

Magic Era 511

Chapter 511: Not Too Long

She thought for a bit before ultimately making the decision to follow the young mage.

She had waited for too long...

In the past, she'd been unaware of the truth and had always been hoping to reunite with her father one day, so she'd endured the silence and solitude.

But she now knew that it had been a scam that lasted millennia...

Naturally, the most important reason behind her decision was that she didn't trust the young mage.

What would she do if the young mage successfully reached the Heaven realm in a few centuries but forgot his promise?

Thus, she felt more at ease following and keeping an eye on him. That way, she could always remind the young mage that he had to fulfill his promise.

Lin Yun was frowning as he looked at Reina. Eventually, he took a deep breath and set out towards the ropeway to return to the Ice Field. The group of seven took about ten hours to return to the Planar Path.

While going through the Planar Path, Lin Yun naturally didn't forget to pick up the Chromatic Dragon Crystal in the middle, and once they reached the Raging Flame Plane, he impatiently took out the ones embedded in the array, causing that azure Planar Path to silently fade away. But there was no regret. He had used the Book of Death to record the Planar Coordinates beforehand.

This trip to the Winter Plane had been quite fruitful, garnering him five Chromatic Dragon Crystals.

After returning to the Raging Flame Plane, Lin Yun split off from Thorne and the others and didn't return to the Flame Demon Fort. Instead, he continued to the Ghost Valley, where he found a secluded place to calmly meditate.

Since he came to the Raging Flame Plane three months ago, he went through one large battle after the other, and the fight against Frost Dragon Reina had exhausted all his mana, including the mana of the three True Spirit Magic Tools. But he had greatly benefitted from this battle and had gained a lot of insights.

Thus, after returning, he impatiently wanted to process those insights.

This was bound to take a while, and days passed as Lin Yun remained motionless.

However, several hundred meters away, a pair of silvery-white eyes were keeping a close watch on him.

Reina didn't follow Thorne and the others back to Flame Demon Fort either. She had secretly followed Lin Yun until he started meditating. When he entered his meditative state, she stopped and stayed some distance away, silently waiting for him.

With her insight as an 8th Rank Archmage, she could naturally see that the young mage was at a critical juncture and couldn't be disturbed. This would be a very long process that might take several days, or even a few months. She just patiently waited, paying attention to the young mage's situation and kicking out any magic beasts that got too close so that the young mage wouldn't be disturbed.

As she waited, a shocking mana fluctuation was suddenly emitted from the young mage's body, raising gusts of winds that sent sand and stones flying. Suddenly, alarmed cries could be heard coming from the nearby magic beasts, but the young mage didn't seem affected at all as he remained sitting there peacefully.

'Quite powerful...'

Even Reina was impressed as she looked at Lin Yun. She could clearly feel the mana fluctuations emitted by the young mage rising at an incredible rate before reaching the peak of the 5th Rank High Mage realm.

But this was far from over...

Just as the young mage reached the peak of the 5th Rank, gales whistled in the surroundings and terrifying mana spread in all directions like a tide. Under the impact of that frightening mana wave, the trees and plants in the surroundings quickly withered.

But incredibly, the mana fluctuations emitted by the young mage were still rising and reached a critical juncture in a short few seconds.

Seeing that the young mage was about to advance once again, Reina was even more shocked. She couldn't understand... How did the young mage accomplish such a feat?

It was common knowledge that each breakthrough in the High Mage realm, whether it was for mages or other creatures, required several years. Even geniuses would need at least a few months before a breakthrough. Yet, this young mage advanced from the 5th Rank to the 6th Rank in a matter of minutes, and it looked like he would soon reach the 7th Rank.

But at this time, the commotion suddenly stopped...

Lin Yun had opened his eyes.

The first thing he did after opening his eyes was to check his condition. When he found out that he had stopped at the peak of the 6th Rank, Lin Yun couldn't help feeling relieved.

He had been too careless... If he had gone on any longer, he would have brought huge trouble upon himself.

His current situation was too special...

After carefully calculating, he saw that he had become a 5th Rank High Mage in half a year. The efficiency of the three Meditation Law Sets could only be described as terrifying. His accumulation of mana was extremely robust. His mana was far denser than an ordinary person could even imagine.

This had reached a point where, if he wanted to, he could advance to the next ranks anywhere, anytime; 7th Rank, 8th Rank, and even 9th Rank!

But reason wouldn't let him do so...

Right now, he had to quickly obtain the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras. With it, he would be able to merge his three Meditation Law Sets with his Magic Array, the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras, and the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. If nothing unexpected happened, he would be able to attack the Archmage realm at that time.

The only thing he had to do was pay attention to his own rank. After all, he was different from other High Mages. He had three Meditation Law Sets, so the difficulty in advancing to the Archmage Realm was greatly increased. Any other High Mage could try fusing their Meditation Law Set and their Magic Conducting Rune at the 9th Rank.

But Lin Yun couldn't.

Because he clearly understood that to have the optimal future growth, he should merge his Meditation Law Sets and Magic Conducting Rune earlier on, because every increase in rank would bring great resistance and make this fusion exponentially harder. Thus he spared no effort to suppress his own rank.

This breakthrough had been unexpected. He had been immersed in a sublime state and was gaining more understanding of magic each moment. His strength was also quickly increasing, but after a long while, he had lost control over his power, and like a dam breaking down, the mana surged out and suddenly increased his rank in a few minutes. Had he been slightly later, he might have already become a 7th Rank High Mage.

Fortunately, he reacted promptly upon regaining his senses...

Although this unexpected accident brought him to the peak of the 6th Rank, the difficulty of fusing his Magic Conducting Rune and his Meditation Law Sets was still within an acceptable range.

"How long did I take?"

Lin Yun had already discovered Reina's presence a few hundred meters away. He unhurriedly approached her, wondering what she thought about what she'd seen.

In fact, Lin Yun had known that Reina had been secretly following him ever since he split away from the others, but he didn't mind it. He clearly knew that Reina was entrusting her hopes in him. In all of Noscent, he might be the only one that could help her revive her father.

This was enough for him to accept the fact that he would be stuck with Reina. And if he ran into great danger, Reina, this formidable Frost Dragon, would have no choice but to help him for the sake of her father.

This was why Lin Yun didn't feel too apprehensive about Reina's presence. He actually felt as if he had gotten a great bargain. With a casual promise, he made a Frost Dragon willingly become his hired thug...

This was like taking candy from a baby.

"Four and a half days..."

Reina, who had suffered a major blow in the palace, was somewhat haggard, but her complexion was a lot better compared to before. However, she still seemed anxious. Reina was currently looking at him with an extremely strange expression as she answered Lin Yun in an icy voice.

She really couldn't understand... The young mage suddenly woke up, breaking that splendid state of enlightenment, which prevented him from advancing to the 7th Rank. But there was no disappointment on the young mage's face, and he even seemed quite pleased after waking up.

This puzzled her...

"Oh... Not bad, it hasn't been too long," Lin Yun mumbled to himself as he nodded.

He then led Reina to walk around the Ghost Valley. After the Ghost Valley was affected by the Demon Contract, the mana density had more than tripled, and the magic beasts who went berserk due to the environmental change had gradually calmed down. The Merlin Family and the Black Tower were all busy managing the resources of the Ghost Valley.

On the way, he discovered a handful of rich ore veins, and the Merlin Family dispatched a large number of puppets to mine those veins, transporting those ores out of the Ghost Valley by carts to be sent back to Noscent.

And this was only part of it.

Chapter 512: Wavering

The Merlin Family obtained unfathomable benefits in the recent collaboration and occupied almost 70% of the Ghost Valley, part of which was very suitable for plants, so they had planned to use that area to grow some medicinal herbs. There were also over ten rich ore veins, and each of them represented unimaginable wealth. More importantly, the resources of the Ghost Valley were almost inexhaustible.

Both the ore veins and medicinal herbs had all been born from the dense mana, and now, the Ghost Valley's mana density was more than three times what it had originally been. Just in the recent period, the Merlin Family had sent over ten Great Alchemists to form a team to check for ore veins, and in a few areas, they found some faintly shining rocks, which were signs of even more ore veins being formed.

This was the first time Lin Yun had walked around the area again after thoroughly controlling the Ghost Valley. He really hadn't been able to find the time before, but he had now finally finished dealing with many major things at once.

Once the Thawing Fire Tribe was annihilated, the Merlin Family and the Black Tower split up the Ghost Valley and the four forts. The Black Tower was actually very generous regarding the four forts, which hadn't been discussed in the agreement, letting the Merlin Family choose two of them.

At that time, Lin Yun realized that his unplanned move had brought huge benefits to the Merlin Family. With the addition of the two forts, the Merlin Family now occupied five forts, which covered half of the northeastern part of the Raging Flame Plane. There weren't many forces that had more land than the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane. There should only be the two giants, the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower.

In other words, the Merlin Family, which had been in the middle of the pack in the Raging Flame Plane, had left the other forces far behind...

Such huge changes happened in a mere three months...

And these changes brought significant benefits to the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane. It would inevitably snowball and greatly increase the influence of the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane.

After two more hours, Lin Yun finished his tour of the Ghost Valley and ultimately returned to the Demon Contract area. There, the fifty High Mages and the three Merlin Cousins were still meditating.

As for the Draconic Beastman, Xiuban...

Even if he wanted to meditate, he would find it very difficult. Otherwise, Lin Yun wouldn't have given him the Soul of the Ancient Tree, the Meditation Law Set that didn't require meditation to accumulate mana. During that time, Xiuban seemed to have spent most of his time sleeping. Even now, Xiuban could be seen lying on his back, sunbathing. There were strange runes flickering all over his body, and minute changes were happening to his power all the time. Without Lin Yun's Magic Array, these changes would be very hard to notice.

