the conference hall.

“Mafa Merlin, you are insane!” Aube was losing himself to fear.

‘Fuck, fuck, I got so much information on him, but why was there no mention of him being a lunatic? He is simply unreasonable! To overturn the decision of the Elder Council, he didn’t hesitate to start a slaughter in the conference hall. Does he want to become enemies with the entire Merlin Family?’

“Stay your hand, stay your hand! Mafa Merlin, you will become the enemy of the entire Merlin Family, it won’t end well for you...”

But...

Regardless of how loudly Aube shouted, he couldn’t stop the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. The flood of spells submerged Follen Merlin in an instant...

The conference hall turned silent once again.

This was too frightening.

That madman killed two Elders in just moments. Who could say that he wouldn’t kill all seventeen Elders if it continued?

“There are still a few left, isn’t there?” With a smile, Lin Yun looked to the other side of the table before his gaze fell onto Aube’s body.

“Shit!” Aube screeched, “Shit, why are you looking at me!”

Chapter 345: Another One

Aube finally understood why he had felt that chill earlier...

‘Shit, it was because that damn lunatic was looking at me, no wonder I had a bad feeling. He isn’t just a madman...’

As a Master Alchemist, how could Aube not know that the revolving disk in Lin Yun’s hands was a very frightening Magic Tool?

Its power was so incredible that it swallowed up two peak High Mages in a split second. Aube’s only guess was that it was a True Spirit Magic Tool.

This guess left Aube frozen in terror, because the Magic Tool Incarnation had yet to appear, which meant that this Magic Tool was displaying less than half of its power.

Two peak High Mages had already been easily taken care of without even using half of its power; how frightening would it be if it displayed its full power?

“Mafa Merlin, you...” Aube nervously held onto his magic staff as cold sweat dripped down his forehead. He looked at Lin Yun with a mix of fear and despair...

But...

At this time, Logan, who had lost two allies, suddenly slammed his hand on the table and pointed his magic staff at Lin Yun. “Mafa Merlin, what are you doing, don’t you know where this is? You had best surrender or you’ll face the retaliation of the entire Merlin Family!”

Logan was enraged.

He had spent decades building his power in the Elder Council until he had gained enough authority, but today, during an ordinary meeting of the Elder Council, Follen and Hayden Merlin died. These two were the most capable subordinates Logan had. Let alone having outstanding strength, they also knew how to coordinate with Logan in the Elder Council’s meetings to maximize his influence.

But who could have expected them to die today?

How could Logan not be angry?

“You are too unbridled and too arrogant, Mafa Merlin. This is Okland, not Thousand Sails City. You think you can do whatever you want here? Well, I won’t let you do so!” Logan’s beard shook due to anger.

But...

It might have been due to his anger, but Logan seemed to have forgotten something...

He was one of the candidates...

“It’s nothing, Elder Logan, I just feel that the dead can’t supervise the Gilded Rose...” Lin Yun smiled before pouring mana into the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. The dazzling light alongside the red and blue radiances quickly rotated as it scattered even more frightening mana fluctuations.

Moreover, the target of these fluctuations quietly changed...

“What are you trying to say?” Just as Logan furiously said these words, he suddenly realized that something was horribly wrong. The mana fluctuations that had been locked onto Aube abruptly changed direction and targeted him.

Thus, the anger was quickly replaced by panic.

“Shit!” Logan shrieked before casting a few defensive spells. “Mafa Merlin, what do you think you are doing!?”

Then, another explosion echoed in the conference hall.

The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel burst out once again as a dazzling sun-like radiance spread above Lin Yun’s head. Countless spells turned into a flood and submerged Logan in a split second.

There was no struggle, no scream.

Only a deathly silence.

The conference hall became quiet once again.

Everyone looked at Lin Yun with deep fear...

They understood what Lin Yun meant earlier.

The dead can't manage the Gilded Rose.

He planned to kill every person mentioned as being qualified to manage the Gilded Rose...

And he was really doing it...

Of the five candidates, Follen Hayden, Aube, Leon, Logan...

Three were already dead.

The Merlin Family had never suffered such a terrible loss in their thousand-year history. In one day, three of the seventeen Elders had been killed.

What kind of concept was that?

And it still wasn't over.

Because some people alarmingly discovered that this rather excessive young man was already urging that frightening Magic Tool once more and was aiming it at Aube!

"I warned you, I told all of you to not be blinded by greed..." Ofran had no choice but to stand up at this moment. He looked sharply across everyone before looking back at Lin Yun with a smile. "Alright, Mafa, let's please leave it at that..."

"Sorry, Patriarch Ofran, I have to follow up on my words..." Lin Yun helplessly laughed. "I said that they would end up dead, so they have to end up dead. Otherwise, people would think that I am not a man of my words..."

It was a simple answer...

But it gave shiver to all those who listened.

"Mafa... Logan and those two were one thing, but Aube is one of the few youths with good prospects in the Merlin Family, especially since he has some accomplishments in the field of alchemy. This is very important to the Merlin Family. Mafa, you also share the Merlin name, you should know that the Merlin Family can't bear this kind of loss..."

"Businessmen have to be trustworthy."

"..." Ofran took a deep breath. "I know, today's matters were caused by the Merlin Family letting you down. But we did it in the interest of the entire Family. We didn't know you had such shocking strength. You are too young, after all. Please listen to me, Mafa, and end it here. I'll use my status as the Patriarch to guarantee that no one will look into the deaths of those three. Your Gilded Rose won't be disturbed anymore."

