

Magic Era 501

Chapter 501: Cold Sweat

“Haha, if I’m not wrong, it should be like that...” Thorne smiled bitterly. He glanced at everyone, paused, and said, “I think you should know that every swordsman has special feelings towards swords and greatswords. I actually like to collect greatswords, there’s even a greatsword crafted by the 3rd dynasty’s royal workshop in my collection. It was said that the greatsword once belonged to an Imperial Guard Commander and I spent a small fortune to win it an auction...”

“Unfortunately, although that greatsword is extremely sharp and its craftsmanship is excellent due to the peak materials used, it is still rusting from the passage of time. It has already been seriously damaged after a few millennia. After getting the greatsword, I took it to the Mercury Tower, ready to spend a great sum to ask a Master Alchemist to repair it. At that time, Sir Karon had already been a Master Alchemist for many years and was said to be at the peak of that rank, but even he was helpless when he saw that greatsword. He said that it was crafted with the techniques of the 3rd Dynasty’s royal workshop. These techniques were lost with the fall of the 3rd Dynasty...”

Ida and the others listened calmly, not at all feeling like Thorne was long-winded. They understood as they listened and their expressions became serious.

“The most important part was that the royal workshop’s techniques were unique to that era. In other words, only the Imperial Guards and the private imperial army were qualified to use these standardized greatswords. If ordinary people inadvertently obtained this kind of a greatsword and didn’t turn it over to higher authorities, they would receive the most severe imperial punishment once it was discovered...” After saying this, Thorne paused. “It looks like we weren’t the first to find this plane... It was the royal family of the 3rd Dynasty.”

Just as everyone was digesting the news, they heard an alarmed voice. “Come over here, quick! There is... There are a lot more here!”

It came from Lahn, the one that had found the broken sword. Instead of listening to Thorne’s story, he had continued digging in the snow, wanting to check if there was anything else below. And eventually, it turned out that there was.

“What? There are more?” Everyone walked over, puzzled. They couldn’t help being stunned when they saw all kinds of pitch-black greatswords in a one-meter deep hole. Some were intact, while some were damaged...

“Heavens, how could there be so many...” Thorne was the first to let out an alarmed shout. Because he could clearly see over ten greatswords laying down in the hole.

This meant that over ten Imperial Guards, or perhaps members of a private imperial army, met their ends on this Ice Field. As a 5th Rank Sword Saint, Thorne clearly knew that since time immemorial, every swordsman treasured their swords and treated them like a second life.

This was a rule for every swordsman.

When they officially became Swordsmen in their youth, their teacher would solemnly tell them that they had to treat their sword like a relative.

Unless it was completely inevitable, they would never abandon their sword...

What truly shocked Thorne was that...

The Imperial Guards and imperial soldiers had all been chosen very carefully in the 3rd Dynasty. They were all at least Sword Saints. And in the golden age of the 3rd Dynasty, an Imperial Guard Commander had the power of a Heaven Rank powerhouse.

Over ten Sword Saints fell here in the past... this shocked Thorne.

“Let’s excavate further and see if there is more...”

Thorne was still immersed in his shock and didn’t even know who made this suggestion. Everyone then got busy and mana fluctuations rose as light brown Earth Puppets were summoned to start digging.

“Rumble...”

But, after digging a bit, a part of the ice field shook before caving in, exposing a cave entrance.

“That’s...”

Lahn, the closest to the cave entrance, was staring fixedly at it with a look of surprise. Everyone followed suit and saw that the inside of the cave wasn’t dark at all... It was glistening.

Just like Lahn, everyone was shocked to see that golden light.

There were treasures and gold...

A large amount was piled up chaotically, and the countless glittering lights roused up their inner greed.

Even if they were existences that were already detached from the secular world...

They were still tempted and couldn’t move their eyes away.

The snow cave was very spacious and packed with valuables. Everyone noticed the pitch-black greatswords mixed among the valuables. There were over a hundred of them, and those were only the ones that were visible. This was a very shocking scene.

“How could there be so many?” Thorne looked at those pitch-black greatswords blurted that out in surprise. When the others heard him, they thought that he was surprised by all the treasure.

Although Thorne had been shocked by the wealth at first, what he truly cared about were those pitch-black greatswords.

Over a hundred of them...

This meant that there had once been over a hundred Imperial Guards here. Such a group wasn’t something an ordinary member of the royal family could gather. Only that era’s ruler could do so.

It might very well be the case that an emperor of the 3rd Dynasty sent numerous Imperial Guards to this ice plane. But something must have happened here, leading to the deaths of the Imperial Guards.

“It looks like an unknown secret has been buried here!” Thorne exclaimed. He looked at the inside of the cave, entranced.

But at this time, the silent Lin Yun came over. He thoughtfully looked at the snow cave and without any reluctance, he said to the others, “Hey, we have wasted a lot of time here, shouldn’t we hurry up?”

Hearing Lin Yun’s words, everyone became flabbergasted. After a brief period of silence, Lahn finally reacted. “High Mage Mafa, how could we just leave? This is an incredible fortune! If we bring it back, the power of our Merlin Family’s Planar Legion will dramatically increase. Shouldn’t we gather those valuables?”

Although this aged Archmage was annoyed after hearing Lin Yun’s words, he was also one to learn from his mistakes. His attitude towards Lin Yun had made a complete 180° and he was now very respectful to him.

After all, he had learnt of the young mage’s true strength not long ago and having his mana sealed had truly frightened him to death.

Since time immemorial, Noscent had always been a place where the strong prey on the weak. It was a world where the strong were respected.

He had previously provoked the young mage in every possible way, jealous of his status. After all, how could a 5th Rank High Mage become a Planar Commander?

Indeed, before being Mana Shackled, he had scorned the young mage’s status as Planar Commander.

Lahn himself was on the verge of becoming a 5th Rank Archmage, close to becoming a High Rank Archmage. Moreover, he had greatly contributed to the Merlin Family in the past decades. Whether it was in terms of experience, seniority, or strength, he was far above the young 5th Rank High Mage, but the latter had become a Commander.

He really felt that the Ancestral Land had been unfair.

Thus, even though he had no grudge against him, he set himself against the young mage the first time they met, as if he had lost all reason.

It was only a few hours ago that he learnt his mistakes.

Just how frighteningly powerful was he to easily suppress a 4th Rank Archmage? He should be comparable to a 7th Rank Archmage, or even higher...

As he thought of how he had been arrogant and rude in front of such a terrifying existence, he felt deep regret.

It wasn’t an exaggeration to say that provoking the young mage was truly courting death.

As for the young mage’s status as a Commander...

He no longer had any reason to be jealous, because he could now see that it was perfectly normal for such a powerful mage to become a Commander.

As his thought process reached this point, cold sweat dripped down his forehead. He humbled himself and respectfully expressed his opinion regarding the treasure they'd discovered.

But the young mage's cold voice echoed once again. "Sir Lahn, did you not understand my words? Do you want me to repeat myself...?"

'...What?'

Lahn froze, feeling that this didn't make sense...

Chapter 502: It?

Collecting the valuables wouldn't take too long... They all had Spatial Magic Tools, after all, so it shouldn't take more than ten minutes to store everything.

Yet the young mage's attitude was firm, almost unyielding.

Lahn's expression became extremely ugly, but he didn't give up. With a weak voice he said, "High Mage Mafa, you see... This... So much wealth, it wouldn't be bad to take a bit..."

After saying that, Lahn turned towards Thorne, looking for support.

"Well... High Mage Mafa, it wouldn't take us a lot of time. I feel that Lahn is right, it would be better to collect the treasure. This would be a huge help to the development of the Merlin Family..." Thorne clearly couldn't turn a blind eye to this huge stash of wealth. Even if he felt some greed, as a Planar Legion Commander, he clearly knew that this was enough to greatly increase the power of the Planar Legion. The equipment of every member of the Planar Legion could be replaced by more powerful items.

He thought it was inconceivable for the shrewd young mage to make this choice, especially since it could be seen from his attack on the Ghost Valley that the young mage did care about the Merlin Family.

How he so decisively choose to give up on that wealth?

This was truly abnormal.

'Oh, right...'

Thorne suddenly recalled that the young mage's purpose in coming to this plane was to find something that he needed in a certain place.

'Could it be that he can't even wait for this little bit of time?'

"Haha... Let's get out of here," Lin Yun said, as if he hadn't heard the two trying to dissuade him. Then, without even giving the cave another glance, he just turned around, showing the others his back.

"Err... Alright..." Thorne clenched his teeth. After being in contact with the young mage for a few months, he clearly knew that this seemingly amiable young mage was extremely stubborn. Once he made a decision, he wouldn't easily change his mind. And leaving now didn't necessarily mean that they

wouldn't return. Once the young mage got what he needed, wouldn't it be okay to take these things on the way back?

"Let's go..." Ida and Yuri looked at each other. Although they didn't know why the young mage made such a puzzling decision, they always supported him. This time was no exception; they didn't ask any questions and quickly followed.

