

Carefree 411

Chapter 411: Arrest

"Reporting, the target has entered General's Temple! 10 minutes have passed and there's still no movement!"

"Received hints from Ye Yingzi, negotiation has failed! Be ready!"

"Take note, the top priority of this mission is to protect the personnel's safety..."

...

Outside General's Temple.

There were slight commotions at a few spots. Snipers had their scopes aimed at the General's Temple and there were even many armed personnel prepared to raid the temple at any time.

"Boom!"

But suddenly, accompanied by a huge flash, it was as though someone threw a grenade into the temple. The entire temple exploded and its walls toppled.

A strange gas dome appeared. Ye Yingzi and others were behind Fang Yuan and all of them were perfectly fine.

However, Ma Kunyuan who was opposite them was in a mess. His hair was dishevelled and he was retching up blood as he said, "Daoist technique? I can't believe... there's someone in this world with daoist techniques that are more profound than mine!"

Ma Kunyuan stood straight in front of the altar.

Also, there was something very odd. While the surroundings were ravaged, the statue of the deity was not damaged at all. Its emotionless eyes continued to stare downwards.

"It's such a pity you chose here! Haha..."

Ma Kunyuan guffawed, "Even if your cultivation is above mine, but with the support of the god, Green Phoenix Mountain is my home ground! Stay here!"

"Woong! Woong!"

Although it was in bright daylight, they could see a golden glow radiating from the deity's statue with their own eyes. The golden glow had some hints of black colour and they entered Ma Kunyuan's body.

With that, it was as though Ma Kunyuan just consumed a cure-all panacea and he was immediately full of energy.

"As expected... there's no god... just a messy and jumbled mix of forces..."

Seeing such, Fang Yuan gave a faint sigh, "You kept forcing yourself to cultivate god dao techniques with your human body, have you gone crazy from thinking about becoming a deity?"

"What do you even know! My sect has all sorts of secret techniques, they are not something you can understand!"

Ma Kunyuan laughed and 6 small flags appeared on his palm, "Xuan Yin 7 Evil, die!"

"Rumble!"

6 beams of black-green coloured light appeared and formed an array which surrounded and trapped Fang Yuan and others.

"Target spotted, snipe!"

Although all these that were happening were very shocking and mind-blowing, the ambush team still completed their duties well as they shot at Ma Kunyuan.

"Bang!"

After one shot, Daoist Ma moved aside slightly and was not hit at all. He even faced their scopes with a scornful smile and exclaimed, "On top of Green Phoenix Mountain, I am... god!"

"Idiot!"

"Kaboom!"

In the skies, a layer of clouds gathered and a bolt of lightning struck downwards.

The 6 tattered array flags could not withstand the flash of lightning and turned into ashes immediately.

"You think you can kill me just with some crippled 'god' forces you absorbed and your crippled array? What a joke!"

Fang Yuan raised his right hand and continued, "The mighty force brought about by the surge in spiritual droplets is a powerful force from the heavens and earth! Your muddled 'god' forces are nothing compared to it!"

"Lightning from the mighty skies, listen to my command! Turn into a divine sword and punish the evil demons!"

As Fang Yuan's palm moved, the bolts of lightning in the skies were drawn together too as they combined and turned into a gigantic divine sword with fearsome purple coloured flashes.

In an instant, everyone including Ma Kunyuan was stunned as they looked at the scene.

The tremendous might of the lightning in the skies could be controlled by the single hand of a person?

"Kaboom!"

Fang Yuan did not hesitate nor pause at all as he directly pointed at where Ma Kunyuan was at.

"No!"

Daoist Ma's hair stood on its ends and he had never in his life felt such a life-threatening danger so clearly, as though he was about to die. After he let out a strange wail, he immediately ran towards the outside in an attempt to escape.

"Kaboom!"

Nevertheless, no matter how fast he moved, he could not escape the wrath of the heavenly lightning.

A purple flash landed on him and the ground he stood on exploded, leaving behind a 3-foot deep pitch black hole. Old Daoist Ma disappeared in an instant.

"So scary..."

Ye Yingzi went forward and let out a heave of cold air, "If every supernatural person is like him, I can't imagine what our future will be like!"

"No need to worry. Most likely, this Daoist Ma has cultivated in the past. By making use of the surge in spiritual droplets, he managed to breakthrough. In the entire country or even world, his cultivation level should be amongst the top few, else, why would he even dare to establish a sect near the capital?"

Fang Yuan suddenly smiled, "Also... this is not settled yet!"

....

In the obstetrics department of a certain hospital in the capital.

Accompanied by loud cries, a new life just came into this world.

"Congratulations, it's a boy!"

Suddenly, accompanied by the congratulatory words of the doctors, there were many noises coming from the outside of the ward.

The newborn had its umbilical cord snipped and was bathed. Wrapped in a white piece of towel, the newborn's black eyes had no tinge of innocence in it. Instead, his eyes were filled with cunningness and madness, "Damn it! When did such a powerful freak appear! That 5 Lightning Righteous Technique was just like a heavenly punishment... Luckily, I riskily tried my Corpse Liberation Reincarnation Technique and it succeeded! Revenge is a dish best served cold... just you wait..."

Just that, did he still have the courage to fight against Fang Yuan, someone who was so powerful that could destroy everything with his heavenly lightning technique?

The old daoist's heart trembled in fear. As a newborn's brain could not think too much, he immediately fell into a deep sleep.

"Hello, Little Ma Kunyuan!!"

When the newborn opened his eyes, his whole body trembled. A demon-like face was right in front of his eyes.

Daoist Ma was groaning inside his heart but could only force himself to put up an innocent look as he looked at the surroundings.

After all, he was inside the hospital with a group of people surrounding him, and these people were all on their toes.

"Cut the act! You are the one I am looking for!"

Fang Yuan coughed twice and took out an arrest warrant, "Criminal Ma Kunyuan, you are arrested for illegally reincarnating without the approval of the relevant authorities! You have the rights to remain silent but every word you say will be used against you in court!"

"Uuuuuwaaaa!"

Daoist Ma really cried this time around. His cry was piercing and filled with grief.

He was already forced to reincarnate, and they still did not let him off!

"Bring him away!"

Fang Yuan contained his laughter, "He can't resist against us anymore..."

"No worries!"

Beside Fang Yuan, a person who looked like a political officer smiled and said, "I have already planned 16 years of education for him, starting from the infant's ideological education. We will revamp his ideologies in coordination with the revamp of labour. He shall be used as the specimen for future criminals and he would be a good example."

"I wish you success!"

Fang Yuan then returned to the base.

Fang Yuan's treatment was obviously different now. Many people clustered around him and escorted him to Xi Menjian's office.

"Comrade Fang Yuan, seems like every time we meet, you bring me new surprises!"

Xi Menjian gave a mirthless laughter.

"I said before last time, I have some self-defence abilities!"

