

Magic Era 791

Chapter 791: Repent

Amazement flashed in Barok's eyes. 'What? This youth is so unyielding. He is definitely unwilling to completely give up on the Horn of Fertility and give out two of the Merlin Family's forts. It would be impossible unless they were snatched with force.

'But that's fine, I'm not prepared to snatch so much at once for the time being. I'll take it easy... If I'm in too much of a hurry, the Merlin Family's people might rebel.'

"Oh, you want to discuss conditions? This isn't impossible..."

Barok acted arrogant, but he didn't have time to finish his sentence before he saw a blue fireball with a long trail ruthlessly flying towards him. The fierce fire spell's fluctuations were like thunder echoing in front of him.

Barok subconsciously raised a Fire Shield.

A dark red fire shield formed in front of Barok, and a loud explosion echoed as it fluctuated, seeming like it might break at any time.

Barok was startled and furious. He had thought of many possibilities, but he hadn't thought of that. 'That damned guy actually dared to attack me! Does he want to directly feel the might of a 9th Rank Archmage?

'Don't blame me for courting death... Maybe the Merlin Family will send a smarter Commander afterwards!'

Barok was scowling angrily. A red staff suddenly appeared in his hands, and a ball of burning liquid flame appeared at its tip. It was as if burning magma kept roiling and churning at the tip.

The rich fire elements in the surroundings seemed to have been fiercely beckoned as it condensed into a huge fireball full of bursting aura.

In an instant, circles of heat waves appeared around it one after another, and it looked just like a falling meteor as it flew towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun still had a cold expression on his face as his body emitted fierce flames and suddenly grew taller as he transformed into an 8-meter-tall Flame Elemental.

With a round of Flame Flashes, Lin Yun, in his Fire Elemental Incarnation, appeared fifty meters away, while that huge fireball crashed where he had just been.

The fireball spread out as if dissolving, and the dark red flames coursed into the surroundings like lava. Ten meters of ground were turned into lava by the terrifying heat, and it continued radiating outwards. In an instant, an area of fifty meters had turned into an ocean of flames, and those branches of lava had turned that area into a fiery purgatory. Crackling sounds could even be heard in the air.

Clouds of white smoke kept rising as thunder-like sounds echoed.

As for Lin Yun, he was already a hundred meters away thanks to his Flame Flashes.

Lin Yun slightly frowned as he looked over at Barok. Although this 9th Rank Archmage had only recently advanced, he was a 9th Rank Archmage proficient in fire spells, and they were in the Raging Flame Plane, where fire elements were the richest and most active.

'It looks like the Raging Flame Plane is very suitable for this person. He might have even advanced to the 9th Rank here.

'Although he is arrogant and despotic, he indeed isn't weak. He is better than a newly advanced 9th Rank Archmage.'

Thoughts instantly flashed in Lin Yun's mind as he could see through Barok's ins and outs.

The Magic Array kept revolving, calculating the opponent's strength with only a strand of aura.

A huge wheel shadow appeared behind him and slowly rotated. Countless runes kept flowing on the wheel, continuously assembling and scattering. In one second, there were dozens of spells, perhaps up to a hundred, floating within the wheel shadow.

The next moment, the aura of fire coming from Lin Yun's body sharply increased as a large swarm of Flame Spears, Fire Arrows, Fire Dragons, and Fireballs appeared in front of Lin Yun, as if they came out of nowhere, and transformed into a powerful wave of spells exploding towards Barok.

Barok sneered. 'You sure ran quickly just now. Otherwise, the Bursting Lava Fireball would have burnt you to ashes. Those aren't ordinary elemental flames, they are flames that can instantly turn Iron Essence into molten iron.

'Damned fool. The people of the Merlin Family are idiots, actually daring to use fire spells against me. Don't they know that I'm specialized in fire spells?'

Disdain was apparent in Barok's eyes as he didn't even bother to dodge. He waved his staff, and the ball of lava at the tip of the staff quickly swirled. Flames soared from the ground and turned into a huge, ten-meter-thick Fire Wall.

Fire Wall was originally an offensive spell, but Barok was using it as a defensive spell by increasing the impact of the flames.

Lin Yun used a large number of Low Tier fire spells, sending sixty to seventy every second. These spells scattered and dispersed, with some of them even merging with the Fire Wall, greatly increasing the Fire Wall's power.

After a few seconds, the wall grew to be forty to fifty meters in height, and the burning flames made the temperature of the entire canyon rise. Every tree in the vicinity started withering as they lost their moisture.

Barok's magic gown kept fluttering as he burst into loud laughter.

"Such an idiot! Weiss actually even praised you before, saying you were extremely fierce. Looks like Weiss' insight is poor... A silly guy like you dares to use fire spells to attack me. Could it be that you don't

know that my name is the Flame Swimmer? As long as it is a fiery area, I am the strongest, no one is my match!

“You think your Fire Elemental Incarnation can resist me? Now, repent for your crimes with fire! This is your punishment for offending a 9th Rank Archmage!”

Barok controlled the flames to push forward like waves in order to burn Lin Yun alive.

The tip of Barok’s staff was still spraying dark red lava that merged into the sea of fire like rain, increasing the power of flames to a whole new realm.

Fire Elemental Incarnation could indeed increase the power of fire spells and allow the user to use Flame Flash to move through flames. Apart from spatial spells used by a specialized mage, there were very few instantaneous movement spells that could compare. It was one of the must-know spells of an Archmage.

But spells had limits. There were powerful Fire Elemental Incarnations, and there were also some weak ones. A fire spell used by an Archmage could even turn an ordinary flame into a sea of fire, while a Great Mage wouldn’t be able to use Flame Flash to pass through the sea of fire.

The flames already exceeded the limits of a Great Mage, and even if he fully used Fire Elemental Incarnation, he would still instantly be burnt to death.

In a terrifying sea of fire mixed with flowing lava created by a specialized 9th Rank Archmage like Barok, even Low Rank Archmages would be burnt to death inside.

It was the same as expert swimmers ending up drowning.

In the Fire Elemental Plane, inferior Flame Elementals wouldn’t dare to approach the territories of higher elemental lifeforms, because they wouldn’t be able to withstand the extreme temperatures there.

Barok made very precise calculations, so he was sure that except for those who also specialized in fire spells like him, anyone under the 8th Rank would be unable to escape this sea of fire.

There was a proud smile on Barok’s face and he was attentively listening, waiting in anticipation for the sweet, miserable cries.

But a hint of doubt appeared on his face as he didn’t hear any sound after a few seconds.

‘Could it be that Mafa Merlin has already been burnt to death?’

‘Indeed, I was influenced by Weiss’ praises and gave too much credit to that Mafa Merlin. He might have been burnt to ashes immediately...’

Barok had a smile on his face as he was about to put away his magic staff, but something suddenly happened in front of him.

Ripples appeared within the huge sea of fire as a huge Flame Elemental rushed through the Fire Wall.

A huge wheel shadow was floating behind the Flame Elemental, and a four-colored mana crystal kept growing larger in front of him.

'Damn, what the hell is this? This guy actually went through that Fire Wall!'

Horror flashed in Barok's eyes, and he instinctively raised a Lava Shield in front of him.

At the same moment, Barok saw flames exploding in front of his body and his Lava Shield fiercely fluctuated, but it didn't break.

'Thankfully, it's only a Flame Impact. He can't pierce my Lava Shield...'

But then, an appalled expression appeared on Thorne's face.

Several hundred runes rushed from the wheel shadow behind Lin Yun and turned into several dozen Flame Impacts.

In an instant, forty to fifty Flame Impacts hit his Lava Shield and forcibly shattered the flames of the Lava Shield, extinguishing it.

The Lava Shield turned into a pile of ashes.

And there were still a dozen Flame Impacts charging towards him!

Barok bellowed, and a Runic Shield instantly appeared, wrapping around him.

Chapter 792: Impossible

A dozen flames rushed into Barok's Runic Shield, creating ripples and making the runes on it crazily move around.

Barok was like a ball being kicked all around by these fierce Flame Impacts. After flying several dozen meters away, Barok waved his staff, and a pair of Flame Wings appeared on his back, allowing him to stabilize and float in the air.

Barok seemed concerned as he looked at the Flame Elemental that came out of the huge Fire Wall.

He never expected Lin Yun's Fire Elemental Incarnation to actually be so powerful. It could definitely compare to a level 38 Flame Elemental with terrifying fire resistance. Low Tier fire spells simply couldn't harm him.

Lin Yun held onto his Draconic Staff while sneering.

'Did that idiot think I would use Ice spells?'

'The origin of the Raging Flame Plane is the power of fire, so Fire spells are naturally the strongest. Using Ice spells here to deal with a 9th Rank Archmage proficient in fire, are you crazy?'

Almost no one valued Elemental Incarnation enough in this era. Few people could imagine that it would be an essential spell for future magical battles.

Although Elemental Incarnation didn't have a definite spell tier, the higher one's Rank, the more powerful it would be... But it did have a hidden spell tier.

Under normal circumstances, the strongest spells a High Mage could use were at the 6th Tier, but, as their magic comprehension, casting speed, and incantation optimization increased, the power of their spells would surpass their tiers to become Ultimate Spells, and a 6th Tier spell would burst out with the power of a formidable 8th Tier Spell.

By the time Noscent developed to the apex, everyone was a genius. Their bodies were no longer a factor that limited mages. The factors that delimited a mage's power were their comprehension ability, reserves of knowledge, different insights, and sharpness of mind.

High mages that were able to make a 6th Tier spell burst out with the power of a 7th Tier spell, or even an Ultimate Spell, might be few in number, but they still existed.

And such people would, without exception, be among Noscent's elites.

Elemental Incarnation could be regarded as a Tierless spell. It was a spell that grew alongside its user. No one really paid much attention to it until a powerhouse named the Flame Sovereign appeared. Only then was it really valued.

The Flame Sovereign was someone who unearthed the concept of hidden spell tier. At that time, the Flame Sovereign fell into a Fire Plane as a 9th Rank Archmage. Although that Fire Plane wasn't huge and had no Flame Elemental Overlord, there were over a hundred Lesser Flame Overlords!

And there were no less than a million Flame Elemental lifeforms!

After the people who rushed to rescue him found out, they immediately gave up on the rescue attempt, because he had fallen into the center of the plane. They would need to raid the core of the plane to reach him.