"Yes, yes, yes, Mafa Merlin, I'll also guarantee that whoever targets the Gilded Rose will have their legs broken!" Leon couldn't hold himself back any longer and stood up from his seat.

After all, if there was one person who wanted to stop this the most, it was definitely Leon.

After all, Leon knew how terrifying his younger cousin was...

He had been Mana Shackled by his younger cousin when the latter was only a Great Mage...

Those were Mana Shackles!

That was a spell only used when higher-ranked mages pressured lower ranked mages, yet his cousin did it the other way around. This was enough to show how powerful Mafa Merlin was...

Now that he had advanced to become a High Mage, his strength would have increased by over ten times!

Moreover, there was still Star Sage Jouyi behind him...

Leon didn't want the tragedy to repeat again.

And he couldn't do anything about it, because he was one of the five candidates...

If he waited for Mafa to casually kill Aube, wouldn't he be next?

Thus, Leon had no other choice but to stand up.

"Who wants to harm Aube!?" But suddenly, a loud voice rumbled like a tsunami.

In an instant, a frightening power filled the conference hall.

This frightening power even counteracted some of the pressure caused by the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel.

"It's Thorne!" The originally silent conference hall suddenly flared up.

It was indeed the voice of Thorne Merlin...

One of the three Sword Saints of the Merlin Family, the owner of the Crimson Flame Sword, the commander of the Raging Flame Plane's Planar Legion, as well as one of the strongest members of the Merlin Family. He would inevitably have a seat within the Ancestral Land in a century or so.

Aube managed to become who he was today because he was Thorne's son.

Ofran couldn't help sighing when he felt that power.

'Thorne really came back...'

"Mafa, you should stop while there is still time, I can give an explanation to Thorne. I can guarantee as the Patriarch that as long as you stop now, Thorne won't retaliate against you. I don't think you'll be able to escape Thorne's vengeance if you plan on doing things your way..."

"That's right, Mafa Merlin, don't think that because you can do whatever you want because you have a frightening Magic Tool! If you touch even one of my hairs, my father will uproot your Gilded Rose. Weeping won't help then!" When Aube felt that familiar power, his pale face regained some color. His next words were full of self-confidence.

“Really?” Lin Yun gently rotated the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, and countless abstruse runes flickered amidst the two precious gems...

As if feeling Lin Yun hesitating amidst the flickering runes, a proud smile appeared on Aube’s face. “Mafa Merlin, I advise you to think this through. My father controls the entire Planar Legion, do you know what that means? Your Gilded Rose would be annihilated if my father just gave the word.” Aube continued, “At that time, your closest relatives, friends, subordinates, they will all be doomed because of your recklessness. Who do you think you are to challenge the entire Merlin Family with one Magic Tool?”

Chapter 346: Sword Aura

“Mafa, don’t be impetuous...” Ofran bitterly smiled.

There were so many people in the conference hall, but only a few people, including Ofran, knew how frightening that voice was.

Because Ofran had heard it clearly.

Each of the words of the sentence, “Who wants to harm Aube,” sounded closer than the previous. The first one sounded more distant while the last one sounded louder.

What did this mean?

This meant that Thorne was rushing over at an astonishing speed and would soon arrive. From this it could be seen how unimaginably powerful Thorne was.

Ofran couldn’t help sighing as he thought of this.

Although his position as the patriarch gave him a lot of authority, it had no benefits when it came to the study of magic. He was very hardworking and diligent, but compared to Thorne, who had been hovering on the line between life and death in the Raging Flame Plane, Ofran was too inferior.

After all, when Ofran became an Archmage, Thorne had been an 8th Rank Expert Swordsman.

Hearing that voice, Ofran knew that Thorne was stronger than him now.

But this was fine.

(Boxno vel. co m) Thorne Merlin’s strength would be able to intimidate that maverick Mafa Merlin. Otherwise, who knew who else would die today?

“Yes, Cousin Mafa, don’t be impulsive...” At this time, even Leon, who was doing his best to shrink away his existence, couldn’t help weakly advising him.

As for the other Elders, they were afraid of saying anything that would get Aube killed. If that happened, they would become the targets of Thorne’s anger.

“Look, Mafa Merlin, I’ll give you one last chance! Immediately hand over the Gilded Rose before my father arrives, or else...” As he sensed that familiar aura drawing closer, Aube became more confident.

He smiled proudly, no longer caring about that revolving disk, straightening the robe soaked in cold sweat before calmly sitting down.

Aube knew that his father would arrive within a minute.

And once his father arrived, the meeting of the Elder Council would become a joke. Even Ofran, as the patriarch, wouldn't dare to stand off against this Planar Legion Commander, let alone Mafa Merlin.

"You should hurry up and make your decision, you don't have much time left..."

"Indeed..." After thinking about it, Lin Yun raised his hand and collected the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel as he nodded, agreeing with Aube's point of view.

"Phew..." Seeing the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel stopping its rotations, all the Elders seemed to let out a relieved sigh.

Especially the Elders who had previously denounced Lin Yun.

It couldn't be helped, because they all felt too much pressure when facing the madman who killed three Elders. No one knew if he was addicted to killing and might try to get rid of all the Elders in the conference hall.

"Fortunately..." Ofran sighed in relief.

As the Merlin Family Patriarch, Ofran was thinking far ahead of the other Elders.

To the other Elders, Lin Yun stopping meant that they were safe, but to the Patriarch, it meant that the Merlin Family had escaped from a disaster.

The news that Link brought was too shocking...