Fang Yuan laughed mischievously.

Previously, Fang Yuan concealed his abilities in order to gain entry into this base to obtain more research data.

But now, after so long, with Fang Yuan's level, and especially with the authority he gained from completing the Demon Restraining Cuffs, he had already looked through most of the data he wanted to see. Thus, he was naturally not afraid anymore.

After all, what Fang Yuan needed was the most fundamental experimental data from the large amounts of samples.

With these, Fang Yuan could better compare the differences between the realms and improve those higher order things in his mind, akin to improving the template of spiritual techniques.

Hence, the Fang Yuan now could have such abilities and even have the technique to control lightning and annihilate powerful opponents.

Else, if it was the Fang Yuan who just entered the base against Ma Kunyuan, Fang Yuan might have even died.

"Cough cough..."

Xi Menjian almost choked on his own saliva, "You still need self-defence when you can control lightning and punish evildoers?"

"Originally, I can continue to conceal, but why did I choose to expose it?"

Fang Yuan's expression turned solemn, "Because I can't stand to see those people with special abilities or spiritual techniques freely abuse their powers and bring trouble to this world!"

"Is that so? I have misunderstood you!"

Xi Menjian stood up and bowed to Fang Yuan solemnly, "Thank you! Comrade Fang Yuan, thank you for all that you have done for us!"

In actual fact, ever since Fang Yuan attracted more attention to himself, investigations regarding him had never stopped.

There were specially assigned people that were collecting and analysing his details, including those since he was young to each and every of his action in the orphanage. They even formed a mental model based on him.

'Target does not have any antisocial inclination, he is rather insecure about his safety and is good at hiding and protecting himself. However, he does not bully the weak and he even occasionally kindly help out others!'

'From this aspect, he concealed himself just to protect himself, similar to how Zhao Daniu was like... Now, he even proactively wants to contribute to the country.'

'Such a morally righteous comrade, what's there for me to be worried about!'

Xi Menjian's expression turned very gentle, "Just that... don't be so reckless next time! We rather send our troops to destroy Green Phoenix Mountain than to see anything bad happen to you!"

Fang Yuan was capable of becoming a powerful leader in the bureau in the future.

Furthermore, his research ability was very outstanding, he was really an exceptional and rare talent.

"Yes! I promise I will never commit similar mistakes again!"

Fang Yuan stood at attention.

Fang Yuan was who this realm required, a person who did not have any conflict of interest with Chinese Country.

Furthermore, the real exact details about his background would never be told to anyone. Other than that, anything else could be revealed, even the Green Capsule Scripture Additional Recording!

"I wouldn't be so foolish like Elder Extreme Darkness to go against a country on the battlefield!" Fang Yuan thought.

Records about Elder Extreme Darkness were also kept in the research centre, which Fang Yuan had read before.

Elder Extreme Darkness' potential then was comparable to Fang Yuan's current potential and that was during the period of the first occurrence! During that period, spiritual energy was thin and it was truly horrifying!

But so what? The result of forcefully entering the World War and going against a powerful country was a missile that totally obliterated her.

Past experiences were lessons learnt, Fang Yuan did not want to follow in the footsteps of Elder Extreme Darkness.

It was too shallow to confine one to the national level. This realm's true value was still the realm itself!

Chapter 412: Grading

"You already saw what I can do!"

In front of Xi Menjian, Fang Yuan remained resolute. "This is only the beginning of the second occurrence. We still have time to resolve the problems... If we delay any longer and allow the cultivators and mutants to gain the upper hands, then it would be too late!"

"This is why have Operation Typhoon!"

Xi Menjian nodded his head.

"Pardon me for being straightforward, but with only a group of volunteers, the Demon Restraining Cuffs and some firepower, we can only deal with a group of criminal mutants. However, we are still incapable of dealing with the powerful ones among them."

Fang Yuan shook his head. "Take for instance Ma Kunyuan. Although he is an isolated case, those a little weaker than him are still causing problems for us!"

"..."

Xi Menjian frowned and remained silent.

He was extremely clear of the capabilities of his soldiers.

Although he had a few strong mutants and a group of cultivators, it was still not enough to deal with a Ma Kunyaun.

"So, what are you intending to do?"

"As your special consultant, I request to lead a small team to reinforce the quick response team... If they still cannot resolve the problem, I will handle it personally!"

Fang Yuan exclaimed with confidence.

'The stronger the mutant or entity, the more it exemplifies the supernatural rules of this world... I must defeat them, capture them, study them, and even... absorb them! Only by doing this will I be able to increase my power!'

"An emergency team? Alright, I'll approve of it!"

After thinking for a long time, Xi Menjian finally agreed to it. "What will it be called?"

"Let's call it the 'Dragon Team'!"

Fang Yuan snickered.

...

In the following months, the entire world fell into chaos.

The second occurrence came and the concentration of spiritual droplets multiplied. This brought about a change in the laws of physics for the entire world.

This was different from the first occurrence which caused physical bodies to change. This time, it led to discoveries of special ability! People now harnessed the ability to produce fire, ice or even lightning... Or they could be impenetrable, have the ability to fly and other weird abilities. The country could no longer keep the news from the public, resulting in a worldwide chaos.

In the Middle Region, the scientifically-endorsed Qigong was slowly gaining popularity once again. 'Martial Artists' started to appear in these regions. Some were living in the secluded forests and others were living on mountains. They had sworn that they had seen a deity with a sword and therefore, many others were trying to track down the deity in an attempt to become fated and meet her.

In the Blue Star Alliance, the long-gone vampire and werewolf appeared once more. Churches started to spread their faith and preached everywhere, making use of their new and effective magical spells to gain popularity far and wide.

As for the Golden Eagle Federation, although there were only a few cultivators there, the increasing number of mutants were the greatest among the all the regions.

The mutants misused their ability to disrupt peace and even formed an alliance among themselves, claiming that they would create a country for mutants, creating a big problem for the Federation.

Considering the chaos in other regions, Chinese Country already had one of the most favourable situations.

The decisive stance to clamp down on the evolvers and the strong-willed Xi Menjian led to a large-scale cleansing operation throughout the entire country.

Those who had just obtained their special abilities and were not accustomed to it yet were paid a visit by the people from the Office of Supernatural Studies.

The criminals who were disruptive were attacked and clamped down fiercely by the quick response team.

Within a month, the mildly chaotic society started to regain its peace. The few mutants who were left out even surrendered themselves, succumbing to the investigation by the people of the Office of Truth Investigation.

...

"It's really peaceful..."

Little Night of the Plains carried a basket and walked home.

"You're back!"

The lady who was staying with Little Night was Little Vegetable. She was a small lady with black hair and claimed to be a foreign student.

"Mmm, I've bought carrots, vegetables and a slab of pork. We can cook soup tonight!"

Little Night placed the groceries in the kitchen. While she was doing it, she secretly sensed the enchantment in the surroundings. "Hmm, it is not yet destroyed... You can say your piece in peace!"

