

Am I A God 351

Chapter 351: Brain Wash!

Just minutes ago, Lin Chen had singlehandedly put an end to the hurricane of attacks with a draw of his sword. Old Cat did the only logical thing to do – give up – but continued to complain and lament incessantly.

Every word that poured out of Old Cat's mouth was as good as a fly buzzing inside Lin Chen's head. He was so tempted to just kill these 'flies'. However, Purple Sabre Fairy beat Lin Chen to it by landing a barrage of attacks on Old Cat which were only intercepted by Lin Chen.

The thought of restraining Purple Sabre Fairy by knocking him unconscious did cross Lin Chen's mind but Purple Sabre Fairy suddenly froze in his movements, standing motionlessly.

A glint flashed across Old Cat's eyes for he knew that he had successfully activated his power.

Old Cat's power was known colloquially as Machine Gun Mouth.

It might seem weak and useless on the surface, but an effective utilization of this power would render the user invincible.

If the target victim heard more than 2000 words which came out of Old Cat's mouth, every following word which poured out would be directly implanted into the depths of their consciousness.

Subsequently, for every 500 words spoken, Old Cat was able to embed an idea inside the target's head.

For example, if Old Cat chose the idea of eating an egg, the target victim would suddenly develop an intense desire to eat an egg.

However, the difficulty of inserting this idea was directly proportional to its difficulty. Also, the effects would be weakened if the proposed action clashed with the target's thoughts. Throughout this process, the victim would develop an intense hostility for Old Cat.

Still, the effects could only last for one day. The idea implanted in the target's head would disappear at the end of the 24 hours but the changes in the victim's behavior and personality would not disappear completely.

Furthermore, Old Cat could continually influence the target by spewing more of his nonsense. This explained the hordes of apostles and supercats working under him.

That was the reason for his incessant jabbering the moment he met Purple Sabre Fairy. He had finally reached the requirement of 2500 words and immediately planted an idea in his head.

"Old Cat is actually rather nice."

This notion caused Purple Fairy Sabre's abhorrence for Old Cat to vanish into thin air. He even found Old Cat rather friendly and amiable.

Old Cat did not stop at there. He continued blabbering into Purple Sabre Fairy's head, "I'll get someone to prepare some food for us. We can just sit down here and talk over some delicious home-cooked food. We can even have beer ..."

Old Cat continued casting his power on Lin Chen and Purple Sabre Fairy. The latter was still rather friendly with him but the former was growing increasingly irritated.

Lin Chen promptly gave a dismissive wave of his hands when Old Cat's words rang in his head, "Thanks but no thanks. All of you, just stay here. Someone will be here to fetch you." Naturally, the people he was referring to were the reinforcements from the police. There was no possible way he could bring so many suspects back on his own.

This did not put an end to Old Cat's babbling. Soon enough, he had planted the second idea in Purple Sabre Fairy's head, "Old Cat is a friend."

Purple Sabre Fairy's body began to shudder. A green vein even popped up across his forehead. Obviously, this idea was an absolute contradiction with what he had originally thought.

Suddenly, tens of apostles appeared on the roof of a building before they pounced towards Purple Sabre Fairy, Lin Chen and Old Cat.

Sonia was taken aback by this sight and muttered, “What is Priest Yang and Master Mao doing here?” She immediately threw her head backward and confronted Li Tian, “It’s you!”

As the reconnaissance unit responsible for collecting intel, it was natural that Sonia and Li Tian had methods to contact Priest Yang and Master Mao. The code word had also been agreed upon before they entered. When Li Tian realized that the situation was going south, he immediately sent Master Mao false information, informing him that both sides’ forces had been debilitated significantly and it was the best time to capture Old Cat.

Naturally, Priest Yang and Master Mao were not so stupid to strike the moment they entered. Instead, they watched the battles unfurled, leaving Old Cat, Sonia, Meng Lao, Li Tian, Lin Chen, the young girl and Purple Sabre Fairy as the only survivors.

They really believed that half of the apostles in there had been wiped out which presented the best opportunity to capture Old Cat.

Luckily, they were right. Currently, only Meng Lao stood by Old Cat’s side. This was his most vulnerable moment in terms of combat strength. However, things were not as simple as he imagined.

Priest Yang exclaimed, “Everyone, charge! Old Cat had been struck by my lunar darkness, reducing his power by more than 80%! Do not worry! Charge!”

Old Cat was surprised by his words, “Hmph, interesting power. I didn’t even know that someone had used their power against me.” If Old Cat only knew Priest Yang’s true identity, he would not be as nervous as he was.

“What are all of you doing?” Lin Chen exclaimed with his brows locked together. Without any knowledge of their identities, Lin Chen could only withdraw his sword before teleporting forward and sending the apostles flying away with a few kicks.

“All of you, stop!”

This was perfect for Old Cat. He commenced his attack by continuing his blabbering, “Everyone, just stop fighting. If you lose, you’ll end up in the hospital, If you win, you’ll find yourself in prison ...”

By leveraging on this moment, Old Cat finally hit his 2500 words quota and immediately planted his first idea in Lin Chen’s head, “Old Cat is a good cat.”

Lin Chen’s smooth action suddenly came to a staggering halt. His body was trembling violently from head to toe. In his head, he knew everything about Chuan Xiao District. He knew that Old Cat was the worst, most unscrupulous swindler around. Hence, that idea completely conflicted with his own knowledge.

While he was engaged in the battle within his head, Purple Sabre Fairy had already sent three sabers whizzing across the sky with a snap of his fingers. The sabers tore through the air and went straight Priest Yang and Master Mao.

Old Cat did not stop just yet but continued to pour ideas after ideas into his targets’ heads. However, there was a flash of hesitation as Old Cat pondered, “What exactly is the power of lunar darkness? Why can’t I detect any difference in my body even after getting struck by it?”

The tables had turned for everyone in the blink of an eye.

The purple sabers continued darting across the place. Lin Chen’s body followed suit and teleported from one corner to another, sending apostles flying into the sky. Their combined attacks had already killed three apostles in an instant.

Suddenly, Lin Chen collapsed to the ground, with his arms and legs shaking violently. His face was already flushed with indignation because of the conflict between his own thoughts and Old Cat’s power.

However, the combined powers of the two of them were simply unstoppable. Despite Lin Chen’s periodic pauses, they were able to annihilate any enemies which came to them.

Regardless of the items thrown at them, be it iron blocks, flying needles, spears, concrete bricks, rocks, armors, or even shields, the same fate befell them all- complete destruction.

None of them stood any chance against Lin Chen.

Chapter 352: The Great Escape!

Kill them!

Bam! Immediately, the armor which was previously regarded as impregnable was shredded to pieces. The swords which the apostles wielded were fragmented into tiny bits. Even the apostle, with the power of control over rocks and gravels, was destroyed.

With his sword, there was nothing that could possibly stop Lin Chen at this point.

Furthermore, Lin Chen was not their only enemy. Purple Sabre Fairy would come in from time to time, lending Lin Chen a helping hand. The purple plasma sabers would slice across the sky before the victim's blood was mercilessly splattered across the ground.

Priest Yang's jaw went slack when he witnessed the carnage and screamed, "Where did these two fellas come from? When did Chuan Xiao ever have apostles of this level? Mao, I think it's time for us to escape ..."

Priest Yang instantly cocked his head around only to realize that Master Mao had already beaten him to it and was already 100 meters away. Priest Yang could hardly suppress his anger and immediately gave chase.

The apostles under those two cowards quickly fled when they realized the gravity of the situation.

Li Tian extended his hand towards Sonia and said, "Let's go!"

A tinge of hesitation flashed across Sonia's eyes.

Li Tian noticed it and screamed, "What are you waiting for?" Sonia shut her eyes before extending her hand towards his.

Li Tian cocked his body forward before bending his knees at an angle. With a huge explosion of strength, he had already propelled forward at an astounding speed. The power which he was

endowed with was extreme leg strength that granted him speed humans could only crave for. At his peak, he was as fast as a car.

That was the only reason why Sonia relented to his suggestions. With his astounding strength pulling her forward, Sonia could maintain this extraordinary speed by running as per normal.

They turned their heads around and witnessed the massacre unfurl before them. The purple plasma sabers continued bouncing off their victim's body before crashing against the red-brick walls and coming straight for them.

In fact, Master Mao and company would have zero chance of escaping if not for Lin Chen and Purple Sabre Fairy. Lin Chen's willpower was continually resisting Old Cat's power, which made it impossible for Old Cat to divert his attention towards anyone else. Also, he had to continually worry about Master Mao's supposed power.

Naturally, Li Tian and Sonia were the ones leading the pack and had soon come face to face with Zhao Yao and the hordes of people he had rescued.

Sonia noticed Zhao Yao's confused expression but she had no time to explain, "Run!"

"Run?" Zhao Yao was bewildered by her response, "Why do I have to run?"

"Just listen to me!" All these time, Zhao Yao had been gnawing at her conscious since she was the one who led him to this place. Her empathy for him intensified when she looked at that naïve face. She shouted, "Wait a moment!"

With a hard tug, she had managed to bring Li Tian to a halt. Li Tian was flabbergasted by her insane behavior and retorted, "Are you crazy?"

Sonia sprinted towards Zhao Yao before grabbing him by the hand and dragging him towards the exit. She explained, "We have to escape! Old Cat had successfully controlled two powerful apostles! They are chasing after us!"