Xiuban was already a genuine Peak 9th Rank Expert Swordsman with one foot in the Sword Saint Realm. Lin Yun's mouth twitched as he looked at Xiuban. 'He wouldn't be sleeping his way to the Sword Saint rank, right?'

As he thought about it, he felt that it might actually be possible.

Soon after, his eyes fell on William's group and he instantly felt surprised. Through these familiar mana fluctuations, he was able to accurately assess that these young Merlins were now standing at the peak of the High Mage realm. All of them were Peak 9th Rank High Mages!

He hadn't expected the three of them to progress so fast.

As for those fifty High Mages, although their progress wasn't as exaggerated as William's group, their strength also greatly increased. Most of them were now between the 2nd and 3rd Ranks.

Sensing the familiar mana fluctuations, William was suddenly roused from his meditation and he instantly looked at the newly appearing silhouette. "Cousin Mafa, you came back..."

"Yes..." Lin Yun nodded. He started to speak, when he suddenly remembered something and waved at William. "Cousin William, there is something I need to trouble you with..."

"Eh?" William was surprised, but he quickly reacted and waved his hands. "No problem, no problem..."

"It's like this..." Lin Yun thought for a moment before fishing out a stack of paper from his pocket, seemingly wrapping something inside and handing it to William.

"This..."

William seemed a bit unsure at first, but his expression greatly changed when he opened a corner of the paper. He looked at Lin Yun and said, "Cousin Mafa, this can't really be..."

"Go quickly, and return fast." Lin Yun faintly smiled, not explaining anything.

...

At this time, in the Flame Demon Fort's meeting room, a meeting was underway. Thorne, as a Commander, would periodically summon some high-ranking members of the Planar Legion to discuss all kinds of problems. Naturally, the final decision would belong to Thorne.

But the atmosphere in the meeting room was weird today.

The few officers of the Planar Legion could clearly feel that their Commander was absent-minded as he heard their reports. During the discussions, he also remained silent. They didn't know what had happened, but they found that Thorne seemed to have a lot on his mind these days.

"Alright, Let's finish here today..." After heavily hitting the table, Thorne let out a gloomy voice. He watched as the officers left until he was the last person in the meeting room. He let out a long sigh while massaging his temples, but he couldn't clear out the haze shrouding his mind.

He had been struggling to make a decision ever since he came back from the Winter Plane.

To be more exact, this was related to the young mage.

He had always had a deep enmity towards this young mage, and back then, he had even felt that the decision from the Ancestral Land had been somewhat stupid. A youth in his twenties without any experience fighting in Planar Wars was dispatched to the Raging Flame Plane as a Commander, sharing half of his authority... Wasn't this senseless?

But the events that played out had made the way Thorne looked at the young mage quietly change.

Lin Yun had succeeded in doing the impossible multiple times. He had convinced the Black Tower to join forces to completely control the Ghost Valley and cause the destruction of the Thawing Fire Tribe, bringing huge benefits to the Merlin Family. From this, Thorne was able to see that there was far more to the young mage than he had thought.

Especially during that fight in the Sacred Land of the Thawing Fire Tribe. When the two major forces were in a deadlock with the Tribal Chief, Mafa suddenly burst with power and got rid of the Tribal Chief with a single move.

At that time, he realized how terrifying the young mage's potential was.

After all, he was merely a 5th Rank High Mage. In any of the forces of the Raging Flame Plane, he should be quite unremarkable. Yet, he was different... His power far surpassed his own rank.

Thorne didn't know what to do when he realized this.

'Should I keep setting myself against him?'

No... Not to mention the fact that he couldn't compare at all in terms of strength, the young mage's outstanding performances further dissuaded him. He wasn't just an extremely powerful youth of the Merlin Family, he was an existence that had the potential to reach the Heaven Rank.

Thorne wanted to find Mafa to have a proper chat, but he didn't have the opportunity.

Also, many things happened in the Winter Plane. They first encountered the flock of Ice Field Mammoths, and then a level 38 Frost Dragon. If he hadn't been there, Thorne would have met his end in the Winter Plane. This caused Thorne to have complicated feelings towards the young mage.

Perhaps he shouldn't have targeted him so much.

The young mage hadn't caused him trouble in the Raging Flame Plane and instead even saved him twice.

Thorne wasn't an ungrateful person...

But, when he thought about it, he couldn't help remembering the despair in Aube's eyes after his Mana Whirlpool was crippled.

This made Thorne feel conflicted. He simply couldn't put down his grievances.

While Thorne was immersed in his thoughts, a silhouette had sneaked inside the meeting room, unbeknownst to him. "Sir Thorne...?"

"Hmmm?"

Hearing someone calling his name, Thorne suddenly raised his head, only to see William standing beside him. He couldn't help but frown as he asked, "Is there something you need?"

"There is..."

William was smiling, apparently not caring about Thorne's cold attitude. He reached into his pocket and took something out. "I came to you on an errand from Cousin Mafa. He told me to hand this to you personally..."

"Eh?"

Thorne faintly glanced at William, and although he was very calm on the surface, he was extremely suspicious. Why would the young mage send him something out of nowhere?

His gaze couldn't help but fall on that stack of paper that was apparently wrapping something. He resisted the urge to inquire and pointed at a table. "Put it there..."

After saying that, he calmly waited.

But Thorne hadn't expected that William would still stand there indifferently after half a minute, looking at him with a strange expression. This made Thorne frown, his expression turning somewhat unpleasant.

Chapter 513: Smooth

"No..."

William shook his head, he had heard countless tales of this legendary commander's campaigns to every major plane. It would have been impossible for him not to feel pressure if he had faced this commander before.

But it was different now, ever since he came in contact with his cousin Mafa on that trip to Thousand Sails City, which he considered as an exile at that time, his fate thoroughly changed. In a bit over a year, he walked the path that an ordinary person might not be able to achieve in ten years, from 5th Rank Great Mage, he advanced all the way to 9th Rank High Mage.

To be honest, he wasn't feeling any pressure when facing Thorne alone.

Nothing could be done about it, the current William was extremely confident, he had thoroughly researched that 13-Formulas Meditation Law Set his cousin recently gave him and then succeeded in destroying his Magic Conducting Runes. And from those remains, he built the even more formidable Magic Conducting Rune known as Well of Stars.

He might just be a 9th Rank High Mage, but he could easily crush a low ranked Archmage when he displayed his full power.

"Sir Thorne, you'd best check it now. Cousin Mafa said that you'll definitely like this gift..." William thought for a bit, and didn't put that thing on the table, putting it in front of Thorne instead.

"Hmpf..."

Thorne was clearly stunned, this irascible commander was about to get angry, but when he thought of the relationship between William and the young mage, he suppressed his anger and snorted instead.

"What is it..." After some hesitation, Thorne reached out and took the thing before his eyes. He lifted the layer of paper covering it, exposing the glimmering thumb-sized metal ball laying there.

A gloomy smile appeared on Thorne's face, he looked at William for a few minutes before his voice echoed, "I'll trouble you to go back and tell High Mage Mafa that I do not have this kind of hobby and I hope he won't deliver this kind of thing next time. Oh, right, you'd best take this metal ball away before leaving, it'll be disposed like garbage if left here."

"This truly isn't garbage..."

William could no longer look away when that glimmer appeared, envy could even be seen on his face for a split second.

Indeed, envy...

That was a metal ball that looked exquisite on the outside, but wasn't emitting any mana fluctuation. It was only a curio to most, only people like Mafa Merlin and William himself knew how valuable of a treasure it was.

Because half a year ago, William had once been gifted a very similar metal ball from his cousin's hands, and after following the method provided by his cousin, his mana doubled the next day.

Indeed, this was the greatest invention of Artisan Vaughn, the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool!

Thorne picked up the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool and fiddled with it, a cold smile on his face, "Since you are saying it's not garbage, then give me an explanation, and one that shall satisfy me..."

"Haha..."

William had a calm expression as he chuckled, he then took a deep breath and said, "Sir Thorne, let me tell you the origin of this metal, it was created by the final Artisan of the 3rd Dynasty. I believe that if you pay a closer look, you should be able to see it hadn't been forged in ordinary metal, but in a rare type of magic metal known as Mithril. This metal is only produced in the 40th floor of the Abyss or lower..."

"Oh?"

Sure enough, Thorne's movements came to an abrupt stop as William explained, after a careful look, he discovered the peculiarities of the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, "How is it used?"

"It is called Alchemic Mana Whirlpool. Simply put, it can replace Mana Whirlpool without influencing a mage's meditation and casting. This might help your son Aube become a mage again, as for what kind of height he would reach afterward, it would depend on his own abilities."

"Hold on... What did you say?" Thorne was instantly frozen, it was to the point that he almost let that Alchemic Mana Whirlpool fall to the ground. He thought about William's words a few time before reacting. He then tightly held the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, unable to stop shaking, "Thank you... Truly, thank you. William, please, you must help me pass on my thanks to High Mage Mafa, thank him for his selfless assistance, no, I have to personally thank him. Also, thank you too, William..."

At this time, Thorne was truly excited and speechless, his face was flushed and he thanked William three times, he didn't have the least bit of commander's demeanor.

Nothing could be done about it, he was too happy.

Half a year ago, Aube Merlin's Mana Whirlpool had been crippled and his magic path had been completely severed. The look of despair his son had was like a knife twisting in his heart, he felt even more pain than Aube.

He had thought about trying to help Aube become a mage again more than once, but that was simply impossible, he could only fantasize.

But now, the young mage gifted him this Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, giving Aube hope to become a mage once again.

At this time, Thorne wasn't a commander, neither was he a Sword Saint, he was only a father overjoyed that his son could once again tread the magic path.

"What are you thanking me for..." Seeing Thorne completely changing and even thanking himself, William couldn't help forcing a smile, "Right, Sir Thorne, you don't need to go over just for that, Cousin Mafa should be coming over to the Flame Demon Fort tomorrow, you can personally express your gratitude at that time. Oh, right, the way to use the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool is recorded in those papers, if there is something you don't understand, you can ask Cousin Mafa..."

