

Magic Era 561

Chapter 561: Egg Meet Stone

The sky turned dusky, greatly impairing visibility. But, the most serious issue was the abyssal power filling those spatial tears. The tears were like stars... No, stars would emit light at least, while this abyssal power was incredibly sinister. No one doubted that once the Orachiss' spell fully came into effect, they wouldn't have the chance to escape.

Of course, the Orachiss was still only accumulating mana because it didn't have the ability to instantly cast an Abyssal Spell. Although the ants in front of it had resisted a wave of attacks, there were still flames and frost everywhere.

"Damnit, I knew it, I knew it!" Suval was quivering in fear as he looked at the surroundings and even forgot to try to cast anything. "The power of the Orachiss isn't... Isn't something we can stand up against... It's all because of that damned Mafa Merlin..."

'If Mafa Merlin hadn't insisted, why would we stay in this damned place? Why would we face that damned monster? We would have fled far away by now, and we might have already found the Raging Flame Emperor's scepter, attaining great achievements for the Black Tower!

'This is all because of Mafa Merlin's arrogance! He thought he could do something in such a desperate crisis, he thought he could handle the Orachiss... But take a look! Look at everything before you! This has already become a hellish forest, any fool would know that we are doomed! There is no chance...

'Even if everyone works together, we can't even leave a scratch on the Orachiss... We can only be buried alongside Mafa Merlin now...'

But...

While Suval was cursing in his mind, he suddenly felt strange mana fluctuations all around him. As he was still on his guard, Suval subconsciously rolled away.

It was followed by an explosion as a thick pillar of flame suddenly rose up from Suval's location.

This pillar of flame suddenly split open.

In a flash, countless flames splashed over, turning Suval's world crimson.

It looked like there were no gaps between those boundless flames, and as he panicked, Suval was struck multiple times. Each fireball came from the red head of the Orachiss. Even Suval came to the conclusion that he wouldn't be able to last long under such a barrage.

Indeed...

Suval could clearly feel that the Runic Shield protecting him was about to crumble, and if he lost the Runic Shield, he probably wouldn't even last another second.

'Not good, this can't continue, I have to find a way... I might be able to escape if someone blocked the pillar of flames for me, but everyone is under pressure, including Sir Falton and Weiss. No one is free to help...

'Hold on... That's...?'

As he was panicking, Suval suddenly saw a familiar figure...

'It's the attendant of that damned Mafa Merlin, that wretched Beastman!'

Xiuban was brandishing Carnage and using his own Beastman Race's unique Beastman Runes to make his skin flicker with a dark gold layer, making him look truly impressive.

But Suval didn't care about that. He smiled when he saw Xiuban.

Nothing was more suitable than this brainless Beastman for standing against this terrifying power.

Thinking of this, Suval immediately made a decision. He relied on the fact that his Runic Shield was still standing to withstand the blows from some of the fireballs as he cast Flame Flash to appear behind the Beastman and then use Flame Shackles. Xiuban, who had been resisting the Abyssal Spell, hadn't thought that someone would mount a sneak attack on him. He didn't manage to react in time and was bound by Suval's Flame Shackles...

'Good! I'm really too quick-witted...'

As he was held in place by the Flame Shackles, Xiuban became Suval's shield and took over a hundred fire attacks for him in less than ten seconds...

Even if the Draconic Beastman had an abnormal body, he still became covered in burns and bruises in a short time.

"Fortunately you were there, haha..." Suval's mood became cheerful. He held Xiuban in place to block the fire attack for him while laughing hysterically.

As for Xiuban's life and death, Suval simply didn't care...

If Mafa Merlin's attendant died, then he died, would Mafa dare to kill him at this moment?

Hatred flashed in Suval's eyes. He hated Mafa Merlin, and that included everyone close to him. In fact, if he had the ability, he wouldn't mind dealing with that Reina too.

In any case, since he couldn't deal with Mafa Merlin himself, he might as well get rid of the subordinates.

Such as that brainless Beastman. The idiot had a terrified expression when the flames hit him, and Suval delighted in the Beastman's fear, imagining Mafa in the Beastman's place...

"Wait, what's that?" A huge hand abruptly appeared out of nowhere...

Suval's smile immediately froze.

That hand that fell down had already caught him...

“F*ck!” Suval shouted in surprise. At that time, the Flame Shackles spell was interrupted and Xiuban fell down to the ground.

As for Suval...

He was already looking at a familiar face.

“Mafa... Mafa Merlin!”

Suval’s heart suddenly stopped throbbing. He felt as if he’d fallen into an icy cave, his entire body freezing, from his sole to his scalp.

“Suval, I told you before that there wouldn’t be a next time...”

Lin Yun’s voice was as cold as ice...

“No... No... Mafa Merlin, you can’t... you can’t!” Having a bad premonition, Suval shrieked as he tried to unleash all his power, doing all he could to struggle free.

Unfortunately, this couldn’t stop the large hand from grabbing him once again...

Then, a rumble could be heard.

Suval’s body was ruthlessly smashed against a rock that was covered in frost. Suval felt as if a terrifying beast had smashed him, like every bone in his body had cracked...

But...

Suval soon discovered that this was only the beginning...

After the impact, Suval felt his body being lifted again, and then... It was like crushing an egg against a stone...

“Bang!”

“Bang!”

“Bang!”

Once, twice, thrice...

His body collided with the rock, letting out disgusting noises, and only his intermittent screams proved that he was still alive.

An esteemed Archmage was like an egg being cracked open against a rock. It was the first time Suval actually felt like dying...

Unfortunately, even if he wanted to die, he couldn’t...

The game of “egg meet stone” was still ongoing.

After a minute, Suval no longer was recognizable as a person.

After two minutes, Suval no longer was able to let out any sounds...

After three minutes, Suval couldn't even form coherent thoughts anymore...

"Cough cough..."

The game of "egg meet stone" lasted no less than three minutes, until Weiss opened his mouth. "Errm, High Mage Merlin, you see... In the end, Suval is still an Archmage of the Black Tower."

"I'll say it again. I already gave Suval a chance." Lin Yun didn't even look at Weiss, as he emphasized his words before smashing Suval against the rock once again. The deep sound even made Weiss feel numb...

But even so, he still needed to persuade him...

"High Mage Merlin, with how magnanimous you are, how about letting Suval go this time? You have a good relationship with the Black Tower... If you kill Suval here, it might affect the relationship between the Black Tower and the Merlin Family."

"Are you done?" Hearing Weiss' lengthy explanation, Lin Yun frowned and glanced at Weiss. To him, Weiss was like an annoying, buzzing fly at this moment.

"Eh..." Weiss took back the words he was about to say, his apologetic smile frozen.

"If you are done, I shall continue..."

"..."

After ten minutes of "egg meet stone", Suval breathed his last breath...

Lin Yun casually sent a fireball over to burn up the corpse that no longer had human shape...

Resentment and admonishment could be seen in his eyes.

"Ah..." Since it had reached this point, Weiss could only let out a long sigh.

In fact, Weiss knew that Suval had gone too far. He kept making moves against his ally, which was already ripping the alliance to shreds. Whether it was emotional or rational, it was normal for the young mage to kill him.

This was also the reason that, although Weiss said something, he didn't really try to stop Lin Yun.

Chapter 562: Crystal Scales

But Weiss actually knew of Suval's backer in the Black Tower. It was someone that even Sir Harren was wary of, or else he wouldn't have indulged Suval time and time again. It was highly possible that the Black Tower would put tremendous pressure on that young mage after this matter.

But, just as Weiss thought about it, the surrounding environment greatly changed.

It was the kind of change that could easily kill a High Mage, as a terrifying magic power spread like mist. They could see with the naked eye how the boundless energy flowed like a flood. In an instant, this ancient forest turned into an ocean of mana.

That was magic power with boundless killing intent. In any other place, in a different environment, coming across such an enormous amount of mana would make any mage feel excited. But now, only fear remained.

“What’s going on?” Weiss felt a chill at the back of his head that spread to his entire body.

The feeling of despair was like a plague, quickly turning this place into a land of death.

Weiss almost went crazy, but he then turned, dumbfounded...

It wasn’t just him... Falton, Zeuss, and the others all looked at the Orachiss, their mouths wide open.

While that brief interlude finished, its central head had already finished its incantation. The Demonic Runes looked as if they had gained new life, looking extremely frightening.

The land, which had suffered a severe hit, was once again torn apart by the Abyssal Spell. The entire forest was like a soft quilt that easily folded in two. The bottomless ravine that formed made everyone look at each other, unable to say what was on their minds.

The forest’s vegetation no longer existed. It hadn’t been able to handle the berserk power, which caused it to wither, as if all the nutrients had been absorbed.

This scared everyone to death. The vegetation being torn apart could be explained by the power of the earlier attacks, but what did that sudden withering mean? It meant that this Abyssal Spell contained something else.

And that something was even more terrifying than physical destruction.

And that wasn’t all... What erupted from the ground weren’t simple flames. It was true lava!

Lava and fire were two completely different things. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that once someone was covered in lava, they would soon burn up and solidify.

Lava was flowing like water, forming a wave that reached several hundred meters in height.

Everyone fled. They all understood that if they were covered in lava, even a peak Archmage would meet their end.

“It’s Apocalypse.”

While Weiss didn’t know what he should do, Lin Yun’s voice echoed beside everyone’s ears.