Zhao Yao had no idea how to put it across but tried his best to explain, "Erm, actually there's no need for us to escape."

“What do you even know?” Her pulse slammed in her neck when she stared at that pair of innocent eyes which had no idea what was going on. She had no time to waste and continued screaming, “Just follow us! You will be dead if they catch up to us!” A hint of fear was evident in her voice. Naturally, she was still affected by the atrocity which she had seen.

Similarly, Li Tian was engulfed by both fear and anger. His eyes darted from Zhao Yao to Sonia as he roared, “Just leave him here!”

Sonia remained adamant and insisted, “I’m the one who brought him here. I can’t just watch him die.”

“R*tard!” Anxiety and nervousness were flooding Li Tian’s head as he swept his head around to look at the enemy’s progress. Immediately, his eyes were filled with fear.

The shadows cast by the purple plasma sabers were inching towards them. Every second, an apostle would collapse to the ground as the saber whizzed across their bodies.

Suddenly, 10 giant trees were uprooted from the fertile soil and were thrown towards Lin Chen like spears. However, they were instantly destroyed the next moment as their remains settled to the ground as dust. Purple Sabre Fairy noticed the apostle behind the trees and shot two sabers at him which punctured his body, leaving two holes across his chest.

Li Tian let out a deafening shriek when both Purple Sabre Fairy and Lin Chen looked towards his direction. Immediately, he ran away with zero regards for Sonia and Zhao Yao.

“This is bad.” Sonia craned her neck forward and noticed the pair ambling towards them. Cold sweat beaded her forehead as chills ran down her spine.

On a knoll not too far away, the girl who came along with Lin Chen was frantically dialing on her phone. She screamed at the top of her voice the moment the call went through, “Hey! Send in more people! That stupid Lin Chen is under Old Cat’s control!”

“We are almost there, just hang in there ...”

“Hang in my ass! The entire village would have been destroyed by the time you guys are here! Quickly, come up with a plan!”

The girl's eyes were fixed on the two monsters while she continued speaking. In her eyes, there was no one who could possibly put an end to their rampage.

Black Panther took a step forward and blocked Zhao Yao when he noticed the pair approaching them. He was barely able to breathe when he spoke, "Master, you should leave first. Those two do not seem friendly. I'll try to buy you as much time as possible."

Tiger was struggling to get on his feet when he noticed Old Cat not too far away from the pair of monsters. Excitement raced through him as he shouted, "Old Cat!"

"Hmph?" Old Cat's eyes swept towards Tiger as his forehead creased together, "What happened to you?"

"Black ... black panther stabbed me." Tiger's finger was still trembling as he pointed towards Zhao Yao, "It's that man. He had gathered everyone from Hope Elementary School and enticed them to leave!"

Terror overtook their faces when Xiao Ming, and many from Hope Elementary School, heard Tiger's report to Old Cat. However, a vast majority remained on Zhao Yao's side, without a hint of fear. Apparently, Zhao Yao's b*llshit had successfully brainwashed them.

Black Panther screamed, "Old Cat, my master has invented the true miracle water! He is here to help us create wealth!"

Old Cat slid Zhao Yao a condescending glance before cackling, "I didn't expect anyone to come here and take my people away from me. I'll give it to you, you are quite brave." Obviously, he knew that there was no such thing as miracle water in the world. This notion of it was only used to supplement his power in order to maintain this fraud organization.

Tiger rushed behind Old Cat's back, with a gleeful smile plastered on his face.

Three purple plasma sabers had already zoomed towards Zhao Yao, narrowly missing his head by mere centimeters. The high vibration sword in Lin Chen's hand exuded a mist-like aura which only further intensified the atmosphere.

One small girl dashed towards Sonia before jumping into her arms. With her head buried in her chest, she screamed, “Sister!”

At first, Sonia was overwhelmed with happiness. However, she was soon brought back to reality when she noticed the sabers whizzing across the place. Her brows locked together as she muttered, “What do we do now?”

Zhao Yao stared at the pair with his forehead furrowed together before asking, “Are the both of you apostles from Chuan Xiao District?” Naturally, he had already recognized Lin Chen. Zhao Yao had never expected a government apostle to be swindled as well.

Sonia let out a sigh of despair and whispered, “Sorry for getting you involved in all of these.”

Zhao Yao patted her on her shoulders and reassured her, “Do not worry, it’s fine.”

Sonia shook her head violently and protested, “You do not understand! They are ... different from us! Different!” The previous battles had shown Sonia the disparity in strengths amongst apostles. Against apostles such as Lin Chen, she simply had no chance of surviving.

Master Mao and Priest Yang peeked their heads out of a tiny window from a faraway house and noticed Xiao Ming next to Zhao Yao. They pondered, “Isn’t that Xiao Ming? What do we do?”

“What else can we do? Are we supposed to save him when we can’t even save ourselves?”

“We can simply jump to Old Cat’s side if the situation calls for it. I mean we do belong to the same industry. We can even explore future areas of development together.”

Chapter 353: The First Move

Zhao Yao fixed his eyes on Old Cat before commenting, “I guess it’s not as easy as I expected to bring these people away after all.”

Old Cat gave a bellow of laughter and sneered, “What do you think?” Now, he had both Purple Sabre Fairy and Lin Chen, the two strongest apostles, under his control. Just the two of them had

elevated Old Cat's combat strength to a whole new level. Joy danced through his heart at the thought of it.

However, the hordes of villages and civilians who stood behind Zhao Yao rushed forward, blocking Zhao Yao from Old Cat's sight.

"Old Cat, I'll not allow you to kill him!"

"This person knows the secret behind the true miracle water!"

"Following him promises wealth and fortune that we cannot possibly imagine."

Black Panther clutched tightly against the dagger in his hand. Fear and hesitation flashed across his eyes as his body began shaking slightly. However, he remained steadfast in his commitment to save his master.

Fear crossed the girl's face when she witnessed this baffling scene. She just screamed at her phone, "There are hundreds of people standing face to face with Old Cat. All of them will die if you do nothing about this!"

"Just come up with something to protect them!"

"Protect them?" The girl's body shuddered with anger as she let out a deafening yell, "This is the high-frequency vibration sword that you are referring to! Combined with Lin Chen's extreme speed, even a tank cannot withstand the attack! How am I supposed to protect those civilians from it?"

Old Cat watched as the villagers came to Zhao Yao's defense, one by one. A vein popped out in his neck as he listened to his defectors begging for mercy on Zhao Yao's behalf. These traitorous actions further infuriated him as he gave a dismissive wave of his paws, "Destroy them."

Purple Sabre Fairy's pupils constricted as three plasma sabers shot out of his palms and went straight for Zhao Yao. The plasma sabers pierced through the air before puncturing Zhao Yao's head, chest, and even stomach.

At the same time, a thunderous blast exploded in his ears. By the time they had reacted to the situation, Lin Chen was already inches away from Zhao Yao with his sword resting against Zhao

Yao's chest. A vicious aura emanated from Lin Chen's body as he shot his sword in the air before slamming it against Zhao Yao's chest.

This strike could have easily torn a giant truck into pieces, let alone a human's body.

However, Black Panther remained in front of Zhao Yao. The moment Lin Chen disappeared into thin air, Black Panther reacted by letting out an earsplitting howl before thrusting his dagger forward.

There was no way that he could possibly see Lin Chen's actions. He also had no idea where Lin Chen's sword was coming from. Thrusting his dagger forward was a gamble in hopes of deflecting Lin Chen's attack.

In Lin Chen's eyes, Black Panther's actions were as slow as a snail but the position of his dagger somehow obstructed the swing of his sword.

Hence, the high-frequency vibration sword sliced across Black Panther's dagger as if it were tofu before continuing down its trajectory towards Zhao Yao. If not for his last-ditch effort, their bodies would have already been split into two.

However, Lin Chen's sword simply froze in the air after slicing through Black Panther's dagger.

Until now, Lin Chen's sword was regarded as an invincible and indestructible weapon. However, it had its first taste of defeat when it was intercepted by a finger which let out a faint golden glow.

Bam!

Boom!

Surges of waves exploded into the surroundings from the collision between the sword and the finger. The impact was mind-blowing as the blasts radiated into every corner of the district.

However, the three plasma sabers seemed indifferent to the effects of the stunning blasts and continued straight towards Zhao Yao.

“Get lost.”

The next moment, a blinding beam of light erupted from the sky, hurling Lin Chen into the air as he came crashing into a building.

The girl, who remained on the top of the knoll, stared dumbfoundedly at the sudden turn of events, “Stopped ...”

The voice from her phone sounded extremely nervous, “Who was stopped? What was stopped?”

“Lin Chen is stopped.”

“How is that even possible?”

Similarly, terror overtook Old Cat’s face as he witnessed Lin Chen falling to this unexpected man. Sonia, Master Mao, and Priest Yang’s eyes were glued to Zhao Yao as they looked on with a conflation of fear and admiration.

Lin Chen stared wide-eyed at this mysterious man. He could not believe that someone had actually managed to stop his high-frequency vibration sword. He was the only one who truly understood the strength of his sword and he knew exactly what it meant when someone had successfully intercepted his attack.

At the same time, Zhao Yao’s clothing had already been torn to pieces by the beams of golden light which erupted from his body. The original illusion cast on him had also been lifted, unveiling a headless man.