"You... You lunatics!" The group had started walking away, with only Lahn left behind, fiercely shaking with an abnormal expression before cursing.

They found this treasure trove because he accidentally discovered a broken sword. It would be recorded as a huge contribution if they brought those treasures back.

The Ancestral land might even send him some rewards.

But now, the young mage's decision was making him miss this opportunity.

He was really unwilling to leave.

He couldn't help resenting the young mage even more. This was too excessive! How could there be such a person in the world!

Naturally, he didn't dare to share his thoughts aloud.

After Lahn's shout, the young mage who was ten meters away suddenly stopped and turned, giving him a glance.

The young mage's face was devoid of emotions and he remained silent.

But this simple glance made Lahn feel a chill... He then realized that his behavior had been too dangerous.

He had insulted an existence capable of suppressing and Mana Shackling him...

As he thought of this, cold sweat dripped down Lahn's forehead as he nervously looked at the young mage, his heart throbbing furiously.

But he then saw the young mage smiling at him as he said a few words: "Hey, Sir Lahn, are you coming or not?"

But... it wasn't a smile, it was a sneer...

"I... I... I'm coming!" Lahn was truly scared and didn't dare to stay there. He was afraid of losing his life. He threw a reluctant look at the snow cave before clenching his teeth and replying, "I will..."

After saying that, he rushed over with a fearful expression.

This might have been a brief interlude to Lin Yun's team, and no one mentioned it afterwards, but the atmosphere in the group seemed to have become heavy. After walking for over half an hour, it was Lin Yun's turn to use Mage Eyes to check the surroundings.

In fact, this wasn't necessary since Lin Yun's Magic Array was constantly revolving during their trip, examining everything within a kilometer.

But in order to make the others feel at ease, he still released three Mage Eyes into the sky.

The scene transmitted by one of the Mage Eye made him frown, but he didn't say anything and just hastened on his path with the others.

"Hmm? What was that..."

In the group, Sword Saint Thorne's vision was undoubtedly the best when not using detection spells, which was why he was walking at the forefront. He suddenly stopped and pointed forward with an amazed expression.

"There is something wrong, how come the ice in that region has completely melted?"

An area of ice a few hundred meters away had been completely melted, exposing a calm sea. This strange phenomenon alarmed everyone. In the extremely cold ice plane, the ice simply couldn't melt. Even if the ground suffered a hit, it would only lead to the ice shattering. There shouldn't be such a large sea.

They could clearly see that this sea spread for a few kilometers.

"Eh? There seems to be a ropeway on the sea, we can go through that sea area by using it. That will allow us to avoid a detour..." A smile replaced the disappointed look on Yuri's face after he sent some Mage Eyes over.

"Well, there really is a ropeway. What are we waiting for, let's go." Lin Yun smiled and casually walked ahead of the group.

"That..." Thorne wanted to say something, but he was hesitating.

"Sir Thorne, what is it?" Lin Yun asked as he stopped.

"High Mage Mafa, don't you feel that this ropeway is very strange?" Thorne pointed at the ropeway floating above sea level and frowned. "Apart from the greatswords and the treasures that appeared not long ago, we haven't discovered any traces left behind by humans on the way. In other words, this plane hadn't been conquered by Noscent's forces. Apart from the 3rd Dynasty's people from millennia ago, we are the first group of humans to have set foot on this plane, so how could there be a ropeway?"

Thorne, as a Commander of the Planar Legion, has always been sharp, and he wouldn't let any details slip by.

The others' expressions changed when they heard that.

"Haha, Sir Thorne, you are overthinking..." Lin Yun scratched his cheek. "As you just said, the people from the 3rd Dynasty set foot on this plane several millennia ago, this ropeway might have been left back then..."

"But why would they spend so much effort making a ropeway?"

"Alright, you are really overthinking now... We have to hurry and cross the ropeway to reach the other side..." Lin Yun impatiently waved his hand and took the lead.

"This..."

Thorne hesitated before softly shaking his head and following behind the young mage.

After a few minutes, everyone crossed the few hundred meters and stepped onto that ropeway. They cautiously followed it towards the other side.

“What!?”

But after walking over a dozen meters, Lahn, who was worrying and was looking down as he walked, suddenly screamed. He was deathly pale and was shivering, rooted on the spot.

“What happened?”

Yuri, who was walking in front of Lahn, promptly grabbed him and helped stabilize him before asking with a frown.

To be honest, Lahn had surprised him and almost made him fall.

He really couldn't understand how this nearly 5th Rank Archmage could act like a careless youth.

“I just... I just... I just saw the shape of a huge monster, swimming right under us...” Lahn's face was devoid of blood. He was still looking at the sea with a dazed expression as lingering fear could be seen on his face.

“I'm telling the truth,” he added when he saw that Yuri didn't seem to believe him, “I definitely didn't make a mistake...”

“Haha, Lahn, you are too nervous and your eyes might have tricked you...” Yuri laughed. He knew that the matter of the snow cave had made this 4th Rank Archmage extremely jittery on the way.

But, after finishing that sentence, he discovered that Lahn was grabbing his palm as he looked at the sea with an alarmed expression. “It... It appeared again...”

“What!”

Yuri froze and quickly reacted. He followed Lahn's gaze and looked at the sea. His expression changed and he screamed as if he had seen a ghost.

“It... It... It really is *it* !”

Chapter 503: Snow Phantom

At this time, it wasn't just Lahn and Yuri. Everyone was looking at the sea in alarm. They could see a large shadow moving under them, causing waves on the sea. After taking a closer look, they discovered that the shadow looked somewhat familiar, and as they had that realization, a sinister head extended from the sea surface. It was the head of the Heaven Rank magic beast that they had encountered not long ago on the Ice Field.

And as expected...

A total of nine heads surfaced, their sharp fangs glittering under the sunlight.

“Ahhh! Run! It’s really that Heaven Rank magic beast!” Lahn shrieked, scared to death. When the magic beast surfaced, he couldn’t help remembering the incredible power it showed when it was feeding on the Ice Field Mammoths.

It was really too scary...

Even if he was an Archmage close to the 5th Rank who had been on expeditions through every major plane for the past decades, he was terrified, and his scalp felt numb. He was looking at those nine heads with intense fear.

This was a genuine Heaven Rank powerhouse. They were considered the most powerful existences in all of Noscent. Just a breath from a Heaven Rank far surpassed what an Archmage could endure.

This was no exaggeration.

The Ice Field Mammoths were the perfect example. There had been over a thousand of them and the weakest had been at level 30. Even a Peak Archmage would fall when surrounded by them.

Yet...

With the appearance of that Heaven Rank magic beast, those hundreds of mammoths didn’t even dare to attack it or flee. They completely lost their ability to resist.

This was the power of the Heaven Rank.

After shrieking, Lahn didn’t even think properly as he waved his staff, casting a Levitation spell. He wanted to leave that damned place by any means possible.

He naturally knew how difficult it would be for an Archmage like himself to escape a Heaven Rank, but he felt that while his future would be uncertain if he tried to escape, he might still have a shot at life. But if he remained there, he was certain to die.

Then, a dazzling light blossomed, and just as Lahn was about to take to the skies, he found that a heavy palm was grabbing his shoulder. At the same time, a huge power was suppressing his mana, interrupting his spell.

This sudden change made Lahn Merlin almost go insane with panic. As he was about to curse, he found out that it was Mafa Merlin who had grabbed his shoulder.

This young mage still intimidated him, but those actions had clearly surpassed the limit to what Lahn could endure. Moreover, he was still deeply resenting the young mage for what had happened earlier with the snow cave. He almost bit his tongue as he angrily asked, “What do you want?”

That was a true Heaven Rank magic beast!

Let alone their current team, even if the Black Tower’s Harren and the Cloud Tower’s Jouyi worked together to face this frightening magic beast, they still wouldn’t prevail.

What was the young mage doing?

Did he not know how powerful the magic beast swimming in the sea was?

If everyone remained, they would be nothing more than snacks.

There was no way that the young mage didn't not know about it...

He had been there a few hours ago along with everyone else.

"Mafa, you are truly vicious... You aren't even letting me flee, do you want to kill me?" Lahn paled as he stared at Lin Yun while lashing out emotionally, his finger almost jabbing Lin Yun's nose. "I really don't understand, why are you always targeting me? You already punished me for my bad attitude, Mana Shackling me. Was that not enough?"

"You don't have some deep grudge against me, do you? Do you plan to let me die just because of those trivialities?" Lahn looked insane as he let everything out. If he was going to die there anyway, then he might as well say everything that was on his mind.

He truly hated Mafa!

"I think you really misunderstood..." Lin Yun was clearly stunned by this outburst. He was scratching his cheek, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. He wouldn't have to go through so much trouble if he wanted to deal with Lahn... A few High Tier Spells would have been enough to dispose of him.

"It looks like you aren't just vicious... You are also a hypocrite!" Lahn's face distorted as he let out particularly sinister, hysterical laughter.

"..."