Even Lin Yun felt pressure at this moment. But he couldn’t do anything about it... Everyone had combined their power together to block one attack, but they didn’t interrupt the spellcasting... letting it successfully cast Apocalypse.

This was a legendary ancient spell, and from the scene in front of him, he knew that it wasn’t something people could stop.

In the legends, Apocalypse was a High Tier Spell among Abyssal Spells. Generally speaking, it was a spell mastered by Heaven Rank powerhouses.

Although Lin Yun had made countless calculations before, he hadn't thought that this Orachiss would have actually mastered Apocalypse.

The only spot of hope was that this was a channeled spell. In other words, it wasn't using all its power at once, and if he could make use of this, the situation wouldn't be as bad. He might even be able to reverse it.

"High Mage Merlin, can you deal with Apocalypse?" Weiss quickly turned towards Lin Yun with a worried expression.

He felt too insignificant in front of that Apocalypse.

Weiss had no doubt that his power as an Archmage would be useless for protecting himself from this. He would only be able to stare helplessly as Apocalypse slowly swallowed him whole.

Thus, he was gambling everything on Lin Yun.

Everyone knew that this was a crucial moment. If he couldn't do something to stop Apocalypse, then even Falton, the most powerful one, would be annihilated.

The Ten Thousand Spell Wheel rose up above Lin Yun's head, and after expelling the chaotic magic power in the surroundings, the Doom Staff was raised high, transforming into a Runic Shield.

Hundreds of runes spread outward, forming a runic storm that rotated at a crazy speed. The golden light was ignited like a flame, and it crushed the Orachiss' attack with its berserk movement.

This was a very effective defense.

At the same time, Reina let out a loud Dragon Roar. Just as Lin Yun made a move, the Frost Dragon was already bursting with power, forming a huge ice coffin that enveloped everyone.

Among Dragons, Frost Dragons didn't have formidable fighting power, but they had their own specialties, such as this Frost Coffin, which had defensive power that wasn't much weaker than Lin Yun's defenses.

But in front of the Orachiss' attack, although Reina did her best, she still wasn't strong enough. In a short moment, the Frost Coffin was covered in countless cracks. It was only a matter of time before it shattered...

The others couldn't sit still at this time. It would be unfavorable for them if the Frost Coffin and the shield-shaped Doom Staff's two layers of defenses couldn't handle the Orachiss.

Rhett cursed and was about to make a move, when he suddenly saw Zeuss giving him a meaningful glance.

Rhett originally felt that this was strange, but he quickly understood.

Zeuss was telling him to save some strength...

The progress of the spatial tears had just started, and coming across an Orachiss was unexpected. But the Demiplane was far from limited to just the Orachiss...

Thus, Rhett stopped circulating his mana and held back. Mafa Merlin's life and death had nothing to do with them.

And it was true... If not because of profit, how could the Watson Family and the Merlin Family come together?

But how could Lin Yun fail to notice their dirty tricks?

In fact, while Lin Yun was resisting the Apocalypse, he was also secretly paying attention to the people of the Black Tower and the Watson Family. Whether it was Falton or Weiss, everyone was biding their time.

The Watson Family was still hoping to be lucky.

Not only did Rhett withdraw, but even Arthus and Mark slowly withdrew their power.

'We are fighting the Orachiss with our lives while you are watching from the side, could there be such a good thing in life?'

Unfortunately, Lin Yun didn't like the way the Watson Family was handling things...

Thus, Lin Yun made full use of his Fire Elemental Incarnation. The surrounding fire elements were very dense, and the Orachiss' raging flames could also be put to good use.

Lin Yun had enough methods to draw support from the Orachiss' raging flames and casually used an Elemental Flash.

With only one Elemental Flash, Rhett, Zeuss, and the other Watsons were shockingly brought back to the battlefield. The elements were too dense here and even Zeuss didn't have time to counter the Elemental Flash.

The expression of the Watsons turned ashen. 'Damned Mafa Merlin, this is a provocation towards the Watson Family!'

But now wasn't the time to get angry.

They already had no choice but to participate in the battle. The Orachiss was not far in front of them, and the lava and the abyssal power were closing in on them. If they couldn't come up with a way to stop it all, they would be in grave danger.

"Damnit!" Zeuss cursed, feeling terrible. In a flash, a Runic Shield appeared. Zeuss was holding his two wrists in front of his chest, emitting a crazy amount of mana.

The strange thing was that this mana was jade-colored. This jade-colored mana gradually condensed.

At the same time, a series of strange sounds also came out of his mouth as Zeuss was incanting.

Then, a huge set of crystal scales appeared above Zeuss. The energy of the crystal scales was shockingly powerful. It was scattering a jade aura that could suppress this calamitous power, forming a vacuum zone on the spot.

This wasn't normal... How could Zeuss bring forth such power?

The only one who could explain was Rhett, who was also a Watson...

“How could it be!?” But seeing this, shock filled Rhett’s face. His eyes were staring at the crystal scales, flickering with fanatical jealousy.

How could he not see that it was the Watson Family’s strongest defensive spell, inherited from the ancient 3rd Dynasty? It was a treasure left behind by the ancestor before he stepped into the Heaven Realm...

Chapter 563: Despicable

The Crystal Scales were known as the absolute defense within the Watson Family. Rhett had once heard people in the Ancestral Land say that a newly advanced Archmage could even block a Heaven Mage’s attack with it. And since the one using the Crystal Scales at this moment was Zeuss Watson, its power would reach an unimaginable level.

This was a very shocking spell.

But, it wasn’t completely flawless... The price to pay for using it was huge.

It was said that once the Crystal Scales appeared, it could easily lead to mana disorder, and in the most serious cases, it could even lead to magical backlash.

Rhett had never expected that Zeuss would use the Crystal Scales at such a time. It could be seen that he had been extremely angered by Mafa Merlin.

Surprised gasps could be heard as the Crystal Scales appeared above Zeuss Watson. Whether it was Falton and Weiss of the Black Tower or Lin Yun, they were all staring at the Crystal Scales.

People at their level of power could see the true essence of magic, and the great amount of magic bubbling within the Crystal Scales made everyone gasp in surprise.

‘Quite formidable...’

But they didn’t have the time to pay too much attention to the Crystal Scales.

Because when Zeuss put them up, it caught the Orachiss’ attention. After roaring, this vicious, ancient beast’s Apocalypse erupted with power.

Apocalypse had previously still been in its initial phase, but the Orachiss felt some threat from the Crystal Scales. Despite it only being a small hint of a threat, that vicious beast felt that it was enough to pay attention to it.

Thus, the full power of Apocalypse appeared ahead of time.

It was a destructive calamity. The silhouette of the Orachiss could no longer be seen amidst the smoke. The excessive ashen cloud suddenly expanded in the sky as the loud rumbles became louder and louder, making everyone cover their ears in pain.

Reina's body shook, and with a mournful scream, her body fell to the ground. If Lin Yun hadn't promptly case Levitation on her, she might have already ended up as mincemeat.

The Orachiss was bursting with power.

The lava that originally permeated the forest unexpected flared up once again, and it was undoubtedly scary.

Before the others could react, the lava covered heaven and earth, flooding the entire forest in an instant, and it wasn't a small area!

Then, the surroundings changed.

The area had been extremely lush before, but now it was a sea of red...

It was burning hot, the ground was scarlet, and the air was filled with ashen smoke and scalding heat. It would make anyone's skin fester if they came into contact with it.

It was an extremely painful feeling. Not only would it tax their bodies, but even their minds would become restless. The power being shown by the Orachiss wasn't something humans could stand against.

With their bodies on the verge of exploding, no one dared to absorb any mana in the atmosphere... It would be a disaster.

Even so, the pain they felt made the faces of the Archmages distort in pain. Their bodies felt as if they were roasted on a stove or bathing inside a volcano. No one could endure it.

"Damnit, we can't let the Apocalypse spell continue, or we won't survive!" Zeuss roared in a panic. He might have initially cast the Crystal Scales earlier due to his anger towards Lin Yun, but now, he just wanted to survive...

After saying that, Zeuss controlled the Crystal Scales to block the Apocalypse. Although he hadn't received any injury yet, that was only because the Crystal Scales were still active... But what if he ran out of mana?

Thus, time was valuable, and Zeuss didn't dare to rashly waste it.

The Crystal Scales were known as the absolute defense, and they were true to their name.

The wide area covered was like an entirely different world. The vegetation still had enough vitality there, and there was no issue with the flow of mana.

The Apocalypse couldn't destroy the Crystal Scales.

"Haha..." Lin Yun looked at Zeuss with ridicule. 'Now you know that your life depends on it? But knowing is a good thing...'

Lin Yun had Reina and Xiuban add their power to his to establish a relatively safe space to fight against the Apocalypse.

The Apocalypse was going wild as the Orachiss looked agitated, but fortunately, everyone had been able to resist for now, one way or another, so it hadn't reached the point where anyone despaired any more than before. At least, they could endure after paying an extremely disastrous price.

But no one could relax. Weiss was almost hit by the Apocalypse. Had it not been for the High Tier spell, Ice Pillar, that he managed to cast at such a crucial time, he might have already been torn apart.

Suddenly, Lin Yun let out another command, shouting, "Flee!"

This word sounded heavenly. Everyone worked together this time and no one questioned Lin Yun about why he told them to attack before but now wanted them to flee.

Everyone used Flight or Flying Magic Tools to flee in all directions.

They also discovered that the space wasn't sealed. In other words, they still had enough leeway to flee from the Orachiss.