Normally, it was impossible for any type of material, even diamond, to intercept Lin Chen’s strike. However, Zhao Yao’s attack was not dependent on a tangible matter but Ares’s deflective field. Ares’s power directly acted against Lin Chen’s high-frequency vibration sword, rendering its attack completely futile.

Furthermore, Zhao Yao even activated his ‘Power Up Card’ to ensure that nothing went wrong.

“The headless horseman?” The thought of fleeing there and then crossed Lin Chen’s mind but he could only remain on the battlefield with Old Cat’s power acting on him.

Realizing that the tables had turned against him, Old Cat decided to revert to his usual technique – control Zhao Yao with incessant blabbering.

The thunderous blast caught Li Tian's attention as he swept his head around and muttered, "That bunch of fools. They must help me buy a bit more time."

However, his jaw went slack when he saw the scene which unfurled in front of him. He could not even close his mouth as all his attention was fixed on the battlefield as something unfathomable had happened.

Lin Chen's sword sliced across the sky at such an astounding speed that it looked like winter's snow scattering across the bloodied battlefield. All the attacks were focused on Zhao Yao and it enveloped him in this snow-like wonder.

No one even managed to keep track of the number of strikes which pelted mercilessly against Zhao Yao's body. The pure speed of the attack blinded everyone to what was actually happening. In their eyes, it looked as if it was raining.

The speed and strength of the attack distorted the space-time dimension slightly which produced a boom which swept across the area.

This perfect attack rendered Purple Sabre Fairy useless as he watched on by the sidelines.

However, despite its monstrous strength and supersonic speed, it still failed to break through the thin layer of golden beam.

Suddenly, Zhao Yao's voice slowly rang from within.

"Not bad. You are deserving of the title of cat king for achieving this speed with an ordinary human's body."

"However, these attacks are futile against me."

The next moment, the rain of attacks stopped as quickly as they erupted.

Lin Chen was thrown into the air before crashing into the ground hundreds of meters away with his eyes staring viciously at the sword in Zhao Yao's hand. Somehow, Zhao Yao had managed to take his prized possession away from him, without him even noticing until now.

He cautiously reached his arms behind him before retrieving a pair of high-frequency vibration daggers. However, he was not as hasty to attack this time around.

This mysterious high-frequency vibration sword piqued Zhao Yao's curiosity for a moment before he threw it in Black Panther's direction.

When Zhao Yao's eyes met Purple Sabre Fairy and Lin Chen's, they could not help but take a step back.

Zhao Yao let out a giggle before asking, "If you're not attacking me, it will be my turn to attack."

The next moment, Zhao Yao had appeared immediately behind Purple Sabre Fairy as he twisted his body sideways before throwing his arms backward, readying himself for the ultimate blow.

With a thunderous blare, Purple Sabre Fairy's body spiraled into the air before crashing into a nearby house with a loud thud.

"A chance!"

At this exact moment, Lin Chen had also activated his power in hopes of leveraging on this opportunity to land a sneak attack on Zhao Yao. Time seemed like it was slowing down as Lin Chen's speed sped up exponentially. He took a leap forward and bolted towards Zhao Yao.

Maybe all he needed was .1 seconds or even 0.01 seconds to thrust his dagger into Zhao Yao's body.

However, his clothes had already been shredded to pieces the moment he took his first leap forward. That wasn't the only thing destroyed. Even his GPS, high-frequency vibrating daggers, jacket, and boots were vaporized into thin air. All that was left was his underwear.

A flush crept up his face as Lin Chen muttered, "He is really on a whole new level."

Chapter 354: Unconscious

“He has been stopped ... maybe even taken down.” The girl could not stop her hand from trembling as she clutched tightly onto her phone. Words were failing her as she muttered, “That guy ... I think he defeated Lin Chen.”

“This is no time for your stupid jokes! Tell me, what happened? Hey! Hey!”

Yells and howls continued pouring out of the phone but the girl was already completely oblivious to it at this point. She was transfixed by the sheer strength of this mysterious headless warrior and was still recovering from her initial shock.

Similarly, Sonia’s eyes were glued to this mysterious character. Just a moment ago, she thought that both of them had reached the final chapters of their lives. However, this fool which she thought nothing of turned the tables around. He was the reason she was still alive.

“He is actually ... so powerful?” Sonia could not lift her eyes off of this man.

Initially, Li Tian only turned his head around to estimate the distance between him and the two assailants. However, his attention was all fixed on this perplexing scene and could not even bother to run anymore.

“How is this even possible? How did he manage to pull it off? How did he win?”

Zhao Yao managed to defeat the two god-like apostles without even breaking a sweat. Those who witnessed his feat dared not imagine just how strong Zhao Yao truly was. Just the thought of it sent shivers running down their spines.

Finally, Li Tian managed to compose himself and willed his legs to continue his escape. In his head, he was screaming at the top of his voice, “I must alert the higher-ups about this! I have never expected such a strong apostle to exist in our world. We cannot afford to provoke him!”

Hiding behinds the walls of a building, Master Mao and Priest Yang cocked their heads towards one another. A tinge of fear was present in both their eyes.

Priest Yang balled his fists together before letting out a long sigh, “The apostle which we met earlier was already at a level that I can only dream of. His enormous strength coupled with his god-like speed had rendered him invincible. However, that brainless guy ...”

“He is not human.” Master Mao shook his head despondently, “This explains my pimple breakout this morning. It was all a sign. This is scary, truly scary. I cannot imagine what will befall us.”

Priest Yang’s lips curled into a frown as he muttered, “The pimple breakout is most probably due to all the oily food that you stuff down your throat. It has nothing to do with him.”

With all his gears and equipment vanished into thin air, Lin Chen seemed to have no intention to continue this fight.

Actually, Lin Chen already had a taste of the ‘headless man’s’ power in the cat king competition. Lin Chen knew that Zhao Yao was capable of taking him down there and then if he wished to.

On the other hand, the only reason why Zhao Yao stopped his onslaught was Lin Chen as well. Zhao Yao simply could not believe that Lin Chen would willingly serve Old Cat even after being duped all the way to this god-forsaken place.

Hence, Zhao Yao’s eyes darted towards Old Cat and clarified, “Are you controlling the both of them?”

Uncle Meng and Tiger who stood by Old Cat’s side tried their best to avoid Zhao Yao’s gaze. They had met many apostles during their time spent here. This was the first time they had met an apostle as strong as Lin Chen. Never did they expect an apostle of this caliber to be subdued by a single person.

Terror overtook Tiger’s face as his body quivered with indignation. If not for the lousy decisions made, he would already have left this place and would not come face to face with this monster. Words could not describe just how frustrated he was.

To them, the headless horseman was as good as the devil. Their bodies froze as they heard that terrifying voice rang in their heads. The sheer intensity of the situation caused tears to well up in their eyes.

Old Cat's pupils constricted as he clarified, "How is that even possible? I'm just an ordinary little cat. I have no idea what you are talking about ...". Excitement danced through his heart as he continued to pour more words out of his mouth.

By controlling both Lin Chen and Purple Sabre Fairy, Old Cat would have the power to rule over the entire county.

But the man who was talking to him was stronger than the both of them. If Old Cat managed to control Zhao Yao, Old Cat could possibly become the king ruling over the entire nation.

Old Cat had never experienced fear when confronted by a strong opponent. On the contrary, the presence of such apostles excited him. This was especially true in the case of Zhao Yao. It would be a dream come true to be able to control Zhao Yao.

A warm fuzzy feeling spread across his body at the thought of it. Even his tail began to wag from left to right excitedly. He then returned Zhao Yao's glare with his most innocent Puss-in-Boots look, "I am just another pawn in this organization. There are some powerful and evil men lurking in the shadows, manipulating the people here. All that you've seen today is simply the tip of the iceberg."

Evidently, Old Cat was just trying to buy time for his power to activate.

Somehow, Old Cat's nonsense managed to trick Roly Poly as his brows snapped together, "What? This is just the tip of the iceberg? Don't tell me that we have somehow ended up in the middle of a disaster?"

The more he thought about it, the more frightened Roly Poly became, "This is a tussle between the leaders of the nation, a struggle within the upper class. We somehow got embroiled in this battle of the century because of this mysterious district ... in their eyes, we are just pawns that are prepared for sacrifice. What are we supposed to do? Zhao Yao, what do we do?"

Even Old Cat was surprised by Roly Poly's exaggerated claims and thought, "Did I really say that much just now?"

Elizabeth rolled her eyes before slamming her paw at Roly Poly's face, "R*tard. What's the point of eating so much when you're so stupid? Isn't it obvious that the cat is lying? He is just a stupid swindler out to cheat our money."

“Who is the one speaking?” Old Cat roared as his eyes swept from one corner to another. He stared suspiciously at Zhao Yao before whispering to himself, “Why did I hear a female’s voice?”

Elizabeth was oblivious to his roars and continued, “Zhao Yao, don’t listen to him. We can just tie him up before grilling him about the whereabouts of all the money.” Elizabeth got so excited that she had already craned her neck out of the tiny gap in the cat bag, with both her eyes staring viciously at Old Cat.

“We will squeeze him dry of every dollar and cent that he has!”

Zhao Yao simply responded with a grin when Elizabeth’s words rang in his head. A glimmer of red light flashed across his eyes. Instantly, Old Cat had lost control over his own body to Zhao Yao.

