

Magic Era 451

Chapter 451: Raging Flame Beastman Mages

The worst thing was that this young mage had arrogantly led them out of the fort, yet now he was only standing there, not making a move or speaking.

This undoubtedly made Ida and Yuri feel resentful.

Although this young mage wasn't too strong, would it kill him to help?

"Mafa Merlin! What are you trying to do!?! Are you happy getting us killed?!" The irascible Ida exploded an approaching Ash Spirit, his expression becoming nastier and nastier as more time passed. He seemed flustered and exasperated, and although he didn't have the leisure to actually face Lin Yun, he was obviously enraged.

"F*cking hell... The Family Council making you the Planar Commander was a crazy decision. I don't understand, you think yourself clever, but look at you now, you deliberately sought out death and dragged us down with you. You must be quite satisfied with the outcome..."

Ida had nowhere to vent his anger and finally turned his head to glare at Lin Yun, his eyes filled with hatred. If there weren't Elemental lifeforms keeping them locked in place, he might have already rushed up to slap Mafa Merlin.

'This is so stifling... Not only is he being suicidal, but he's even using his authority to drag us along with him! Too hateful...'

Ida was truly going crazy at this time. He bitterly hated Lin Yun. In the last few decades, he had participated in countless Planar Wars on behalf of the Ancestral Land, but he had never seen a Commander like this Mafa Merlin who let his emotions get the better of him, a complete weirdo.

Unfortunately, Ida couldn't defy that order. Commander's orders were absolute in a Planar War. Even if he was ordered to throw his life away, Ida would be forced to comply.

Nothing could be done about that, as one of them was a Commander and the other his subordinate.

Although he couldn't disobey that order, his resentment couldn't be silenced. Under this stress, even resentment towards the Family Council could be felt in his mind. If it were not for the Family Council appointing such an idiotic Commander, Ida wouldn't have ended up in such a situation.

"High Mage Mafa, please figure out a way quickly! We can't keep going! We will run out of mana sooner or later, and then we will all die! If we rush in the direction of the fort, we might be able to survive with the help of the Planar Legion. And aren't you being too idle?"

Although the aged Yuri wasn't as flustered and exasperated as Ida Merlin, his words clearly expressed how dissatisfied he was with the young mage.

Honestly, he wouldn't want to clash with the young mage if he had the option.

After all, he was the Commander appointed by the Family Council. Even though he wasn't very powerful and had no experience in Planar Wars, he was still a genuine Commander, so his status was far above that of the others.

In fact, Yuri was truly astonished when the Family Council had issued that order. He couldn't understand the Family Council's decision.

This was too crazy...

But after calming down, Yuri felt that this matter shouldn't be as simple as it appeared. Perhaps this young mage's specialty laid somewhere other than in just strength.

But that young mage didn't seem special at all. 'It doesn't matter if you send a chaotic order, just don't involve me!'

But Lin Yun didn't seem to have heard them at this time. After all, how could he waste his time listening to Yuri and Ida? His Magic Array was working at maximum speed to track down the Raging Flame Beastmen Mages, continuously fumbling around for them. His brow gradually relaxed as a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

"There!"

At this point, he didn't plan to stop. He instantly used his Fire Elemental Incarnation and a Flame Flash, crossing a dozen meters and leaving an after-image behind him, and he didn't stop there; he followed up with a few more Flame Flashes.

"F*ck..."

Seeing this scene, Ida was shocked for a few seconds, and he couldn't help cursing.

'That f*cker! So you were this kind of person? I'm doing my utmost to help you, but even if you can't help, how could you abandon us to escape?'

Ida spit up blood in anger.

He could swear that this was the most marvelous commander he had ever seen!

Although Yuri wasn't swearing like Ida did, his expression still stiffened. He looked strange as he shook his head and sighed while casting a dazzling spell.

This was an outcome they hadn't expected.

'Damn, we fell into a trap...'

But then, Yuri realized that something was a bit strange. If the young mage was escaping, he should have been going backwards, towards the Flame Demon Fort. However, the young mage flew in the opposite direction.

This discovery shocked Yuri, but his lip curled in a smile. 'This young mage is too anxious. Even if you want to escape, you should first make sure you are going in the correct direction. However, I don't feel like reminding you. Who told you to not pay attention as you abandoned Ida and me to flee?'

But then, Yuri suddenly fell dumbstruck.

A shocking mana fluctuation slowly rose up as a silhouette wrapped in flames plowed through a pack of Flame Elementals. The staff in his hand raised as an incredible amount of energy burst out, creating earth-shattering flames that flooded all the Elemental lifeforms before silently fading away.

But what caused Yuri to be dumbfounded wasn't this...

Rather, it was the group of Beastmen that appeared after those Flame Elementals disappeared. Their skins were dark red, with carved runes flickering on them. These Raging Flame Beastmen stood two meters tall and were radiating explosive power!

"Sir Yuri, this, this..."

Ida, who was standing next to Yuri, looked as if he had seen a ghost. He had clearly noticed the situation on Lin Yun's side, and both he and Yuri looked at each other in shock.

Neither of them had expected such an outcome.

Originally, given their levels of insight, it was natural for them to figure out that this battlefield was very strange. They had started investigating when those Elemental lifeforms appeared, but they didn't find anything.

But now, they knew that those endless waves of Elemental lifeforms had been summoned by the Raging Flame Beastman Mages. They had been hiding amidst the Elemental lifeforms, secretly controlling them while summoning more.

'Turns out there was a mastermind...'

After figuring out the truth, Ida and Yuri instantly held their breaths. The truth was a bit too scary. Had this young mage not discovered the trail of those Raging Flame Beastman Mages, they would have kept summoning more and more until the Flame Demon Fort was overrun.

'Fortunately, fortunately... Fortunately, this young mage discovered them in time.'

They would have had no chance had it been later...

This time, the way that Ida and Yuri looked at Lin Yun clearly changed. There was no longer any contempt or disdain, only respect.

This young mage was truly skillful...

After all, Thorne Merlin had decades of experience in Planar Wars. He had been on countless expeditions and had the strength of a 5th Rank Sword Saint. Even so, he didn't notice the existence of the Raging Flame Beastman Mages.

This showed how frightening this young mage's insight was.

Insight couldn't be underestimated. Having frightening insight as a Commander was a huge advantage. In the ever-changing battlefields, they would be able to see the enemies' movements and make the most advantageous decision.

Remembering what they had just said moments ago, Ida and Yuri's faces flushed red.

"Sir Yuri, haven't you found out? The situation seems pretty bad..."

Ida's expression changed when he discovered that they ended up leaving the line of sight of the Planar Legion. Even if they knew the truth, that those mages were behind this, they couldn't transmit the news to the Planar Legion, let alone request assistance.

Without the help of the Planar Legion, that group of mages would truly be hard to handle.

Including the young mage, there were only three of them, which wouldn't be enough to confront those Beastmen. Moreover, they were still heavily surrounded by waves and waves of Elemental lifeforms. Just thinking of handling the Raging Flame Beastman Mages while being attacked by the Elemental lifeforms depressed Ida.

"It's very bad... but we don't have time to worry about it! If we don't kill them, the Flame Demon Fort will be at risk of falling into their hands!"

Yuri and Ida had participated multiple times in the Planar War of the Raging Flame Plane, so they naturally knew that these Raging Flame Beastman Mages weren't simple. They were always considered peak powerhouses of their tribes, and according to his estimations, these should be the prophets.

Not only were they powerful, but they also had exceedingly high status. Otherwise, they wouldn't have put the Planar Legion of the Merlin Family in such an awkward situation.

Yuri and Ida burst out with all their strength. They used Fire Elemental Incarnation and cast a few Flame Flashes in a row, trying to catch up to Lin Yun.

"Finding you really wasn't easy..."

At this moment, Lin Yun was covered in flames and was using Levitation to hover in midair, overlooking that group of Raging Flame Beastmen below. As he'd said, following that wisp of aura back to these Raging Flame Beastmen wasn't easy.

Usually, being disturbed when summoning and controlling so many Elemental lifeforms would have a huge impact. This should have been the reason that those mages had been doing their best to hide their auras and conceal themselves in the depths of the Elemental Legion.

Or it might have been something else.

Whatever the case, this was no longer important. As long as they died, this crisis could be considered averted.

Chapter 452: How Could This Be?

Lin Yun's appearance surprised and startled the dozen Raging Flame Beastman Mages. They looked at him in disbelief and took a few seconds to react. They could feel that the human in front of them wasn't simple.

In the chaotic battlefield, let alone finding them, even just noticing their presence wasn't easy.

“Roar...” A deep roar echoed as the group of Beastmen realized that this might be a troublesome opponent. At this moment, the dozen powerful mages firmly held their two-handed hammers, red runes flickering on their arms as they burst with mana fluctuations, making their hammers emit dark red flames.

The Raging Flame Beastman Race was a true dual-path race, following both the Martial Path and the Magic path. They had extremely tough physiques, and usually, an adult Raging Flame Beastman would be comparable to a Great Swordsman on physique alone. As for those with innate talents, they would be able to contend against Expert Swordsmen.

And this was just with regards to pure power.

The Mages among the Raging Flame Beastmen had frightening magical abilities due to their bloodline. They innately had extremely high control over fire as well as the ability to summon Flame Elementals. That boundless army of Flame Elementals had been the work of this group here. Fortunately, Lin Yun found out, or else they might have ended up losing the Flame Demon Fort!

At this time, Ida and Yuri, who had rushed over to join up with Lin Yun, saw the group of Raging Flame Beastman Mages attacking Lin Yun and couldn't help feeling nervous.

Even though they were close to begin with and had only taken a few seconds to cover the area, they were still too late...

They felt that the young mage was truly too impulsive. He should at least have taken them with him after discovering those mages. This would have increased their odds of success. Ida and Yuri's could see that any one of these dozen Raging Flame Beastman Mages wasn't an opponent the young 5th Rank High Mage could handle.

After all, among them, the weakest were still on the same level as a Peak High Mage, and there were even three of them whose strength could compare to that of Ida and Yuri!

Under such circumstances, how could they not be worried...

“That's...”

But both Ida and Yuri looked at what happened next in disbelief. The young mage clearly wasn't as weak as they had imagined as he kept ingeniously using Flame Flash to avoid the dangerous attacks. A 5th Rank High Mage being able to do this was enough to make anyone exclaim in surprise. There might not even be 9th Rank High Mages with such wondrous casting ability.

But what truly shocked them wasn't that the young mage was dodging the attacks, but rather the fiercely rising Fire Bolt that curved strangely before hitting one of the Beastmen. A mournful scream then echoed as it turned to ashes.

“H-he... How did he do it?” Ida couldn't help swallowing nervously.