'Could it be... Is it because of Apocalypse? Because the Orachiss cast that terrifying spell, it has no spare power to use the Ash Cage? Right, this must be it.'

At this time, everyone understood why Mafa Merlin told them to attack the Orachiss, finally able to infer the reason behind it.

But a small issue popped up.

It happened to Falton.

Falton's defensive spell couldn't compare to what Zeuss was using. In fact, he had gotten injured in the clash with the Orachiss because of that.

Naturally, his injuries weren't serious, at least not to an Archmage.

But the problem was that he now had to run from the Orachiss.

Because of his injuries, Falton wasn't able to fly as fast as the others, and he fell to the end of the group. Even if he made great efforts, under such disadvantageous circumstances, he couldn't catch up easily.

And that wasn't all. What truly frustrated Falton was that the Orachiss seemed to have become enraged when it saw its prey fleeing, and it kept using ice and fire elements to bombard them from afar.

The power was incomparably berserk, and with the fire and ice together, this ancient forest and the team of Archmages could only suffer.

Moreover...

The Orachiss was still eyeing Falton. Then, something horrifying happened. The area hundreds of meters around the Orachiss, the place where lava was the densest, was now filled with the Orachiss' raging flames and chilling frost. The shakily flying Falton was quickly hit a few times by the Orachiss, and half of his body was already frozen stiff.

“Sh*t!” Falton was truly angered, but he couldn’t do anything about it. He didn’t have enough power to resist the Orachiss, or else he would have unhesitatingly fought back and let that beast know how fierce he was.

But Falton knew that this couldn’t continue. With the current tempo, it wouldn’t take long before he fell into a world of darkness.

So Falton did something drastic.

He used a Gravity spell on Zeuss, who wasn’t far ahead of him!

The completely unguarded Zeuss felt his body becoming heavier. His body was in chaos, and the Crystal Scales swayed. There were too many factors that could put the Crystal Scales in chaos, so even the ordinary Gravity Spell could easily be the Crystal Scales’ fatal weakness.

Then, the Orachiss’ target changed to Zeuss.

Even if the Orachiss was an ancient beast that didn’t have human intellect, it clearly understood that the most troublesome thing blocking his attacks was Zeuss. Now that it had the opportunity to attack Zeuss, it wouldn’t pass on it.

Zeuss was quickly injured. Under the endless bombardment, the Crystal Scales finally shattered to pieces...

He was then sent flying by the attack, and the ash-colored fog that permeated the Orachiss’ attack was too nauseating. It remained as a kind of gooey glue, not falling off.

But the most terrible part was that the eyes of the Orachiss’ head that possessed spatial magic were glittering with an ashen radiance. It was slowly increasing the magic power, making Zeuss roar. He understood that this 3rd head was about to cast a new spell.

As he was about to run out of luck, Zeuss couldn’t help roaring at Falton. “You are too despicable!”

“Despicable? What now? It looks like you don’t understand the situation.” Falton had already flown above Zeuss, not forgetting to throw him a disdainful glance on the way.

Chapter 564: Bear and Man

“You’ll see, I shall remember this!” Zeuss ruthlessly threatened. But he couldn’t hide the worry in his mind. Seeing the Orachiss getting closer and closer, his heart grew cold.

‘Over, it’s all over! I can’t escape the Orachiss without the Crystal Scales.’

But at this time, Lin Yun quickly turned back and ordered the Heaven Puppet to protect Zeuss Watson.

In a flash, the Heaven Puppet used countless spells, sending them to strike the incoming Orachiss.

As the Heaven Rank Puppet unleashed its power, the black smoke curled around the Orachiss’ body, its fire head, and its ice head, lacerating them. The Orachiss let out a loud, painful cry before angrily roaring and locking onto the Heaven Puppet with an Abyssal Aura.

At this time, the Orachiss was too busy to care about Zeuss. The six eyes of his three heads were emitting an ominous green glint as it crazily bellowed at the Heaven Puppet.

“You?” Zeuss’ eyes were wide open. Amidst the countless possibilities he could have thought of, he never expected that the one who would save him was actually Mafa Merlin!

This made Zeuss freeze, even forgetting to keep trying to flee from the Orachiss’ pursuit.

Lin Yun impatiently looked at him and yelled, “You still aren’t f*cking moving? What are you waiting for? Do you want to become the Orachiss’ dinner?”

These words were like cold water to Zeuss. They made him realize how grave of a mistake he was making.

Zeuss looked at Lin Yun with an extremely complicated expression as he quickly put more distance between him and the Orachiss, followed Lin Yun towards the edge of the forest.

Soon, everyone rushed out of the forest, and for an unknown reason, the Orachiss actually didn’t pursue them. And unexpectedly, when Lin Yun felt that they should be safe for now, he discovered that the Black Tower’s people had been scattered away.

In other words, only Lin Yun’s group and a few members of the Watson Family were waiting there.

The Black Tower must have dispersed while they were fleeing too wildly. And Mark Watson also disappeared, but it didn’t matter because Lin Yun didn’t care about any of them.

Zeuss’ expression was terrible. He hadn’t said a word while running, because he was racking his brain trying to understand why Falton had done something so despicable...

“You didn’t hear the story of coming across a bear in the forest?” Lin Yun walked over to Zeuss with a smile. He could see that this High Rank Archmage was trying to process what had happened.

“Ah?” Zeuss was stunned. ‘What is he trying to say?’

Lin Yun sighed as he saw Zeuss’ expression and explained in an extremely blunt way, “To put it simply, one day, two people decided to go hunting together, but they met a bear on the way. They couldn’t do against it, so they could only flee. Unfortunately, the bear was a lot faster than them. One of them soon ran out of energy and started struggling. He slowed and told the other one, ‘Don’t run, it’s useless, we can’t outrun the bear...’ Can you guess what the other one answered?”

“How did he answer?”

“The other one said: It doesn’t matter if I can’t outrun the bear, I only need to outrun you!”

It turned out that the reason was so simple, but Zeuss truly didn’t know whether to laugh or cry after hearing it.

...

Lin Yun led the way, surrounded by Frost Dragon Reina and Draconic Beastman Xiuban, and the three members of the Watson Family were following closely behind them.

They could still feel the Orachiss' aura, so no one dared to stop. They managed to break away from the Orachiss, but all their efforts would be wasted if it caught up.

The Orachiss' aura only disappeared when they reached a huge canyon.

Only then did they all relax...

But then, they took a closer look at the canyon.

From where they were, the peaks of the canyon looked sharp and outstanding. Then, their gazes fell onto the vast barren land.

Yes, it was completely barren...

This canyon was unimaginably desolate. It felt as if everyone had come to a completely uninhabitable area. It was desolate, arid, and had no water sources.

The air wasn't pure; it was mixed with dust.

Naturally, there were other things, such as the Black Blood Lizards in the periphery. These lizards weren't weak, as each one was at least level 30.

Every Black Blood Lizard had a long horn, sharper than a sword, and they had skin covered in green scales, which showed that these had pretty strong venom. They were concealed in the sand, lying motionless. But there was no doubt that if someone intruded into their territory, they would definitely not remain calm.

There were too many Black Blood Lizards... There would definitely be a clash if they went through there.

If they had a choice, no one would be willing to proceed that way. But this was the only way to go forward.

Before that, Lin Yun had everyone take a rest outside the canyon. They had used too much energy and needed some time to recover...

But then, Zeuss had a painful expression flash across his face.

'ba-thump...'

His heart was fiercely beating, as if it was about to split open.

This feeling was sudden and fierce, even making a formidable powerhouse like Zeuss look pale.

Zeuss discovered with shock that he seemed to have received an extremely grave injury.

But, when did he get injured?

'Was it caused by the fight with the Orachiss? Right, when Falton trapped me, I lost the effect of the Crystal Scales, exposing me to the Orachiss' flames. It should be from then...'

"Sir Zeuss, are you okay?" Rhett noticed this and walked to Zeuss' side, looking at him worryingly.

"I'm okay." Zeuss took a deep breath and forcibly suppressed the pain within his body.

He knew that he couldn't let others know of the severity of his injuries at this time.

He had to be patient because Rhett and Arthus weren't the only ones here... There was also the Merlin Family's group.

He had to endure if he wanted to keep leading the Watson Family with the Merlin Family.

It was hard to imagine what Mafa Merlin would do to the Watson Family once he learnt that their leader wasn't capable of exerting his full power.

"Alright, I don't feel the aura of that hateful Orachiss, Lord Xiuban managed to survive!" The Draconic Beastman said in a joyous tone. The cowardly Xiuban hadn't been able to relax ever since he encountered the Orachiss.

But he was finally safe.

Frost Dragon Reina was bound to have the greatest recovery ability due to her bloodline. She managed to recover from the injuries inflicted by the Orachiss in a short time and was already in good condition.

At this moment, she stood at Lin Yun's side, her long silver white hair reaching her perfect waist, exuding with a wild beauty.

"What do we do next?"

"Let's go through here first." Lin Yun smiled as if a weight had lifted from his mind. He checked the canyon and frowned. "But it's clear that going through there isn't going to be that simple."

"Yes." Reina nodded. But before she could say anything, she heard countless sharp sounds.

It didn't come from the wind, seeming softer than that. In a split second, Reina noticed something...

Then, the Draconic Beastman's horrified voice echoed, "Sir Merlin, it's terrible! Those damned lizards are coming over!"