“Take back all your powers and abilities!”

“Remove the effects of your powers!”

With these two instructions laid out, Old Cat’s power was finally lifted off of the two apostles. They could finally hear their own thoughts and could vividly feel a heavy load lifted from their bodies. The weird thoughts which lingered in their minds had also disappeared.

Old Cat’s face began to scrunch up even more. He wanted to open his mouth so badly but it was futile. Elizabeth’s power was especially potent against Old Cat, which had the tendency to act in whatever manner he deemed fit.

This was the first time he had actually experienced despair his entire life.

“How could this have happened? Is his power of control stronger than mine?”

Purple Sabre Fairy was so happy that he had finally regained control over his body. He immediately collapsed to his knees and kowtowed relentlessly to Zhao Yao, “Thank you for your help. I am the vice president of Ivory. How do I address you?”

Lin Chen could finally breathe a sigh of relief. He looked towards the headless horseman and exclaimed, “Thanks, headless ... warrior, if not for you, we would have died in the hands of that stupid cat. Anyway, do not let that stupid cat speak. Even though I’m not entirely sure of the

mechanism behind it, that guy seems to have the ability to control other's behavior through his words."

Sonia rushed forward to Zhao Yao immediately. Something seemed to be troubling her.

"This is troublesome." Zhao Yao curled his lips in annoyance. He was in no mood to talk to anyone with the heaps of experience points waiting for him to harvest.

Hence, Zhao Yao simply snapped his fingers and robbed everyone of their five senses as their lifeless bodies collapsed on the cold hard ground.

A smile crept up his face as he stared at the sea of people lying unconsciously on the floor and muttered, "Mission success."

With the help of deflective field, he began transporting all these people out of the village. He could not help but jump for joy when he noticed his skyrocketing experience points.

Chapter 355: Squeeze!

1000 ...

2000 ...

3000 ...

The experience point came pouring into Zhao Yao's BOOK as he delivered the victims from the village back to their loved ones. This trip alone had earned Zhao Yao 3000 experience points. With the 'X2 Exp Card' in effect, the experience points netted increased to 6000 instantaneously.

Hence, Zhao Yao's book now reflected BOOK: lv5 (12608/10000).

"Good, good, good! Now, I have more than enough points to upgrade my book! I never expected this district of scammers to be my lucky star!" Zhao Yao's eyes then drifted towards Xiao Ming, who remained unconscious. Another 1000*2 experience points awaited him the moment he successfully delivered Xiao Ming back to Jiangmen City.

“But there’s still the issue of Old Cat and extracting more intel regarding this entire saga in Chuan Xiao.” Zhao Yao’s original plan was to secretly infiltrate the place and rescue the hostages. From there, he would collect intel on the sly before capturing Old Cat in one fell swoop.

He never expected to come face to face with Old Cat in a direct confrontation, which resulted in a deviation from his original plan.

“I have no idea if the intel extracted from this interrogation would even net me any experience points.”

However, things were not as bad as it seemed. With Old Cat captured in his hands, Zhao Yao had successfully completed the mission to capture the leader of Chuan Xiao District, earning him 500*2 experience points and a bag of royal catmint.

Immediately, Zhao Yao knew that the bag of royal catmint was not as simple as it seemed. It definitely possessed some sort of special powers like the ‘X2 Exp Card’, ‘Explosive Card’, or even that adorable dress.

In the blink of an eye, the bag of catmint had miraculously appeared in his hands.

“So this is the reward which I have busted my ass for?” Zhao Yao’s prying eyes scrutinized the reward in his hand. Evidently, the producers of the catmint had carefully ground it to powder for easy consumption. From a certain angle, it would even reflect the light in a certain manner which produced a faint golden glow.

Furthermore, even though it was still sealed within a plastic bag, a whiff of aromatic smell still managed to spread into its surroundings. Just a whiff of that scent relieved Zhao Yao of all the bodily aches suffered from the fight.

What intrigued Zhao Yao more was the description written at the bottom of the packaging.

“The royal catmint is a delicacy reserved for the cat kings. One bite of it would increase the cat’s level by one.”

“Upgrade by one level?” Beams of excitement shot out of Zhao Yao’s eyes as he calculated, “That means it will be more worthwhile to use this item when the cat is at a higher level.”

Even though the catmint was perfect in every manner, Zhao Yao had no idea what to do with it for the moment. Hence, he immediately stashed it within his extradimensional belly, ordering Dust Ball to look over it with her life.

“Dust Ball, do not allow any cats to come near this catmint. If anyone dares to come close to it, beat them till they can’t even walk.”

Dust Ball nodded her head diligently with a smug plastered on her face. When Zhao Yao turned his head around, he was greeted by the sight of Uncle Egg, Airplane, Catherina, and Diana all gathered behind him with saliva trickling down their lips and their eyes glued to the catmint. It looked exactly like the scene taken from the Walking Dead.

Upon receiving the goods from Zhao Yao, Dust Ball immediately clutched it tightly against her chest before exclaiming, “I will devour this bag of catmint if anyone tries to come close to it!”

Uncle Egg retorted, “How is that considered taking care of the catmint? You are just using it for yourself!”

Dust Ball slammed her paw against the ground and roared, “I’m repeating myself! Do not come near me! If not, I’ll eat everything inside it!”

Airplane quivered with indignation as he roared, “Zhao Yao would never forgive you if you do it!”

A sly grin crept up Dust Ball’s face as she explained, “I’ll just tell him that all you ferocious beasts laid a trap on me. In order to protect the catmint, I had no choice but to eat them and protect it with my stomach and skin.”

Uncle Egg gritted his teeth and roared, “You corrupt piece of shit!”

...

Meanwhile, Zhao Yao still had no clue on how to deal with the experience points and catmint. His current plan was to consolidate all the money and points before coming up with his next move.

However, the moment he left his extradimensional belly, he witnessed the trio of Elizabeth, Ares and Roly Poly shouting incessantly at Old Cat.

With one paw pressed against his head, Elizabeth shouted, “Speak! Where did you hide all that money?”

Ares pounded against his chest and roared, “Where are all the supercats which you have scammed? Where have you hidden them?”

“Old guy, how dare you scam me?” Roly Poly thrust his paw into Old Cat’s wobbly stomach and rammed against it with all his strength, “I, Roly Poly, abhor cats that lie to me!”

“Alright, that’s enough!” Zhao Yao rushed over and instantly separated the three crazy cats from Old Cat. Old Cat was quivering in pain and exhaustion from the ordeal which he had just gone through. A black paw print left behind by Elizabeth’s paw remained freshly imprinted on his face.

A frown appeared on Zhao Yao’s face as he muttered, “Why is Elizabeth’s paw so dirty? I think it’s time to give her nails and fur a trim and give her a good bath.”

The fur on a ragdoll’s body was particularly long compared to other cats. This also included the fur on its paw. With their paws trampling across all types of terrain, it was natural that it would turn extremely dirty and smelly.

Zhao Yao grabbed Old Cat by the neck before dangling him non-stop, “Old guy, are you awake? Tell me, where are all the money? Speak now or you’ll regret.”

Old Cat gritted his teeth and mumbled, “I ... I do not have any cash with me. All of them have been deposited into my bank account ...”

Before he could even complete his statement, Zhao Yao had slammed his hands into Old Cat’s mouth, turning his words into indistinct meows.

Zhao Yao shook his head dejectedly and explained, “Do you take me for an idiot? I know about your power that allows you to control others with your obnoxious words. From now on, you are only allowed to reply with a single word. If you break this rule, I’ll set these cats on you, without restraint.”

Roly Poly threw his paw in the air, revealing those razor-sharp claws. He began to lick those menacing claws as he spoke, “These claws have been through shit, pee and other atrocious objects for the past week. If I accidentally cut your skin with it, I have no idea how many diseases you will be afflicted with ... meowhahaha.”

Just one lick caused Roly Poly’s body to shudder as his forehead creased together, “This smells so bad.”

Meanwhile, Old Cat nodded his head in response to reflect his willingness to co-operate. Only then did Zhao Yao release his grips and asked, “Is that a yes or no?”

Old Cat thought about it for a long time before muttering that word, yes.

A sly grin crept up Zhao Yao’s face as he uttered, “Don’t look all dejected because of what I’ve said. I’ve gotten all my information from Black Panther who told me about the heaps of money which you have stashed behind. If you choose to cooperate, I can ensure that you leave this place unscathed. If not, I cannot control what my three friends here will actually do.”

Old Cat swept his head behind and noticed the pairs of razor-sharp claws waving in the air.

Old Cat whispered to himself, “Black Panther that snitch.” He could literally feel Zhao Yao’s eyes stared right into his soul, causing his chest to tighten with fear. Left with no better options, he could only acquiesce to Zhao Yao’s unreasonable request.

Hence, Zhao Yao and gang followed Old Cat to the biggest mansion in the entire Chuan Xiao District. Inside it, Old Cat tore open the leather covering of the sofa to reveal the stacks of cash hidden within it.

Zhao Yao had difficulty grasping just how much cash there were. There was at least RMB 100,000 there.

Zhao Yao was no stranger to such extraordinary sights. Hence, his breathing only hastened slightly when he saw it. However, the same could not be said for Elizabeth and Roly Poly.

With a loud thud, the two cats had plunged themselves into the depths of notes, reveling in their new-found fortune.