This was truly outrageous. After all, the young mage was only a 5th Rank High Mage, and although that Raging Flame Beastman Mage was the weakest of the lot, it was still a Peak High Mage.

A 5th Rank High Mage instantly killing such a powerful enemy... This made Ida feel as if he was in a dream. It felt a bit surreal.

Moreover...

That Fire Bolt was too frightening. It instantly turned a Raging Flame Beastman, known for their fierce physiques, into ashes.

Even the 2nd Rank Archmage, Ida, would need at least ten seconds to kill the weakest of the Raging Flame Beastmen there while using his True Spirit Magic Tool.

He was truly shocked by the young mage's methods.

It was hard to imagine that such a young 5th Rank High Mage could be so powerful.

"Very strong..."

Yuri was also shocked and could barely even utter those two words. He had seen countless young geniuses while staying in the Ancestral Land, but a 5th Rank High Mage that could kill a 9th Rank High Mage was truly something hard to accept. It completely overturned common sense.

This time, Yuri realized that the young man might not only have terrifying insight, but also tyrannical power. With that strange Fire Bolt, even 3rd Rank Archmages might not be able to stand against him. This was in no way an exaggeration... It was what his intuition told him.

"How could this be..."

Lin Yun didn't even pay attention to the newly arrived Ida and Yuri. He was actually frowning, surprise apparent on his face. Just now, he had controlled Syudos to kill one of the Raging Flame Beastman Mages and clearly saw that after it turned to ashes, it left behind a dark red flame the size of a fingernail.

That flame didn't remain there, but instead flew up and to the east.

This stunned Lin Yun and he couldn't help turning to look east, trying to see where it went. But he didn't find anything, so he just roused Syudos to turn into a Fire Bolt once again. In a flash, another Beastman's life was taken, and the outcome was the same as before. After being turned to ashes, a dark red flame remained and flew eastwards.

'What's going on...'

Lin Yun frowned, but he didn't think too much about it. If he had the chance, he would go east to take a look, and maybe he would find something. At this time, Ida and Yuri reached his side and joined the fight, each of them confronting a 3rd Rank Archmage Raging Flame Beastman.

In fact, the fighting style of the Beastmen was similar to the fighting style of the Gaugass Battlemages, only they were holding a two handed hammers and controlling flames as they fought Lin Yun in melee range. Every attack would stir up countless flames with immense destructive power. Even a Peak High Mage's Runic Shield wouldn't be able to last long under such an onslaught.

At this time, the Raging Flame Beastmen divided into three groups to attack Lin Yun, Ida, and Yuri under the leadership of the three most domineering ones. Among the Raging Flame Beastmen fighting Lin Yun, there was also a powerful one that was almost comparable to a 3rd Rank Archmage.

“Roar...”

That Raging Flame Beastman suddenly let out a deep roar and his aura changed. Those red runes on his skin fiercely flickered, and following that roar, countless flames appeared in the sky. They then turned into a dark golden dragon leaving behind a long trail of flames as it dove towards Lin Yun with a loud roar.

This Raging Flame Beastman had clearly realized that they would be in great danger if this fight couldn't be resolved quickly. Only by killing the young mage in front of him could he go support his companions to kill the other two and go back to summoning Elemental lifeforms to take over the Flame Demon Fort.

At this moment, a dazzling flame rose up, sending out searing heat. The power contained within could only be described as world-shaking.

The Fire Dragon bared its fangs and brandished its claws as it quickly pounced towards Lin Yun.

The Raging Flame Beastman that had sent out this attack was already pale. This was clearly his most powerful means of attack. He was controlling the Fire Dragon while smiling coldly.

“We are finished....”

Ida and Yuri, who were fighting in close-quarters with Raging Flame Beastmen, noticed Lin Yun's situation and felt the power behind that Fire Dragon. They both paled. Even as Archmages, they felt dread.

They knew that this was truly over...

Let alone a 5th Rank High Mage, even they, as 4th Rank Archmages, had no other choice but to be careful and use Elemental Shield, despite the attack not being aimed directly at them.

In this split second, the two roused their mana, wanting to break away from their opponent to help Lin Yun.

But it was all for naught.

The radiance of the Fire Dragon shone almost everywhere. When the rumbling sound echoed, Ida and Yuri couldn't help closing their eyes. This outstanding young mage was truly unfortunate, he must have already become a corpse.

And it might not be intact...

Everything was coming to an end.

Once the young mage died, the Raging Flame Beastman would be able to provide assistance to his companions, and Ida and Yuri would no longer be able to hold on. Their mana would eventually be exhausted and they would end up like the young mage... It was only a matter of time.

They felt quite regretful. Even though they knew that this battle was the sly plan of the Raging Flame Beastmen, they had no way to transmit the news. After they died, no one would know the truth, and the Planar Legion would only be able to delay while more and more Elemental lifeforms appeared, up until the Flame Demon Fort fell into enemy hands.

'Hold on...'

Time seemed to have been frozen for the two Archmages, but after a while, they realized that they didn't hear the miserable shriek that they had been expecting. The two became surprised as they realized that the young mage might still be alive.

Thus, although Ida and Yuri were still battling, they cautiously turned their heads to check.

And they saw an unforgettable scene...

A slightly dim and burnt shield was spread in front of the young mage. As Archmages, the two could instantly recognize this shield... It was a mere Mana Shield!

Using a Mana Shield to block the fiercest attack of a Raging Flame Beastman was a fantasy!

They knew that although a Mana Shield was only a low tier defensive shield, that defensive spell could display its maximum effect in the hands of a true powerhouse. In other words, the defensive ability of the Mana Shield was based on the caster's mana density.

This meant that the intensity of the young mage's mana had reached an inconceivable level.

Just thinking of this shook the two Archmages.

But the true shock had yet to come...

Chapter 453: Sophistry

But they saw the young mage placing his unadorned staff horizontally in front of him and pouring mana into it. The staff radiated with dazzling light as five blazing Flame Bursts flew towards the Raging Flame Beastman Mages. Even Ida and Yuri, who were a dozen meters away, could feel the extremely frightening power contained within those Flame Bursts.

A flustered expression finally appeared on the face of that angry Raging Flame Beastman. He clearly knew that this young mage was a formidable enemy and his dark red runes fiercely flickered, emptying his power to cover his body with flames.

That Beastman was very powerful, and the furious flames covering his body enhanced his incredibly high magic resistance. Even 5th Rank Archmage powerhouses might not necessarily be able to injure him in this state.

However, the five Flame Bursts quickly arrived and accurately struck that Beastman. A mournful scream echoed and over half of the dark red flames covering his body had been instantly eliminated. After the explosion, the Raging Flame Beastman flew away like a cannonball, stopping a few dozen meters away.

"Rumble..." A loud sound echoed as the Raging Flame Beastman crashed into the ground, creating a crater. He was panting, with a charred, black wound on his stomach from which blood kept flowing.

Ida and Yuri were stunned. They couldn't believe that mere Flame Bursts could injure that Raging Flame Beastman to such extent while it was defending itself.

The young mage then raised his staff...

It was followed by a pitch-black palm suddenly falling down from the sky and heavily slamming that Raging Flame Beastman Mage before he could even crawl out of the crater. With a loud sound, the aura of the Raging Flame Beastman completely disappeared, his corpse turned into a paste.

“Heavens...”

Ida and Yuri were startled speechless. This scene was too scary... There was now deep respect in their eyes as they looked at the young mage.

The Raging Flame Beastman Mages had made them feel helpless, but this one was unable to withstand a single blow from the new Commander. When they recalled the scene, it occurred to them that the young mage had only used six offensive spells to deal with the Raging Flame Beastman, five Flame Bursts, and one Earth Rending Hand.

“Grrrr...”

Those Raging Flame Beastmen were clearly stunned by Lin Yun’s attacking methods and let out growls of disbelief. Several pairs of dark red eyes once again landed on Lin Yun. They were no longer vicious and fierce... They were now filled with fear. To the Beastmen, that young mage seemed like a living nightmare.

He was too scary...

A tribe’s outstanding prophet didn’t last more than ten seconds before his body was crushed.

But Lin Yun didn’t plan to stop. A disk with red and blue radiance rose up behind him, floating behind him like a bright moon. As he poured mana into it, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel blossomed with light, and several hundred low-tier spells rushed forth, flooding three of the Peak High Mage Beastmen. They didn’t have time to even scream before turning into corpses.

Hovering in the air with Levitation, Lin Yun looked down at the remaining Raging Flame Beastman Mages as he expressionlessly raised the Doom Staff. With a burst of light, one Flame Burst after another flew towards them, dragging long trails of flames behind them. These were followed by miserable shrieks.

After ten seconds, only two of the original dozen Raging Flame Beastmen remained. They were the most powerful two, comparable to 3rd Rank Archmages, but they were completely terrified. How could they not be after what they had just witnessed?

At this time, Ida and Yuri were both watching with their eyes wide open, the spells they had been preparing fizzling out instead. ‘Damn, is he really a 5th Rank High Mage?’

Of the dozen Raging Flame Beastmen, the weakest had been Peak High Mages. Wasn’t that powerful enough? Even a 5th Rank Archmage would be in huge danger when being surrounded by this group, yet they had been unable to do anything against the young mage...

When they first met Lin Yun, both Ida and Yuri had been questioning his abilities in their minds... as well as openly... They had wondered if he was qualified to be a Planar Legion Commander at all.

But now, Ida and Yuri no longer dared to have such thoughts...

If such a frightening guy wasn't qualified to be a Planar Legion Commander, then no more than a handful of people in the entire Ancestral Land could be qualified!

Who would have thought that a young 5th Rank High Mage would have such terrifying strength?

Their had extremely complicated thoughts.

The fight had come to an end...

There had been over ten Raging Flame Beastmen at first, but only two remained after Lin Yun made a quick move. Soon, the two last Raging Flame Beastmen let out their final roars under the attacks from Lin Yun's group and turned into cold corpses. Seeing the dozen corpses, Ida and Yuri let out a long sigh. It was inconceivable... These were some of the strongest members of the Raging Flame Beastmen tribes, but they were now laying down on the ground.

Syudos scattered, turning into countless flames that burnt the bodies into nothingness. After finishing this, Lin Yun led Ida and Yuri back.

The waves of Elemental lifeforms had been summoned and controlled by those Raging Flame Beastmen, but after their deaths, they went out of control and no longer rushed at the Flame Demon Fort. Many of them even broke away from the battlefield.

The Planar Legion kept fighting for the next three hours, and after killing the scattered Elemental lifeforms and clearing the battlefield, they once again returned to the Flame Demon Fort.