Ofran became aware that there was most likely a horrifying backer behind Mafa Merlin. If he killed Aube, Thorne would definitely retaliate, and at that time, even greater trouble would come. If Mafa Merlin's backer came out, the entire Merlin Family might sink into chaos.

'Fortunately, fortunately... Thankfully, Mafa Merlin is rational enough and decided to withdraw at such a critical time.'

Thinking of this, Ofran couldn't help letting out another relieved sigh.

"See, you are smart enough Mafa..." As he saw the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel stopping, the smile on Aube's face gradually widened. "I'm not like Logan, I am a very fair person. I don't want to monopolize your Gilded Rose. We can go with my previous proposal, 3,000,000 golds for 40% of the shares of the Gilded Rose..."

"Sorry, Cousin Aube..." Lin Yun smiled as he shook his head, putting away his Ten Thousand Spell Wheel while chuckling. "I don't like to collaborate with the dead."

"Hmmm?" Aube froze, the smile on his face stiffening. "What do you mean!"

“I’m saying that time is running out...” After saying this, Lin Yun opened up his right hand. It was followed by a ball of fire fiercely rising up. It was only the size of a fist, but the mana fluctuations it emitted made everyone tremble with fear...

“You... What are you doing?!” Aube Merlin was deathly pale. Even if he reacted slowly, he could already feel the ball of fire carrying an aura of destruction.

Unfortunately, Aube understood too late...

Just as he shouted, that ball of flame split in two and turned into two straight Fire Bolts, intersecting like sharp scissors as they ferociously fell on Aube’s body.

These two straight Fire Bolts were too fast. No one was able to react, and even Aube, a 5th Rank High Mage, only had time to erect a Runic Shield.

But the Runic Shield melted like butter when faced with those two Fire Bolts. Under the blazing temperature, Aube Merlin’s robe instantly turned to ashes.

“Link!” In a moment of desperation, Ofran called Link, who hadn’t made a move in several decades.

In that split second, Link came out and displayed his own strength. A second earlier, he had been standing beside Ofran with a wooden face, but the next second, he was at Aube’s side like a shadow. No one saw him move, nor did they see how the two dazzling scimitars appeared.

Only a dazzling spark could be seen.

The two Fire Bolts met the two scimitars...

Link’s scimitars had been made out of Meteorite Magic Iron, a top-notch material for weapon forging. It could easily create an Inheritance rank weapon. Moreover, these two scimitars had complex arrays carved onto them, indicating that they were at least Spiritual Rank Magic Tools.

But now, these Spiritual Rank Magic Tools only lasted three seconds under the pressure of those two Fire Bolts before melting.

But these three seconds gave Aube a rare opportunity to breathe.

Aube cast an Ice Fire Shield.

He couldn’t control the Ice Shield and Fire Shield individually at this moment, so he just used both to welcome the Fire Bolts while urgently retreating.

The scene was shocking. Aube had retreated a few meters just as the Ice Fire Shield came into contact with the Fire Bolts.

“Phew...” After doing this, Aube finally let out a sigh of relief.

To Aube, these several meters were the difference between life and death. If he had stayed a moment longer the Fire Bolts would have instantly engulfed him, but everything was different after managing to retreat a few meters.

Besides being a 5th Rank High Mage, he was a genuine Master Alchemist. As long as there was enough distance between them, he would have enough ways to stall for time.

As he thought of this, a smile once again appeared on Aube's face.

"Mafa Merlin, I shall let you know what the title of Master Alchemist means!" Aube had already finished drawing an array in the air after saying those words. The array was stable and surrounded the two Fire Bolts.

"Flame Inhibiting Array?" One of the Elders shouted this name.

Indeed, Aube had drawn the Flame Inhibiting Array.

It was a simple array with only one effect.

It only suppressed the activity of the fire elements. Any fire spell would be greatly weakened when under the effect of the Flame Inhibiting Array.

This rarely used array was now Aube's answer to save his life.

As the Flame Inhibiting Array was completed, the two Fire Bolts truly weakened.

"Let me see if you still have any tricks left!" Aube sneered while casting various defensive spells on himself.

But...

The sneer didn't last long before Aube saw a bright light.

The flame rose up and illuminated the entire conference hall. The fire elements in the atmosphere were simply flaring up as everyone suddenly felt an aura of devastation.

"Stay your hand!" At the same time, an angry shout echoed outside the conference hall, followed by a majestic Sword Aura tearing through the air, carrying a terrifying temperature as it tore through the walls of the conference hall.

Everyone froze...

Chapter 347: Unfair

A rumble could be heard as the thick wall of the conference hall was torn apart by that majestic Sword Aura. A tall silhouette shrouded in flames came in from that breach and intruded on the Family's conference hall.

The first thing that fell into everyone's eyes was that flaming red weapon. Raging flames were lingering on the blade as the blazing heat seemed able to burn down everything. The long meeting table was broken in two as it had been cut apart by that blazing greatsword.

At the same time, this tall silhouette took only two steps to cross the distance before raising the greatsword once again to slash down vigorously. The rumbling sword's target was Lin Yun, who was controlling the Upper Rank Flame Spirit.

Everyone held their breaths.

The air was frozen as time seemed to stop flowing, as if the world had paused on this scene.

The conference hall was completely silent.

No one knew how much time passed before a scream broke this strange silence.

A Fire Bolt rose up sharply before turning in a strange way. After twisting, it hit the dumbstruck Aube in a very odd manner.

Aube immediately let out a blood-curdling scream.

The most frightening thing was that in that split second, everyone felt Aube's mana fluctuations disappearing.