After spending so much time in the human world, they knew exactly just how powerful money was. However, Ares was still oblivious to its significance since the majority of his time was spent in the belly playing computer game.

Old Cat rolled his eyes as he observed the two obnoxious cats swimming within the piles of cash while screaming at the top of their voice. He muttered, “Those two country bumpkins.”

Meanwhile, Zhao Yao continued by saying, “What about the rest of the cash?”

Old Cat’s eyebrows locked together as he replied, “That’s all.”

Bam!

Roly Poly pounced into the air before plunging his claws into Old Cat’s back. Instantly, five bloodied claw wounds appeared starkly against Old Cat’s beautiful fur.

Noticing Old Cat’s startled look, Roly Poly responded with a shrug of his shoulders as he explained, “Who told you to reply with more than one word?”

Chapter 356: The Hostages!

Old Cat’s temple throbbed with anger as he could not imagine this lowlife brat (Roly Poly) ridiculing him. In his eyes, Roly Poly was neither smart, handsome or even cute. Old Cat could have easily torn him to pieces.

However, that thought vanished into thin air the moment Old Cat noticed the headless man at the corner of his eyes. He could only bottle his throbbing anger indignantly. Somehow, he accidentally twisted his back which caused a searing pain to puncture his body, causing him to collapse against the ground.

“D*mn it, this fat cat did not bother to hold back at all.”

Meanwhile, Roly Poly's attention was all fixed on his meaty paws as he muttered, "Is this the sensation that Matcha gets when he slaps me? To be able to leverage on Zhao Yao's strength and punch these stupid fools indiscriminately is truly the best feeling in the world!"

Roly Poly noticed the hateful eyes staring straight at him. He simply reciprocated with another glare and asked, "Who do you think you are looking at? Don't think that I would hesitate to hit you just because of your age. I will not discriminate any cats based on their age."

Rage swept over him as those insolent words rang in Old Cat's head. However, Zhao Yao had sent another slap across his face as he questioned, "Where is the rest of the money? This is my last chance for you. If you refuse to hand them over, I have no choice but to sterilize you."

Old Cat was barely able to breathe when he heard those threats. His fur stood on ends as Zhao Yao continued, "Do you know what happens to a supercat when it is castrated? Not only will you lose your power, you will also lose your intellect and your basic ability to procreate. A sterilized male cat is discriminated by everyone, even those ordinary dumb cats. The transition from a supercat to an ordinary eunuch cat is as good as a drop from heaven to hell."

To enhance the dramatic effects, Roly Poly began to saunter around Old Cat suspensefully. Roly Poly began to measure Old Cat's size and position and would even dangle his paws in the air from time to time.

Old Cat could not take this torment as all his fur began to drop to the ground. With his body quivering in fear, he whispered, "Yes."

Bam! Roly Poly pounced onto his hapless victim and swept his paws against his vitals, causing him to writhe in pain. His face was in complete agony as Old Cat roared at Roly Poly, "What was that for? I already agreed to your requests! I'm giving you the money!"

Roly Poly bashfully plunged his head into his chest and whispered, "I'm sorry I thought you were agreeing to the sterilization." A thought suddenly dawned on Roly Poly. In a blink of an eye, three new bloodied wounds appeared across Old Cat's chest as a deafening shriek exploded.

Roly Poly raised his shoulders in a half shrug when he noticed Old Cat's agonizing expression, "Who told you to reply using more than one word?"

Old Cat had no idea if the trembling was caused by the intense pain or throbbing anger at that moment. He only managed to say one word, “Go.” He took a few steps forward before sweeping his head towards Zhao Yao, gesturing them to follow behind.

Hence, Zhao Yao quickly stashed the heaps of cash within his belly before catching up to Old Cat.

The journey was a tumultuous one as they finally reached a tiny cabin perched on the top of a knoll.

Zhao Yao did everything according to Old Cat’s instructions. Firstly, he pushed the giant bed to a corner which revealed a secret door, leading to an underground bunker.

Piles of cash were neatly stacked on top of one another in the middle of the room. There was at least RMB 1,000,000 worth of cash lying there.

This time around, even Zhao Yao succumbed to its temptations as beams of excitement shot right out of his eyes.

“So much money? Elizabeth was the first to act as she pounced forward before burying her body inside it and relishing in the fragrance of cash. This was even better than catmint.

Roly Poly had trouble controlling his breathing as he whispered to himself, “With this cash, I can buy all the fried chickens, Elizabeth, Diana in the world!”

“Everyone, calm down!” Zhao Yao ordered as he threw his hands in the air. By stretching his mouth wide open, he had instantaneously absorbed all the money into his belly. He then proceeded to explain his actions, “It’s safe to keep the money with me.”

Elizabeth’s brows snapped together as she retorted, “Zhao Yao, we took down this district together. How dare you try to take all the money for yourself!”

“Silly kid,” Zhao Yao bent next to her before running his fingers through her snow-white fur, “You guys are far too young to handle this amount of money. Furthermore, you have no means of creating your own bank account. I will help the both of you create one before depositing the money inside it. You can even earn interests from it! I will then pass the account to you when you are both mature enough to handle this fortune.”

The skeptical look remained on both their faces. Evidently, they weren't particularly convinced by Zhao Yao's claims.

Zhao Yao pretended to be angry when he noticed those cynical stares and exclaimed, "Are you afraid that I'll take this money for myself? Come on! Think about it! Where did all the money for your food, water, and lodging come from? Do you think I am actually interested in pocketing your share of the money? I'm just trying to help you lay a foundation for your future. Do you think you can afford the expenses when you marry, give birth to kittens and buy beautiful cat towers for them?"

Elizabeth, all you know is to plunge your head in those stupid dramas. How can you survive if I don't help you save some money? Roly Poly, you are worse. With your appetite, even this money cannot support you for life. How are you supposed to find a spouse then?"

Even though they remained skeptical about Zhao Yao's motives, they still relented under the pressure of Zhao Yao's screams. They could only watch as the money disappeared into his belly.

Old Cat, which had a front row seat to this family drama, began laughing and commented, "Those two fools. At the end of the day, they are simply slaves to this man!"

Bam!

A looming shadow appeared at the corner of his eyes. Before he could even react, Old Cat had already noticed the five new bloodied scars on his body. His eyes immediately darted towards Roly Poly. That pair of eyes were filled with shock, indignation, and anger. Finally, he managed to utter a word, "Why?"

Roly Poly sniggered, "Didn't you say ha ha when you laughed?"

Every possible profanity flooded his mind at this point. Old Cat decided that he would not reply to any question which did not come out of Zhao Yao's mouth.

After settling the money, Zhao Yao looked towards Old Cat once more and asked, "Alright, what about the supercats which you have scammed here? Where are they?"

A few minutes later, Old Cat had led the gang to a marvelous villa hidden in the depths of the mountains. A whiff of catmint blasted their senses the moment they opened the door to the villa. The air was enveloped with cat fur and the remains of the catmint.

Amidst this mess, Zhao Yao could make out the conversations coming from within. He strained his eyes and noticed the shadows huddled over a table through the fog of cat fur and catmint.

“Pung!”

“How do you even dare to come out and play with your standard? You should just go home and play with your wife.”

“Just get this over and done with. I still have dinner waiting for me at home.”

“Oh, Hu! Guys, thanks for your kind donation!”

A female cat noticed Old Cat standing by the door and announced, “Old Cat, you are just in time! Xiao Dong, that shit machine is shitting again! Can you take over him for a short while?”

The cacophony of the clashing of the tiles and the incessant chatting flooded this mansion. The air was filled with the smell of catmint which would instantly choke anyone who was not used to it.

With his brows locked together, Zhao Yao looked towards Old Cat and asked, “So this is your method to keep them here? You are truly despicable.”

Chapter 357: The One Remaining Mission

Faced with Zhao Yao’s accusation, Old Cat’s body instantly quivered with indignation as he answered, “But ...” There was so much that he wanted to say but he couldn’t. With Roly Poly pouncing on every available opportunity to smack him, Old Cat could only accept the accusation, albeit unwillingly.

In his head, he was screaming at the top of his voice, “God d*mn it, how could he do this to me, a cat which loves to talk! I’ll turn autistic sooner or later if this continues!”

Zhao Yao peered through the thick fog of smoke and observed the supercats reveling in their hedonistic lifestyle. Zhao Yao tried putting an end to this debauchery by screaming, “Everyone, I have defeated Old Cat. From now on, all of you are free to return to your own homes!”

All the cats simultaneously swept their heads towards Zhao Yao as his voice rang in their heads. A chorus of meows followed immediately.

“Are you stupid? How can I leave without winning back all my money?”

“How can I possibly leave now? Just look at how lucky I am! No one in the right mind would leave with my luck.”

“Rhino, how dare you even think about leaving after winning all my money? You are not allowed to leave!”

Zhao Yao’s words caused a ruckus to break out amongst the supercats. However, that was all it managed to achieve. Every cat was bent on staying behind to either recoup their loss or further their winnings.

A few sensible supercats realized that this was their chance to escape this decadent lifestyle and jumped on the opportunity to do so. However, they were immediately dragged back by the remaining supercats, preventing them from leaving.

At that point, Zhao Yao knew that it was impossible to convince them with words or logic.