After returning, Lin Yun went into his living quarters for a moment before calling Ida Merlin and Yuri Merlin and leaving for the meeting hall.

At this time, Thorne, as well as a few higher-ups of the Planar Legion, were discussing something in low voices. Seeing Lin Yun's group, they couldn't help being stunned. They all looked at him, but no one took the initiative to greet him.

"You guys can go deal with your other matters..."

Thorne's expression became dark when Lin Yun entered. He waved his hands and sent out a few high ranked members of the Planar Legion and then put his arms behind his back. He gave Lin Yun a stern look, a ghastly sneer on his face, "Mafa Merlin, you are quite skillful..."

To tell the truth, Thorne was furious. While he was protecting the Flame Demon Fort, holding back the Elemental Legion, that Mafa Merlin had led two Archmages out into the middle of nowhere. There was simply no end to the Elemental lifeforms outside of the fort, so let alone a few people, even if the entire Planar Legion left the fort to face those Elemental lifeforms, they would end up facing annihilation.

Back then, Thorne felt that Mafa Merlin would most likely not come back.

He should have been happy about it, but he wasn't happy at all. Before he left, it was made clear that this Planar War was extremely important to the Merlin Family and that no slip-ups would be allowed. It would be a huge blow to the Merlin Family if Mafa, who was comparable to himself in terms of strength, fell in battle.

For the Family's interests, Thorne had hoped that Mafa Merlin wouldn't die in the battle, no matter how much he loathed him.

After clearing the battlefield, he heard from a subordinate's report that Mafa indeed hadn't died.

'That guy is truly lucky...'

When he heard this, Thorne felt angry. 'That damned Mafa Merlin, he isn't thoughtful enough as a Commander! He just came to the Raging Flame Plane and already caused trouble.'

As he thought of this, Thorne's feelings became apparent on his visage. He resisted the urge to point his finger at Lin Yun's face, but he still sternly said, "Mafa Merlin, do you know how grave the consequences could be when you take people away from the Flame Demon Fort without permission, and at such a critical time? The Flame Demon Fort that our Merlin Family had managed to obtain after so much trouble might have been lost. This kind of responsibility isn't something you or I can assume!"

"Sir Thorne, you probably misunderstood..." Lin Yun frowned, his voice cold. He had promised Oren Merlin a day before that he would try as much as possible to not clash with Thorne in the Raging Flame Plane and jointly lead the Planar Legion to look for the ancestor's ruin.

"Misunderstood?"

Thorne Merlin sneered as if he had heard the dumbest joke of his life. He looked at Lin Yun, thinking, 'Sure enough, this guy can't do anything right. Apart from being powerful, he doesn't have any strong points. The most hateful part is that he doesn't want to admit it.'

"Sophistry! At such a critical time, you led important forces out of the Flame Demon Fort, everyone in the Planar Legion has seen this! Even if you embellish it, no one will believe you."

Thorne couldn't help flaring up, looking at Lin Yun with a strange expression. He originally planned to drop the matter as long as Lin Yun admitted he was wrong. But he hadn't expected the youth to be stubborn and argue. Seeing the youth try to shirk the blame like that immediately put Thorne in a bad mood. The young mage was very disappointing as a Commander and had almost caused a disaster. Moreover, he wasn't willing to acknowledge his mistakes.

'This is no good... If this person remains in the Raging Flame Plane, he will cause a disaster sooner or later.'

"You don't need to explain anything else! I'll send in a truthful report to the Family Council, if there was any ulterior motive, you should explain it to the Family Council yourself," Thorne Merlin expressionlessly said as if he had sealed Lin Yun's fate. "But I think it would be better for you to not seek trouble. Even if you have a special identity, the Family Council will conduct this trial fairly."

Chapter 454: Strange

In Thorne's eyes, the young mage disappearing for a few months before becoming a Family Council Member had to have a story behind it. But if the Family Council learnt what happened this time, it might be very difficult for him to keep his Representative status.

Thinking of this, Thorne looked at the young mage somewhat sympathetically. He knew that Mafa was about to become the Representative that lost his position the fastest.

Thorne hadn't noticed that Yuri and Ida had paled. They seemed very nervous as they looked at him with very tense expressions.

In fact, Ida had been scared to death when he entered the meeting hall alongside Lin Yun.

He was still in shock from the way the young mage had killed the Raging Flame Beastmen and was truly terrified when he heard Thorne reprimanding him. He was looking at Thorne in disbelief. 'Are you tired of living? You actually dare to provoke this young mage?' He assumed that as a fellow Commander, Thorne should know of the youth's might.

Ida had seen the power of the young mage with his own eyes, and saying that it was frightening wasn't doing it justice.

After all, the dozen Raging Flame Beastman Mages were all Peak High Mages at the very least, and there were even three Archmages among them. That had been a terrifying lineup that could even get rid of a 5th Rank Archmage powerhouse.

But the final outcome was unexpected. Such a powerful group was not able to harm the young mage at all and ended up being exterminated.

This was truly scary...

Ida had always been either in the Ancestral Land or participating in Planar Wars. He was knowledgeable and had enough experience, so he could tell that the young mage actually had strength equivalent to that of a 6th Rank Archmage, or even higher...

But the young mage was only a 5th Rank High Mage...

As he thought about it, sweat flowed down from his forehead. If things were that simple, he wouldn't be so scared. Others might have not known why the young mage left the Fort, but he was very clear about it. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that the young mage's actions saved the entire Planar Legion and removed the crisis as it was brewing.

The consequences would have been too horrible to contemplate if it hadn't been for the young mage taking care of those Beastmen. Endless Elemental lifeforms would have flooded the Flame Demon Fort, and it would have fallen into the Raging Flame Beastmen's hands.

It would have resulted in huge losses for the Merlin Family.

But now, not only had Thorne failed to figure out the truth behind it, he even severely reprimanded the young mage that was responsible for salvaging the situation, and he even said that he would report this matter to the Family Council to have the young mage punished.

Ida braced himself and stepped forward. Seeing the young mage's calm expression, Ida relaxed and cautiously said, "Err, Sir Thorne, your words are a bit excessive. High Mage Mafa is a Planar Legion Commander just like you, he doesn't have any less decision-making power than you do. Moreover, the Flame Demon Fort hasn't been lost. The way I see it, reporting this matter to the Family Council isn't a good idea."

“Sir Ida is right, we are all members of the Merlin Family, there is no need to make such a fuss over this. Moreover, High Mage Mafa clearly thought about the current situation, and Sir Thorne, you have always been a very tolerant person. After all, Sir Thorne and High Mage Mafa are working together for the first time. There will be a lot of time to get used to each other in the future...”

The aged Yuri wiped his forehead as he looked at Thorne. He felt that he had to say something, or else Thorne would continue causing trouble and make a big deal out of it. But he didn't want to have to tell a superior that he was completely wrong... this should be left to the other Commander.

And regardless of who was right or wrong, just the young mage's strength was enough to make others despair.

The consequences of drawing his ire were unthinkable.

“Sir Yuri, Sir Ida, you...”

Thorne was shocked by them speaking out. He didn't dare to believe that these two powerhouses from the Ancestral Land actually spoke on behalf of Mafa.

Even if he was a Planar Legion Commander, he still had to remain respectful towards the people from the Ancestral Land. After all, the powerhouses transferred by the Ancestral Land all had extremely deep backgrounds. If not for the special circumstances, he might not have had the chance to work together with these powerhouses from the Ancestral Land.

Moreover, as far as he knew, the few Archmages that came from the Ancestral Land were very prideful. Although they always showed respect to their Commander on the surface, they tended to look down on them in their minds.

This was the reason he was truly shocked. Yuri and Ida came from the Ancestral Land, so how could they speak on behalf of Mafa Merlin, this was unimaginable.

“Alright, I won't pursue this matter...” Thorne looked gloomy. Since Ida and Yuri intervened, he decided to show them respect. He sternly looked back at Lin Yun and said, “Mafa Merlin, you must remember your status as a Planar Commander. There are some things you can do, and some things you can't. I hope you can remember this... I don't want to see something like this happen again.”

After saying this, the stern expression was replaced with a calm one as he took out a map from the side and laid it down on the table. He looked at Lin Yun with hardly concealed disgust as he said, “This should be your first time in the Flame Demon Fort. As a Commander, I think you need to know more about the current circumstances. This map covers the entire area. You can take it away and carefully study it later...”

Lin Yun expressionlessly glanced at the map on the table and nodded, not saying anything. The Flame Demon Fort was at the center of the map.

“You should know of the Flame Demon Fort's history, right? The Merlin Family has been occupying it for three hundred years, ever since Santon Merlin killed that powerful Flame Demon.” Thorne sounded somewhat impatient, but for the sake of the Merlin Family, he had to relay important information to the young mage. After all, he had been in the Raging Flame Plane for a total of over a decade. The people in the Merlin Family who knew more than him about the Flame Demon Fort could be counted on one

hand. "You can't imagine how dangerous the Flame Demon Fort is. Within fifty kilometers, there are at least ten places occupied by Elemental lifeforms. They are marked on the map. Mafa Merlin, you should keep in mind to never go to those places. If you attract the Elemental lifeforms over, we might suffer another arduous fight!"

He didn't have much faith in the young mage so he had to make him aware early on. Thorne then pointed to a few more locations. "The Flame Demon Fort has been controlled by the Merlin Family for many years and over a dozen ore veins have been found in the surroundings, but only ten are being exploited right now. As for the remaining ones, the Merlin Family is temporarily unable to use them because they are located in very dangerous areas. Even Archmages would be in danger there. Two of those veins are next to a Raging Flame Beastman tribe, so there is no way to access them."

"So many..."

Lin Yun was a bit scared when he saw those marked veins. Although the wealth produced by them couldn't compare to the total output of the Bone Plane, it still couldn't be underestimated.

"As for this Raging Flame Beastman tribe..."

Thorne's expression hardened when he mentioned that tribe. "In fact, the Flame Demon Fort had been controlled by that tribe over three hundred years ago. They even invited a Flame Demon from Hell to defend it. At that time, many forces of Okland that tried to take over the fort suffered greatly, up until Santon Merlin appeared and obtained the Flame Demon Fort for the Merlin Family. That tribe had been unhappy with this loss over the years and dispatched many Raging Flame Beastmen to retake the Flame Demon Fort. It was even worse one hundred and fifty years ago, when the Beastman tribe sent most of their powerhouses. That war was extremely fierce, and although the Merlin Family managed to keep the fort, the losses were huge and over ten Archmages fell.