"Yes, yes..."

Thorne tightly held onto the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool in one hand and grabbed onto those papers with his other hand, still incredibly excited.

William laughed and took a deep look at this middle-aged commander soaking in happiness and couldn't help inwardly sighing with sorrow, 'That Aube is truly lucky, how could he get a chance to become a mage again if his father wasn't Thorne...'

William didn't say anything else and left the meeting room to go back to the Ghost Valley.

It was already evening by the time William arrived at the Ghost Valley, that blood red scorching sun gradually fading away as the surroundings became somewhat dusky.

"Looks like it went smoothly..." Seeing William return empty-handed, Lin Yun instantly knew that his cousin had accomplished his task.

As for that Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, it would be a lie to say that he didn't feel regretful...

That was a treasure that could make a mage double his mana. A mage with an Alchemic Mana Whirlpool could overpower a mage on the same level.

Not to mention, only six Alchemic Mana Whirlpools appeared in the entire Noscent. Back then, he had gotten those six in the Stone Tower in the Four Season Canyon, but he gave two to Solomon, fused with two, and gave one to William. This meant that he had given Thorne his last one...

It was the only way to eliminate the barrier between him and Thorne...

But, in the foreseeable future, he might possibly rely on his own power to forge Alchemic Mana Whirlpools.

After all, the Ivory Tower ended up seizing Vaughn's treasury in Crystal Island and found a research report on Alchemic Mana Whirlpools. Later, the Ivory Tower explored the Four Seasons Canyon four times, yet they didn't find any trace of an Alchemic Mana Whirlpool.

But Lin Yun already had an Alchemic Mana Whirlpool, if he got a hold of that research report and used it in tandem with his Alchemic Mana Whirlpools, he should be able to craft his own Alchemic Mana Whirlpools as a Peak Artisan.

But Crystal Island was still a farfetched objective for the current Lin Yun.

In a few millennia, a world-shaking war would break out over Crystal Island, no less than ten Heaven Rank powerhouses would fall, as for Archmages, they would be nothing more than cannon fodder in that war.

In the end, the Ivory Tower would reveal its fangs and obtain Vaughn's treasury, obtaining some ancient records, along with an Ancient God's corpse.

Regardless of how dangerous the Crystal Island was, Lin Yun had to go over. The soul fragments within his Demiplane were constantly threatening him, it would be a huge disaster if they awakened. At that time, he might have no other choice but to give up on his Demiplane.

And there was a way to suppress the soul of an Ancient God in Vaughn's treasury.

"Exceptionally smooth..." William smiled as he recounted the story, he then couldn't help grinning, "Aube is truly fortunate..."

“Haha...”

After chatting with William for a short moment, Lin Yun looked for a place to meditate until the next morning. He led the three Merlins, Reina, and the Draconic Beastman, who had been sleeping for over half a month, and proceeded towards the Flame Demon Fort.

It had already been half a month since Weiss delivered the Thawing Fire Tribe’s Totem, it was now time to return it. This was the reason why Lin Yun was rushing towards the Flame Demon Fort since dawn.

After rushing for a few hours, the group of six arrived at the Flame Demon Fort. At this time, Lin Yun could clearly sense that the Flame Demon Fort’s troops had been greatly reduced since the last time he was there, but he immediately relaxed. With the destruction of the Thawing Fire Tribe, the land controlled by the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane had expanded by two or three times, the Merlin Family having to spread their troops was something inevitable.

Chapter 514: Flame Demon Fort

“High, High Mage Mafa...”

When they first entered the Flame Demon Fort, the first acquaintance Lin Yun met was Lahn who had went to the Winter Plane with him. But that 4th Rank Archmage was abnormally nervous when facing Lin Yun. Beads of sweat were dripping down his forehead.

Nothing could be done about it, the young mage had left a deep shadow in his mind, he didn’t dare to face him, especially after what happened with the Snow Phantoms. He had thought he would definitely die and thus let out all the resentment he held towards the young mage.

Just thinking about it made him sweat. He had been uneasy for the past few days, worried that the young mage would cause trouble for him.

He even felt that he should request the Ancestral Land to transfer him out of the Raging Flame Plane.

But before he could make up his mind, he met the young mage again...

Speak of the devil...

“Haha, Sir Lahn...” Lin Yun chuckled as he nodded. He then sensed that the Flame Demon Fort was almost empty and couldn’t help frowning, “Did something happen recently?”

As one of the Seven Great Forts, the importance of the Flame Demon Fort was evident, even if the Merlin Family was spreading their troops, there should be at least three Archmages protecting it. But after scanning the Flame Demon Fort with his Magic Array, Lin Yun didn’t find any Archmage aura beside Lahn’s.

This was a bit strange...

“Ah... Nothing big. It’s just that something happened to the Flame Frost Fort last night and Sir Thorne led people over...” Lahn was stunned for a moment, the young mage’s attitude toward him was a lot

better than he had imagined. This made Lahn relax quite a bit and he cautiously said, "You are here for..."

From what he knew, the young mage would hardly come to the Flame Demon Fort. Half a month ago, Sir Thorne repeatedly said that he wanted to discuss something important with the young mage, but his shadow couldn't even be found.

"A small matter to take care of, Sir Lahn, go ahead and do your thing, if someone comes looking for me, send that person to the reception room and have someone notify me. I should be in the alchemy laboratory unless something happens..." Lin Yun frowned, when battling Reina in the Winter Plane, his puppet had taken some hits and was slightly damaged. Restoring it wouldn't be an issue, he only needed some time.

After informing Lahn, Lin Yun led his group away...

"Yes, yes... Rest assured, I'll take care of this." Lahn quickly nodded like a child being given candy. It was quite normal, the young mage was giving him too much pressure.

But before he could wipe the cold sweat off his forehead, he unconsciously looked to the side and caught sight of that silver white silhouette closely following behind the young mage.

And cold sweat started dripping again...

He naturally knew that silver white silhouette, it was the level 38 Frost Dragon that had terrified him!

Although he already knew that the Frost Dragon had reached some kind of agreement with the young mage, he was still terrified when he saw her again. Had the young mage not been there, their group would have been crushed by this Frost Dragon.

"Phew..." He only relaxed when Lin Yun's group left his line of sight, only then he let out a relieved sigh and went on his way with a pale expression.

Ten minutes later, Lin Yun reached the alchemy laboratory of the Flame Demon Fort. This was his first time here and he was somewhat startled when he arrived. The equipments and tools were a lot more advanced than the ones in the Merlin Family Manor. Crucibles, test tubes, the laboratory was equipped with the most advanced tools from the Crystal Workshop. Lin Yun estimated that this laboratory cost near a million golds.

After taking a tour around the laboratory, he found some of the tools he needed and started repairing the puppet.

The repairs were completed after an hour, and just as he collected the puppet, urgent knocking could be heard coming from the door.

"What are you doing? Cousin Mafa is busy..."

"I, I... I, I have something for High Mage Mafa..."

Lin Yun smiled when he heard the answer, he scratched his nose and said, "Cousin William, I'm already finished, let Sir Lahn come in..."

The laboratory's door was instantly opened as Lahn hurried over.

"Black Tower's Weiss should have arrived, right? Let's go to the reception room..." Lin Yun smiled. For Lahn, a 4th Rank Archmage to personally come, it must have been due to Weiss' arrival.

"Eh?" Lahn was stunned.

"Is it not?"

"High Mage Mafa, just now, a young man proclaiming to be from the Watson Family came over, he said he wants to see you, so I arranged for him to wait in the reception room..." Lahn suddenly realized that the young mage had originally been waiting for Sir Weiss of the Back Tower, and not some damn Watson Family youth...

But it was too late, he already disturbed the young mage for this.

"From the Watson Family? Looking for me?" Lin Yun frowned, for a moment, he couldn't figure out who had been looking for him.

"Yes... He said he was looking for our Merlin Family's Commander." After saying this, Lahn nervously looked at Lin Yun, "If you don't want to see him, I can help you send him away..."

Lin Yun now understood that this turned out to be a misunderstanding. The young man of the Watson Family came to the Flame Demon Fort to find the commander, which might not necessarily refer to Mafa Merlin.

There were two commanders after all.

"Forget it, Sir Lahn, I'll go meet him..." Lin Yun waved his hand, a pensive expression on his face. He already knew before he even came to the Raging Flame Plane that the Merlin Family and the Watson Family were collaborating to jointly explore the ruins left behind by the Merlin Family's Ancestor.

A Watson coming to the Flame Demon Fort should be to discuss their collaboration.

Now that the matter of the Raising Dragon Array came to an end, he wouldn't reject such a well-timed collaboration. After all, beside the Merlin Family Ancestor's ruins, there was also the Book of Ten Thousand Mantras in the Volcanic Mountain Range.

Lin Yun soon led William and the others over, and after ten minutes, they reached the door to the reception room, only to hear a sneer.

"Looks like your commander is quite arrogant, he is actually making us wait so long. I can guarantee that your Merlin Family is going to regret if he doesn't show up within five minutes..." Said a young man wearing a mage robe. He was holding a gorgeous staff atop which was embedded a glittering mana crystal. Any mage would notice with a mere glance that this was a spirit mana crystal, and one close to level 35.

This magic staff should be worth a few million golds.

And on the cuffs of that white gown were surprisingly two lines interweaved, one gold one silver.

This was the emblem of an Archmage!

In fact, from the mana fluctuations emitted by the white gowned mage, Lin Yun could accurately determine that this was an Archmage.

Otherwise, the 9th Rank High Mage of the Merlin Family's Planar Legion facing him wouldn't be sweating so much.

"Sorry, I'm late..."

As the voice of the white-robed mage faded away, another voice echoed in the reception room. The white-robed mage turned around and his expression instantly sank, "Don't you know that disturbing an esteemed guest from the Watson Family is a very serious offense?"