Lin Yun didn't even feel like rolling his eyes. He helplessly shook his head and slowly shifted the hand holding Lahn's shoulder before releasing some mana. A flame appeared on his hand before tightly wrapping around it. This was a Low Tier Spell, Flaming Hand.

His action instantly attracted everyone's attention. They couldn't understand what he was doing. The situation was so dangerous, and that Heaven Rank magic beast might rush out at any moment to snack on them! Even if the young mage didn't know what to do, why would he cast a Flaming Hand?

"What?"

As everyone watched doubtfully, Lin Yun emitted a burning aura from his palm and grabbed towards the void in front of them. Suddenly, a blood-curdling screech echoed.

'Where did that come from...'

They were all unsure... Some were in disbelief, but they had clearly heard a screech...

But apart from them and the Heaven Rank magic beast, there was nothing else here...

So what was that screech?

As everyone was puzzling over it, another cry rang out. At this time, they all realized that the sound came from the young mage's Flaming Hand and they all looked over with bewildered expressions. They could now see a faint silvery-white silhouette struggling in the Flaming Hand, continuously making weird sounds. After a few seconds, it ceased its struggles.

“This is...” The first to react was Thorne. This experienced Commander was also shocked when he saw this scene.

That silhouette had appeared out of nowhere, without any signs of it being there.

“Snow Phantom... To be more accurate, it’s a kind of Frost Elemental. They are relatively special among other Elemental lifeforms and are usually referred to as Snow Phantoms by mages, because of their peculiar ability to create illusions that are hard to distinguish from reality.” After giving this explanation, Lin Yun stopped supplying mana and the Flaming Hand gradually extinguished, leaving the palm-sized Snow Phantom in Lin Yun’s hand. But now, the delicate body of the Snow Phantom had already been burnt pitch-black by the Flaming Hand.

With a shake of his palm, the Snow Phantom’s corpse quickly fell into the sea below.

In fact, a strange Elemental like the Snow Phantom was rarely seen in Noscent. Most mages might never learn that among the Frost Elementals, there was an existence like the Snow Phantom.

It was only at the peak of the Magic Era that those crazy mages discovered and recorded all the information regarding Snow Phantoms, and it ended up being stored in the decaying library. Although it was Lin Yun’s first time encountering one, he knew about them from his bookworm knowledge.

Snow Phantoms were considered the weakest among Elementals. They were like Volcano Spirits, around level 10, and they appeared in large quantities. There would always be several thousands every time.

But one couldn’t look down on Snow Phantoms...

With their proficiency with illusions, they had trapped countless mages, leaving them to die, and there was no lack of Archmages among their victims.

They usually appeared together to find prey, and after crafting their illusion, they would calmly wait for the prey to take the bait. As for the illusions they set, there were two kinds. One type would be enticing, such as a wonderful setting or a large amount of wealth, to attract the people inside. When the prey accepted the temptation and was filled with happiness, it would likely be too late for them.

And the other kind would be like this one. An extremely dangerous thing would appear in the illusion that would make anyone inside panic. When their guards were lowered, countless Snow Phantoms would rush them and the true disaster would happen.

But Lin Yun knew that there was a fatal flaw to the illusions.

If someone realized that they were in an illusion, they could make it collapse by attacking just a single Snow Phantom, because the illusions were jointly created by the several thousand Snow Phantoms, and each one acted as a node. When a certain node was damaged, the illusion would lose its balance and automatically disperse.

Chapter 504: Crystal Palace

High Mage Mafa, you... You are saying that we are in an illusion?" Hearing Lin Yun's explanation, Thorne still seemed unsure. If the young mage's words were true, then they didn't need to face that terrifying magic beast.

But...

Just as he finished his words and was waiting for the young mage's answer, gales began to burst in the surroundings, carrying countless ice shards and raising a white mist over a vast area. The scene before them gradually became indistinct, and space fiercely distorted. The first thing to change was the ropeway below their feet...

The ropeway that had felt extremely real to them had already disappeared and was replaced by stable ice, and the vast sea also vanished. It was all just the same field of ice that they were in all along.

In a flash, the gales carried away countless fragments of ice, leaving behind reality. The ropeway, the sea, the Heaven Rank magic beast, they were all fake. There had been nothing here besides ice.

"It really was an illusion!" Thorne's eyes widened as he gasped in surprise. The sudden appearance of the Heaven Rank magic beast had made his heart skip a beat, but fortunately, it had all been an illusion.

But that illusion had been so real. Even he, a 5th Rank Sword Saint, hadn't managed to notice a single flaw.

He remained standing at the same spot, looking at the young mage with an extremely complicated expression. Time and time again, he was finding that the young mage was far more complicated than he had thought and could always bring about more surprises.

"Oh right, High Mage Mafa, that treasure trove we discovered earlier, was it also an illusion?" Thorne suddenly recalled the valuables they had found in the snow cave. Back then, the young mage's behavior had been extremely strange, as if he completely didn't care about all that wealth. He had immediately made everyone leave without an explanation.

Now that they knew about the Snow Phantoms, he boldly guessed that that treasure trove had also been an illusion created by them.

It would truly be unfortunate in that case...

"Indeed..." Lin Yun gently nodded and couldn't help forcing a smile. Back then, he had felt that something was strange, but he couldn't be sure if it was a Snow Phantom playing a trick. In any case, he had forced everyone to leave, and when they entered another illusion, he was able to ascertain that it had indeed been the handiwork of Snow Phantoms.

However, those greatswords crafted from the royal workshop of the 3rd Dynasty, didn't only exist in the illusion...

At the peak of the Magic Era, those crazy mages were able to figure out the theory behind the Snow Phantoms' illusions. The study was very clear about something... Although Snow Phantoms innately had the ability to create illusions, they could only set up illusions of things they had seen with their own eyes.

In other words, those Snow Phantoms had once seen those greatswords, those other valuables, the Heaven Rank magic beast, and the ropeway above a sea area. But the Snow Phantoms only had the power of Great Mages, so they didn't have the ability to leave this ice plane. Moreover, due to their special nature, they would be unable to keep existing if they left this icy environment.

The answer had already been figured out.

Several millennia ago, a group of powerhouses from the 3rd Dynasty really had come to this plane, and many Imperial Guards had died here.

Moreover, from the fact that they'd built a ropeway, they shouldn't have been just to explore. They must have had a specific reason.

'What was going on in the end?' Lin Yun couldn't help recalling the Raising Dragon Array. 'Could that array be related to that group of people?'

But regardless, it was no longer important. He couldn't waste energy on these old events. Everything would be good as long as he could smoothly obtain the other two Chromatic Dragon Crystals.

At this time, whether it was Lin Yun or Thorne, none of them noticed Lahn's expression crumbling as he listened to their discussion. He felt like digging himself a hole to hide in...

He realized that everything had been an illusion and that he had done something very stupid.

There had only been one thought in his mind when he saw the magic beast swimming on the surface, and that was an urge to escape.

And he tried just that, but he was stopped by the young mage, which had caused him to let out all of his resentment.

But now he felt that his actions had been extremely stupid.

'I truly offended the young mage this time...'

As he thought about it, he couldn't help feeling a chill. He took a long look at the young mage, feeling full of remorse.

Not long after, Lin Yun's group resumed their journey and kept walking on the endless ice field. It was very monotonous as they didn't even see any landmarks. There was only the white sky and snow as far as the eye could see. The group just kept trudging on, hurrying towards the north.

The originally lively Lahn had remained completely silent. He was walking at the end of the group with his head lowered.

The others stayed close together. After experiencing the Snow Phantoms' illusions, they had become extremely cautious.

"Quick, look, what is that?" Yuri, who was responsible for observing the surroundings with Mage Eyes at the time, suddenly stopped and pointed ahead as he shouted like he'd seen a ghost.

"That's... a ropeway!"

Lin Yun gestured and sent a Mage Eye over. It floated in midair and instantly showed him what was ahead. He saw a ropeway stretching down to the horizon, linked to a lofty Crystal Palace. With one glance, he recognized the ropeway. It was exactly the same as the one that had been in the illusion, only the location was different. And that Crystal Palace, it made Lin Yun frown deeply.

“High Mage Mafa, this should be an illusion, right? Those damn Snow Phantoms...” After forgetting himself for a moment, Yuri regained his calm and ruthlessly cursed.

He clearly remembered seeing that same ropeway before, making him feel that it was yet another illusion created by the Snow Phantoms.

“It’s not...” Lin Yun looked into the distance with a heavy expression before slowly shaking his head.

“What? How could it be...”

Yuri wasn’t the only one surprised by this, but he was the first to react. He wasn’t convinced and felt that he should confirm it once again. He took a deep breath and asked, “You mean that the ropeway and the Crystal Palace are real?”

“Yes...”

Yuri’s eyes opened wide. Could there be something more shocking than a palace in this ice plane?

If there was a palace here, then someone had once been living in this plane.

“Let’s go take a look...”

After saying this, Lin Yun took the lead and started walking on the ropeway, his heart not as calm as he looked on the surface. He wasn’t shocked by the palace... He had actually discovered that this palace was the reason he came to this plane, because the last two Chromatic Dragon Crystals were in this palace.

