

Magic Era 871

Chapter 871: Puppet Battle

Xiuban swung Carnage and clashed heavily with the huge grinding wheel. As sparks flew about in all directions, the powerful Xiuban groaned and was forced to take four steps back before stopping.

Meanwhile, another huge grinding wheel followed the first one and sliced towards Lin Yun.

Lin Yun frowned, and Reina took the initiative to act. She breathed out, and two ice fragments flew out, slicing at the joints of the mechanical arms.

Ice started spreading from the joints in an instant, and the originally fiercely moving arms quickly stiffened.

The two mechanical arms kept shaking, as if they were trying to struggle free in order to keep attacking.

Lin Yun was still frowning, as he yet again failed to notice any traps. These two mechanical arms were extremely powerful, and even Xiuban wasn't able to destroy them, but their function was to polish puppet components... They weren't used for battle.

Yet, these two mechanical arms had sliced at them with the grinding wheels. Grasping the timing and angle needed for a surprise attack was something a combat puppet could do, but it was beyond the capabilities of two mechanical arms designed for assembly.

Lin Yun looked at these two arms for a long time before using a crystal pen to write numerous runes onto them and thoroughly severing the arms' energy supply. This action finally stopped the two shaking mechanical arms.

After leaving the room, Lin Yun threw a glance back while feeling that this matter was too strange. It felt as if there was some unknown activation method that he couldn't discover, or maybe even something controlling the place. They were always ambushed at some unexpected places.

They continued down the passage again, until Lin Yun suddenly stopped. He had lost connection to a Mage Eye without having any time to see anything. He didn't know what had destroyed it.

And it spread like a chain reaction. He lost contact with the eight Mage Eyes that had been spread ahead of them, and barely managed to see a scene flash before it all disappeared.

When that Mage Eye entered an open room, the door suddenly closed, and some device able to create a burning flame suddenly shot a Fire Bolt and destroyed the eye.

Lin Yun frowned and started pondering. The other mage eyes had also entered different rooms before he lost contact, so he assumed that they had also been destroyed.

"Prepare for battle," Lin Yun instructed in a deep voice, his Draconic Staff already shining brightly.

They'd just reached the center of an intersection when suddenly, fierce mana fluctuations spread from all directions.

Several dozen Fire Bolts rushed over at Lin Yun's group from all four directions. Moreover, this passage was only seven meters wide, giving them no space to dodge.

Lin Yun waved his Draconic Staff and a light flickered as Askrim Gates rose up around their group, boxing them in and blocking the Fire Bolts.

Reina also chanted in Draconic, causing transparent Ice Walls to rise up just behind the Askrim Gates and make them also transparent, allowing everyone to see what was happening.

Through these transparent walls, everyone could see four teams of alchemy puppets that seemed to know their whereabouts attacking them in a pincer attack. There were ten puppets lined up in each direction, raising arms enchanted with numerous Fire Bolts.

Several dozen Fire Bolts would be shot towards them from all directions every second, and it only took two seconds for Lin Yun's Askrim Gates to evaporate from all the firepower.

Lin Yun frowned, his Draconic Staff flickering as more Askrim Gates rose up, firmly protecting everyone within.

The spells enchanted on these puppets were very formidable, and they were also casting fast, low-consumption Fire Bolts. In such a narrow place, the Fire Bolts could display their full power while also being very efficient.

Other spells might have been stronger, but they would have higher consumption and wouldn't be able to keep up as much pressure.

It looked like the puppets were prepared to forcibly keep them here, killing them through attrition.

Some victims might have run out of mana after half an hour, suppressed until their deaths.

Slightly weaker people might not even last ten minutes before being hounded to death.

Lin Yun handled the defense while Enderfa and the puppet made their preparations.

Enderfa roused the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel, causing four types of spells to rush out and collide with each other. All the spells mixed together to turn into a terrifying, four-colored Elemental Storm that fiercely tore through one passage.

The numerous Fire Bolts from that side were forcibly suppressed. These puppets were tailored towards attacking, and they didn't have a single defensive rune. But by relying on Fire Bolts, they could slightly resist the Elemental Storm.

After all, these ten puppets were only level 35, while Enderfa could display the power of a 9th Rank Archmage.

The numerous Fire Bolts formed a glaring beam of light that kept clashing with Enderfa's Elemental Storm. The resulting mana fluctuations formed tides that continuously rushed away in all directions.

After a few seconds, the ordinary Fire Bolts were no longer able to hold back Enderfa's Elemental Storm with their numbers. Without any defensive spells, the ten puppets could only rely on their bodies, but that wasn't enough... They were torn apart after three seconds.

Something similar happened to the side attacked by Lin Yun's puppet. These puppets that could only use Fire Bolts simply couldn't resist the spellwave, and they turned into a pile of components after several seconds.

Reina's fight was the fastest one. Her ice spells had reached an extremely terrifying stage and even a Chill could forcibly extinguish those Fire Bolts. After those puppets were frozen into ice statues, she sent out several dozen Frost Lances to tear them to shreds.

Wagner was in charge of the last side, and although he was filled with regret, lazing around was impossible. The rain of Fire Bolts fell down relentlessly, and Wagner didn't believe that this Askrim Gate could keep protecting him.

But his spells couldn't overcome the Fire Bolts of these puppets. Instead, they were being pushed back.

Lin Yun saw this situation and the huge wheel shadow appeared behind him. A flood of runes poured out of that shadow and instantly transformed into several dozen ice spells that filled the whole passage.

The storm of ice fragments whistled past, and after a second, the Fire Bolts were completely eradicated. After the ice cleared up, it was possible to see that all the puppets had disappeared.

The forty puppets were all torn apart, yet Lin Yun's expression hadn't eased up.

Enderfa, Wagner, and Reina all understood. Not only had their route been predicted, but also the time it would take to arrive there. The puppets then mounted a sneak attack, allowing the puppets to maximize their effectiveness.

Lin Yun's frown intensified. He was completely certain that there was some sort of probing method that he was failing to figure out. The defenses here seemed to have full knowledge of their actions and locations.

These puppets had no defensive runes, and their bodies weren't very tough. On the contrary, every surface of those puppets had been covered with only one kind of rune and spell.

It was all about Fire Bolts. The carved runes were all tailored to increase the power of the Fire Bolts.

These forty puppets were all specially made to fight in that area, apparently in order to ambush them with perfect timing, despite the fact that Lin Yun hadn't detected anything tracing them.

They were made to attack from all four sides simultaneously in the narrow passage. Apart from this sort of ideal ambush scenario, these puppets could only be likened to trash. If they fought in the open, even an Archmage could casually tear them apart.

Lin Yun was deeply pondering when Enderfa's three faces came over.

"Merlin, don't you feel like we have experienced this before?"

Enderfa's words sparked a flash of enlightenment in Lin Yun's eyes.

But before he could quite figure it out, a loud rumble came from that passage.

He raised his head and saw thick pillars continuously falling down at the end of the passage. It took three seconds for the passage to be completely sealed.

A pillar even fell in front of Lin Yun, crashing against the ground with a loud explosion. Runes shone around it, from which numerous patterns spread out. It looked like a gorgeous carpet was covering the entire floor.

The fall of that seven-meter-thick pillar only made the arrays slightly brighter and didn't seem to damage the ground at all.

It was a powerful enchantment array, and an everlasting one!

Lin Yun recognized the array on the floor with a single glance. With this kind of array, wanting to shatter the ground without having the power of the Heaven Rank was simply impossible.

After touching the pillar in front of him, a cold light flashed in Lin Yun's eyes.

Chapter 872: Sky Steel Rock

Sky Steel Rock, known as the least valuable, yet most valuable stone. This kind of stone had natural resistance towards mana, and it was said that elements couldn't pass through it easily, making it completely immune to spells.

That thing was extremely hard, and since it was immune to the power of elements, no swordsman under the Heaven Rank could dream of destroying that thing. Only those with enough pure destructive power could destroy Sky Steel Rock.

It was very rare, only gatherable in small quantities, and difficult to extract. It was the best material for constructing city walls or forts, and there wasn't much of it in Noscent. During the 3rd Dynasty, only the city walls of the imperial city used bricks made of Sky Steel Rock.

Such a large amount of Sky Steel Rock must have been mined by Bill George's puppet army.

There was no need to test it; Lin Yun knew that apart from Xiuban, with his pure physical power, no one could hope to scratch that Sky Steel Rock. The others didn't even have the qualifications to leave a mark on it.

"The path has already been sealed. Regardless of who our enemy is, he doesn't want us to escape. That huge piece of Sky Steel Rock is blocking the way out, and we have no chance of getting through it. We can only move on and find the mechanism."

A flash of inspiration sparked in his mind, and his pupils shrank. He quickly crouched on the ground and started observing the array that was slowly waning.

As he looked at the runes and patterns slowly dissipating on the ground, Lin Yun took a deep breath as he recalled a previous encounter.

This was far too similar to what happened on the Intrepid.

Back then, it had felt as if all their actions had been monitored, and they'd been unable to discover how. Ultimately, they came to the conclusion that the monster was controlling the Intrepid itself.

And ever since they entered these ruins, everything seemed to have been working against them. Even the mechanical arms used to polish puppet components had suddenly attacked them.

Hundreds of sharp spikes suddenly shooting out of walls without Lin Yun even noticing anything, as well as the ambush at the intersection...

There was only one possibility!

Lin Yun could only think of one thing!

He finally understood why he hadn't been able to figure out how they were being spied upon. An observation method that could escape Lin Yun's notice could only have been accomplished by a powerhouse at the Heaven Rank, yet the sudden attacks weren't that overpowering.

It was because the monitoring method was all around them. The floor, the walls, the ceiling, everything was watching every single one of their moves, because the entire base was monitoring them!

This was why they couldn't track it down, why every trap came without warning, and why Lin Yun was unable to find traces of any mechanisms.

The entire base was a puppet!

Lin Yun took a deep breath, a trace of shock in his eyes.

"If I'm not wrong, the entire base itself is a huge alchemy puppet!"

Lin Yun's words stunned everyone.