He continued, "The youths of the Merlin Family don't even know basic manners..." The white-robed young man took one glance at Lin Yun before losing interest when he noticed that he was merely a high ranked High Mage. After a short pause, he added, "If you disappear right now, I'll consider not blaming you..."

"Excuse me? Aren't you the one looking for me...?" Lin Yun frowned and indifferently glanced at the white-robed young man.

"You think that you, a 6th Rank High Mage, is qualified to make an esteemed Archmage look for him?" The white-robed mage turned his head again to look at Lin Yun with disdain, apparently having lost his patience. He got up and started walking towards the door as he sneered at Lin Yun, "Take me to your commander if you don't want to bear the fury of an Archmage. I want to see for myself how arrogant that commander is!"

He felt that the meaning behind his sentence was very obvious, there was no need to say any more threats, if the young mage wasn't foolish, he would know what to choose...

After all, the fury of an Archmage wasn't something a High Mage could endure.

Although the other side was a member of the Merlin Family and he couldn't be too excessive, there shouldn't be a problem with teaching him a lesson.

But...

As his words faded away, he discovered that the young mage was looking at him with an extremely strange expression.

No, the young mage wasn't the only one looking at him weirdly, the three High Mages behind the young mage and the 9th Rank High Mage that had been receiving him also looked at him as if he was an oddity.

"What is it?" With so many people staring at him, Mark Watson suddenly felt uneasy, he coldly looked at Lin Yun and couldn't help saying in a heavy voice, "Don't think that I won't dare to make a move against you because this is the Flame Demon Fort. My patience is limited, take me to your commander, now..."

After saying those words, Mark took a deep breath as he tried to keep his emotions under control and ignore those strange gazes, before calmly waiting near the door.

Chapter 515: Horn of Fertility

However...

The situation developed beyond his expectations once again...

Half a minute later, the young mage was still standing there. He hadn't moved or said anything.

'This...'

Mark Watson couldn't help being in disbelief. 'Does this 6th Rank High Mage not know that he is provoking me with this kind of behavior?'

For a 6th Rank High Mage to provoke an Archmage, wasn't that just suicide?

'I might as well teach him a lesson myself.'

As he thought of this, Mark couldn't help tightening his grip on the gorgeous magic staff, and a white light quietly blossomed, filling the reception room with shocking mana fluctuations.

But at this time, the young mage's voice echoed once again. "I think you might have misunderstood..."

"Misunderstood?"

Mark instantly sneered, his sinister eyes studying Lin Yun. After a few seconds, he scattered the mana within his magic staff and meaningfully shook his head. "Remember, in the future, you should never try to provoke an Archmage. The fury of an Archmage isn't something a High Mage can endure. Forget it, you clearly won't understand even if I tell you this. Only by reaching that realm can you understand how great the gap between Archmages and High Mages is... Alright now, take me to your commander, okay?"

"I seem to be the person you are looking for..." Lin Yun scratched his cheek as he looked at the white-gowned mage with ridicule.

The young man from the Watson Family was an Archmage at the age of 35. He was also slightly stronger than those who had reached the Archmage realm a long time ago. This kind of achievement was quite astonishing. Any major force would prioritize nurturing him to become even stronger...

After all, Solan Monchi was known as the most promising genius to enter the Council of Seven, but he was already close to 40 when he became an Archmage. This young mage from the Watson Family had become an Archmage a few years younger than Solan.

Those few years were important because they showed how huge the difference in talent between both sides was.

Lin Yun hadn't expected the Watson Family to have such an outstanding youth. This young man was a few times stronger than Stan Watson, who had claimed that only a Sword Saint could be qualified to worry about his safety.

He had no choice but to admit that this young man from the Watson Family indeed had the strength to back up his arrogance.

“You mean, you are the commander?” Mark was stunned for half a minute before finally reacting. He didn’t say anything else after asking that question in a dull tone. But from the mocking expression on his face, it was easy to see that he simply didn’t believe it.

How could he believe it?

A 6th Rank High Mage kept repeating that he was the Merlin Family’s commander. This was truly ridiculous.

Even if the people from the Merlin Family’s Ancestral Land had brain damage, they wouldn’t send a 6th Rank High Mage as a Planar Commander.

After all...

All of Okland’s major forces were participating in the fight over the Raging Flame Plane. In such a battlefield, a 6th Rank High Mage was nothing more than cannon fodder. Mark could believe that this young 6th Rank High Mage had some sort of a position within the Planar Legion, but being a Planar Legion Commander? This was a joke.

He had lived for over thirty years and had never seen nor heard of anyone below the Archmage realm commanding a Planar Legion.

To Mark, the Merlin Family was one of the Three Great Families of Okland and one of the few first-rate forces that had lasted over a few millennia in the Andlusa Kingdom. Their commanders in the Raging Flame Plane should at least be high-ranked Archmages or Sword Saints...

If that young mage was truly a Planar Legion Commander of the Merlin Family, then it would mean that the Merlin Family’s Ancestral Land had gone completely insane.

At this time, a silhouette appeared in Mark’s line of sight, and suddenly, a sneer appeared on his face. “Haha, Lahn, perfect timing...”

He had met with Lahn when he just arrived at the Flame Demon Fort and knew that this was an Archmage with deep qualifications. Even if he was proud and arrogant, when faced with an Archmage whose power was approaching the high ranks, Mark couldn’t help but use a respectful tone.

“Oh...” Lahn was surprised, a bit curious about what Mark wanted him for.

“It’s like this...” Mark looked at Lahn and pointed at Lin Yun. “He seems to be one of the youths of your family, but he is truly outrageous. Just now, he dared to pass himself as a commander of the Merlin Family. Sir Lahn, could you please take care of this? If this matter spread, it would greatly affect the reputation of the Family...”

As he spoke, Mark was clearly able to see the deep frown appear on Lahn’s face...

‘Sure enough, he was truly impersonating the commander...’

At this time, Mark couldn’t help but look at Lin Yun with an expression of sympathy, inwardly shaking his head. He knew that the matter of impersonating a Planar Commander would be investigated and that the punishment for such a thing was extremely severe.

But his sympathy wouldn't matter...

That young mage would reap what he sowed!

Who told him to pretend to be a Planar Legion Commander and cause trouble for himself...

"I think you made a mistake..." Lahn took a long look at Mark. He had just finished dealing with his own matters and had just come to see what was happening here, but after arriving, he saw that the situation was a bit off.

The young man from the Watson Family seemed to be questioning Mafa Merlin's status as a Planar Commander. He couldn't help finding this funny, but it wasn't a good time to laugh.

Mafa Merlin was still present, so how could Lahn laugh about this?

"What mistake?"

"Let me formally introduce you... This is High Mage Mafa Merlin, and he is indeed a commander of our Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane. Please don't say that High Mage Mafa is trying to pass as someone else..." Lahn didn't bother to look at Mark after saying those words. He instead turned and smiled. "High Mage Mafa, this young Sir from the Watson Family might have some important matter to discuss with you, thus I won't disturb you any longer, you can call me if you need something..."

"Alright, Sir Lahn..."

After hearing the reply, Lahn turned and left. In fact, Thorne had taken most people to the Flame Frost Fort, leaving Lahn as the only Archmage to watch over the fort. There were a lot of unfinished matters waiting for him to handle there, and he also truly felt pressure when he was around Lin Yun.

"How could this be," Mark muttered in disbelief.

He kept repeating those words, and once Lahn completely disappeared, Mark confirmed to himself that he hadn't misheard. This young mage called Mafa Merlin was actually a Planar Commander of the Merlin Family. This was too unbelievable.

'This decision of the Merlin Family's Ancestral Land was simply crazy...'

Who would have thought that one of Okland's Three Great Families would appoint a 6th Rank High Mage as a Planar Commander?

If he hadn't heard it from Lahn himself, Mark would have never believed it.

But...

So what if he was a Planar Commander?

This didn't change the fact that he was a mere 6th Rank High Mage...

6th Rank High Mages were too weak...

As he thought of this, Mark gradually calmed down. After inwardly shaking his head, he started studying Lin Yun with undisguised disdain. "I am Mark Watson and I come from the Watson Family's Ancestral Land. According to mages' customs, you should call me Sir Mark..."

“Haha, Sir Mark...” Lin Yun stiffly chuckled. In fact, he was already getting impatient and thinking, ‘What did he come to the Flame Demon Fort for?’

But fortunately, Mark didn’t make him wait too long. He nodded, satisfied by Lin Yun’s attitude, and unhurriedly said, “In fact, I came this time on behalf of the Watson Family to discuss a possible collaboration. Oh right, do you know the Horn of Fertility? If you know, I won’t need to waste time explaining...”

“I know...” After nodding, Lin Yun looked at Mark with a strange expression. To be honest, he didn’t know much about the Horn of Fertility, but when he read through the briefing concerning the Raging Flame Plane before coming over, he did read some information regarding it. In short, it was an extremely fertile source of natural resources, one that could make all of Okland’s major forces feel envious.

Lin Yun estimated that the Horn of Fertility should be a bit more fertile than the Ghost Valley. Controlling that place would allow a force to increase its power by leaps and bounds in a short time. It would be a huge advantage in the conquest of the Raging Flame Plane.

But regretfully...

Okland’s major forces had been making multiple moves against the Horn of Fertility, but they suffered terrible losses. That even included the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower.

This was because the Horn of Fertility was under the control of the strongest of the Thirteen Tribes of the Raging Flame Plane, the Fireblade Tribe.

Chapter 516: Opportunity

In the past millennium, most forces had suffered a loss at the hands of this branch, especially the Watson Family. Of the four forts they controlled, two were extremely close to the Horn of Fertility, and every year, many powerhouses would fall while defending those forts. But the two forts had been captured with great difficulty. They were their foundation, so they loathed the idea of parting with them.