"There's meat! This is wonderful!"

Little Vegetable was elated and was filled with emotions. "A few countries within Middle Region have already declared war. No one would've thought that Chinese Country can still maintain such peace and stability. The security in their city is much better and I've heard that the criminal mutants are all captured. With that, the situation became under control!"

"Yeah, it's really strong!"

Little Night let out a bitter smile. Even their home country was troubled with these mutants.

Comparatively, she now knew the power of Chinese Country!

"How's the intelligence?"

Both of them knelt down before a small table and Little Vegetable became tensed.

"The headquarters of the Religious Bureau is in a military base and it is extremely hard for us to infiltrate... However, we are familiar with their departments and the situation in the bureau, especially their Demon Restraining Cuffs. We have verified that these cuffs will affect the spiritual force of Yin Yang Masters!"

Little Night took in a deep breath.

"The instruction from the higher-ups is to prioritize and obtain their little invention!"

Little Vegetable appeared solemn. "Without it, we will need to sacrifice a lot of warriors before we will be able to capture one mutant. Furthermore, we cannot ensure that we will be able to contain the mutant for a period of time! Prioritize the capture of its designer, Mr Fang Yuan, as well! That is our final goal!"

At this point, her expression changed as she glanced towards Little Night. "You've met him before. How is he?"

"How is he?"

Little Night of the Plains thought about the scene at Heart Questioning House and was in a daze. "I could not see through him. Although I felt that everything was under control then, now that I recall, it seems like the entire place was shrouded in fog... It's a pity that they no longer sell the Opening Point Incense..."

The incense was extremely beneficial to Yin Yang Masters. They had secretly performed tests on it after shipping it back to Japan and could create it from its composition. However, they were still unable to achieve its desired effect.

The need for resources and the fact that Fang Yuan's prediction through his thesis made Fang Yuan the top priority for spies from many countries.

"It's a pity..."

Little Vegetable sighed.

As a top mutated scientist, he would surely be protected by maximum security and it would be almost impossible for anyone to go near him.

Although spies from all over the world were hungry to get to him, they could only patrol around Fang Yuan's old lodging and school... all these places were places which he could possibly leave his DNA for the spies to collect.

"I have gotten in contact with the Nightingale and have gotten a piece of intelligence!"

Little Night of the Plains appeared solemn and continued. "This is related to the thunder-type mutant from the legends as well as the Grading system described by Mr Fang Yuan!"

Fang Yuan's actions at the Green Phoenix Mountain was too much of a commotion to be placed under wraps.

Xi Menjian had thought long and hard and could only create a 'God of Thunder' in the database in an attempt to cover up for Fang Yuan.

Of course, it was not entirely covering up for Fang Yuan.

This was because the God of Thunder was indeed the leader of the Dragon Team. The team leader had resolved many problems regarding criminal mutants and was well-known throughout the world.

However, no one would link such a powerful warrior with Fang Yuan the scientist and therefore, it was as good as covering up for him.

"Be clear about it!"

Little Vegetable became excited and straightened her back.

"Those with improved physical qualities after the first occurrence are graded 'Mortal'! Those elementary martial artists and illusionary souls with only the ability to scare others are also in this grade."

Little Night of the Plains continued. "Above the Mortal Grade is the Ghost Grade! This people have a certain special ability and can disrupt the order of society... According to this classification, I am under this grade."

"After Ghost Grade would be the Murderous Grade! There are extremely few mutants in this grade. Those in this grade are able to defend themselves against a group of mutants or even a country's forces... The daoist in Green Phoenix Mountain is classified under this grade. Of course, he is the top in this grade!"

"After Murderous Grade, it would be Calamity Grade!"

Little Night gave a suspicious look. "This is only a hypothetical grade and our sources have yet to get information regarding mutants in this grade. We only know that there must be the existence of such mutants in the Calamity Grade. If any of them were to appear, there would surely be a calamity! I suspect the God of Thunder belongs to this grade."

"There seems to be an official way to test mutants and see which grade they belong to. Professor Fang has designed an instrument to test the circulatory system within one's body based on the concentration of spiritual energy and from there conclude a general grade..."

"It's Mr Fang Yuan again?"

Little Vegetable became silent. "Chinese Country is too fortunate... to have such a talent and such a powerful mutant like the God of Thunder."

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

With a white flash, an origami crane flapped its wings and floated through the window.

"How could they even think of such a method to send information?"

Little Night and Little Vegetable froze. "Is there any emergency?"

Little Night stretched out her hand and the paper crane landed on her palm. She bit her tongue and spat a mouthful of blood on it.

"Buzz!"

With a red glow, a row of red words appeared.

This was an encrypted message. If Little Night did not spit out the mouthful of blood, the paper crane would self-destruct.

"It is truly an emergency! There are sightings of a Murderous Grade mutant in Mountain Ocean City. It has broken free of the ambush by the quick response team and the Religious Bureau is sending in more reinforcements!"

Little Night became overly excited and a little dizzy. "There are many scientists involved in this, including Fang Yuan!"

"To be able to get close enough to obtain intelligence about the Murderous Grade mutant and Mr Fang Yuan himself..."

Little Vegetable spoke in a serious tone. "This is the best opportunity and we must make full use of it!"

Chapter 413: The Willow Tree

There was silence in the airplane cabin, except for the continuous whirring of machinery.

Through a small window, the blue sky was visible and there were fluffy white clouds beneath.

"Professor Fang, in another half an hour, we will reach Mountain Ocean City!"

Beside him, there was a scientist, Old Li. He laughed as he spoke. "That is Professor Fang's hometown, right?"

"That's right... many years have passed since then!"

Fang Yuan was donned in a lab coat, wore glasses and gave off a scholarly vibe. No one would be able to associate him with the team leader of Dragon Team, the God of Thunder.

It was an ancient trick for martial artists with cultivation to make use of their muscles and internal energy to alter their appearances. This was nothing difficult for Fang Yuan.

As for his appointment as a professor? Since the completion of the design for the Demon Restraining Cuffs, Fang Yuan had been approved to be a professor with almost no resistance.

Now, he gazed deeply out of the window and was lost in his thoughts.

'Is Professor Fang thinking about your hometown?'

This colleagues looked at him and gave friendly smiles without interrupting him.

They were clueless that Fang Yuan was actually reading through his stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 3.5

Spirit: 9.9

Magic: 9.9

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell (Grade 3 (99%))]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)]"

'The improvements brought to my body after killing Ma Kunyuan's possessed body and absorbing the spiritual energy from Green Phoenix Mountain is too great...'

Seeing this, he was extremely satisfied.

With his special ability to have fixed stats and his own strong physical body, he almost had no limits in this world, which was something that others could never imagine.

After removing the restrictions on his own body and assimilating into the world, he would be able to increase his cultivation as long as he was given energy to absorb!