Lin Yun didn't actually need the reminder. He and the Watsons had all seen the movement.

Those several dozen Black Blood Lizards rushed out of the sand, scattering sand everywhere as they charged towards the team at the entrance of the canyon.

Arthus and Rhett seemed wary. Their mana and Aura had been greatly exhausted during the fight with the Orachiss, so they didn't have much left.

This should normally be time to rest and meditate. But the Black Blood Lizards launched an attack on them, creating a tricky problem...

"These damned Black Blood Lizards, they should be waiting inside the canyon! Why would they suddenly come out?" Rhett seemed quite upset. He couldn't help ruthlessly curse, raising the magic staff in his hand. He couldn't just watch and do nothing as the Black Blood Lizards approached, right?

On the other side, Arthus raised his greatsword, his expression worse than Rhett's. Black Blood Lizards were innately toxic and had formidable magic abilities. At his peak, handling a Black Blood Lizard would be a piece of cake, but the problem was that everyone, including himself, wasn't at their peak.

Thus, wanting to handle the Black Blood Lizards was somewhat challenging. After all, there were more than just a few of them.

“Get ready!” Lin Yun frowned. It wasn’t time to show off his abilities further... On his side, whether it was Reina, Xiuban, or the Heaven Puppet, everyone had greatly suffered.

But then, a voice echoed...

“Wait. I’m enough to handle those Black Blood Lizards.” Zeuss was the one who spoke up, an extremely solemn expression on his face.

Chapter 565: Poisoned?

“You alone?” Lin Yun was stunned.

“That’s right, it’ll be enough.” Zeuss nodded.

“Eh, it’s up to you then.” Lin Yun scratched his cheek and glanced at Zeuss from afar, not saying anything.

But Lin Yun not saying anything didn’t mean that the others would remain silent. Hearing Zeuss, Arthus was instantly startled and tried to stop him, “Sir Zeuss, your body...”

“It doesn’t matter, I am this team’s leader. It is something I should do.” Zeuss shook his head, and then slowly raised his staff.

To be honest, Zeuss wasn’t playing a hero, he knew that he was seriously injured and couldn’t fight, but there was nothing he could do about it, he had to make a move here.

Moreover, he had to do it on his own to show that he had enough power.

If he didn’t, his position might be replaced by Mafa Merlin.

Although Mafa Merlin had saved him earlier, how could he remain calm.

The quantity of Black Blood Lizards reached a frightening amount, single-target spells wouldn’t be enough, thus Zeuss chose to cast a large-scale spell.

That spell was known as Starlight Storm...

The instant magic power circulated through his body, pain sneakily surged within his heart. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that it felt as if his heart was being torn apart.

It would hurt just as much if his heart was sliced in two.

And now, Zeuss was withstanding this much pain.

But he couldn’t do anything against it, Zeuss knew that he had to endure that pain.

As the Starlight Storm was fully formed, a starry sky appeared.

The sky seemed to have turned into a glistening color with countless stars illuminating the entire area with a dazzling radiance, it looked as if a meteor was falling from the sky.

This flow of mana was unstable and berserk. Unstable because of the state of Zeuss' body, and berserk by the nature of the spell. But regardless, the strength Zeuss displayed was frightening and he quickly obliterated the Black Blood Lizards.

The Black Blood Lizards wished they were dead if it meant not having to undertake the ravage of the Starlight Storm, they were sent flying one after the other... No, it wasn't as simple as that, the aura of life completely disappeared from their bodies at that moment, their blood was broiled by the starlight and their bodies withered.

The lifeless bodies looked dried up, just like old people in their later years. The strongest part of the Starlight Storm was its invisible energy. It seemed to be an extremely calm attacking spell, but in reality, it was already surging like a tide.

At this time, a larger Black Blood Lizard charged over like a whirlwind.

It had a malevolent head, scales glittering with green light, and those eerie white claws were comparable to the sharpest weapons. They put a lot of pressure on everyone.

At this time, it would be reasonable for others to make a move. After all, Zeuss had used a lot of his strength, with his body in that state, using Starlight Storm was already pushing it. But Zeuss didn't want help, he wanted to establish his prestige, so he could only carry on.

"Bang!"

Zeuss cast a Slow spell on the lizards' leader, before casting a Swamp under its clawed legs. But that lizard was clearly a monster, its four legs were like pillars as they unexpectedly struggled free of the swamp.

Just based on its physical power, it could match a 1st Rank Sword Saint.

The battle was still ongoing...

Time slowly passed, although the fight between Zeuss and that Leader of the Black Blood Lizards was very strenuous, thanks to Zeuss' rich fighting experience as well as his skillful casting technique, he ultimately managed to defeat that lizard by using an extremely destructive spell.

Following an explosion, the leader of the lizards was cut in half, its boiling blood dying the earth red as it lost its life to Zeuss' fierce attacks.

The battle was over, all the lizards had turned into corpses.

Zeuss was panting heavily, his complexion paler than before.

Only now could Zeuss finally relax.

But his mana consumption was very high, it was like a waterfall.

But this was a small problem. As long as his goal was reached, he didn't mind it.

But just as he came back to the group, he heard Rhett Watson's "kindhearted" reminder.

"Sir Zeuss, your body doesn't seem to be in good shape..."

"Nonsense!" Zeuss coldly snorted as he heard this, he even looked at Lin Yun with an unkind gaze.

He had no other choice but to do so.

After Falton's departure, the team's composition had greatly changed. The Merlin Family's side had a level 38 Frost Dragon and a puppet comparable to a level 37, not to mention the Beastman with strange power. Even if Mafa Merlin wasn't counted, they were enough to crush Rhett and Arthus. The Watson could lead only because of himself, an 8th Rank Archmage.

But...

If this 8th Rank Archmage lost his fighting strength, the situation would definitely become unpleasant. If Mafa Merlin realized that, he might seize the leadership position. If he was ruthless enough, the Watson Family would be wiped here.

Thus, Zeuss hid his injury.

Because Zeuss didn't want to risk it...

His existence was the best way to guarantee his group's survival. If Mafa Merlin learnt that he had been seriously injured in the fight against the Orachiss and that his power was continuously waning, it would be equivalent to putting his life in Mafa Merlin's hands.

"Haha..." Lin Yun chuckled. He clearly understood what Zeuss was thinking, "If I'm not wrong, Sir Zeuss should have been hit by poisonfire during the fight with the Orachiss?"

"Do I look like I've been poisoned by poisonfire?" Zeuss took a deep breath and tried his best to appear calm.

"I heard that someone hit by the Orachiss would be poisoned by the ash poison..." As if he hadn't noticed Zeuss' unhappy mood, Lin Yun continued, "This ash poison's most important feature is its corrosive nature. It would be like a loathsome leech that wouldn't give up until it corroded all mana..."

"..." Zeuss' expression became somewhat unnatural as he heard that...

"Even if the poisoned victim was an 8th Rank Archmage... Ah, right, Sir Zeuss, I'm not talking about you. I'm just saying, even an 8th Rank Archmage like you would be unable to rely on their own resistance to poison, especially if that person didn't know how formidable it was and recklessly used magic after being poisoned. The end result would be even worse, once the ash poison's toxins reach the heart, even Gods wouldn't be able to help them."

"..." Zeuss held his breath.

"Fortunately, Sir Zeuss hadn't been poisoned, otherwise what you did against the Black Blood Lizards might have..." Lin Yun said that as he looked at Zeuss with a rejoicing expression.

"Yes, haha..." Zeuss smiled stiffly.

“Oh, right!” At this time, Lin Yun clapped his thigh and said, “I remember something else, I heard that the people infected by the ash poison would have a red area on their right palm. As time passed, this red area would spread towards the heart, and once this red area truly reached the heart, the poisoned would be finished...”

“Haha, this is only hearsay...” Zeuss did his best to remain calm, but his eyes couldn’t help looking at his right hand...

Then...

Zeuss really found a red area on his right palm...

But that red area had already spread to his arm...

This discovery made Zeuss feel a chill.

It was just as Mafa Merlin said, the red area on his right palm was slowly spreading towards his chest, moreover, that feeling was becoming more intense in his chest, as if a hand was fiercely pressed against his heart, making even breathing extremely challenging.

The group slowly walked towards the depths of the canyon, but Zeuss remained at the back of the formation, glancing at his right palm with a gloomy expression, not knowing what to do.

After five minutes, Zeuss was staggering...

Cold sweat kept flowing down his forehead and his expression was a lot paler, to the point that even Arthus and the others noticed.

At first, Zeuss didn’t want to admit it, but after ten minutes, that red area kept spreading, just as Lin Yun said and had reached half of his arm, getting dangerously close to his chest.

Zeuss only felt cold in his limbs, ‘It’s just as he said...’

But, not long after, the team ran into trouble. Thirty meters ahead, another group of Black Blood Lizards approached. As Lin Yun poured mana into his Doom Staff, eight Flame Bursts were sent flying, signaling the start of battle.

Chapter 566: Too Shameless

Zeuss originally wanted to take part in that battle, but he suddenly recalled Lin Yun’s words and immediately hesitated and interrupted his cast, looking very embarrassed.

If it was as Lin Yun said, then casting spells would just accelerate the rate at which his life was consumed...

“Rumble!”

A loud sound echoed as Reina quickly turned into a Frost Dragon and spread her wings wide, turning several dozen Black Blood Lizards into a minced meat. At the same time, Reina also spat out a ray of light which swept through a large amount of lizards. Miserable shrieks echoed throughout the canyon.