"Merlin, are... you joking?" Enderfa almost stuttered.

Wagner's face was deathly pale as he managed to say, "Sir Merlin, this... This joke isn't very funny..."

Lin Yun wasn't smiling as he solemnly nodded. "The skill of the owner of this place can be described as unprecedented. It's not an exaggeration to say that in Noscent's history, from the previous Dynasties until now, those who were able to discuss with this person can be counted on one hand.

"Turning the entire base into an alchemy puppet isn't impossible with that kind of power. In fact, this is the most logical explanation."

Since they were inside the alchemy puppet, the puppet would know their every move. That would explain all the strangeness, like the apparently omniscient monitoring and the ability to perfectly prepare an ambush.

Lin Yun couldn't think of another possible explanation.

Not to mention Wagner, even Enderfa's three faces were in disbelief.

Lin Yun knew that this was really possible, and although he hadn't personally seen such a huge puppet during the end of the Magic Era, he had seen records of one in the decaying library.

During Noscent's development to its peak, there had been a force called Puppet City that specialized in alchemy puppets. That huge fort had been a huge puppet, and with that puppet fort and their puppet army, they swept through countless planes. They even attacked the Undead Plane once.

It ended up with their puppet fort being lost in the Undead Plane, destroyed when more than half of the Undead Plane had been conquered.

Bill George had stayed in the Raging Flame Plane for so long, and in fact, he might have even stayed in the Radiant Fort all along.

It was understandable that the creation of such a huge puppet base was a masterpiece.

A true Puppet Greatmaster. No wonder so many people were looking for Bill George's ruins during the peak of Noscent.

Ultimately, Bill George's real ruins weren't found, but they were mentioned in the decaying library.

And what made Lin Yun even more certain was that puzzling question he'd had at the very beginning.

When they first entered, the assembly line, all the machinery, and the puppets were unexpectedly out of power. It even looked like they had been out of power for a very long time.

Yet the puppets that were standing guard had enough energy, so where did the rest of the energy go?

After all, the amount of energy that the Radiant Fort's array was drawing from the Abyss was enormous. Even if only a small part was poured into the ground, it would still be an astronomical amount.

Even with so much power, the energy supply of those puppets couldn't be guaranteed... So where did most of the power go?

Now, he had an explanation.

That overwhelming amount of energy was used to supply the entire base, or it might be better to say, that huge puppet!

All of the energy was prioritized for the large puppet, keeping the base constantly running. The main reason behind the assembly line stopping should have been a lack of raw materials.

No one had come for a very long time, and since the base couldn't keep making puppets without materials, it could only stop the assembly line.

"Be careful and don't wander off. We are now facing an entire base, and danger can appear anytime."

Lin Yun gave everyone a serious warning before waving his hands to summon a few Rock Puppets to search ahead again.

"Merlin, why not choose the left or the right path?" Enderfa asked with some doubt.

Lin Yun looked at the pitch-black passage and said, "Our only hope of leaving this place is to find the core of the base. The entire base is a puppet that will never run out of energy, so if we aren't able to find its core, we could spend a few hundred years here without seeing the light of the sun. Do you think we can forcibly cut a path out of the masterpiece of a Peak Heaven Mage at the apex of the puppeteering field?"

Lin Yun's words silenced Wagner, who had also wanted to say something.

A Peak Heaven Mage proficient in the field of puppets... This was the same as saying that they needed to have the power of a Heaven Rank powerhouse to forcibly break out of here.

Wagner greatly regretted following along. If he did something bad, he would die. The only path left for him was to follow Mafa Merlin. He didn't even dare to retort because he might really be killed.

Lin Yun led the others into a passage, and just as they took a few steps in, a loud rumble echoed above their heads.

Several-meter-thick blocks of Sky Steel Rock suddenly appeared, tightly fitted to both walls, not leaving the slightest gap between them and the walls. Each piece weighed ten to fifteen tons. Even Xiuban wouldn't be able to endure such weight falling on him, not to mention the others. This was tyrannical!

Lin Yun's expression slightly changed. His Magic Array instantly calculated and found fifteen such blocks of Sky Steel Rock. In other words, they had to rush over a hundred and thirty meters.

And these Sky Steel Rocks wouldn't take more than two seconds to fall to the ground!

Lin Yun unhesitantly used Fire Elemental Incarnation while summoning the huge wheel shadow behind him and causing it to spew out boundless flames to form a path ahead.

After flashing three times, Lin Yun came out at the end of the fire path, exactly a hundred and thirty meters forward.

Just as he appeared, Lin Yun turned and started casting towards the passage. Four yellow vortexes appeared, and within the vortexes, several Rock Giants appeared. These giants raised their arms and fiercely tried to stop the falling Sky Steel Rocks.

In an instant, half of the Rock Giants exploded on impact, but even more Rock Giants were coming out, and they managed to somewhat slow the fall of the Sky Steel Rocks.

In the passage, Xiuban's feet hit the ground quite hard before he shot out like a cannonball. Reina glanced at Lin Yun before opening her mouth, spitting out a waterfall of ice waterfall and using three Frost Flashes.

Enderfa and the puppet used the exact same method: They instantly cast powerful spells behind them, using the force of the spells to propel themselves across that distance.

It only took over a second for the few of them to escape, but Wagner was the slowest. He imitated Lin Yun and used Fire Elemental Incarnation before taking advantage of the path created by Lin Yun to flee with Flame Flashes.

But his Fire Elemental Incarnation wasn't as robust as Lin Yun's. He only moved about ten meters with a Flame Flash, and after two seconds, he'd only managed to cover a bit over seventy meters... Only half the distance.

Chapter 873: Gravity Rune

At this time, the very first Sky Steel Rock had already reached the ground. Rock Giants were standing all across that span of a hundred and thirty meters, supporting the Sky Steel Rocks to stall for time, but they could only hold them up for over a second.

Wagner would definitely die.

Facing such a heavy block of this material that couldn't be affected by magic or elements... No shields and no spells could stop it, so being smashed was inevitable.

Wagner was still flashing frantically, but Lin Yun had already calculated the outcome. Wagner would at most reach the area under the last Sky Steel Rock before being crushed to death.

Lin Yun had no good way to resist that kind of terrifying weight. Even if he sent Xiuban to support it, he would end up being crushed.

Lin Yun didn't have much time to think as he raised his Draconic Staff, his mana flaring up and surging. A strange incantation rapidly came from his mouth.

An inauspicious and evil vortex appeared under the Sky Steel Rock, and a rich Infernal aura burst out.

In an instant, a huge arm stretched out of the Hell Gate and pushed against the falling Sky Steel Rock.

"Grrr, no one can stop me in this world..."

Words that sounded very sinister came from the vortex as that large hand blocked the Sky Steel Rock, or at least tried... Runes instantly appeared on that cyan Devil as it increased its power, but it had no effect on the Sky Steel Rock.

"Sh*t, Sky Steel Rock!"

Seeing the Sky Steel Rock being merely slowed somewhat while still resolutely pressuring down, that voice coming from the Hell Gate flew into a rage.

Meanwhile, Wagner successfully escaped and joined the others with the help of the Devil's appearance.

After a second, that Devil's arm was forced back into the Hell Gate as the Sky Steel Rock smashed straight into the gate, thoroughly destroying it.

Enderfa was alarmed as he looked at Lin Yun.

"Damn, Merlin, you are too much! You actually opened a Hell Gate and summoned a Hellish Overlord! You are done for, he definitely won't forget your aura..."

Lin Yun sneered.

In such a situation, what could have worked better than opening a Hell Gate and recklessly summoning a Devil Overlord?

With the amount of mana used to open the Hell Gate, hellish lifeforms would inevitably answer to the summons, but they all had really bad natures. They would almost always attack the person who called upon them, because if they were able to eliminate the summoner, they would be able to remain in that plane forever. That way, they wouldn't need to return to a nasty place like Hell.

If they couldn't defeat their summoner, the Hellish lifeforms would consider serving them.

The power that Lin Yun had used when casting the Hell Gate was that of a 9th Rank Archmage.

Opening the Hell Gate inevitably attracted a Heaven Rank Devil, but Lin Yun hadn't expected a Devil Overlord.

As for the matter of his mana aura being remembered, Lin Yun only chuckled. The mana he had used to summon the Hell Gate wasn't his at all. He had used Mana Water as a catalyst, so that was the aura of Mana Water.

It belonged to a God...

It was the mana from the Demiplane that had been affected by a God's Soul Fragment. Lin Yun truly didn't believe that a Devil Overlord could fail to sense the aura of a God.

Even a God's descendant wasn't someone a Devil Overlord would dare to provoke.

Thus, he was used by Lin Yun as manpower before returning to Hell with apprehension, wondering if a God's descendant had their eyes on him.

Enderfa rolled his eyes as he realized this before looking at Lin Yun with admiration.

"Merlin, you are more resourceful than I am. To dare use a Devil Overlord like that..."

Lin Yun ignored Enderfa and instead looked at the exhausted Wagner. That guy seemed to be in an awkward state, but he hadn't been injured at all. He was just terrified.

If not for Lin Yun's quick-witted decision to open a Hell Gate and use a Devil Overlord to support that last Sky Steel Rock, he might have already been crushed to death.

Lin Yun took one more look at the passage behind them. Seeing that it was blocked by all the Sky Steel Rock, he knew that they could only move forward now and that there was bound to be danger awaiting them.

As Bill George's greatest masterpiece, the entire base was a puppet. If they weren't careful, even Heaven Rank powerhouses could die there.

Fortunately, that huge puppet wasn't a large war puppet, and Bill George probably didn't think that someone would enter his base, so there wasn't danger at every step.

After resting for a bit, Lin Yun led the others down the path. They didn't go far before numerous runes suddenly appeared on the walls on both sides. A crack appeared on the ground, which opened up, revealing spikes.

The floor slowly turned into a visible trap that kept expanding. And behind everyone, another square-shaped Sky Steel Rock fell down, firmly blocking the way back.

When the floor was about to open up completely, a series of runes flew out from Lin Yun's hands and turned into chains that stopped the ground from spreading, giving them a bit more time.

