

## Am I A God 191

### Chapter 191: Ah Wei's Encounter and Zhao Yao's Safety Protocol

Ah Wei was down on his luck. He looked the part too.

Ash and dust had settled on his hair and face, leaving him dishevelled and peppered in grey. He even smelt bad.

The series of unfortunate events he had gone through begun when Zhao Yao somehow compelled his body to head to the cat toilet and start cleaning it up. Then, he was held hostage by Nessie and friends, before engaging in battle with them.

This left him exhausted. He felt and smelt like s\*\*t, but he still hurried to the cat cafe, hoping to speak to Zhao Yao. The showdown had results in numerous injuries and casualties and he urgently needed the cafe's miraculous healing powers to help his colleagues.

The moment Ah Wei stepped into the cafe, he was greeted by a wave of Celestial Beats. The feeling of warmth and comfort that wrapped around him made him sigh loudly in content.

Baiquan stepped forward when he noticed the new customer, "Hello, you're back."

"Is your boss here? Where's Zhao Yao?" Ah Wei asked.

He noticed that Zhao Yao's usual seat in the corner was empty.

"He's gone out. Might I interest you in a cup of coffee while you wait?"

Ah Wei's eyebrows furrowed with impatience, but he sat down anyway.

"Could he have gone to see Old Man Zhuang already? Didn't he say he'll go after the cafe closes?" he wondered to himself.

After waiting for 10 arduous minutes, a beautiful young woman took a seat opposite him.

Ah Wei knew her. She was the cafe's cashier and also one of the most attractive people he had ever laid eyes on.

He also knew that she was one of Inspector Ho's. She was assigned to the cafe to keep an eye on Zhao Yao and report any misdeeds and suspicious behavior.

Ah Wei tried to keep his expression cool and collected as he looked at her, "What's up?"

"Um, excuse me," Xiao Shi Yu started awkwardly, unconsciously clamping her nose with her fingers, "There's an, erm, odor coming from you. Could I please trouble you to wait for our boss outside the cafe?"

"What?!" Ah Wei startled.

This was not on the long list of things he thought she had wanted to say to him.

He looked around wildly to meet the dirty looks that surrounding customers were throwing him.

He let out a short bark of embarrassed laughter before turning back to Shi Yu.

"Yes, of course. I'll wait outside right now," he said.

"I'm terribly sorry about this, sir. To make up for it, your coffee is on us," she apologized.

"Ah, it's alright. It's not your fault, it's mine, really. No worries," Ah Wei said briskly as he got up.

He was so cooperative and cheery because it was Shi Yu who was inviting him out of the cafe. If Zhao Yao was the one who did that, he was not going to go down so easily. There would be fight, even if he was not confident of winning.

Shi Yu accompanied Ah Wei as he made his way out of the cafe in as dignified a manner as possible. As they crossed the threshold, he tensed up and came to a sudden halt.

There was a car parked right outside the cafe. Through the windshield, he could make out three familiar faces. He had grown to memorise every feature and quirk about these faces because they belonged to his abductors.

The only person he could not recognize was God of Death. He was now using a woman's form after all.

“Ah, Zhao Yao is back! I'll get him to come over,” Shi Yu said brightly.

The mention of Zhao Yao momentarily stunned Ah Wei. Too many things were happening at the same time. He could only watch in horror as Zhao Yao marched towards the car with purpose.

“That idiot is going to get himself killed!”

Even Colonel Yue Shan had to retreat when faced with these rogue apostles. There was no way that Zhao Yao would be able to beat them.

Ah Wei's first response was to seize Shi Yu's arm, stopping her from getting closer.

“Don't go over! It's dangerous,” he warned.

“What's wrong?” Shi Yu asked, confused.

Ah Wei hastily pulled her to a corner, where they would be hidden behind a wall. He grabbed his phone and dialed a number.

“Those four are extremely dangerous apostles. They just attacked our base. Do not go any closer. I'm calling for backup,” he explained.

“Then, what about Zhao Yao...?” Shi Yu's voice trailed off as she looked in her boss' direction.

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“That ragdoll cat is mine. Her name is Elizabeth,” Sun Meng explained, “Her power is to create realistic illusions by manipulating your sense of hearing and sight. All she has to do is look at you and you’ll be a goner. Unfortunately, she can only control one person at one time.”

Of course, that was not Elizabeth’s only weakness. On top of looking at the target, she had to rely on sound waves to manifest her power.

Sun Meng chose to keep that a secret. She fully intended to use Elizabeth’s power for herself, so it would be stupid to reveal its Achilles Heel.

“I doubt that would cause us too much trouble,” God of Death said confidently, “I’m sure there’s a limit to how far her power can reach. I’ll send a few of my minions to observe us and see past any illusion she might have cast.”

Having said this, he closed his eyes, as if he was carefully experiencing and relishing an emotion.

“Okay, a few of them are nearby now.”

“120 meters should be enough,” Sun Meng piped in, “As long as your minions stay 120 meters away from the cafe, I don’t think they’ll be affected. They can see what’s actually happening without interference.”

They may only be dealing with an ordinary apostle, but after the showdown they had just gone through, the team were being extra cautious. They understood that superpowers can take up even the most unimaginable and unexpected forms. Even the most veteran fighter can be defeated if they underestimated the enemy.

The car screeched to a halt by the cafe.

The four of them remained in the car to observe what was going on within the small shop.

“There! There she is, the fattest one on the top of the kitty tower,” Sun Meng pointed out.

Every gaze in the car zoomed into Elizabeth, but they were disrupted by sharp, rapid knocks on the car window. Four pairs of eyes landed on Zhao Yao instead.

“What’s going on?”

“What’s he doing here?”

“Have the authorities found us?”

Amid the speculations, God of Death spoke up.

“Open the door,” he said calmly, “Let’s hear what he has to say. If something sounds odd, we’ll attack. If he’s here alone, well, even God can’t save him.”

So the window was unwinded and Zhao Yao has his chance to lash out at them.

“So you guys are the good-for-nothing supercat thieves, huh? I see you’ve set your sights on my cafe. Let me tell you, you’re going to regret it. Do you even know who I am?” he spat.

The four of them were completely unmoved by

his words. They stared back at him expressionlessly.

God of Death chuckled. He decided to patronize him, “Oh? So who are you? Pray tell.”

His composed, mocking tone unnerved Zhao Yao. The groove between his eyebrows grew deeper as he took a closer look at each passenger in the car.

It turned out he knew one of them and that spelled bad news.

“The injured woman is the fugitive Inspector Ho warned me about, isn’t she? I’m supposed to run and hide if I see her,” he thought.

“S\*\*t, could this car be filled with her fellow fugitives?”

Zhao Yao felt his breath catch in his throat. His mind replayed Inspector Ho’s words. The five people in the car were no petty thieves. They were dangerous and had to be handled with absolute caution.

This was why he rolled out his freshly minted security protocol.

Step one, unleash Matcha’s timefreeze.

Step two, get as far away from the car as possible.

Step three, switch to Dust Ball’s power and disappear in front of their eyes.

He heaved a sigh of relief as he was sucked into the safety of the extradimensional belly.

Now that he had an arsenal of powers, he often wondered how he should use them when confronted with an unknown enemy.

What if he were to use timefreeze? What would happen if the opponent had defensive powers that could reverse its effects? What if the opponent could emit poison? What if the opponent could redirect the impact of his power to something else?

And what of Elizabeth’s illusions? What would happen if the opponent could direct the power to hit Zhao Yao instead? What if the opponent had the same skill? Worst, what if the opponent had some ultimate one-hit KO move?

In every one of these situations, it would be a mistake to jump straight into the offensive. There were too many possibilities and powers out there for there to be an attack that will always be successful. This was why Zhao Yao came up with the security protocol.

“Damn it, he recognized us,” God of Death said, picturing the look of illumination that had been on Zhao Yao’s face before he disappeared, “Where’s he gone to? It seems like he can teleport.”

The five of them climbed out of the car and onto the street.

“That fella, just wait till I get my hands on him...” Nessie grunted.

He had barely completed his sentence when Zhao Yao suddenly appeared before their eyes again.

This time, however, he had a cat in his arms.

It was Ares the Persian.

Zhao Yao looked at the apostles, his eyes glowing red.

## Chapter 192: Escape and Destruction

Zhao Yao’s eyes were glowing red when he made his reappearance. However, the target of his mind control was not any of the stunned fugitives in the car. It was Ares, who was comfortably nestled in his arms.

With a content meow, Ares climbed onto his shoulders. The cat wrapped his paws around Zhao Yao’s neck and rested his face against the apostle’s cheek.

In this moment, his deflector field was activated. It covered both him and Zhao Yao completely, engulfing them in its safety.

Ho Hao Cang’s downfall had been a valuable lesson for Zhao Yao. He knew that for the force field to work well, it had to coat every inch of him like cling wrap. This was why even the soles of his feet were now enveloped by it. This created a hairline gap that kept him from touching the ground.

It took a lot of trial and error for him to defeat Ho Hao Cang. Difficult it may be, the process had taught Zhao Yao how to utilize this power to make maximum impact.

Once he was completely protected by the field, he heaved a sigh of relief.

No matter what happened next, he would be safe.

In the battle of superpowers, there is never a greatest one. Even the most destructive powers had their weaknesses. Even the most negligible shortcoming could cost your life.

Victory was not guaranteed for the strongest, but the infallible.

This was Zhao Yao's maxim. It was why he derived this security protocol when Ares ended up in his hands. He had to put safety first.

Now that he was in the protective embrace of the deflective field, the fun can begin.

He looked at each of the wanted fugitives in the eye and smirked.

He beckoned them with his finger, "C'mon, let's get this over and done with. Show me what you've got."

Barbie was the first to charge forward. Her gift of self-revival made her the perfect candidate for the frontline. She could sacrifice her own life for her team with little consequence. Each death lengthened the time it took her to respawn, but that was reset every 24 hours.

She hurled herself at Zhao Yao without a second thought, dagger in hand.