He propped his chin on his hand and began to think. Suddenly, he started to shout at all the cats, “Seriously, are you guys still playing mahjong? Do you know how outdated you are? What’s the point of winning that small amount of money from your friends?”

Zhao Yao’s words immediately caught the cats’ attention as they looked towards him with eyes which were sparkling with anticipation. Zhao Yao continued, “Haven’t you guys heard of Macau? Many casinos in Macau have already expanded their business online. You can have pretty dealers playing with you instead of these obnoxious cats.

All you have to do is to connect to the internet at home and you can begin gambling! Hundreds of thousands are lost or won in a matter of seconds. Isn’t that way more exciting than this?”

The cats' ears trembled to Zhao Yao's words. Zhao Yao had commanded their complete attention with his introduction of Macau's online gambling industry.

Suddenly, a cat shot his paw in the air and asked, "How do you access the internet? I don't know how to do it."

"You can do so with a phone." Zhao Yao said as he waved his phone in the air, "With this, you can win money regardless of where you are."

"But I lost all my money to these cats! I have no money left to buy a phone!"

"You can borrow." Zhao Yao tapped on his internet browser and introduced to the cats, "Just take a look. All these websites are waiting for you to borrow money from them.

You can start borrowing money after a simple registration. With an account, you can borrow up to RMB 10,000. The money will be transferred to your bank account within 10 minutes. Furthermore, it comes with zero interest and zero administrative charges. Also, there's no cap on the number of transactions each day. You can borrow as much as you want and gamble to your heart's content.

"Are you serious? How can such a wonderful thing exist in the world?" All their eyes were sparkling with excitement at this point.

"What's the point of lying to you? I managed to borrow RMB 100,000 using this exact method. After that, I visited the online gambling site and turned my net worth to RMB 10,000,000 in the blink of an eye. Also, the police have been alerted to the scams in Chuan Xiao District. They will be sending people over to sweep the place. All of you will be thrown behind bars if they caught you gambling."

Zhao Yao noticed the hesitation and continued his relentless marketing, "What are you waiting for? Just go back home right now and start borrowing money on your phone. You can then gamble to your heart's desire with no one stopping you."

At the same time, Zhao Yao had used his illusion to mimic the wail of the police siren. Chaos immediately broke out as the cats scattered in all directions. In a split second, every single cat had vanished, leaving the place in a horrible state with catmint and mahjong tiles strewn all over the place.

“Done,” Zhao Yao announced with a smug on his face. Just when he was about to leave, he noticed two pairs of eyes staring straight at him, with a phone dangling by their paws.

“What was the website that you mentioned?” Roly Poly asked with a grin stretching from one ear to another, “I can’t believe such kind people, who are willing to lend money to cats, actually exist in this world.”

“I want to borrow some money! Hmph? Why is it asking for my proof of identity?” Elizabeth thought about it for a short while before demanding, “Zhao Yao! Lend me your proof of identity! I’ll be able to borrow RMB 5,000 with it!”

His lips drew back into a frown as he slammed the two phones against the floor, “Are you guys seriously intending to borrow money on these websites? Do you have any idea what unlicensed moneylending is? These bloodsuckers will charge an exorbitant interest from you. Your RMB 5,000 loan will explode into a RMB 50,000 loan in a matter of days!”

“I can choose not to return them the money!” Elizabeth retorted as she crossed her arms over her chest.

“If you refuse, they’ll come knocking ...” While Zhao Yao was explaining, his lips began to curl upwards, revealing a sly grin. However, he immediately shook his head as he continued, “No, no. No matter what, both of you are not allowed to visit this website. Do you understand?”

Zhao Yao finally left the villa after rounds and rounds of reminder. However, Roly Poly’s eyes would gravitate towards his phone from time to time. A glimmer of excitement would even flash across his eyes.

Zhao Yao then took a look at the mission panel on his BOOK. Other than Xiao Ming, he had already rescued every single person out of Chuan Xiao District. After rescuing the supercats from this atrocious place, Zhao Yao had netted 750*2 experience points. The capture of Old Cat earned him another 500*2 experience points.

Currently, Zhao Yao’s BOOK read BOOK: lv5(15108/10000).

Hahahaha! Zhao Yao was overwhelmed with happiness when he glanced at the heaps of experience points he had accumulated. He couldn’t wait to use them on his BOOK and cats. However, he knew

that this was not the best time to do so. Firstly, the environment was extremely dangerous. Secondly, he had to carefully plan the allocation of the experience points to ensure the most effective optimization.

Currently, only one mission remained: collect intel on Chuan Xiao District. Based on the description, the reward was dependent on the amount of intel collected, ranging from 10 to 1000 experience points.

Zhao Yao glanced at the mission panel and realized that the mission was already completed. However, the absence of the green tick next to it suggested that it had not reached the 100% completion rate.

His eyes then slowly drifted towards Old Cat, which immediately reciprocated with the most amiable smile he could possibly muster.

“I have found the money and saved the cats. Yet, the mission is not 100% completed. That simply means there is intel waiting for me to extract.”

With the thought lingering in his head, Zhao Yao cocked his head towards Old Cat before asking, “I suggest you answer truthfully to my question. If not, I dare not imagine what will happen to you. Is there anything which you have forgotten to inform me?”

“No!” Old Cat shook his head so violently that his head almost snapped off.

Zhao Yao thought about it before continuing, “Hmph, it’s rather hard for you to say anything constructive with the one-word restriction.”

Old Cat nodded his head violently, with excitement pouring out of his eyes. In his head, he was thinking, “Hmph, as long as you let me speak, I will make sure I let you go through 10 times the humiliation which I have endured!”

“I have just the solution.” Zhao Yao roared as he slapped himself on his thigh, “I need you to write a 10,000 words report.”

Zhao Yao’s words left Old Cat completely dumbfounded.

Zhao Yao continued, “The 10,000 words count does not include the punctuations used. Remember to report every single detail to me. Don’t bother to hide the truth from me.”

Meanwhile, Roly Poly continued leveraging on Zhao Yao’s superiority, “Hey, did you hear what Zhao Yao said? Be 100% honest with your report! We will never wrong an innocent man, but neither will we allow the bad guy to escape scot-free. Do the right thing.”

Zhao Yao continued, “It’s almost 12 pm already. I want the report to be in by 9 pm. If not, I’ll expect a 20,000 words report tomorrow morning.”

Chapter 358: Delegation

With a pen and paper in his hand, Old Cat was immediately thrown into solitary confinement within the extradimensional belly.

Now, Zhao Yao was left with the troubling task of bringing Xiao Ming and Red Packet back to Jiangmen City.

A few minutes later, hordes of military trucks started streaming into the place. In a split second, Chuan Xiao District had been completely locked down by the military. Finally, Zhao Yao was no longer responsible for anything within that place.

With Xiao Ming slung across his back, Zhao Yao slowly walked to his car before disappearing into the highway back home. For the first time in the last few months, Xiao Ming could finally look forward to a better tomorrow.

Those days spent in Chuan Xiao District were definitely the darkest periods of his life. However, things were about to change. He was finally going to return home.

Just the thought of it caused the corner of his lips to curl upwards as he looked towards Zhao Yao.

He threw his body forward and clasped tightly against Zhao Yao’s hands, “Master, thank you so much. My future would have been gone if not for you.”

Zhao Yao simply responded with a nonchalant nod of his head. His eyes were glued to his BOOK as he began planning his next move.

By bringing Xiao Ming back to Jiangmen City, he had earned another 1000*2 experience points, instantly turning his BOOK to lv5(17108/10000).

Just one minute later, the car came to a sudden halt by the road shoulder. Zhao Yao slammed open his car door before throwing Xiao Ming out with a kick to his butt.

“Master? What are you doing? We haven’t even reached yet! There isn’t even a bus stop nearby!”

“You are old enough to think of a way home. I still have some business to attend to, so I don’t have time to send you back.”

Xiao Ming’s hopes were completely dashed when he heard the revving of the engine. However, Zhao Yao suddenly unwound his windows which brought a giant grin across Xiao Ming’s face, “Master ...”

“Do not forget about the RMB 50,000,000. You can forget about the interest on account of our friendship but try to return the money ASAP.”

A muscle twitched in Xiao Ming’s jaw as he replied, “I think ... I would need quite some time to raise that amount ...”

“Why do u need quite some time for this? Stop immersing your head in those silly ideas about superpowers and what not. Just look at you now, these stupid thoughts landed you in Chuan Xiao District. Just focus your attention on returning me my money.”

With that, Zhao Yao had already winded his windows as his car disappeared into the horizons in the blink of an eye.

Looking at Zhao Yao’s taillights disappearing from his sight, Xiao Ming could literally feel a ten-ton weight sinking into his body.

“RMB 50,000,000 ...”

This was an astronomical sum even for Xiao Ming. Furthermore, Zhao Yao was someone he could never default his payments from. His originally bright and promising future had instantly morphed into a gloomy and hopeless one because of this piece of bad news.

Xiao Ming felt the weight of this news crushing through his body as he let out a long sigh, “Why do I feel that I was happier when I was back in Chuan Xiao District ...”

Zhao Yao’s Panamera sped through the highway as he made his way home. He didn’t even bother to stop by his café. After all, he had already applied for an entire day of leave. One thought had completely occupied his mind at the moment: to return home and pump his points to his BOOK and cats.