Lin Yun’s group followed the ropeway and soon reached the front of the palace. After observing it, Lin Yun assessed that this palace had been built according to the style of the 3rd Dynasty. Those carved murals were lifelike, and only that era of luxury would spend so much on architecture.

“Let’s go in...”

The entrance to the Crystal Palace was hidden, but Lin Yun only took a few glances before he unhesitantly led everyone to cautiously enter the palace.

After entering, they discovered that the interior was extremely huge, and felt absolutely empty. They could hear their footsteps echo as they walked.

There was a lampstand every few meters on the walls, but the candles had already been extinguished.

However, just as everyone thought that this was an abandoned palace, a strict voice suddenly challenged them. “Who are you!?”

As that voice echoed, a bone-chilling aura spread in the surroundings and a white mist rose up, raging ceaselessly.

Everyone, including Lin Yun, was surprised to find that the palace was still occupied. They suddenly felt extremely nervous and couldn't help looking for the source of that voice.

This crystal palace had been built with the style of the 3rd Dynasty, so it was at least a thousand years old. They had been startled when they first discovered the palace, guessing that someone had once lived in it, but it looked like their guess was wrong. Not only had someone once lived in it, but it was still inhabited!

Then...

Just how old was the person living here?

At least over a thousand years old!?

This was the true reason everyone was shocked.

Following that bone-chilling voice, they could all hear light footsteps coming from the depths of the raging white mist. They could then see a faint, hazy silhouette emerging from that mist. It seemed to be a young woman in her twenties, draped in tight-fitting white robes. She had fair skin and looked graceful. Her long silvery-white hair reached her waist, and she gave out a bewitching feeling.

The temperature within the palace suddenly dropped the moment the young woman appeared, and the white mist raged as frost condensed on the walls.

"Who are you?"

Chapter 505: Very Rude

They truly hadn't expected the mysterious person to be a very young and pretty woman. But then, they all realized that anyone that could appear here couldn't be an ordinary person. And as expected, they could feel a dangerous aura coming from the young woman. Feeling this, Thorne subconsciously asked that young woman who she was, his hand firmly gripping his Crimson Flame Greatsword.

Thorne found this woman quite intimidating...

Even though she was walking over languidly, Thorne could feel a tangible pressure as every step she took made him feel tense.

Unconsciously, cold sweat was already dripping down...

"You are quite funny! You broke into my home and now you're asking who I am..." The young woman and her white mist stopped a dozen meters away from the group. Her cold eyes swept over the crowd, a loathing expression appearing on her face. "Don't you know that this is very rude?"

Suddenly, a shocking mana fluctuation rose up and the surrounding white mist started raging wildly. The young woman chanted a long incantation, and as the incantation echoed, a gust of wind rose up, carrying up countless ice fragments. Those fragments instantly condensed into many weapons before engulfing Lin Yun and the others in a short few seconds.

No one expected this beautiful young woman to have such a fiery temper, attacking right as she was displeased. She left no leeway for negotiating, and she was holding nothing back...

“Damnit...”

Some curses came from the Archmages as the ice weapons whisted over at them, but they wholeheartedly threw themselves into battle. Although those ice weapons weren't very powerful, comparable to 2nd and 3rd Tier Spells in terms of power, there was a huge swarm of them, which was rather overwhelming.

Ida and Yuri couldn't help feeling apprehensive when they were faced with that sea of weapons, their scalps feeling numb.

However, they had a team of Archmage powerhouses, so after a moment of panic, they displayed their transcendent power. Countless spells flew in this fierce battle.

Explosions just kept echoing...

“This isn't a place you should have come to, but since you are here, you shall pay the price...” The young woman walked in the world of ice, snow fluttering everywhere as she expressionlessly swept her eyes across everyone. Her pale cheeks were covered by a layer of frost and her cold gaze made everyone feel a chill.

“We shall see who is going to be paying the price...”

A loud voice echoed within the palace as a tall silhouette floated in midair, holding a reddish greatsword with countless flames intertwining around the blade, seemingly wanting to burn everything. It was Thorne! This 5th Rank Sword Saint raised his greatsword above his head and let out a clear shout.

In a flash, a majestic sword aura ripped through the air, slashing down with a shocking amount of heat as it aimed at the young woman below.

But, the woman's expression remained unperturbed. She threw a faint glance at it and countless silver runes came out of her body. With a wave, those runes fluttered in midair before suddenly transforming into an Ice Wall protecting the young woman like an impregnable fort.

There was a deep rumble from the impact.

The flames on the Crimson Flame Greatsword raged as Thorne slashed downward, creating dazzling sparks when it collided with those Ice Walls. Large chunks of ice were sent flying while Thorne looked like a fierce God of War with his blazing Aura and his flaming sword. He slashed at the Ice Walls over a dozen times, causing cracking sounds to echo continuously.

“Looks like you are the one who will pay the price...” A sneer appeared on Thorne's face, his smile looked exceptionally sinister as he raised his greatsword high up, before slashing down with extremely formidable momentum.

There was surely no doubt about the conclusion. His previous attack had destroyed over ten Ice Walls and there were only three remaining in front of the woman. He was confident in his ability to break the young woman's defenses within a second, and perhaps after destroying the remaining ice walls, the woman would no longer be able to have room to launch any attacks.

This was self-confidence that stemmed from his own power...

Although the young woman showed tyrannical power, terrifying casting ability, as well as a level of mastery over ice close to that of a Great Master, close-range combat was a fatal weakness of mages. Thorne only needed to break her last defenses, and even if he couldn't kill her, he would still be able to keep her suppressed.

"Not enough..."

The young woman's silvery-white silhouette rushed out from behind the Ice Walls and she slowly extended a hand, making the white mist rage. Ice condensed on her arms before she met Thorne head-on.

Time seemed to have stopped... The surroundings had become quiet and the scene was frozen.

"Aahh!"

Suddenly, a scream broke this strange silence. After the expressionless young woman collided with Thorne, the 5th Rank Sword Saint actually shook. Before he could react, he was struck by an Ice Spear that appeared out of nowhere.

Thorne let out a scream as he was sent flying, a thumb-sized hole in his chest, blood leaking out.

All the onlookers were completely stunned by this scene...

The young woman used an Ice Spear as a weapon to toss aside a 5th Rank Sword Saint. Most importantly, Thorne had been injured.

And that woman had simply been relying on her pure physical ability.

But beforehand, the young woman had showed her terrifying casting ability and her incredible comprehension of Ice Spells.

Everyone had assumed that the young woman was just a powerful mage.

But it now looked like the young woman wasn't just a mage... She also tyrannical physical power and frightening casting abilities, making everyone think of Gaugass Battleimages..

Could it be that she was actually a Gaugass Battlemage?

No... That group of mages living in Gaugass was considered nothing more than a group of uncivilized barbarians. Looking at the young woman, she truly didn't look like a Gaugass Battlemage.

But her magic and physical abilities were on par despite being this powerful. How could this be?

At this moment, a thick fog shrouded everyone's hearts...

"Cough, cough,..."

A cough suddenly broke the quiet atmosphere, Thorne's face was completely pale as if he had seen a ghost. He stared at his opponent in a daze, blood leaking out of his mouth. He couldn't believe that she had actually defeated him in his domain of expertise.

What truly shocked him was that the young woman's physical strength was so terrifying that it completely overpowered a 5th Rank Sword Saint.

Moreover, the young woman's casting abilities were comparable to those of a 6th Rank Archmage.

This wasn't as simple as adding one and one to get two...

A perfect combination of the martial and magical paths, just thinking about it made him feel numb.

"Hell..." Thorne suddenly cursed when he caught sight of a silhouette covered in flames suddenly turning into a ray of light. It streaked across the hall, dashing towards the young woman. He could instantly tell that this was Mafa!

'This is too impulsive...'

Among the group, he was the only one that had personally experienced that woman's strength, so when he saw the young mage rush out, he immediately felt a chill, feeling worried.

The best course of action would have been to immediately retreat.

Only if all six of them combined their power could they have a shot at victory.

Although the young mage was extremely powerful and had managed to kill the Tribal Chief of the Thawing Fire Tribe in the Sacred Land, he hadn't been alone back then! There had been over ten Archmages, including two Representatives of the Black Tower, 6th Rank Archmage Weiss and 7th Rank Archmage Suval, as well as Thorne himself.

But now, the young mage was charging alone.

He was facing an overpowered enemy who walked both the martial and magic paths and had perfectly integrated both.

He wanted to stop Mafa, but he knew that it was already too late. He only raised his head and watched as a sneer appeared on that young woman's face. Her white mist was raging even more fiercely as frost fell. In less than a second, hundreds of Frost Lances appeared beside her. With one word, these Frost Lances flew out as if carried by a strong gale, and one of them was grabbed by the young woman. With a slight shake of her wrist, a wave of power tore the air.

Chapter 506: Human Shape

This time, the young woman displayed the peak of her martial and magical power.

Seeing this terrifying scene, Thorne was soaked in cold sweat.