A deep chant slowly echoed as the runes on the walls and ceiling all shone and the air fiercely shivered.

Everyone felt the gravity frantically increase, and within three seconds, the gravity had doubled in strength and was still growing stronger.

The air in the passage started sinking as air rose from below, and slowly, because of the gap in air pressure, gales began to sweep over and encircle them like a sphere, each layer continuously revolving while letting out whistling sounds.

Now, they only had one choice, and that was to go through this hundred-meter-long pitfall.

Lin Yun used Mana Shield, but because of the omnipresent gravity, the shield was deformed.

“We must go through as fast as possible, the gravity will keep on increasing over time and we soon won’t be able to escape,” Lin Yun said in a soft voice.

The sharp spikes were made of solid metal and had many Magic Penetration Runes and Magic Cover Runes. Spells simply couldn’t destroy these sharp spears. There was even a layer of black liquid at the bottom of the trap. It was a kind of poisonous water from hell, and being slightly exposed to it would affect one’s mana.

Lin Yun cast an Ice Wall in front of him, and just as the wall condensed, it was forcibly torn apart by the gravity and sent crashing down.

Those sharp spears were like warm knives cutting through butter as they pierced through the ice fragments with apparently no resistance. And before the Ice Wall fell to the bottom, the bigger chunks broke down into many ice fragments, completely shattered by the gravity.

The further down it went, the more powerful the gravity was. Not only had it kept increasing, but if it continued, it would be at least ten times as powerful, up to twenty or thirty times when falling into the hole.

At that time, magic shields wouldn’t be able to withstand such terrifying gravity, and while their shields were shattered, they would die miserable deaths.

Something like gravity was different from other powers. It could affect every cell of one’s body, and after losing the mana protection, the heart, stomach, brain, and all other important organs, would directly be subjected to the increased gravity.

The blood produced by the heart would no longer be able to flow to the head due to the force, and the blood circulating throughout the entire body would be squeezed into the lower half. Even bones would be unable to support their own weight and would shatter into pieces.

Apart from Xiuban, whose brain was made of muscle, no one here could rely on their body to withstand that terrifying power.

Lin Yun frowned and immediately understood why this trap had suddenly appeared; it was because this trap only relied on strength. With insufficient strength, it was simply impossible to make it through. If one was too slow, they wouldn’t be able to keep up with the increase in the gravitational pull, and they would be torn apart as they were dragged down.

When Noscent developed to its peak, there were some planes that few people had managed to conquer, and Elemental Planes were among them.

Greater Flame Overlords in the deepest parts of first-rate Fire Planes released flames that even Fire Elemental Incarnations couldn't completely resist. Those were thoroughly destructive flames that could even burn flames.

And in Earth Planes, the closer to the center of the plane, the stronger the gravity. Those who went to such places were usually particularly powerful Sword Saints as well as some races relying on their bodies. But no one had gone to the center where gravity made space collapse.

Even light couldn't escape the terrifying gravity and would be distorted into a huge halo.

The most famous punishment during the peak of the Magic Era was to throw someone into the center of an Earth Plane. Regardless of how powerful the powerhouse was, there had been no record of anyone ever coming out.

Chapter 874: Soul Fire

Lin Yun was fully aware of the danger of gravity, especially if it reached a certain degree. Every increase in gravity would create an exponential increase in its destructive power.

"Hurry up, the gravity is increasing at a very rapid pace. In about fifteen seconds, someone might not be able to handle it anymore."

Lin Yun put away his Draconic Staff, as even with a Mana Shield, he would be unable to raise his staff. Even with his shield up, his body felt like it had more than doubled in weight. If he hadn't advanced to the Archmage realm and strengthened his body several times, he would have been unable to even lift a finger.

Lin Yun started chanting, and runes started flying out. He cast Haste, Float, Flight, and a series of spells that decreased the effects of gravity. He then condensed an Ice Wall in front of him, but just as the Ice Wall appeared, it started falling down again at a terrifying speed.

At that same moment, Lin Yun dashed forward. Thanks to Float, Flight, and Featherfall, he was able to move as if he hadn't been greatly affected by gravity.

He stepped atop the Ice Wall and jumped forward. The Ice Wall under his feet shot down like a cannonball because of him kicking off of it, and it was shattered into powder by those spikes.

Immediately after that jump, Lin Yun cast another Ice Wall in front of him, which also began to fall down. Right when Lin Yun's foot reached it, the top of the Ice Wall just happened to be under his foot.

As he continuously released Ice Walls, Lin Yun looked just like an ordinary person crossing a river by jumping across a series of stones. In such a manner, he moved forward meter by meter.

After thirty seconds of running, Lin Yun jumped out of the trap and escaped the range affected by the abnormal gravity. As the gravity around him returned to normal, Lin Yun's body couldn't help rushing towards the ceiling involuntarily.

That was due to having Float, Featherfall, and Flight active while losing the suppression effect.

And behind him, Enderfa was the 2nd fastest. He was attached to the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel and had cast a large number of defensive shields as well as multiple Float spells before casting numerous spells to use the backlash to unsteadily float over.

Xiuban swung Carnage to alternately hit the walls on both sides to propel himself forwards, using the power of the recoil to ricochet between the walls like a bouncing meat ball.

The puppet was huddled over, its body emitting long jets of blue flames and using the recoil to slowly float over.

As for Reina, she seemed even more relaxed than Lin Yun. An icicle appeared at every step, and her terrifying ice aura started freezing the air, but she was able to rely on her Frost Dragon nature to resist it as she walked out.

Wagner was once again the one in the most awkward situation. He ultimately lagged behind. He had walked halfway through by the time Lin Yun left that trap. He had wanted to use Fire Elemental Incarnation to escape the trap, but after using it, he was crushed into a ball of flames that started to fall. He could only change his plan and try what Lin Yun did, using a series of anti-gravity buffs before jumping out as if he was crossing a river.

But the gravity had been getting stronger and stronger, and Wagner's movements were getting slower and slower. He had already been having trouble, and it was only getting worse.

When Lin Yun saw this, he took out his Draconic Staff. A huge wheel shadow appeared behind him and generated countless runes. A flaming vortex appeared above Lin Yun's head and quickly expanded.

It was as if boundless elemental flames were rushing out of the flame vortex, flooding through the passage.

The rich deluge of flames coursed into that gravity passage, and as if they had been snapped off from their source, they began to fall.

The flames that fell into the hole were quickly snuffed out, but even more flames rushed in. Slowly, those flames were able to rise up just like the stagnant water of an overflowing pond. And due to the gravity, those torn flames transformed into a sea of fire.

Seeing this, how could Wagner not know what to do? He instantly used Fire Elemental Incarnation and crazily flashed through the sea of fire. Each flash was done at an upward angle. Wagner's trajectory was akin to the teeth of a saw blade. If his angle was just a bit too low, he would directly sink to the bottom of the hole.

After three seconds, Wagner jumped out of this gravity passage and instantly knocked into the ceiling.

After falling back down, Wagner didn't complain at all. Instead, he looked as if he had gotten a new lease on life before looking back at the gravity passage with lingering fear.

He had never expected that something "worthless" like the Gravity spell could actually display such a frightening effect.

After all, the ordinary Gravity spell was a 4th Tier Spell, and the Ultimate version of the spell could only triple or quadruple the gravitational pull. It had no use against enemies of the same level, as a

Swordsman only needed to have his Aura burst out, or it could be cleansed and there would be no effect.

No one thought that this kind of fixed array would turn the entire area into an extremely powerful gravity space with such formidable power.

“Sir Merlin, should we still keep going forward? Could there really be no other way to leave this place?”

Wagner was already despairing. He had originally planned on grabbing some leftover points while acting as a subordinate, but he hadn't thought that it would be like this.

He'd almost died several times already, and if he had known earlier that this would happen, he would have directly returned to the Odin Kingdom. Being mocked after returning was better than losing his life.

Lin Yun saw Wagner's look of despair and nodded. “This is leading to the core of the base, and it's also the core area in charge of the base's controls. We have to go there, as controlling this huge puppet is our only way to settle this crisis. But that puppet already knows our target, so it'll definitely set up many traps along the way.”

Wagner stood up, looking resigned to his fate.

As they continued onward, the passage became a lot quieter and darker.

Lin Yun suddenly stopped and raised his hand to buff himself with a Spirit Defense.

In an instant, the surrounding darkness and silence disappeared, and the sound of the others' footsteps could once again be heard.

The others saw Lin Yun's movement and also used Spirit Defense on themselves. Lin Yun also helpfully added a Spirit Defense on Xiuban.

As they continued, the road ahead of them slowly turned into a bone floor, and both walls had started turning into piles of bones.

Every ten meters, the floor beneath their feet and the bones on the walls would start slowly squirming, and the soul fires of miserable skeletons would start shining.

Boundless Undead beings rushed out of the ground and the walls and started charging towards Lin Yun's group. Those miserable pale hands kept grabbing at everyone, and it looked like these Undead were sealed in the wall and wanted to drag everyone in with them.

A faint crack appeared within the walls, from which some sort of endless flaming hell could be seen. There were only tormented Undead Skeletons within.

Lin Yun remained expressionless, completely ignoring them.

These Undead Skeletons were relatively low in rank, but they were completely unaffected by Undead Predator. Thus, Lin Yun didn't need to think to know that this was an illusion, and a fairly strong illusion, too. Spirit Defense was unable to remove this illusion.

Lin Yun looked ahead as he walked with large strides. When those skeletons touched him, it felt as if his body was illusory as they went through his body.

When Xiuban, who was ready to attack, saw that, he rolled his eyes and sneered with disdain at the skeletons on both sides. He then rested Carnage on his shoulder and followed behind Lin Yun, acting as if these skeletons didn't exist.

The others also understood that everything appearing behind them was an illusion and didn't have the ability to attack. The skeletons below their feet kept squirming, but they weren't able to affect anything.

As they kept moving forward, something else appeared on the squirming skeletons on the ground. There was a layer of sinister white flames on the bones of these skeletons.