"Although the Merlin Family occupies three forts in the Raging Flame Plane, the other two combined aren't as important as half of the Flame Demon Fort. This fort is the foundation of the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane. If lost, the Merlin Family would lose the qualifications to fight over the Raging Flame Plane..." Talking about this, Thorne looked at Lin Yun and worryingly said, "I don't know what's happening recently. The Raging Flame Beastmen seem to be attacking the Flame Demon Fort more fiercely. Today's battle was already the 5th battle of the month, and the attacks are getting fiercer every time. It definitely wasn't like this before. After all, the losses are too great. The Raging Flame Beastmen would usually attack once a month at worst."

"Eh..."

Ida, who had been standing behind Lin Yun, threw a strange glance at Thorne. Although he didn't say anything, he thought to himself, 'Had you known that a dozen incredibly powerful Beastmen were behind this attack, you would have been scared to death.'

After over half an hour, Thorne finished relaying all the information concerning the Flame Demon Fort. Lin Yun then returned to his living quarters.

"It's very strange..."

In his living quarters, Lin Yun was still thinking about the Raging Flame Beastmen. He truly felt baffled. In today's battle, both Elemental lifeforms and Beastman Mages appeared, and it was a very powerful combination.

Had he not discovered the existence of those mages, this battle would have been a lot more troublesome, and it might have even ended in the fall of the Flame Demon Fort. Through the information shared by Thorne, Lin Yun could feel that this place was definitely hiding a secret. Otherwise, the Beastman tribe wouldn't recklessly start a war to get it back.

After all, this was the 5th attack of the month...

Even a Beastman tribe wouldn't be able to endure a war with so many battles in such a short time.

Moreover, he could clearly feel that the Beastman tribe was still waiting in the shadows. Today's battle, as well as the previous four, were only warm-ups. The next offensive might be even more fierce.

Chapter 455: Ghost Valley

But he really didn't know what was attracting the Raging Flame Beastmen in the Flame Demon Fort. Although the ore veins in the area were very rich and would make any major force envious, what about the Raging Flame Beastmen?

After all, the metallurgy culture of the Raging Flame Beastman Race was practically nonexistent. Ores might be no different from common stones in their eyes.

This was really suspicious.

For the Raging Flame Beastmen to desperately attack here, the Flame Demon Fort had to have something deadly attractive to them.

It seemed that the Flame Demon Fort was far from being as simple as it seemed. Lin Yun could see that although Thorne had stayed in the Raging Flame Plane for over a decade, his understanding of the Flame Demon Fort was still superficial. He had yet to reach deep enough.

Lin Yun suddenly thought about Ida and Yuri from the Ancestral Land... He might be able to get some clues from them. He had someone notify the two, and a few minutes later, Ida and Yuri hurried to his living quarters, nervous expressions visible on their faces.

With their usual attitudes they wouldn't show any respect to anyone not from the Ancestral Land. But it was clearly a different matter in front of this young mage. Not only was he their Commander, but he also had overwhelming power. When facing such a person, the two truly couldn't act arrogant.

They had trouble facing the young mage even though he seemed to be in a calm mood.

"Err... High Mage Mafa, is there anything you need?" Ida cautiously asked. He had originally planned to pay a visit to the young mage with Ida, but they were summoned by him first. They weren't sure what to make of this.

"First, take a seat..."

Lin Yun could clearly see how they felt from their expressions. He awkwardly scratched his cheek as he thought, 'Am I that scary?' The atmosphere became a lot more relaxed after the two sat down. Lin Yun smiled and said, "I'm sorry to disturb you, Sirs. I know you come from the Ancestral Land and might know more about the Raging Flame Plane."

"High Mage Mafa, you... please don't use any formalities, we are all on the same side."

Lin Yun's flattery overwhelmed them. Ida's heartbeat calmed down a bit, but he didn't dare to be careless. He smiled while organizing his words. He had participated in countless Planar Wars and his understanding of this plane was far higher than Lin Yun's. After thinking for a bit, he said, "In fact, the entire Raging Flame Plane is very attractive to all of Okland's forces. Although the environment is quite harsh, the natural resources produced here are very rich. It's comparable to multiple Andlusa Kingdoms. No major force would be willing to miss out on this, but naturally, the most important reason is that the Raging Flame Plane's mana density is very shocking. It can speed up the growth of mages..."

After taking a pause, Ida continued, "Moreover, there is a legend concerning the Raging Flame Plane. It has been circulating for about a millennium. It is said that an extremely powerful existence is being nurtured in the depths of the plane, and once it appears, it will have the power of Heaven Rank..."

"Oh..."

Lin Yun's mind shook when he heard this. He thought of his Demi-plane. A place that could speed up the growth of mages was truly worth being fought over by all major forces.

As for that legend...

He made the connection to the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras. This was a famous Extraordinary Magic Tool. It would appear in the Raging Flame Plane, but was currently still growing in power and was only a True Spirit Magic Tool. After a few thousand years, the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras would genuinely be at the Heaven Rank.

But thinking about it, it was unlikely that the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras was behind the growth speed increase for the mages there.

"The Flame Demon Fort area is the place with the densest mana in the northern part of the plane. To be more accurate, the mana in the Ghost Valley, located east of here, has reached a horrifying density. Unprepared mages wouldn't be able to keep their lives after going in, they would explode from mana. Even a Great Mage wouldn't dare to stay in the Ghost Valley for too long..."

Yuri then said with a grave expression, "This is the reason that the Merlin Family values the Flame Demon Fort so much, and is also why those other major forces desire it. If they didn't fear the might of the Merlin Family, they might have already attacked. Moreover, the Raging Flame Beastmen also care a lot about the Ghost Valley. They do large-scale attacks on the Flame Demon Fort because they want to obtain the Ghost Valley."

"Ghost Valley..."

After hearing Yuri's words, Lin Yun frowned. He recalled the battle he had with the Raging Flame Beastman Mages earlier. Those dozen Beastmen each left a flame after their death, and that flame flew

towards the east. With his insight, he naturally saw that this flame was made out of their mana and souls.

He hadn't thought too much about it after discovering this strange phenomenon. He'd guessed that this was probably related to some traditions of the Raging Flame Beastmen, perhaps along the lines of offering sacrifices. But after hearing Yuri's opinion, he immediately felt something strange. 'Maybe that strange phenomenon is related to the Ghost Valley?'

He suddenly became greatly interested in the Ghost Valley. He fished out a map from his pocket, the one he had gotten from Thorne. He spread it out on the table and quickly found the location of the Ghost Valley. It was directly east of the Flame Demon Fort, and not far from the Ghost Valley was a Beastman tribe.

He suddenly felt that this Ghost Valley wasn't as simple as what Yuri made it out to be.

"High Mage Mafa, what are you planning?" Yuri curiously asked.

Ida and Yuri didn't dare to disturb him, but they hadn't expected that after five minutes, the young mage would put away the map and walk out of the barracks.

"A stroll in the Ghost Valley..."

Lin Yun stopped and expressionlessly looked back at Ida and Yuri.

"Err... High Mage Mafa, you should take us with you, we have been there before," Yuri said cautiously as he looked at Lin Yun's expression.

"Yes, it's already night. It might not be too safe if High Mage Mafa goes out by himself, how about you take us with you? We can attend to you..." Ida had an excited expression on his face.

They understood that this was a good opportunity to try to gain some favor with the young mage. If they missed it, it might be hard to come by another chance...

Establishing a good relationship with the young mage was extremely important. After all, he was just a bit over twenty and had already been recognized by the Ancestral Land, becoming a Planar Commander. Most importantly, the young mage's power could only be described as terrifying. Although he was only a 5th Rank High Mage, he was no weaker than a 6th Rank Archmage.

Such a young mage with huge potential had to be befriended early on. The two were sure of this. If nothing unexpected happened, this young mage's future achievements would likely reach the heights of Santon Merlin's, or maybe even higher.

Thus, the two talents didn't mind thickening their skins and brazenly asked to follow him.

"Haha, you should rest early, I'll just take a casual stroll..."

Lin Yun smiled and left his living quarters before the two could react. After thinking, he decided to take his three cousins and the Draconic Beastman along with him.

"It's so late, who dares to rouse Lord Xiuban!?"

After being awakened, Xiuban felt very bitter. He kept cursing in a low voice, but when he saw Lin Yun after leaving his living quarters, Xiuban's face paled and beads of sweat dripped down his forehead.

"I'm heading out for a stroll..." Lin Yun put on a fake smile while looking at Xiuban, 'That look is becoming more and more brazen, it looks like I need to get Syudos to teach him a lesson.' Soon, their group of five left the Flame Demon Fort and moved towards the Ghost Valley.

In fact, nights were a lot brighter in the Raging Flame Plane than in Noscent. Active volcanoes could be seen everywhere in this plane, and some were even erupting. Nights were only a bit duskier than the days. They encountered no danger on the way to the Ghost Valley. Occasionally, there would be some Elemental lifeforms as well as fire-type magic beasts, but the weakest among Lin Yun's group was an 8th Rank High Mage. After three hours, they reached the Ghost Valley.

While following the map, Lin Yun didn't relax his vigilance and kept controlling a Mage Eye to explore the path ahead. When the outline of the valley appeared in front of him, he felt the surroundings disappear as the Mage Eye received intense mana interference and dissipated.

Lin Yun instantly knew that what was in front of him was the Ghost Valley.

With his three cousins and Xiuban in tow, he entered the valley.

"Where is this..." Ross was in disbelief.

"This is the Ghost Valley, and it is very rich in mana..." Lin Yun smiled and repeated Yuri's explanation, causing their faces to change color. They clearly hadn't expected that such a fantastic area existed in the surroundings of the Flame Demon Fort.

Lin Yun stood at the entrance of the valley, and even though it was dusky, he could still see that the Ghost Valley was huge. The trees were lush and verdant, and fragrant grass spread everywhere. The entire valley was filled with the aura of life. This was very mysterious, and Lin Yun could clearly sense from the entrance that Yuri hadn't told him any lies. The mana here was very dense.

If a Mage entered this place, his Mana Whirlpool would involuntarily absorb mana. And since the amount of mana a Mage could hold was very limited, they would burst from mana. Yuri's words weren't exaggerated, there was a basis behind them.

But there was a gap between the Ghost Valley's mana density and the Demiplane's.

It was natural for such a gap to exist. After all, the naturally born Demiplane was truly special. It was affected by the soul fragment of an Ancient God. Even 30,000 years in the future, Lin Yun had never heard of a place with twenty times normal mana density.

Chapter 456: Only One Possibility

He knew that Noscent, as well as every major plane, would have some places with higher mana density, suitable for mages' meditation. At the peak of the Magic Era, those kinds of places had been crazily unearthed by countless mages. He actually remembered that during that era, there were many more places in Noscent suitable for meditation that had yet to be excavated.