He did not flinch or shrink away. Unfazed, he raised his hand, fingers spread, before clenching them into a tight ball.

"All senses go!"

Elizabeth's power allowed him to rob a person of all of the five senses. He was able to cast perfect illusions that do not feel any different from reality.

Ah Wei and Sun Meng watched in stunned silence as Barbie, Nessie, and God of Death's two parasitic hosts fell to the ground.

Zhao Yao watched the scene unfold in surprise as well. His powers worked on everyone except for Sun Meng, who remained on her feet, conscious and gaping.

“Hmm?” he narrowed his eyes, then unleashed the skill again.

Sun Meng was completely unaffected.

“How is this possible? How can she be immune?” Zhao Yao wondered.

At the same time, Sun Meng was thinking about the exact same thing.

“How is this possible? How can he be immune?”

When Zhao Yao had reappeared to taunt them, she immediately tried to put him to sleep. The operative word here is “tried” because she never succeeded. She had no clue that he was repelling all attacks coming his way with the deflective shield.

Sun Meng’s immunity was not a result of a superpower, but something far simpler.

It was just good preparation.

She had raised Elizabeth. She knew well the ragdoll’s temperament, preferences, and, more importantly, abilities.

“Lizzie’s powers are manifested through sound waves.”

With this in mind, she had stuffed a pair of plugs into her ears before the car pulled up by the cafe.

Right now, she took advantage of Zhao Yao’s momentary shock to rush towards Nessie. She fished for her only spare earplugs and put them on for him.

There was only one person she could save and she had to be smart about it. Only Nessie’s offensive capabilities and shape-shifting stood a chance at victory.

“How is this possible?! Elizabeth’s power has reached a point where I can concuss them with one hit and yet, she stands,” Zhao Yao thought in disbelief.

His train of thought was disrupted when he noticed movement from the heap of fallen fugitives. Nessie had opened his eyes and transformed himself into a jet of water. He cut through the air, heading straight for Zhao Yao.

“Yes!” Sun Meng cheered.

The jet of water was fast, furious, and deadly. It was powerful enough to pierce through flesh and steel. There was no way Zhao Yao could escape now.

She watched as Zhao Yao casually waved a hand. The movement was small, but the impact it made was immense. The sphere of energy that left his palm collided with the jet of water in midair, which resulted in a loud explosion.

Sun Meng’s jaw fell open as the powerful stream disintegrated into pelts of water that fell to the ground like rain.

“No!” she cried, “This is impossible!”

Nessie’s high-pressure jet could cut through steel. How could it be stopped so effortlessly?

Zhao Yao clenched and unclenched his fist, a satisfied grin on his face.

“The deflective field is perfectly malleable. It can cling to my skin as protection, but it can chalk up some serious damage too. Rapidly contracting, then expanding it, will launch a rush of destructive energy at the opponent. If Ho Hao Cang used it this way, he would’ve been a lot harder to defeat. But I guess he couldn’t risk doing that at the expense of exposing his other supercats to damage.”

The waterworks that fanned out in the sky regrouped in no time, this time in the form of a dragon. It let rip a loud roar before speeding towards a nearby fire hydrant.

Zhao Yao clenched his fist again, unleashing Elizabeth’s power. It had no effect on the dragon.

The reason for this was simple. This skill attacked the brain. It warped the target’s senses and derailed their grip on reality. In liquid form, Nessie lacked a brain that Zhao Yao could affect.

The dragon hurled itself at the fire hydrant once, then twice, then thrice. It kept going until it was finally knocked to the ground.

A gushing tower of water immediately shot skyward. The dragon snaked around it, gradually merging and melting into it. It grew and ballooned in size, eventually emerging as a 10 meter tall, 1-meter wide dragon, a malicious look set in its eyes.

“Little worm, you are messing with the wrong guy,” it stated.

A deafening whirring was sounded. There was a rumble in the sky as a massive whirlwind formed around the dragon.

Sun Meng held her face in her hands as the gusts of wind repeatedly whipped at her. She felt like she was about to be lifted into the air.

“Goddamnit!” Ah Wei swore as he looked up at the intimidating dragon in the sky,

He shouted into his phone, “You guys better get here right now. That waterbending idiot is going batsh\*t crazy. He’s going to destroy the entire street.”

Zhao Yao remained silent as he watched the dragon circle the sky, drawing closer. He curled his fingers into his palm and a ripple ran through the defensive field tightly wound around him.

As it charged towards him, he did not run.

He seemed unfazed by the fact that this dragon was made up of ten tonnes of water. It was enough to flip a truck or crush a person to death.

All he did was to raise his right hand, which was clenched into a fist, and throw a punch towards it.

“Jesus Christ, has this kid gone mad?” Ah Wei thought to himself, his heart hammering against his chest.

He was gaping at the scene unfolding before him. He wanted to speak or to yell at Zhao Yao to run, but all the words were stuck at the base of his throat.

Zhao Yao's punch launched a force field in the direction of the dragon. It headed straight for its target. When it made contact with the dragon's head, it exploded with a boom.

It was as if a bomb had gone off. The dragon's form disintegrated, reducing it to showers of water that fell to the ground like raindrops.

### Chapter 193: Undefeatable and Untouchable

Zhao Yao raised his fist and stared at it admirably.

He had put the entire force of his body into delivering that punch, but it did not hurt his hands or fingers at all. The deflective field protected him against it all.

He could not help but laugh, "Damn, I've become undefeatable and untouchable. Guess I can do whatever I want from now."

The deflective field was not impenetrable. There was a limit to the amount of energy it could repel. However, as long as the assault sent his way did not exceed this limit, it will keep him perfectly safe.

By combining its defensive capabilities with physical combat, Zhao Yao has become immensely powerful. Not a hair on him would be harmed, while his opponent would be in for a horrible battering.

The water droplets and vapor in the air regrouped into a dragon again. It circled the sky, close to the ground. This time, it was not growling or snarling at Zhao Yao. It looked at him solemnly.

"Kid, what's this power you have?"

"Little worm," Zhao Yao responded, using the same term the dragon had previously referred to him as, "My body is indestructible. Even a nuclear missile can't touch this."

The dragon struck again.

This time, it did not charge straight at Zhao Yao. Instead, it continued to glide in a circle, rapidly firing high-pressure jets of water from every surface.

The jets pierced through the air like giant arrows. The ones that hit the ground wrecked the asphalt of the road with a sickening crack.

The dragon rained a barrage of them in Zhao Yao's way, gradually losing its massive size in the process.

Even a truck would be shattered into pieces with an assault of this magnitude. Nessie believed that there was no way that Zhao Yao could bear such an attack.

However, there he stood, still completely unharmed.

He had managed to repel the water jets, which now rocketed straight for the dragon, blasting him apart yet again.

Nessie was in a shock, "How can this be? He doesn't have weaknesses at all. What is his power? Is he some kind of tank?"

With a simple point of his finger, ripples warped the air before Zhao Yao's fingertip, destructing the next onslaught of water jets.

Nessie felt his left eyelid twitch.

"Who is this kid? He can teleport, vanish, cast illusions, and now, it turns out he's a f\*\*cking fantastic fighter," he glared.

Zhao Yao grinned at the dragon.

"You are really bad at this, dude. You've had your turn, now watch me!" Zhao Yao said, beginning to crouch, "Iron Palm Wave!"

With that command, he launched himself towards the dragon with a loud boom. The impact of his take-off created a large crater to appear on the asphalt he had stood on.

Zhao Yao raised his right fist, then swung it downwards with all his might. A deafening crack filled the air as he sent a bolt of energy hurtling towards the dragon.

Once impact was made, its gigantic head exploded into liquid smithereens again.

The spectacle looked lethal, but it only damaged Nessie's morale, not his body. The dragon was not him. It was how he shaped large volumes of water.

After Zhao Yao destroyed its head, its shape shifted into a spectacular wall of water.

"If I can't touch you, I'll drown you."

The roar of the surf could be heard as the massive wave rushed towards Zhao Yao, swallowing him whole.

"Drowning, huh? That's cute," he chuckled, "Watch me unleash my Heaven Wrecking Thunder!"

He raised both fists, then struck them outwards to cast force fields. The two orbs exploded when they collided with the tall wave of water, causing an eruption of droplets to spray onto the ground like a mega fountain.

Zhao Yao ambled through the explosion, unperturbed. Nessie aimed another water jet right at his head, but it was repelled and sent right back when it got close to him.

"Hammer of steel!" Zhao Yao yelled.

He then threw a punch at the new form that the water was morphing into.

Nessie could feel his head start to hurt.

“Stop screaming out random names for your powers, you idiot!” he yelled.

“What do you know about my powers?” Zhao Yao shouted back, “I’m the undefeated. I can do whatever I want. Every name comes to me naturally as I use the power. It’s a very authentic and personal process!”

“Watch my Super Dimensional Breaker Phoenix Fist!” he shrieked with every last ounce of breath from his lungs.

“What the f\*\*k is that?!”

“None of your business, weakling! I’m the champion, I do what I want.”

With a loud boom, the dragon’s body was shattered into water drops once again.

In the relative safety near the cafe, Ah Wei was watching the fight with his mouth wide open. He had battled Nessie before. On a good day, he might be able to ward off his assaults. Just now, back at base, he was only able to escape because of Yue Shan’s intervention. Now, with Nessie’s dramatically expanded size, he would be done for if he had to face him.

Nessie was extremely powerful in Ah Wei’s eyes.

However, he seemed as insignificant as an ant to Zhao Yao, who was effortlessly driving back the endless water jets that came his way.

Nessie’s attacks were as useless as Zhao Yao’s punches and kicks were mighty. His reflexes were instant and his moves were destructive. His volley of assaults made it impossible for Nessie to reassemble the water drops into a new form.

Xiao Shi Yu was also in a state of shock.

“I thought you said that they were highly dangerous fugitives. Then how...?” she started.

Ah Wei shot her an awkward smile, “I wasn’t lying. It’s just that Zhao Yao is even more powerful.”