“You know... Good.” The young genius from the Watson Ancestral Land seemed surprised for a moment. He then said in a dull tone, “The collaboration brought up by our Watson Family has something to do with the Horn of Fertility. To be more exact, we hope that you can join us to attack it together...”

After saying this, Mark deliberately paused as a playful smile appeared on his face. Controlling the Horn of Fertility could make any force suddenly rise. This information should be enough to shock the young mage sitting in front of him, right? Even, Mark, an esteemed Archmage, was shocked when he heard that information from the Patriarch.

But...

As he looked at the young mage, he couldn’t see any hint of surprise. He was just calmly looking back.

‘How come he didn’t react?’

“Mafa Merlin, please answer honestly... Do you know the value of the Horn of Fertility?” Mark got somewhat angry at the lack of a reaction.

How could someone not be shocked when hearing this news? This was the Horn of Fertility they were talking about! Even the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower would want it! Mafa Merlin was only a 6th Rank High Mage, how could he remain so calm?

The only explanation was that this guy simply didn’t know what the Horn of Fertility represented.

As he thought of this, a sneer appeared on Mark Watson’s face and he looked at Lin Yun with even more ridicule. “Looks like I do have to waste time explaining to you. I’ll explain it just once, since you like to pretend to know things when you don’t. The Horn of Fertility is the source of natural resources closest to the end of the Wailing River. It exceeds anything you could have ever imagined. It can even be said to be the most fertile place in the entire Raging Flame Plane. Alright, I won’t be going into details for now, but I think that as a commander, you should properly learn those things...”

Sure enough...

As his voice faded away, Mark saw the young mage finally reacting strongly, just like when he heard the news from his patriarch.

‘It’s actually that place...’

At this time, Lin Yun no longer cared about Mark’s mocking tone. Just now, he recalled an important bit of information after hearing this description... The end of the Wailing River...

To be more exact, it was that odd phrase he heard after restoring his Heaven Puppet in the Merlin Family Manor: “The end of the Wailing River...”

It was this crucial phrase that broke his calm appearance.

This phrase that could be interpreted in numerous ways had been left by the Dark Sage. But it seemed to suggest that the Wailing River was hiding some unknown secret, a secret that had never been broken in Noscent’s history.

Before passing away, Emperor Zhantui once led a large group of Court Mages to secretly leave for the Raging Flame Plane. Lin Yun could guess that Emperor Zhantui’s true goal was most likely the Wailing River.

The clues left by two great figures from two different eras pointed to the Wailing River, making Lin Yun have no choice but to attach some importance to that river with a long history.

One of his goals in the Raging Flame Plane was the Wailing River. Before leaving, he had planned to go there if the opportunity came up.

But he hadn’t thought of a way to approach the end of the Wailing River...

Okland’s major forces had to be sneaky if they wanted to go there. If they were found by Raging Flame Beastmen, a conflict would instantly break out.

No human had set foot at the end of the Wailing River in the past millennia.

It wasn't just a flame river...

After all, the origin of the Wailing River was hard to trace back. It was said that this Wailing River already existed when the Raging Flame Plane was born and that it was the source of the Raging Flame Plane's power.

Moreover, this flame river had extraordinary meaning to the Raging Flame Beastman and was very important to them.

The culture and civilization of the Raging Flame Beastmen had all been tied to the Wailing River. If one looked closely, they would discover that the Thirteen Tribes were all scattered along the Wailing River. Since ancient times, the tribe qualified to live at the end of the Wailing River had always been the strongest one.

Many medicinal plants and ores were nurtured on both sides of the Wailing River, making everyone want them, but the Thirteen tribes were tenaciously guarding the Wailing River. If they discovered any intruders, they would launch an extremely fierce offensive to drive them away. Thus, Okland's forces could only look for opportunities to stealthily approach the Wailing River.

But it was almost impossible to reach the end of the Wailing River because they would be faced with the attack of the strongest Raging Flame Beastman tribe, the Fireblade Tribe.

Their power was no joke...

And now, the Watson Family was asking the Merlin Family to help seize the Horn of Fertility. To be honest, this did draw Lin Yun's interest.

But capturing the Horn of Fertility wasn't that easy.

He didn't believe that the Merlin Family and the Watson Family could defeat the Fireblade Tribe.

With that in mind, Lin Yun calmed down and indifferently looked at Mark Watson, planning to share his questions. "Well, I want to ask..."

"How could there be so many issues!?" Mark suddenly exploded in anger, impatiently interrupting Lin Yun.

'Damn, what do you take an esteemed Archmage for, your guide? ...Alright, I shall endure.'

"Speak quickly, if I know the answer, I'll let you know..." He had to endure because Mafa Merlin was the Planar Commander. If he wanted to secure an agreement to work together, he had to get his approval.

"Sir Mark, I believe your Watson Family wouldn't plan to attack the Horn of Fertility without reason, right?" Lin Yun frowned. In fact, he was also enduring. He had been very tolerant, and he couldn't understand why the Watson Family would send this hot-headed weirdo to propose a collaboration with the Merlin Family.

Was that guy really sent to facilitate the collaboration, or was he a spy from another force planted within the Watson Family trying to sabotage their relations?

"Even if you didn't ask this question, I would have answered later! You are too impatient, Mafa..."

Lin Yun didn't feel like answering this time.

That guy was really trying his patience...

"In fact, our Watson Family discovered that only a third of the Fireblade Tribe's army is currently defending the Horn of Fertility. We thought it was a coincidence at first, but after half a month, we found out that it was still the same. Thus, we conjectured that something unforeseen must have happened to the Fireblade Tribe, forcing them to transfer troops elsewhere." Mark looked rather serious as he continued, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. By taking advantage of this opportunity to eliminate the remaining third of their troops, we can temporarily control the Horn of Fertility and use this chance to gain a foothold there. Even if the rest of the Fireblade tribe comes back to launch an attack, we should be able to hold on."

"So that's how it is..." Lin Yun thoughtfully nodded. This was indeed a rare opportunity. The Horn of Fertility's terrain was extremely steep. As long as they could manage to seize it, they would be able to build all kinds of fortifications. With enough preparations, even if the Fireblade Tribe attacked, it would be extremely hard for them to reclaim the area.

"Okay, you should know now since I told you most of it. Mafa Merlin, you should have decent judgement. Your Merlin Family would greatly profit from participating. This is our Watson Family showing you some consideration, understood?" As Mark said those words, his face reddened slightly, but he concealed it very well. "If the Merlin Family agrees to attack them together with us, you will get 20% of the Horn of Fertility. This should be generous enough. As a commander, you should consider this matter carefully. You can take your time, I can wait..."

The truth was, the facts weren't as Mark Watson said.

Where was the Horn of Fertility?

It was the most bountiful source of natural resources in the entire Raging Flame Plane. Every major force that entered the Raging Flame Plane had coveted that place and tried to take control of it, including even the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower, but without exception, they all failed.

Now, only a third of the original army was stationed at the Horn of Fertility, and this situation had persisted for over half a month...

This chance would be an irresistible temptation for anyone.

And that included the Watson Family.

Chapter 517: Who?

But if they were powerful enough to capture the Horn of Fertility themselves, would they send someone to contact the Merlin Family to suggest a collaboration?

That would obviously be illogical...

After all, the relationship between the Merlin Family and the Watson Family was clear to all. From the 3rd Dynasty till now, it has been millennia of enmity.

Countless years ago, Lorr Merlin came out of the Ancestral Land and followed the old king to establish the Andlusa Kingdom. Only then did the declining Merlin Family take a turn for the better and slowly begin to grow. But during this time, the Watson Family didn't stop trying to suppress the Merlin Family. Only the two Ancestral Lands knew how many conflicts happened, both in the open and under the table.

This kind of rancor simply couldn't be defused.

If they had any other choice, how could the Watson Family give their rival a chance to get stronger?

To be more precise, the Watson Family's power in the Raging Flame Plane was still a bit lacking when compared to the remaining third of the army guarding the Horn of Fertility.

If they used all their power and paid a high price, they might barely pull off a victory, but defending the fort afterwards would be unrealistic.

The Watson Family needed an ally.

An ally that could share the risks.

Thus, they thought of the Merlin Family and dispatched Mark to the Flame Demon Fort to propose that they join forces.

However, they didn't want the Merlin Family to get too many benefits from this collaboration.

Mark clearly remembered that before leaving, Patriarch Karl repeated a few times that when meeting the commander of the Merlin Family, he would have to stand firm and keep the benefits of the Merlin Family to a minimum.

On the way, Mark had been restless. Although he had become an Archmage in his thirties and not many youths in the entire Andlusa Kingdom could compare to him, his counterpart would be a commander of the Merlin Family, in control of all their forces in the Raging Flame Plane. He should be at least a high-ranked Sword Saint or Archmage. When facing such a commander, he would have a hard time maintaining an unyielding attitude.

But when he actually reached the Flame Demon Fort and personally met the commander, he saw that he had been very wrong. Not only was the Merlin Family's commander not a high-ranked Archmage, he wasn't even an Archmage at all! He was merely a 6th Rank High Mage.

Mark couldn't help taking a deep look at Lin Yun. But at this time, rushed footsteps could be heard outside the reception, soon followed by an aged voice. "High Mage Merlin, I'm very sorry for making you wait."

The new arrival was Weiss from the Black Tower. This Representative was smiling widely, to the point that even his eyes were squinting. He even lowered his posture as he said those words.

After all, he had no choice but to be cautious when faced with this young mage...

In their recent collaboration, the Black Tower had deliberately concealed the existence of the totem. This was wrong in itself. Naturally, they did want to compensate for it afterwards to avoid any ill will. As part of this, the Peak True Spirit Totem fell into the hands of the Black Tower, but it only stayed there for a dozen or so hours before being delivered to the Flame Demon Fort.

And today was the day that they had agreed that it would be returned.