And Ghost Valley was most likely a similar place. Something must have pushed this place's mana density to increase over countless years.

But this was only Lin Yun's conjecture, he didn't know what exactly happened.

The three cousins and Xiuban quickly recovered and calmly followed behind Lin Yun. After all, they had seen his Demiplane already.

After entering the valley, Lin Yun was a lot more vigilant. He urged his Magic Array to inspect everything within a kilometer. They then followed a simple path and slowly trod deeper into the valley.

There was nothing unusual on their path, even magic beasts were rarely seen. The surrounding trees were overflowing with vitality and reached up to a hundred meters in height. Apart from the unusually dense mana in the valley, Lin Yun hadn't found anything. As they got deeper and deeper, Lin Yun gradually felt that both sides of the valley weren't as calm.

Nothing could escape Lin Yun's Magic Array, not a single strand of weed swaying in the wind could escape his detection. He very quickly discovered that stationed on both sides were the Merlin Family and the Thawing Fire tribe troops, and it was clear that both sides wouldn't give up on the Ghost Valley. After all, this place was regarded as extremely precious by all the major forces. Whether it was the Raging Flame Beastmen, or Mankind, meditating in Ghost Valley greatly increased their growth speed.

There would often be small conflicts between both sides, and Lin Yun caught onto the mana fluctuations. But this had nothing to do with him, as such, he went deeper into the valley, but didn't discover anything after ten minutes. But just as Lin Yun planned to return, a special mana fluctuation could be felt from the depths of the valley.

Lin Yun couldn't help frowning.

He tried rousing his Magic Array to its peak, and after analyzing the mana fluctuations, he discovered something very strange. The usually omnipotent Magic Array was shockingly unable to analyze the source of the mana fluctuations.

'Strange, what is this...'

"Let's go take a look..."

Lin Yun didn't hesitate and led the three Merlins and Xiuban in the depths of the Ghost Valley. As they got deeper and deeper, the surroundings slowly changed. A huge primitive forest spread before them, trees over a hundred meters could be seen everywhere, they had thick tree trunks and dense foliage.

Moreover, there were very few traces of humans in this forest, showing that the Merlin Family and the Thawing Fire Tribe hadn't set foot here.

There was a subtle change in the density of mana, if not for the Magic Array's analysis, this subtle change would have been very hard to discover...

In a place like the Ghost Valley, Mage Eyes were ineffective, thus, Lin Yun could only rely on his Magic Array to follow that aura and slowly explore the area.

"Found it!"

Soon, that wisp of aura became more and more rich and the concentrated mana was almost visible. After another ten minutes, Lin Yun found the source of that aura.

He only saw numerous runes flickering in the air and transmitting a fluctuation so terrifying it was stifling. Everyone including Lin Yun couldn't help stopping, looking forward with pale expressions.

The thing ahead of them gave them a huge feeling of danger.

"What the hell is this..."

Lin Yun frowned as he was facing that frightening fluctuation. He slowly moved a foot, his heart shivering as he faced those numerous runes. He only waved to the few people behind him after confirming that there was no danger, hinting them to get closer. The group took three minutes to walk ten meters.

"Array..."

At this time, beads of sweat dripped down Lin Yun's forehead, he was looking at the numerous patterns in front of him, bewildered. He was fairly certain that this was a genuine array. It was hard to imagine that an array could give him such pressure.

After all, even the arrival of the true body of the Greater Devil of the Charlotte Family wouldn't make him suffer.

But now, standing next to this array made him feel as if he was facing a powerhouse on the same level as Oren Merlin, it was hard for him to avoid feeling apprehensive.

To be more precise, this was an array he had never seen before. He could feel that this was an extremely abstruse array from the entangled complicated patterns and numerous runes. If there was nothing unexpected, then this might have been an array at the peak of the True Spirit realm.

What kind of concept was a Peak True Spirit Array...

If news of this array leaked out, it would become a hot topic of discussion in all of Noscent. Even during the peak of the Magic Era, Peak True Spirit Arrays weren't commonly seen, this was comparable to a Peak Archmage.

No wonder Lin Yun felt a huge pressure.

"How could it appear here..." What puzzled Lin Yun was the appearance of a True Spirit Array in the Ghost Valley. After carefully studying it, he discovered that the array was very ancient. And after connecting it to the abnormality in Ghost Valley, he guessed that the array was most likely behind the valley's rich mana.

But...

What made him vexed was that after ten minutes of studying, he still couldn't find anything even with the Magic Array working at full capacity. This was the Magic Array after all, this was outrageous. Not long ago, he had read all the books in the decaying library and had paid more attention to the alchemy knowledge.

It was hardly an exaggeration to say that in this era, no one could compare to him when it came to knowledge.

But the array in front of him was so unfamiliar, he racked his brains but still couldn't solve this.

This was strange...

'There is only one possibility...' Lin Yun frowned. He believed in his own judgement, the only explanation was that this kind of array never appeared in Noscent, or else, how could it be unknown to him?

Naturally, this explanation made his mind jump, he was happy after having discovered something novel.

With a serious expression he took out a crystal brush from his pocket and dipped it into Star Ink he had prepared before, but he didn't write right away, he thought over and over again before cautiously writing a rune. In fact, this was the first time he had been so careful while breaking an array ever since he came to this era.

He had cracked a few True Spirit Array since coming to this era and had been able to quickly write on them, but he couldn't do so for this one. This was a genuine Peak True Spirit Array, a minor mistake would end up with unthinkable consequences. After all, no one would dislike living a bit longer.

Soon, over ten minutes passed, and sweat kept dropping down his forehead, Lin Yun's robe had long since been drenched in his sweat and was sticking close to his back. Although it was very uncomfortable, Lin Yun didn't care much about this right now. When he wrote the 7th rune, a ray of light shone, followed by a terrifying power.

A rumble echoed, suddenly startling the group behind Lin Yun. They hadn't expected something like this to happen. That power had been truly tyrannical and made their heartbeat rise very fast. Following that fierce explosion, the Runic Shield protecting Lin Yun had greatly darkened before being silently destroyed.

"Phew..."

After letting out a long breath, Lin Yun's expression was pale as he threw away the crystal pen and helplessly shook his head. It was truly difficult for the current Lin Yun to get in contact with a Peak True Spirit Array. If not for the preparations he had made, he would have suffered heavy losses from that power.

Moreover, that was only a part of the array's power, one could easily imagine how great the full power of the array was.

Maybe not many people under the Heaven Rank could endure it, even Lin Yun wasn't sure he could.

"Cousin Mafa, are you okay?"

William couldn't help but ask after seeing Lin Yun frozen on the spot with a frown for over five minutes.

"Yeah, it's nothing..."

Lin Yun bitterly smiled before he shook his head. He had already given up, Peak True Spirit Arrays were no small matters, he wouldn't be able to avoid suffering a loss if he forced this. But he clearly

understood that this strange array was definitely valuable. Others might not think much after finding a strange array.

But Lin Yun was different.

In this era, only he knew how extraordinary this array truly was. After all, it was an array never before seen in Noscent, its worth couldn't be described.

"Let's return to the Flame Demon Fort first..."

Lin Yun put back the crystal pen and the Star Ink into his pocket before standing up. There was no meaning in staying in the Ghost Valley, finding the existence of the array was already an important clue. He waved at the others, getting ready to leave the Ghost Valley, when William suddenly exclaimed.

At this time, a fiery silhouette scuttled from the depths of the jungle and instantly attacked them. Its speed was so shocking that William was startled and let out an alarmed shout.

To be more precise it was a Fire Salamander. This kind of magic beast was only level 15 and could be seen everywhere in the Raging Flame Plane.

Normally, with their power, they should have sensed a low level magic beast like a Fire Salamander before it appeared. But everyone had been focused on the array and due to the array's fluctuations, they all overlooked the Fire Salamander's aura.

"Haha, it's only a Fire Salamander..."

William was a bit embarrassed, even his smile couldn't cover up his embarrassment. He had followed Lin Yun for over a year and his power had risen to a whole new level, he was a genuine 5th Rank High Mage, he could now stand alongside geniuses like Ross and Leon.

Chapter 457: Chromatic Dragon Crystal

But William had just been startled by a level 15 Fire Salamander. How could he not feel embarrassed? And it even happened in front of everyone...

After speaking, the high-level mana crystal at the end of his magic staff shone with a bright light. Three hollow sounds echoed as three brilliant Wind Blades appeared. A blood-curdling shriek could be heard as the Fire Salamander was wounded by the attack, and dark red blood splattered everywhere.

And that Fire Salamander was also sent flying by the force of the impact.

Then...

In front of everyone's shocked eyes, the Fire Salamander's corpse fell in the center of the array. In a flash, the originally inert array was suddenly activated. It burst with a dazzling light and numerous runes rose up into the air, illuminating the entire area.

Even Lin Yun paled. He clearly sensed the frightening power slowly recovering. That was most likely the array's true power. It was no weaker than an all-out attack from a peak Archmage.

Lin Yun was very nervous. He couldn't remain calm at all.

But then, those slowly rising runes gradually dimmed before disappearing, and the entire array once again regained its peace.

"What's going on here..."

Lin Yun's heart was filled with doubt. As the array was activated, he even planned on using the mana within the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool to teleport to the Demiplane, but he gave up on that idea after the array regained its calm. That unfamiliar array was truly strange.

Even now, he still couldn't understand the array's effect or the reason it was put in the Ghost Valley.

Suddenly, a cold aura spread through his bones as Lin Yun found out that the Fire Salamander corpse that originally fell into the array was unexpectedly standing up. But the appalling part was that the corpse's flesh had disappeared and only its skeleton remained. As it kept moving, strange sounds were emitted by the array.

The group felt their blood run cold as they noticed those deep blue phosphorus flames swaying in the eye sockets. It felt as if it was observing them.

"Undead!"

Lin Yun was speechless. 'What's going on? It was obviously a corpse a moment ago, how could it become undead?'

He had never heard of something this strange. At this time, flames rose up from Lin Yun's fingertips. They were followed by fierce mana fluctuations as a Flame Burst accurately landed on that Fire Salamander's body, sending bone fragments flying.

But...

The Undead Fire Salamander hadn't died. Although its skeleton had been damaged beyond recognition, the phosphorus flames in its eyes were still shining brightly.

This outcome stunned Lin Yun, and he immediately followed with another Flame Burst. After another explosion, smoke rose up and the Fire Salamander's skeleton fell apart, scorched black. Lin Yun then crouched down and searched amidst the bones before finding the fluorescent Undead Essence.

"How could this be..."

He couldn't help frowning. From the power within that Undead Essence, he estimated that the Undead Fire Salamander should have been level 25 at the very least!