Indeed, all the mana fluctuations suddenly disappeared from a 5th Rank High Mage.

What did that mean?

Even a fool would know that his Mana Whirlpool had been pierced.

In other words, Aube had just turned into an ordinary person, and a very miserable one at that. Aube might never be able to accumulate mana again.

"Mafa Merlin!" Aube's voice carried boundless despair...

"Who told you that I only had one True Spirit Magic Tool?" After sneering, Lin Yun no longer cared about Aube and immediately cast a spell with the Doom Staff, causing seven Ice Walls to suddenly rise up.

It was followed by a crashing sound.

Thorne's flaming greatsword smashed into the seven Ice Walls, displaying the power of one of the three Sword Saints of the Merlin Family.

Unfortunately, he was too slow...

It took him no more than a second to cut down the seven Ice Walls, but that was enough for Lin Yun.

During that time, Syudos, who had pierced Aube's Mana Whirlpool, had already returned to Lin Yun's side before turning into a flaming shield.

A rumble echoed once again as the flaming shield and flaming greatsword collided, causing dazzling conflagration to surge.

It looked like fireworks.

This was the collision of peak magic and peak Aura, the collision of two True Spirit Magic Tools...

After colliding, the flaming shield and flaming greatsword were sent flying backward simultaneously.

This showed how powerful the Crimson Flame Sword in Thorne's hands was... Even Syudos couldn't completely stop it. Under the fierce attack, the flaming shield was knocked out of Lin Yun's control. It

flew a dozen meters back before changing into a ball of flames, while the sword in Thorne's hand shook before he tightened his grasp on it.

But because it shook too much, it let out a Dragon Roar.

"Very amazing." Lin Yun waved his hand, recalling Syudos, while also tightening his grip on the Doom Staff.

Since he came to this era, Lin Yun had gone through countless battles, but regardless of how powerful the opponent was, there weren't many that would actually draw a compliment from him.

That sentence was heartfelt praise.

Thorne Merlin's strength exceeded Lin Yun's expectations.

From this, it could be seen how formidable this Planar Legion Commander was.

After they collided, Thorne didn't continue his attack. He instead withdrew and supported Aube.

When Syudos pierced Aube's Mana Whirlpool, he not only took away his ability to use magic, but also grievously wounded him.

Aube was pale and breathing roughly, seeming to be on the verge of death. After supporting him, Thorne took out a potion, opened the lid, and cautiously poured that greenish liquid into Aube's mouth.

Aube's complexion became better as he drank the potion. His originally weak and chaotic breathing gradually steadied. What was even more unbelievable was that the wound caused by Syudos was rapidly closing and healing.

The conference hall was in an uproar. Everyone was trying to guess the origin of that potion, and how could it have such mystical effects.

"Aube, how do you feel?" Thorne's frown finally relaxed a bit.

"Fa... Father, he..." After opening his eyes, Aube weakly nodded before pointing at Lin Yun.

"Alright, don't talk." Not waiting for Aube to say anything, Thorne Merlin pushed his hand back before gently helping him lie down on the side. "Be at ease, no one can harm the son of Thorne Merlin without paying the price."

After treating Aube, Thorne held his Crimson Flame Sword once again, his expression greatly changing as he looked at Lin Yun with unconcealed killing intent. "You are called Mafa Merlin?"

"Indeed."

"Good" Thorne nodded, he pointed the Crimson Flame Sword at him. "I'll give you a chance. Cripple your Mana Whirlpool and your hands and leave Andlusa to never come back!"

"You are quite generous..." Lin Yun sneered. To a mage, what was the difference between crippling one's Mana Whirlpool and death?

"You can refuse, but I can guarantee that you'll regret your choice..." Hate couldn't be concealed from Thorne's eyes. "I am Thorne Merlin, I believe you should have heard of my name? I am the Planar Legion

Commander of the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane. In that plane, there is an underground flaming river known as the Howling River. I frequently throw some Raging Flame Beastmen in there to listen to their screams...”

“But rest assured, that won’t be your fate,” Thorne said in a deep voice. His next words gave chills to everyone. “I’ll tie you above the Howling River to let the flames gently caress your body. You won’t die immediately, you’ll slowly feel it as your body slowly roasts. You’ll even be able to smell the fragrance of meat being cooked...”

“Haha, Sir Thorne, I have to say...” Lin Yun fiddled with Syudos a bit before saying with a mocking smile, “You look quite pleased with yourself.”

“Hmmm?” Thorne’s expression sank, his grave face turning somber as he burst with flaming Aura.

“Then you are courting death!”

The Crimson Flame Sword let out a rumbling sound as he tore through the air. The majestic Sword Aura curled up like a hurricane as it shrouded the entire conference hall in an instant.

“That might not be the case!” Lin Yun unceremoniously let out Syudos. The latter turned into a myriad of Fire Arrows, giving out more pressure than Thorne’s Sword Aura, as it covered the entire area in an instant.

Everyone in the conference hall panicked.

Even a powerhouse like Ofran cast a Runic Shield. The power of those two had reached a frighteningly inhuman stage, and the fight between them was bound to be world-shaking. Just the stray attacks from that fight could cause the death of a High Mage...

But as they panicked, they all discovered in shock that whether it was the Sword Aura or the Fire Arrows, they were all focused completely on their respective opponent. There wasn’t a single bit of power leakage.

‘So formidable...’ Ofran couldn’t help sighing. He had no plans to interfere. Whether it was Thorne or Mafa, their power already far exceeded his own.

Even just that precise control, that wasn’t something he could do.

It could be seen from their battle.