With his Panamera parked in the usual spot, Zhao Yao sprinted up the staircase with a spring in his steps. The scene which greeted him when he swung open his door left him flabbergasted. The place was in a complete mess.

Lightning was cuddling with a stray cat inside a pot Zhao Yao used to prepare their meals. Their bodies were totally intertwined together as they continued their public display of affection.

When the sound of the swinging door rang in their ears, both cats immediately swept their heads towards it. Lightning felt as if a gust of liquid nitrogen had just blasted through his body, freezing his blood in an instant.

Bam! Bam! Piack! Piack! Poom! Poom!

With a shrilling shriek, the stray cat had escaped from Zhao Yao’s apartment. Meanwhile, Lightning had collapsed to the floor with his face swollen beyond any recognizable means. Lightning looked towards Zhao Yao and explained, “I can explain. This stray cat suddenly appeared in our house and tried to steal our belongings. I immediately retaliated and fought against her with every ounce of strength and energy I could muster. We fought from the living room to the bedroom, from the bedroom to the kitchen. Our fight finally culminated in the cooking pot ...”

Bam! Zhao Yao’s palm flew across and landed squarely on his swollen cheeks. Casting a death glare at Lightning, Zhao Yao instructed, “I want you to clean the entire apartment and restore it to its usual state. From today onwards, you are not allowed to bring any stray cats home. Do you understand?”

Lightning was writhing in pain but managed to squeeze out a smile as he answered, “I understand.”

Zhao Yao gave an approving nod as he watched Lightning began to clean up the apartment with a tiny broom sticking out from his tiny mouth. With everything under control, Zhao Yao retreated to his bedroom for the main event – upgrade time.

Firstly, he took a look at the contents of his BOOK.

BOOK: lv5(17108/10000)

Matcha: lv6(1270/10000)

Elizabeth: lv6(500/10000)

Dust Ball: lv6(1350/10000)

Ares: lv5(500/5000)

Lucifer: lv5(500/5000)

A thought flashed across his head as he pondered over the situation, “With this amount of experience points, I am able to simultaneously upgrade both Matcha and Ares. However ...”

His eyes darted towards his BOOK and his mission panel as he reflected, “However if I upgrade my BOOK, I would be able to recruit another cat into my team. This would be another mission completed, netting me another 2000*2 experience points.”

Currently, Zhao Yao’s main mission would reward him with 2000 experience points for the sixth cat recruited into his team. With the ‘X2 Exp Card’ in effect, the points would instantly skyrocket to 4000. Including his current experience points, he would be able to upgrade either Matcha or Elizabeth after upgrading his BOOK.

“I guess the smarter move would be to upgrade the BOOK first.”

With his decisions all panned out, Zhao Yao tapped on the upgrade button next to his BOOK. Instantly, he felt waves of electric currents pulsating through his body. His heart began to pound rapidly against his chest, causing a layer of sweat to accumulate on his skin.

This unique phenomenon only lasted for not more than a minute. Soon, he was totally oblivious to the feelings already. Currently, his body had infused Lucifer's body qualities as well. He could acutely detect the difference in the speed of his movements and reactions. Other than his keen sense of awareness, his strength and speed had also exceeded the limits of the human body.

"The effects were not as significant this time around. I guess my body had truly gotten stronger. I am no longer as exhausted from this ritual."

Zhao Yao had finally acquired 'five is better than four'. His attention was channeled back to his BOOK as he realized a new section appearing before him. Other than the mission panel, cat panel, and the diamond hall, he could finally access the delegation panel.

"Delegation?" Through the upgrading, his BOOK had earned another new power. This piqued Zhao Yao's interest as he started to read through the description.

A wide and broad grin crept up Zhao Yao's face soon enough. To put it simply, the delegation panel allowed Zhao Yao to assign one of the cats recruited under him to take his place in the missions.

In other words, Zhao Yao could hand over the authority of completing the missions to any supercats in his team. However, the points earned from completing these missions could only be spent on the cats themselves and could not be allocated to the BOOK.

However, their involvement was slowly confined to the execution of the mission. The pumping of the experience points and choosing of the ability branches were still exclusively restricted to Zhao Yao.

"This is interesting." Zhao Yao muttered with a beaming smile, "This means that I can simply relax at the café while I dispatch the cats out for a mission. All I have to do is to upgrade them when enough points are accumulated."

Joy filled him like sunshine at the thought of him relaxing at home while his cats were slogging their guts out in the wild, acquiring some hard-earned experience points.

However, he was immediately brought back to reality when he realized just how unruly Matcha, Elizabeth, Dust Ball and Ares behaved. To be able to send them out for missions would be a herculean task.

“Some proper planning must be done to ensure the smooth execution of this.” Zhao Yao whispered to himself while he focused his attention back on his BOOK.

“Next, I have to choose which cat to recruit to the team.”

Suddenly, the combination of all the cats’ unique abilities started to flood his mind. All the different combinations and groupings started to form a distinct picture in his head.

After much consideration, Zhao Yao concluded, “Sphynx Cat’s power is still the strongest amongst them all.”

Chapter 359: Training

Sphynx Cat’s unique ability would endow his apostles with a body no ordinary humans could possibly achieve. Even if the power was removed from the apostle, its effects would still remain.

To Zhao Yao, this was as good as wielding two powers simultaneously – the power of a god-like body and another power of his choice.

Zhao Yao believed that Sphynx Cat had slowly grown accustomed to the life inside the belly since arriving here months ago. Hence, he was somewhat confident to restrain and subdue him at this point.

“My vitality and strength would instantly increase by a few folds. The only downside was its stupid side-effect,” Zhao Yao grunted as he propped his chin on his hand, “... am I gonna turn gay?”

Despite his vehement belief in his ‘straightness’ and his immunity to its side effects, Zhao Yao dared not take the risk because of how strong he was.

If something happened to Baiquan or Zhao Xue, Zhao Yao could forcefully readjust their sexual orientation with his brute power. However, who would be there to stop him if something happened to him? A disastrous fate awaited Jiangmen should Zhao Yao turned into a gay and establish the second Muscle Society.

For the sake of Jiangmen and himself, Zhao Yao decided to recruit Sphinx Cat but abstain from all sorts of training. Conversely, he would force Sphinx Cat to train on his own and improve his physical strength. Hence, the effects of this training would transfer over when Zhao Yao recruited the next cat into his BOOK with 'six is better than five'.

"Based on my observation, this would be a far wiser mover than to train using Sphinx Cat's power and pray that everything would turn out fine. After combining five cats' power into my body, other than the increase in strength, agility, dexterity, my appearance, personality remained the same. This is definitely the safest option."

"However, this is a one-off approach. How much I manage to gain is 100% dependent on Sphinx Cat's strength at that exact moment. From then on, Sphinx Cat's gain in strength would have zero relations with me. I'm afraid I have to buy as much time as possible for Sphinx Cat to strengthen himself and maximize the power gained."

"Previously, I was hesitant to allow Sphinx Cat to train for fear that it would overpower me. With my new found strength, there is nothing that I have to worry about."

In that case, Sphinx Cat's loyalty would not affect the probability of Zhao Yao successfully utilizing his powers. In the meantime, Baiquan and Zhao Xue could continue borrowing his power to enhance their strength, while Zhao Yao observed from the sidelines.

With this thought lingering in his head, Zhao Yao had already shoved himself into the belly, appearing right next to Sphinx Cat.

Currently, Ares and Sphinx Cat had huddled together into a ball. From time to time, his tongue would run across Ares's fur as Sphinx Cat purred in delight.

However, the feelings were definitely not mutual. Ares shot him a disdainful glare before muttering, "Can you put some strength into it? Haven't you eaten already?"

"Yes ..." Sphinx Cat replied in an astoundingly gentle voice as a bashful smile appeared on his face.

Zhao Yao's sudden appearance startled Ares as he jumped to his feet and asked, "What's the matter? Oh yes, when are you going to let us out? I have already finished all the computer games and animes you have given us."

Despite the variety of animes and mind-boggling games, this life still paled in comparison to a life with the internet. Life without internet was as good as life without colors, devoid of the very element which made life beautiful and worth living.

Zhao Yao gave a patronizing nod of his head and responded, "Alright, I'll look into it." His eyes darted towards Sphinx Cat momentarily as cold sweat beaded his forehead. The current Sphinx Cat was a polar opposite of the original. Zhao Yao's eyes slid Ares a quick glance and suspected that he had no clue about Sphinx Cat's peculiarity.

Hence, Zhao Yao left the belly and used a dagger to carefully slice across his finger, revealing a tiny wound oozing with blood. With the use of deflective field, Zhao Yao came forth to Sphinx Cat with the drop of blood in hand.

"Sphinx Cat, take this. It's the essence of god."

The smile disappeared from Sphinx Cat's face as he shot Zhao Yao a suspecting look. He then responded with a scoff, "I'm not interested, you can leave it for yourself instead."

Zhao Yao responded by enticing him, "This will further increase your power by a few folds. You have no idea just how many cats crave for this ..."

Sphinx Cat replied nonchalantly, "No."

The amiable smile also vanished from Zhao Yao's face as he spoke to Ares telepathically, "Ares, if you can make him eat it, I will guarantee that you will be the first one out of this place."