The corpse falling into the array and becoming undead was shocking enough, but he hadn't expected that a Fire Salamander would gain ten levels after being turned undead.

Had he not seen this with his own eyes, he simply wouldn't have believed that something this strange could happen.

'Hold on...'

While Lin Yun's mind was filled with questions, a thought suddenly emerged. He looked at the array in front of him and quickly moved closer before crouching and motionlessly studying the patterns on the array.

He then fished out a quill from his pocket and wrote on a sheet of draft paper, calculating. He stopped after half an hour, but was still bewildered.

In fact, he had just recalled a rumor about an array called the Raising Dragon Array. It was only a rumor because it had never been confirmed to appear in Noscent.

Lin Yun had once read some information concerning the Raising Dragon Array in the decaying library. That array had always been a theorized existence, and its source dated back to the end of the Nesser Dynasty. It came from a human alchemist named Losna...

During that time, the Nesser Dynasty ruled by the Chromatic Dragons and the Pure-blooded Elves was gradually declining, while Mankind's powerhouses kept emerging, and Losna was a famous figure among them. He had followed Charles the Emperor in the battle to destroy the Throne of Life, and his name would often be mentioned by the later generations of mages.

In fact, Losna had another identity. He was the disciple of the gravedigger of the Silver Era, Noscent's greatest alchemist, the Dark Sage.

This halo followed Losna all his life.

During his youth, Losna had once toured Noscent and met danger midway, before being saved by a Chromatic Dragon. Over the course of a few dozen years, Losna and that Dragon established a deep friendship.

Up until that battle that shook the rule of the Chromatic Dragons and Pure-blooded Elves. When that happened, Losna had no other choice but to stand on Mankind's side. He ended up fighting to the death with his friend, the Chromatic Dragon, who was protecting the Throne of Life.

With the establishment of the 3rd Dynasty, Losna was put in an important position by Charles the Emperor and became the first Chief Court Alchemist of the dynasty. As for Losna, he actually didn't much of an interest in gaining power. He was still missing his friend and kept looking for a way to resurrect him. He spent over ten years coming up with an array that would help him accomplish his wish. It was called the Raising Dragon Array!

But somehow, this news reached the ear of Charles the Emperor. Back then, the empire had just been established and there was a lot of unrest. It had yet to break away from the shadow of the Chromatic Dragons and the Pure-Blooded Elves. Charles the Emperor's anger at this was to be expected and he ordered Losna's execution on the spot.

After Losna's death, the Raising Array remained a taboo in the Empire, and no one dared to mention it. As time passed, it ended up gradually being forgotten, up until the peak of the Magic Era, when the Raising Dragon Array was once again brought up. It was written that several dozen formidable alchemists spent a few dozen years engrossed in the study of the a before confirming that the theory behind it was feasible.

But the array never appeared even during the peak of the Magic Era, because setting it up was too difficult.

And after analyzing this array, Lin Yun gradually discovered that it had many similarities to the Raising Dragon Array, but he couldn't ascertain whether or not it was actually that array at this moment.

In his eyes, although the theory behind it was feasible, the true Raising Dragon Array shouldn't exist.

After all, the array's composition wasn't difficult. It only needed to be constructed at the intersection of two planes, and furthermore, the greater the difference between the Planes' environments, the better. Only by using two different types of power from two different planes could the Raising Dragon Array be completed. But where could one find two planes with the same size?

Thus, the research of the array reached a standstill and remained a theory. Even those alchemists from the peak of the Magic Era had no other choice but to give up.

At this moment, Lin Yun was frowning as he stared at the array in front of him. If this really was the rumored Raising Dragon Array, it meant that the person who set up that array was bound to have found another method, but it wasn't complete!

At the same time, he was a bit shocked. 'Why did the Raising Dragon Array appear in the Ghost Valley? Who left it here?' But there were no clues about this, so he stopped bothering himself over it. He re-focused his attention on the array. Through his previous analysis, the change that happened to the Fire Salamander corpse, the mana density of the Ghost Valley, and other clues... Lin Yun was almost completely certain that this array was indeed the Dragon Raising Array.

After ascertaining this, Lin Yun smiled. From what he knew, the core of the Raising Dragon Array had to be a Chromatic Dragon Crystal.

Chromatic Dragon's Crystals were precious treasures.

He'd only seen a picture of one of these crystals in the decaying library, but few powerhouses at the peak of the Magic Era ever encountered one.

After the Throne of Life was broken by Charles the Emperor, the Chromatic Dragons spread through all of Noscent fled to unknown planes, and only some mixed-blood descendants were left. As for their mana crystals, they were far from being able to compare to true Chromatic Dragon Crystals.

Pure-Blooded Chromatic Dragons would be at least at the Heaven Rank after reaching adulthood. The Dragon Crystals within their bodies were even more precious than many Heaven Rank mana crystals. If Lin Yun could obtain this Dragon Crystal and use it as a key Augment for the Doom Staff, it would double the power of the Doom Staff and make it advance to become a Mid-Rank True Spirit Magic Tool.

Usually, the path for Magic Tool advancement was a very long one, which was why an opportunity for advancement was so tempting for Lin Yun. And it wasn't as simple as advancing; he once saw a method in the decaying library. If five kinds of Chromatic Dragon Crystals were gathered, they would display an extremely terrifying power.

But gathering five kinds of Chromatic Dragon Crystals wasn't simple. Not to mention the fact that Pure-Blooded Chromatic Dragons no longer existed in Noscent, their power alone would make anyone shiver.

Naturally, no one could say if such an opportunity would appear in the future.

Chapter 458: Are You Scared?

Just one could double the power of the Doom Staff and make it advance to become a Mid-Rank True Spirit Magic Tool. Lin Yun had to get this Dragon Crystal. The Doom Staff wasn't any less important than the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel in his eyes. It was a Magic Tool with boundless potential, and the number of Augments it could endure was far more frightening than what the Book of Death could handle. As long as he slowly collected all the Augments, the power of this Magic Tool would gradually be unearthed, and it would become the strongest True Spirit Magic Tool in history, even becoming an Extraordinary Magic Tool.

Soon, the silently rejoicing Lin Yun discovered something wrong. The Raising Dragon Array's structure should normally be extremely complicated, it shouldn't be as simple as this. Thus, he roused his Magic Array to follow the wisp of aura and gradually found out that most of the Raising Dragon Array was in the ground.

Moreover, it was very deep, at least a kilometer down.

'Damn it...'

This discovery made Lin Yun frown and curse. It was definitely troublesome. Although this Raising Dragon Array was a Peak True Spirit Array, Lin Yun was confident in breaking it as long as he studied its structure.

But he would have to dig down to get the Dragon Crystal, and it wasn't very realistic for him to dig a kilometer down on his own, so he would have to summon the Planar Legion.

The only problem was that the Ghost Valley was being contested by both the Merlin Family and the Thawing Fire Tribe. The Thawing Fire Tribe would detect any movement made by them.

Lin Yun thought about it and felt that a war was unavoidable. If he couldn't gain complete control of the Ghost Valley, he wouldn't be able to unearth the Raising Dragon Array and obtain that Dragon Crystal.

It was impossible for him to give up on that crystal.

But, earlier in the afternoon, when he was with Thorne Merlin, he had a preliminary understanding of some matters regarding the tribes. There were thirteen tribes in the entire Raging Flame Plane, and the Thawing Fire Tribe was just one of them. Each tribe had deep heritage and many powerhouses.

There was a Great Tribal Chief for the thirteen tribes, and in special circumstances, the Great Tribal Chief would have the power to command all of the thirteen tribes. He was the most powerful person out of the thirteen branches.

Okland's major forces had been fighting over the Raging Flame Plane for several millennia, and although they obtained many benefits, they still couldn't do anything to those thirteen tribes.

In fact, Okland's forces suffered from these tribes, just like the Merlin Family occupying the Flame Demon Fort. Ever since they got the fort three hundred years ago, they would be attacked at regular intervals and lose many people.

Over the years, the Merlin Family gradually ascertained the Thawing Fire Tribe's power. They were very formidable, and the six Great Prophets all had the power of 5th Rank Archmages or higher. As for the Tribal Chief, he was even stronger, but due to his identity as their leader, he would hardly show his face, thus there was very little information about him.

If Lin Yun wanted to use the Planar Legion to unearth the Chromatic Dragon Crystal, he would have to sweep aside the Thawing Fire Tribe first. But that certainly wouldn't be easy.

But he had to get the Chromatic Crystal.

This was a very difficult problem for Lin Yun. After all, the Thawing Fire Tribe had remained in the Raging Flame Plane for countless years and wasn't an easy opponent.

It looked like he would have to slowly ponder over this problem.

Lin Yun didn't intend to remain in the Ghost Valley for too long. He wouldn't be able to avoid trouble if he was discovered by the Thawing Fire Tribe. Moreover, it was very late, and there was no meaning in staying in the Ghost Valley any longer. Thus, he took the three Merlins and Xiuban and returned along the same path.

The path was still as peaceful as before, and even though they met some magic beasts, Xiuban would be the one taking care of them.

"Raging Flame Beastman?"

Lin Yun's group suddenly stopped when they got close to the entrance of the valley. Under the dusky light, they could see a troop of Beastmen blocking the exit of the Ghost Valley.

Lin Yun couldn't help frowning as he could see that it was an extremely powerful lineup. His gaze was drawn to the leading Raging Flame Beastman. This was an old Beastman with incomparably dazzling runes on his body, and he emitting a terrifying aura. It was clear that the leader was very powerful.

He actually knew that in the Thawing Fire Tribe, those who could reach the Archmage realm were respected as Prophets and had huge influence.

The leader of that troop was most definitely a Prophet.

And he wasn't an ordinary Prophet...

Rather, he was a Great Prophet, second only to the Tribal Chief. Lin Yun didn't need the calculations of the Magic Array to see that this Raging Flame Beastman was remarkable. He was covered in an extremely fierce aura equivalent to that of a 5th Rank Archmage or even higher.

The troop behind the Great Prophet was a cavalry unit. Those dark red Raging Flame Beastmen were holding long sabers and riding on Ashen Wolves emitting a blazing aura. These Ashen Wolves were the products of the Raging Flame Plane's volcanoes. They were completely black and could spout flames up to three meters.

It was clear that this was an extremely powerful army, and even the Planar Legion defending the Flame Demon Fort would have to struggle bitterly to get rid of them.

“Cousin Mafa, we seem to have met trouble...” Ross, who stood behind Lin Yun had a serious expression on his face as he looked at the Beastmen in front of them.

He had stayed a few years in the Raging Flame Plane and had participated in many battles, small or large, at least a dozen of them.