Thorne’s Sword Aura was spread all around while Mafa’s Fire Arrows were dispersed in the air, but in the end, there was not one bit of superfluous power leaking out. That control could only be described as terrifying.

‘Logan, ah, Logan, your death was truly unfair...’

Chapter 348: Call It a Day

If Logan had known that the person he’d been trying to manipulate was so powerful, he would never have dared to scheme against the Gilded Rose.

But it was too late now...

The battle was unavoidable. And if Mafa Merlin won, the Merlin Family would lose its Planar Legion Commander, while if Thorne won, the Merlin Family would face a disaster. In other words, no matter the outcome, the Merlin Family would suffer terribly.

(Boxno vel. co m) Ofran stood there with a bitter expression, looking at this battle with an even more complicated mood.

As he'd expected, once the battle started, it could only with victory and defeat.

After Lin Yun and Thorne finished their initial probing attacks, they burst out with their strongest fighting power.

Thorne's Aura ignited to its limit as he seemed to be bathing in flames, while Lin Yun used two True Spirit Magic Tools, the Doom Staff and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, as well as Syudos, who was on the same realm, to block Thorne's almost unrivalled Sword Aura.

In a few instants, the two of them collided several dozen times.

Each time the Crimson Flame Sword in Thorne's hands moved, it would rumble with the sound of thunder and stir up raging flames that looked as if they would swallow everything. Lin Yun never stopped casting, chanting one incantation after the other like a flood, making the surrounding elements flare up.

At this time, the two gradually lost the precise control over their power, causing spells and Aura to leak into the surroundings. This was simply a disaster for the others. Over a dozen Elders started withdrawing from the conference hall one after the other...

Rumbles echoed as the two ravaged the conference hall, which could no longer bear the burden...

Only a surge of dirt could be seen as the four-story stone tower that had stood tall for over a millennium collapsed.

"..." The Elders who made it out couldn't help shaking as they looked at this scene.

It was too frightening...

This wasn't an ordinary stone tower; it was the conference hall of the Merlin Family, the core of the Merlin Family. Its importance was only second to that of the Ancestral Land. Each piece of floor and wall was inscribed with defensive arrays. Even Okland's Magic Crystal Cannons would need to bombard it at least ten times before that stone tower might collapse.

But now...

That stone tower had been destroyed by the fight between these two...

All the onlookers were pale as they saw this.

Most of the Elders were drenched in cold sweat.

Thorne wasn't a problem...

But Mafa Merlin...

No one ever expected Mafa Merlin to be this formidable, so they had all supported Aube and Logan in asking him to hand over the Gilded Rose.

They had schemed against this person's assets...

Just thinking about it, they all felt lingering fear. They were truly lucky to still be alive.

Although the conference hall collapsed, the battle still didn't stop. Among the dust, the two silhouettes could be seen moving extremely quickly. Lin Yun was already in his Fire Elemental Incarnation form, casting all kinds of fire spells one after the other.

As he coordinated with the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, the swarm of spells he rained down was enough to make countless mages despair.

That wasn't something an ordinary mage could imagine...

Everyone could see how powerful Thorne was as he faced Lin Yun's wild casting yet wasn't falling behind. And not only was he not having to take a defensive stance, but he was actually brandishing his Crimson Flame Sword while attacking fiercely.

Indeed, both sides were on the offensive.

That battle could only be described as monstrous. Usually, in a battle between a mage and a swordsman, there would always be an attacker and a defender based on their specialization. One would be on the aggressive while the other would have to respond, but this common sense didn't apply here.

The two of them were attacking as if they never even considered defending. Most of the time, Thorne would rely on his Sword Aura to endure Lin Yun spell bombardment. And it was the same for Lin Yun, who relied on the powerful defensive ability of the Fire Elemental Incarnation to endure three attacks filled with Sword Aura.

"What kind of battle is this..." Leon, who was hiding in the distance, was looking at this world-shaking scene with disbelief while whispering to Ross.

"How could I know..." Ross rolled his eyes in exasperation. 'Do you think I'm a monster like them? How could I know something like that?'

"This battle is a bit irrational..."

"Indeed." Ross nodded.

This was a battle they couldn't understand. It didn't make sense for a mage and a swordsman to fight like this.

In fact, they weren't the only ones who didn't understand.

Not one onlooker could understand.

Only Thorne and Lin Yun understood.

Only the ones who were fighting understood why they were disregarding their lives.

It wasn't that they wanted to, but the power of the other side gave them no choice...

Especially Thorne.

Thorne Merlin was called the Crimson Flame Swordsman. He was known for his blazingly fierce offensives, but no matter how fierce his attacks were, he couldn't afford to just take hits, either. In fact, Thorne never expected the battle to reach this stage. The other side was only a High Mage, and even if he had a True Spirit Magic Tool that far exceeded his rank, in front of a 4th Rank Sword Saint, he truly shouldn't even count as an opponent.

But Thorne learnt that he was wrong as soon as the battle started. His opponent's strength was far greater than he had imagined.

First of all, his opponent didn't have just one True Spirit Magic Tool.

He had a boundlessly changing flame, a revolving disk, and a frightening spell-amplifying magic staff, a total of three True Spirit Magic Tools which could allow even a Magic Apprentice to contend against a Sword Saint.

Moreover...

The mage's strength was far from being as simple as he'd thought. He definitely had the strength to contend against an Archmage. If not for Thorne being close to becoming a 5th Rank Sword Saint, he would have already lost.