She was truly holding nothing back...

Thorne had felt powerless when she only struck him with a physical attack, so he clearly couldn't contend against her. But now, she was using a perfect combination of both of her powers. Just how terrifying would it be?

Sure enough...

The Mafa Merlin cast several Flame Flashes in a row and arrived in front of the young woman, raising his magic staff above his head as a terrifying mana fluctuation was emitted.

'It's over... Really over...'

Even in his mind, Thorne couldn't help but see the scene of the young mage being torn apart by hundreds of Frost Lances, drenching the woman with his blood.

He didn't dare to look...

'Eh?'

But just as he was about to close his eyes, he saw the young mage casting five Flame Flashes at crafty angles, dodging the hundreds of Frost Lances. This gorgeous scene was simply incredible.

But what was even more incredible came afterwards.

The huge gem embedded at the tip of the young mage's magic staff burst with a dazzling light. Countless faint runes appeared along the length of the staff as it swung through the air.

At the same time, two dazzling red and blue lights rose up with a bright disk behind the young mage. The lights suddenly intensified and countless spells poured out of the disk, turning into a huge sea of spells surging towards the young woman holding the Frost Lance.

At this time, Thorne saw a panicked expression on her face; she had always remained calm before this.

"Rumble..."

The fire spells released by the young mage were magnificent and dazzling, seeming as if they would never stop. As the deafening explosions echoed, the young mage stopped casting and turned around, using a Flame Flash to quickly regroup with the others.

The surroundings regained their calm as they looked dazedly at the sea of fire, speechless for a long time.

"It's actually over..." Thorne was the first to break the silence. He was slowly relaxing as he wiped the sweat off his forehead. But he had a very complicated expression as he looked at the young mage.

He really hadn't expected it to end like this.

"Not yet..."

Thorne heard a calm voice and he instantly froze. The one who said those words was actually Mafa himself. "What... What do you mean? Don't tell me... she is still alive?"

The others were shocked speechless when they heard that.

How could someone survive being trapped in that sea of fire?

Just watching from afar made them nervous. It would be hard to survive near there, even for high-rank Archmages and Sword Saints.

After all, they had bodies of flesh.

“She has yet to die...” Lin Yun smiled bitterly with a heavy expression. He was looking at that sea of fire while frowning. A terrifying power was slowly recovering there.

“How could it be!?” Thorne shouted.

But then, a loud rumble could be heard as countless flames soared up. That sea of fire was scattered by that power as a Dragon Roar echoed, followed by a hair-raising aura.

The floor of the palace shook.

It was a Dragon Roar!

After being stunned for a moment, everyone soon recovered. They had indeed heard the voice of a Dragon.

Their enemy was a true Dragon!

If the young woman was a Dragon, then it wasn't surprising for her to be proficient in both the martial path and magical paths.

After all, almost every Dragon had innate casting abilities due to their bloodline, as well as innately terrifying strength. They could casually crush opponents that should be on the same level as them.

After the Dragon Roar echoed, it didn't take long before a gargantuan silhouette appeared before them. Sparkling and translucent white scales kept emitting white mist, which was extinguishing the flames it touched.

Although it was a hundred meters away and looked like a realistic ice sculpture, everyone could still feel that tangible pressure...

“Heavens, it really is a Dragon...”

Thorne couldn't help holding his breath when he saw it, beads of sweat dripping from his forehead.

He felt a chill when faced with such a terrifying enemy.

Fortunately, the Dragon had fought him in human form. Had she been in her original form when they clashed, Thorne wouldn't have ended up with a mere thumb-sized hole in his chest.

Among the Dragon Race, most Dragons knew a few transformation spells, but very few would turn into humans. As Noscent's rulers during the 2nd Dynasty, their arrogance made them disdain this practice. Furthermore, their strength would be greatly limited in human form.

This was the true reason Thorne was sweating.

He really hadn't expected that they would encounter so many dangers on this planar trip. Even a Dragon appeared!

Just from the shaking of his body, he could tell that it was an adult Dragon!

After Charles The Emperor shattered the Throne of Life, the huge Dragon Race only existed in name in Noscent. Their glory had vanished like smoke, but numerous mages often mentioned Dragons with a trace of respect.

Dragons would appear in most stories. But of course, the ones most often mentioned were the Chromatic Dragons, as well as the powerful Dragon God who would end up being killed during the peak of the Magic Era by that group of mages.

Currently, although some Dragons existed, they were pitifully sparse. A portion of them were the descendants of the Chromatic Dragons, while the rest were from other races.

To alchemists, any Dragon was like a treasure house.

When they became adults, their whole bodies would become treasure. Blood, scales, fangs... They were all precious alchemy materials that would make any alchemist crazy.

But even in this era where the Dragons had faded away, the mages who dared to provoke Dragons were mostly just greedy, and they had to pay an extremely expensive price for their greed.

If they could help it, no mage would want to face an adult Dragon. Only existences like Jouyi and Harren, who had touched upon Extraordinary power, or those who had reached the Heaven Rank, had enough firepower to defeat adult Dragons.

“What should we do... What can we do?” Thorne was panicking, but he still turned around and smiled at Lin Yun, even though that smile was unpleasant. “High Mage Merlin, what do you think...”

Thorne, the experienced Commander, was extremely worried. He had personally experienced the power of this Dragon, and that was back when it was in human shape. Now that he could see the mountain-like silhouette and feel that overbearing aura, he truly thought of fleeing.

But he was Thorne Merlin, not Lahn Merlin...

“There is no other way...” Lin Yun had a heavy expression. He simply shook his head and said, “We thoroughly infuriated her, fleeing is impossible. Our only way out is to do our best to defeat her...”

Indeed, their situation was that bad.

If they chose to flee, their group would have to scatter, but they had explored deep into the plane. It would take them an entire day to escape back to their own plane.

Even Thorne wouldn't be able to evade the pursuit for that long, let alone the others...

Lin Yun was completely confident in escaping with his Magic Tools, but his original goal was to get the two Chromatic Dragon Crystals. He wouldn't give up at such a critical juncture.

Moreover, he might never have the chance to get those two Chromatic Dragon Crystals if he didn't defeat this Dragon.

They had to fight, but this Frost Dragon wasn't easy to handle.

In fact, when the young woman appeared, Lin Yun's Magic Array was able to capture the aura of a Frost Dragon. Any Dragon in human shape would be unable to cover up their unique draconic aura, and thus, they were easily recognizable. But there were clearly special circumstances this time.

It was due to this particular place's environment. Every corner of this ice plane was filled with ice elements, covering the unique frost aura of the Frost Dragon. Thus, apart from Lin Yun with his Magic Array, no one had been able to realize it before the young woman actually transformed.

Chapter 507: None Shall Escape

Speaking of which, Frost Dragons belonged to a branch of the Elemental Dragons. As their name suggested, they were blessed in the field of ice and every adult Frost Dragon was a Great Master in the ice element. Especially in an environment like this plane, they could display the pinnacle of ice magic.

In that short battle earlier, he had been able to assess that the Frost Dragon in Human shape was close to a level 37. Her strength would be even more terrifying after turning into her Dragon form.

But, he was confident in his abilities...

The rewards would be monumental if he could kill this Frost Dragon... Those sparkling pure-as-crystal scales, her blood, her fangs... These were extremely valuable, especially to alchemists. The appeal was simply deadly.

But what truly tempted Lin Yun wasn't those.

It was the Frost Dragon Crystal...

If a mage obtained a Frost Dragon Crystal, the immediate priority would definitely be to embed it into their magic staff. Using that magic staff to cast ice spells would increase the mage's understanding over the Law of Ice at an unimaginable speed over time. Lin Yun once heard that in Noscent's history, the Archmages who obtained Elemental Dragon Crystals had needed less than ten years to become Great Masters in their elements.

Some newly advanced Heaven Mages would even risk attacking Elemental Dragons to shorten the time needed for them to understand the Laws of the Four Elements and become Great Masters of the Four Elements.

Naturally, Lin Yun had the Element Chapter, so that wasn't what he cared about. Furthermore, comprehension of the Laws would have to wait until he reached the Archmage realm.

To him, the true value of the Frost Dragon Crystal lay in the fact that it could become an Augment of the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, greatly increasing the power of the ice spells cast by it.

It might even be possible for the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel to reach the peak of its current rank...

"None shall escape today..."

A deafening roar echoed and everyone could feel the ground shake. The billowing white mist quickly covered the entire palace and layer upon layer of frost covered its every corner as the air became extremely rich in ice elements.

Everyone realized that it was just as the young mage had said: fleeing was impossible. They had no confidence to escape from the chase of a Frost Dragon in this ice plane.

The pressure that the Frost Dragon gave them was too great...

After shouting those words, the Frost Dragon's huge body appeared above them, covered in sparkling scales flickering with cold light. That huge head looked down at them with its pair silvery-white eyes filled with absolute coldness.

"That's bad!"