'It's a pity... The Green Phoenix Mountain was mainly covered in the strength of the god dao and most of it is being wasted... Hopefully, Mountain Ocean City will not let me down...'

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The plane flew through the clouds and descended. On the horizon, a huge airport appeared.

Fang Yuan and his colleagues alighted from the plane and a group of people hurriedly rushed towards them. The one leading the group of people was a middle-aged soldier in military uniform. "Hello guys, I am the person-in-charge here and my name is Wu Tie. We've waited for quite a while!"

"Hello!"

Fang Yuan stretched his hand out. "We have brought the best botanist from the base and hope that we will be of help to the situation!"

"You are... Comrade Fang Yuan! This is great!"

Wu Tie was initially suspicious after seeing Fang Yuan's young looks as he led the group of scientist. However, after realising that it was Fang Yuan, he was overjoyed. "Great... our city is finally saved!"

"Oh? Has it reached such a stage already?"

Fang Yuan raised his glasses. "Let's get on the car. Tell us about it along the way."

"Rumble!"

The jeeps roared to life and a line of 10 jeeps drove on the roads.

They were on the outskirts of Mountain Ocean City. After 10 minutes, the silhouette of a city appeared on the horizon and Fang Yuan could see a few familiar looking buildings.

At the same time, the accompanying Zhao Daniu shrieked.

This was because a layer of fog was slowly spreading, engulfing almost half of the city.

"Is this the power of the Thousand Year Willow?"

Closing his eyes, Fang Yuan could feel an immense amount of spiritual droplets gathering around the city, forming a swirl.

In the middle of the white fog, there was the silhouette of a jade-green tree covering half the sky. It was full of energy and life.

"That's right... After the second occurrence, other than the increased appearance of mutants, there are also natural changes and mutated plants..."

Wu Tie had an uneasy look on his face. "Some animals are even better adapted than us in absorbing spiritual energy... Of course, the biggest winner is nature!"

After the second occurrence, there seemed to be the appearance of a few mysterious plots of land on earth.

Some of these lands were originally dangerous. Together with the increase of spiritual droplets, they became perilous plots of lands which had to be avoided at all costs.

Other plots of lands only became dangerous after the second occurrence. From then on, these lands began to spread far and wide.

It was unfortunate that one of these lands was in the middle of a city.

"Its index number is M-95 and it is a willow tree. It was originally an old tree in the North Park of Mountain Ocean City and it was rumoured to be more than 1,000 years old. After investigations, it was found out that although it had already withered, after the first occurrence, the tree started to revive and recover. Therefore, it was not removed from the park and appeared completely normal. Who would've known that after the second occurrence, this willow would start to spread out? Within a short period of time, its roots had already spread throughout the entire North Park. It also began to release a thick fog which was unable to be dispersed. In the fog, there is an intoxicating agent and the fog has already covered half of the city..."

"Before this, we have already sent people in hopes that the willow tree could be destroyed. However, our efforts were futile and even the fire-type mutants could do nothing about it... Until now, we have already evacuated over 300,000 people from their homes. The destruction this willow had caused to our economy and our properties are too much to calculate!"

With an uneasy look, Wu Tie shared everything he knew about the situation. "We are suspecting that this willow has a simple mind on its own and its branches are like hands which are able to move, making it extremely hard to destroy..."

"I understand!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head. "When we arrive at the base, we will need to start collecting some data! If we still cannot succeed, we will have to use our final plan!"

"..."

Wu Tie remained silent and there was pain in his eyes.

The final plan would surely be to bomb the place, wiping the willow tree of its existence!

If the final plan were to be executed, the entire Mountain Ocean City would be destroyed as well. This was an outcome no one would want to see.

Notwithstanding anything else, the problem of hundreds of thousands of refugees created from bombing the city would have to be dealt with or it would cause a greater societal problem.

Therefore, they had to solve the problem caused by the Thousand Year Willow!

If not for this, Xi Menjian would not have sent his most precious asset, Fang Yuan, here.

After driving for a while, a huge camp appeared before Fang Yuan and company. Many green and huge tents lined the camp, making the entire place feel organised.

Outside the camp, there were concertina wires surrounding the boundaries and red warning signs were posted everywhere.

"Lecturer Fang..."

After alighting from the keep, Wu Tie could no longer hold himself back. "Chief of Bureau, Xi Menjian, has promised us to send reinforcements. Where are the highly skilled people in the Dragon Team? Where are they?"

"You must know that the intoxicating agent is extremely potent. Even if we are properly equipped with anti-poison clothing, we will not be able to last for 10 minutes. Only the mutants will be able to fight in the fog!"

Thinking about how they would know about the properties of the fog, Wu Tie's eyes started to redden. It must have been a painful lesson for them.

"Don't worry. The Dragon Team is already on its way. However, the God of Thunder likes to travel alone and will not be with us for now!"

Fang Yuan smiled.

"That's good..."

Wu Tie's eyes were filled with uneasiness.

Any superior would not feel at ease if their subordinate were to travel and do things on their own.

Being a composed person, he quickly regained his composure and did not display any displeasure.

"Since that is so, I hope that they will remain safe. In the surroundings of this camp, I have already detected the traces of a few spies from the Golden Eagle Federation!"

"This unique situation will be attractive enough to attract them here..."

Fang Yuan sighed before instructing Zhao Daniu and Ye Yingzi to open the packages and start to build many instruments.

"I need to get close to the white fog and conduct a field research on the concentration of spiritual energy there!"

Fang Yuan casually took a gas mask and wore it.

"Mmm, I shall send a party to escort you!"

Wu Tie was impressed at Fang Yuan's decisiveness and how he was willing to risk his own life for research.

...

Very quickly, Fang Yuan, Zhao Daniu and a group of soldiers entered Mountain Ocean City and were on the main street.

"Sigh..."

Zhao Daniu looked at the empty streets and the tattered newspapers flying in the wind as he began to be filled with emotions.

After all, he was different from Fang Yuan and did not have the opportunity to study abroad. He had grown up here and therefore had a feeling of affection for the city.

Now that he had observed the desolate and lifeless scene, there was a tinge of sadness in his heart.

"This place gives me the goosebumps!"

Ye Yingzi held her gun tightly and scanned the surroundings on full alert.

She had never imagined that an empty and lifeless city would give her the creeps.

"This is only normal. After all, we are comparing it to the capital!"

Fang Yuan walked down an alley and a layer of white fog appeared before him. It was different from the fog of dream masters and was even more pale, giving off an ominous vibe.

"Professor, be careful. The intoxicating properties of this fog are extremely strong and there seem to be other dangers lurking in the fog as well!"

Beside him was a group leader wearing a chemical warfare suit and a gas mask. Because his voice was amplified through the mask, it sounded extremely depressing.

"Don't worry, I've got it!"