It was truly frightening...

Then, the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel slowly raised above Lin Yun's head. The Spell Wheel burst with a moon-like radiance, and along with mana being poured into it, all kinds of spells quickly flooded the Black Blood Lizards.

On another side, Xiuban was swinging Carnage aggressively as he ran, flattening one lizard after the other. Carnage's power seemed particularly shocking.

After five minutes of pummeling and magic bombardment, the screaming sounds became scarcer and scarcer. Soon, there was no sound to be heard. Just Lin Yun's group was enough to deal with over a hundred Black Blood Lizards, they didn't need the help of the Watson family at all.

At this moment, Arthus and Rhett were both staring at the scene with their eyes wide open, 'Damn, aren't these three too fierce?' After all, Zeuss had taken a lot more time to deal with the Black Blood Lizards earlier.

"Sir Zeuss, fortunately you pulled back relatively fast this time. If the poison had spread to the heart, I would have definitely been unable to save you..." Lin Yun said as he walked to Zeuss. He had noticed Zeuss' movements earlier. It looked like this esteemed Archmage had been somewhat unable to restrain himself.

"Nonsense, I'm not poisoned!" A vein pulsated on Zeuss' forehead as he said that, 'That scoundrel is too excessive, he keeps mocking me and doesn't pay any respect to an 8th Rank Archmage like me. I must teach him a lesson, or he'll really think that he can remain impudent in front of me...'

"Mafa Merlin, you..." Thinking of this, Zeuss' expression sank. He ferociously grasped his magic staff in his right hand, but after starting off with those words, Zeuss suddenly froze.

'Hold on...'

'If I didn't hear wrong, Mafa Merlin just said: "If the poison had spread to the heart, I would have definitely been unable to save you..." That's an annoying reminder, but on the other hand, it means that if the poison hadn't reached my heart, Mafa Merlin can save me?'

Thinking of this, Zeuss' expression froze and his grip on his magic staff also loosened. After hesitating for a while, he squeezed out an embarrassed smile, "That... High Mage Merlin, you said... You said... That you actually have an antidote?"

"Of course I know of an antidote, but wasn't Sir Watson not poisoned? How could I cure you if you aren't poisoned?"

"..." Zeuss' face turned white as he heard this, he hoped he could slap himself a few times, 'Damn it, why did I dig a hole for myself?'

"Alright, alright, High Mage Merlin, since you have an antidote, can you help me..." Zeuss was an 8th Rank Archmage, a powerhouse of that level wouldn't be as shameless as Xiuban. After holding back for a while, he quietly said, "Can you help me cure the poison?"

"Of course." Lin Yun seriously thought before adding, "But I need a lot of magic materials."

“Magic materials?”

Even when he heard that Lin Yun had a way, Zeuss was still restless. He was afraid that Lin Yun would ask for something impossible. But hearing Lin Yun asking for magic material was a relief for Zeuss.

“My Watson Family has been operating in Okland for a millennium, there is no magic material we can’t take out, I’m even carrying many within my spatial ring... which ones do you need?”

“Very good, then I shall list them!” Lin Yun chuckled and took out some writing utensils from his ring and then started listing the items he needed.

“Come take a look.” Once he was done writing, Rhett reacted first, he took the list from Lin Yun’s hands and carefully checked every single material on the list.

He then relaxed after reading through a dozen materials. Although these materials were precious, they weren’t much to Rhett Watson.

“No problem High Mage Merlin, let alone Sir Zeuss, I can also take them out of my spatial ring. If you can save Sir Zeuss, I shall not only give you those materials, I will even give you additional rewards.”

At this time, whether it was Rhett or Arthur, they both understood that this was an opportunity to curry favor with the poisoned Zeuss, thus, Rhett displayed magnanimity.

“Wait, it’s not just those...” Lin Yun methodically reminded Rhett. He then helped Rhett flip the page, “Look at the back.”

“There is more?” Rhett frowned, and after a quick glance, his expression greatly changed. He was scared by the content of the list!

At the back of the list were listed seventy to eighty very precious magic materials. And that wasn’t all, these magic materials included various domains of alchemy, they weren’t just used in potioning.

‘What Lurman Mithril, what Abyssal Gemcore, what’s that? Lurman Mithril is used in weapon forging, while Abyssal Gemcore is used to embed arrays. They have no damn relation with potions. Oh, right, there is also the Demon Claw, that’s a f*cking siege weapon! What are you going to use a Demon Claw for? Do you want to use that potion to blow a gate?’

‘So shameless...’

“High Mage Merlin, your list... Your list is a bit too excessive...!” Rhett made great effort to suppress his anger, he was in a bad mood after reading that list.

‘This... This... This is too much of a scam?’

“You can’t understand the Artisan realm...” Lin Yun didn’t give Rhett any time to answer, “Since I listed them it means that I need these materials. You can also let Zeuss Watson die, but don’t blame me for reminding you, he has about half an hour left...”

“You are profiting from others’ misfortune!” Rhett’s expression turned terrible as he roared at Lin Yun, “The Watson Family won’t compromise!”

“Haha...” Lin Yun smiled disdainfully, looking indifferent.

“Give it to him.” Zeuss quickly intervened, angrily looking at Rhett.

Rhett looked at Zeuss with incredulity and cried in alarm, “Sir Zeuss, Mafa Merlin is clearly taking advantage of the situation to rob us!”

“If you don’t give it to him, will you treat me in his stead?” Zeuss pointed at Rhett while scolding him, ‘Is my life more important? Or are magic materials more important?’

Zeuss Watson felt as if his lungs were about to explode because of Rhett Watson, this pig-like teammate. At such a critical time, he still cared about these things.

Rhett sluggishly moved forward in silence, unwilling to look at Lin Yun. It looked like he was following Zeuss’ words.

“I have some of the materials in my spatial ring, as for the rest, Arthus, Rhett, you two help me fill in the rest.”

Zeuss was a bit unwilling, it was as if he was being looted. But he still had to hand over the goods in the end, he had no other choice at this step.

Arthus and Rhett were very unwilling, but they couldn’t refuse Zeuss, could they?

Soon, the three took out a huge pile of magic material. These materials glistened with a multitude of radiance and were piled like a small mountain. Even Xiuban couldn’t help gulping.

Only Reina didn’t find anything strange with it.

“High Mage Merlin, this is all we could gather, but we are still short a few of the items.”

When the three of them worked together, most of the magic materials on the list were found. But there were a few materials that were so valuable that even an 8th Rank Archmage like Zeuss wouldn’t carry them on his person.

“Sir Zeuss, those few magic materials aren’t too important, but I just saw Crimson Flame Gold Essence and a Sutton Gem in Sir Rhett’s spatial ring, as well as a piece of Skyfall Magic Metal. If you are fine with it, you can replace those several materials with these...”

“Mafa Merlin, this is too excessive!”

Hearing this, Zeuss and Arthus didn’t say anything, but Rhett got angry.

This was a shameless robbery...

He had never heard that magic materials could be switched like that, not only switched, but with such a huge difference from the original ones. These were metals and gems... Alchemy wasn’t magic, how could these things be used to create a potion?

This was too ridiculous?

Chapter 567: Good Mood

Both the Crimson Flame Gold Essence and the Skyfall Magic Metal were extremely precious metals, their price combined surpassed four million golds. As for the Sutton Gem, it was even more precious, there were only a few pieces in the Watson Family, yet Lin Yun asked for his. How could Rhett not be angered?

After all, these were materials he had been collecting for a long time.

“It doesn’t really matter to me if you are unwilling. In any case, I won’t be the one affected if I can’t refine the potion...” Lin Yun said in a sad tone, “But Sir Zeuss need the potion... Urgently...”

“F*ck!” Rhett cursed. He felt that Lin Yun was too much of a bully. No matter how patient he was, he couldn’t agree to such an excessive request.

“Enough!”

But Zeuss Watson impatiently stopped Rhett. He ignored Rhett’s surprised expression and directly interfere in his dispute with Lin Yun, “Give Mafa Merlin the materials he just mentioned.”

“Sir Zeuss...” Rhett was stunned, he very much wanted to change Zeuss’ mind.

“Rhett Watson! Keep your complaints to yourself and do as I said!” Zeuss angrily looked at Rhett, ‘Damn it, don’t you see that I’m even more depressed than you? If you don’t hurry and go along with his wishes, wouldn’t that make things worse for me?’

“Yes...”

Seeing Zeuss’ infuriated expression, Rhett Watson lowered his head and didn’t dare to say anything else. He truly couldn’t understand why Zeuss was willing to let Mafa Merlin take advantage of them in such a big way...

“Wait a minute...”

The crafting of the potion was very simple, the herbs gathered by the Watson Family were quickly processed into a juice before being mixed into a beaker. Then, Lin Yun shook the beaker until all the different liquids turned into an azure liquid.

The process lasted a minute, not one second was wasted...

Then, Lin Yun handed over the potion he refined to Zeuss, “Drink this.”

“Mafa Merlin, you took so many magic materials, saying that you needed about eighty magic materials to refine a potion, but now, you just took a few herbs and compounded a potion, aren’t you just profiting from others’ misfortune?”

That scene made Rhett Watson seeth in anger. His heart was bleeding! Anger wasn’t enough to describe his current mood, if he could, he would tear Lin Yun’s body apart.