Especially since the other side's Elemental Incarnation coordinated so well with the crazily spinning disk. His casting speed could only be described as terrifying. Thorne could only struggle against the flood of spells.

It wasn't that he couldn't protect himself.

But he didn't dare to spend any effort protecting himself.

He wouldn't be far from losing once he let up the offensive against this horrifying spell bombardment. The adversary's unreasonable bombardment would thoroughly suppress him.

Thus, he could no longer change his stance.

He could only attack, attack, and attack some more. Only by incessantly attacking would he be able to hold back the other side's suppressive fire and force his opponent to defend. This was a waiting game. Whoever collapsed first under the pressure and was forced into a defensive position would lose this battle.

The longer the fight lasted, the more apprehensive Thorne was. 'When did such a monster appear in the Merlin Family? He is so young, yet he has such a frightening power. He'd become another Santon Merlin if given time...

'It's no good, I can't let him mature. Aube's injury will never be cured!'

Thorne burst out with more Aura, the Crimson Flame Sword in his hand shining with flames as the temperature of the atmosphere shot up even further.

Thorne's Aura had already reached the limit earlier. Bursting out with power once again would definitely harm his body and damage his vitality, possibly even affecting his future advancement. But Thorne didn't care right now, because the only thought in his mind was to behead his opponent.

However, they were interrupted by a voice.

"Alright, time to call it a day."

Once the voice echoed, both Lin Yun and Thorne felt a huge power descend.

This power was unfathomable. The two had even destroyed the stone tower as collateral damage, but they both couldn't resist this incredible power. Lin Yun's Elemental Incarnation instantly disappeared, and the same happened to Thorne's Aura. The surroundings became quiet as they felt restrained by that power.

"Who!" Thorne angrily shouted as he waved the Crimson Flame Sword in his hand at the newcomer... But just as he started moving, he discovered that there was no power in his body.

Thorne was terrified.

Chapter 349: Ancestor

Thorne turned his head in horror...

He saw an old person coming over with Patriarch Ofran, but this time, Ofran was slightly bowing as he led the way with a respectful attitude. The old man behind him seemed to be in his sixties, but was emitting frightening power...

"Heavens..." Thorne forgot to breathe.

Someone with such terrifying power that even Ofran showed such respect to...

He could easily guess the identity of that old man.

He could only be an ancestor of the Ancestral Land!

Thorne wasn't the only one who guessed that; the Elders who had been watching the battle prostrated themselves. The Merlin Family had stood tall in Okland for over a millennium. To outsiders, it looked like this was due to their countless geniuses, but the core of the Merlin Family knew that this was thanks to the existence of these old men.

They might not come out of the Ancestral Land for several decades, or even centuries, but every time they came out, they would make the Merlin Family shock the entirety of Okland...

They remembered the last time an ancestor entered the Merlin Family Manor, three hundred years ago. Santon Merlin had yet to rise and the Merlin Family was being suppressed by the Watson Family and the Charlotte Family, and it looked like they would fall down from being part of the Three Great Families.

At the time, the Merlin Family had started retreating little by little in various fields and the resources of three planes were divided by the other two Great Families. When they seemed to be at the end of their

rope, an ancestor left the Ancestral Land and took away Santon Merlin, who had only been average at the time.

Ten years later, Santon Merlin quietly returned to the Merlin Family, and against everyone's expectations, he easily killed the prodigy of the Charlotte Family before continuing to progress at a rapid pace and reaching Heaven Rank within a century.

This story has already become somewhat of a legend in the Merlin Family.

Any child with a little understanding of the Merlin Family was familiar with this story, especially geniuses like Ross and Leon. They worshipped the ancestors like gods, hoping they would gain an ancestor's recognition and be led onto the path to Heaven Rank.

Now, one of the ancestors of the Ancestral Land had truly appeared, shocking everyone.

And let alone the others...

Even Thorne, one of the noble Sword Saints of the Merlin Family, changed his expression completely when he saw that ancestor.

However, unlike the others, Thorne was a well-known figure in the family. He had seen a few ancestors when he completed his bloodline ceremony.

And the ancestor that appeared just now was one that Thorne had met back then.

"Sir Ryan, How come you are here..." Thorne's voice was shaking, not because of excitement, but because of fear.

Among all the people present, only Thorne knew how frightening Sir Ryan was. Although he himself was now called Sir by everyone, Thorne knew that he couldn't be compared with Sir Ryan. He was like a mere ant in front of him.

Several decades ago, Thorne got the opportunity to enter the Ancestral Land due to his outstanding achievements in a Planar War.

Back then, Thorne was very young and impulsive. After entering the Ancestral Land, he didn't go to the temple to complete his bloodline ceremony and instead curiously pressed into the depths of the Ancestral Land, before seeing a scene he would never be able to forget.

There, Thorne was attacked by a Titan Python, a true prehistoric monster, which was said to be extinct in the 3rd Dynasty. Thorne cursed his luck. He had only gone exploring, yet he was attacked by a python that was several hundred meters long, towering like a mountain.

Thorne was terrified when the python opened its eyes and let out its tongue.

But facing a Level 36 Titan Python as a 9th Rank Expert Swordsman was no different than an ant attacking an elephant.

There was only one thought in Thorne's mind, which was to flee, to flee as far as possible.

So he did.

Even now, Thorne still felt that he had never again run so fast in his entire life.

But Thorne was only a 9th Rank Expert Swordsman back then. Even if he used all his stamina, could he outrun a Level 36 Titan Python? After a few minutes, Thorne heard a sound behind him and noticed a fishy smell. (B oxnovel.c om)

The sinister, mountain-like head was less than five meters behind him. Thorne had felt his heart jumping out of his chest...