For safety reasons, Fang Yuan and Ye Yingzi were also wearing gas masks. Only Zhao Daniu did not require any protection and was unobstructed by the fog, making the rest around him jealous.

"This place... this place is alright. Let's set it up!"

Fang Yuan placed a metal rack on the ground and created a path for himself.

Ye Yingzi and Zhao Daoniu went forward to help him. They seemed experienced and not long after, a small radar-looking instrument was assembled and the wok-looking sensor was pointed towards the white fog.

"Let's fix the location! React as soon as a high concentration of spiritual droplets is detected!"

Fang Yuan looked at the needle as he started to read off some numbers. "Hmmm... There is a reading of 10 for the spiritual droplets. It should be a branch or root. Follow it... We've found it!"

"Ascertain that this is the trunk of the willow!"

"Dooo! Doooo!"

There was a vibration in the fog as though something was detected.

With that, the instrument started to give off a chime.

"Hmm, the readings at the core are hitting 999, more than what we can detect! It is confirmed..."

With a solemn face, Fang Yuan announced. "This is a Murderous Grade disaster, and its destructive force is above what we had encountered at the Green Phoenix Mountain!"

Chapter 414: Parasitic

Since there were Murderous Grade supernormal people, naturally there would be Murderous Grade disasters.

Such a thing that destroyed a city, affected hundreds of thousands of people and could not be annihilated except if it was extensively bombed would be a Murderous Grade natural disaster.

"This willow tree does not know how to conceal itself... if it maintained its previous state and waited for the third occurrence... it would most likely rise to Calamity Grade! Humans would not be able to do anything to it."

A Murderous Grade natural disaster affected an area, whereas the range of a Calamity Grade natural disaster would be the entire country or even realm!

"Tzz! Tzz!"

"Tzz! Tzz!"

Suddenly, the instrument pointed towards the white fog and was emitting an ear-piercing noise in the silent environment.

"It's the willow? It has discovered we are probing it, retreat!"

Fang Yuan swiftly kept the instrument and was the first to run away.

After all, the order this team received was to protect Fang Yuan's safety with their lives. If Fang Yuan did not leave first, none of them could leave unless they were a deserter.

"Retreat! Retreat!"

The team leader at his side took out his gun. His voice was rather frightened as he said, "I have already requested for aid from the headquarters, they will be coming soon!"

"Boom!"

Near the boundary of the white fog, the cement roads ruptured and numerous spiderweb-like cracks appeared.

Not only that, the cracks kept extending like a black coloured centipede. The cracks were charging towards where Fang Yuan and team were at.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The ground continued to rupture and a giant black shadow emerged from the cracks. It was like a long whip that swung crazily.

"Smack!"

As the ground tremored, a few soldiers who could not dodge it fast enough were smashed into pieces.

Furthermore, it was as though the black shadows were alive as they kept sweeping towards the remaining of them.

"The willow tree's rhizomes? Can they spread till here? No... no way, this is just a... parasitic body!"

Fang Yuan's eyes sparkled and he shouted, "Daniu! Go!"

"Haaa!"

Zhao Daniu's entire body swelled and his skin turned into a green and rock-like colour. He extended both his arms forward and grabbed it.

"Smack!"

The root was like an iron whip and smacked Daniu's arms, producing an extremely dull noise as though it hit something tough.

"Gotcha!" Zhao Daniu exclaimed delightedly and he then pulled backwards continuously.

"Rumble!"

A spot on the ground rose up and formed a big bulge. There was even a chattering noise from within it, as though there was a living animal inside it.

The nearby rhizomes were provoked at once and they immediately let go of the others and aimed Zhao Daniu.

"Smack! Smack!"

Although the rhizomes could rupture the ground and break bones, they had no effects on Zhao Daniu. When they landed on his body, his skin turned white momentarily and there were no marks nor injuries left on it.

"Haha... come out!"

Zhao Daniu laughed. The veins on his arms bulged out as he strongly exerted his force.

"Bang!"

The bulge erupted and a strange living creature appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

"Chi chi! Chi chi!"

The creature had the appearance of a gigantic white rat which was almost as large as a buffalo. Its snow-white fur had hints of grey and there were large amounts of rhizomes emerging from underneath its skin. It was truly disgusting and horrifying.

"This... why does this look like it is parasitised!"

Fang Yuan stroked his chin, "Unless these rhizomes are the true mutated organisms... Do willow trees have spores? No... it seems like... willow catkins!"

"Professor Fang, be careful!"

A panicky voice could be heard from the communication device, "That is the willow tree's parasitised mutated body! Based on our observations and research, it should be infected by those white coloured catkins..... As long as a living object is parasitised, it would immediately become a terrifying biological weapon!"

"I was right, it is the willow catkins!"

In Fang Yuan's eyes, large amounts of fine willow catkins had already covered the entirety of this rat's body.

Furthermore, the catkins even covered the rhizomes and were like insects crawling towards Zhao Danlu.

"Burn it!"

The soldiers in the team could finally react. They took out their flamethrowers and started burning the rhizomes.

"Flaming!"

Under the searing flames, large amounts of white coloured willow catkins ignited at once. The roots rustled and let out a wail and numerous burnt patches appeared along with large amounts of fluids blasting out.

"Snap!"

The giant white rat immediately broke off its rhizomes and tried to turn around to burrow into the ground as it saw the situation was not in its favour.

"Attack!"

"Ta! Ta! Ta! Ta!"

However, at that moment, more than ten blazes of fire were shot and landed on the rat's body in an instant. There were many holes in its body as though it was a honeycomb.

"Dead?"

Fang Yuan slowly walked forward and thought, "Normally, such parasitic species were at most Mortal Grade mutants and 80% of them would stand no chance against me. However, against Ghosts Grade mutants, even if my stats were not restricted, it would be super troublesome to fight against them!"

"Professor, such an organism is extremely dangerous! Even if the parasitic body has died, there are still copious amounts of microorganisms inside its body!"

One of the soldiers immediately went forward to stop Fang Yuan.

"It's okay..."

Fang Yuan took out a pair of tweezers and searched inside the rat's pool of blood. He then picked up a strand of willow catkin.

Its body was thinner than a strand of hair and it was still wriggling about, as though it had a life of its own.

"Once such infection spreads, it would be harder to deal with it than the willow tree... However, there seem to be some limitations..." Fang Yuan looked at the white fog and ruminated.

"Professor! The responders have arrived and they are requesting to escort us to leave immediately!"

Ye Yingzi took a step forward.

"Oh, let's go!"

Fang Yuan placed the strand of willow catkin into a test tube. He then tilted his head to one side and looked somewhere before he finally turned around and left.

After the group of them left, the white fog rolled and was soon back to its calm state.

On top of a residential building near the area, a few black shadows appeared, "Such a pity... if they went deeper it, it would have been the best opportunity for us!"

"Don't be foolish, Professor Fang Yuan is Chinese Country's most important mutant researcher, it would be impossible for them to let him be in danger!" A gorgeous lady at the side laughed.