The Frost Dragon had already opened her sinister maw when someone shouted that. An extremely terrifying aura spread through the entire area, and a faint, white and misty light was emitted from her maw before expanding and engulfing everyone.

"Rumble..."

A loud sound thundered out as that area was engulfed in white light, covering everything in a thick layer of ice. Fortunately, they were all Archmages, so when that warning shout echoed, they instantly used movement abilities to dodge.

"Aaah!"

As everyone looked at that layer of ice in shock, a mournful voice was heard. At that time, the others noticed Lahn's situation. He was tightly clenching his teeth, his face devoid of blood as more and more beads of sweat rolled down his cheeks before crystallizing.

Half of his arm had been frozen. Everyone realized that Lahn hadn't been able to completely dodge the Frost Dragon Breath.

The breath of Frost Dragons was truly frightening...

A 4th Rank Archmage like Lahn was barely grazed by the attack, yet half of his arm had been frozen. What if he had been directly hit by the Frost Dragon's breath?

He would have definitely been frozen into an ice statue, and that frighteningly low temperature would have definitely frozen his blood.

"Be careful..."

Lin Yun frowned as he expressionlessly glanced at Lahn. He then unhesitantly roused his mana and poured it into the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. Countless spells converged into an attack aimed at the Frost Dragon, and without any pause, another flood of spells followed.

"Enderfa, help me control the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel..."

"Alright..."

Once the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, this overpowered Magic Tool, was completely in Enderfa's control, Lin Yun tightly held the Doom Staff and used Fire Elemental Incarnation to rush through the battlefield, shooting a rain of fire spells while dodging the Frost Dragon's attacks.

As for Thorne and the others, they had rich battle experience after having gone through countless Planar Wars. They didn't even need to communicate to cooperate amazingly well with one another.

But the situation was extremely unfavorable for them. They had to remain a hundred percent focused at all times and avoid various ice spells as well as that horrifying Dragon Breath. After all that effort, their first offensive didn't bring much harm to the Frost Dragon.

'It's going to end badly at this rate...'

Lin Yun's flame-covered face looked quite serious... Even he felt pressure at this time.

After a short moment of hesitation, an ancient book emitting an aura of death appeared in his hands. He spoke an incantation and the two tyrannical auras of the Undead Horseman and the Lich were instantly emitted. As they received Lin Yun's orders, these two Higher Undead beings launched a storm-like offensive on the Frost Dragon.

'And you...'

Lin Yun's hand went into the pocket that had a spatial expansion array and took out the alchemy puppet he had repaired a few months ago. To be more exact, this puppet hadn't been completely restored... Some common parts had been used to replace some missing rare parts, limiting it to the power of a 5th Rank Sword Saint.

But he couldn't hold back now...

"Roar!"

The appearance of the Undead Horseman, the Lich, and the puppet made the Frost Dragon feel some pressure. She suddenly let out a deafening roar and attacked even more fiercely.

They had to admit that this Frost Dragon was truly frightening. She was only comparable to an extremely powerful 6th Rank Archmage in her Human form, but now that she was in her natural form, she was displaying the power of a true level 38 powerhouse!

It could only be described as devastating...

Everyone, including Lin Yun, went all-out, constantly casting spells. This battle went on for more than an hour.

The Archmages burst with shocking momentum. The walls of the palace were almost completely destroyed, as the spell bombardment only left chaos behind.

By this time, both sides were arrows at the end of their flights. Over the course of this hour-long battle, both sides' spells were becoming weaker and weaker. They had used all kinds of High Tier Spells at the start, greatly exhausting their mana, and they could only use 1st or 2nd Tier Spells now, as they were running out of mana.

"Rumble..."

As the fight reached a deadlock, the Frost Dragon suddenly surprised her foes with a sudden Frost Breath. The Archmages had no time to evade and were instantly turned into ice statues. Only Lin Yun was able to use his last wisp of mana to cast a Flame Flash at the last moment and charge towards the Frost Dragon.

Then, an extremely thrilling scene played out.

The Frost Dragon raised her foot to trample Thorne and the others into fragments. The physical power of Dragons could only be described as terrifying, and this Frost Dragon was no exception. Although she had used too much stamina in the fight, that stomp would definitely kill the Merlins.

There was no doubt about it.

Even if they had formidable physical bodies, how could they compare to a true Dragon?

Moreover, they were frozen, so they had no way to resist. They were trapped, out of mana, and couldn't use the slightest bit of power.

Despite being frozen, they could still see the Frost Dragon's action and were terrified. Fear could be seen in their eyes, but they were helpless to do anything about it.

They would all become corpses within seconds.

But they were really unwilling.

No one wanted to die, especially powerhouses like them. If they didn't take any major risks, they could easily live for over a millennium.

"Haha... If you don't stay your hand, I'll let you follow them into the afterlife."

Chapter 508: What Makes You Think I Don't Dare?

They were already despairing. They felt that they would definitely die, but the Frost Dragon froze when that familiar voice echoed. Her claw stopped in midair, not going down even after a few seconds.

'What is going on?'

Everyone lying on the ground was in disbelief. They had naturally heard the young mage's voice just now...

Although the young mage was abnormally powerful, to the point that if he wasn't with them, they simply wouldn't have had a chance, they still couldn't believe that the Frost Dragon had stopped due to the young mage's words.

But they also felt relieved, because regardless of the method, the young mage saved their lives for the time being.

They then saw that the pale young mage had actually crawled onto the back of the Frost Dragon and was holding a glittering dagger, pressing it against the Dragon's neck.

They suddenly realized why the Frost Dragon had listened to him. It turned out that she had no choice but to obey him and halt her movements.

"Would you dare?" Even under such circumstances, the Frost Dragon's attitude was unyielding. Her claw above Thorne and the others was clearly her bargaining chip. It could fall at any time, so she wasn't worried about the young mage's threat as long as she also had leverage.

While she had the lives of the young mage's companions in her hands, she was certain that he wouldn't dare make a move against her.

But even if she acted tough, seemingly not caring, she wouldn't blindly throw away her life, so they could only remain in a deadlock.

What infuriated her was that the young mage's actions were too hateful... He had actually crawled onto her body!

"You aren't me, what makes you think I won't dare?" Lin Yun rolled his eyes and then remained silent. This Frost Dragon was too conceited. She truly thought that by holding the lives of the others Archmages in her hands, she would be able to threaten him into not making a move? This was such an immature way of thinking.

As he answered, he played with the dagger in his hands, and it inadvertently touched the Frost Dragon's neck. This action made the Frost Dragon gnash her teeth and curse the young mage in her heart.

Even if the dagger looked ordinary on the outside, from the faint energy it was letting out, it was clearly a genuine Spiritual Magic Tool. Had she been at her peak, then let alone a Spiritual Dagger, even a Mid-Rank True Spirit Dagger might not be able to break through her physical defenses. But the situation was clearly different right now. She was in a very weak state after using that last Dragon Breath. It would be very difficult for her to resist a Spiritual Dagger striking her directly now.

Thus, Lin Yun dared to be so fearless...

But others, such as Thorne, couldn't remain as calm.

After being frozen into ice sculptures and hearing Lin Yun's words, they couldn't help spitting out blood. If it went as the young mage said, they would be the ones that ran out of luck. If the Frost Dragon decided to throw caution to the winds, they would definitely die.

They really had no faith in the camaraderie of the young mage who always did absurd things.

But these ice sculptures couldn't produce any sound.

"Go ahead and try..." As Thorne and the others were secretly worried, the Frost Dragon's cold voice replied. At the same time, those two silvery-white eyes glanced at the ice statues as she sneered, "I can guarantee that they would die before me."

If that young mage truly didn't care about them, why would he spend so much effort on them? She firmly believed that the young mage wouldn't dare to act blindly.

Sure enough, it was as her father had said. Most humans were crafty, just like this young mage who was acting like he didn't care about the lives of his companions.

As she thought of her father, Reina's expression suddenly darkened and sadness filled her heart.

"I'd rather avoid this if possible. No one would benefit if neither side won..." A faint smile appeared on Lin Yun's pale face as he looked towards the depths of the palace. He couldn't see clearly, but his gaze was firmly locked there for a while. After looking there for a bit, he turned back.

In fact, he hated the feeling of being threatened. His life was always threatened at the end of the Magic Era, a feeling he had grown to loathe. Ever since he arrived in this era, those who threatened him always met bad ends.

Obviously, he couldn't accept the threat of the Frost Dragon. If it weren't for the fact that he wanted to avoid extra complications, he might have already used a wisp of mana to rouse the daggers to take Reina's life.

But he didn't do so.

Because he had made a new discovery not long ago... He had solved the problem that had been troubling him for a long time, and the key to this lay in the array at the center of the palace, as well as a buried Dragon.

Indeed, in the center of the palace was an undamaged Dragon's skeleton. With his Magic Array, he was able to infer from some clues that this Dragon had been a Frost Dragon, and the power emitted from its bones showed that this fallen Dragon had been at the Heaven Rank.

What amazed him was that this Heaven Rank Frost Dragon had fallen millennia ago, but there were still mana fluctuations remaining, which suggested that it was at the peak of the Heaven Rank.