“Zhao Yao? Powerful?” Shi Yu’s voice trailed off as her attention landed back on the figure in the distance, which now seemed unfamiliar to her.

Ah Wei was no stranger to Shi Yu’s identity, so he did not hesitate to tell her more about the fugitives.

“The four of them broke into headquarters and were surrounded by hundreds of the most elite fighters, among them more than 30 apostles. They had firepower. They had stamina. They were seriously dangerous. I ran when I could,” he elaborated.

“An apostle’s power on the battlefield depends largely on the supercat’s abilities. Of a hundred cats, only one or two would boast something truly damaging. But look at Zhao Yao. He instantly KO-ed two of them when he appeared. The remaining two can do him no harm. While that dragon looks powerful, he can’t seem to handle him either.”

“S\*\*t!” Ah Wei suddenly raised his voice, an anxious expression on his face, “That water-bender is escaping!”

On the other end of the street, Sun Meng was still shielding her face with both hands. She was pale with worry as the battle stretched on. She had to dig her heels into the ground to stop being driven back by the waves of energy around her.

With great difficulty, she opened her eyes to peek through her fingers.

The fighting was not going as expected at all.

“How can Zhao Yao be so powerful?” she thought uneasily.

She had believed that her team was unbeatable. She would never have imagined that this one guy could yield so much destruction.

They had come here ready to crush a helpless little lizard, but it turned out that it was Godzilla after all.

She could see and hear the pedestrians near her yelling in fright. Most of them were confused about what had happened. They could hardly see through all that water spraying everywhere. They assumed that a fire hydrant had been knocked to the ground by a car.

Sun Meng opened God of Death's WeChat group chat with trembling hands, hoping to contact him. All his parasitic hosts were added to that group so that he was able to see new messages, no matter who he was actively controlling.

"Hey, God of Death, where are your hosts?" Sun Meng yelled into her phone, "We need backup! Nessie can't do this much longer."

A middle-aged man was standing the intersection near Sun Meng, staring unblinkingly at the showdown. He was one of the hosts sent here to assist the main host in executing the cat cafe raid. The main host was always supported by a dozen others.

All of them were here to launch an attack on Zhao Yao's cafe, but it was obvious that that was not going to happen.

God of Death sighed deeply when he listened to Sun Meng's urgent message.

"I'm sorry."

That was the message he replied her with. The two words got Sun Meng shaking with rage.

"What do you mean by 'I'm sorry'?! Just dispatch your hosts here! We have a plan. Just stick to it," she shouted.

"I'm sorry," God of Death repeated in his next message, "I am unwilling to make enemies with a monster like that in the foreseeable future. From now, we will be halting all operations in Jiangmen City. From today, all my hosts here will undergo hibernation to avoid detection. Goodbye and good luck."

Sun Meng's eyes glazed over the words again and again and only stopped when the group chat was deleted.

She let out a frustrated scream.

The man who stood at the intersection had barely finished deleting the WeChat group when he raised his head and looked around in confusion.

“What am I doing here?”

In the midst of the battle, Nessie’s dragon was growing smaller and smaller in size.

Every time the spray of water regrouped to form a new dragon, it was blasted apart again by Zhao Yao’s punches. At one point, however, it stopped reassembling and remained as waterdrops that battered the ground.

This was not a sign of Nessie giving up.

It was just a cover for him to dart into the sewers undetected, where he could head straight to Zhao Yao’s cafe.

He was escaping!

Chapter 194: All Troops Deployed!

The showdown between Zhao Yao and the four fugitives caused quite the commotion.

Ah Wei and Xiao Shi Yu’s eyes were glued to what went down on the battlefield.

Everyone else in the cat cafe did the same as well. They stood on their tiptoes, trying to catch a better view of what was happening. Thankfully, the vapor and gushing water made it impossible for them to make out that the cafe’s owner was in the middle of it all.

Of course, Matcha and the gang of supercats had also noticed the uproar outside.

They crowded around the glass window, meowing and yowling over each other.

“We have enemies at our doorstep! Zhao Yao is fighting them now!” Matcha exclaimed, “We’ve got to join him on the battlefield!”

“He is so cool!” Roly Poly called out, brimming with excitement as Zhao Yao threw another epic punch at the opponent.

“Come on, guys, let’s go! Together, we can destroy the enemies,” Dust Ball chimed in, a steely look in her eyes.

“Let’s go now! What are you waiting for?” Rice Cake burst out.

She was skipping around, bursting with energy. She could not wait to run straight into the fight.

“Yes, yes, I know,” Matcha responded, “But we can’t just jump straight in like idiots. We have to wait for the right time.”

“How about now?” Rice Cake asked impatiently.

“Okay! All troops deployed!” Matcha yelled in earnest.

“Dude, why aren’t you moving?”

“Let’s smash them!”

“You keep talking, but you still aren’t moving!”

“CAN’T YOU JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE?!” Matcha burst out.

He was so furious that he started clawing at the cat nearest to him, resulting in a storm of fur to descend over everyone.

“Can’t you see that I’m waiting for the right opportunity?!” he huffed, breathing heavily.

Roly Poly collapsed onto the floor in a state of confusion. Tufts of hair had been grazed from his body and were now floating in the air.

He turned to Matcha with a look of dejection, "What have I done to deserve this?"

Elizabeth shot them a dirty look. So far, they had been all talk, no action.

At that moment, a water jet shot out of a manhole cover into view. It darted straight for the cafe.

Nessie.

"Five seconds until the enemy reaches the battlefield! Get ready!"

"Pfft, that's the enemy? He's tiny," Matcha scoffed.

The jet of water was barely the width of a human thumb.

"C'mon, guys! We should attack him when he's weak!" Matcha rallied, ready to pounce.

As the cats banded together to strike, there was a loud explosion. A surge of water erupted from the drain that lined the street outside the cafe. It merged with the water jet, which started to expand in size rapidly. In no time at all, it grew into a waterspout the size of a truck.

This turn of events caused the supercats to stop in their tracks and tumble over each other.

"We'll not waste our energy on the tank!" Matcha commanded, "Let's attack the fragile ones hiding behind. Roly Poly, cover me, George Matcha the Saviour. Everyone else, follow me!"

The cats meowed in response. They rushed out the cafe, where Roly Poly activated his power of invisibility to hide everyone from view. The water dragon rushed charged right past them, oblivious to their presence.

Matcha, Rice Cake, Roly Poly, and Dust Ball headed straight for Barbie, who was already unconscious on the ground.

They bit and scratched her vehemently.

“Attack the blonde enemy! We cannot let her deal any more damage to us or Zhao Yao!” Matcha ordered.

Roly Poly took this instruction very seriously. He burrowed beneath Barbie’s shirt and used his teeth to tear off her bra. When he emerged, he announced victoriously, “I have destroyed her armor! Her breastplate is no more!”

“I’ll finish her!” Rice Cake volunteered, flashing her claws.

She pushed them onto Barbie’s chest and unleashed her power, which channeled a series of vibrations to her victim.

“Her defensive skills are too powerful!” Rice Cake announced in surprise, “I can’t reach her organs.”

Unknown to the tiny cat, she was unable to release the full devastation of her powers when she was not in excruciating pain.

Matcha was busy sniffing her pockets. “Where’s her purse? I need her purse!”

Elizabeth observed the four cats from a distance with narrowed eyes. She raised her paw to her face, “Idiots.”

Regardless, she cast an illusion around her friends to ensure that no one could see what they were up to.

Ah Wei let out a bellow of fury when he saw Nessie dart into the cafe. He activated the Blood of Magmar before storming after him, a trail of smoke and heat radiating off his body.

He looked like he meant business, but it only took one sweep of the dragon’s tail for him to be sent flying out of the cafe.

The customers let out frightened screams as they ran out of the store, away from the water monster. The remaining cats made off into various corners of the cafe, their tails hung low between their back legs.

Nessie knew that beating Zhao Yao was impossible. His new plan was to grab the supercats and run.

After he flung Ah Wei outside, he turned back to face the cafe and found it completely deserted.

“What the..?”

While Roly Poly may be gone, Baiquan was still staying guard here. He had activated his invisibility skill to conceal everyone left in the cafe while Ah Wei was distracted. He stood in front of the cats and the remaining customers, his arms outstretched. He urged them to move backward, away from Nessie.

His power might not be able to last long but, coupled with Ah Wei’s momentary distraction, it was enough to buy them time.

When Zhao Yao noticed that Nessie had snuck into his cafe, he pushed himself off the ground, producing a field of energy that rocketed him there in an instant.

He was already marching through the entrance when Nessie noticed that the cats and customers had all disappeared.

With a punch, Zhao Yao sent a formulated energy blast his way, blowing him up yet again.

“Goddammit! This guy is fast!”

Nessie knew that he had lost his one chance of making off with the cats. He quickly regrouped dispersed water drops, then split them into four smaller waterspouts, each heading in its own direction.

Only one out of the four was Nessie. The rest was a diversion.

Zhao Yao projected one bolt of energy after another, each exploding a waterspout. Not a single one held the real Nessie.

“Sh\*t!” he spun around, his eyes following the last one.

It was heading straight for the cat’s toilet.

“I’ve got to stop him before he escapes through the pipes there.”

Shortly after the waterspout tunneled into the toilet, it knocked the nearest water pipe in half, creating a golden shower of waste.

The explosion alarmed Mango, who had been minding his own business, pooping in one of the self-cleaning automatic litter boxes.

The first bit of poo that he had squeezed out went right back in out of shock. His relaxed mood was replaced with fear and anxiety. It eventually morphed into anger when he realized that his painstaking efforts to poop had gone to waste.

Mango glared at the cause of the commotion, his face bloated into an expression of indignity and fury.

This was when Zhao Yao had barged into the toilet, slamming the door open. He was met with the horrific sight of the blown up water pipe and poop smeared all over the floors and ceiling.

Mango leaped onto the highest litter box. He turned to Zhao Yao and started meowing at him angrily.