She had a hot body and was donned in a black leather suit that showcased her seductive curves. She had blonde hair, blue eyes and was the quintessential western beauty. She then continued, "Instead of being so secretive, why not let me give it a try... Chinese Country's scientist, I'm interested!"

"Narissa, you Black Widow! Why is your brain filled with the thoughts of white fluids... What we need is his intelligence, not his corpse!" A tall blond dude beside her replied.

This Narissa awakened a very bizarre mutant type. She could strengthen herself by absorbing males' vitality and she had already caused some panic in Golden Eagle Federation.

Once a person has his vitality drawn out, it would be very difficult for him to survive even if he was a mutant.

If her teammates did not know that her ability to syphon vitality had its limitations as it had to be done through a specific method, there would be no males willing to be in the same team as her.

"Fine, I know!"

Narissa stuck out her tongue and licked her thick and supple red lips, which made all the men on the spot felt warmth flowing near their nether region.

"Ok, we have three objectives for this mission. The first is to observe this willow tree's ability and assess its danger! The second would be to monitor the strength of the mutants in Chinese Country! The third

objective is this Professor Fang Yuan!" The team leader explained slowly. When the team leader was serious, even Narissa did not dare to retort.

"Furthermore... this time around, we have the assistance of another power!"

"Woong! Woong!"

Above the rooftop, two origami cranes appeared. It then exploded suddenly and cast the image of two persons kneeling and greeting, "Greetings, ladies and gentlemen!"

The two persons were like ancient ladies. They had a thick layer of white powder on their faces and bright red lips. They were also dressed colourfully and thinly.

"Japan's paper shikigami?"

Narissa smiled and said, "Indeed, a group of people who like to hide themselves and do things indirectly!"

"As our true bodies are not around, we can only meet you all with such means. Apologies!"

The two shikigamis each had three fingers on the ground as they bowed again, "Also... Fang Yuan is our main target this time around and I hope you all can satisfy this small wish of ours. We will do our best to cooperate with you all in other areas!"

"Your target is Fang Yuan?"

The team leader smiled nonchalantly, "No matter how good a scientist is, without the best equipment and fellow researchers, he would not amount to anything... Our Golden Eagle Federation is the hub of modern cutting-edge technology! My main goal this time is also that God of Thunder! He is a Calamity Grade mutant and should not waste his time here... his ability would be put to the best use only if he comes to our Golden Eagle Federation!"

"Understood, we will do our best to help you all!"

As the two shikigamis spoke, their bodies sinisterly began to burn from their bottom and turned into two piles of ashes moments later.

"What a strange usage... looks like some of the supernormal cultivators in Middle Continent and East Continent are pretty interesting too..."

A mutant walked forward and looked at the piles of ashes on the ground. His eyes suddenly let out a bloodthirsty glow as he said, "I wonder how their blood taste like..."

"Jax! There will be opportunities!"

The team leader's voice was firm and filled with perseverance like a piece of aged granite, "In this world, only power can crush everything!"

...

The atmosphere inside a conference room in the large military base was tense and solemn.

Presentations and results of data analysis played which reflected their despair.

"In conclusion... we can deduce that this demonic willow tree is at the peak of Murderous Grade! There is a possibility that it might enter the Calamity Grade in the future!"

Fang Yuan kept his presentation pointing stick and continued, "Regarding the effective methods to combat it... Professor Chen!"

"Cough cough..."

An old professor coughed a few times and presented, "I have already created its life model. According to the deductions, even missiles could only at most seriously injure it and cannot completely annihilate it. It must be paired with napalm bombs... However, the resulting pollution cannot be estimated..."

"Hence, the best way to destroy it would be to send a group of soldiers to carry and place large amounts of bombs and napalms at the core of the willow tree. Thus, this can destroy the tree and yet protect the entire city!"

Wu Tie's expression changed as he asked, "When is God of Thunder arriving?"

"Tonight!"

"Looks like... this is our only method?"

Wu Tie's face turned ashen as though he just aged ten years. He then muttered the meeting was dispersed.

"I'm preparing to engage in a thorough research, don't let anyone disturb me!"

Fang Yuan asked for a laboratory as an excuse for the God of Thunder to appear later on.

As long as he had the cooperation of Ye Yingzi and Zhao Daniu, he could continue to keep up the act.

Chapter 415: Infiltration

"It's done!"

Fang Yuan wore a black suit and looked at Ye Yingzi and Zhao Daniu.

Only two of them knew the true identity of the God of Thunder.

"Execute according to plan. I will destroy the willow tree and the both of you shall stay here to be my alibi!"

"Rumble!"

As he spoke, he started to grow in height and his facial features began to change. He now had sharp eyebrows and grey sideburns.

To put it in another way, he had transformed from a young scientist to a middle-aged handsome lad.

"Alright!"

Ye Yingzi acknowledged but had a complicated look on her face.

No matter how many times she had seen Fang Yuan do this before, she would still be stunned.

"Whooosh!"

With a smile, Fang Yuan disappeared with the wind.

...

Outside the base in the wilderness.

"Is our leader not here yet?"

A young man with a yellow-dyed hair and earrings who seemed flippant started to complain.

"Searing Flames, how dare you say such things here..."

In front of him was a 30-year-old beauty with a mysterious seductive vibe coming from her.

"Red Sister, we are just joking!"

The young man called 'Searing Flames' seemed to fear this lady as he tried to make up for what he had said previously.

"Look at Old Guo. He is much more patient than you!"

Red Sister crossed her legs and sat down, glancing towards Guo Jing who was fiddling with a magical equipment. "Am I right?"

"Hehe... Red, don't you mock me!"

Guo Jing stood up and shook his limbs. "I'm old already and I can't compare to you youngsters!"

"Your daoist techniques still leave our leader in awe. You were personally invited by him to join the team, so how can you only have those few moves?"

Searing Flames rolled his eyes.

Speaking of this, Guo Jing felt depressed.

He was minding his business to begin with and was well hidden within the city. However, one fine day, a government official came knocking on his door.

He had no intentions to kill a government personnel and go against the entire government and had to obediently allow them to recruit him.

After unknowingly making his way into the Dragon Team, he then realised that it was the God of Thunder's intention to recruit him in and therefore he could only allow it.

"Enough about me..."

Guo Jing looked at Searing Flames and Red Sister as his eyes glistened. "Although you guys have special abilities and are strengthened after the second occurrence, the way you guys are using it is wasting your natural talent... How about becoming my disciple? Considering your foundation and potential, both of you have the opportunity to breakthrough to the highest realm in the daoist books!"

"It's boring!"

Searing Flames rolled his eyes. "If I become your disciple, I will have to stare at the ugly-looking talismans the entire day. I'm too lazy to even go to school. Do you think I will join you?"