Frost Dragons weren't very eye-catching among the Dragon Race. Compared to those pure-blooded Chromatic Dragons, there was some gap in their innate talents. For example, once a Pure-blooded Chromatic Dragon reached adulthood, they would have the power of a Heaven Rank powerhouses. In contrast, Frost Dragons were quite inferior. They were only comparable to Archmages when they reached adulthood. For a Heaven Rank powerhouse to appear within this branch was already surprising, but finding a Frost Dragon here that had been at the peak of the Heaven Rank was even more surprising.

As for the area that Frost Dragon was buried in, there was an array that wasn't unfamiliar. It was the Raising Dragon Array he had been searching for.

The Raising Dragon Array was taboo, as it was an array that could resurrect humans and other lifeforms. Even if it had never appeared in Noscent, its effect had been studied, theorized, and spread through Noscent during the peak of the Magic Era. Any mage would be shocked when they were first introduced to the Raising Dragon Array's effect. Lin Yun was also like that the first time. He felt that the power of the Raising Dragon Array was already distorting some Laws.

With the Raising Dragon Array and the skeleton of a Frost Dragon put together, he didn't need to think too much about it to know that someone was trying to use the Raising Dragon Array's power to revive that Frost Dragon...

Frost Dragon Reina had displayed deep hostility when she first saw everyone. That suddenly impulse to kill them could be explained by this. If Lin Yun wasn't wrong, the Heaven Rank Dragon buried in the center might be one of Reina's relatives, and she didn't want these uninvited guests to disturb the resurrection process.

Unfortunately, Reina didn't know that the existence of this Raising Dragon Array had a fatal flaw.

“Hmm?” Reina froze for a while before sneering. “In fact, it’s not impossible to settle this problem. I can let your companions go, but you have to leave this place immediately and never come back, or I’ll kill you, regardless of the price I have to pay.”

If she could avoid it, she wouldn’t want to die.

Because she might have the opportunity to see her father once again in the future...

“Ahah, I think you misunderstood. I want to settle this matter, but definitely not that way...” Lin Yun smiled as he calmly said, “In fact, I know that you are guarding this palace because you are using the power of the Raising Dragon Array to revive one of your relatives, am I right?”

Lin Yun had already seen through Reina. He knew that she was relatively smart and wasn’t planning on taking a path of no return if she could avoid it, so the negotiation might go smoothly.

After saying those words, he fished out a mana crystal from his pocket and slowly started absorbing the mana within. The previous battle had completely exhausted his mana, including his two Alchemic Mana Whirlpools and his few True Spirit Magic Tools.

“How did you know!?”

Reina had been somewhat angry when she heard the first half of the young mage’s sentence, but once Lin Yun mentioned the Raising Dragon Array, Reina became exceptionally emotional.

‘How come this human mage knows?’

She was doubtful and on guard. ‘He wouldn’t be scheming to ruin it, right?’

“Now only do I know that you want to use the Raising Dragon Array to resurrect your relative, but I also know that you are bound to fail! Had you kept guarding without anyone bothering you, it might have been possible to revive after a hundred years... Sorry to tell you this, but what would have been revived at the time definitely wouldn’t be your relative. It would have been an Undead. It would have destroyed not only you, but possibly the entire plane once it came out.” Reina’s heart sank as Lin Yun’s voice went on.

Chapter 509: Mysterious Man

“Nonsense, you are talking nonsense! My father is definitely going to revive!” Reina instantly let out a hysterical roar as anger could be seen in her eyes. “Damn Human, don’t even think of deceiving me, I’m not that easily fooled!”

She simply couldn’t believe the young mage’s words.

During the Draconic War, her father had firmly stood on the side of mankind and helped humans deal with Chromatic Dragons and Pure-blooded Elves. Although she still didn’t know why her father did so, she knew her father had his own thoughts. Unfortunately, during the final battle, her father had fallen.

At that time, Reina had looked at her father’s corpse in a daze, so sad that she couldn’t even control her tears until she fell unconscious. When she woke up, she discovered someone standing beside her. This

man had been covered in a black robe and she couldn't make out his appearance. He called himself her father's friend.

The muddle-headed Reina simply wasn't in the mood to pay attention to that human and just nodded half-heartedly. He talked for over half an hour, but she didn't really listen and just kept nodding robotically. However, when he explained why he came to find her, she vaguely heard that he was planning to revive her father.

Her first reaction had been disbelief...

Her father's life had completely faded away... How could he be revived?

She doubted her ears...

But after he repeated his words, Reina confirmed that she hadn't misheard. The mysterious black-gowned man truly had claimed that there was a way to resurrect her father.

Although she could hardly believe it, she couldn't give up on that opportunity. After a long talk, she learnt about the existence of the Raising Dragon Array. That miraculous array had an unfathomable ability, it could revive beings on the verge of death.

Later, she found out that the mysterious man that had come looking for her was a formidable existence no weaker than her father and had an exalted position among the humans.

Although Reina had just reached adulthood back then, she felt that such a formidable powerhouse simply had no reason to trick her, so she believed that her father might have a shot at resurrection.

She looked for that mysterious person and moved her father's skeleton to the Winter Plane as per his requirements. She then waited for a very long time, guarding this place for millennia to make sure nothing would happen midway that could prevent her father from being able to come back to life.

She had been looking forward to reuniting with her father for several thousand years.

But now, this human who suddenly charged into her palace told her that her father simply couldn't come back to life and that he would instead become Undead. How could she accept that?

After all, she had been enduring endless silence and solitude for millennia just to reunite with her father...

Moreover, that mage who stood at the peak of the Heaven realm had promised that the Raising Dragon Array would revive her father... It would only need a very long time.

Why would someone with that kind of power need to deceive her?

Thus, she unhesitantly felt that the young mage was trying to deceive her with some kind of ulterior motive. After all, the promise of a peak Heaven Rank powerhouse had much more weight behind it. How could she choose to believe an ignorant young mage? Moreover, her heart subconsciously wanted to deny the young mage's words, as she had been hoping to reunite with her father all this time.

“Haha, it looks like I have to find a way to make you believe me...” Lin Yun frowned and chuckled humorlessly. Reina’s reaction was within his expectations, but he didn’t care because he really did have a way to prove his words.

After absorbing the mana from a few high-level mana crystals, he recovered somewhat. By rousing his Magic Array to its maximum, he quickly discovered a Frost Bird a few hundred meters away from the palace. In a flash, a burst of mana turned into a black hand and extended outside the palace, dexterously grabbing that Frost Bird before carrying it back to the palace.

Cries could be heard coming from the Frost Bird. In fact, this Frost Bird was level 25, so it couldn’t be considered weak. But Lin Yun easily grabbed it and snapped its neck without hesitation.

“You... What are you doing!?”

Seeing the young mage’s actions and his self-confidence, Reina’s heart suddenly started beating faster. ‘Don’t tell me this young mage can really prove that the Heaven Mage tricked me?’

As she thought about this possibility, she couldn’t keep her heart calm.

“What do you think?” Lin Yun faintly looked at Reina. After a meaningful smile, he cast a spell and the Frost Bird’s corpse slowly floated towards the center of the palace, before falling on the ground with a soft sound.

Reina nervously watched it all.

When the corpse of the Frost Bird landed, the originally calm palace was like a lake that had a stone thrown into it. In a flash, a dazzling light blossomed from that dusky area and numerous runes rose up in the air, illuminating the palace.

Reina shivered... She could clearly feel an extremely imposing power gathering. Even she, at level 38, felt some palpitations.

“I wonder what you are trying to prove?” she asked. But then, those rising runes suddenly dimmed, and that terrifying power also withdrew like a tide. Seeing this scene, Reina’s heart relaxed and she couldn’t help sneering.

The young mage was truly just stirring up trouble and trying to trick her. He couldn’t prove anything.

The ridiculous part was that she had almost believed him.

“It’s not over...” Lin Yun didn’t pay attention to Reina’s sarcasm as he continued to watch the center of the palace with a serious expression.

“What isn’t over?” Reina’s anger soared when the young mage continued trying to act mysterious after being found out. If not for the dagger pressing against her neck, she might have already stomped him into the ground to teach him the cost of deceiving her. But something caused her to stop before she could say anything more.

“That... That’s...”

Suddenly, a gloomy and sinister aura spread. Reina noticed that the originally peaceful center of the palace was now letting out some creaking sounds. She could clearly see that the flesh of the recently deceased Frost Bird had completely disappeared. Only its skeleton remained, carrying a sinister aura as it shakily flew towards their position.

This bird had become Undead!

Azure light could be seen shining from its narrow eye-sockets, continuously flickering in the dusky environment.

Reina was looking at the Undead Bird in a daze, feeling completely stunned...

At this time, flames appeared at Lin Yun's fingertips. A Flame Burst flew out and consumed the bird, sending bone fragments flying everywhere.