Lin Yun stepped on it for a moment before frowning and casting a series of runes, adding a dozen Spirit Defenses on his body, but that didn't have too much effect.

"These are illusory Soul Fires, a different kind of mind attack. Spirit Defense isn't too effective against it, but if you stick to your belief, you can resist this kind of attack. As long as you don't have any distracting thoughts, this kind of Soul Fire won't have any effect."

An illusory Soul Fire was a rare type of mind attack. At the peak of Noscent, because of the appearance of the Mana Baptism, every mage was a genius and would have some accomplishments. Apart from natural resources, the only difference between mages was their psyches.

Thus, this kind of illusory Soul Fire was one of the methods used to strengthen a disciple, and it was one of the most important ones.

A mage's talent wasn't the biggest factor that decided how far they'd go in the path of magic. It was a factor that would affect their rate of progress in the early stages. The stronger they became, the higher their rank, and the smaller the impact of raw talent would be.

In the end, when they reached the peak of the Archmage realm, what decided whether they could reach the Heaven Rank was unrelated to talent... Unless it was the kind of person so unimaginably talented that they could compare to Chromatic Dragons, Pureblood Elves, the Sky Bloodline, and other such constitutions that could break the shackles to the Heaven Rank.

At that time, understanding one's abilities and mind was the main reason behind continuing to attain achievements.

This illusory Soul Fire was very dangerous, but it was also a huge boon.

Chapter 875: Core

After being burnt by the Illusory Soul Fire, the victim's soul would be ignited. If they had no distracting thoughts and their mind was clear, they wouldn't feel the burning at all.

Those with staunch resolve wouldn't be injured too much as long as they kept a firm mind.

On the contrary, if those with weak resolve had so much as a distracting thought or negative mood, those ideas would ignite and feel extremely painful, as if their soul was on fire.

In the future, many people would take the initiative to receive the burning of Illusory Soul Fire in order to temper themselves, and when powerhouses chose disciples, testing them with this was a necessary step.

But, this kind of tempering had to be done in moderation. If it was too excessive, one's soul would truly burn, which would be ruinous.

Lin Yun hadn't expected to see this thing in this era, let alone disguised as the flames of the Undead.

Sensing the burning in his soul, Lin Yun remained expressionless and didn't feel too much pain. He even felt some impurities in his soul being burnt clean.

After his first death, he had transmigrated to the End of the Magic Era and struggled for many years until he saw the end of the world with his own eyes. He even experienced that period two more times in illusions, so his mind was like already polished steel and the Illusory Soul Fire couldn't have too much effect on him.

On the contrary, the Illusory Soul Fire could purify his soul and make it even better. This was a very good opportunity, so how could he afford to miss it? He even scattered the Spirit Defense and let the surrounding illusory Undead pounce towards him.

Lin Yun smiled as he felt the ache of his soul being burnt, because he could feel that his soul was slowly getting purified and that his comprehension towards many things was increasing. He could recall even more things from the decaying library, and his understanding of magic was continuously improving. It even felt that the world, as perceived by his soul, slowly became clearer.

As for others, their situation was more or less the same. Xiuban was grimacing, but he didn't feel much pain. The only things this carefree and lazy Draconic Beastman was afraid of in this life were Lin Yun and Syudos. As for anything else...

This Draconic Beastman, with a brain made of muscles, completely didn't care. Moreover, after the fusion with the Three-Headed Gold Dragon Blood and Ancient Poison Dragon's heart blood, as well as the bath in God Blood, how could he be injured by something like Illusory Soul Fire that didn't place particular emphasis on doing damage?

The puppet had no soul so there wasn't the least bit of a reaction from it. As for Enderfa, he controlled the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel to remain atop the puppet with a very strange smile.

That old monster had lived a strange life for who knew how many years. How could he pay attention to something like an Illusory Soul Fire? To him, it was only a hot bath suitable for Magic Tool Incarnations...

Reina was even more expressionless, not reacting at all. As a Frost Dragon, she was able to guard her father's corpse for a few hundred years, so her heart was already as hard as ice. She completely ignored the Illusory Soul Fire before discovering its benefits. She threw a glance at Lin Yun as he removed his Spirit Defense to let his soul burn even more.

In the group, only Wagner seemed distressed as he kept casting Spirit Defenses on himself, only for his expression to become even paler. Cold sweat already soaking his gown.

As they kept moving forward, the thin layer of Illusory Soul Fire under their feet slowly rose higher and higher, and after a few hundred meters, it was already covering half the passage.

It was like they were walking waist-deep in a river guarded with those Illusory Soul Fires. Fire power also started becoming stronger.

Lin Yun's expression was as calm as ever since he didn't feel much, and the others were more or less the same. Enderfa specially came out of the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel and kept moving about this pale, flaming river. His three faces were relaxed, with a slight tinge of pain, as if he was in a hot bath.

Wagner was getting paler and paler, and his eyes started becoming unfocused. There were too many distracting thoughts running through his head, and his mind wasn't steady enough. Facing this kind of Illusory Soul Fire, his soul was rapidly igniting.

There were more and more Illusory Soul Fires in front, and their power kept on increasing. At this rate, that guy's soul would really end up being burnt away.

Lin Yun glanced at Wagner and noticed that the latter was already losing focus from time to time.

Lin Yun casually took a ring from his left hand and threw it to Wagner.

"Put it on."

Wagner was in despair, his face was distorted from pain, and his robe was already soaked in sweat. He shook as he caught the ring, just like a traveller in the desert finding an oasis.

Wagner unhesitantly put the ring on, not even thinking about what the ring was for, because he knew that if this continued, his soul would burn up completely.

And sure enough, after putting the ring on, Wagner felt the burning sensation gradually vanish, as if an invisible power was protecting his soul.

Enderfa, who was swimming within this pale river of flames, glanced at Wagner with a strange smile.

As they kept pressing on, the height of the flames continued increasing. They didn't make it far before the pale flames covered the entire passage and the surrounding illusions disappeared.

The power of the Illusory Soul Fire had already reached its peak, and everyone was wrapped completely in flames. This was the greatest degree of burning.

Lin Yun was somewhat pale, but he still resisted without any protection. This was a rare opportunity. When awakening, Lin Yun's first thought was to find this kind of Illusory Soul Fire. These flames were said to tighten the connection between soul and body and make them one whole, regardless of their origins. It would be like a rebirth.

After all, he wasn't the original master of this body, so there was a natural difference between his soul and Life Essence. This small difference might have been deadly in the process of advancing to the Heaven Rank, when his Life Essence and soul would step to a whole new layer.

Now, this potential weak point had been thoroughly eliminated. Even his soul had been purified, and his mental strength was rapidly increasing. This kind of benefit could only be given once, so he had to hang on with all his might.

He knew too much: There were too many secrets hidden in his mind, too much comprehension. He was bound to think more, so receiving some burns was inevitable. If he had been a newborn with a soul as pure as a blank sheet of paper, he wouldn't have felt anything.

While Lin Yun was using the Illusory Soul Fire to temper himself, Reina also did the same. Her Life Essence had improved over time, but she still had the soul of a Frost Dragon, and the improvement of her soul couldn't keep up with the improvement of her body. The Illusory Soul Fire was a chance to ameliorate this imbalance.

Xiuban's thoughts were simple. He would shout if it hurt, but he had ample vitality and he sensed no danger here.

As for Enderfa...

That old monster was already ignoring the Illusory Soul Fire.

After putting the ring on, Wagner no longer reacted to the Illusory Soul Fire.

They walked on and on, until with one last step, Lin Yun felt that he had left the passage. Just in front of him was a huge space with totem-like pillars erected on the smooth floor. Every visible part was covered in runes and array patterns.

Strands of light could be seen rapidly moving within these patterns, and the runes also kept flickering. There was a bright pillar of white light in the center, and within it, a floating golden gem was continuously rotating.

After everyone left that passage full of Illusory Soul Fires and entered this place, the runes started flickering more intensely and the entire base shook.

The sealed entrances on the wall of that circular area started opening, and terrifying auras spread from those entrances as puppets quickly advanced through them in orderly formation.

Lin Yun stepped out and flew towards the light beam before checking the golden gem within it with a frown.

"Sure enough..."

This huge circular space was equivalent to the control center of the puppet, and this gem was the key controlling this puppet. Fusing with that gem would be equivalent to controlling the entire base, this huge puppet.

But the runes and frame of the gem created a special restriction.

Bloodline Restriction...

Only Bill George himself, or one of his descendants, could fuse with this gem!

For anyone else, attempting to fuse with it would result in death. If they tried to control it, the gem would be destroyed and the base would self-destruct.

Lin Yun wasn't surprised by this. Bill George didn't trust anyone and only cared about himself and his own descendants.

Lin Yun beckoned Wagner over.

"We only have one choice. This gem is the core of the base's control center. By fusing with it, we will be able to control the entire base.

"We don't have time to waste. The escape path has already been sealed off. When we entered, the base's ultimate defense system was activated, causing every puppet in the base to rush over.

"Those puppets' original tasks have probably been overridden because someone invaded this place. This includes the spider puppet we met before. Their primary order now is probably to hurry over and kill everything that shouldn't be here."

Chapter 876:

Bill George (2)

"We don't know how many Heaven Rank Puppets there are in this base. You are the only one able to fuse with this control gem without suffering from a backlash. Go and fuse with it!"

Sensing more and more auras coming from the entrances while Lin Yun's group was making preparations for battle, Wagner paled, but with a trace of pleasant surprise apparent in his eyes.

He unhesitantly grabbed that golden gem and put it against his forehead.

A blood mark suddenly appeared between his brows and his skin split open, allowing a thread of blood to be absorbed by the golden gem.

In an instant, the gem scattered a gentle light and appeared to be slowly melting, transforming into a golden liquid that entered Wagner's skull through that wound.

Wagner's complexion kept changing as the golden gem fused with his body and he automatically obtained a lot of information regarding this base: How to control and arrange the base, the effects of each room... All kinds of information rushed into his mind.