"Then why not consider the Golden Eagle Federation from the West? Their process of strengthening their bodies are much more simplified. All they have to do is to take some medication and an injection. Convenient!"

At the same time, Red Sister took out her make-up and started to touch up.

"Sigh... The Violet Seal Script is a rare heritage. Many cultivators don't even have the chance to see it, let alone having the chance to learn..."

Guo Jing revealed a face of regret. "Even our leader has requested to see my techniques and perform investigations on it..."

"That is the leader, not us!"

Red Sister smiled. "Leader is a talent. Furthermore, have we all not been forced to try out daoist techniques? This proves that not all mutants are able to cultivate in daoist techniques... The best would still be to follow your own body and awaken your own special ability which suits you this most. This is what Professor Fang said."

"Sigh... eh?"

Guo Jing sighed before twitching his eyebrows and retrieving an array flag which was in his possession. "My array has been alarmed. Our leader must be here!"

"Rippppp!"

With the streak of a lightning, Fang Yuan's middle-aged persona arrived.

"Boss!"

Seeing their leader's arrival, even the rebellious young punk did not dare to show any disrespect and properly greeting Fang Yuan.

He only displayed so much respect because he was once taught a lesson by Fang Yuan.

The codenamed Searing Fire and Red Sister were rebellious children who posed problems even for Xi Menjian. Troubled, he assigned both of them to Fang Yuan.

"Hmm, there are only the 4 of us here. We must complete the mission!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glistened with excitement.

He knew that he had to get the willow tree no matter what happened.

Although everyone regarded him as a Calamity Grade mutant, he knew himself the best and gauged that he should only be around the Ghost or Murderous Grade.

He could only release so much power previously because of the fact that he made use of the high concentration of spiritual droplets and channelled them completely to create spells.

'Therefore... If Guo Jing were to attain the highest cultivation possible of the Violet Seal Script, he should more or less know that I am not a mutant, but... just well-versed in thunder-type techniques!'

Fang Yuan laughed to himself.

Regardless of where the power came from, if he could harness it, it would be considered his!

"This willow is intriguing. It not only has a huge storage of spiritual droplets, it also lies above a node... If it was in the world of Da Qian, it would surely become a hollow... If I were to absorb it completely, I would be able to advance many grades at once!"

This was something only possible for Fang Yuan for he had the ability of fixed stats. Therefore, he would be able to absorb in energy and simply improve his cultivation.

If Elder Extreme Darkness were to have such an ability, she would probably have ruled the entire world and would not end up being killed by a bomb.

"We have no worries for you are here, leader!"

Searing Flames exclaimed loudly.

"In this operation, we will split into two groups. After meeting up with the officer at the camp, the few of you will bring the bomb with you, while I will deal with all those who are watching!"

Fang Yuan's cold voice sounded murderous and Searing Flames uncontrollably shuddered.

...

"Good day, officer!"

Within the camp.

The 4 members of the Dragon Team revealed themselves and therefore, the entire group was invited to Wu Tie.

After settling their identifications, Wu Tie heaved a sigh of relief. "The future of Mountain Ocean City lies in your hands!"

"Don't worry, we will accomplish the mission!"

Fang Yuan laughed and followed Wu Tie to the back end of the camp.

"This is the poison jointly developed by Professor Fang Yuan and I. It might be useful!"

The previous Professor Chen came out and brought them to a huge warehouse.

"Also, we have completed preparations for the specially made bomb and napalm. You guys can leave anything!"

"Very well, prepare a few vehicles and we shall be on the move!"

Fang Yuan was decisive.

"Rumble!"

Not long after, a row of cars drove along a road and went straight into the fog-covered Mountain Ocean City.

As the fog became denser, the visibility started to worsen.

There were weird sounds coming from the surroundings.

"You guys should be clear of the location of the park where the willow tree is... There is only one mission, and that is to deliver the bomb safely to the perimeter of the park!"

Fang Yuan's spiritual will shook and in a bolt of lightning, he was gone.

...

In a base outside the city.

At where the Dragon Team once was, a staff officer made his way to the table and grabbed the used cups.

"What are you doing?"

Suddenly, the tent was lit up and Wu Tie was standing at the opening with a stern look. "These are the objects used by the Dragon Team. Are you trying to obtain their biological samples?"

"Hehe... This is so boring. How could I be discovered so quickly!"

The staff officer laughed. The chime of a bell was heard and everyone who heard it felt creeped out.

"I've said it before... we should have attacked them directly for it is the best opportunity... Even the God of Thunder is trapped within the fog now. The entire base is filled with valuable scientists to capture!"

Suddenly, the staff officer smiled and transformed into a thin piece of paper which then started to burn.

"Rumble!"

Outside, a huge explosion was heard and there were screams. "Call the police! The base has been infiltrated!"

"Let's start the war!"

Wu Tie scoffed. "Recall the Dragon Team back and protect these scientists at all costs!"

"Reporting!"

A messenger was shouting into a phone but soon after, he turned pale. "Our communications... have been cut!"

"Pa! Pa!"

There were flapping sounds everywhere. A piece of dark cloud floated above the base and covered the entire sky.

Bats flew down from the sky and formed the figure of Narissa. Like a model doing catwalk, a red bat landed on her hand. "Hehe... there are only so few people? There seems to be too little!"

"A mutant from the Golden Eagle Federation?"

Wu Tie screamed and with that, his body was covered in a gold hue as though he had transformed into an iron man.

"Bang! Bang!"

Following which, there were countless gunshots and in a few moments, many blood holes were formed on Narissa's body.

"Firepower? This is irritating!"

With a smile, a red glow appeared on her body and her wound quickly recovered. Squeezing out the last bit of bullet from her body, her glowing and perfect skin was restored.

"Superspeed regeneration?"

Wu Tie's eyelid twitched. "Murderous Grade? Don't stop shooting! Even though she can regenerate, there will surely be a limit as to how much she can handle!"

"That's right... If you hit me a few more times, I might not be able to keep up with the regeneration!"

Narissa stuck out her tongue and her body exploded into countless bats which started to spread out.

"Ahh!"

There were cries as many soldiers had their necks bitten and their blood sucked dry.

"Narissa, what's the point of you sucking their blood? Your regenerative powers will not be strengthened anyway..."

A furry-looking silhouette broke into the camp and turned into a 3-metre tall werewolf. The fur on him seemed extremely hardy as normal bullets could only cause sparks when shot at the werewolf.

The werewolf let out a disgruntled howl.

"Hehe... even so, I will not let you have them!"

Narissa's voice came from every bat all around.

"You people... are you not afraid of war by doing this?"

Wu Tie grabbed a bat and tightened his grip, smashing it into a bloodied mess.

"Although you know that we are the spies of the federation, the federation will never acknowledge our existence..."

The humongous werewolf howled and appeared frenzied. "Where is that scientist?!"

Chapter 416: Tempest

"Answer me!"

The giant werewolf roared inside the camp.