But he had only met the Thawing Fire Tribe’s cavalry unit once, and that battle remained fresh in his memories. The Raging Flame Beastmen sitting on their Ashen Wolves had all been elites of the tribe, and that battle cost over half of the Merlin Family’s troops that were there.

Seeing the cavalry unit once again brought back countless fragments of memories to Ross’ mind. But Ross didn’t panic, so what if they encountered the cavalry unit? After all, his omnipotent cousin was standing in front of him.

“Haha...”

Lin Yun chuckled and remained silent. Carrying his magic staff with both hands, he looked at the cavalry unit on the other side.

The Raging Flame Beastmen had already discovered the existence of Lin Yun’s group, especially those horsebeastmen, and they had already taken precautions and blocked the exit of the valley.

A very young Raging Flame Beastman was standing guard next to the Great Prophet. He was tall and held a two-handed hammer weighing half a tonne and was emitting a powerful aura comparable to an Archmage’s mana fluctuations. He was a famous genius within the Thawing Fire Tribe and had only been on the level of a 1st Rank Archmage not long ago. He was following his teacher this time, the Great Prophet next to him, and came to the Ghost Valley.

Over an hour ago, they learnt that a few humans had entered the Ghost Valley. After obtaining that information, he took a squadron with his teacher and guarded the exit to the Ghost Valley, planning to kill that group of humans.

When he caught sight of that group of humans leaving the Ghost Valley, his pupils shrank, just like a predator finding his prey, a large smile appearing on his face.

To be honest, he was a bit disappointed. He originally thought that he would be able to show meritorious deeds by sending troops to intercept important Humans, but he hadn’t expected it to be only five youths.

Although their strength was acceptable, to this genius Beastman, any human mage that wasn’t an Archmage was worthless.

There was too great of a gap in power, so he didn’t even feel like making a move.

“Teacher, this is only a group of weaklings, there doesn’t seem to be anyone important among them. Let me deal with them, rest assured...”

The young Raging Flame Beastman looked at his teacher with a hint of respect and slightly lowered his head, waiting for an answer. He clearly understood that his teacher's position was exceedingly high. He was one of the six Great Prophets of the tribe! His power was only below the Tribe Chief, so he definitely wouldn't be interested in those weak humans.

His teacher would only be interested in one of those rare human powerhouses.

"Yass, you take care of them and return to the tribe as soon as possible..."

The Great Prophet was wearing a dark red robe and was emitting frightening mana fluctuations. He looked into the depths of the Ghost Valley, spellbound, even letting out a hoarse sound. Clearly, his attention wasn't on Lin Yun's group at all.

"No problem..."

That young Raging Flame Beastman called Yass nodded respectfully before leaning back with a cold smile. He waved his hand and a well-trained and imposing cavalry team moved uniformly, raising their long sabers as they charged at Lin Yun's group.

This was a cavalry squad formed by fifty Raging Flame Beastmen. They were elites among elites, and those several-meter-tall Ashen Wolves quickly reached their top speed. In the dusky lighting, only a few dozen shadows could be seen flashing by.

Only the sound of the wolves' paws could be heard.

In the back, the young Raging Flame Beastman, Yass, was watching everything with interest. These few humans had been very reckless. Entering the Ghost Valley at night was no different from asking for death. Yass had complete confidence in the elite cavalry he had trained. This small squadron had helped him deal with countless enemies.

The fate of that group of human mages had been decided long ago. They would definitely die under the wolves' paws.

Yass suddenly noticed that the group of human mages didn't react to the charging cavalry. They remained motionless.

"Haha, are you scared?"

A sneer appeared on Yass' face. He wasn't too surprised by that outcome. How could those weak humans not be terrified by that fearsome momentum?

"Rumble..."

While Yass was being proud of himself, a world shaking sound echoed, attracting his gaze. He then saw a silver silhouette flashing through. Shocking mana fluctuations slowly rose up and flurries of spells were thrown at those elite Beastmen. These elites didn't even have time to scream before being pierced by rays of mana and turning into cold corpses.

Chapter 459: Shut Up!

The originally well-trained cavalry squadron was in chaos. They didn't dare to approach that silver silhouette. It seemed like a God standing right in front of them.

In that instant, an aura of death shrouded their minds, and before they could even let out any screams, the Ashen Wolves and Raging Flame Beastmen were annihilated.

That silver silhouette was the puppet that Lin Yun had repaired in the Merlin Family Manor during those few days. Although that puppet lacked some components, it was composed of extremely rare parts and the power it showed could only be described as terrifying. Especially the enchantments, which discharged power comparable to that of a 5th Rank Archmage.

Moreover, the enchantments didn't have any cooldowns. As long as there was mana, the puppet could keep firing spells. Naturally, this was related to the structure of the puppet. Ordinary puppets wouldn't be capable of such feats, as they would just crumble if they tried.

But the battle system of Lin Yun's puppet came from the body of that Heaven Puppet from the magic tower. Saying that it was a top-class battle system was no exaggeration.

Using the Heaven Puppet to deal with a cavalry squadron of Raging Flame Beastmen was akin to using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

"What!?"

Yass, the young Raging Flame Beastman, suddenly paled. He was totally speechless with his gaze locked onto that silver silhouette and his fists clenched. Nothing was left of his elite cavalry squadron a mere thirty seconds after the appearance of that silhouette.

'How could this be...'

Yass was stunned, he simply couldn't have expected such an outcome. All he could think of before that silver silhouette appeared was how these humans would look as they died.

But now, they were still standing there unharmed while his subordinates were exterminated.

"Hmpf!"

Yass frowned, anger shrouding his heart. His hands tightened on the handle of his heavy two-handed hammer, and a shocking aura spread from his body.

Originally, he would feel it beneath him to personally make a move against puny humans, but it looked like he had to now.

"Yass, you aren't their match, let me take care of it," said his teacher by his side in a hoarse voice.

This made Yass freeze, and he looked at his teacher in disbelief.

'How could this be...'

After all, he was one of the best talents of the Thawing Fire Tribe, becoming a Prophet at such a young age. Even among all thirteen tribes of the Raging Flame Plane, not many youths could compare to him. But now, his teacher said that he wasn't strong enough to defeat that group of mages...

This made Yass feel stifled.

He would definitely have burst out in anger if someone else told him that. After all, he had always been the best of the best, a rare genius. How could he not be a match for that group of mages? That was a joke. That group didn't even have an Archmage.

But he didn't dare to get angry since the one saying these words was his teacher.

Although he didn't say anything, he obviously looked dissatisfied.

"Yass, I know you are unwilling to accept it, but it is the truth..." Lazart threw a glance at his disciple, a rare smile appearing on that aged face.

He clearly understood Yass' character. He had been following Lazart for the past decade and had always shown extremely high aptitudes. He was an outstanding and arrogant genius, and Lazart had always been very satisfied by Yass' performance.

Naturally, he had considered Yass the best candidate to inherit his legacy since a long time ago and he wouldn't miss any chance to temper Yass. But he clearly couldn't do that today.

In fact, at the start, Lazart hadn't expected anything of those mages either. To an exalted existence like himself, only true powerhouses could attract his attention. That group was clearly weak, without even an Archmage among them.

Lazart only gave a closer look to that group of mages after the cavalry squadron was annihilated. It was then that he was startled.

"Observe that human mage carefully..." Lazart pointed to the distant Ross and said to Yass, "Although he is only an 8th Rank High Mage, his true power is unfathomable, and the aura on his body is somewhat strange. His Meditation Law Set and Magic Conducting Rune should be very uncommon. I believe he has the power to defeat a 9th Rank High Mage!"

"And that one..." Lazart pointed to Leon with a frown. "This mage isn't an ordinary 8th Rank High Mage either. In terms of true power, he might be even stronger than that previous one. A Peak High Mage might not be his opponent."

"As for him..." Lazart pointed at William. "Although he has a lower rank, being only a 5th Rank High Mage, his aura is quite formidable. If I'm not wrong, his strength should be comparable to that of an 8th Rank High Mage!"

"Yass, I believe you should understand why I said those words earlier..." Lazart softly sighed. Those humans he had pointed out were very outstanding. It was difficult to find so many young talents among their thirteen tribes. But they weren't the reason he had to make a move himself... He had to personally take care of this because of the puppet that massacred the cavalry unit.

With his insight, he could naturally see that this was a very formidable puppet. If he didn't act, then even with the power of the entire troop, they still wouldn't be able to resist that puppet.

"Yes, Teacher..." Yass' expression changed as he gently nodded. But he was still full of disdain while looking at Lin Yun's group.

‘So what if these humans are outstanding? None of them have reached the Archmage realm, how can they defeat me?’

Although he was unwilling to accept it, he didn’t dare ignore his teacher’s words.

But the outcome would be the same, that group of hateful humans would inevitably die horribly.

Suddenly, Lazart’s body emitted a shocking aura. It spread through the entire area and made everyone shiver. Even Yass, who was already an Archmage, felt nervous, his heart racing. ‘Teacher is too powerful!’

But then, a silver light flashed as the puppet rushed over, flickering with bright lights before bursting with powerful spells.

“Rumble...”

Lazart was not inferior to the puppet in any way. A hand condensed from flames made a grabbing motion towards the puppet, but several spell rays pierced the flaming palm, allowing the puppet to break away from it and turn into a silver light before quickly fleeing as Lazart watched in shock.

“Teacher, that thing doesn’t stand a chance against you...” Yass beamed with joy. He had been truly startled just now. That puppet was actually so powerful, but it still wasn’t a match for his teacher. Otherwise, why would it flee after a few seconds of battle?

“Shut up!”

But surprisingly, Lazart looked gloomy as he stood there motionless, slowly scattering that blazing palm.

“Those mages already ran...”

“Ah...” Yass’ expression suddenly changed. He followed his teacher’s gaze, and sure enough, those humans had clearly made use of the clash attracting everyone’s attention in order to flee.

Yass gloomily muttered, “Very crafty!”

...

It was very late at night when Lin Yun returned to the Flame Demon Fort. Even he was somewhat tired.

Whether it was the Great Prophet or the cavalry unit of the Thawing Fire Tribe troop that they encountered earlier, Lin Yun could easily get rid of them. After all, he had so many hidden cards he could use. Even if the other side was a powerful Great Prophet with the power of a 5th Rank Archmage, it was far from enough to pose a challenge for Lin Yun.

However, he didn’t make a move because it was meaningless.

He wanted to gain control over the Ghost Valley to send the Planar Legion deep within and have them dig towards that Chromatic Dragon Crystal. He also felt that the worth of the Raising Dragon Array wasn’t limited to the Chromatic Dragon Crystal, there should still be secrets that it was hiding. The existence of that Raising Dragon Array itself was a mystery.

However, this could only happen if he eliminated the Thawing Fire Tribe.