“Indeed, I only need a few herbs to craft the potion, as for the rest of the magic materials, they are only there to put me in a good mood, only then can I smoothly compound the potion. Oh, right, Sir Rhett, why are you so emotional? I’m telling you, I’m very afraid of emotional people, if you remain that way, my mood might become unhappy and it would be very troublesome...”

“What are you planning to do!”

“I’m not planning anything, But I did forget to tell you that Sir Zeuss need to drink three bottles of antidote to be detoxified, one a day...”

These words made Rhett Watson’s roar abruptly stop. Let alone that threat, Zeuss’ murderous look was enough to shut him up.

Then, Rhett had no other choice but to hide his anger within his heart while gritting his teeth as he watched Mafa Merlin robbing them.

They continued their journey after Zeuss drank his potion...

This canyon was astonishingly huge. They hadn’t noticed when they were at the entrance, but as they got deeper and deeper, they discovered that this place was like a brand new continent.

It was desolate no matter where they looked, no vegetation existed in that canyon, it was as if that place had been forgotten.

The entire canyon was bare and was covered by mountains on both sides. Every time the wind rose, it would carry sand with it, forming a disastrous storm of sand and dust which made things awkward for all of them.

And there was a large amount of magic beasts hidden within the canyon.

It was no longer limited to the Black Blood Lizards, there were now stronger magic beasts, as well as many different kinds, and in a large amount. The previous day, the team met a group of Sand Reapers which caused a lot of trouble.

That’s right, they were getting encounters!

In a short few days, they had no less than ten encounters.

Although Zeuss had more or less recovered after drinking the three potions, he still couldn’t use mana as he wished. Thus, the heavy responsibility of protecting the team was left in Lin Yun’s hands.

And during those fights, the team almost sank in crisis time and time again, and only because Lin Yun made a move at a crucial time were they keep their lives.

As for Rhett, Arthus, and Reina, they had been injured in the fight with the Orachiss and they couldn’t keep up with the mana consumption. Moreover, meditating in this area was wishful thinking.

Thus, had Lin Yun not been there, the team would have already been annihilated.

This was something no one could deny. Even Rhett, who had a poor opinion of Lin Yun, had no other choice but to admit that this was all thanks to Lin Yun.

Time slowly passed under such dire circumstances.

On the night of the 5th day...

Everyone was exhausted, even the powerful Zeuss suggested to Lin Yun to pitch a tent there to let everyone rest for a moment and meditate.

Lin Yun agreed.

Thus, they cleared up the magic beasts within five kilometers and found a relatively spacious area to put down their tents.

Xiuban volunteered to look for firewood and start a bonfire.

...

“High Mage Merlin...” As he just finished meditating by the bonfire, Lin Yun heard Zeuss’ voice.

He then saw Zeuss standing on the other side of the bonfire.

“Sir Zeuss, a patient should be resting properly.” Lin Yun was about to tidy up the fire source, but he hadn’t expected Zeuss to come up uninvited. A puzzled expression flashed in his eyes.

After all, he had no friendship with this 8th Rank Archmage and they had nothing to talk about, so why did Zeuss Watson come to find him?

“I came to thank you, High Mage Merlin...”

“Thank me?” Hearing this, Lin Yun was surprised. This wasn’t consistent with how Zeuss handled things.

“Yes, High Mage Merlin, if not for you, the Orachiss’ poisonfire wouldn’t have been removed so easily.” Zeuss didn’t continue to stand and sat next to Lin Yun. After sitting, he sighed and sized Lin Yun up.

Even now, he could see that the young mage wasn’t as simple as he looked.

Not to mention the fact that his alchemy skill had already reached the Artisan realm, even the power he had displayed so far could compare to 4th Rank Archmages.

And Mafa Merlin was only a 6th Rank High Mage!

At his rank, Zeuss could only challenge 7th Rank High Mages, as for being on par with an Archmage, that was a dream far off in the distance.

Lin Yun rolled his eyes, “I think you didn’t look for me just to thank me?”

“There is indeed something else...”

Zeuss seemed to be organizing his words, and after a long time, he said, “This collaboration between our Watson Family, the Black Tower and your Merlin Family isn’t too fair to your Merlin Family. High Mage Merlin, do you understand what I mean?”

“Haha, Sir Zeuss is being to polite.” Lin Yun smiled. Zeuss’ words thoroughly confirmed his conjecture.

To tell the truth, Zeuss telling him those words was actually letting Lin Yun know that the Watson Family and the Black Tower’s goal in this expedition wasn’t as simple as the Merlin Family.

This didn’t need Zeuss’ explanation, Lin Yun could guess.

In fact, if there was no other goal, then how could the Horn of Fertility attract Zeuss and Falton, these two 8th Rank Archmages powerhouses.

After all, these two powerhouses were infinitely close to the Heaven Realm, it was hardly an exaggeration to say that they were people at the peak, only a few steps away from the Heaven realm.

It could easily be guessed that they were attracted by something else.

Then, Lin Yun started recalling the rumors pertaining to Raging Flame Emperor Norrick.

Norrick could be said to be a rather mysterious character. This included his life, it was said that no one knew where he came from.

The only information that could be found in the Raging Flame Plane only said that Norrick suddenly appeared on a night where lightning kept falling. He then led his own legion to conquer the Raging Flame Plane in a few years.

There was something else, but it was about Norrick's scepter.

It was said that this magic staff represented all of Norrick's power. In those years, Norrick was only relying on a magic staff to sweep through the entire Raging Flame Plane and become the most powerful existence in the history of the Raging Flame Plane.

And it was worth mentioning that the legend said that this scepter hid the greatest secret of Norrick's life.

Because the Raging Flame Emperor represented mystery, everything related to him was undoubtedly mysterious. As for the secret within the scepter, it was naturally very attractive.

But Lin Yun was an exception, he was disdainful of that scepter.

Chapter 568: Mana Cleansing

Before coming to the Raging Flame Plane, Lin Yun had already made some conjectures.

Everything indicated that the scepter wasn't as powerful as the legends said, it would at most be a True Spirit Magic Tool, and after countless years, the Magic Tool Incarnation would have already been destroyed and it might have already fallen to the Spiritual realm.

Thus, to Lin Yun, Norrick's scepter was only a token left behind by the Raging Flame Emperor. Apart from this, there was no real meaning to it.

This meant that although Norrick's scepter had some appeal, it was far from making people desperate. Since even Lin Yun could understand this reason, he believed that Zeuss and Falton obviously knew about it.

They both could be considered 8th Rank Archmage powerhouses, and the power behind them was even more outrageous, they wouldn't make such a big fuss for that scepter. They definitely came here for something more important.

Thus, their behavior was strange. Such as the fact that regardless of what happened, they didn't want to leave this place.

As he thought of this, Lin Yun started having a favorable impression of Zeuss Watson.

Although Zeuss Watson didn't tell him why they were here, but saying that it was unfair to the Merlin Family was already a huge hint. At least, Zeuss knew how to be grateful.

But what were they looking for?

Could it be the skull of Ancient God Constance? The skull which represented the source of wisdom?

But as he thought about it, Lin Yun felt certain that apart from himself, no one should be aware of that secret.

Since that was the case, then what was the thing they were looking for?

Thus, Lin Yun decided to probe.

"Sir Zeuss, the two major forces cooperating is a good thing to our Merlin Family, how could it be unfair...?"

"..." Although Zeuss' expression didn't change much, he felt conflicted.

The cause was very simple, at this moment, he had managed to come here mostly unscathed thanks to Lin Yun. It could be said that without Lin Yun's help, they would have died in the Orachiss' hands long ago.

Moreover, even if he barely managed to escape the forest, the poisonfire would have been enough to take his life.

He could also understand the meaning behind Lin Yun's words.

If he could, Zeuss wouldn't mind saying a few more sentences, but he couldn't do anything, the burden he bore was too heavy, that was a mission issued by the Ancestral Land!

It concerned the Family's interests, he definitely couldn't leak it out at will.

In the end, Zeuss sighed and said with a complicated expression, "If possible, I hope the Merlin Family can withdraw from this collaboration. Aren't you looking for Norrick's scepter? I can promise on behalf of the Watson Family that as long as we find the scepter, I'll definitely hand it over to your Merlin Family."

After saying this, Zeuss stared at Lin Yun. This promise was the greatest concession he could make.

But he then found out that there was no change in the young mage's expression. It seemed that he wasn't very satisfied with that suggestion.

In fact, Lin Yun couldn't agree.

He had come to this Demiplane for Constance's skull, he had yet to find the skull, so how could he leave so easily?

"Sir Zeuss, you see, this Demiplane is rich in resources, how could I leave so easily? You might not know how poor our Merlin Family is, but with so many resources spread in front of me, if I don't take some back, I'll be in trouble..."

Although Lin Yun appeared to be whining, how could Zeuss not see that the young mage only found a random excuse.

Regardless of what he said, it was unlikely that he would leave.

“High Mage Merlin, I understand. It seems that I was a bit rash. Haha, I suddenly remembered that there was something I wanted to check in the surroundings, I won’t bother you any longer, you proceed with your meditation.”

Zeuss forced a smile and hurriedly left after saying those words.

‘He didn’t share any useful information.’ Lin Yun scratched his cheek and smiled. He didn’t stop Zeuss and got up soon after. He told Xiuban to keep watch and then walked into his own tent.

Then, Lin Yun began his daily task...

That task was using mana to cleanse the Hydra Heart.

This was something he did everyday ever since he obtained that Hydra Heart.