But at that time, a meteorite suddenly fell from the sky.

It was followed by an earthquake as the Level 36 Titan Python let out a blood-curdling screech and the meteorite smashed it.

And this wasn't over...

That meteorite was followed by a second one, and a third one, and a fourth one...

Thorne was completely terrified by what he witnessed.

He could only stare blankly as a dozen meteorites dropped from the sky and turned that Titan Python into mincemeat.

Even now, Thorne could clearly remember how shocking that scene was.

That wasn't power that people were meant to have...

Afterwards, the old man who had cast these meteorites appeared in front of Thorne Merlin. Thorne had been so frightened that he hadn't been able to say anything, he only remembered following behind that old man as he led him back to the temple for his bloodline ceremony.

Thorne only knew that this old man was called Ryan and that he was the Archmage closest to Heaven Rank after Santon Merlin.

Now, this Archmage infinitely close to the Heaven Rank was once again in front of Thorne.

Even if Thorne was already a Sword Saint and a Planar Legion Commander, his voice couldn't help shaking due to fear in front of this person.

"Ofran, you explain." Sir Ryan waved his hand as he called Ofran.

"Yes, Sir Ryan." Ofran respectfully nodded before turning towards Lin Yun and Thorne. "An hour ago, the Guardian Tower of the Ancestral Land made a decision. In three months, the Merlin Family and the Watson Family will work together to take control of the Raging Flame Plane's Ignition City..."

"What!?" Thorne had a complicated expression after hearing this 'Together with the Watson Family!?' How could this be!?'

The struggle between the three Families had been going on for over a millennium, but because they had been restraining each other, that war was mostly happening in the dark, up until Santon Merlin's birth three hundred years ago. After defeating the Charlotte Family, the Watson Family and the Merlin Family stopped keeping up appearances. They fought who knew how many times in the dark and in the open

since then, especially in the Raging Flame Plane. Both Planar Legion Commanders fought several dozen times, and countless people died in those confrontations. The hatred between the two Families had reached an irreconcilable level.

For a long time, whether it was the Merlin Family or the Watson Family, even if they would sometimes cooperate with other forces, they would never work together. It was impossible for the Planar Legion Commanders to make the decision to cooperate with each other.

It wasn't because they didn't want to cooperate...

But rather because the two Families could no longer cooperate at all.

Thorne never dreamt that those ancestors who rarely got involved with the Merlin Family would actually make such a decision.

"I don't agree!" Thorne subconsciously opposed the decision.

But after saying that, Thorne realized that he had misspoken, so he hurriedly added, "I meant, I think the Watson Family wouldn't agree to cooperate with us!"

"Thorne, this is a decision from the Ancestral Land." Ofran glanced at Thorne, before looking at Lin Yun. "Moreover, you and Mafa will jointly command the Planar Legion..."

"What!" Thorne thoroughly forgot himself this time. After hearing Ofran's words, he stood up and demanded, "Patriarch Ofran, what do you mean!"

This felt like a joke!

Even if they had to cooperate with the Watson Family, half of the authority of the Planar Legion would go to the one who almost killed his son?!

'No way, definitely no way!'

"Again, Thorne, this is the decision of the Ancestral Land..."

"I have a question..." Lin Yun couldn't help chiming in after hearing this. "I want to ask, what if I don't want to go?"

"You have to..." The one answering to Lin Yun wasn't Ofran, but rather Sir Ryan. Strangely, that old man hadn't talked to anyone since he reached the Merlin Family Manor apart from the Patriarch. Yet, he smiled when looking at Lin Yun. "Mafa Merlin, I truly didn't expect that we would meet so soon, but I heard from Ofran that your temper isn't very good. Young man, you shouldn't be so impulsive. Your name is still Merlin, after all..."

Chapter 350: Conclusion

"..." Lin Yun felt baffled. 'What do you mean by "meet again"?''

Lin Yun wanted to remind that Sir Ryan that they were meeting for the first time...

Moreover...

It had only been a bit over a month since he returned to the Merlin Family. Let alone contributions, he didn't stand out at all. The only thing he did was to undergo his bloodline ceremony in exchange for Stan Watson's life. It could be said that besides the support of Ross and William, he didn't have any foundation in the Merlin Family.

Under such circumstances, why would the ancestors of the Ancestral Land give him command over half the Legion?

How could they be at ease?

Lin Yun was racking his brain, but he didn't understand.

Following Sir Ryan's words, the mood became strange. Everyone was looking at Lin Yun with odd expressions. Some were astonished, some were envious, and there were even some who were jealous.

Yes, everyone...

Including Patriarch Ofran, including Sword Saint Thorne, everyone had odd gazes.

Because no one had expected that Sir Ryan from the Ancestral Land would speak to Mafa with such an attitude.

After all, four Elders had died, while three ended up seriously injured. This was something that had never happened in the Merlin Family's history. This was a true scandal, and no force could put up with something like this, even the weakest ones. Facing this kind of provocation, they would do everything in their power to kill the troublemaker.

Reaching a compromise was impossible.

But now...

Sir Ryan was trying to calm the situation by advising him to not be too impulsive.

His words made everyone feel like they had gone crazy.

This was too irrational.

It wasn't a matter of compromising anymore...

'Could it be...?' At this time, Ofran was suddenly startled.

Before, Ofran had thought that since Mafa had such frightening strength at such a young age, his backer was most likely the Cloud Tower or the Black Tower...

But now, Ofran suddenly realized that this young High Mage's background might be even more frightening than he had imagined...