On the floor, a middle-aged man was kneeling, his hands clutching his tummy. He extended a hand to Zhao Yao, sweat dripping down his pale face.

“I...I have hemorrhoids.”

Zhao Yao was stunned into immobility. He could watch as the man fell to the ground, unconscious. Blood was pooling from the lower half of his body.

Later, when the paramedics showed up at the cafe, they found Nessie lying in a bloody mess of poop and urine. He had completely lost his memory and his pupils had turned a disturbing white.

When Zhao Yao saw him collapse, he backed away from the toilet immediately. He sprinted out of the cafe, where the churning of his stomach reached a bearable level.

“That was close,” he said, wiping the sweat from his forehead, “That could’ve been it. Elizabeth’s illusions may not work on him, but thankfully Mango’s did.”

In that moment, Zhao Yao understood that Elizabeth could only affect the five senses if she had access to the target’s brain. Mango’s abilities, however, operated on a whole new level.

He peered through the glass window of the cafe, where his customers were also clutching their tummies, their faces contorted with pain.

“Get out! If you don’t want to die, get out now!” he shouted.

With Ah Wei and Baiquan’s help, the customers were led out of the cafe and into the relative safety of the street.

Zhao Yao heaved a sigh of relief. He could not imagine how horrifically catastrophic it would be if so many people were to poop in the cafe at the same time.

On the other end of the street, a purse was dangling from the corner of Matcha’s mouth. A bra was in Roly Poly’s. All four cats were doing a victory dance on Barbie’s motionless body.

“Victory! We have beaten this woman into unconsciousness!”

“We’re so cool!”

Their celebration was interrupted by Matcha, who pointed at Sun Meng’s retreating figure.

“Guys, there’s one more trying to escape! We’ve got to go after her!” he yelled.

## Chapter 195: The Aftermath

Sun Meng had wanted to flee long before Nessie was defeated. Shortly after she received the goodbye message from the hateful God of Death, she turned to run.

The pain shooting up through her body from her twisted arm made it impossible to get too far. Every step was excruciating.

She had only managed to limp a hundred meters when a miniature black cat jumped into view. It landed in front of her and stared up defiantly as if blocking her from getting away.

Sun Meng narrowed her brows. This was undoubtedly a supercat.

Of course, she was right. It was Dust Ball, who had noticed Sun Meng's quiet escape way before Matcha did. This was why she was the first to respond and the first to reach her.

Dust Ball kept her eyes locked with Sun Meng's as she opened her mouth, baring her sharpest teeth. She let out a guttural snarl as she activated the extradimensional belly.

Before Dust Ball could swallow her whole, Sun Meng swiftly put the cat to sleep. Her abilities had been exposed anyway. There was no longer a need to conceal them.

This marked the abrupt end of their encounter. The tiny Dust Ball fell into a heap on the floor, fast asleep. She had, however, managed to suck Sun Meng's shirt in, leaving her in just her bra.

"S\*\*t!" she swore, looking down at her bare midriff, "What kind of perverted ability is this?!"

Her sleep inducement had hit not only Dust Ball, but everyone near them. Matcha, Roly Poly, and Rice Cake's chase was cut short as they collapsed onto the ground, snoring.

The passers-by staring at her started falling one after another like toy soldiers. The same happened to Ah Wei and the remaining customers outside the cafe.

There was no denying that this ability was effective even against the most powerful opponents. A sleeping enemy was as good as a dead one. It meant that no one would stand in her way.

Unfortunately, she knew that there was an exception to this rule. There was one person who was immune and that made him a huge threat.

“I hope Nessie can distract him for a while longer,” Sun Meng sighed.

She continued to hobble away, looking spitefully at the people on the ground.

“How could God of Death abandon us! That scumbag.”

Her anger soon morphed into fear when a series of deafening explosions was sounded from afar. The sound rapidly grew closer and louder and in an instant, a shadow was cast over her.

Zhao Yao landed in front of her with a sickening crunch. The impact he made was as huge as an asteroid that just hit the earth. Every action he made was amplified by the blast of force he used to propel himself. He cracked the surface of the road the moment his feet touched the ground, sending dust and debris flying everywhere.

Sun Meng coughed, taking a few steps back.

Zhao Yao took a hard look at the one person who was immune to his illusions, then at the people on the ground. Some of them had started to stir thanks to the racket he made with every move.

“Seems like she can somehow induce sleep. Thank God for the deflective shield. I could’ve been one of them,” he thought.

There was a frenzied ferocity in Sun Meng’s stare when she looked at him.

“Only I can wake all those people I’ve put to sleep from their coma. You’ll never find my cats, so without me, they’ll remain comatose forever!” she warned, brandishing threats as a final defence.

“Comatose? What are you talking about?” Zhao Yao tilted his head to the side, “Whatever it is...”

Zhao Yao gently brushed his hand past Sun Meng's face, hoping to sweep her away. He tried his hardest to use as little strength as possible, but she still ended up getting knocked off her feet and cartwheeled down the street. She landed on her face with a loud thud and promptly passed out.

Zhao Yao looked down at his palm in disbelief.

“Ouch. It's not easy to control this,” he mused.

After all, the strength he mustered now was not his own. It was based on the inherent and immense power of the force fields. This meant that wrecking destruction was a breeze, but holding back was not.

Zhao Yao could not gauge the impact of his actions at all, especially because he was not manipulating the force fields directly. He was controlling Ares to do so.

He felt a tinge of guilt for his heavy-handed attack, but he brushed that off quickly. What mattered was that he completed his mission. He had solved the mystery behind the cat theft.

The corners of his lips lifted into a smile when he realized that he gained 600 experience points. Coupled with the points he earned from his daily missions, changes appeared in the team's progress breakdown:

Book: Lv3 (1438/2000)

Matcha: Lv4 (1010/2000)

Elizabeth: Lv4 (250/2000)

Dust Ball: Lv5 (140/5000)

“Good. I can level up Matcha now,” he grinned.

Of course, now was not the time to take action. There were still quite a few things to tackle at hand.

“Who would’ve thought that an uneventful day would end with fighting dangerous fugitives? Someone less powerful and handsome would’ve been in big trouble,” Zhao Yao laughed to himself.

He then whipped out his phone and dialed Inspector Ho’s number.

Strangely, he did not pick up. It took numerous attempts before the line finally got through.

The inspector started rambling before Zhao Yao could utter a hello.

“Zhao Yao!” he yelled through the receiver, “Is everything alright? Hang in there, we’re on our way!”

It turned out that Ah Wei had alerted headquarters that Sun Meng and gang had appeared at the cat cafe. Inspector Ho sent reinforcements the moment the news reached him.

Zhao Yao scratched his head at the worry in the inspector’s voice, then gazed at the fallen apostles before him.

“About that, I think I’ve finished them off.”

“...”

A pregnant pause followed his reveal.

“Did you say you finished them off? As in, you defeated them?” Inspector Ho asked.

He was speaking painfully slowly, as if he was trying to clarify something with a two-year-old.

His words were punctuated with the arrival of an army of uniform black cars that surrounded the cafe. A few men dressed in black stepped out, all of them sharing the same tense look.

Some passers-by began to wake from the crunching of gravel beneath the cars’ wheels.

The man situated in the car closest to the battleground had bright red hair. He surveyed the scene and started speaking into the mic in his ear, “Freeze Unit, get the liquid nitrogen ready for the water-bender. Restraint Unit, have the tranquilizer darts aimed at the blonde and any of the puppets who try to attack you. Make sure your glasses are in place. You don’t want Sun Meng to get her hands on you...”

It was clear that the authorities have been doing their homework. They had a pretty good handle on the four fugitives’ powers and were well-prepared.

Every one of them stepped out of the cars, ready to fight. However, the scene they were met with stopped them in their tracks. Various people were scattered all over the ground, mostly unconscious, some stirring. Only Zhao Yao remaining standing.

Every rifle turned to him.

Zhao Yao waves his hands awkwardly.

“Gentlemen, we’re on the same team. In fact, I’m speaking with Inspector Ho right now. You can take a look if you want,” he explained.

The redhead, Yue Shan, narrowed his brows in suspicion. He raised a hand and swiped the air, levitating the phone from Zhao Yao’s palm and hurtling it into his.

He put the phone against his ear. The expression on his face began to change as he spoke with the inspector. He could not help but throw a puzzled look in Zhao Yao’s direction.

“Seems like the four fugitives have been defeated. Go check up on them,” he ordered the men.

This changed the expression on every government apostle’s face as well. They turned to Zhao Yao, their eyes full of surprise, disbelief, and caution.

When they busied themselves with locating the fugitives, Zhao Yao cast an illusion to conceal his whereabouts. This was his window to grab the Pallas’s cat, who was still stuck in the car. He splashed water to wake the tranquilized cat, then tricked it into entering the extradimensional belly.

The fugitives' reign of fear was over.

However, while three of the four apostles were captured that day, tensions had never been higher at the authorities.

For starters, their efforts to cover up what truly happened were not as effective as they hoped. The official story was that a gas leak and a faulty hydrant caused the explosions, but rumors ran amok online anyway.

Although multiple parasitic hosts had been arrested, the true identity of God of Death remained a mystery. It was frustrating and frightening. Doubt and suspicion began to seep into the department, poisoning the trust colleagues had for each other.

The one consolation was that Sun Meng was now off the streets and safely locked away. Inspector Ho managed to convince her to reveal the whereabouts of her three ragdoll cats. It turned out that they had always been close by and within reach if Sun Meng needed help.

With the help of the cats, the damage made to the comatose victims were reversed and they finally regained consciousness.

The incident may have come to a close, but its repercussions were far-reaching. Certain factions of the government used it as a reason to adopt stricter and more aggressive regulations for supercats and apostles.

This was why Zhao Yao was now in Inspector Ho's office, scratching his chin thoughtfully.

"If I knew things would escalate to this, I would never have gotten involved," he thought regretfully.

There were too many pairs of eyes on him now. Too many people knew how powerful he actually was. This did not bode well because the element of surprise was crucial for defeating another apostle.