After a few seconds, those puppets suddenly stopped. Just like an army being ordered by their superior, they slowly stood to the side and remained motionless.

Wagner gasped, a pleasant shock apparent in his eyes.

'Damn, this entire base really is a puppet! Apart from the Heaven Rank Puppets, there are also many ready-made puppet armies, a completely intact puppet assembly line, and rooms specialized for the manufacture of all kinds of components.

'And labor puppets are also in charge of creating the components. Having all this means having a base with a steady flow of manufactured puppets as long as it is supplied with materials.

'The puppets would be at least level 30, and the speed could increase at least tenfold if the process was changed to manufacture puppets below that level.

'Heavens, just by relying on the ready-made puppets, I can immediately create a puppet army of level 35 puppets! That power is even stronger than the army I brought before! No, it's not just stronger, it far surpasses it!

'Now that everything in this base is under my control, how could I still follow Mafa Merlin? Following him to get some leftovers? Not anymore, I'm the one in charge now! As long as I want, Mafa Merlin and his subordinates can all die here.

'I'll lead the puppet army and sweep through everything outside! Who can still be my opponent?'

Wagner looked happy and didn't prevent the puppets from continuing to come in. In fact, his next order was to have the puppets protect him.

The group of puppets encircled Wagner to keep him safe while more and more puppets arrived from outside.

Wagner was laughing his head off. "Hahaha, Mafa Merlin, I'm the one in charge now, everything here is under my control! The Radiant Fort is also mine. You can choose to serve me. I'll be the leader and you can be my advisor..."

Lin Yun looked at Wagner expressionlessly. On the side, Enderfa flew over with the Ten Thousand Spell Wheel with no intention of starting a fight. He gave the rebelling Wagner a sympathetic look.

"This idiot is done for..."

Enderfa barely finished speaking when Lin Yun suddenly said, "Lord Shawn, it's time for work."

As Lin Yun finished speaking, a wisp of smoke suddenly came out of the ring that Wagner had put on and formed a wolf's head looking at Wagner with disdain.

"Damn scoundrel, couldn't keep yourself well-behaved? Truly troublesome..."

Wagner drew back in fright as he saw Shawn coming out of the ring. He then immediately tried to remove the ring but was unable to.

Shawn seemed to have noticed something and fiercely scolded Wagner, "Damned scoundrel, you actually dared to curse the great Lord Shawn!" Shawn transformed into a wisp of smoke entering Wagner's head.

Wagner let out a blood-curdling screech as his face became paler and paler, continuously shedding tears as he rolled on the ground while holding his head.

It seemed that Enderfa couldn't bear to look straight at it.

"Idiot, you actually dared to casually keep the item Merlin gave you, the Magic Tool that Lord Shawn is living in..."

'It looks like Lord Shawn had already opened a door to that guy's soul before he appeared. Eh, damn, this is the sound of his soul being torn apart, it hurts just thinking about it...'

Even Lin Yun didn't have the heart to look at it. Each time he saw Lord Shawn work, he had that unbearable feeling. The idea of a soul being torn apart in Lord Shawn's hands was quite unpleasant.

Lin Yun had noticed that this guy couldn't keep calm, and their encounter with Illusory Soul Fire, gave Lin Yun a convenient reason to hand over Shawn. Since then, Shawn had already opened a backdoor to Wagner's soul while helping him resist the Illusory Soul Fire.

'A backdoor Shawn could use anytime... Poor guy, he actually dared to curse Shawn inwardly, and Shawn must have been stifled after having nothing to do for so long.'

After a few seconds, Wagner started begging for forgiveness while still rolling around and clutching his head.

"Lord Shawn, spare me, I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare think like this! Sir Merlin, I was wrong! I made a mistake, please make Lord Shawn stop!

"Lord Shawn, I was wrong, I was wrong, please let me know what I should do and I'll listen! Please stay your hand! I beg you, stay your hand..."

Wagner was weeping, even the people watching felt pity for him.

At this time, Lin Yun said, "Lord Shawn, don't push him all the way to his death, you won't be able to toy with him later..."

Hearing Lin Yun's words, Shawn came out of Wagner's head and looked at the weeping man with disdain before returning to the ring.

After Shawn disappeared, Wagner crawled up while shaking from fear. His body couldn't help shivering, and he didn't even need Lin Yun's command to send those puppets back to their posts.

The surrounding entrances were also closed, making the control center regain its initial appearance.

Lin Yun turned to walk out, and Wagner promptly followed him. The passage filled with Illusory Soul Fire was rapidly emptied until it looked like a completely different place. Wagner walked beside Lin Yun, wanting to say something, but he didn't dare to. He kept shivering as he looked at the ring on his left hand.

His soul had been forcibly torn open and everything had been controlled by someone, Wagner would rather die than experience it again.

Lin Yun's group was now heading for the exit. The passage that had been blocked by the Sky Steel Rock had returned to normal, and the blocks had returned to their original positions.

The spider puppet had also disappeared, and all traces of the traps they had originally encountered were gone.

"Get the assembly line manufacturing puppets back in order. Also, supply those labor puppets with energy."

After saying that, Lin Yun took out all the intact puppets he had collected before.

In the distance, a team of guard puppets walked over, took those puppets without energy, and left.

There was a space specially used for replenishing energy in that base, where the power absorbed by the Radiant Fort from the Abyss was provided to the puppets to keep the production going.

Wagner hesitated while looking at his left hand before finally steeling himself. "Err, Sir Merlin, regarding the matter of the base, there is something I think you should know..."

"This base had stopped the production of puppets for a very long time, but it wasn't because of a lack of raw materials. There are actually still some materials stored in a warehouse. The production stopped because the time limit of the last order the base received had passed a very long time ago. Thus, apart from an elementary guard force and the base itself, everything had stopped, yet almost everything is in perfect condition.

"As long as the repair puppets are recharged and the base's magic apparatuses are revised or exchanged, the base will be able to work at full strength..."

Wagner was very tactful and didn't say anything superfluous. He only briefly explained the situation of the base.

A trace of surprise flashed in Lin Yun's eyes. He originally thought that the production had stopped because the materials had run out. Lin Yun nodded, expressing his acknowledgment, before making Wagner restart the base's operations.

This time's harvest was a lot bigger than he had thought. There was a large quantity of resources to manufacture puppets, as well as a base that could mass-produce puppets!

Apart from that, there were also a large number of ready-made puppets that only needed to be supplied with energy to be able to move.

Most of the ready-made puppets were support puppets, and although only a small fraction of the puppets were combat models, over a hundred could directly be mobilized.

And as time passed, the number would keep increasing. Once this base was fully operational, an army of puppets would be seen.

More importantly, this place had Illusory Soul Fire. A hidden worry was no more, and his soul had become purer.

After returning to the Radiant Fort, Lin Yun went into his own room and reached out for a book with a hide cover.

He had found it in the control room at the center of the base, and it looked like a personal diary. The name on the cover actually read *Bill George!*

Chapter 877: Everything Has A Weakness

This diary recorded some of Bill George's knowledge, and there were very few parts about puppets. It mostly contained some scattered notes regarding magic and mana, things concerning magic comprehension.

And these things were most precious to Lin Yun. He knew a lot, but it wasn't easy to know about things related to enlightenment and comprehension without experiencing them personally.

These things were what Lin Yun needed the most right now. At the Archmage realm, mana was no longer a shackle. Runes, Magic Conducting Rune, Core Meditation Law Set, True Spirit Magic Tool... None of those could restrict his increase in Rank.

The only thing stopping Lin Yun from advancing was his comprehension of the Laws. The accumulation of insight couldn't be achieved in one night.

Thus, as long as Lin Yun gained some new insights, his rank would increase on its own. When his soul was burnt by the Illusory Soul Fire, Lin Yun had gained new insights and improved his comprehension. That had pushed him to the peak of the 4th Rank.

Now, it looked like this wasn't a book that Bill George really cared about, one that he casually left lying around, yet Lin Yun immediately broke through to the 5th Rank.

It was an entirely different feeling. He felt like the power he could display had greatly increased, as if he had only been able to display 50% to 60% of his true power before, while he could now output 70% to 80%.

Lin Yun browsed the diary and understood that this wasn't an illusion. It was real.

The 5th Rank was a threshold for Archmages. When he came to the Raging Flame Plane, he heard that everyone under the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm was considered cannon fodder.

Only powerhouses above the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm could really influence a war on their own.

There was also a certain viewpoint in Noscent, that becoming 5th Rank Archmage was only the beginning.

Everything before that was just a process of accumulation, an increase in rank and power. Advancing through the High Mage realm wasn't too different of a process from the Great Mage realm.

But the 5th Rank of the Archmage realm was when a mage started coming into contact with the shadow of Laws. In that state, they could observe that wisp of the shadow and hope to gain some insights.

Thus, every increase in rank starting from the 5th Rank would keep magnifying the increase in strength. Even when the strength didn't increase much, one would feel as if they were able to display even more of their own power. This was the change brought from observing the shadow of a Law.

After silently advancing to the 5th Rank, Lin Yun couldn't help smiling.

His power had increased, and now, an ordinary 9th Rank Archmage would no longer be on his level. Only those peak Archmages who had taken half a step into the Heaven realm, like Harren and Jouyi, could be his match.

Lin Yun studied the insights on magic contained within Bill George's diary while the Radiant Fort was buzzing with activity.

With the Radiant Fort as the center, they suppressed the few surrounding tribes and even planned on expanding. And as the underground base started operating at maximum efficiency, a large number of puppets were manufactured.

These puppets weren't the strongest, but there were plenty of them. They were doing the bitter work around the Radiant Fort, like excavating some of the resources. There were all kinds of puppets.

After returning from the underground base, Reina isolated herself to practice. Her soul had been tempered, and the refining of her Dragon Crystal was advancing even more quickly. Her power was also increasing faster and faster. She was now improving far faster than the fastest Frost Dragon.

After all, Frost Dragons had very long lifespans, a trait common to Dragons. A Dragon that was a millennium old might not even be considered an adult. They were innately powerful, but their strength and level would rise very slowly. It was far, far slower than humans.