Three Heaven Rank powerhouses launched an offensive, but after getting half of the way through there, they discovered that they wouldn't be able to make it. The quantity of Flame Elementals was just too great. A Heaven Rank powerhouse faced dozens of Lesser Flame Overlords and several hundred thousand Flame Elementals, eventually having to withdraw due to exhaustion.

But the Flame Sovereign eventually managed to kill his way out. Even though he was only a 9th Rank Archmage, he killed several dozen level 39 Lesser Flame Overlords and over three hundred thousand Flame Elementals.

After killing his way out, the Flame Sovereign even saved the three exhausted Heaven Rank powerhouses.

At that time, everyone found out that the Flame Sovereign only used Fire Elemental Incarnation. With that active, the spells of those Flame Elementals were simply unable to injure him. He was completely immune to all fire spells below the 9th Tier.

And what shocked the others even more was that after the Flame Sovereign sent away the people that came to rescue him, he turned around and jumped back into that Fire Elemental Plane and spent over a month purging it. Over a hundred level 39 Lesser Flame Overlords, several hundred level 38 Lesser Flame Overlords, and a few hundred thousand Flame Elemental lifeforms... They were all killed by the lone Flame Sovereign.

Such a feat shocked all of Noscent, and after everyone learnt that this accomplishment was due to Fire Elemental Incarnation, waves of research on Elemental Incarnation flooded Noscent.

The concept of hidden spell tier was also brought up by the Flame Sovereign and was ultimately confirmed. Under normal circumstances, an Elemental Incarnation was only equivalent to the power of the user, but after thorough research, practice, and meticulous study, the power of the Elemental Incarnation could be upgraded just like ordinary spells. And the outcome of the research showed that the concept of Ultimate Spells was also applicable.

As long as the Fire Elemental Incarnation could become an Ultimate Spell, the users would be completely immune to all spells of the same Tier, and the power and casting ability of fire spells would also increase while it was active.

This was extremely terrifying.

A single Archmage that had trained Fire Elemental Incarnation to its peak would be able to defeat an entire army of mages specializing in fire spells if they didn't have a backup plan.

A large-scale mage army originally needed to spend several dozen years to conquer an Elemental Plane, but from that point on, one mage sufficiently proficient in the corresponding Elemental Incarnation would only need a year to easily conquer such a plane. It was a huge difference.

It was too great...

Not only would there not be a huge amount of losses, the benefits sky-rocketed!

Noscent's path of planar conquest was pushed to the peak thanks to the exploration of Elemental Incarnation.

When Bane conquered the Undead Plane, his most fearsome opponent wasn't a Bone Dragon or a Death Knight... It was just a skeleton who had become a Skeleton Emperor after starting from the lowest Skeleton. It had formidable power that could tear through any defenses and a powerful body that could make most spells lose their effects.

The main reason Bane was able to kill that Skeleton Emperor was the Void Ghost Incarnation!

By researching the Void Ghost Incarnation to its peak, Bane became immune to any physical attacks of lifeforms of the same rank!

And the terrifying strength of that Skeleton Emperor that could tear through space itself... was ineffective, and ultimately, Bane relied on his High Tier spells to slowly wear it down.

Unfortunately, no one in this era knew about this matter.

Thus, Barok was naturally doomed...

Lin Yun had been practicing using Elemental Incarnations since he was at the Mage realm, and his control over Fire Elemental Incarnation was the greatest, especially since he advanced to the Archmage realm after obtaining the Book of Mantras and Constance's skull. Although he couldn't be immune to spell of the same Tier yet, he could reduce fire damage by more than half, and while using Fire Elemental Incarnation, swimming in lava wasn't an issue.

Barok's fire mastery was indeed greater than that of ordinary mages, but at this moment, of the several dozen Fire spells he cast, a few of them fell on Lin Yun, only to appear as cool as a breeze on his body. It simply didn't have any great effect.

Barok slightly crumbled. He couldn't understand at all.

'What the hell is going on?! Is this damned guy using a special defensive method? Why are my spells useless against him?

'The burning flames are completely useless, while explosive and impact fire spells have no effect. This is such a cheat... This is too illogical!'

Barok no longer had the pride he originally displayed. He was like a twitching rat that kept moving around to dodge while continuously casting fire spells, unwilling to admit defeat.

'I don't believe it!'

He no longer had time to cast High Tier spells, so he could only use a large number of spells to flood him.

Barok still had some hope.

He gritted his teeth and waved his staff, causing a large number of Low Tier fire spells to flood towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun slightly paused. He wasn't scared at all, but he was stunned from amazement...

'Is that guy really an idiot? Have you ever seen a Flame Elemental being burnt to death by Low Tier Spells? This is no longer a question of quantity, but quality.

On the other hand, Barok immediately rejoiced when he saw Lin Yun pause for a moment.

'Damn b*stard, I've finally found your weak point! Regardless of what defensive method you're using, there are definitely limits to it. You'll be screwed as long as I keep attacking and increase the frequency of the attacks enough.

'Stupid rat, you actually dare to offend the prestige of a 9th Rank Archmage, to offend the Black Tower. You'll pay the price with your life today!'

In an instant, the formidable flood of fire submerged Lin Yun.

Lin Yun's body was like a leaf floating on a river, making it seem as if Barok's tactics were working.

Unfortunately, the next moment, Lin Yun's body suddenly disappeared and transformed into a ball of fire sailing against the current. After two Flame Flashes, he landed five meters from Barok.

Three blue flames suddenly appeared and sandwiched Barok.

Barok was going completely crazy.

'Damn it, how could this be? This is illogical, this is impossible!'

As the three Bursting Flames were about to fall, Barok's keen control over fire made him think of something.

'It's all because of the Fire Elemental Incarnation!'

The thought just appeared, but he didn't have time to think and instantly used Fire Elemental Incarnation himself.

Then, the three blue flames blasted Barok...

"Boom, boom, boom..."

Chapter 793: Suppression

Six loud explosions echoed in total. Barok, who had just activated Fire Elemental Incarnation, was sent flying like a broken kite. His crack-covered Fire Elemental Incarnation collapsed in mid-air.

Barok fell to the ground and rolled for another ten meters or so before stopping, his face filled with despair.

He looked at Lin Yun, who just appeared in front of him, and didn't even think of continuing the fight.

'This is impossible... Why... Why is it like this? If it's not Fire Elemental Incarnation, what then? Why is he immune to my fire spells?

'Why is it that I can't injure him, yet he can injure me with the same spell?'

Barok looked lifeless as he completely ignored his injuries, feeling like he was going crazy.

Lin Yun coldly walked over and scattered his Fire Elemental Incarnation. With a wave of his hand, he took out Syudos and transformed him into a ball of fire tightly restricting Barok, even severing the connection between Barok and the surrounding fire elements.

Even if he was a 9th Rank Archmage, he couldn't make any sudden movements. If he tried to play any tricks, he would be devoured by Syudos' flames.

Flames condensed in front of Lin Yun's body as a golden-red spear appeared, its tip pointed at Barok.

"You destroyed my efforts, wasted my only precious materials and kept provoking me, so you are paying the price for your actions..."

After saying that, Lin Yun was about to turn around and leave while letting the spear do its job.

"Sir Mafa, Sir Mafa, please be lenient..."

Lin Yun turned around, and in the distance, he saw a shadow covered in gales rapidly flying towards him.

A moment later, Weiss fell down from the sky and rolled on the ground. His robe was covered in dust and he wiped blood from his face. His hair was in a mess, but Weiss didn't care as he hurriedly ran over.

"Sir Mafa, please be lenient, there is always room for discussion..."

Weiss was crazily sweating, looking a bit pale. He was trembling with fear and didn't dare to approach Barok. He only smiled bitterly while looking at Lin Yun.

Lin Yun frowned.

“You want to save him?”

Weiss was suddenly frightened and promptly waved his hands.

“Sir Mafa misunderstood, it’s really a misunderstanding, I only came to explain, this really is a misunderstanding...”

“Sir Mafa, Sir Barok arrived in the Raging Flame Plane not long ago and didn’t understand many matters. This time, it was only because he heard someone mention some things that were incorrect without letting them finish, so he ran off after hearing only a part of it. This really is a misunderstanding, Sir Barok is just impulsive...”

Lin Yun coldly looked at Weiss.

“What does his impulsiveness have to do with me? Because of it, he ruined my efforts. You think I would happily discuss this?”

Weiss promptly changed his tack.

“Sir Mafa, nothing is irremediable. The Black Tower will compensate double for your losses, but we only request that you let Sir Barok off. You know, Sir Barok is our Black Tower’s new 2nd Seat, second only to Harren. This matter is only a misunderstanding, and the person that should be punished has already been punished. If Sir Merlin is dissatisfied, I can give you the person spreading rumors and let you handle them, so how about it?”

Weiss wiped his cold sweat as he glanced at the lifeless Barok with gnashing teeth.

‘That f*cking b*stard, he truly invited disaster! Daring to provoke Sir Mafa is akin to killing yourself. This is something even I don’t want to be dragged into.

‘Damn b*stard, stupid rat! A slime is smarter than you, how could you become the 2nd Seat....

‘If I hadn’t rushed over, a fool like you would have already been turned to ashes!’

Lin Yun’s frown slightly eased up. Since Weiss had already said so much, forcing the issue would be akin to having a falling-out. He looked at Barok and the latter still appeared stunned.

Lin Yun thought for a bit before nodding.

“Okay then... Two bottles of God Blood and a cube-sized Tree Core of the Wisdom Tree containing enough vitality. The rest can be written off...”

Weiss sighed in relief.

“Okay, no problem, I’ll immediately have people deliver these to you... Wait... God Blood? Wisdom Tree’s Tree Core?!” Weiss blurted in alarm, his face full of shock.

He looked at Barok with knife-like eyes, wishing he could choke him to death.

‘Damn b*stard, what the hell have you done!?’

Weiss looked towards the Ghost Valley and could see a huge array with a single glance. He only watched it for a bit before feeling as if his head would burst.

Weiss was astounded, but he didn't think that Lin Yun was scamming him. Just from looking at that array, he could understand the folly of that idiot, Barok.

'He actually broke into someone else's territory and attacked an array there, and such a terrifying array, too!

'God Blood, damn! Even I have never seen a single drop, yet a damn b*stard like you actually destroyed Sir Mafa's entire bottle!

'The Black Tower definitely can't come up with two bottles of God Blood. It is said that the Holy Land's treasury only has a few drops...

'Moreover, the Tree Core of the Wisdom Tree... I know that Sir Mafa obtained a huge chunk before leaving, but among the several thick branches that snapped, that was all there was...