Ofran clearly noticed Sir Ryan mentioning them "meeting again" when greeting Mafa Merlin.

That sentence didn't sound that special, besides proving that the two had seen each other in the past.

But Ofran didn't think so...

Because Sir Ryan's attitude was too forgiving. He only offered a bit of advice regarding the mess that Mafa had caused in the conference hall before giving him command over half of the Planar Legion.

What did this mean?

He was clearly siding with him and covering up for him.

Most importantly, Ofran had suddenly recalled the true reason that young High Mage returned to the Merlin Family.

Only Ofran and William knew that the only reason that young High Mage who ruled over Thousand Sails City was willing to return to the Merlin Family was to visit the Ancestral Land.

Ofran thought that this was because that young High Mage had longed for his identity to be acknowledged.

But Ofran didn't dare to think so now.

On one side was the young High Mage who was eager to enter the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land, while on the other side was Sir Ryan, who was clearly covering up for him. Along with the words "meeting again", no matter how slow Ofran was, he naturally understood that there was some secret behind this.

'Could it be... that Mafa Merlin's backer isn't the Cloud Tower or the Black Tower, but an ancestor hiding in the Ancestral Land?'

This sudden thought scared Ofran. If it really was the case, then today's Elder Council's meeting was definitely a joke!

Logan and Aube would have never thought that the young High Mage they were scheming against had such a shocking backer.

As he thought about it, Ofran's face gradually paled. Cold sweat drenched his back and dripped down his forehead.

"Alright, I said what I had to say. Three months later, the Watson Family will send people to contact you. As for the relationship between the Merlin Family and the Watson Family after you capture Ignition City, you do as you see fit. Don't be affected by this short-term cooperation." After saying that, the old man turned around to leave, but before he departed, he glanced at Lin Yun. "Oh right, if you have time during these two months, you should take a trip to the Ancestral Land. There is an old man wanting to meet you there."

"..." Everyone stood still as they watched the old man's figure drifting away, not making any sounds.

After a long time, Ofran coughed before saying, "Well, the two of you, how about we stop this battle now?"

"I'm fine with anything..." Lin Yun had an indifferent expression. Thorne's strength was indeed far from Lin Yun's expectations, and Lin Yun hadn't gained any advantage during the fight. There was no point in continuing this kind of a battle.

Naturally, Lin Yun had ways to win if he needed to, but the price was too high and it wasn't worth it.

“Hmpf!” Thorne coldly snorted before sheathing the Crimson Flame Sword, picking up Aube, who had regained some vitality, and leaving the battlefield.

“Good, good, it finally ended peacefully.” Ofran let out a relieved sigh as he followed Thorne and Aube with his eyes. He then turned to the other Elders. “Well, I personally believe that today’s matters aren’t very glorious for the Merlin Family, and thus, I advise all of you not to divulge anything, lest you make Sir Ryan unhappy...”

“...” These words stupefied the Elders. ‘Damn, four Elders died, three are seriously injured, and even the Planar Legion Commander made a move! How could this be considered a peaceful ending?’

This wasn’t peaceful at all...

But although the Elders were inwardly complaining, they didn’t dare to be careless and they quickly agreed to Ofran’s request.

“Of course, of course...”

“We definitely won’t say anything...”

“Rest assured, Patriarch Ofran, we won’t leak anything!”

They were able to become Elders, so none of them were total idiots.

Since Sir Ryan had come out here, who would dare to leak anything? That would be no different from asking for death.

The farce was finally over.

Lin Yun put away his two True Spirit Magic Tools and Syudos before calling Ross, who had been watching all along. They were about to go back when they noticed Leon approaching.

“Leon, what are you trying to do?” Ross suddenly reacted.

Originally, there were three contenders to become the next patriarch: Ross, Leon, and Aube. Now that Aube’s Mana Whirlpool had been pierced by Lin Yun, he had become a cripple. So now, only Ross and Leon were still qualified for the position.

In other words, the two of them were direct competitors.

With such a relationship, how could Ross let him follow them? If he got some support from Cousin Mafa, wouldn’t the seat escape his grasp?

“Well, Leon, the Elder Council’s meeting is over, we are leaving now. What are you trying to do by following us? You wouldn’t be trying to eat dinner with us, right?” Ross rolled his eyes as he let out a mocking smile.

The two were both geniuses of the Merlin Family, and they frequently interacted with one another. Thus, Ross clearly knew that Leon had always been proud and arrogant and wouldn’t let anything go.

Ross sneered as he looked at him.

But...

Ross had miscalculated this time...

The always proud Leon didn't react in a hostile manner. Instead, he actually showed a fawning smile. "Of course I'd like to eat dinner together! I haven't seen Cousin Mafa in such a long time, we definitely have to eat dinner. Leave it to me, tonight's dinner is on me. Let's go Cousin Mafa, I know a few good restaurants outside the Merlin Family Manor..."

As he said this, he tried dragging Lin Yun along...

"..." Ross was completely dumbstruck. He had never expected the prideful Leon to lower himself like this.

'Didn't he have some sort of disagreement with Cousin Mafa when he went to Thousand Sails City? How come he suddenly became so enthusiastic? Did his mind break during the time he spent in the Pale Plane?'

'No way. I have to call William. William has been in Thousand Sails City, he definitely knows how Leon offended Cousin Mafa...'

In the evening, Leon entertained his guests as the four youths had a meal outside the Merlin Family Manor. During that time, what happened in the Elder Council that day gradually spread through the higher-ups of the Merlin Family...