In more than a year, Reina had already advanced to level 39, and her strength kept on rising. It far exceeded the speed of an ordinary Frost Dragon, at least a few dozen times faster.

Xiuban's rank was also skyrocketing. He quickly advanced to the 7th Rank, and his power was getting more and more frightening, while his physique was becoming more and more outrageous. When he was accidentally hit in the back by a level 36 puppet, he only cursed in annoyance.

Lin Yun also used some of the precious materials from the base to replace some low-grade components in his puppet. If he found some parts for a Heaven Rank Puppet, it wouldn't be impossible for his own puppet to reach the Heaven Rank.

As for the army of fifty mages, some more of them advanced to the Archmage realm, and the progress of the leader, Kurumu, was the fastest. Although he was still a 2nd Rank Archmage, his understanding of Fire Elemental Incarnation made it exceed the original power of the spell.

The entire Radiant Fort was thriving, and everyone was in a good mood. Only Wagner was an exception.

"Lord Shawn, I was wrong, I didn't inwardly curse you on purpose..."

Wagner was lying on the ground, continuously rolling about while clutching his head in pain and terror.

After a dozen seconds, Lord Shawn came out of Wagner's head and returned to his ring. "Damned scoundrel, you actually slandered Lord Shawn in your mind! Are you trying to pick a fight with me?"

Wagner promptly shook his head.

Seeing Shawn return to the ring, the despairing Wagner accepted his poor fate.

After returning from the underground base, Wagner had still wondered why he should still follow Lin Yun since he had complete control over the puppet base.

He didn't want to resist at first, but Shawn had already left a backdoor, which made it the same as having no defenses against Shawn. How could he keep anything from Shawn?

Each time this kind of thought rose up, he was sorted out by Shawn.

In the few days after returning, he was roughed up several times a day until his soul suffered some damage. He would be like a corpse, unable to stand up or do anything at all.

If he wasn't willing to give up, Shawn would take care of him.

He resolved himself to cut his finger off with a spell, but just as the thought appeared in his mind, his soul was forcibly torn open by Shawn. Shawn cautiously made him feel what being half-dead meant.

Now, Wagner was looking at the ring in resignation.

'Never mind, it's already like this. I won't be able to escape, and I can't even resist. What can I even do? My soul is under their control and I'll die if I don't accept my fate...

'So what if I follow that Mafa Merlin? He is so powerful, it is highly likely that he'll advance to the Heaven Rank. From what Lord Shawn said, Mafa Merlin recently advanced to the 5th Rank... A 5th Rank Archmage...

'Hell, how could a 5th Rank Archmage be so powerful? Wouldn't he have the power to contend against a Heaven Mage by the time he becomes a 9th Rank Archmage?

'Moreover, it only took him a few years to transform into such a frightening existence from a Magic Apprentice. I won't lose out if I follow him faithfully.

'Now that I'm in charge of the puppet base, I'm more powerful than I was in the George Family, and I control even more forces! Even if I could become the Patriarch of the George Family and have a very small chance of advancing to the Heaven Rank later on, that might also be possible by following him.

'Forget it, this is my life now...'

Wagner finally took over his job properly and sincerely ran the base under the Radiant Fort.

Half a month passed, and the Radiant Fort was built like an iron barrel. Unless an extremely large army of Raging Flame Beastman swept over and caught them by surprise, the Beastmen couldn't take over the Radiant Fort.

Even the surroundings of the Radiant Fort were completely under their control. Although the area was considered a cold, bitter land in the Raging Flame Plane, it was mostly because the climate and environment weren't suitable for growing most plants.

The basic plants and cereals that the Beastmen needed to grow couldn't be produced here, and there was a pitiful amount of prey. However, there was plenty of ore.

But these ore veins had no meaning to the Raging Flame Beastmen, so they had little attraction for this land.

It wasn't without reason that Bill George established his base here. There were many ore veins, and it wouldn't attract attention.

As more and more puppets were created, everyone started becoming idle. Lin Yun wasn't the only one spending his days in his room... Reina and the others were also free of work, and the fifty mages also had a large amount of free time to study or research spells every day.

This continued for a while. After all, they had been fiercely fighting before. But as time passed, everyone felt worried.

In normal times it might be more normal to occupy and fortify a place after conquering it, but it wasn't the time to be idle now.

The greatest military campaign in the history of the Raging Flame Plane was currently underway. The general attack on the Raging Flame Plane would decide the fate of the Raging Flame Plane and who would control it later on.

The struggle between the Andlusa Kingdom and the Odin Kingdom was already at its fiercest and the point totals were changing every day. Everyone was going all-out, striving to get more points.

But at such a time, Commander Mafa Merlin wasn't showing any signs of urgency. Every day, he would just study a book, or perhaps tear apart a puppet before fixing it.

"Merlin, the Radiant Fort is already under control, and we've also taken over all the land in the surroundings. Don't you feel a bit worried? If you drag things on like this, we will fall too far behind. Even if the Andlusa Kingdom wins this military campaign, we won't get much territory..."

Chapter 878: No Need To Worry

Enderfa's three faces were filled with worry, and he couldn't help bringing up his concerns to Lin Yun.

Lin Yun waved his arm, his eyes not moving from the diary in his hand.

"It's fine, it's still early, there's no hurry, don't worry..."

Enderfa was at a loss after seeing Lin Yun's attitude. It didn't take long before Kurumu came over.

"Sir Mafa, are we going to go ahead? There is no point in staying here..."

Lin Yun's expression didn't change and he kept reading the diary.

"It's fine, there is no hurry. Take advantage of this time to get stronger. When you all advance to the Archmage realm, you'll have more assurance in the future."

Kurumu bowed and left, not daring to press further. After such a long time, he already understood that Mafa Merlin must have planned everything. He wouldn't do anything without being certain of the outcome.

Even wasting time here might have a certain significance.

A few people came to persuade him from time to time, but because of his attitude, no one dared to say anything else.

But although the others remained unperturbed, Wagner couldn't keep calm. It could be said that he was on a pirate ship, and his soul was in the other side's hands. They were in the same boat now. He couldn't bear seeing Lin Yun wasting time here.

"Sir Mafa, a lot of puppets have been produced, with over a hundred of them above level 35 and even more of the others, yet we are still wasting time here... Isn't that bad?"

"Other areas are already buzzing with activity, and the point counts are rapidly growing while ours aren't changing much..."

Wagner was clearly worried about how things were going.

'Damn it, it's more than just a big difference... I checked it yesterday, and the points of the Odin Kingdom are still stably suppressing the Andlusa Kingdom's. Moreover, a few of the major forces of the Odin Kingdom are constantly on the move, and their attacking speed is simply unimaginable.

'The Andlusa side isn't too weak... Their points are steadily increasing, yet our own points haven't increased much in half a month. If this continues, we will really be done for...

'Sh*t, I don't even know if I should support the Andlusa Kingdom or the Odin Kingdom!'

Lin Yun still didn't react when Wagner came to persuade him. He wasn't planning on going anywhere, and this caused a lot of worry.

All kinds of scouted information started being transferred to the Radiant Fort...

The news from the Andlusa Kingdom was collected by Lin Yun's subordinates.

The Black Tower already controlled three forts and had suppressed a few dozen Beastman tribes. They were cutting through with irresistible force. Their speed was frightening, and they summoned more and more powerhouses to help as they became available.

The Cloud Tower also seized three forts, and their luck was pretty good. They found a large magic metal vein containing a considerable amount of raw Dragonblood Stone.

Dragonblood Stone was a top-grade magic gem and was considered by some a priceless treasure. It was said that a vein of Dragonblood Stone could only appear after the blood of Ancient Dragons sprinkled on the earth and settled for a very long period of time.

This was one of the few things that could improve a mage's talent. It was used to refine potions for Magic Apprentices and could increase the talent of an ordinary apprentice to the upper-middle level.

Many powerful mages had pretty good talent, but the offspring that they doted on sometimes didn't. In Noscent, every time a Dragonblood Stone appeared, it would create carnage.

There were a few people who ultimately became powerhouses after their talent was increased by the Dragonblood Stone.

This time, the Cloud Tower had made a huge profit with this magic ore vein containing Dragonblood Stone.

Some were lucky, while others were unlucky. The Hope Fort that Lin Yun would have originally attacked turned out to be very troublesome.

Not only were there two 9th Rank Sword Saints, but there was also a 9th Rank Shaman.

At that time, that guy who had shamelessly asked to trade with Lin Yun was feeling regretful. His Family had suffered terrible losses, while he himself had been cursed by that Shaman. His mana was dissipating and his soul was withering, so he had already withdrawn from the military campaign.

The Watson Family, the Charlotte Family...

Andlusa's forces were crazily attacking, and the seven forces didn't make great waves, as they'd already accomplished their objectives. It was, in fact, the smaller forces that suffered disastrous losses. Some forts came under attack, and their losses were even more terrible.

As for the information coming from the Odin Kingdom, it had been supplied by Wagner.

That guy was a lot more worried than Lin Yun. He would report every new bit of information to Lin Yun straight away.

The three major forces of the Odin Kingdom participating in this war were a bit faster than the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower.

The Burning Tower had already broken through four forts, and they were all formidable fortresses with terrifying strength. It was said that the Burning Tower had over a hundred Archmages, and that the leader was an old 9th Rank Archmage who had stayed at the peak of the Archmage realm for over thirty years.

This powerhouse who had become the Burning Son already had a foot in the Heaven Rank and was at a point where he was probably able to break through to the Heaven Rank anytime. However, he chose to forcibly suppress his power and not break through, hoping to accumulate even more insight until he reached perfection.

It was said that when attacking a Raging Flame Beastman fort, an Ancestor Soul close to level 40 fought with the Burning Son before being burnt to ashes. Even half of the fort was burnt down.

The Quicksand Tower attacked a Beastman fort established below a desert. Not only was it hidden, but its defenses were quite daunting. Yet, those Beastmen didn't have time to defend against the attack.