'And apart from Constance's God Nation, no other place had this. How could I possibly reimburse him?'

Weiss' expression became bitter. He couldn't even bring up the matter of compensation.

"How is it?"

Lin Yun coldly glanced at Weiss.

Weiss bitterly smiled and shook his head.

"Sir Mafa, to tell you the truth, we are truly unable to procure that. So how about this? The Black Tower will give 20% of the resources we get from our side of the Horn of Fertility to the Merlin Family... No, 30%! As long as you don't kill Sir Barok, we won't say anything if you vent your anger...

"Sir Barok has a very powerful background, and you have had a very good relationship with our Black Tower. It would be a shame to destroy such a friendship, but Sir Barok... Do as you see fit as long as you don't kill him... If so, there is still room to discuss..."

Lin Yun sneered. He already knew that the Black Tower couldn't compensate him for his losses, as those things couldn't be found in Noscent.

Lin Yun contemplated for a bit. The God Blood offered power, and the Wisdom Tree's Tree Core offered vitality. This would have let the fifty High Mages rapidly advance.

'Then this Barok can just fill in. Although the power of a 9th Rank Archmage can't compare with God Blood, it would be worth it on a long-term basis. Not to mention that it's a living person with living power. I can get some use out of him.'

"Okay, I won't kill him. But since he destroyed what belonged to me, he'll have to be the replacement. I'll restore his freedom after three years."

After saying that, a few runes entered Barok's body and made him lose consciousness. Barok would be suppressed at the core of the array as he acted as a replacement for what he'd damaged.

He would provide power to replace the original God Blood as a source of mana.

Weiss opened his mouth as he watched this, but he didn't dare to say anything. After confirming that there was no danger to Barok's life, he winced and continuously apologized to Lin Yun before leaving.

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On the other side, the letter from Weiss had already reached the Black Tower.

"Sir Harren, Sir Weiss urgently sent you this letter from the Raging Flame Plane."

Harren felt a bit puzzled as he opened the letter.

He quickly read through it, and once he was done, he was completely stunned for a moment. He hurriedly threw the letter and roared, "Hurry up, go to the Raging Flame Plane to relay my order! Have Sir Barok return as fast as possible!"

Before the attendant had even come in, Harren urgently stood up, ready to go out.

'Damn it, that fool Barok, he just had to cause me a lot of problems... If Weiss is right, it's huge trouble...'

Harren had yet to reach the large doorway when his eyes were attracted by the numerous magic lamps on the wall to his left. The light of a small magic lamp was suddenly dimming.

Harren's heartbeat crazily accelerated and he rushed up to the wall and looked at the rapidly dimming magic lamp with an unsightly expression.

This wall was covered with small alcoves, each filled with a small magic lamp that looked like ordinary oil lamps, calmly radiating light.

The Black Tower's Council placed the highest importance on these magic lamps. Each small lamp represented an important member of the Black Tower, and bright light meant that they had strong vitality.

There were bright and dark lights there, most of which were ordinary, but there were a few of them with very dim lights. This was because the owners of these magic lamps were extremely old and they had already reached the end of their lives.

But now, there was a magic lamp that was rapidly dimming.

'Someone fell?'

But when he looked at the name under the magic lamp, Harren had a bitter expression.

The owner of that magic lamp was Barok.

'Sure enough, Weiss was right. Mafa Merlin has already grown to the point where he must not be provoked. Just how old is he? He actually already advanced to the Archmage realm and even Weiss can't see through his rank, while Barok isn't even his opponent.'

Harren continued staring at the lamp and noticed that it was only dimming but not becoming extinguished.

He understood the reason behind it in an instant. There was only one kind of circumstance when the light would dim like this without flickering.

'Barok is being suppressed, but his life isn't in danger...

'Another possibility is that Barok fell into a completely sealed plane and all connection to the outside was severed, but that would be very improbable...'

Chapter 794: A Large Group

Harren shook his head with a smile as he roughly guessed what had happened. Barok definitely went to cause trouble for Mafa Merlin but wasn't his match, and at the last moment, Weiss appeared and asked Mafa Merlin to be lenient.

'With that youth's temperament, anyone looking for trouble would meet a bad end...'

Since there was no need to recall Barok, as it was already too late, Harren hinted for the people that had come him to leave and pondered for a moment before also leaving the Black Tower's Council Chamber.

He followed a quiet path and reached the Black Tower's Holy Land after half an hour.

The Holy Land was shrouded in darkness and nothing could be seen. Harren went into the darkness, and after a while, a loud roar shaking the heavens came from within.

"Who has the cheek to imprison my disciple!? The Black Tower isn't that easy to bully!"

A short moment later, Harren left the Holy while bitterly shaking his head.

...

Raging Flame Plane, Flame Demon Fort.

The Merlin Family wasn't at all depressed by the fact that there was no conflict; they were in fact prospering with each passing day.

The three clans under Lin Yun were dispatched, but no one knew where they went.

Mana Crystal Cannons that were over two meters long were now sitting atop the Flame Demon Fort's defenses, being quite an effective deterrence. After the cannons were tested a few times, all the spies wandering outside disappeared.

Everything became quiet. Xiuban was embracing his pile of potions every day, eating his fill before lying down atop his home to recover. He was only sleeping, yet his aura was becoming more and more frightening. Sometimes, people would pass by there without noticing him, and they would feel as if a terrifying magic beast was nearby.

Reina was still studying the incantations every day, and when she was free, she would go out to test her spells while continuously increasing her strength. Her mana was also increasing faster than before.

Lin Yun's fifty High Mage subordinates were also progressing at a rapid speed, and the weakest one was already at the 6th Rank, while the strongest one was at the 7th Rank.

Moreover, Lin Yun had already used some of his harvest to customize magic staves for the fifty of them, increasing their fighting strength yet again.

Although these magic staves were Inheritance Magic Tools and none of them reached the Spiritual Magic Tool level, they all had spirit mana crystals of fire magic beasts embedded within. This meant that the original owners of those mana crystals were magic beasts that were at, or above, level 30.

Lin Yu had also carved an array on top of every mana crystal. He had meticulously studied the Heaven Rank Array of the Intrepid, and although he only had a superficial comprehension of it, it was already far beyond his original comprehension of arrays.

And it wasn't just the mana crystals... Even the staff itself was made of wood from Red Flame Trees. This kind of precious wood could only grow in places rich in fire elements. Usually, it would only grow in areas near flowing lava.

Stagnant lava would be unable to handle the absorptive power of Red Flame Trees and would solidify within a few years, and hardened lava would lose its heat, causing the Red Flame Trees to wither.

A staff crafted from Red Flame Wood would increase the power of fire spells by 30%, even without a rune or array carved into it!

But now, Lin Yun had covered every corner of these fifty High Mages' magic staves with runes and arrays. The combination of the two increased the effect of the Red Flame Tree to the extreme, especially with the matching spirit mana crystals from fire magic beasts.

When casting fire spells, consumption would be reduced by 30%, while the power would be increased by 50%, and the cast time would even be halved! Even the convergence of fire elements would be 50% faster.

Such extreme effects would make the users of the staves produce the same effects as if they had been using Peak Spiritual Magic Tools.

But when using other spells, the effects would be reduced by more than half.

These staves were most suited for the fifty High Mages. They had the Blazing Storm Magic Conducting Runes, which was considered the most powerful Magic Conducting Runes for war. When using fire spells, their power would be at least 30% higher.

When all these factors were combined, they could make the power of the fifty High Mages reach a crazy level. The fifty High Mages could last over three minutes against Lin Yun!

Lin Yun was very satisfied with this result. On the battlefield, these fifty High Mages would definitely be able to exert the power of a well-trained mage army, and might even be more powerful!

Because when they were together, they weren't meant to fight against a single formidable powerhouse. They were meant to grow in war!

Only on the battlefield could they display the full extent of their power.

Seeing these fifty High Mages growing so quickly, Thorne would come every day with a thick face to bother Lin Yun.

The Merlin Family's losses had been disastrous, leaving them with insufficient strength, so they had many problems they couldn't deal with.

"The Merlin Family won't be able to defend themselves if you are away, so we must rely on the younger generation. Please, you must think of a way to strengthen the younger generation," he pleaded. "These youths' talents are not too bad, but their strength is rising too slowly. It would be unfortunate if they died in battle..." This was his argument.

Lin Yun threw him an 8-Formula Meditation Law Set and a similarly ranked swordsman Aura Tempering method.

There was no movement from the Watson Family, as Zeuss had completely been won over by Lin Yun, and while the members of the Merlin Family went out, no Watson would dare to be arrogant. Their attitude had taken a complete 180, and no one dared to say anything about the Merlin Family to their face.

The Black Tower was completely silent. They didn't even dispatch someone after Barok had been suppressed in the Ghost Valley. Harren's thoughts were unknown, and he made no overt moves, as if nothing had happened.

In fact, the members of the Black Tower also seemed to have mellowed out, no longer daring to be openly arrogant towards the Merlin Family. The troublemakers were locked in the fort of the Black Tower and couldn't see any Merlins.

As the resources were being exploited, an increased flow of resources was delivered to the Flame Demon Fort, and the Merlin Family was showing signs of flourishing development.

In the end, when the time to go to Storm Fort approached, the Watson Family and the Black Tower even came to consult with Lin Yun, as if the Merlin Family was at the head of the three forces.

As for the people who had been secretly eyeing the Merlin Family, they were also forced to temporarily withdraw. No one came to cause problems for the Merlin Family.

Thus, Lin Yun could improve his strength in peace.

As Lin Yun's strength steadily increased, the day to join forces for the general attack also arrived.

"The Storm Fort is the northern Raging Flame Plane's biggest fort. In the past, it was jointly attacked by the two strongest forces of the Kingdom, the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower. Now, the two forces are each occupying half of it, and they do not interfere with each other. Usually, they would only station forces there without any Commanders. This time, for the general attack, most of the kingdom's forces dispatched representatives, and everyone will formally discuss how to organize the general attack..."

Lin Yun listened to the explanation of the person next to him. Because Thorne was afraid that Lin Yun wouldn't care about these matters, as he always went into his laboratory every day, he dispatched someone to explain the matters of the Storm Fort on the way.

Who were the forces going to the Storm Fort? Who were the Commanders? These pieces of information were crammed into Lin Yun's brain.

And in reality, Thorne wasn't worried for nothing. Lin Yun really didn't think much about it, and he really didn't expect that the kingdom would be determined to completely capture the Raging Flame Plane.