A glimmer flashed across Ares's eyes but he doubted Zhao Yao's words. He then exclaimed, "Do you think that I would be so naïve as to believe in your promises?" Ares was a witness to Zhao Yao's lies and deceptions in Chuan Xiao District. He knew what Zhao Yao was capable of. In his eyes, Zhao Yao was already synonymous with words such as fraud and deception.

Zhao Yao's forehead puckered together as he noticed a pile of gleaming objects at the corner of his eyes. He threw his arms forward and pointed straight at the pile of cash before exclaiming, "That is my deposit! If I go against my words, you are free to tear these to shreds."

This was music to Ares. From the previous Chuan Xiao escapade, Ares had also learned just how important these piles of paper were to Zhao Yao. With these words thrown out, Ares was reassured that Zhao Yao would keep to his words.

"Deal."

The entire conversation was done telepathically. In a blink of an eye, a deal was struck. Ares's eyes drifted towards Sphinx Cat before ordering him in a cool, harsh voice, "Eat it."

Tears shimmered in his eyes as he responded pitifully, "Must I really eat this? I do not want to eat anything that came from this baddie."

"Just listen to me." Ares shot his meaty paws in the air before slamming it against the back of Sphinx Cat's head, "I do not like to hear all this complaining."

"Alright, I'll eat it." Sphinx Cat forced his eyes shut before the essence of god slowly entered his slightly parted lips.

"That's great." Zhao Yao announced with a thunderous applause, "Sphinx Cat, because of your wonderful performance since arriving in Cat Nation, I'll reward you with the opportunity to leave the cage and resume your training!"

These words caught every single cat's attention. Their eyes were glued to Sphinx Cat with admiration. They wished that they were in his place instead.

Old Cat, whose head was buried in his reflection journal, slowly lifted his chin up as he knocked on his groggy head. He was perplexed by this absurd scene and muttered, "What the hell are they doing?"

In a far corner of the belly, Red Packet was scrutinizing Zhao Yao from head to toe. By then, Red Packet knew for sure that Zhao Yao was not a man to be trifled with. He thought, "This man is a blatant liar who would come up with all sorts of lies to achieve his objective. Coupled with his insanely strong powers, he is definitely someone that I cannot mess around with."

Red Packet's original plan was to scam Zhao Yao's money before escaping from him. However, this idea had long vanished from his head.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yao's eyes drifted to the contents of his BOOK. As expected, Sphynx Cat was the sixth cat recruited under him. This also meant the completion of his main mission, netting him 2000*2 experience points. Currently, his BOOK read lv6(11108/20000).

The content of his main mission had also changed accordingly.

Main Mission: Acquire more strength by recruiting new cats to your team.

Objective: Recruit the seventh cat to your team and upgrade your book to level 7.

Reward: 3000 experience points

Punishment: Nil

Joy fluttered in Zhao Yao as he immediately threw 10+100+1000 experience points at Sphynx Cat, upgrading him to lv4 instantly.

He took a glance at his BOOK and realized that he still had another 9992 experience points to spare. His eyes then slowly drifted to Matcha's status which read lv6(1270/10000).

"Hmph, with the BOOK upgraded and Sphynx Cat upgraded to level 4, I still have sufficient points to upgrade Matcha to level 7."

However, he still had some unfinished business with Sphynx Cat. His fingers tapped on the available ability trees as his eyes slowly scanned the content. This was the first time he actually investigated Sphynx Cat's abilities.

Chapter 360: Picking Skills

Super Training: Strengthen and fortify various parts and functions of the body through physical training.

Zhao Yao unfurled three skill branches at once. He picked Heart Strengthening, Bones of Steel, and Titanium Tummy.

Any kind of workout or exercise would help him grow stronger, faster. His skeletal system would be reinforced. His digestive system would function more efficiently and could even eliminate toxins or poisons that entered its tracts.

As long as he kept training, the power would keep on giving.

It would bring more than just improvements. It would be completely transformative.

“The Sphinx would have to train everyday to reach those heights,” Zhao Yao thought.

He needed to talk to the cat.

He patiently explained the effects of these new-found abilities. The Sphinx listened, but he was doubtful. It sounded like a lot of hard work for powers that he could not even see.

Zhao Yao did not worry about that. As long as the Sphinx started training, he would experience these changes first-hand. He would understand.

And once he gained the combined powers of six cats, these transformations would be his too.

“I’ll only level the Book after the Sphinx reaches a certain standard.”

Having come to a conclusion, Zhao Yao left the extradimensional belly happily. He then expended the rest of the experience points on Matcha, whom was upgraded to level 7.

This extended the duration of TimeFreeze sevenfold. It still lasted 12 seconds, but for Zhao Yao, he had 84 seconds to use.

A new branch was also unveiled on Matcha’s skill tree. As usual, two choices were made available – Time Distortion (Intermediate) and Dust of Time.

The former would reduce the cooldown duration of Time Distortion from 24 hours to just six while the latter would reduce the speed of other people.

Zhao Yao did not hesitate to select Time Distortion (Intermediate).

“If there’s an intermediate stage, there would be an advanced stage. The six hours could be reduced to just one, or even half an hour. I’ll be unbeatable then. I could screw up multiple times and I still would not die.”

It held so much potential that Zhao Yao’s head was spinning. Self-preservation would no longer be much of an issue again.

He heaved a sigh of relief.

“I’ll just have to make sure the Sphinx keeps training and upgrade the Book when he’s ready. And everything can finally go back to normal. Oh, wait, seems like there’s a few more things I have to handle.”

The things he was referring to were Old Cat, Red Packet, and the magical Royal Catmint.

He had a pending task to collect intel from Old Cat, then think about how he can make good use of Red Packet’s powers to raise the cafe’s profits and rake in those experience points.

As for the Royal Catmint, he decided not to use it for now. It was the kind of treasure that would grow more valuable the later it was used.

For now, however, he did not want to start on any of that. He needed a little break, so he whipped out his laptop to do a bit of online shopping.

“Hmm, let’s see if there’s equipment the Sphinx can use to train.”

The interwebs had no shortage of weights and fantastic equipment, but none of them were right.

The Sphinx was remarkably strong. One swipe of his paw would feel like being smashed by a few tonnes of pressure. No normal training gear would be enough to help him grow stronger.

Zhao Yao's online search proved futile, but an idea soon found its way into his head.

"I could just use...gravity."

He had once weighed the cat down with a force that was ten times the power of gravity. The additional pressure almost burst his brain and organs, leaving him immobile and unable to fight back.

"Ten times is too much. The Sphinx could take something two or three times stronger. He would adapt and get fitter."

Armed with this great new idea, Zhao Yao made his way back into the belly and headed straight for the Sphinx.

Ares was not next to him this time. He was alone in his cage, watching Ares playing with Catherine, Diana, and Caesar in the distance. There was a hint of a smile on his lips.

Zhao Yao smiled as well.

"Ares doesn't know the side-effect of your power, does he?"

The Sphinx turned to face Zhao Yao. His expression morphed into something hateful and terrible.

"What do you want?" he spat.

"You like training, don't you?" Zhao Yao asked, "I'm giving you a chance to start training again. Grow stronger. Get better. Train until you're good enough to beat me, then take Ares and leave this place."

"Beat you? Take Ares and leave this place?" the Sphinx repeated dumbly.

"What? You don't want to?"

The cat looked back at Ares for a moment, then turned to Zhao Yao. This time, there was no anger or hate in his eyes.

There was only fierce determination.

“That’s it. That’s the look I remember,” Zhao Yao could not help but grin, “My silly Sphynx, keep training and help me grow stronger.”

He then lifted a finger and pointed at the cat. In an instant, a pressure that was three times the force of gravity hit the Sphynx, causing him to dip towards the ground.

“The cage door is open. You can leave whenever you want. The confines of the cage have been altered to contain that extra pressure you feel now. You can come back anytime to train here.”

Zhao Yao shot him a smile.

“So, what say you? Is three times the gravitational force too much? I can always turn it down...”

“No!” the Sphynx exclaimed, gritting his teeth.

He got onto his feet gingerly. He felt the familiar sensation of his internal organs being squished from the unbearable pressure. It was pure torture, but he compelled himself to move.

“Wait and see. One day, I’ll grow strong enough to beat you and I’ll leave this god forsaken place with Ares!” he declared.

Zhao Yao watched in delight as the Sphynx immediately got to work in the cage.

“Supercats may be super, but they’re still easy to trick. I hope this fiery determination lasts. A month or two shouldn’t be an issue, huh?”

Now that the cat was doing exactly as he wanted, he made his way to Old Cat. He needed to check up on him and the insightful essay that could earn him a neat 2,000 experience points.

Old Cat was seated, a phone between his paws. He was typing on it furiously.

Zhao Yao activated TimeFreeze and snuck up behind the cat. He quickly read through the words on the screen.

“I am terribly sorry for the mistakes that I have made. I never, ever should have started on this road to sin, debauchery, and lies. I will not make any excuses for my horrible behavior. I will use my actions to prove that I...”

In the next moment, time resumed and Zhao Yao asked, “What is this nonsense that you’ve written?”

His sudden appearance caused Old Cat to jump in fright.

“Well, these are my reflections. I’ve been mulling over the terrible things I’ve done and experiencing the regret that I deserve.”

Zhao Yao smacked the cat behind the head.

“No one wants to see your stupid reflections,” he started, “I want you to give me a blow-by-blow account of what you’ve been doing at Chuan Xiao District. Don’t you dare omit even one detail!”