As Lin Yun expected, the strength of the level 25 Frost Bird had undergone a monstrous change after going through the Raising Dragon Array. It was barely injured by the Flame Burst. But Lin Yun didn't stop casting... His Doom Staff kept flickering as a stream of Flame Bursts struck the Undead Bird, creating multiple explosions. By the 8th Flame Burst, its skeleton had thoroughly shattered, only leaving behind a flickering, fluorescent Undead Essence.

Lin Yun couldn't help frowning. The increase in that bird's power after going through the array had been too outrageous. It had been comparable to a 2nd Rank Archmage in power. In other words, after turning into an Undead, it gained an entire seven levels.

When he encountered that situation three months ago, the level 15 Fire Salamander had gained ten levels after being turned into an Undead creature.

He hypothesized some possible patterns about how it worked. For example, it seemed that the more powerful the creature, the longer it would take for it to become Undead. The Fire Salamander had taken less than ten seconds to transform, while the level 25 Frost Bird took half a minute.

As for that Frost Dragon that stood at the peak of the Heaven Rank...

The transformation process would certainly take an extremely long time, possibly several thousand years.

'If the Heaven Rank Frost Dragon also...' As he thought of what would happen after the Frost Dragon successfully transformed, Lin Yun couldn't help sweating. That would be too terrible. The strength of the Frost Dragon would definitely increase...

Then...

Just how terrible would the power of the Undead Frost Dragon be? It would definitely be an existence surpassing the Heaven Rank, one of the most powerful Undead beings in Noscent's history!

It would be a disaster if it appeared in Noscent. There were simply no mages that could contend against it.

Chapter 510: Resurrection

Lin Yun didn't dare to keep thinking about this. He shook off his nervousness and pointed at the remains of that Frost Bird before smiling at Reina. "Did you see? I didn't lie to you. If you truly want your father to become like that, then you might as well go ahead and stomp my companions to death. I'll directly leave and not meddle in your business."

Although he said this, he had no plan to just leave now. Regardless of the means, he would take the two remaining Chromatic Dragon Crystals with him.

Moreover, there was no sense in leaving this Raising Dragon Array there...

To be more accurate, this wasn't a genuine Raising Dragon Array. It wasn't built in accordance with the steps Lin Yun was familiar with. For example, some very important but difficult details had been replaced by other methods, leading to the Raising Dragon Array missing its true power. It could only transform corpses of some creatures into the Undead.

After all, a true Raising Dragon Array had never been seen in Noscent.

"How could this be, how could this be..."

Reina looked as if she had lost her soul. She kept repeating those few words, clearly unable to accept this reality. But it was understandable. She spent so much effort, endured this endless solitude and silence, and waited in this palace for a few millennia without leaving.

Although she was being driven mad by the boredom, she never regretted her decision. So what if it felt oppressive? Reuniting with her father was more important.

To her, her father was the most important person in her life.

But after a few millennia of perseverance, she suddenly discovered that her perseverance had actually been misplaced. In that instant, she felt as if her entire world had collapsed.

"In fact, I do have a way to revive your father..." Lin Yun put away his dagger and used Levitation to get down from Reina's back. He couldn't help shaking his head when he looked at the absent-minded Reina. Fortunately, she had good mental fortitude. Had it been someone else experiencing this matter, they might have already collapsed.

"What did you say?" The muddle-headed Reina suddenly stopped quietly sobbing after hearing Lin Yun's words. She glanced at him restlessly, doubting whether she had misheard. "Are your words true?"

"Of course, I have a way to resurrect your father."

"You... Can you help me...?" After obtaining the confirmation, Reina became extremely nervous. She wouldn't give up even if there was only a slight hope of reuniting with her father.

"I can..."

"Rea... Really?"

"Yes, I really can help you... But I'm unable to do so for the time being. You have to wait until I reach the Heaven Rank, and then I'll be able to use a certain method to resurrect your father. But before that, I

need to take away the Chromatic Dragon Crystal within the Raising Dragon Array... Moreover, this particular Raising Dragon Array has no need to exist.” Lin Yun scratched his cheek as he forced a smile at Reina.

He wasn't deceiving her... He was confident he could do it, but he needed some time.

After all, reviving a Frost Dragon that had been dead for millennia wasn't that simple. This involved interfering with unshakable Laws, and that could only be accomplished with taboo power.

He had enough confidence that once he became a Heaven Mage, he would also be a Saint Alchemist!

The Saint Alchemist realm might be out of reach of Noscent's current Artisans. They would likely never reach that height in their lifetimes.

But to the transmigrator, Lin Yun, becoming a Saint Alchemist wasn't anything challenging. He only needed time. He felt that he had a chance at becoming a Saint Alchemist after becoming a Heaven Mage.

This confidence stemmed from the fact that he possessed alchemy knowledge that surpassed this entire era.

He would still be unable to set up a true Raising Dragon Array once he became a Saint Alchemist, as the requirements of such an array were too demanding, making it simply impossible, he still knew another method that would have the same effect.

In the several hundred years when the magic civilization was pushed towards its pinnacle, there had been a study on the Raising Dragon Array, gathering the wisdom of countless alchemists as they analyzed everything they knew about the Raising Dragon Array.

It was definitely a huge project.

In the end, after a decade of research, these alchemists made new discoveries. They found out that the core secret of the Raising Dragon Array was that it used an unfathomable method to recondense a dissipated soul. That new discovery made those alchemists go wild with joy. They had been regretting the fact that they couldn't arrange a Raising Dragon Array, but they found out a crucial part of it that might be reproducible.

Then, all of Noscent's alchemists launched into a grandiose study on how to recondense souls.

Recondense souls?

At that time, there had been many people questioning them, feeling that those alchemists were dedicating too much time to something meaningless.

Because that was something simply impossible.

But after more than a hundred years, the alchemists solemnly announced to all of Noscent that they had developed a way to recondense a soul!

At that time, Noscent was roused into a frenzy. The only thing the mages would talk about was this matter.

In fact, it was already near the end of the Magic Era when that method was developed, and changes quickly began to fall on Noscent. The result of the research that could make any alchemist go crazy with fervor was also put in the decaying library.

Lin Yun hadn't been paying much attention to the books detailing these great research results, since they didn't seem as practical or useful as the Figaro Formula. Only when he was bored would he go read those books for fun.

During that era, all that mattered was survival.

The soul recondensing method that these alchemists had developed was something even an Artisan couldn't accomplish. One had to be a Saint Alchemist to use that method.

After all, it involved the incredible act of crafting and condensing a soul. This belonged to the realm of Gods. Mortals couldn't accomplish this, and only by becoming a Saint Alchemist could one be qualified to reach this domain.

"Heaven..." Reina froze when she heard the young mage's words. "Alright, please remember your promise." She was happy, but also worried. The Heaven Rank was something that ordinary people would never reach in their lifetimes, but it didn't seem difficult to the young mage in front of her... For some reason, it felt like it would be more a matter of time.

She came to this conclusion because the young mage seemed to be in his twenties, by human standards, but was already a 5th Rank High Mage. Moreover, his true strength clearly far surpassed his own rank. Had the young mage not participated in the previous battle, she wouldn't have been in such an awkward situation while dealing with Thorne's group. She would have been able to defeat them all in no more than ten minutes.

She had been somewhat shocked then... If he was this powerful as a High Mage, just how frightening would he be if he became an Archmage?

At that time, the 8th Rank Archmage Reina wouldn't be that youth's opponent.

And thus, Reina was really excited after listening to the young mage's words. She had already been enduring for several millennia. She was sure that the young mage would need a few centuries at most to reach the Heaven Rank; that was nothing to her.

"Alright then..." Lin Yun gently nodded and didn't say anything else. He turned to look at Thorne and the others lying on the ground and immediately walked over. He spent a few minutes to help melt the ice, and once he was done, he re-focused his attention on the Raising Dragon Array in the center of the palace.

This was the true reason he came to the Winter Plane.

The process of cracking the array was definitely boring. On the evening of the 2nd day, he completely cracked the Raising Dragon Array and it immediately collapsed. Its power quickly faded away as he retrieved the two Chromatic Dragon Crystals and gently put them in his pocket.

Lin Yun called out to everyone, ready to return to the Raging Flame Plane. The group of six walked out of the palace.

But...

Just as they left the palace, Lin Yun suddenly discovered that they weren't just six... There was an extra silhouette at the back of the group, following them closely. He naturally knew that it was Reina.

"You..."

He turned and threw a doubtful glance at her, but she just expressionlessly looked back at him. Reina was a lot weaker than before, and her face was devoid of blood.

After looking at each other for a bit, Reina couldn't help but curl her lip with a cold expression. "What's wrong?"

"I want to know why you chose to follow me instead of remaining here..." Lin Yun looked as if he felt wronged by having a beautiful woman following him.

Reina was like a time bomb, forcing him to remain on guard.

Of course, he might be overthinking it...

"Hmpf..." Reina coldly snorted as she looked at Lin Yun with an ice-cold expression. "How would I know if you're keeping your promise? What should I do if you are swindling me? I have to follow you until you reach the Heaven Rank, I'll leave once you fulfill your promise..."