So many forces, yet they were actually going to the Storm Fort to start discussing how to attack. They didn't even have any basic plan yet... This made Lin Yun speechless...

Lin Yun brought the fifty High Mages with him, as well as Reina and Xiuban. The Black Tower led the way, while the Watsons and the Merlins followed.

The magic beasts and Raging Flame Beastman scouts they encountered on the way were all taken care of by the Black Tower in the front.

This time, the Merlin Family's manpower was Lin Yun's group. They didn't take along a single swordsman. The Black Tower and the Watson Family had more people, with several hundred mages of varying ranks. Their armies of archers and swordsmen reached up to three thousand people, and they were all elites.

Zeuss and Weiss were shocked when they saw Lin Yun leading these fifty High Mages. After all, the weakest was at the 5th Rank, while the strongest was at the 8th Rank, not to mention that when they stood together, their auras showed signs of fusing together. Anyone with discerning eyes would be able to see how frightening these people were.

Zeuss and Weiss sighed in front of Lin Yun's display. After all, the number of High Mages within the Black Tower and the Watson Family's armies here didn't reach fifty, and it looked like Lin Yun's subordinates were very powerful.

Thus, early on, Zeuss and Weiss ordered the people under them to not provoke a single member of the Merlin Family.

But things weren't absolute. Zeuss' prestige in the Watson Family was very high, and after Green Watson left, Zeuss was left alone at the helm, so no one would dare to disobey his orders.

On the other hand, it was a lot more complicated for the Black Tower. Not including Barok, there were four people above the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm, and these people weren't very convinced by Weiss. They would act properly in front of him, but who knew what they actually thought?

And the plan to suppress the Merlin Family a month ago had come from these people. Moreover, the matter of Barok being suppressed by Lin Yun had been hidden. Besides Weiss, only Harren knew. Weiss was doing his best to keep these days peaceful.

This team was advancing steadily when a 6th Rank Archmage at the back of the Black Tower's formation quietly appeared beside Lin Yun's group.

John was wearing a black robe and had a sinister expression as he put on a fake smile as if he was mocking them.

Chapter 795: Steel Fortress

As he arrived beside Lin Yun's group, John examined Lin Yun with that mocking expression before sneering with disdain.

"I thought you were supposed to be a being of formidable power... Turns out you are only a youth who doesn't know the height of Noscent. How could your Merlin Family be so thick-skinned to follow us without any sort of power? It was actually you, that Mafa Merlin..."

"Your Merlin Family is just that? Fifty people? And you have the nerve to go to the Storm Fort while walking with our Black Tower? Even if you aren't ashamed, I am ashamed!"

"When we reach the Storm Fort, people from other forces will see you walking with our Black Tower and will definitely compare our Black Tower to the likes of you. You, a newly advanced Archmage, can actually serve as a Commander of the Merlin Family. That's unfathomable! It was a 5th Rank Sword Saint before, and now you. It's truly becoming trashier and trashier..."

"Okay, I won't bother speaking with you, just take your people and leave, don't make us look bad..."

John was truly disapproving of the current situation.

A young man who seemed to be just over twenty had to be very gifted to advance to the Archmage realm. Unfortunately, this wasn't Noscent or their Family. Here, anyone under the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm was considered cannon fodder.

'Hmpf, the Merlin Family has already declined, for this kind of cannon fodder to come to the Raging Flame Plane as their Commander... Isn't this just throwing lives away? And he is not only throwing away his own life, but he is also bringing others along with him!

'And now, he still has the cheek to follow us and let us help him open a path for him. I don't know why Weiss would agree to let the members of the Merlin Family follow us. Moreover, that Mafa Merlin seems to think that tagging along with us is something perfectly normal. Truly trash! Hmpf, next time we meet magic beasts, I'll lead some here. Maybe that Mafa Merlin will soil his pants...'

'Yes, that's perfect! It looks like we are going to reach the territory of a level 37 magic beast. I just have to lead that magic beast over, and most of these fifty people will die or be injured before reaching the Storm Fort. Let's see if he still has the courage to follow us then! If he doesn't clean up his act, he might as well die.

'Really, that newly advanced Archmage is just following along and being a burden to our Black Tower....'

After John finished speaking, the fifty High Mages expressionlessly hurried over and, just like in their drills, their magic staves shone, and the power of fire elements crazily converged.

This time, the fifty High Mages were following Lin Yun to battle. They were all in high spirits and were afraid of disappointing their master and benefactor.

They had once been uncertain members of the Merlin Family, the lowest of the low. They had poor talent and terrible comprehension of magic. They had no background and could only become Mages through luck, and perhaps, they would one day die as cannon fodder.

The Merlin Family sent them to Lin Yun as nothing more than a cheap gift, but then, everything changed. They ate properly, had good drinks, and all kinds of natural resources were used to increase their power. Furthermore, a formidable Artisan like Mafa Merlin personally crafted their staves.

'Hell, can the rest of the Merlin Family even ask for an Artisan to make a move? And craft fifty staves at once? That's too much, isn't it?'

From Mage to Great Mage, to the current High Mage realm... It was just like a dream. They all thought about it by themselves and felt that their current selves were all due to Mafa Merlin.

They finally had the chance to fight with Sir Mafa, but there was actually a fool that dared to mock him. This was asking for death!

'Just one frown from Sir Mafa, and we shall tear that damned idiot to pieces...'

The yawning Xiuban suddenly shook. He'd had good naps over the course of the past month, and he had grown bored and sleepy again on this trip. He was wondering whether he should go and stretch his muscles the next time they met a magic beast, so that arrogant person gave him a chance to have some fun.

Xiuban put down Carnage from his shoulder and bared his teeth at John.

"You dare to talk to Sir Merlin like this? Damn, don't you know that you are courting death? Sir Merlin doesn't need to move a finger, Lord Xiuban only needs one bite to get rid of you..."

As he said that, he spat out. The saliva flew like an arrow and crossed several meters in an instant, ruthlessly spraying towards John.

John was startled by this and promptly dodged. He heard a clear sound echo and saw that there was unexpectedly a huge hole in his robe from the saliva. The saliva sounded like an arrow as it ultimately hit the ground.

"Damnit! Barbarians are barbarians, and Merlins are really stupid beasts, just like Mafa Merlin..."

John stomped on the ground in fury as he cursed at Xiuban. At the time, the people in the front reacted to what was happening behind. The fifty High Mages simultaneously gathered their mana at a frightening speed. It was like a giant creature had suddenly awakened.

Weiss turned around, and his expression suddenly turned unsightly as he instantly flew to the back.

While still in midair, Weiss loudly shouted, "John, you damned fool! What the hell are you doing? Do you think you are especially powerful? That you can rule the Black Tower? You're speaking to an ally like this when we are about to reach the Storm Fort!? You are disturbing our army, this is sabotage!"

John completely hadn't expected that Weiss would have such a huge reaction. He opened his mouth as he intended to say something.

But Weiss' eyelids fiercely twitched and he instantly cut John off.

"John, one more word and I'll send a letter to Sir Harren right away and let him personally handle this matter!"

John's expression changed. He had been following Barok and was considered one of his followers, but Barok had silently disappeared. It was said that he had been recalled by Sir Harren. If Sir Harren knew of his reckless behavior, he'd definitely be in a lot of trouble...

Even just thinking of what would happen if he was recalled made John's face turn pale. Rumors that Sir Barok had been harshly dealt with by Sir Harren had been spreading in the Fort. If Sir Harren also took notice of him, John would no longer have any standing in the Black Tower.

He wouldn't have to do anything directly... Harren could just send him to a remote branch and he would be screwed.

John lowered his head and hastily returned to the Black Tower's group, and thinking that this wasn't safe enough, he headed to the front.

Weiss awkwardly looked at Lin Yun. Lin Yun hadn't said anything, yet all the people around were ready to tear John to shreds.

"Err, Sir Mafa... That guy is a brainless idiot, please don't mind him. If you are unhappy, I can send him back now. But there is a dire need of manpower for the upcoming battle, so this..."

Weiss was wiping the cold sweat off his head, at a bit of a loss. He personally felt that although Lin Yun only had fifty people, it wouldn't be easy to beat their group...

Lin Yun waved his arm and had Weiss leave, as his mind was focused on the distant Storm Fort.

To be more exact, he was focused on a small valley beside the Storm Fort!

That valley was filled with black mist, and when walking over from a distance, only that valley was completely black, looking very strange.

Lin Yun looked at that valley in a daze, thinking that it wasn't just strange, but that there must be another reason behind it.

But he then thought of the Storm Fort that had been occupied there for so many years, and he hadn't heard or read about anything related to it. It looked like the Black Tower's people were already accustomed to that strange region, as none of them looked surprised, so Lin Yun temporarily set his doubts aside.

They soon reached the gates of the Storm Fort. As the biggest fort of the north, it could already be considered as a huge city. The city walls were over thirty meters tall, and there was a defense mage tower every fifty meters. As long as an enemy was found, the Storm Fort's armies of mages could instantly enter the defense mage towers to counterattack.

At the peak of each tower was a bright light that kept flickering with power. The surface of the towers was also covered with arrays. Lin Yun could see with a single glance that it would be very difficult for anyone under the Archmage realm to destroy these defense towers. The mage armies could cast spells without worries within the protection of the defense mage towers.

Divine Archers and Sword Saints were patrolling on the walls, and every group was well set up.

Mage, shield-bearing Sword Saint, greatsword-wielding Sword Saint, Divine Archer. Almost every squadron had a complete fighting team and seemed to be very powerful.

A large number of magic plants had been planted outside the city walls, and those thistles and thorns covered over a hundred meters. The only way to attack the Storm Fort was through the city gates.

As he recalled the Flame Demon Fort's mana crystal cannons, Lin Yun estimated that the defensive power of the Merlin Family's fort should be on par with that of the Storm Fort. It was just that the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower had far more troops than the Merlin Family, so defense mage towers were more suitable.

There was a lack of manpower on the Merlin Family's side, so using mana crystal cannons that didn't consume a lot of a mage's mana and could fire as long as there was a supply of mana crystals was most suitable for them.

The inside of the Storm Fort was bustling with activity. Ordinary citizens only occupied a small portion of the population, and they were doing odds and ends. The vendors on the streets and their clients all had some degree of power.

Lin Yun kept observing the layout and defenses of the Storm Fort and inwardly sighed, 'The defense is really tight. It looks like there is nothing, but there are arrays at fixed distances, and there is no gap in the patrols. After so many years under their control, this has turned into a solid steel fortress of the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower.'