Although the Great Prophet he met wasn't weak, based on what Lin Yun knew, that Great Prophet should be the weakest of the six. Killing him would be meaningless and would instead attract the attention of the Thawing Fire Tribe.

At this time, Lin Yun was sitting in his living quarters, not interested in sleeping. His mind was filled with the issues regarding the Ghost Valley and the Thawing Fire Tribe. His top priority was eliminating the Thawing Fire Tribe, and he couldn't delay. He came to the Raging Flame Plane with the status of Planar Legion Commander, and his true goal was to look for the ruin left behind by the Merlin Family's ancestor, so he didn't have too much time to waste.

Eliminating the Thawing Fire Tribe was his most difficult problem. The Planar Legion stationed in the Flame Demon Fort had over two thousand people, all at or above the Great Mage realm. There were about three hundred High Mages and a bit under ten Archmages. But this was far from enough.

After all, the Thawing Fire Tribe had existed in the Raging Flame Plane for countless years. It had an extremely solid foundation, and the six Great Prophets of the tribe were all at least 5th Rank Archmages. Just these Great Prophets were enough to give him a headache, not to mention the mysterious Tribal Chief.

Chapter 460: Collaboration

However, the benefits of completely destroying the Thawing Fire Tribe could hardly be put into words. He would be able to obtain the Dragon Crystal and also explore the secret of the Raising Dragon Array. Moreover, the Flame Demon Fort would no longer have to face the threat of the Raging Flame Beastmen, and its troops could be transferred to participate in other battles.

The most important part was the Ghost Valley falling into the hands of the Merlin Family. They would send a large number of young mages to the Ghost Valley, and their rate of growth would be extremely frightening. Thus, just the Ghost Valley would offer an unending supply of fresh blood to the Merlin Family.

The Ghost Valley was extremely attractive to any major force. If there was a way to obtain it, then those guys from the Ancestral Land would definitely not refuse, even if it was a bit risky.

Although the reward was generous, the biggest problem they had was, 'How can we eliminate the Thawing Fire Tribe?'

Clearly, it would be very difficult to take down a colossus like the Thawing Fire Tribe with the force currently occupying the Merlin Family's Flame Demon Fort. At this time, Lin Yun took out a map of the Raging Flame Plane upon which every major force was marked. This came from the Merlin Family Manor, and from the map, he quickly searched for the forts controlled by the Cloud Tower.

If he could gain the support of the Cloud Tower, with the power of the Merlin Family on top, then dealing with the Thawing Fire Tribe wouldn't be an issue. In fact, Lin Yun felt that by using his friendship with Star Sage Jouyi to offer a mutually beneficial collaboration, the Cloud Tower would definitely not decline.

But he then found out that seeking the Cloud Tower's help might not work. The few forts controlled by the Cloud Tower were extremely far from the Flame Demon Fort on the map. It would take over ten days to move their troops back and forth, and if their main force was away for too long, they would be giving an opportunity to the other Beastman Tribe.

It would definitely be difficult for the Cloud Tower to help...

Lin Yun sighed before bitterly smiling. The Thawing Fire Tribe was definitely a huge problem. After considering it from all angles, he was unable to find a solution. But with a passing glance, he noticed the Dark Moon Fort controlled by the Black Tower.

Thorne had already given him an explanation of the major forces in the periphery of the Flame Demon Fort earlier. At the time, he had emphasized the Dark Moon Fort, saying that the Dark Moon Fort wasn't any smaller than the Flame Demon Fort and was one of the large-scale forts controlled by the Black Tower. It was located roughly over a hundred kilometers south of the Flame Demon Fort.

The Merlin Family had always considered the Thawing Fire Tribe and the Dark Moon Fort the most threatening forces in the surroundings and would rarely have contact with the Dark Moon Fort.

But now, Lin Yun felt that he could use the power of the Black Tower in the Dark Moon Fort to reach his objective.

That method seemed feasible.

According to Thorne's introduction, the Dark Moon Fort was one of the most important forts of the Black Tower in the Raging Flame Plane. The force stationed in the Dark Moon Fort was quite formidable and was even comparable to the Planar Legion within the Flame Demon Fort, perhaps slightly stronger.

But...

To be honest, Lin Yun didn't have a good opinion of the Black Tower. He had come into contact with a few people from the Black Tower, like Herman, Solan, and Weiss... And every time, he ended up coming into conflict with those people. There was also the aloof Chairman of the Black Tower, Harren. In the gathering of the Magic Hand, they ended up having a disagreement, and Harren used Archmage Kave to oppose Lin Yun joining the Magic Hand, before ending up having a delightful transaction.

Through that interaction, Lin Yun learnt that Harren was a person that valued benefits. If he chose to collaborate with the Black Tower to eradicate the Thawing Fire Tribe, the Black Tower might end up with a part of the Ghost Valley. Lin Yun could accept that outcome. After all, he cared more about the Chromatic Dragon Crystal and the Raising Dragon Array.

After putting the map away, Lin Yun fell asleep and eventually woke up past daybreak. He then immediately left the Flame Demon Fort to go to the Dark Moon Fort. Crossing a hundred kilometers wasn't much to a powerhouse like him. It only took him half an hour to reach the Dark Moon Fort.

"Worthy of the Black Tower..."

Following the lead of a mage of the Black Tower, he quickly entered the Dark Moon Fort and was led to a spacious and bright reception room. At that time, Lin Yun's Magic Array caught many powerful auras.

This couldn't help but surprise Lin Yun, as he detected over ten people with power above the Archmage realm.

Moreover, this was only one of the numerous forts of the Black Tower in the Raging Flame Plane.

The Black Tower was one of Andlusa's two major mage forces, it truly had a deep foundation...

When Lin Yun first entered the reception room, he heard a cracking sound and then recognized an old acquaintance. He scratched his cheek as he smiled. "Sir Weiss, I truly hadn't expected us to meet again so soon..."

"Haha, it turns out to be High Mage Merlin..."

Weiss wanted to show a neutral expression, but he really couldn't calm down. He had just heard a report saying that a member of the Merlin Family stationed at the Flame Demon Fort had come to pay a visit. In the past few years, the contact between the neighboring Flame Demon Fort and the Dark Moon Fort was extremely sparse. Hearing that a member of the Merlin Family had come over, Weiss realized that this might be an important matter, and thus, as an esteemed Representative, he had personally waited in the reception room to show some respect.

But he truly hadn't expected that the one coming would be Mafa Merlin!

He was in the middle of drinking water when he caught sight of that familiar face and almost choked on his drink. Although he avoided choking, he still broke the cup.

'How could Mafa Merlin be in the Raging Flame Plane? Why did he come to the Dark Moon Fort?'

Countless questions popped into Weiss' mind. He really couldn't understand why the young mage he had met a few months ago suddenly appeared in front of him now. Not to mention, the scenes of that young mage killing an Undead Horseman, a Lich, and a giant skeleton... They all remained vivid in his mind. And the most frightening part was the power that the young mage burst out with in the lowest floor of the magic tower, allowing him to contend against Heaven Mage Baiers' soul for a short duration.

From what Weiss remembered, that young mage was too frightening.

Naturally, there was a matter that remained stuck in Weiss' mind. It was when he ruthlessly made a move against the young mage in the Line Canyon. This was why Weiss felt restless when facing the young mage. However, when he recalled that this was the Dark Moon Fort controlled by the Black Tower, Weiss managed to regain his calm.

After putting an end to a battle in the Dark Azure Plane a few months ago, Weiss had been dispatched to the Raging Flame Plane. But after returning to the Black Tower from the Dark Azure Plane, Weiss thought of the inheritance hidden in the depths of the Tulan Mountain Range and took Solan with him to go there. Although the outcome was quite bad, he luckily returned safely and immediately rushed to the Raging Flame Plane.

This was the 3rd day since he arrived in the Raging Flame Plane...

'Damn it, I actually encountered him again!' Even when facing the young mage, absurd thoughts flashed through his mind. 'This guy couldn't have come specifically to deal with me, right? The chances of that are too small...'

'Although he is incredibly powerful, this is the domain of the Black Tower, with numerous forces. One would need to be at the Heaven Rank before they could cause trouble in this place! That young mage isn't, which means he shouldn't have come for me.'

Thinking of this, Weiss slowly relaxed. Who would have thought that he, a Representative of the Black Tower, someone so prideful and aloof, would actually fear a young mage that much?

Maybe only Weiss himself could understand that this young mage truly had the qualifications to make him feel fear.

Once Lin Yun was seated and only he and Weiss remained in the reception room, Weiss cautiously said, "High Mage Merlin, you came this time using your status as a member of the Merlin Family...?"

"That's right..." Lin Yun gently put down his cup of water and smiled at Weiss. "Sir Weiss, I came for the Merlin Family. As a Planar Legion Commander of the Merlin Family, I want to collaborate with the Black Tower."

"Planar Legion Commander..."

Weiss was startled. It wasn't that he didn't believe it, but rather, this news was too shocking. Just how old was this youth? He was barely twenty, yet was endowed with heavy responsibilities by the Merlin Family. The forces of the Merlin Family were put in the hands of a young mage.

This meant that Mafa's influence wasn't the slightest bit inferior to his own status as Representative of the Black Tower.

A mage in his early twenties who was not only terrifyingly powerful, but who had also received the attention of the Merlin Family. Weiss simply couldn't imagine what that young mage's future would be like. He might become a mighty powerhouse of the Andlusa Kingdom, his achievements might be similar to those of Santon Merlin from three hundred years ago.

"Collaboration? What kind of collaboration are you interested in, High Mage Merlin? Can you be more specific?" After calming down, Weiss finally remembered to respond to the offer.

It seemed to be the true purpose behind the trip to the Dark Moon Fort.

"It's like this..." Lin Yun then took a deep breath and slowly looked at Weiss. "Sir Weiss, you should have come to the Raging Flame Plane recently. I wonder if you have heard of the Ghost Valley?"

"I do know of the Ghost Valley."

A doubtful expression appeared on Weiss' face. Even if he had only come to the Raging Flame Plane three days ago, he had heard some information about the plane while he was still in the Dark Azure Plane. He heard that there was a strange valley beside the Flame Demon Fort in which the mana fluctuations could only be described as frighteningly strong. Ordinary mages would explode upon entering that place, while Great Mages that entered it would make quick progress.

In fact, Weiss knew that the Black Tower had made many attempts on the Ghost Valley. It was a very useful place, after all. If they could control the Ghost Valley, the supply of powerhouses they would gain each year, as well as the other substantial benefits, were hard to describe. Even the Black Tower, one of the two major mage forces of the Andlusa Kingdom, was attracted by the Ghost Valley.