“Haha, it’s nothing...” Lin Yun clearly understood what Weiss was thinking of, but he didn’t mind too much. Although the Totem was a Peak True Spirit Magic Tool, it had no worth to humans, so he had no interest in keeping it. He only borrowed it because he needed it to break through the defensive power of the Raising Dragon Array.

“Err... May I ask if you need more time with it?” Weiss stood there looking a bit awkward, not sure what he should or shouldn’t say.

If Weiss said anything that could be received as a provocation, although the young mage would remain expressionless, he was bound to be dissatisfied. So Weiss had to be careful with his words.

He just hoped the young mage would return it as agreed, because otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to give a proper explanation to Harren.

“Haha, what are you saying? How could I be shameless enough to keep it...” Lin Yun scratched his cheek and chuckled bitterly. He knew for sure that the Black Tower wouldn’t find anything abnormal regarding the totem. He had read in the decaying library that after the Black Tower obtained the totem, all the Representatives were gathered and started studying the totem intensively. Only after over two months did they conclude that no human could use the totem.

But right now, the Black Tower just saw it as a Peak True Spirit Magic Tool, comparable in power to a Peak Archmage on its own.

It was very generous of Harren to let him have the totem for half a month.

“Al... Alright...” Weiss had been on edge this whole time. He was only able to relax after hearing the young mage’s tone. But at this time, with his sharp insight as a 6th Rank Archmage, Weiss suddenly felt an unfriendly stare lock onto him.

‘What’s going on?’ he thought to himself as he looked at the only other person there.

“Do you know how severe the consequences of disturbing our negotiation are?” Mark pointed at Weiss sinisterly, looking extremely malevolent.

He was extremely angry...

They had reached a crucial point in the negotiations. He was only waiting for the young commander to nod his head so that they could draft the contract. Then, the majority of the land in the Horn of Fertility would belong to the Watson Family.

But an old geezer suddenly rushed in and kept blabbering nonstop, apparently coming to pick something up.

What he couldn’t tolerate was that he interrupted their negotiation for such a trivial matter.

This was truly annoying!

“Ah?”

Weiss was a bit stunned... He felt as if his mind couldn't catch up because he didn't get what was going on.

It wasn't too surprising that he was confused...

The Black Tower was one of the two major mage forces of the Andlusa Kingdom. As for Weiss himself, he had joined the Council of Seven and was standing at the peak of the 6th Rank of the Archmage realm while also being a Great Master of the Wind Element. He could match a 7th Rank Archmage in battle, and few people in the upper circle of Okland dared to not respect him.

After thinking for a moment, he looked at Lin Yun and then looked at the angry young mage in a white robe pointing at him. Clearly, the aggressive words had been directed at Weiss himself.

Weiss' expression suddenly turned unpleasant...

Normally, this Representative of the Black Tower would have already burst into anger when a newly advanced Archmage provoked him like this, but Weiss had to suppress his anger because he was thinking, 'What if that white-robed young man is Mafa Merlin's friend?'

Thinking of this, Weiss relaxed his expression somewhat. "May I ask who you are?"

But the young genius of the Watson Family didn't notice all this. He looked at Weiss very sinisterly as he said in an ice-cold voice, "Old man, don't you know that you have already disturbed our negotiations? If you still haven't disappeared within a minute, even Mafa Merlin won't be able to save you, as you will have to face the wrath of an Archmage..."

Mark felt that these words were clear enough. But after recalling something, he sneered, "You might not be qualified to know who I am, but it does feel necessary. You should know of the famous Watson Family, right? I am the youngest Archmage of the entire Watson Family, Mark Watson!"

"I only know of someone called Karl in the Watson Family..." Weiss no longer seemed to be able to restrain himself. His icy voice was bone-chilling. He had originally been worried that this person was a friend of Mafa Merlin.

But it now seemed like this was out of question...

Although he had been spending most of his time in the Dark Azure Plane and rarely visited Okland, he knew that the Merlin Family and the Watson Family didn't have a very harmonious relationship with each other. They kept clashing, both in the open and in the dark. The enmity between them was hard to dissolve.

After learning of Mark's identity, Weiss no longer had any misgivings.

In an instant, the anger he had kept suppressing suddenly burst out. Although he didn't make any movements, the pressure of a high ranked Archmage instantly spread, filling the reception room with an indescribable pressure.

Boundless wind elements appeared, forming a hurricane that tore through the air itself.

"The youths of the Watson Family are becoming more and more outrageous..." Weiss shook his head.

He looked like an ordinary old man with his thin body and his gray hair, but his words just now had a kind of indescribable power. Just this sentence made everyone feel his boundless might.

“You... You are challenging the Watson Family!”

This sudden change, and especially that horrifying pressure, scared Mark Watson. He was dripping cold sweat and he clearly felt intimidated when faced with the power the old man was emitting, but he couldn't show weakness at this point.

He truly hadn't expected that this seemingly ordinary old man, who had been speaking humbly to Mafa Merlin, would be so terrifying.

He could tell that the owner of such power definitely couldn't be an ordinary Archmage. He had to be a genuine high-ranked Archmage.

What did that mean?

Even the Watson Family, which had a foundation of a few millennia, didn't have many such powerhouses, and every one of them had important positions within the Family.

But he couldn't understand why this high-ranked Archmage was so respectful towards Mafa Merlin, a mere High Mage.

No, he hadn't just shown respect... He was also very cautious with his choice of words and was clearly afraid of dissatisfying the young mage.

Chapter 518: Idea

When he first saw him, Mark hadn't cared about Weiss, thinking that he was nothing more than an insignificant nobody.

But...

That nobody suddenly burst with the power of a high-ranked Archmage.

At this time, he clearly knew that it wouldn't be a wise decision to remain here. This powerful Archmage was completely furious at Mark.

Although his legs felt like jelly and his forehead was soaked in cold sweat, he still struggled to move towards the door.

When he almost reached the entrance of the reception room, he turned to look at Lin Yun. “Mafa Merlin, the troops defending the Horn of Fertility have been reduced by two-thirds for half a month. You should think carefully about this proposal... This is an extremely rare opportunity for your Merlin Family. Oh, right, you only have three days to think this over...”

He then turned to Weiss and sternly said, “And as for you! Just wait... Our Watson Family will definitely make you pay the price!”

After finishing his words, Mark hastily turned around, trying to leave this place as fast as possible. But at this moment, a sneer echoed from behind, "Sure, I'll be waiting in the Black Tower for your Watson Family. Don't forget, I'm Weiss of the Black Tower. You should tell your Patriarch Karl, I think he'll know about me..."

"The Black Tower's Weiss is it? Hah, our Watson Family will definitely make you..." Mark stopped, subconsciously wanting to turn back, but his expression froze and he started stammering. "Wait... Wei... Wei... Weiss?"

Mark had always stayed in the Watson Family's Ancestral Land and had never appeared in Okland, but that didn't mean that he had no knowledge. He had heard of the famous people. At this time, he remembered who Weiss was...

He was a member of the Black Tower's Council of Seven, a Representative of one of the top two mage forces of the Andlusa Kingdom. He was standing near the peak of the Black Tower and had the power of a high-ranked Archmage. There were few people that could compare to Weiss in Okland. Even Patriarch Karl, who Mark had to look up to, had to show enough respect to this Representative and wouldn't dare offend him.

No matter how arrogant Mark was, he knew that he had done something extremely stupid...

Moreover, his actions just now had likely caused troubles for the Watson Family.

'What should I do... What can I do?'

Mark was very anxious at this time. He stood there in a daze and didn't dare to act arrogant. He didn't even need to turn to know that the Representative of the Black Tower had a very unsightly expression.

"Sir Weiss, I didn't know it was you, I'm sorry, I truly didn't..." Mark summoned his courage and started apologizing to Weiss, keeping his head lowered. He simply didn't dare to look him straight in the eyes.

But before he could finish his apology, Weiss raised his hand and interrupted him.

"Shut up!"

"Sir Weiss, I was wrong, I know I was wrong, please accept my apology..."

Hearing Weiss' angry tone, Mark was terrified. He realized that he might have caused a disaster. This was no joke. Although he had only spoken a few sentences, each of them had been fierce and rude. He had even called Weiss an old man! This was simply provoking the dignity of a high-ranked Archmage. Even if Weiss decided to kill him on the spot, the Watson Family would likely just turn a blind eye to it. They wouldn't dare to pursue this matter.

He only had himself to blame... It would be a totally pointless death.

The only thing he could do now was to keep apologizing in hopes that Weiss would be magnanimous and wouldn't lower himself to argue with him.

"Apology?" Weiss sneered as he muttered that word before falling silent. But on the other side of the room, Mark was unable to breathe.

Weiss was truly angry this time. Despite being an esteemed Representative of the Black Tower, he was cursed as an old man, and more importantly, that young Watson kept threatening him by using his family name, not putting Weiss in his eyes.

But, Mark Watson's ignorance also made him feel a bit ridiculous.

"Do you think that a few words are enough of an apology when you made such a serious mistake? There is simply no meaning in that..." Weiss coldly smiled as he stared at Mark.

"I... I..."

Mark's anxiety reached a whole new level. He almost started to cry as he stammered a few words in response, not daring to say anything.

Offending this Representative was no different from courting death.

But as he was already despairing, Weiss' voice echoed once again, "You can go now..."

"Wh... What?" Mark was in disbelief. He looked at Weiss in bewilderment as his mind couldn't follow. Weiss not accepting his apology meant that he wanted to punish him, but that last sentence clearly showed that he was allowing Mark to leave.

What was going on?

But he couldn't stop and think at this time, so he profusely thanked Weiss. "Thank you... Thank you Sir... Thank you for being so magnanimous..."

"You don't need to thank me, you should thank High Mage Merlin instead. He is the one who saved you..." Weiss coldly glanced at Mark with undisguised loathing before pointing at Lin Yun.