Chapter 796: Independent World

Lin Yun was looking around, and while referencing the layout of the Storm Fort, he quickly discovered many flaws of the Flame Demon Fort. In fact, some of those flaws could be exploited by others, and could even be fatal.

Lin Yun was lost in thought when an unpleasant hoarse voice echoed.

"Oh? Isn't that Mafa Merlin of the Merlin Family? What, you have also come to the Storm Fort? Does the Merlin Family have no one else?"

Lin Yun slightly frowned and turned around to see a sneering, pale-skinned man in his thirties.

Lin Yun ignored this man wearing a luxurious robe and went back to observing the Storm Fort.

This immediately angered Kans Charlotte.

'Wretched guy, I actually encountered him here! I really didn't think he would have run to the Raging Flame Plane. An abandoned member of the Merlin Family dared to offend our Charlotte Family. I even took the initiative to speak to that damned guy, yet he refuses to acknowledge me!'

Kans had a cold expression. He had been travelling before, and when he returned to the Charlotte Family, he heard that the Merlin Family had someone called Mafa Merlin that dared to set himself against the Charlotte Family. They suffered a loss, and some Charlottes seemed to have been killed by Mafa Merlin.

Kans wasn't very clear about the details, though. He only remembered this person and saw a portrait of him before no longer caring. It was only a High Mage, after all. He could easily get rid of that kind of trash if they ever met.

Would the Merlin Family still start a war with the Charlotte Family if there was no evidence? The Merlin Family had shown signs of emergence in the past years, but the Charlotte Family wasn't easily bullied.

As one of the important nurtured members of the Charlotte Family, Kans simply looked down upon Merlins, let alone a High Mage that was only forced to return to his Family because of his wealth.

And now, with such a person ignoring him, Kans simply couldn't endure. 'Does he think he can ignore me, Kans Charlotte, just because he advanced to the Archmage realm?'

"Mafa Merlin, could it be that you feel that you can be proud because you advanced to the Archmage realm? I'm talking to you! Hmpf... I originally thought of letting you apologize to the Charlotte Family in front of everyone, but it looks like teaching you a lesson is necessary."

Kans raised his head, arrogance visible on his pale face as he acted as if he was giving Lin Yun a chance.

Not far away, Weiss and Zeuss had already noticed the disturbance and were smiling at Kans Charlotte's misfortune.

"That kid seems to be from the Charlotte Family..."

"Yes, the Charlotte Family has truly declined... Could it be that they aren't even taught something as basic as distinguishing between those they can offend and those they can't?"

"This guy is actually quite talented. He is in his thirties and is already a 5th Rank Archmage. He could be considered an outstanding person in the Charlotte Family... Unfortunately, his brain isn't very good."

"Apparently, Sir Mafa previously had some conflict with the Charlotte Family. I don't know the details, but it seems clear from Kans Charlotte's appearance that it shouldn't be anything big. Is that guy trying to escalate the conflict?"

Weiss and Zeuss had mocking expressions as they watched the play with a smile. In any case, the Charlotte Family wasn't close to them. Upsetting Mafa Merlin unhappy for this guy's sake wasn't worth it.

Kans Charlotte stood with a few people and looked at Lin Yun with a strange smile.

'He is just a dispensable outsider of the Merlin Family. How could he dare to offend our Charlotte Family? With so many people here today, if he dares to contradict me, I'll use that as an excuse. The Merlin Family definitely wouldn't offend us because of him, so they'd make him apologize to our Charlotte Family.'

'It's best to make it blow up into a big matter so that I can use the Merlin Family causing chaos as an excuse. I heard the Merlin Family recently got some good harvests. Not only did they manage to control a few forts, but they even obtained some of the resources of the Horn of Fertility. Truly wretched! The Merlin Family's forces in the Raging Flame Plane are so weak, yet they were allocated the richest part of the Horn of Fertility.'

Kans raised his head, waiting for Lin Yun to apologize in fright. He'd take advantage of that fear to take a big bite and carve himself a part of the cake.

But Lin Yun didn't even look at him as he kept observing the Storm Fort, and the few people next to him also ignored Kans Charlotte.

Disdain could be seen flickering on Xiuban's face. He glanced at the Kans Charlotte's thin body and pale complexion before looking at Carnage and estimating that he didn't need to use any power to kill that thin guy.

'Boring...'

Kans Charlotte ruthlessly glared at Lin Yun, and his expression became more and more unsightly.

'How could this guy dare to treat me like this? He actually dares to ignore me? To ignore the Charlotte Family?'

No one on Lin Yun's side paid attention to him for a while, and during that time, Lin Yun had more or less observed the fort's entire layout.

Lin Yun seemed to remember that there was someone else beside him just as Kans was about to say something.

"Eh, who are you? Do you need something?"

A prideful expression appeared in Kans' eyes. 'So you couldn't help yourself? You will continue pretending in order to try to rile me up?'

"I am Kans Charlotte, of the Charlotte Family..."

Lin Yun seemed to suddenly recall something.

"Ah, sorry, excuse me... I have something I need to do really quick."

After saying that, Lin Yun left Kans Charlotte behind and went towards Weiss.

"Sir Weiss, there is something I'd like to ask you, but I don't know if it's convenient for you to talk about it."

Weiss cordially smiled.

"Sir Mafa, you are too polite, don't hesitate to ask. As long as it's not classified information of the Black Tower, there will be no trouble."

Lin Yun smiled and pointed outside the Storm Fort.

"When coming in, I noticed a strange valley not far from the Storm Fort. It was shrouded in black mist..."

Weiss looked as if he suddenly understood and chuckled. "Haha, I knew Sir Mafa would ask about this. A powerful Artisan like Sir Mafa would definitely want to figure this out. This isn't inconvenient. That Valley is called the Poison Mist Valley. No one knows how long that valley has been here for, it was already here when we arrived in the Raging Flame Plane.

“At first, we also probed the Poison Mist Valley and discovered that the black mist was an extremely toxic poisonmist that could corrode all power. An average person simply can’t go in, as they would just die.

“At first, we also lost a lot of manpower, but the Storm Fort’s geographical location was too important and we couldn’t casually give up. Thus, the Cloud Tower and our Black Tower joined forces and dispatched two 8th Rank Archmages.

“But these two veteran Archmages were unable to clearly examine the insides. They came up empty-handed and had to give up as they were corroded by poisonmist. They almost died, and since then, no one paid attention to the Poison Mist Valley.

“That Poison Mist Valley didn’t change for so many years, and it didn’t influence anything, so no one paid attention to it.

“Sir Mafa, could it be that you want to examine the Poison Mist Valley? I strongly urge you not to go in. We examined it before and didn’t find anything valuable. Moreover, it is very dangerous. That highly toxic corrosive power is very strong, but it won’t be dangerous unless you go in.”

Lin Yun nodded but didn’t agree to anything in particular.

“Alright, thank you for telling me this, Sir Weiss.”

Lin Yun suddenly came to a realization when Weiss talked about the black mist. He clearly understood why it felt so strange now.

It wasn’t just because there was such a strange valley next to the Storm Fort... It was because the black mist gave a feeling of deja vu.

Lin Yun and Weiss exchanged a few sentences before they took their own people to find a place to settle down.

In the distance, Kans Charlotte was gnashing his teeth as he angrily glared at Lin Yun’s back. He wanted to say something, but he couldn’t get any words out.

He didn’t dare to interrupt the discussion between Mafa Merlin and Weiss, but now, Mafa Merlin had already walked away. Could he still cause trouble for Mafa Merlin under Weiss’ gaze? This would be disrespecting Weiss.

‘Damn b*stard, don’t think I haven’t noticed your little trick. You actually looked for Sir Weiss to help you get away! It won’t be that easy to escape.’

Kans Charlotte furiously walked away.

In the evening, Lin Yun took Xiuban, Reina, and Enderfa and quietly left the Storm Fort to reach the entrance of the Poison Mist Valley.

He looked at the calmly floating poisonmist that seemed to be held back by an invisible barrier. The area on the other side seemed to be a completely different environment.

With the support of a shield, Lin Yun took a step into the Poison Mist Valley, with Xiuban and Reina following behind.

They didn't express any objections after taking a step forward, but Lin Yun faintly frowned. This was clearly abnormal. Even if the poisonmist couldn't drift about, it shouldn't be that one step was all it took to be completely out of the poisonmist.

Clearly, something, or some sort of special environment, transformed this Poison Mist Valley into a small independent world. The surroundings were filled with black fog, but it looked very different from the outside.

Chapter 797: Storm Fort

From the outside, they couldn't see anything inside, but after entering, the black mist seemed to have become a lot more transparent, allowing them to see several hundred meters away.

The valley was desolate and silent, with no vitality. Only some sparse and withered grass grew inside. The rest was all stones.

As he walked for a bit, Lin Yun had yet to find anything valuable, but his expression wasn't good.

The further he walked in, the greater the power of the poisonmist, and the greater its toxicity. He could only barely resist, but there was clearly a reaction on his shield. The poisonmist was like a swarm of bloodthirsty ants crazily trying to infiltrate his shield.

Xiuban's skin was already red like a cooked prawn, and his body was continuously emitting heat as it was resisting the formidable toxins.

Lin Yun was shocked by the incredible display of strength from Xiuban.

As for Reina, there was already a faint black thread on her arm, a sign of her body already becoming corroded.

"Go! Let's leave first!"

When he made his decision, Lin Yun immediately ordered them to return. Reina was a Frost Dragon and had recently advanced to level 39, yet she was still unable to resist the toxins in the poisonmist. Walking inside would go slower, and they would be unable to resist.

Everyone rapidly withdrew from the Poison Mist Valley, and they still didn't meet any obstructions as they left, as if it was just an ordinary valley.

After leaving, Lin Yun had a deep frown. He promptly took out a bottle of a detoxifying potion and handed it to Reina. Reina downed the potion, and the faint black thread seemed to come alive. It struggled for a bit before transforming into black mist that rushed out of her arm.

Ordinary antidotes would be ineffective against this kind of toxicity. With Reina's poison resistance, she was surprisingly only able to force the poison out of her body after drinking the antidote. She couldn't

completely dissolve the toxins. If someone else had been poisoned, it might have been too much even for Mafa Merlin.

As he thought about it, Lin Yun shook his head, turned around, and took two steps before stopping. His gaze was locked onto some weeds growing next to the Poison Mist Valley.