The Hydra Heart was already fused with the puppet, and since the fusion, the puppet’s could be said to have increased, although its level had reverted to level 35 due to the fusion having just been done, it could still prevail over a 7th Rank Archmage by relying on the Doom Staff, and its power was still increasing due to the fusion.

This fighting strength was very shocking and it wouldn’t take long before the puppet could compare with Frost Dragon Reina.

Moreover, the Heaven Rank wasn’t too far.

Lin Yun would Mana Cleansing every day on the Hydra Heart to maintain the vitality of the Hydra Heart and guarantee that there would be no failure during the fusion with the puppet. As the fusion with the puppet was being perfected, the power of the puppet was rising at a shocking speed. Sooner or later, it would be able to compare with Reina, and might even be able to fight against an Orachiss.

After entering his tent, Lin Yun arranged an array, opened the puppet’s mechanical system, and put both hands on the Hydra Heart.

As the Magic Array slowly rotated, one small mana whirlpool after another started appearing in Lin Yun’s hands. They looked like small scale Magic Arrays and rotated at the exact same frequency. If someone was next to Lin Yun, they would be able to see the Hydra Heart throbbing with every rotation of these mana whirlpools. As for the various mysterious runes on it, they became clearer and clearer.

At the same time, Lin Yun’s expression became extremely serious.

Mana Cleansing was an extremely complicated and challenging process. It needed an extremely accurate control over one’s power, as well as good insight. No mistake was tolerated.

In just a short half an hour, Lin Yun completed the first stage of the Mana Cleansing, his forehead covered in sweat.

The flow of mana was controlled to an extremely accurate degree. Lin Yun had no other choice but to do that, if there was a problem with a single drop of mana, it would lead to the failure of the Mana Cleansing and cause a fatal flaw.

And there were three such stages.

...

The Mana Cleansing was only finished when the light of the day appeared.

Lin Yun finally let out a sigh of relief. The only thing making him depressed was the mana consumption.

Mana Cleansing was not only complicated, it was very taxing on mana...

After letting out a sigh, Lin Yun entered his Natural Demiplane.

“This... Already so vast?” An amazed expression appeared on Lin Yun’s face as he stared at his plane.

Every time he came here, he would end up shocked by the sight.

This world had become even more vast than before, the trees looked even more lush, and giant trees were everywhere. The entire plane was brimming with vitality.

And what made Lin Yun pleasantly surprised was that the Laws of the Four Elements were even more stable than before.

What did that mean?

It meant that the Natural Demiplane was getting closer to evolving into a true world!

At the current speed, Lin Yun estimated that it wouldn’t need more than a year for the Four Elements’ Laws to be identical to the outside world. At that time, this Natural Demiplane would become a genuine plane.

The existence of the Natural Demiplane was enough to make anyone envious of Lin Yun. Because it had never been exploited and was developing on its own, he didn’t even need to do anything.

He only needed to wait until the Demiplane matured.

Moreover, this Natural Demiplane would offer a terrifying unending stream of energy to Lin Yun in the future. As a conservative estimate, if Lin Yun had a complete Natural Demiplane, he would be able to challenge the Orachiss! He wouldn’t have to flee.

This was the benefits of having a complete world!

Then, Lin Yun began checking the Demiplane’s growth.

And he soon obtained a stupefying result.

The currently Demiplane had reached a hundred kilometers!

This was almost the double of its original size.

Lin Yun was astonished. The size of a Demiplane was fixed at birth, it could only expand by using very special methods. But even then, a considerable price would need to be paid, and that wasn't even mentioning doubling the size.

According to the speed of this development, wouldn't the Natural Demiplane grow to be a 2nd Noscent after a hundred years?

And the size of a Demiplane also determined the power of the world. The larger the Demiplane, the stronger the power. If he really had a Demiplane comparable to Noscent, he would have the strength to kill a God!

At that time, regardless if it was an Archmage or a Heaven Rank powerhouse, or those God-like existence within the Heaven Rank, they would have no other choice but to flee in front of him.

If his strength reached the stage where others could only look up to him, then he might be able to use the most common Fireball Spell to instantly destroy a Peak Archmage!

But...

What was the reason behind this?

Chapter 569: Great Changes

The development of the Natural Demiplane was too outrageous, and Lin Yun felt somewhat worried. The stability of the Laws could be explained by the presence of the Ancient God's soul fragment, but what was behind the expansion of the Demiplane?

Lin Yun was puzzled. He thought for a long time but couldn't find a suitable reason to explain it.

Then, he summoned Enderfa.

Enderfa had been resting when he was summoned and he wasn't in a good mood, but once he saw the current environment of the Demiplane, his expression became very strange. "Damn, I just took a nap and the Demiplane expanded that much?"

"Enderfa, do you know the reason behind it?"

"How could I know? I'm not omnipotent! As for the change, I think you should know more than me. This is your private plane, after all..." Enderfa vaguely answered. In fact, he truly didn't know what to say, and Lin Yun could see that he wasn't lying.

"Hell..." Lin Yun was very disappointed. He originally summoned Enderfa to try his luck, hoping to get an answer from him, but Enderfa also didn't know.

He could only put it aside for now and research it later.

But there were some areas Lin Yun was curious about.

He thought about it and quickly went to the mana pond.

The liquid mana in the pond was extremely rich and dense. Even without making the effort to absorb it, the mana revolved around his body and doused him completely, as if he had taken a bath in the pond...

More importantly, the Mana Vine had become a lot thicker, which meant that the speed at which the Mana Vine absorbed mana was increasing. And the density of the natural mana crystal condensing within the mana pond was similarly increasing.

Now, when it came to mana recovery, Lin Yun had better choices, such as directly eating the mana crystal, which would recover his mana even faster. But Lin Yun didn't want to depend too much on the soul fragments, so he temporarily didn't use it.

Lin Yun started meditating.

The density of the mana was extremely shocking, and the surroundings of the pond made it feel like he was on some clouds. The results of Lin Yun's meditation there far exceeded his imagination. It only took a short time before he finished recovering his mana.

But when he opened his eyes, Lin Yun unexpectedly discovered that the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf was sleeping next to the soul fragment, and it seemed that there had been many changes.

Speaking of which, he hadn't paid attention to the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf for a long time... That guy had remained slumbering in the Demiplane for so long.

Lin Yun was stunned to discover that the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf's body had surprisingly become even smaller after the long slumber. Its body was pocket-sized, and its fur had gradually turned silvery-white, looking very soft and smooth.

It would have been fine if that was all, but what truly surprised Lin Yun was the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf's strength.

Its strength had skyrocketed, already reaching level 30!

This seemed very strange...

After all, when Lin Yun met the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf, it was very weak. But now it had reached such a high level, and the strangest thing was that, as the level increased, magic beasts typically became bigger and bigger... but it was becoming smaller and smaller instead!?

Lin Yun frowned.

It just felt weird. What was the reason behind it? It now looked that there was something particularly strange with the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf....

But just as he thought about it, the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf woke up.

As it emerged from its slumber, it looked around, discovered Lin Yun, and instantly became excited. It pounced into its owner's arms and took advantage of the fact that Lin Yun had yet to react to suddenly flash across Lin Yun's chest...

Lin Yun didn't know whether to laugh or cry as he discovered that the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf had stolen a few of his mana crystals.

But just as he was going to reprimand the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf, it dashed into the forest. It was running cheerfully at first, but its speed quickly increased, and in the blink of an eye, it was charging like lightning.

It made Lin Yun wonder to himself... Since when had that small pup become so fierce?

In fact, the Three-Eyed wolf didn't show any intent to stop. There was a huge rock in the forest, and the wolf pounced over, put all its strength into its claws and sent a powerful gale with heavy pressure towards the huge rock.

A loud noise could be heard a second later as the huge rock was smashed to pieces...

Lin Yun looked at the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf, feeling dumbstruck.

The speed and power displayed by the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf were extremely shocking. It was the power of a level 30 magic beast, which meant that the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf not only reached level 30 during its sleep, but it was also able to display its full power right away.

Lin Yun also discovered that the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf's 3rd eye was showing signs of awakening. That 3rd eye was just a mere red mark at first, but now, the outline of a slightly opened eye was visible.

Based on its rate of development thus far, Lin Yun estimated that the 3rd eye should completely open at level 35 at the latest.

This was frightening...

After all, once a Three-Eyed Secret Wolf awakened its 3rd eye, it would mean that its strength would reach a completely new realm.

And at that domain, it would be known as a Wolf God. The Three-Eyed Secret Wolf of Mercenary King Bujam had awakened its 3rd eye.

At that time, the strength of that wolf made people shiver. It was said that it could deal with the joint attack of several dozen Archmages. When a 9th Rank Archmage launched a military campaign against the Mercenary King, the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf ended up beheading that Archmage on its own.

It could be said that if a Three-Eyed Secret Wolf awakened its 3rd eye, it wouldn't be much different from an Orachiss in terms of power. No, it would be stronger than an Orachiss, as it could compare to a Heaven Rank existence.

But if it was the case, problems might appear.

His Three-Eyed Secret Wolf was only a pup. It wasn't more than a decade old, so how could it already reach this stage?

This was illogical...

Lin Yun wasn't sure why the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf was evolving so quickly.

After all, even the Three-eyed secret Wolf of Mercenary King Bujam had gone through several millennia of evolution before its 3rd eye awakened.

'Could this be related to the soul fragment? This isn't right...'