Zhao Yao knew that he did not have much to worry about even if the world knew his abilities. Elizabeth's perfect illusion alone could tackle at least 99% of the people he meets. Coupled with Matcha's timefreeze, Dust Ball's extradimensional belly, and Ares' force fields, he was basically untouchable.

However, he still did not like the thought of laying all his cards on the table.

When enemies understood his powers, they would know how to bring him to his knees.

"At least no one knows about timefreeze and the space-time distortion it brings."

Inspector Ho was seated on the other side of the table. He studied Zhao Yao, watching as his face took on a myriad of different expressions. He could tell he was worried.

"Don't worry," he started, "It is true that a lot of people know you defeated the four of them. However, no one knows how you did that. Even Ah Wei couldn't make out what was happening and he was there. Or rather, he couldn't make sense of what it was you did. Wanna tell me what happened?"

Zhao Yao pursed his lips at the sneaky smile the inspector offered him.

"You'll be interrogating Sun Meng soon, won't you? I'm sure she'll give you a fantastic play-by-play on what happened," he said.

He felt a surge of relief from the inspector's words. Nessie had made sure that their entire battle was shrouded with showers of water. Witnesses would not be able to see what happened clearly.

"Maybe they'll assume that I'm some kind of invincible, teleporting Hercules," he hoped.

Inspector Ho rolled his eyes.

"You rascal, they can't explain what happened as well as you can," he commented.

Zhao Yao scratched the back of his ear absentmindedly. He ignored the request.

“Let’s not get sidetracked. Why am I here? Business is booming and this little visit is costing me money. You’ve got to compensate for that.”

“Rascal,” the inspector repeated, shooting him a death glare, “Do you know how much s\*\*t your little adventure has caused? There’s been a lot of fighting at headquarters. Everyone wants to know who you are. Among them, many want to lock you up, then take your cats and your cafe. You’re looking at the only reason that’s not happened yet.”

Of course, the inspector had only presented a partial truth. What really went down was a lot more complicated.

Zhao Yao’s seeming invincibility had sparked a heated debate among senior state officials. Some of them asserted that what he managed to do single-handedly proved that he was a threat to the nation. As such, his supercats must be handed to the state.

That was but the first step. They had bigger plans. Eventually, they would implement stricter regulations to keep rogue apostles under their thumb. In fact, they would take cats forcibly from their apostles.

Naturally, this did not sit well with people like Inspector Ho.

There were too many supercats and apostles in the country for the authorities to take on by themselves.

The moment they take things too far, the apostles will fight back. That would be the beginning of the end.

This was why the American government did not declare war against the rogue apostles, no matter the trouble they stirred. Even if they defeated every apostle, which was highly unlikely, it would come at a cost. There was no saying how much damage there would be to the country.

When the fight between the officers got too intense, it was Old Man Zhuang who spoke up and made the final decision.

He firmly opposed the autocratic style of regulating the apostles and inevitably became Zhao Yao’s champion.

“Do you know how many high ranking leaders have demanded your cats? Putting a stop to that was not easy. You have no clue how many fires I had to put out,” Inspector Ho said.

That was, of course, a shameless exaggeration. The inspector made it in hopes that it would scare some sense into Zhao Yao.

“I had to call every important person I know and ask for a lifetime worth of favors for you.”

It worked.

Zhao Yao looked at him with concern.

“Thank you,” he said with genuine gratitude, “Are you going to be okay? Will that screw up your position and promotions and stuff?”

Inspector Ho grinned gleefully. It was rare to see Zhao Yao exhibit appreciation towards him. He was going to enjoy it while it lasted.

“Did my ears deceive me? Did you just say thank you?” he smiled far too brightly, “However, you know I can’t protect you forever. You’ll have to join the bureau from now. No one will hurt you when you’re one of us. Your powers, identity, and track record will be highly classified information. Only the guys right at the top have the clearance to access it.”

Zhao Yao narrowed his eyes.

“Ah Wei and Xiao Shi Yu know, don’t they? Are they one of the ‘guys right at the top’ you mentioned?” he asked, forming air quotes with his fingers.

Inspector Ho coughed a couple times.

“I’ve already spoken to them. Don’t worry, their lips are sealed. Trust the bureau,” he replied calmly.

“Okay,” Zhao Yao said tentatively, playing along, “What do I have to do if I join you?”

“Well, whatever you want, really. Keep running that cafe of yours, it’s up to you. However, when trouble comes knocking, we need you to deal with it.”

“Sounds fair,” Zhao Yao nodded, “How about payment? I’ve helped you deal with the fearsome foursome, haven’t I? I think that calls for a reward. A million dollar token of appreciation sounds good.”

His cheeky agreement to join the bureau was punctuated by an update to the mission panel.

It simply read, “Bureau Missions Activated!

Zhao Yao raised an eyebrow in question. He had no clue what that meant. However, he soon developed an inkling of what this was when he turned back to the inspector.

“What the hell?” he murmured under his breath.

A grey exclamation mark had appeared above Inspector Ho’s head.

The inspector paid no notice of how the peculiar expression on his face. He was too focused on responding to his ridiculous request.

“A million?! That’s more than what my department spends in a year,” he protested loudly.

Then, he took a deep breath and forced himself to be pleasant. He put on his best supportive smile, “While we can’t give you that money, we will make it up to you in other ways. You are a hero and it is my job to take care of the person protecting our city.”

Inspector Ho did not want to indulge Zhao Yao at all. However, the boy was not a valuable asset to the bureau. He needed to keep him happy.

The inspector coughed again to get his attention.

“You love that cafe of yours, no?” he began, “There’s a clothing store on the second floor above you. We’ll arrange for its ownership to be transferred to you. You can rent it out or expand your cafe to fill both floors.”

This was super effective in capturing Zhao Yao’s utmost attention. He blinked a couple times at the inspector, his eyes shining with surprise.

“Really? Awesome! That’s very generous, inspector.”

Zhao Yao knew exactly how valuable that second-floor unit was. Like the cafe, it was situated in the prime shopping district between the university town and the train station. It was hot property that you might not be able to get just with money.

Inspector Ho smiled when he saw how happy Zhao Yao looked.

“See? I told you to trust the bureau and me. We’ll take care if you,” he added.

“Yeah, this is pretty decent,” Zhao Yao beamed, excitement brimming in his heart, “My profits are bound to go up when I expand the cafe. I’ve been worried about how I can cater to the growing number of clients. This comes at the perfect time.”

His grin grew wider as he continued dreamily, “The Best part is I never have to pay rent for this. Even if I stop running the cafe and rent both units out, I’ll have enough money to do nothing for the rest of my life.”

Zhao Yao paused to relish the moment, but was swiftly sidetracked by the grey exclamation mark that still floated above the inspector’s head.

“Hey, Inspector, do you need my help with anything?” he probed curiously.

“Do you need a pack of cigarettes? Water? Lunch?”

“Or perhaps you need the cats’ help with a rat infestation?”

Zhao Yao kept rattling off things he could help with, but no mission would appear.

As Inspector Ho's eyebrows moved higher and higher into his hairline, he knew he had to stop before his sanity would end up being questioned.

He pursed his lips and wondered, "Maybe the exclamation marks do not mean that there's a mission?"

He shook his head with a sigh before giving up. There were other things he needed to talk about.

"Oh, right, my cafe was destroyed by what went down. I need help fixing it," he pointed out.

Inspector Ho shot him a knowing smile, "I knew that was coming. I've already called in favors from the best interior designer and construction team in Jiangmen City. They'll work overtime to build an even nicer cafe than what you had. Do you want to use your new unit to expand it?"

"Yes, of course. I want to open the best cat cafe in the world!" Zhao Yao responded promptly.

He grinned toothily at the inspector, who had no clue that growing the cafe was more than just earning more profits. More money rolling in would be more experience points and that was all that he wanted.

"Did you know that your hairstyle looks perfect today?" Zhao Yao beamed.

The inspector narrowed his eyes at him. He was bald. There was no hairstyle to speak of.

"That is not how being a suck-up works," he stated coolly.

Zhao Yao misunderstood that as a cue to keep trying.

"You, Inspector, are a vision. You are the perfect combination of good looks, talent, class, skill, intelligence, drive, invincibility..."

“Okay, okay, enough. Stop that right there,” Inspector Ho raised a hand, “The team will let you know when the renovations are complete. Case closed. You can go now.”

“My cats?”

“That Baiquan fella already brought them home.”

Once Zhao Yao left the office, he whipped out his phone and sent a text to Matcha and gang to verify that they were alright. Then, he hopped into the Panamera and headed to the cafe to grab his belongings.

As he drew closer to the cafe, he spotted a gigantic tent set up right by its entrance. A great number of people were crowded inside. They stood in a haphazard circle around someone or something. There was one man in black stationed at each corner of the tent, guarding the area. They looked like Ah Wei’s men. Each of them had a pair of electronic eyeglasses perched on the bridge of their noses.

Ah Wei was situated in the heart of the crowd. He shouted to everyone, “I’m sure the explosions you witnessed today must have been unsettling. Everyone, come closer, the government will make it up to each and every one of you.”

“Come on, don’t be shy! Squeeze a little, people!”

“Now, we’re about to unveil just what the government has in store for you. But first, take a look at this cat!”

“What the hell is going on?” Zhao Yao muttered, hurrying towards the crowd, “There are so many witnesses.”

As of now, he could hear Ah Wei’s beckoning voice. He could not see him or any cat at all.

The next moment, a portion of the crowd had fallen onto the ground. The rest followed like dominos, collapsing one after another. As soon as a person touched the floor, he or she would instantly fall into a deep sleep.

Zhao Yao stopped in his tracks, his eyes growing as round as marbles. He had no idea what just happened. He watched in stunned silence as a ragdoll cat appeared. It ambled elegantly through the fallen crowd, placing its paw on each person it passed.