An idea flashed in his mind. As a Frost Dragon, Reina was unexpectedly unable to resist that extreme toxin, yet they were able to see some dry, withered grass within the Poison Fog Valley.

Although they were withered, they hadn't turned to ashes...

The Poison Fog Valley didn't even have wind. Anything entering would be rapidly corroded, causing it to rot from the extreme toxins. The poisonmist was like an endless swarm of hungry and bloodthirsty ants that wouldn't let off anything that could be corroded.

The grass unexpectedly didn't turn into ashes, and it looked like they had been withered for a very long time. He assessed that within a few years, that withered grass would definitely grow in the Poison Fog Valley, even on the outer areas!

Thus, he came to the conclusion that this grass could resist the strange poisonmist, at least to a certain degree!

Lin Yun then looked at the weeds outside the Poison Fog Valley and noticed a few strands hiding in some underbrush no different from the ones he had seen before; they were exactly the same!

He walked towards the underbrush and controlled four Mana Hands to excavate two medicinal ingredients from the pile of weeds in front of him, including their roots.

The two medicinal ingredients weren't injured in the slightest, and after digging them out, they were immediately put into glass bottles, and even the environment, temperature, and air were kept the same.

Many medicinal ingredients that grew in special environments would immediately wither and die after leaving said special environment, just like the Red Flame Golden Lotus growing beside lava rivers. As long as the temperature was reduced too much, they would spontaneously combust and turn to ashes, no longer harvestable.

All medicinal ingredients had to be conserved through special methods. If it was unclear, they would have to transplant the ingredient into an environment similar to the one it had been in to guarantee its survival.

And this ingredient very similar to dry grass was something Lin Yun had never seen! This was why Lin Yun was so careful.

If it spread that an Artisan couldn't recognize a strand of grass, everyone would definitely think it was a joke.

This medicinal ingredient was a little bit different than the rest of the weeds, and only an Artisan like Lin Yun could sharply discover the difference.

Otherwise, the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower wouldn't have missed it for so many years.

In fact, the two forces were both still trying to find someone to take a look, but unfortunately, even a Master Alchemist proficient in potioneering hadn't noticed the different kind of grass among the large underbrush.

Lin Yun looked at the two herbs in his hands and suddenly remembered a saying.

There is always a detoxifying herb next to a viper's nest!

This wasn't unreasonable... Some vipers would spray venom in their surroundings to warn away other predators, and as time passed, some plants would absorb the venom and undergo mutations that allowed them to detoxify it.

The weeds growing here looked like the type whose seeds were carried by wind. Some random weeds might have ended up growing on the edge of the Poison Mist Valley, and even if the probability was extremely low, it could eventually result in a mutation over the years.

The dry grass in the areas filled with poisonmist was the best proof. Although these kinds of grass were medicinal ingredients, there were very few of them, but nothing was definite yet. These medicinal ingredients might have the ability to resist poison, but they could also absorb poison and be highly toxic.

Back at the Storm Fort, Lin Yun immediately took out some simple alchemy equipment and started inspecting the two medicinal ingredients.

He soon got the results. These never-before-seen medicinal ingredients weren't holding toxins. In fact, they had very powerful poison resistance, and as medicinal ingredients, they had detoxifying effects.

He couldn't research the details for the moment... Being able to use a kind of never-before-seen medicinal ingredient wasn't that easy.

...

The next day.

The sky was bright, and the Storm Fort was bustling with liveliness. More and more forces arrived at the Storm Fort, large and small. It didn't take long for ten different groups to appear.

Yesterday's lively street was now crowded, and numerous people could be seen on the horizon.

Horses, carts, and other such things could no longer appear on the main street. Both sides of the streets were crowded with people selling goods.

No one knew if the low-key mage vendor next to them might, in fact, be a High Mage.

Those gray stones that looked broken might be high-level materials that could only appear in Noscent's world auctions.

A random passerby on the street might be a Great Swordsman, and that mage with a dirty robe and messy hair could be an Archmage.

The Storm Fort suddenly had the most prosperous period in history. All kinds of deals were underway, and there wasn't a single ordinary person. There were even a dozen Archmages on the street.

There were a lot more Great Swordsmen and High Mages.

Most of the tables and chairs in the huge conference room had already been taken away, and there were only two tables left, filled with all kinds of fruits and beverages.

Large and small forces' representatives were now gathered there, joking together as they kept greeting familiar people.

Lin Yun was holding a glass of light wine suitable for a mage to drink, and he smiled as he replied to others' greetings.

"Good day, Sir Mafa Merlin.."

"Good day, Sir Zeuss..."

"Good day, Sir Mafa, did you rest well last night? If there is anything unsatisfactory, please tell me. After all, you are our Black Tower's guest..."

"You are too polite, Sir Weiss, this is pretty good..."

As long as they had met him before, they would greet Lin Yun. After all, the Merlin Family had shown signs of flourishing recently. Those who had spent some time in the Raging Flame Plane were a bit more flexible and knew that even the Black Tower was walking on tightrope with the Merlin Family, so others naturally wouldn't offend them.

"Sir Mafa, ah! It's good to see you. I've been wondering if Sir Mafa would come, but I truly didn't expect to see you..."

Lin Yun turned around and saw a thin youth walking over with a glass of wine. The youth slightly bowed as he enthusiastically talked.

Lin Yun smiled. "Oh, turns out to be High Mage Henry Morgan! It's been a very long time, are you here on behalf of your Morgan Family?"

Morgan hurriedly nodded and promptly explained.

"Sir Mafa, I went to the Flame Demon Fort before and wanted to come together with the Merlin Family, but you had already left when I arrived, and I only arrived today."

Lin Yun nodded. The Morgan Family was considered a subordinate of the Merlin Family. The Flame Demon Fort's supplies were taken care of by them.

The Merlin Family was short on personnel, and it was impossible to dispatch a lot of manpower to the Raging Flame Plane to supply the necessities. A huge portion of that mission fell onto the Morgan Family.

Henry Morgan was moved at the prospect of being able to talk to Lin Yun.

He had been the one to deliver the supplies to the Flame Demon Fort this time, and he had learnt a lot about many things. The outstanding changes of the Merlin Family this month had all been due to Mafa Merlin, and even Commander Thorne would lower his head in front of him. How could Henry not try to establish a good relationship?

Chapter 798: You And Your Family

Lin Yun had a good impression of Henry Morgan, as he was very hardworking and honest. While the Merlin Family had been in a difficult situation for the past few months, the Morgan Family's situation also hadn't been good, and they were often subjected to difficulties.

But Henry Morgan would never delay when it came to delivering supplies. He was always on time, which gave Lin Yun a very good impression, especially since Henry Morgan would personally lead his team every time. These days, he would specially deliver fruits that were specific to Noscent. This made Lin Yun, who had forgotten the taste of fruits, feel appreciative.

After all, although the Raging Flame Plane was rich in natural resources, most of them were minerals. The environment wasn't gentle enough, and most of the common cereals, fruits, and vegetables of Noscent couldn't grow in there, so the only way to stock them was through constant resupply.

And the cost of each supply run wasn't small. Cereals necessarily occupied the major part, while vegetables and meat occupied the smaller part. Something like fruit, which wouldn't cause death if they weren't eaten, would just be troublesome to carry.

Almost no one in the Flame Demon Fort had seen Noscent's sweet fruits.

With his mood buoyed, Lin Yun would occasionally give a few pointers to Henry Morgan. This made him even more respectful, as if he had gained an extremely precious treasure, and he hadn't even given anything particularly precious. So every time he came, he would bring some fruits unique to Noscent for Lin Yun, leaving a good impression on Lin Yun's mind.

After a few words with Henry Morgan, someone else came and greeted Lin Yun.

"Good day, Sir Mafa Merlin..."

Henry Morgan very tactfully left, and Lin Yun started chatting with this new visitor.

More and more people joined the self-serve buffet. Many members of small forces grabbed this opportunity to befriend others, discuss possible cooperation, or exchange views on the general attack.

The conference hadn't officially started yet. The main purpose of this buffet was to let everyone get in touch first and resolve anything they had on their minds so that when the conference officially started, it would progress a lot faster.

The atmosphere was actually quite harmonious. Those who had conflicts in the past were restraining themselves. After all, this conference was in everyone's interests, so everyone had to remain enthusiastic, or they would be looked down upon.

Halfway through the reception, they suddenly heard a loud noise.

"Damn bastard, I gave you a chance, but you can't tell good from bad and are determined to set yourself against our Charlotte Family!"

Following a burst of mana fluctuations, a scream echoed in the crowd, and in an instant, a large area opened up with everyone coldly watching it.

Lin Yun was discussing something regarding the Poison Mist Valley with Weiss when he suddenly came to a halt and couldn't help frowning as he looked over. He saw Henry Morgan collapsed on the ground and covered in blood with a vine restricting his body.

Next to him was a pale man with a ruthless expression who had condensed a whip in the air and was lashing at Henry Morgan with it.

"Damn b*stard, I gave you a chance to provide supplies for our Charlotte Family, yet dared to refuse and insult me. A trash High Mage actually dares to offend an Archmage? I'll give you another opportunity! Speak!"

Weiss looked displeased. The organizer of today's party was the Black Tower, and all the participants were prestigious characters, yet there was still someone here acting like a barbarian.

Then, Weiss saw Lin Yun frown as if he was unhappy.

"Sir Merlin, do you recognize that idiot?"

Lin Yun thought for a moment and nodded.

"I do have a small impression of him. I forgot the name of the one standing, but the one fallen on the ground is a member of the family that is supplying the Merlin Family..."

Lin Yun stood up and walked over to them, and seeing that Kans Charlotte was about to proceed with whipping Henry Morgan, Lin Yun snapped his fingers.

A clear sound echoed as the magic whip instantly dissipated. Kans was slightly startled, and he turned to look at Lin Yun approaching.

"It's you, damned b*stard! You dare to get involved in our Charlotte Family's matters?"

The crowd got out of the way as Lin Yun slowly walked forward. He glanced at Henry on the ground, and the vine restricting his body rapidly withered and turned to ashes.

Henry Morgan looked very grateful as he promptly struggled to stand up from the ground, but he was deathly pale, as if he was about to collapse at any moment.

Lin Yun took out a bottle of Health Potion and handed it to him.

"Drink."

Henry unhesitantly drank the bottle of Health Potion and his injuries rapidly recovered. Scabs fell out, and even his complexion, which had been pale due to blood loss, had returned to normal.