"Thank you High Mage Merlin... Thank you..." How could Mark care about details at such a time? Let alone thanking Mafa Merlin, even if he had to thank every person in the Raging Flame Plane at this moment, he would be delighted to do so as long as it could save his life.

"Go..." Lin Yun frowned, impatiently looking at Mark. "As for the matter of the collaboration matter, I'll consider it. I'll dispatch someone to the Watson Family to notify you if my answer is positive..."

"Good, good, good..." Mark didn't even hear what Lin Yun said and kept nodding. He only knew that his life had been spared.

After saying those words, he truly didn't dare to linger and dragged his wobbly legs out of the reception room.

"High Mage Merlin, the fly has already walked away, so I think we can talk about some important matters now..." Weiss watched as Mark left and only started talking when the other side could no longer be seen. Just as he said, the young mage had indeed saved Mark Watson's life.

After all, although he had become a member of the Council of Seven in the past few years and could only be considered a new Representative, his position in the council couldn't be ignored, especially after the recent Thawing Fire Tribe matter. He had dealt with it in a clean way and was trusted by Sir Harren.

To be honest, the young genius of the Watson Family was indeed nothing in his eye. He didn't have the qualifications to talk as an equal, let alone provoke Weiss. That was no different from courting death.

After being threatened a few times by Mark Watson, Weiss was already in the mood to kill him. But since this was the Flame Demon Fort, Mafa Merlin's territory, he couldn't help but dismiss that thought. That small fry wasn't worth incurring Mafa's dissatisfaction...

Thus, saying that Mafa Merlin had saved Mark Watson's life wasn't an exaggeration.

"Sir Weiss, didn't you come to take the totem? Is there something else?" Lin Yun threw a strange look at Weiss.

"Haha, I just heard it..." Weiss awkwardly laughed.

"What?"

"Well, I just inadvertently heard that youth from the Watson Family say that two-thirds of the army guarding the Horn of Fertility was gone, and for half a month at that. Is that true?" Weiss looked at Lin Yun cautiously. He had made many conjectures when he heard the news.

This was definitely an opportunity for the Black Tower. If they could smoothly occupy the Horn of Fertility and establish themselves at the source of natural resources, then with the Black Tower's power, they would inevitably be able to nibble away at the few surrounding forts. When the time came, the Black Tower's influence in the Raging Flame Plane would crazily increase and far surpass the Cloud Tower's.

This was too important...

In the Black Tower's eyes, the Horn of Fertility was not just a source of natural resources. The most important part was that if they could capture that place, they would have created a foothold, which they could slowly expand.

The Horn of Fertility had always remained the only path to attack the Fireblade Tribe, which had always stationed their most elite troops there. They had never moved their forces away from there ever since invaders from Okland set foot in the Raging Flame Plane.

But something had happened now, causing some of them to leave. Weiss couldn't help wondering if something had happened that caused them to be unable to manage the Horn of Fertility.

"Actually, I don't know whether this information is true, but from the attitude of the Watson Family, it shouldn't be fake..." Lin Yun appeared absent-minded, scratching his nose as he looked at Weiss. He felt that what Mark said had most likely been true.

Otherwise, why would the Watson Family formally send a young genius to discuss a possible collaboration?

"High Mage Merlin, I have an idea... Would you like to hear it?"

"Yes?"

Seeing Weiss' serious expression, Lin Yun responded, "Go ahead..."

Chapter 519: Think About It

“That collaboration between your Merlin Family and the Watson Family... I think you shouldn’t consider it, you might as well directly refuse...” As Weiss said those words, he realized that he was interfering with the Merlin Family’s internal matters.

Weiss couldn’t help becoming pale, and he hastily explained, “Please don’t misunderstand, High Mage Merlin, I meant that if the Merlin Family needs to choose an ally, our Black Tower is obviously a better choice than the Watson Family...”

Weiss stopped here and calmly looked at the young mage to see how he would respond.

The meaning was clear...

It was an invitation to cooperate with the Black Tower instead.

This collaboration would be very advantageous to both sides. The wealth of the Horn of Fertility had such deadly appeal.

The Black Tower was clearly more ambitious than the Watson Family, and they wanted to stir the strongest of the Thirteen Tribes, the Fireblade Tribe...

This appeared somewhat crazy, but Weiss clearly knew that if the Black Tower wanted to rise, they had to grab this opportunity and rush into the tiger’s den.

But Weiss noticed that the young mage seemed rather indifferent, like he wasn’t really considering it. Weiss couldn’t help but frown, so he added, “High Mage Merlin, your Merlin Family cooperating with the Watson Family doesn’t make much sense. After all, the Watson Family is so weak, it can’t compare to our Black Tower. The powerful support of the Black Tower is something they would never be able to match...”

Weiss was a bit nervous as he waited for a response. He didn’t actually care about the Merlin Family, but he thought highly of this young mage in front of him.

In his eyes, all the rest of the forces of the Merlin Family in the Raging Flame Plane weren’t as valuable as this young mage.

He felt that he had a good understanding of Mafa. It had been over half a year since they met at the Tulan Mountain Range, and the young mage’s actions repeatedly shocked him, especially half a month ago, when he fought the Thawing Fire Tribe’s Tribal Chief in their Sacred Land and managed to kill him to break out of a desperate situation.

If the Black Tower chose to make a move against the Fireblade Tribe, the young mage’s power would be very important. In addition to the several True Spirit Magic Tools he held, his own power was quite formidable, and he also had two Undead Summons.

‘Hold on...’

While he was considering Mafa's strengths, Weiss suddenly recalled the silvery-white silhouette standing in the corner as he entered the reception room. The aura it was emitting had been somewhat strange.

At the time, he had only been thinking about getting the totem back, and then he ran into the blustering Mark Watson. He only had time to think about it again now.

'Is she...'

Soon, after looking around, Weiss spotted that silhouette once again. It was an unreasonably beautiful young woman wearing white clothing. Even her hair and eyes were silvery-white, and she was emitting an ice-cold aura. She looked just like a fairy of ice.

But the young woman, seemingly noticing something, caught Weiss' gaze, her ethereal eyes giving him an otherworldly feeling.

Weiss suddenly felt inexplicably frightened. His face became devoid of blood as he felt out of breath. Just now, he clearly felt that the person who met his eyes wasn't a human... She was a Dragon.

'Right, that aura...'

As he thought of this, he tried to sense the aura. It had a very profound icy feeling. He was convinced that the young woman was truly a Dragon, a Frost Dragon in control of ice elements.

He truly wanted to use True Sight to confirm it...

But he didn't dare to...

He truly didn't dare to do so.

Because a Frost Dragon could easily crush him. Everyone knew that a Dragon would have their power suppressed when in their human shape, yet the Frost Dragon in front of him was emitting mana fluctuations comparable to his own, a 6th Rank Archmage.

But what about when it was in its true shape?

It could only be described as terrifying...

At this time, Weiss couldn't help taking a deep look at Lin Yun. This was truly incredible. How could a fierce Frost Dragon be following the young mage?

Although he was in disbelief, he had to acknowledge this as the truth...

Now, it looked even more important to rope the young mage in. Weiss frowned and said, "High Mage Merlin, as long as you agree to cooperate with the Black Tower, I think I should be able to convince Sir Harren to give a bit more benefits to the Merlin Family during the loot allocation..."

After saying that, Weiss calmly waited. He felt that the young mage had no reason to refuse such an offer.

But...

“Haha, Sir Weiss, I’m sorry. I need some time to think about this...” Lin Yun attentively looked at Weiss for a while before scratching his cheek and saying, “But I can guarantee you as a Planar Commander of the Merlin Family, that if the Merlin Family thinks of fighting over the Horn of Fertility, we’ll definitely cooperate with the Black Tower...”

“That’s... That’s good.”

Weiss was a bit disappointed. He clearly understood that by doing this, the young mage had already declared his current position and there was no margin for negotiation right now. The last bit was just to leave the avenue open and give Weiss some hope. “It’s a bit regretful... But I look forward to cooperating with the Merlin Family.”

“I also look forward to it...”

Lin Yun and Weiss chatted about some insignificant topics for half an hour before Weiss left the Flame Demon Fort feeling disappointed.

At nightfall, with Thorne in the lead, Yuri, Ida, and other high-ranked members of the Planar Legion came back from the Flame Frost Fort. After seeing Lin Yun, Thorne sincerely expressed his gratitude and left for the Merlin Family this very night to bring the Alchemic Mana Whirlpool back...

It was worth mentioning that before leaving, Thorne gave Lin Yun full authority over the Planar Legion.

But Lin Yun didn’t have the time or energy to care about those minor matters. Early the next day, he called Ida and Yuri, as well as the other six officers of the Planar Legion, and started a brief meeting where he delegated the management of the daily affairs of the Flame Demon Fort. With this taken care of, Lin Yun once again rushed to the laboratory and made Reina guard the entrance.

After resolving the matter of the Raising Dragon Array, Lin Yun had smoothly gotten his hands on the five Chromatic Dragon Crystals, so it was time to upgrade the Doom Staff...

With those five crystals as Augments, he was confident enough that he could push the Doom Staff to the height of Mid-Rank True Spirit rank.

And that was at the very least...

In fact, upgrading the Doom Staff was more difficult than upgrading the Soul Walker or the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel. The unusual part was that it didn’t have a Magic Tool Incarnation, while the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel and the Soul Walker did.

It was common knowledge that the birth of a Magic Tool Incarnation was a very long process. Fortunate mages might get some opportunities that would result in the birth of a Magic Tool Incarnation, but without such fortune, they could only wait for one to be slowly formed, which could take many, many years.

Lin Yun had crafted the Doom Staff after countless calculations, and it was less than a year old.

A Magic Tool without its Incarnation simply couldn’t display its full power, and even advancing would be very difficult. But fortunately, every significant upgrade was an opportunity for a Magic Tool Incarnation to be born.

And this advancement was obviously one such opportunity for the Doom Staff.