He quickly looked from the ragdoll to the rest of the tent. There were two more ragdolls here. They boasted glossy coats of fur that shone in the sunlight. These were definitely not your average cats. They were pedigree and very well taken care of.

Zhao Yao's gaze eventually landed on Ah Wei.

"What the heck is going on here? Men In Black 4? Are those three supercats too?"

"Mr Zhao," Ah Wei greeted tensely.

He was speaking to Zhao Yao in an awkwardly deferential tone, "Yes, these are supercats. They belonged to Sun Meng. This one can put people to sleep by just looking at them. That one over there can erase memories. I have orders to do that to every eyewitness."

Zhao Yao nodded. That would explain why Ah Wei's men were all wearing electronic glasses.

"How much can the cat erase? Someone is bound to remember something," he commented.

"Yes, that might be true, but it doesn't matter. Top management's strategy is to erase the memories of as many people as possible. The IT and web department will be squashing as many of the rumors and stories online as they can. A small minority might escape us, but they will not be enough to create too much of a problem."

Zhao Yao gave another curt nod. "Alright. Make sure to fix my customers too. I don't want them to remember what happened today."

"Of course."

Ah Wei's attitude towards Zhao Yao had transformed rather dramatically.

He had faced the fugitives first hand, so he knew that defeating them was a feat. Zhao Yao, however, made it look like a cakewalk. He could not help but feel a deep reverence towards him now.

He shuddered to think that he almost initiated a fight with him.

A little way away, the family of ragdoll cats was having a discussion of their own.

Caesar, the father, who was busy complaining, “How long is this going to take?”

Catherine, the mother, chimed in as well, “What kind of humans must they be to force cats into labor?”

Caesar and Catherine’s daughter, Diana, tried to speak some sense into her parents.

“Mom, Dad, let’s not complain. Remember that we are pure-bred. We must remain elegant and graceful even when we work.”

Zhao Yao was the only person who could understand the cats’ yowling. He could not help but roll his eyes in response to their conversation.

He gave Ah Wei a quick wave before entering his cafe to pack his belongings. Then, it was finally time to go home.

As soon as he stepped foot into his house, a blur of orange rocketed straight for him, burrowing head first into his chest.

“Zhao Yao!” Matcha cried, “I’m starving! Baiquan did not cook for us!”

The warmth and happiness that seeped into Zhao Yao’s heart immediately froze over. Without hesitation, he tossed the ginger cat off him. He had naively believed that Matcha had been worried for him.

The rest of the supercats dispersed around the living room turned to him as well.

“Hey, boss, are you alright? What did the inspector say?” Baiquan asked.

He was the only one who showed any concern for his well-being.

“Everything’s fine. You know who I am. A small thing like that won’t get in my way,” Zhao Yao replied lightly, “In fact, I managed to get them to renovate our cafe and expand it.”

“That’s good,” Baiquan let out the breath he was holding, grinning, “Boss, you must be hungry. I’ll make dinner.”

Zhao Yao nodded, then slumped wordlessly onto the couch. He looked at the cats around him.

Roly Poly had collapsed by the kitchen door, presumably out of hunger. He was not moving.

Rice Cake, Dust Ball, and Mango were chasing each other around the house. They were in high spirits. Mango would evade capture by jumping nimbly on the table and Dust Ball would hide beneath the couch.

The strays were herded into their room, from which the occasional meow could be heard.

Matcha was circling the kitchen, yowling at Baiquan to hurry up with his cooking.

Zhao Yao could feel his body finally begin to relax as he watched the cats playing carefreely.

“You guys don’t have a care in the world, do you?” he mused, wishing he could say the same for himself.

The day had been eventful. He was relieved that just by agreeing to join the bureau, he could keep his cats and remain on good terms with the authorities. He knew that he could afford to strike such a good bargain because he was powerful. If he wanted to keep the ball in his court, he had to remain that way.

“I don’t know what the world will be like in the future. Whatever it is, I need to grow stronger and keep leveling up. That is the only way to protect myself as well as Matcha and the cats.”

While he was deep in thought, Elizabeth had walked up to him quietly.

“That girl, Sun Meng, what happens to her now?” she asked.

“Sun Meng?” he thought about it, “Well, she’s been captured. After a trial, she would probably be sentenced to life in prison. The worst-case scenario would be capital punishment.”

He turned to look at Elizabeth, “You know her?”

“She owned the cattery I grew up in. I knew her even before I was awakened.”

Zhao Yao raised his eyebrows. He did not expect that Elizabeth knew, much less shared such a close relationship with Sun Meng.

“How about the three ragdolls cats with her? What’s going to happen to them?” Elizabeth continued asking.

“The authorities would never kill powerful supercats,” Zhao Yao responded, “Are they your relatives?”

Elizabeth nodded slowly. “It’s very likely that they’re my parents and sister.”

“Don’t worry,” Zhao Yao tried comforting her, “The government is dying to get their hands on powerful supercats. They would be in no danger. In fact, they’ll probably be pampered at some top secret facility. They might even be fed better food than what you get here.”

That did not work. Elizabeth sighed.

“I had run away from home on impulse. I never thought that this would happen,” she said.

Zhao Yao looked at her awkwardly. “Well, about that, I was actually intending to play a round of PUBG. You don’t have to tell me what happened if it’s too much for you.”

Elizabeth continued talking as if Zhao Yao never spoke at all, “But Sun Meng wanted me to mate with some stupid cat to make babies! I did not even like him! How could I just go through with that?”

Her voice got louder, “He was this dull-witted, unawakened cat! His only redeeming factor was that he was good-looking!”

“Who’s talking about me?” Matcha called from the kitchen.

Zhao Yao yawned as he surrendered himself to the fate of having to listen to Elizabeth’s tale.

The summary of it was that Sun Meng used to run a breeding cattery. She had always hoped to create more outstanding cats with each generation of ragdolls. This did not change when Elizabeth’s family was awakened. Sun Meng wanted to breed more supercats, starting with matching Elizabeth with a handsome male ragdoll.

Elizabeth was adamant about not going along with this plan. This resulted in a massive fight between her and Sun Meng, which ended with Elizabeth running away from home. The cat ended up on the streets, where she would cast an illusion so that she could travel further away by random cars. Eventually, she ended up in Jiangmen City.

Her story bored Zhao Yao to death. He had seen this play out in a thousand different TV shows.

However, his eyes widened when he noticed that an exclamation mark had appeared above Elizabeth’s head.

Chapter 198: A Mission About a Family

“Hmm?” Zhao Yao’s eyes were fixed on the exclamation mark that hung above Elizabeth’s head, “That looks just like Inspector Ho’s, except it’s gold, not silver. Does this mean there’s a mission?”

He turned to Elizabeth, eyes glimmering with hope.

“Lizzie, can I help you with anything?” he asked, batting his eyelids.

Elizabeth studied the strangely eager look on his face.

“You’re acting weird,” she stated.

“Let’s not talk about me. I want to focus on you,” he brushed her off swiftly, “I can tell that there’s something bothering you. Is there anything I can do to help?”

Elizabeth glanced at him hesitantly before speaking.

“Zhao Yao, can you save my parents and my dumb sister?”

“I have a feeling she doesn’t like this sister of hers,” he thought, chortling to himself.

Elizabeth sighed deeply, “The three of them may be stupid and unthinkably unattractive, but they’re still family. I hope you can bring them here. They don’t deserve to be enslaved by the government forever.”

When Elizabeth finished speaking, a new mission flashed on the board.

Side Quest: Family Should Stick Together!

Objective: Save Elizabeth’s family and keep all of them by your side

Reward: 100 experience points

Punishment For Failure: None

This mission did not look much different from every other one that came before it. However, unlike the other quests, Zhao Yao had the option to accept or decline it.

Of course, he did not think twice before accepting.

“I get it now,” he thought gleefully, “It seems like I can now grant wishes as side quests! I wonder I can accept Elizabeth’s but not Inspector Ho’s? Maybe it’s his unattractive appearance and aura?”

He did not ponder over this for too long. He had more pressing matters at hand. The cats should still be painstakingly erasing memories back at the cafe. If he hurried over now, he could still catch them.

Time was of the essence here.

Zhao Yao shot out of the couch and dashed out the door, only to return as if he had forgotten something.

“Where’s Roly Poly?”

He skidded to a stop by the kitchen and scooped the fat cat into his arms.

“Boss, are you coming back for dinner?” Baiquan called out after him.

“Yes. I’ll be back soon.”

Roly Poly was not happy with this turn of events.

He latched onto the front door with his claws, holding on as if his life depended on it.

“I do not want to leave this house! I need food!” he cried.

The poor cat looked like he was close to tears. Zhao Yao, of course, did not care. He dragged him out the house, leaving two-meter-long claw mark in his wake.

With an unwilling Roly Poly in tow, Zhao Yao sped to the cafe in his Panamera. When he got closer to the shopping strip, he could see that the gigantic tent was still there. Ah Wei, his men in black, and the ragdoll cats were all there too.

He heaved a sigh of relief, then quickly turned to Roly Poly. He pinched the cat's face lovingly to grab his attention.

"I'm going to rescue those cats right now. To succeed, I need you to make me invisible, alright?" he said, smushing Roly Poly's cheeks.

Zhao Yao might be able to create perfect illusions, but that had limitations. They messed with the brain, so electronics were unaffected. Any camera would be able to see through them, much less the high-tech ones embedded in the men's electronic glasses.

Roly Poly's invisibility, however, was an optical phenomenon. He could literally make anything within his line of sight to, well, disappear from sight.

This was why he was crucial for this rescue mission.

Roly Poly looked up at Zhao Yao, puzzled, "Who are those cats? Why do you have to rescue them?"

"There are three ragdoll cats in that tent," Zhao Yao started explaining, "The moment I laid eyes on them, I felt this strong connection. I want to take them home with us."

Roly Poly's eyes narrowed with disdain.

"Dude, those cats are Elizabeth's parents and sister. If we don't save them now, her family will be separated forever!" Zhao Yao added.

The fat cat's eyes instantly widened in surprise, then narrowed again, but this time with determination.