The surroundings turned silent for a moment.

"Heavens, the effect of this Health Potion is very good, healing such a heavy injury almost instantly. It must be the work of a Master Alchemist at the very least..."

“No way, I personally drank a Health Potion from Master Alchemist Rais and it didn’t have such amazing effects. It could at most heal the injury, but it couldn’t replenish the lost blood...”

“Master Alchemist Rais? Isn’t he a Master Alchemist specialized in potioneering?”

“Heavens, could this be that this youth is already an Artisan?”

Everyone turned silent at the mention of the title of Artisan, and they looked at Kans Charlotte with a strange expression.

An Artisan took the initiative to help that lucky guy out of his predicament. A good show was about to unfold. As long as that young Artisan asked, there would be plenty of people willing to attack that member of the Charlotte Family.

Although the Charlotte Family wasn’t weak, they wouldn’t react too much just for one of their youths being taken care of.

Kans Charlotte glared at Lin Yun, feeling a bit puzzled. He was vigilantly looking around at the spectators, wondering who had secretly made a move.

Lin Yun ignored Kans Watson as he looked after Henry Morgan.

“How many times did he lash at you? And how long has the Bloodsucking Vine restricted you for?”

Henry Morgan hesitated a bit, thinking that he shouldn’t cause trouble for Mafa Merlin... but when he saw Mafa start to frown, Henry immediately answered honestly.

“Three times, and I’ve been restricted by the Bloodsucking Vine for a minute...”

Lin Yun nodded and turned towards Kans Charlotte, who started cursing, “Mafa Merlin, you b*stard! To have the cheek to interrupt a matter of our Charlotte Family, you are done for!”

Not a single movement could be seen from Lin Yun as a black whip as thick as an arm suddenly appeared in front of Kans Charlotte, and without so much as a warning sign, it ruthlessly whipped him from his left side.

Kans Charlotte was shocked and unhesitantly roused a Mana Shield, but his shield was like paper. It was only a symbolic obstruction that was effortlessly shattered.

Kans screamed, but as he was sent flying, another jet-black whip condensed and ruthlessly sent him flying in the other direction.

He had just flown two or three meters before being whipped towards the ground once again.

The scene became quiet for a moment as everyone was stunned.

Kans Charlotte loudly screamed. His left arm was broken, his back carried three bloody whip marks, and even his robe had been flayed apart.

And this wasn’t over... He didn’t even have time to finish his scream yet when a bloody Hell Vine came out of the ground and rapidly constricted around him.

As the barbs entered Kans Charlotte's body, they crazily absorbed his blood. The Hell Vine was moving like a snake that was excited at the prospect of drinking blood.

"Aaah... B*stard! Someone help me! Hurry..." Kans let out a blood-curdling screech. He felt his blood being absorbed at a rapid pace and his vitality continuously weakening.

The onlookers felt a chill.

'No wonder he asked that earlier... This is too ruthless, too fast. No one would be able to react...

'It's the same Mana Whip, but the other one was just a half-transparent phantom. Not only was this one twice as thick, but it was tangible and burst open the Mana Shield like a sheet of paper. Just how powerful was it?

'Although the Mana Shield took no time to cast and was the weakest defensive shield, how could it be so weak?

'Moreover, the Bloodsucking Vine was answered with a Hell Vine. One minute, ah... From that guy's thin and pale appearance, he might turn into a mummy in one minute...'

Behind the crowd, two people hastily rushed over and noticed Kans being bound by the Hell Vine.

One of them roared at Lin Yun, "Scoundrel! Immediately let go of Kans! I'll give you three seconds. If you don't comply, you'll face the consequences of offending the Charlotte Family!"

Lin Yun ignored that guy's loud yelling and silently looked at the magic timer in his hand. Ten seconds had already passed.

"Scoundrel! Are you deaf!? Did you not hear me!? Immediately let go of Kans and I'll give you a chance to end it here by breaking your arm! Otherwise, I'll make you wish you could die!

"You and your Family will suffer the retaliation of our Charlotte Family. If you don't release Kans, don't blame me for not giving you a chance. At that time, it won't be resolved with just a broken arm!"

Chapter 799: Sneak Attack

The power of a Peak 8th Rank Archmage spread out, and the surging mana turned into a gale that blew towards Lin Yun.

But that mana tide stopped a meter away from Lin Yun's body and suddenly dissipated. Not even the tip of Lin Yun's robe fluttered...

Lin Yun still ignored him and only looked at the mana timer. It would be one minute, not one second more or one less.

"Scoundrel, have you forgotten where you are!? How could you dare to attack someone here and completely ignore others! I shall teach you a lesson on behalf of your Family..."

Seeing that this Peak 8th Rank Archmage was about to make a move, the people around him moved away.

Weiss came forward and frowned at that Archmage.

“Sir Dolon, your Family member made the first move. Could it be that you have forgotten where we are? Can the members of your Charlotte Family casually injure others while the Black Tower is holding a buffet?”

Zeuss also came forward and said with dissatisfaction, “Dolon Charlotte, do you think we are blind? You Charlottes are too excessive, daring to injure someone at such an event. Since you made the first move, there is nothing wrong with Sir Mafa retaliating.”

Following Weiss and Zeuss, the other onlookers echoed their words.

“Indeed, Sir Mafa didn’t even add anything. That young man received three whips, so he whipped three times, no more. That young man was bound for a minute, so it won’t last more than a minute...”

Dolon Charlotte’s expression kept changing. He hadn’t expected Weiss and Zeuss, as well as those others, to speak up for Mafa Merlin.

As he was hesitating, the minute quickly elapsed, and Kans Charlotte was released from the Hell Vine, which quickly disappeared underground.

“Look! Just as I said, Sir Merlin only bound him for precisely one minute.”

“That’s perfect. Everyone got the same treatment, so no one owes anyone anything. Just let it go. Your Charlotte Family made the first move, so Sir Mafa is already being magnanimous enough...”

Kans Charlotte fell to the ground with a frighteningly pale expression. He had lost too much blood, and without someone supporting him, even standing would be very difficult.

After drinking two Health Potions, Kans Charlotte crazily glared at Lin Yun.

“Dolon, kill him, kill him, that damn b*stard actually did this to me, he has to pay the price, I want the Merlin Family to pay the price!”

Dolon hesitated and clenched his teeth. There were so many people watching right now... If they cowered, the reputation of the Charlotte Family would greatly suffer. After all, no one wished for their cooperative partner to be a weakling.

Even if he didn’t kill him, he would teach him a bitter lesson! He absolutely couldn’t let the Charlotte Family’s reputation suffer!

As he thought of this, Dolon burst with fierce mana fluctuations. It was as if a gale had suddenly risen, and a spell instantly condensed.

At the same time, Lin Yun raised an eyebrow. His mana, which had been suppressed for such a long time, burst out like flames.

A loud bursting sound echoed as a huge wheel shadow appeared behind Lin Yun. Countless runes surged out like phantom images, and his Draconic Staff was now in his right hand.

Lin Yun’s body suddenly rose up and instantly transformed into a dark red Flame Elemental, and the surrounding open space turned into a sea of fire.

Lin Yun had done all this by the time the other side condensed that one instant spell.

Then, Lin Yun instantly disappeared and reappeared in front of Dolon's body, the Draconic Staff shining with a glaring flame.

Countless runes came from the wheel shadow behind Lin Yun, and flames instantly exploded on Dolon's body. The Fire God Spear that Dolon had just condensed instantly shattered.

And even more terrible things were to follow... Dolon only had time to use a Runic Shield before the countless runes sprayed from Lin Yun's wheel shadow formed several dozen spells.

Flame Bursts, Bursting Flames, Bursting Fireballs, Fire God Spears...

The spells simultaneously burst out and crumpled Dolon's shield as if it was made of paper before shattering it. The remaining spells exploded against Dolon's body and sent him flying.

Flames covered his body as he flew ten meters away like a flying cannonball. A Fire God Spear was still piercing his chest and his robe had become dilapidated, while his skin was covered in burn marks.

His mouth was covered in blood as he fell to the ground, disbelief apparent on his face. His body was continuously twitching because of the fiery pain.

Everyone was startled...

That was a Peak 8th Rank Archmage powerhouse, but he was seriously injured in an instant!

Moreover, due to the casting speed, most people were unable to see what had happened. They only saw Lin Yun using his Fire Elemental Incarnation and a Flame Flash before using fire spells to drop Dolon to the ground.

Only powerhouses like Zeuss and Weiss could clearly see what had happened, and both of them were pale with fright.

It looked like they had still slightly underestimated Mafa Merlin.

The Charlotte Family was also stupefied, but they didn't dare to say anything at this time.

The people of the Charlotte Family flocked over and took the seriously injured Dolon and Kans, who could barely stand, and they walked out of the hall like terrified beasts. As they left, they still ruthlessly shouted back, "Just wait! You dared to damage the reputation of the Charlotte Family, you are done for."

"Our Charlotte Family won't let this slide, just wait..."

The Charlottes were quite scared. They tossed out threats as they walked away, but after Lin Yun frowned and looked over at them, they suddenly became more restrained and hastily left without saying another word.

As the members of the Charlotte Family left, the rest of the guests became a lot more enthusiastic towards Lin Yun and kept greeting him one after another, trying to befriend him.

They had only heard a rumor that the Commander of the Merlin Family was a ruthless character, but they understood now that they saw him. Not only was he ruthless, but he was also an Artisan. No wonder why the attitudes of the Black Tower and the Watson Family towards the Merlin Family had completely changed.

After returning to the Charlotte Family's domain, Kans Charlotte immediately looked for the Commander of the Charlotte Family, Brown Charlotte.

"We can't let it go! That damned Mafa Merlin actually dared to do this to me, dragging the Charlotte Family's reputation through the mud. I want revenge, I want him dead!"

Kans Charlotte's injuries had recovered after taking the Health Potion, but the lost blood wasn't that easily recovered. At this moment, he was emotionally raising his fist, but he almost tumbled.

Brown Charlotte had a worried expression.

"Young Master Kans, let's take our time and plan this out. You saw it today... That Mafa Merlin easily overpowered you and injured Dolon almost instantly. If we hadn't performed the first aid in time, Dolon might have already died. He has five broken ribs, a large part of his skin was burnt, and some of his vertebrae were injured.

"Dolon is a Peak 8th Rank Archmage, after all. Young Master Kans should know of his power. Mafa Merlin isn't simple, he isn't easy to handle... We can't be too impetuous."