This time, the five flickering Dragon Crystals had already been set up in an array by Lin Yun, and boundless mana was emitted to every corner of the laboratory. According to his plan, the array would use the energy of the five crystals to form a sort of a cycle.

He was confident enough that he would be able to raise the Doom Staff's rank by doing this, and if he was lucky, a Magic Tool Incarnation might be born.

Only after getting an Incarnation would a Magic Tool properly be considered a True Spirit Magic Tool.

This was why Lin Yun attached a lot of importance to this advancement.

The processing plan he had for the Chromatic Dragon Crystals was something he thought of not too long ago. This was also the most valuable processing plan that he could use with his current ability.

Once everything was ready, he picked up a crystal pen, and after some thinking, he cautiously wrote an exquisite rune in one of the Dragon Crystals. A dazzling light rose up, but Lin Yun didn't stop as he dipped his pen in the ink once again and quickly started writing.

It took him more than three hours to complete the preliminary processing of the Chromatic Dragon Crystals, but he also encountered a rather thorny problem... He had found out that the five Chromatic Dragon Crystals simply couldn't form a complete cycle. While the energy circulated, it encountered some obstructions.

And these small flaws greatly influenced the entire plan.

To complete the Doom Staff's advancement, the energy flowing between the five Dragon Crystals had to form a complete cycle, which meant that Lin Yun had to remove these flaws.

This problem truly baffled him.

In the process, there couldn't be any mistakes in the array. This was something he was certain of. The requirements regarding details were extremely high, and there were also precise requirements for the energy of the Dragon Crystals. For example, the energy in each crystal had to be exactly the same, without fault.

The requirements were so harsh that even Lin Yun felt that the processing was fairly troublesome. It could easily take months to prepare normally, but he didn't have so much free time at the moment.

Chapter 520: Fifty

'There should be another way...'

Lin Yun frowned. He examined the energy levels at the five points in the array, considering the problem from all angles. But he didn't know where to start. Time slowly passed, day after day, without any movement in the alchemy laboratory. Lin Yun just remained motionless as he stared at the Dragon Crystals in a daze.

In the end, on the fifteenth day, Lin Yun slowly opened the door to the laboratory, taking a deep breath of fresh air. 'Forcing the energy of the five Dragon Crystals to form a circle isn't as good as fusing them together into one Dragon Crystal to embed in the Doom Staff...'

To be more accurate, he gave up on his previous plan and decided to fuse the five Dragon Crystals instead. However, this also had some issues...

Once he came out of the laboratory, he noticed that Reina wasn't alone. Yuri was also there.

"High Mage Mafa..." Yuri caught sight of Lin Yun and rushed to greet him, looking somewhat worried.

"Sir Yuri, what's going on?" Lin Yun threw a strange look at Yuri as he asked, "Did something happen during my absence?"

"In the morning, Sir Karl of the Watson Family arrived at the Flame Demon Fort and said that he wanted to discuss some matters with you. But since you hadn't come out, Sir Karl waited in the reception room..."

"Sir Karl?"

"The current Patriarch of the Watson Family, Karl Watson..."

"Take me to him..."

After Yuri's careful introduction, Lin Yun learnt who Sir Karl was, which came as a bit of a surprise. He naturally knew that the Watson Family would send someone over to discuss the attack on the Horn of Fertility, but he hadn't expected that person to be the patriarch of the Watson Family...

He had to admit that the patriarch was very patient. He had arrived five to six hours ago, but was still waiting patiently.

Lin Yun soon passed through layer after layer of guards and reached the entrance of the reception room. He appeared before an old and thin man.

The old man also caught sight of Lin Yun and showed a good-natured smile, looking just like an ordinary grandpa. "High Mage Merlin..."

Lin Yun scratched his cheek, a smile on his face. Mark just couldn't compare to this old man in terms of temperament. "Sir Karl, I'm sorry for making you wait for such a long time..."

"Haha..." Karl waved his hand as he looked at Lin Yun with a smile. "Please don't say this, I showed up unannounced and made you rush, having to wait for a bit is natural..."

After saying that, Karl Watson took a closer look at Lin Yun...

Half a month ago, he sent Mark to the Flame Demon Fort to suggest a collaboration with the Merlin Family.

To be honest, he hadn't been worried about it...

He had been pretty sure that there would be no problem getting an agreement. After all, they would be gaining control of the Horn of Fertility, the most fertile place in the entire Raging Flame Plane. Even just

20% of that land would bring unimaginable wealth. How could the Merlin Family refuse such an opportunity?

Only a brainless commander would choose to refuse...

Let alone refusing, anyone would fight for the opportunity to participate.

The temptation of the Horn of Fertility far surpassed what an ordinary person could imagine. The Watson Family had also thought of working with other forces, but they gave up on that after careful deliberation, because most of those forces were a lot weaker than the Watson Family in the Raging Flame Plane. Aside from the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower, only the Merlin Family was comparable to them.

And there was no need to think about those two... The Watson Family couldn't cooperate with one of the behemoths. If that happened, the Watson Family would lose their leverage and it would be good if they could even get 20%. Naturally, there was also the possibility that the Black Tower and Cloud would feel it beneath themselves to cooperate with the Watson Family at all, and would instead attack the Horn of Fertility on their own.

After thinking about it, they could only choose to ask the Merlin Family...

Three days later, Karl Watson felt that something was odd because the Merlin Family was supposed to give their answer on that day. But even at midnight, no member of the Merlin Family showed up.

'Maybe they need more time to think this through...'

This was how Karl comforted himself before deciding to wait a bit more. He firmly believed that the Merlin Family definitely wouldn't reject the proposal, so he waited, day after day. But there was still no movement from the Merlin Family's side. Finally, on the 10th day, Karl was ultimately not able to wait any longer. 'Did they even get the information?' he wondered.

Thus, he personally went to Mark, who had been sent to the Flame Demon Fort. There, Karl found out that he indeed delivered the news and detailed the situation to the Merlin Family...

Karl decided to suppress his anger and wait a bit more. He felt that the Merlin Family was being quite excessive. He guessed that they were dragging out their answer in order to get an extra bargaining chip in the negotiations. If he sent someone over before they replied, he would inevitably appear to be lacking confidence.

But after five more days, he still had no news from the Merlin Family. Instead, he got news from the Black Tower. They were dispatching Mage Legions towards the Horn of Fertility. He had a bad premonition when he heard this... What was the Black Tower planning?

He then sent someone to make some inquiries and obtained some shocking news: The Black Tower seemed to have noticed the abnormality of the Horn of Fertility and was preparing to attack.

This...

Hearing this, Karl Watson became enraged. The Black Tower was much more powerful than his Watson Family. They simply didn't need the help of any other forces for this, and they could easily attack the Horn of Fertility. If that happened, what about the Watson Family?

Thus, Karl rushed over to the Flame Demon Fort, and although he was very resentful, he didn't show it.

The smile on Karl's face appeared somewhat stiff as he looked at the young commander. "Merlin, you should know why I came to the Flame Demon Fort came this time. It concerns the matter of the collaboration between the Watson Family and the Merlin Family. After capturing the Horn of Fertility, your Merlin Family can get 30%, what do you think?"

Now that the Black Tower had joined in, Karl was feeling the pressure. He really couldn't let the matter of the Horn of Fertility drag on. He wouldn't even hesitate to make some concessions and increase the benefits of the Merlin Family.

It couldn't be helped that their position had weakened...

He, an esteemed Patriarch, had personally come to the Flame Demon Fort. This already made put the Watson Family on their back foot in this negotiation.

"Haha..." Hearing Karl Watson's offer, Lin Yun subconsciously chuckled. He paused for a while before saying, "Sir Karl, to be quite honest, our Merlin Family doesn't have too great of an interest in the fight over the Horn of Fertility, you might be disappointed..."

Lin Yun answered half-heartedly. The Merlin Family had gained too many benefits from the war against the Thawing Fire Tribe. The land they occupied had more than doubled, and they had gained control over many ore veins. Although Lin Yun didn't know the details, he knew to some extent that the Merlin Family still needed time to digest the rewards from that war.

This caused the Merlin Family's Planar Legion to be too scattered throughout the area, and everyone was always continuously bustling around. No one was idle.

After all, the Merlin Family couldn't compare to the Black Tower. After dealing with the Thawing Fire Tribe, although the Merlin Family's forces were all occupied, the Black Tower had many idle troops they could transfer.

"Eh?"

Karl was obviously stunned. He looked at Lin Yun in a daze, not believing what he'd heard. The other side actually refused so easily?

How could the Merlin Family not be interested in the Horn of Fertility?

"Mafa Merlin... Don't rush to make a decision, think over it carefully! That's the Horn of Fertility! If we can seize it, your Merlin Family will get endless benefits..." Karl forced a smile as he was extremely anxious. This concerned the rise of the Watson Family. Thinking about it, Karl suddenly clenched his teeth. "Half a year ago, your Merlin Family's Ancestral Land reached an agreement with our Watson Family to cooperate in the Raging Flame Plane. Moreover, there is no harm to your Merlin Family if you participate. If you are dissatisfied with the allocation, you can go ahead and make an offer. As a close ally, our Watson Family wouldn't fuss over minor matters..."

After his entreaty, Karl truly felt like he was bleeding. His words completely gave the initiative to the Merlin Family.

But he had no better option.

If the Black Tower hadn't appeared at the last moment, the Watson Family would have had time to think of other ways, but they no longer had time to waste.

At this time, Lin Yun's frown slowly relaxed. He had been waiting for these words from Karl all along. Indeed, how could he be uninterested in the Horn of Fertility?

After all, the Horn of Fertility wasn't just fertile... It was close to the end of the Wailing River.

"The Watson Family is really generous..." Lin Yun smiled at Karl. He could see that Karl's face had taken on an ashen hue. He didn't continue to provoke the other side and instead slowly extended five fingers. "Sir Karl, our Merlin Family needs fifty percent to agree to this collaboration."