Then, the Quicksand Tower's army joined up with their leader and cast a frighteningly powerful spell that forcibly dragged up that underground fort that covered a few kilometers, causing huge changes to the topography.

The originally smooth desert had then taken the shape of an enormous dune, with the fort in the middle. It was the tallest area of the desert, and over a thousand Beastmen ended up being buried alive.

The leader of the Beastmen there was a level 39 Warlock, but he was killed by the other side's Commander.

Over a hundred meters of sand rolled up and swallowed that Beastman before forcibly pulling him a few hundred meters underground, exhausting his mana until he died.

As for Sky City, they were the strangest. They led a large number of small, floating fortresses with mage armies hiding within, casting without scruples from above.

They were the fastest force at capturing forts, and they were already on their 5th. Moreover, their strategy of dividing up their forces was obviously working. They had their floating fortresses go on ahead with the mage armies to break through the fort, before leaving the ground armies to clear up the mess.

These three most powerful forces aside, the other forces weren't too weak, either. Apart from the George Family being unlucky and encountering Lin Yun, the other forces had each already successfully attacked their target fort.

Hearing the news coming from the Odin Kingdom, everyone started getting worried again.

Lin Yun's subordinates sat down together, and William started the discussion. "What's up with Mafa lately? The Raging Flame Plane is getting overturned, yet he isn't worried. I also looked at the points recently, and our points have been exceeded by several others, and not just the seven major forces. Even many of the small forces have surpassed our points. If this continues, we will have no points left to earn."

Wagner was sullen and dispirited, and he felt the most wronged. He was obviously someone from the Odin Kingdom, yet he had to worry about the matters of the Andlusa Kingdom.

"The Odin Kingdom is already pressuring the Andlusa Kingdom with their points. If that continues, they will win the bet over the Raging Flame Plane and conquer those stupid Raging Flame Beastmen. What is Sir Merlin thinking about?" he said.

Enderfa made three hands appear and hold his chins while contemplating.

"We can't let this continue much longer. If this doesn't change, we should try to persuade Merlin together..."

A few days passed, and the information gathered became more and more serious. The military campaign was reaching its climax, and the horn of the general attack was already echoing. The Raging Flame Beastmen had also started gathering together after so many days of war. An all-out counterattack would happen at any time. This was the most crucial period.

Lin Yun still peacefully sat in the courtyard while calmly reading the diary when Enderfa, Kurumu, Wagner, William, and Xiuban arrived.

This group of people arrived together, and after entering, Xiuban couldn't help noisily questioning, "Sir Merlin, when are we leaving this place? The battle has already started on the front line. We will lose all our benefits if we don't go..."

On the side, Wagner promptly added, "Sir Merlin, now is our best chance to grab more points, and it's also the last opportunity. If we keep dragging our feet, we won't be able to get any points!"

Enderfa's faces were puzzled as he said, "Merlin, you should know that the score of the Odin Kingdom far exceeds the Andlusa Kingdom's, and the gap is likely still increasing. If you keep dragging on, the Andlusa Kingdom will lose. Will you be able to fight the forces of the entire Odin Kingdom then?"

Wagner's expression wasn't very good as he helplessly added, "Sir Merlin, it is said that a Heaven Rank of the Odin Kingdom has already appeared..."

Lin Yun closed the diary and raised his head with a calm expression, neither proud nor impatient as he said, "There is no need to worry, it isn't time for us to perform yet. As for the points, you don't have to mind that either. Just wait..."

The group of people couldn't understand. This was an urgent matter, and even someone as clueless as Xiuban was a bit worried, yet Lin Yun was in no hurry...

Chapter 879: Converging

Something happened as the group was trying harder to persuade him.

Lin Yun's expression changed, and he took out a magic beacon. A gentle light spread from the magic beacon, and a faint mana fluctuation similar to a breeze rustled the surroundings.

Lin Yun chanted a few sounds and poured mana into that magic beacon. In an instant, a glaring radiance blossomed out of the beacon, and the light took the shape of an illusory scene.

Within the scene, Harren and Jouyi were sitting in front of a round table, and the surroundings appeared to show that it was a meeting room.

"Sir Mafa, according to the agreement, we have already breached the Sunset Fort. Now, it's your turn to honor your promise."

Harren's eyes looked somewhat exhausted, and his words were very dull.

But if anyone else heard the contents of that dull sentence, they would inevitably pale from fright.

The Sunset Fort wasn't an ordinary fort. Even a place like the Radiant Fort with its Black Iron Beastmen couldn't compare to the Sunset Fort.

The Sunset Fort could be considered the most important linchpin of the Raging Flame Beastmen's defenses. It led to the central area of the Raging Flame Plane. The Sunset Fort's contribution to the Raging Flame Beastmen's ability to hold on for so long without being conquered was at least a few dozen times higher than that of other forts.

The human armies couldn't force their way into the core of the Raging Flame Plane because the Sunset Fort stood tall.

It was like a bridge between the Raging Flame Beastmen and the humans. With that fort in their hands, the Raging Flame Beastmen could keep resisting.

And if it was seized by the humans, it could be used as a springboard to charge their way into the core region of the Raging Flame Plane.

This would increase the success rate of the attack by at least 30%, and the final assault on the Raging Flame Plane would be finished faster.

Everyone understood the meaning behind this.

Lin Yun understood very well that even though the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower had joined forces, they had spent a lot of time attacking the Sunset Fort. The difficulty could be felt from Harren's unenergetic words.

At the start, the three forces cooperated, and this cooperation included the attack on the Raging Flame Plane.

Attacking the Raging Flame Beastmen was the first step. They gained a lot of points by killing their way into the hinterlands of the Raging Flame Beastmen as fast as they could.

Everyone knew the Odin Kingdom was very powerful, but to what degree? Only powerhouses like Harren and Jouyi knew.

The Odin Kingdom's three major forces took the lead, but they were only slightly stronger than the Black Tower and the Cloud Tower.

Among the seven major forces of the Andlusa Kingdom, only the Cloud Tower and the Black Tower could barely contend against the top three forces of the Odin Kingdom.

Even Harren acknowledged that all three Commanders of the three major forces were slightly stronger than him.

If they didn't find someone to tip the scales, they would have no chance of winning against the Odin Kingdom.

The Odin Kingdom had three major forces, while the Andlusa Kingdom only had two slightly weaker forces. It had now reached this step as they had continuously improved their plan, and Lin Yun had been waiting, waiting for Harren and Jouyi to take down the Sunset Fort.

"Sir Harren, Sir Jouyi, you can rest assured... Since I agreed, I'll naturally accomplish it."

"Okay. Those are the coordinates of the Sunset Fort's Teleportation Gate, we already built one so you can come over at any time."

The scene slowly disappeared, and the magic beacon's rays of light shrank back. Lin Yun put away the beacon and slowly stood up.

"Kurumu."

Kurumu's eyes shone like a fiery inferno. He suddenly straightened his body and put his right hand on his heart.

"Awaiting your command, Sir Merlin."

"Immediately build a Teleportation gate using those coordinates. It's time for war."

Kurumu immediately left after receiving the coordinates.

"Wagner, you'll stay in the Radiant Fort, everyone else, with me."

Lin Yun looked at everyone and made this decision.

Wagner was the only one that could control the Radiant Fort's underground base, so he had to stay behind, as the Radiant Fort's importance was unquestionable. With Wagner here, the underground base would keep operating at full strength. Even if something unexpected happened, they would be able to resist.

A wisp of happiness flashed on Wagner's face. He had been most afraid of being taken out by Lin Yun, yet he had been left behind to watch over the Radiant Fort.

'Hahaha, that's perfect, Mafa Merlin is actually leaving me here by myself and taking everyone else away! He didn't even leave one person to check on me. This is perfect... Once they are gone, I'll leave, and with no one watching over the Radiant Fort, I'll make a beeline for the Odin Kingdom! Who cares about the Raging Flame Plane's matter?'

Just as Wagner had these thoughts, he felt a surge of pain and started clutching his head while screaming before rolling on the ground.

After a dozen seconds, Shawn came out of Wagner's head and patted his skull with a claw. "Wagner, I see that you haven't learnt your lesson, you seem to be a very forgetful person..."

Wagner paled and sat on the ground, terrified and repeatedly shaking his head.

"Lord Shawn, it was a joke, please don't take it seriously, how could I do such a thing..."

Wagner was terrified, and the thoughts he'd been having instantly disappeared. He had forgotten about Lord Shawn having a backdoor in his soul... Perhaps all the soul torture was affecting his memory. He couldn't hide anything from Shawn, especially not these kinds of thoughts...

Lin Yun ignored Wagner and Shawn as he walked out, minding his own business. He wasn't worried that Wagner would dare to pull a trick.

With Shawn there, even if that guy found a Heaven Rank powerhouse, the latter wouldn't be able to save him before his soul was torn apart.

Obediently guarding the Radiant Fort was the only option.

The Teleportation Gate was rapidly built, and there was only one problem left.

There were just too many people to teleport, and there were too many powerhouses.

Lin Yun, a 5th Rank Archmage with the power of a 9th Rank Archmage. If he used all his means, his combat power could be said to have reached the peak of the Archmage realm.

Reina, a level 39 Frost Dragon whose Life Essence had surpassed her race.

The mended puppet, originally a Heaven Rank that could now only display the power of a level 39 after having its components replaced.

Xiuban, a physically unstoppable Draconic Beastman who recently became a 7th Rank Sword Saint.

There was also the subordinate mage army in which the strongest was a 2nd Rank Archmage and the weakest was a 9th Rank High Mage.

And apart from the powerhouses, the most troublesome ones were the puppets...

There were over a hundred puppets above level 35 in the underground base that he could take with him.

There were also a large number of weaker battle puppets, and there were even more that were made for casting spells. The total number was similar to an army.

The stronger one was, the more time and energy was needed for teleportation. Under normal circumstances, a living powerhouse could control their own power to reduce the energy used.

But these puppets were different... They weren't living beings, so the energy needed to transport them would correspond to their size and weight. The bigger and heavier they were, the more energy they'd consume.

Moreover, they were very powerful, so the amount of energy that the Teleportation Gate would use would be even higher.