"That's my parents-in-law and sister-in-law right there!" he exclaimed, puffing out his chest, "Of course I'll save them! Let's go!"

Zhao Yao made a grab for Roly Poly to stop him from charging forward. The ragdolls were doing an important job. They could strike when every witness' memory had been erased.

The duo waited for more than half an hour before Ah Wei's team started packing up. They looked at each other and nodded. With that, Roly Poly activated his power and both of them disappeared from view.

Zhao Yao easily slipped into the tent undetected. He sneaked up on the family of ragdolls and scooped them into his arms when no one was watching. The moment that happened, Roly Poly cloaked the cats with invisibility as well.

At the same time, Zhao Yao had cast an illusion on every person around him, robbing them of their sense of sound and touch. The ragdolls were struggling to shrug him off, so he stripped them of all five senses, knocking them out.

Ah Wei let out a shout of alarm when he watched the cats vanish right before his eyes. The level of tension in the tent immediately shot up to breaking point.

“For f\*\*k's sake,” he sighed in defeat, pinching the bridge of his nose, “Some day this has been. There goes my bonus.”

He then turned to the men around him.

“Find those cats now!” he barked.

Zhao Yao smirked as the men in black dispersed around the tent, searching every corner for the cats they would never find.

When he got home, he placed the three unconscious ragdolls on the couch.

The supercats crowded around the new arrivals curiously.

Matcha's mouth fell to the floor when he saw them.

“Qian Qian?” he said in disbelief, “Isn't that Qian Qian? Zhao Yao, you kidnapped her just for me?! You're the best!”

In excitement, he started to mount Diana, “I'm going to get started then.”

“No you’re not,” Elizabeth hissed, casting her glowing eyes on Roly Poly.

The fat cat proceeded to smack Matcha with unprecedented strength, causing him to fly off the couch and crash onto the floor.

Roly Poly looked down at his paw in fear, then turned to Matcha. Something clicked in his mind. That really was Princess Qian. No wonder he found her so familiar. He was unable to recognize her because he had no browsed through her photos in a while. She had blocked him from her WeChat a few days ago.

“That Qian Qian is an imposter. She’s been using my sister, Diana’s, photos on her WeChat. I know because I’ve chatted with her before,” Elizabeth said.

“An imposter?” Matcha cried, leaping onto the couch to study Diana, “Is she the real Qian Qian?”

“Her name is Diana, not this stupid Qian Qian,” Elizabeth corrected impatiently.

Matcha and Roly Poly turned to Elizabeth, then stared at the unconscious Diana.

Matcha licked his lips creepily, “She looks even better in real life. I wonder what her fur feels like.”

Roly Poly sneakily reached for his phone, hoping to take a photo.

Mango had already lost interest in the new cats. He was now running around the living room, carefree as always.

Dust Ball and Rice Cake were watching the three ragdolls with distaste. The former swished her tail haughtily, face full of contempt.

“That’s three more cats bumming around, leeching our food.”

Chapter 199: Fist of God, There’s Company!

Zhao Yao reached out to block Roly Poly's phone.

"Look at the state they're in. It's not nice to take their photos now," he told the fat cat.

He then turned to Dust Ball.

"We'll keep them in the belly. C'mon, open up."

The authorities were bound to be butthurt about the loss of the cats. If they found out that Zhao Yao took them, there would be hell to pay.

The extradimensional belly was the best place to keep them from prying eyes.

Dust Ball, however, did not seem pleased with this arrangement.

"More cats?" she glared at Zhao Yao, "Don't you think the house is overcrowded now? Why are you bringing more of these randos home? I will not let you use my belly for cat hoarding."

Zhao Yao did not bother explaining. He reached into his back pocket and produced a bag of catmint, which he promptly threw in Dust Ball's face.

"Open up," he repeated.

"You...!" she choked, at a momentary loss for words, "I'm trying to help you, Zhao Yao! You can't just keep collecting cats. Which sane woman will be willing to date a cat hoarder? Your life will be in shambles."

The temptation of the catmint, however, proved too strong. Again.

Unhappily, Dust Ball opened her mouth and unlocked the extradimensional belly. Then, Zhao Yao created an illusion that lured the confused ragdolls to enter it.

\*

News of the battle in Jiangmen City gradually spread through the country.

A young man was musing over the incident in the Huadu District of Guangzhou. He was comfortably seated in an office in one of the city's highest skyscrapers. He slowly opened his eyes, which were behind a pair of gold-rimmed glasses.

"I would never have thought that an apostle of that caliber would exist in Jiangmen City. What a miscalculation," he said, scratching his chin thoughtfully.

The other man in the room smiled. He was lounging on a couch, his dyed white hair catching the light streaming in from the windows.

"Has your plan failed, God of Death? I heard Yue Shan graced that city with his presence. He defeated you?"

"No, not him," God of Death responded, shaking his head, "I had the good luck to bump into an unexpectedly extraordinary opponent. He's the authorities' problem now."

"Unexpectedly extraordinary?" the white-haired man echoed thoughtfully, "Is he more powerful than me?"

"There's no way of telling," God of Death replied honestly, "You never know how dangerous an apostle truly is until you go up against him one-on-one. But I've seen enough to know he is too powerful to offend, at least for now."

He paused for a moment, "This is just the beginning, my friend. Once we strike more alliances and expand our territory, no one will be able to stand in our way. I have my sights set on the Southwest. Jiangmen City can wait."

The two young men were the leaders of Fang, the largest rogue apostle clan in the district.

As vice president, God of Death had been amplifying the clan's reach by claiming parasitic hosts in every neighborhood and corner in Huadu. With the proliferation of hosts, the district was Fang's.

However, his steady agglomeration of hosts also made him a bigger threat in the president's eyes.

Snow flipped his head of white hair, then looked at God of Death, brows furrowed.

"This fellow...I don't trust him," he frowned, "This man I see right now might not even be him. Even if I kill him right here, right now, there's a 50% chance it's just another host. I can only wait for the day I find his supercat."

God of Death glanced at Snow.

"What's wrong?" he asked, "Do you have any objections regarding our Southwest plan? You don't have to worry about Jiangmen, you know. That was just to test the waters. Succeeding would be a bonus. Failing wouldn't put a dent in what we have."

Snow shot his vice-president a quick smile.

"With you at the wheel, I have nothing to worry about," he said, shifting on the couch, "I am, however, interested in this unexpectedly extraordinary apostle you mentioned."

"I'm sure you'll meet him one day. Once we have enough allies by our side, we'll meet him and we'll fight him," God of Death stated.

He rested his head against the leather seat, staring out the full-length window.

"After all the powers in the world, mine grows the strongest with time. Zhao Yao, it'll be my turn to surprise you the next time we meet," he brooded.

"Is that so?" Snow asked, disrupting his thoughts.

God of Death turned to look at him.

"Snow is starting to get bossy, hasn't he? Is it time to get a new president again? That would not be ideal, of course. We've already had too many replacements," he pondered.

\*

Ares' eyes snapped open.

He scrambled onto his legs, looking around wildly.

“What’s happened?” he started rambling, “Why do I feel like I’ve gone on a trip when I was asleep? And then I fell asleep again? Did I really leave, or was it just a dream?”

Zhao Yao had robbed the poor cat of his five senses when he poured him back into the real world. This knocked Ares out instantly. Sensory deprivation made his little adventure feel like a whacky dream.

The confused cat scanned the room. Loud snores emitted from a heap of cupboard boxes. There was no doubt that all his friends were squished in them, fast asleep.

At least all except for one.

Gaia was lying on his front, handphone in paw, staring dumbly at him.

Ares looked from Gaia to the cats, then back to Gaia again, wondering if it was all really a dream.

His thoughts came to a screeching halt when his brain registered what Gaia was likely doing.

“What are you up to?” he demanded, narrowing his eyes at the guilty Garfield cat.

He bounded forward and grabbed the handphone.

“How many times have I told you that we watch our shows together? We have to conserve energy! What are you watching?”

Gaia retreated into himself like a frightened tortoise.

“I was watching Naruto,” he admitted quietly.

The glare Ares shot him was cold, rigid, and terrifying.

“Aren’t we supposed to be watching that together? Are you trying to spoil the show again?!” he yelled.

“No, no! Of course not! I’ve not gotten very far from where we were. I stopped when Sasuke betrayed them and fled,” Gaia replied earnestly.

“Did you just say Sasuke – ?”

Ares was too furious to complete his sentence. He slapped a paw on Gaia, knocking him off his feet. The spoiler cat flew through the air before hitting a wall, where he slid down on the floor like mud.

“How?” Ares looked down at his paw in alarm, “When have I ever had so much strength?”

His eyes grew wide.

“Wait a minute, I remember now! I learnt a new move in my dreams!” he declared triumphantly.

“What’s happening, boss?” Fujin asked sleepily, raising his head.

The commotion had woken all three cats from their slumber.

“Shh,” Ares held up one paw to shush the cats.

He kept his eyes shut tightly, brows furrowed as he tried to recall what happened in his dreams.

“I remember now! I learnt a new skill...”

“Iron Palm Wave!” he exclaimed.

As he spoke, he balled up his paw, creating a force field around him. Next, he used the paw to throw a punch, which produced a crack that sounds like a whip of lightning. A blast of wind spun forward at high speed, tearing straight for the cardboard boxes.

The cats leaped out of the way as the blast hit the wall behind them, where it cast an imprint the shape of a massive paw.

Ares might have been unconscious during the battle against Nessie, but he remembered well the new skills Zhao Yao inevitably taught him.

“Iron Palm Wave! I remember everything now! That’s the right way to use the force fields,” he concluded excitedly, “I can’t believe I dreamt of all that! I must be a genius.”

He then turned to face the cats.

“Oh, by the way, Sasuke betrayed the team and fled,” he said casually.

“No!” the cats cried in unison.

Ares let out an evil chuckle when he spoiled the show for his friends. He had forgotten that he was in their shoes a mere moment ago.