Kans' eyes were red as he stared at Brown Charlotte.

"What!? What did you say? He easily overpowered me? That was a shameful sneak attack! A sneak attack! That damned guy actually attacked me without warning! If not for that sneak attack, how could he be my match? You think I don't know? He is only a newly advanced Archmage, how long has it been since he advanced from the High Mage realm? He is at most a 2nd Rank piece of trash.

"That damned trash was only accepted into the Merlin Family because of his money! He bought his way to becoming a Commander of the Merlin Family, you think I don't know that? This Commander is just a fake, the true Commander is someone else.

"I've never seen a Family with two Commanders in the same place. He is only a shameful ambusher.

"As for Dolon, wasn't he ambushed by Mafa Merlin too? Do you really think I'm blind? That damned guy actually used Fire Elemental Incarnation and used Flame Flash to mount a sneak attack. That foolish Dolon was still hesitating, allowing that b*stard to succeed!

"This is truly a loss of reputation! An esteemed Peak 8th Rank Archmage was actually ambushed by a newly advanced Archmage, and he was seriously injured.

"In a real fight, how could that scoundrel Mafa Merlin be a match for me? I've been going through so many desperate experiences for so many years, and what is he? A gambler relying on money to bribe his way into a high position in his clan. Beneath the surface, he is nothing more than a gambling merchant! He would never amount to anything without sneak attacks.

"If this happens again, I'll definitely tear him apart!"

Kans Charlotte's body shook, and he sat down, a little dizzy, no longer screaming his lungs out.

Brown Charlotte bitterly smiled as hesitation could be seen on his face.

"Young Master Kans, I believe Mafa Merlin isn't that simple. Although he succeeded in his sneak attack this time, I did ask around about him. While Mafa Merlin wasn't in the Raging Flame Plane, the Merlin Family had been coincidentally suppressed by the Black Tower and the Watson Family. However, once Mafa Merlin returned, the Black Tower and the Watson Family completely changed their attitudes towards the Merlin Family.

"I've also heard that the Fireblade Tribe's defeat was because of Mafa Merlin. This Mafa Merlin should be very powerful, he definitely shouldn't be weak. We should remain cool-headed and find a proper opportunity..."

Chapter 800: Get Lost

Before Brown Charlotte finished his words, Kans thoroughly exploded and started yelling at him.

"What do you mean, cool-headed? I can't remain cool-headed! That damn guy not only sneak-attacked me, but he also sneak-attacked Dolon! He attacked us during the banquet for the general attack. This is trampling the Charlotte Family's honor, ruthlessly trampling on our Charlotte Family!

"Brown, have you forgotten that the honor of our Family is paramount? Anyone harming the honor of our Family has to pay with their lives.

"I can't wait to kill this kind of foul businessman that only knows how to plot and deceive. If not for that sneak attack, I would have already removed his head and hung it at the entrance of our Family's estate!"

Brown hesitated. He had dispatched some people to ask around, but the outcome wasn't very clear. However, what startled him was that although many matters only mentioned the achievements of Mafa Merlin when he was a High Mage, these achievements were shocking. Now, Mafa Merlin had already advanced to the Archmage realm, and even if he had only advanced not that long ago, his strength was bound to have dramatically increased.

"Young Master Kans, I investigated before, and this Mafa Merlin already had the power of an Archmage at the High Mage Realm. Now that he's an Archmage, he shouldn't be as easy to handle as other Archmages..."

Brown hesitated, but he still mentioned it. He didn't give the details, because the news he had obtained was very vague. But because of what had just happened, he felt that those achievements might have been real. 'This Mafa Merlin isn't easy to handle...'

Kans Charlotte's eyes were very red as he shouted wildly.

"Brown, are you really a Charlotte? If I weren't wounded, that damned b*stard would certainly die a very miserable death. But I'm injured now!

"I want him dead now, I don't care what method you use, I want him dead!"

Brown sighed. Kans Charlotte was the young master of the Family, so although he was the Commander, he couldn't compare with Kans in terms of status.

"Alright, Young Master Kans, there is someone I know, someone very powerful and formidable. I even heard that many powerful enemies together were unable to deal with that person. Go find him, and he'll definitely be able to get things done... But you'll have to pay a huge price to make him move.

"Do you know about the Laura Family's destruction ten years ago? That was his work. At the time, the Laura Family was eyeing a declining major family and was pressuring them without leaving them a way out. That declining family was said to have once had an ancestor at the Heaven Rank. Unfortunately, their strongest remaining member was a 3rd Rank Archmage.

"The Laura Family wanted to annex this declining Family and devour their wealth and heritage. They almost managed to kill everyone... but one of the survivors found that formidable person and used all the wealth of his family to pay for the Laura Family's destruction. And within a month, the Laura Family was exterminated. No matter where they ran, they all died.

"You would need to pay a huge price to make him move, even just to handle Mafa Merlin. Young Master Kans..."

Kans immediately burst into loud laughter.

"Huge price? What's a huge price? What does all the wealth of a small clan amount to? It can't be as much as my own private funds. Our Charlotte Family's inheritance has been passed down for so many years, and the wealth we accumulated far surpasses your imagination. Our heritage is so deep that even I can't figure it out. What you see will forever only be the tip of the iceberg.

"Let me tell you, that person's so-called price is definitely not high enough to faze our Charlotte Family! Take the lead, we are going now. I can't wait to see that Mafa Merlin dead!"

Brown was a little helpless. He wanted to say something, but he couldn't bear it.

They secretly left the territory of the Charlotte Family together.

After walking for a while, Kans suddenly remembered that he didn't know who they were looking for. Soon, the path became more and more desolate, and he couldn't help asking, "Brown, who are we looking for? Why is it so desolate?"

Brown looked at the surroundings and vigilantly probed around. Only after confirming that there was no one around did he lower his voice to explain.

"Young Master Kans, you must remember to be careful later. We are looking for a Gaugass Battlemage. You have to know that these people are highly prejudiced against our Okland's forces, especially mages. They are always hostile."

This was the result of Brown thinking for a long time. If he used the power of the Family to handle Mafa Merlin, it had to be after the end of the general attack on the Raging Flame Plane. At this crucial time, all of Okland's forces with a territory in the Raging Flame Plane had come.

Former archenemies were restraining themselves and would at most prod at each other a bit. No one dared to cause trouble at such a time. Even if the Charlotte Family was angry, they absolutely couldn't make a move.

But Kans couldn't wait and wanted to act now, so Brown could only think of the Gaugass Battleimages.

Those armored fighting lunatics were naturally hostile towards mages from Okland. If he met these madmen outside, he would definitely be killed. In those days, they had been pushed back to the Gaugass Highland, so they had a very poor opinion of Okland's mages and would definitely not be lenient.

Moreover, Gaugass Battleimages naturally had an advantage over mages. Their battle techniques were simply born to suppress mages. They could cast, but they looked more like heavily armored swordsmen. In a 1vs1, a mage of the same rank wouldn't be their opponent. If they weren't so inferior in terms of number, they wouldn't have been pushed back to the Gaugass Highland.

Brown especially warned Kans, but Kans didn't really care and only smiled.

"Haha, turns out it was them, very good! I had been worried the person you found wouldn't be able to get rid of Mafa Merlin. There is no need to worry now, and the price won't matter as long as they agree to make a move..."

Seeing Kans' appearance, Brown couldn't help worrying about it.

It didn't take too long for Brown to lead Kans to a remote camp. The camp was almost merging with the surroundings. From afar, one couldn't even see that there was a camp there. Just as they reached the entrance of the camp, they were immediately surrounded by a group of spear-wielding Gaugass Battleimages wearing heavy armor with helmets.

"Don't attack, we came looking for Sir Kempes for business!" Brown shouted. They were then led into the camp, surrounded by a team of Gaugass Battleimages.

They entered one of the tents, and inside of it was sitting an armored, middle-aged man without a helmet. He had thick eyebrows and big eyes, and he looked extremely sharp. When he saw Kans and Brown, his expression wasn't pleasant in the least. It looked as if he had seen a hated foe.

Kans carelessly walked in and started talking to Kempes. "You are a Gaugass Battleimage? I want you to kill someone, how strong are you? If you are strong enough, I'll pay a great price..."

Before Kans finished his sentence, Brown's face turned a bit green. Sure enough, Kempes, who had been drinking alcohol and eating meat, suddenly glared at them.

"Get lost!"

Kans' expression became unsightly. He pointed at Kempes and cursed, "Damn b*stard, who do you think you are talking to? The young master of the Charlotte Family is standing in front of you! If you weren't potentially a bit useful to me, do you think I would have come to such a desolate area? Hell, there isn't even a sparrow here. A country bumpkin like you dares..."

Kans kept chattering, but he didn't get to finish his words before Kempes jumped towards him from behind the table.

Kans sneered, and a Runic Shield instantly rose, but Kempes didn't seem to have seen it. A ball of light condensed in his huge hand as he ruthlessly smashed it against the Runic Shield.

Fierce mana fluctuations rose up as Kans' Runic Shield instantly shattered like glass. Kempes' large hand caught Kans' neck and carried him up with one hand before throwing him to the ground.

A loud sound echoed as Kans spurted a mouthful of blood. He felt as if all his bones were broken, and his eyes were filled with an unfathomable expression.

'Damn it, damn b*stard! This barbarian actually shattered my Runic Shield with one hand, he actually dared to do this to me...'

Kans didn't have time to speak, and Brown was extremely pale. 'That scoundrel, he forgot my reminder! These Gaugass Battleimages aren't easy to get along with. The Charlotte Family is also considered a mage clan of Okland, so there isn't much difference between us and the others in the eyes of these Gaugass Battleimages.

'To dare to speak like that to a Gaugass Battleimage in his territory, isn't that just stupid?'

Brown didn't doubt that Kempes would dare to get rid of both of them here. Seeing that Kempes still wanted to go further, he promptly apologized.

"Sir Kempes, please be lenient, please be lenient, we can always discuss this! Young Master Kans has always been admiring Gaugass Battleimages, he was just a bit excited, please don't mind his actions. This time, the person we want dealt with is a bit hard for others to handle, but it should be very simple for Sir Kempes..."

"That person has been frequently going into the Poison Mist Valley in the past few days. Others wouldn't dare to go, but there shouldn't be a problem for Sir Kempes, and no one would know if you killed that person there. Moreover, besides Sir Kempes, no one can use their full strength there.

"As for what you need, just ask, and we will definitely satisfy you..."