The soul fragment in the Demiplane was only the result of the fusion of two small soul fragments. After the Ancient God's death, its soul split up into several thousand fragments. A mere two fragments clearly didn't have such ability.

Then what was the reason behind it, what could cause such a terrifying change?

No matter how much Lin Yun racked his brain, he couldn't find an explanation for this.

And soon, Lin Yun helplessly sighed. Nothing could be done about it, as there was too little information on the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf.

"Awoo..."

But the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf interrupted Lin Yun's thoughts by rubbing its head against his leg, as if telling Lin Yun that it wanted to go out and play...

"Little guy, it's not a good time to go out, it's very dangerous outside..." Lin Yun chuckled as he patted the wolf's head. "I'll take you out when you reach level 35."

Hearing Lin Yun's words, the Three-Eyed Secret Wolf's fur stood up, looking impatient. It seemed to be saying: Level 35 will take too long, I can't wait!

"If you cause trouble, I won't take you out at all..."

The Three-Eyed Secret Wolf was scared, and it immediately returned to the Ancient God's soul fragment...

Lin Yun smiled as he checked the wolf. It would be very good if it could really reach level 35 and fully awaken its 3rd eye.

No one would be able to contend against it if it could match a Heaven Rank existence. That kind of power could only be described as terrifying. In front of it, 8th Rank Archmages were nothing more than ants. Only 9th Rank Archmages might be able to keep their lives...

A hopeful look flashed across Lin Yun's face. He hoped that this day would come soon.

Not long after, Lin Yun left the Demiplane.

After a day, everyone had more or less recovered and tidied up their tents, leaving for the depths of the canyon.

This canyon was incredibly dangerous, and the magic beasts on the outskirts could only be considered the tip of the iceberg. Magic beasts were everywhere when they reached the central area. The battle naturally never stopped.

In a short dozen days, they had fought several hundred battles, large and small.

Naturally, it would be fine if they met relatively weaker magic beasts. But the problem was that the magic beasts appearing were comparable to 6th Rank Archmages.

And even worse, on the 8th day, they also encountered a fierce magic beast that was barely weaker than Zeuss. Rhett was injured during that battle, and his bones almost shattered.

On the 15th day, even Lin Yun felt enormous pressure. Several hundred magic beasts above level 30 appeared.

Even if Lin Yun used the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, he couldn't kill them all.

In short, every single day of this trip was challenging. They only left the canyon when they reached an icy area.

"Damn, we are finally out!" Lin Yun looked at the canyon behind them and wiped some blood from the corner of his mouth. He was very pale, but he was still showing a wide smile.

Chapter 570: Mountain Python

They had been lucky to survive so far.

Just thinking of what they had gone through made Lin Yun's breathing grow rough.

Everyone was in a pitiful state, stained with blood and showing weak auras.

Especially Xiuban. He was proficient in physical attacks, and thus, he had been fighting magic beasts in melee range. Sustaining injuries in such a situation was unavoidable.

After a month, the Draconic Beastman's skin was filled with wounds, which would make Xiuban grimace if touched ever so slightly.

The Frost Dragon wasn't as relaxed as she appeared to be either. In the battle three days earlier, her wing was injured by a level 34 magic beast and she had yet to recover.

As for the three Watsons, they weren't as lightly injured as Lin Yun's group. A level 30 magic beast would be enough to make Rhett and Arthus flee at this point...

But everyone could finally sigh in relief now.

Because they had already left that hateful canyon...

Then, everyone's pace slowed as they cautiously walked forward.

They soon entered this land of ice.

The temperature was very low, lower than anywhere else they had been. Even Archmages could feel the cold. They hadn't walked deep inside this new land, yet everyone was already shivering.

The snow-white ground could be seen everywhere they looked. The rivers, mountains, and peaks were all covered in ice. There was even a kilometer-high iceberg looming over the area.

And that iceberg was the area Lin Yun chose for them to pitch their tents.

The huge iceberg would shelter the entire team from the snowy winds.

After half an hour, the tents were all erected and prepared. Then, following Zeuss, both Rhett and Arthus entered their tents.

After making arrangements for Xiuban and Reina, Lin Yun also entered his tent and began meditating.

At that time, Lin Yun's shocking meditation speed went into effect. Just as he started meditating, the surrounding mana fluctuations suddenly got fiercer. Lin Yun's Void Forge could turn everything in the world into mana, including the ice elements permeating this world of ice.

Thus, Lin Yun didn't need long to recover from his weakened state.

When night fell, he instantly fell asleep in his tent. Every single day of the past month had been very tense, and Lin Yun was considerably exhausted...

"Boom!"

But a loud sound echoed at dawn, followed by the earth shaking.

The surroundings all became noisy.

"What happened?"

Lin Yun was startled and left the tent with a puzzled expression.

Just as Lin Yun got out, he saw Zeuss rubbing his eyes as he came out of his own tent.

Zeuss looked as if he had just woken up and didn't know what was happening, but worry could be seen in the eyes of the 8th Rank Archmage.

Lin Yun clearly understood what he was thinking... There was nowhere safe in this Demiplane.

But they felt the earth moving just as they came out, as if there was something moving and holding up the ground.

"Heavens!" Zeuss suddenly let out in surprise. This 8th Rank Archmage was looking into the distance with a sluggish expression, his mouth wide open. Both his expression and his gaze showed his disbelief.

No...

It wasn't just Zeuss. At the same time, Lin Yun also found something unexpected in the distance and his expression similarly stiffened.

This was too terrifying...

Four hundred meters away from the camp, there was a sparkling and malevolent head frantically rushing out of the ice.

It was a huge snake head, so huge that it looked like a mountain. Its head alone could compare with the Orachiss' body.

And the strange thing was that this huge head looked like an ice statue. It was just like a huge iceberg with a python's head carved on it.

As its head did everything it could to break out of the ice, the body hidden underneath gradually became visible. It was definitely a lot bigger than the head, as one would expect.

The sound coming from its struggles were definitely echoing a lot louder than before.

“That python is trying to come out of the ice.” Lin Yun muttered.

“Rumble...”

It looked as if the huge python’s head wanted to thoroughly shatter the ice field. Mountains of ice rose up as the python tried to extricate its body from the ice, and when all of it fell to the ground, it made the whole area quake...

A large amount of snow spread in all directions due to this swaying, and just like a tsunami, the falling covered everything in the surroundings. It was an apocalyptic sight.

Lin Yun and Zeuss staggered along and almost fell. They both were worried and anxious about what to do.

Soon, the python had completely gotten out of the ice field. Its body was a few kilometers long, and its head directly reached the sky.

The python’s body was covering the field of ice!

Its body and head were completely made of ice, and its numerous scales were flickering transparently. Its scales were like sharp and pointed spikes of ice.

And the strange part was the golden rings coiled around its tail; there were a total of nine flickering rings.

Zeuss was worried, but just as he thought that the python was going to attack their camp, the python twisted its body towards the iceberg next to the camp instead.

The python coiled around it. Although the iceberg was tall, the python was even longer and was able to completely wrap its body around it. It was to the point that the python still had a part of its body out of the loop, and each sway created an avalanche.

Then, the python spat out cold air.

“This isn’t good!” Seeing this scene, Lin Yun suddenly reacted. With no time to explain, he took out his Doom Staff and an ice cold aura rose up as he directly skipped the incantation of the Ice Elemental Incarnation due to the magic staff’s amplification ability. In an instant, he turned into a Frost Giant that was several dozen meters.

Then, he quickly moved his hand and grabbed everyone, including the still-slumbering Draconic Beastman, and used the terrain to his advantage to cast Frost Flash, moving several hundred meters away in an instant.

Sure enough, just as he moved, the python’s cold aura froze everything within a kilometer of it.

Even Zeuss couldn’t help shuddering nervously. ‘Damn, had Mafa Merlin not reacted so quickly, Rhett and Arthus would have met their ends... Hell, what is that magic beast?’

The python's appearance made Zeuss' heart palpitate.

'Hold on... A body of ice, and golden rings on its tail...'

Zeuss frowned as he was thinking, when he suddenly had a flash of insight and a name appeared in his mind. "Damn it, that's a Mountain Python, it's really a Mountain Python! How could a Mountain Python appear in this place!?"

"That's right, it's a Mountain Python..." Lin Yun attentively watched the huge head at the top of the iceberg, not backing down from the staring contest. "You could say that our luck is quite bad..."

In the legends, the Mountain Pythons were a very ancient race...

It was said that Mountain Pythons were creatures born in the era of the Ancient Gods. They would lie dormant under the ice at birth and sleep for a millennium. Then, they would wake up for a while, only to go back to slumber a millennium later.

Every Mountain Python already had the power of a level 30 at birth. With every period of slumber, their strength would increase by one level, up until their 10th awakening when they reached the Heaven Rank.

Every time a Mountain Python woke up, it would eat enough prey to slumber for a millennium... maybe resources, maybe magic beasts... or maybe humans.

Thus, each time a Mountain Python appeared, it would cause a huge disaster. The latest disaster happened at the end of the 3rd Dynasty...

In the extreme north of Noscent was a kingdom of ice and snow called the Sten Kingdom.

A Mountain Python once appeared in the Sten Kingdom and attacked the most prosperous city, swallowing all that lived there.

The ruler of the Sten Kingdom was infuriated and dispatched the strongest joint army of the kingdom. After more than a month of battle, they successfully drove away the Mountain Python... at a terrible price.