The energy needed to send all of them to the Sunset Fort would be too great. It would take too much time if they wanted to all teleport over. Many materials would be needed to arrange a large-scale fixed Teleportation Array.

If they didn't do that much, then there could only be one option. First, some people would be sent over, and these would arrive the fastest. Then, the teleportation time for the remaining part of the army would be delayed.

Lin Yun estimated that with the energy of that Teleportation Gate, the puppet army might finish arriving on the evening of the 3rd day.

Moreover, this was by delaying the teleportation of Reina, the patched puppet, and Xiuban, who would use their power to help the new puppets through. Three days later in the evening was already the fastest option.

The first to arrive would be Lin Yun, followed by his subordinate mages.

After making some calculations, Lin Yun gave up on the idea of arranging a large-scale fixed Teleportation Array. Just the materials needed to set up a large-scale Teleportation Array would be too excessive, and the additional delay wouldn't be good either.

All that for one teleportation. The gains didn't make up for the losses. The most important part was the teleportation of the puppets.

After telling Wagner what he should pay attention to when guarding the Radiant Fort, Lin Yun led the fifty mages to enter the Teleportation Gate first.

The six-meter-tall Teleportation Gate was like a huge whirlpool of light, and anyone entering would instantly disappear.

After Lin Yun went in, the puppets followed.

These puppets would take three days to finish teleporting.

After three days, Reina and the rest would enter the Teleportation Gate.

...

On the other side, at the Sunset Fort.

In the center of Sunset Fort, on a huge stone plaza, an eight-meter-tall reflective vortex was calmly revolving.

Suddenly, the vortex of light's rotation started accelerating, and waves of mana fluctuations were emitted as ripples appeared on the Teleportation Gate.

Harren and Jouyi were already standing not far from the Teleportation Gate and were calmly waiting.

Suddenly, the mana fluctuations emitted by the whirlpool of light became even fiercer, and Harren and Jouyi slightly twitched.

Chapter 880: Wasted

The mana fluctuations on the Teleportation Gate definitely represented the strength of the person going through. If it was a Magic Apprentice, the time between the initial appearance of the mana fluctuations and that person walking out wouldn't exceed one second.

But it had already been eight seconds since the fierce mana fluctuations started fiercely emitting from the Teleportation Gate, yet the person inside still had yet to appear.

There was only one explanation: The person being teleported was a powerhouse, at least a Peak 9th Rank Archmage!

Only people like Harren and Jouyi would create such fierce mana fluctuations when going through.

Ordinary 9th Rank Archmages simply couldn't do so.

Due to that, Harren and Jouyi gave each other a meaningful glance. They knew that Mafa Merlin's strength must have greatly increased during this period of time. Now, he was definitely on the same level as them.

Sure enough, the next moment, a foot stepped out of the Teleportation Gate, and Lin Yun walked out with a faint smile as if he was just going for a stroll.

After he appeared, the fifty mages followed behind him.

It wasn't until the last mage arrived that the Teleportation Gate's whirlpool of light rapidly recovered and the mana fluctuations turned into a calm breeze.

"Welcome, Sir Mafa." Harren half-rose out of his chair, following proper mage etiquette.

On the side, Jouyi sighed as he followed suit while smiling towards Lin Yun.

This was a courtesy that would only be done when both sides were at the same level.

Whether it was Harren or Jouyi, they had already put Lin Yun on the same level as themselves. Lin Yun's rate of progress had far exceeded their imagination.

Lin Yun nodded with a smile and responded in kind.

"Sir Jouyi, you are really too polite. I'm ashamed of having made my seniors wait here."

Harren smiled, clearly not minding it. It could be said that he had been paying attention to Lin Yun when he was still a Mage.

But at that time, it was due to Lin Yun's identity as an alchemist. It was completely different now.

Someone so powerful should be more focused on his strength and growth, not his other titles.

An extremely young Artisan was formidable, but that would be all in the end. It would mark their greatest accomplishment, and it could even make many people revere them. But it would still be missing something.

But if that Artisan was a powerhouse, then his talent would no longer be expressible with words.

And the speed of Lin Yun's growth made others feel numb.

Harren understood that based on this speed, Mafa Merlin might really advance to the Heaven Rank before he himself did.

And how could the people of the Sunset Fort not learn about Harren and Jouyi coming to welcome him in a friendly way?

After the three exchanged a few words, Harren and Jouyi led Lin Yun into a secret room to discuss.

Arrangements were also made for the fifty mages.

The contents of the secret discussion concerned the current situation of the Raging Flame Plane. No one knew the details of what would happen after joining up.

While Lin Yun was speaking with Harren and Jouyi, the news of Mafa Merlin and his subordinates arriving at the Sunset Fort already started spreading. Many people had seen Jouyi and Harren welcoming Mafa Merlin together.

Dephew Oliver smashed his teacup onto the ground before angrily shouting, "Damn it, Harren actually built that Teleportation Gate to get the Merlin Family to the Sunset Fort?"

He was shocked, in complete disbelief. 'We managed to take over the Sunset Fort with great difficulty and then immediately wasted materials and time to build a Teleportation Gate for the Merlin Family!? That Commander is only a member of the younger generation! And he only brought fifty people!?'

'Does Harren have slime in his brain? Damn it, although I heard that he appreciated that youth, I hadn't expected him to pull something like this! Is it just to let him gain some points?'

'F*ck, I especially rushed here from the Holy Land and brought along a large number of experts to help Harren. If not for me, he wouldn't have been able to attack the Sunset Fort that easily.'

'The Black Tower had been operating in the Raging Flame Plane for a long time, and this is the first time we attacked the Sunset Fort, not to mention managing to capture it.

'He is only a Chairman, shouldn't he be listening to me? I should be in charge of everything.

'Who gave him the authority, damnit? He actually dared to not listen to my commands, and so did those f*cking members of the Black Tower! They only agreed on the surface and then did the opposite, only listening to Harren.

'And even then, how could they join forces with the Cloud Tower? Sh*t, that scoundrel Harren is a pig, did he actually forget of the deep enmity between our two Towers?

'Could it be that he's forgotten that the Black Tower has always been at odds with the Cloud Tower? His time as a Chairman hasn't been short, so how could he not know of the deep hatred between our Holy Lands?

'Yet, this damned guy actually joined forces with the Cloud Tower to attack the Sunset Fort. I shall watch how he apologizes to the Holy Land after returning!'

Dephew was extremely angry, and he had always been unhappy with the Raging Flame Plane's matters.

He wasn't happy about Harren joining hands with the Cloud Tower, but he couldn't do anything about it because the Cloud Tower's Holy Land had also dispatched some support for the effort, and their backup was even more powerful than the forces brought by Dephew.

A group of Archmages had arrived at the Sunset Fort, of which four were at the 9th Rank. There were also a few dozen Low Rank Archmages and over a hundred High Rank Archmages.

Moreover, these people weren't kind and sheltered. Dephew could see that they were veterans who had experienced countless battles. They had obviously fought in other planes for a very long time, and they were a bit stronger than other people at the same rank.

If that had been all, Dephew would have still expressed his displeasure. After all, even though the other side was very powerful, they wouldn't cause any huge internal conflict at this critical juncture, as the Black Tower's side was also essential.

The most important part was the news he'd obtained... The Cloud Tower's Holy Land had apparently dispatched a Heaven Rank powerhouse to provide assistance. After hearing this, how could Dephew still look for trouble with the Cloud Tower?

If the other side really had a Heaven Rank supporting them, then even if that person killed Dephew, the Black Tower wouldn't be able to do anything about it. No one would be able to save Dephew.

Dephew could only report this news to the Black Tower's Holy Land, but before someone else arrived to back him up, he couldn't say anything to the Cloud Tower's people. He would try to meet them as little as possible.

Dephew had been holding back his anger for some time when Lin Yun arrived.

This made him explode.

'That idiot, Harren! He specially built a Teleportation Gate for that Mafa Merlin?

'F*ck, is he kidding me? What kind of power can the Merlin Family have? A young Archmage, and fifty people? Fifty people? You've got to be kidding me!

'Those fifty people are just some Archmages, and the strongest is at the 2nd Rank. Aren't they just cannon fodder?

'Could it be that he wants to work together with the Black Tower on this? What kind of qualifications does he have?

'Harren is an idiot! Not only did he custom-build a Teleportation Gate, but he personally went to welcome them. That fool is incorrigible. Is this something a Chairman should do? I must report to the Holy Land after returning and make them replace him with a less foolish person. If this continues, he will lead the Black Tower to its destruction.

'Right, Mafa Merlin, I knew I recognized the name. It's that damned guy that killed Teacher's disciple!

'Harren you fool, if Teacher learns about this, you'll definitely pay a steep price!

'I can't make a move against the Cloud Tower, but that doesn't mean I can't do something to Mafa Merlin. What could that guy possibly contribute? He is completely taking advantage of the Black Tower to increase his point total, and even if he's supposed to act as cannon fodder, he brought suspiciously few people.

'Right, I'll first look for that foolish Harren and ask him what he is doing. He isn't too qualified to be a Commander...'

Dephew frantically looked for Harren, who had just finished his private meeting with Lin Yun. When he found him, he instantly asked, "Harren, I see that you aren't qualified to be a Commander, take a look at what you did! You built a Teleportation Gate for a small force like the Merlin Family!

"Are they qualified to cooperate with us? Don't you see the current situation? Our Andlusa Kingdom is pouring a lot of resources and manpower into the Raging Flame Plane, this is for everyone's interests.

"It's not just breaking through the line of defense, we have to conquer the plane while competing with the Odin Kingdom in terms of points. If we lose that huge gamble, all of our Black Tower's efforts over the years will be completely wasted! Wasted!

"Do you understand? Yet, at such a time, you're actually wasting energy to seek out such a small force. Take a look at who is leading the Merlin Family's forces!

"A young Archmage! How long has it been since Mafa Merlin advanced to the Archmage realm, a bit over half a year? Forget it, it doesn't matter... Isn't he just cannon fodder, anyway?"