“Alright, alright, stop whining. Now that we’re all here, let’s watch Naruto,” he suggested.

And so, the handphone was switched on.

Dried food was poured into the dish. Canned food was put into the bowl. The emptied cans were stacked together as a makeshift phone console.

Four pairs of shimmering eyes were glued to the screen in anticipation.

“It’s starting!” Fujin exclaimed, inching a little closer to the phone, “Boss, do you think Ninjitsu really exists?”

“Of course not,” Ares replied airily, “Remember this, Fujin. Naruto and Attack on Titans are all make-believe. They’re fake. Only shows like Ultraman and Ironman are real.”

The five cats had been holed up in their little nest for a while. Their only form of entertainment was all kinds of movies, television dramas, and animations. After watching a ton of them, they had come to their own conclusion on what was real and what was not.

Fujin nodded sagely, “Boss knows best.”

“That goes without saying. You’ll learn a lot when you stick with me,” Ares said proudly.

“Stop talking, guys! It’s about to start!” Lucifer protested, nearly stomping on the ground to get his point across.

Naruto was popular for a reason. The fight scenes, plot development, and plot twists were captivating. Within minutes, the four cats were on the edge of their seats, their minds occupied with nothing but the anime.

This was why they did not notice when a flash of white pierced through the air, creating a portal through which three furry beings appeared. They fell right into the cardboard boxes with loud thuds.

The sudden noise alarmed the cats. Each of them jumped into the air, let out a loud meow, then darted into various corners of the room.

“Everyone, stay calm!” Ares yelled between comforting licks of his fur, “One of us should take a look at what those things are.”

The three cats shook their heads vehemently.

“Useless, all of you!” Ares scolded.

As their leader, he had no choice but to approach the mysterious figures.

“I’m not afraid!” he announced, “I’ve mastered my Iron Palm Wave. No matter what they are, I’ll flatten them into Krabby patties!”

Ares gulped, then nudged his paw to activate the force field. It protected him from head to toe, as if he was engulfed by an invisible bubble. His feet were levitating an inch off the ground.

As he got closer to the heap of fur, one of the creatures swished its tail, then attempted to get up.

In response, Ares pushed a paw forward, sending another whirlwind smack into the ragdoll. He flew across the room, hit a wall, then slid down, landing on Gaia.

“Oh no,” Gaia sighed before passing out.

He had barely regained consciousness when the ragdoll fell onto him, knocking him out once more.

At this point, the other two ragdoll cats were coming to as well. They gingerly got onto their feet, exposing their faces to the rest of the cats for the first time.

When Ares caught sight of them, he could feel his heart skip a beat.

Chapter 200: Strength! Submission! Level Up!

“Who are you? Where am I? What happened?” Diana stared at her surroundings with a look of panic and confusion. A line was etched between her brows as she had no idea what to do.

All she remembered was working at the tent a second ago, now she found herself in this mysterious place after getting blinded by a glaring beam of light.

“Diana, everything’s all right. You do not have to worry.” Catherine, Diana’s mother, ran her paws through the fur on the back of Diana’s head and comforted her. Catherine fixed her eyes on Ares and company and asked politely, “Hello, may I ask where are we at? Also, what happened to my husband, Caesar?”

After finishing her question, she cocked her head and stared at where her husband previously stood and saw him lying atop a Garfield, Gaia. She had no idea what they were doing.

“A newcomer ...” Fūjin was interrupted by Ares as he pressed his paws against Fūjin’s chest.

Ares’s eyes stared straight at Catherina as he spoke, “Good evening ladies, you currently find yourself in a place known as the village of dreams. God created this specially for us, cats.”

Ares could not help but scanned Catherine from head to toe. He wanted to lick every single inch of fur on this beautiful cat.

Catherine had spent most of her time in the cattery and was not accustomed to the attention showered upon her by Ares. Ares’s stare was making her slightly uncomfortable as a flush crept up her face. She lowered her head in embarrassment and whispered, “Mister, what is your name?”

“I am Ares.” As he spoke, he noticed a slight movement at the far corner of his eyes. The other ragdoll, Caesar, was struggling to get on his feet.

Ares immediately instructed the other cats via their shared consciousness, “Do not let that fat and obnoxious cat come near me and interrupt my conversation with this ragdoll.”

“Boss, what happened?” A look of confusion was plastered on Fūjin’s face as he clarified, “Is there something wrong with them?”

“There is a huge problem!” Ares’s stare did not once drift from Catherine as he continued, “Especially this female ragdoll. Her body emanates a certain demonic aura and I’m afraid I’m the only one capable of dealing with her. I need the rest of you to take care of the male ragdoll. Just knock him unconscious the moment he wakes up.”

The other cats complied with Ares’s instructions and dashed towards Caesar and surrounded him.

However, Lucifer was not as easy to trick as compared to the others. Lucifer rolled his eyes in disgust and commented, “Ares, have you fallen for this cat? I’m afraid she already has a husband and a daughter.”

“What do you know?” Ares retorted, ” ... This just makes her even more perfect!”

Catherine's eyes drifted towards Caesar as she stared at him concernedly. She took a few steps towards Caesar but was stopped in her tracks by Ares, "Do not worry, my subordinates will take good care of him."

Catherine gave Ares a puppy-dog look and asked curiously, "But I think he's awake."

"It's impossible! How can he wake up so quickly?" Ares forced a most awkward smile on his face and instructed ruthlessly, "Knock him unconscious."

Initially, Caesar felt his body finally awakening from a groggy sleep. His eyelids quivered as he forced them open. At that moment, he was struck at the back of his head by a monstrous force as he once again went unconscious.

Lucifer was left speechless by his friends' actions and commented, "Rakshasa, that too hard."

The British Shorthair, Rakshasa, stared at his paws as he slowly retracted his razor-sharp claws. With his power, his paws were already coated with a layer of metal. By slapping Caesar using his paws, it was as good as striking him with a brick, "Boss told me to do so, hence I must knock him unconscious."

Meanwhile, Catherine was perplexed by Ares's response as her lashes fluttered with confusion, "But I'm sure I saw his body move just now."

"I think your eye played a trick on you." Ares moved his body to the side and revealed Caesar who remained to lie on the floor unconscious, "Look, he's still unconscious! Cats that first come here will not be used to the air pressure in this place and it's natural for them to remain unconscious for a few days. Let him have a good rest. I'll use this time to introduce you to the place."

He then led the two female ragdolls towards the direction of the phone. With two beautiful ragdolls walking alongside him, Ares could not help but reveal a smile. He took in a deep breath to relish in his moment of glory.

Lucifer, Fūjin, Rakshasa surrounded Caesar's unconscious body in anticipation. Fūjin raised his hind leg as he licked the fur in his groin area and asked, "What do we do when Gaia wakes up?"

To cats, it was their natural habit to remove any stench from their bodies. The groin which was the source of the most intense smell was definitely no exception.

“Just knock him unconscious as well.” The British Shorthair revealed a devilish smile and threw his paws in the air. His paws had instantly turned into a pair of metal paws and were swinging in the air like a pair of metal bats.

The Garfield, Gaia, whimpered as he struggled to open his eyes. Before he could react to the situation, Rakshasa had already struck the back of his head using his metal paw and sent him back to sleep again.

Half an hour later, Caesar raised his paw with his eyes shut and exclaimed, “Wait, I...”

Bam! Rakshasa did not bother listening to his explanation and slapped Caesar using his metal paws. Caesar once again fainted with his tongue sticking out.

Lucifer curled his lips in disgust as he witnessed this cruel scene unfolding before his eyes. He looked at the two cats lying on the floor and remarked, “I think their faces are already swollen from all your beating.”

Rakshasa beamed from ear to ear and answered proudly, “This only means that it is effective.”

Lucifer replied, “Just now Ares wanted this cats to be unconscious for the next few days. Don’t tell me that you ...”

Rakshasa nodded his head and said, “If boss wants them unconscious for the next few days, my job is to make sure that happens.”

Meanwhile, Ares felt the two ragdoll’s fur brushing against his body as they walked towards the phone. He could not help but look heavenward. A ray of light flashed across his eyes as he whispered, “God, you are too generous!”

...

Zhao Yao, who was busy having dinner, was taken aback by the abrupt notification on his mission panel.

Ares had accepted your leadership and you have received 300X2 experience points from it.

“?”

“What the hell is happening?” Zhao Yao could not help but switched to Dust Ball’s ability and entered the extradimensional belly to find out what exactly was happening. A look of disdain was plastered on his face as he left the belly.

No matter what, Zhao Yao was still happy to see Ares submitting to his leadership. The best part about it was the experience points earned from it. The combined experience points earned from Ares and the completion of the mission to save Elizabeth’s family had turned the BOOK to book: lv3 (2258/2000).

Zhao Yao threw his hands in the air. It was finally time to upgrade his BOOK again

Zhao Yao was blown away by the potential of adding Ares’s power to his arsenal. Hence, he did not hesitate to pump the points to upgrade his BOOK.

By upgrading his BOOK, Zhao Yao would be able to receive the power of one additional cat. He immediately retreated to his bedroom and shut his doors. Instantly, the BOOK had turned into lv4(258/5000).

During the process, Zhao Yao felt his entire body freezing for a moment as he collapsed on the floor. Every ounce of muscle and bone in his body began vibrating violently. Cold sweat beaded his forehead and he opened his mouth wide as he struggled to take in the oxygen from his surroundings.

Just when he thought his body was about to rupture from the transformation, the force finally vanished from his body.

The next moment, a glimmer of light flashed across his eyes and he felt better than ever.

He had finally received the boost in powers from Dust Ball, further enhancing the effects of “Two is better than one”.

However, because of Dust Ball's dwarfism, Zhao Yao's physical strength did not receive a significant boost.

But his observation skills receive a stark improvement as he had combined the observation skills of three cats. His five senses, sense of awareness and instincts were unparalleled.

He felt that every fiber of muscle and bone in his body were working directly under his control. His mastery over his body had surpassed every human and cat in the world.