Wu Tie's expression remained the same. Accompanied by commands, a few tanks and armoured vehicles drove as though they were going to surround the werewolf.

'Vampire Bat Narissa and Werewolf Jax...both of them are the top mutants in Golden Eagle Federation, why are they here?'

Wu Tie watched the scenes unfold emotionless while thoughts flashed through his mind rapidly.

"Haha... Big Dog! You better be careful! If you fall here, I wouldn't save you!"

Narissa laughed. The bats flew around everyone and could barely be stopped.

"D*mn it, b*tch!"

The giant werewolf roared. With his arms strength, he flipped over a vehicle.

"Bang!"

Immediately, a blinding spark exploded on his shoulder and the werewolf whimpered and moved back. There was a fleshy and bloody mess on his wound.

"This is only a Murderous Grade mutant!"

Wu Tie watched and sighed secretly as he felt the entire world had already undergone tremendous changes.

He could no longer be bothered as he roared and turned into a beam of iron light and charged towards the werewolf.

"Bang!"

The wolf's claws and the iron fists clashed, and the two of them were evenly matched.

...

At a certain spot in the campsite, Ye Yingzi and Zhao Daniu heard the commotion outside and became tensed.

"I was ordered to relocate Professor Fang Yuan, where is he?" A blood-stained soldier leading a small group of soldiers rushed forward and asked.

"Professor is..."

Ye Yingzi suddenly paused for a moment. As she was about to say the truth that Fang Yuan was not around, Zhao Daniu was suspicious and suddenly went forward to give him a punch.

"Poof!"

In an instant, the soldier became a thin piece of paper that broke into two.

"We have been discovered?"

"Since there are mutants protecting the area that have yet retreated under such circumstances, Fang Yuan must be inside!" The voices of two women could be heard from the remaining soldiers.

"Ahh... who are you all?"

The remaining of them finally realised something was amiss. They did not know when their fellow soldiers and officer were replaced by paper shikigamis!

"Heehee!"

"Haha!"

The shikigamis who were as tall as humans laughed strangely. Suddenly, they leapt forward and stuck themselves on to the remaining soldiers as if they were glue.

A bunch of origami cranes flapped their wings and landed on the ground before turning into the appearance of two female ninjas, "We came to invite Sir Fang Yuan to leave with us, please do not resist meaninglessly!"

"Scram!"

Zhao Daniu hollered and turned into a stone human. As he strode forward, he threw yet another punch.

"Bang!"

The ground tremored and a large crater appeared. However, the two female ninjas sinisterly continued to stand on top of their origami cranes, "Shikigami - Binding Spirit!"

"Hissssss!"

On the ground, tons of black coloured strands of hair appeared as they twined with each other and turned into numerous black pythons. They were as thick as a person's arm and quickly coiled around Zhao Daniu.

"Ahhh!"

Although Zhao Daniu magical strength was astonishing, it was as though this kind of black pythons existed both physically and mentally. Not only was Zhao Daniu's body restrained, his mind was affected too.

After Zhao Daniu struggled a few times, the black pythons coiled tighter and tighter which made him kneel on the ground.

"Secret Technique - Seal!"

"Poof!"

A puff of white smoke appeared and the black pythons on Zhao Daniu's body turned into black coloured chains that linked to the ground, which was like some sort of array.

"We just came to bring Sir Fang Yuan away, why must you resist?"

Little Vegetable spoke with her innocent voice and immediately saw Ye Yingzi clench her teeth and whip out her gun from her waist.

"Say no more, just kill them!" Little Night of the Plains said blissfully.

Little Night of the Plains and Little Vegetable cultivated in Yin Yang magic since they were young. They were originally talented and had profound expertise in spiritual spells, with the two occurrences, their powers had even further increased. Whereas, Zhao Daniu who just entered the Ghost Grade and the surrounding soldiers were no match for the two of them.

If the two of them reached the Murderous Grade, they could directly annihilate them and their powers would be unmatched.

Thus, with such a foundation, they could naturally cause changes in the minds of normal people and even cultivators.

"Hehe... two little sisters, do you need big sister's help!"

Suddenly, a group of blood-red bats flew over and turned into the appearance of Narissa. Her gaze towards Zhao Daniu was filled with satisfaction as though she saw a delectable prey, "Although I prefer that iron man just now, this stone man is bigger, not bad too!"

"No need to trouble you!" Little Vegetable replied respectfully, "As per our agreement, we just want this scientist from Chinese Country! The rest is all yours!"

"Yes, that was the agreement!"

Narissa walked two steps forward slowly which made Little Night and Little Vegetable alarmed and they then pulled out their katanas.

"But... our Boss told us... weaklings have no rights to request us to keep to our promises!"

Narissa chuckled maniacally. She extended her arm and a huge swarm of blood-red bats flew out and enveloped the surroundings.

Ye Yingzi and Zhao Daniu were enveloped in it too.

"Kaboom!"

Lightning flashed!

Above the ground, the blood-red bats, the paper shikigamis and even the black chains binding Zhao Daniu turned into ashes in an instant.

"That is... lightning and thunder!"

Large amounts of burnt bats merged into one and transformed into a ravaged Narissa. She could not believe her attack was so easily destroyed.

However, Fang Yuan's thunder was a key weapon of the heavens and earth. It controlled the changes in Yin and Yang and it was extremely mighty.

Narissa raised her head and saw a human silhouette in black shirt standing on top of the tent. She exclaimed, "God of Thunder?! Didn't you enter the fog already? I am certain I cut off and isolated all forms of communications here..."

"It's the God of Thunder... the legendary leader of Dragon Team, a Calamity Grade mutant!"

Little Night and Little Vegetable looked at each other with fear in their eyes. This was especially since the magic they cultivated were mostly ghostly Yin illusionary spells which were heavily suppressed now.

From what they sensed, Fang Yuan was like a ball of light that continuously emitted a blinding light. If they even glanced at it, their soul would be severely injured.

"You all assumed... I wouldn't notice all those sentries and hideouts you all set up around the area?"

Fang Yuan waved his arm and two streaks of lightning emerged and struck the origami cranes flying in the skies at the speed of light.

"Kaboom!"

The origami cranes were ignited by the lightning and burnt to ashes.

As Fang Yuan was cautious by nature, he naturally did not want any third party or even "fourth party" to interfere when fighting against the willow tree deep in the fog. Thus, he purposely lured them out first.

Anyway, since Xi Menjian also hinted at Fang Yuan to make use of his identity to kill a bunch of foreign spies and agents, Fang Yuan managed to kill two birds with one stone this time around.

"Sir..."

The two female ninjas trembled as though they were forced to almost grovel on their knees, "We have no intentions to make enemies with you!"

The immense wave-like pressure from Fang Yuan's body crept onto the two of them and caused them to feel as though their souls were crushed.

"Haha... this is the God of Thunder?"

Compared to the two of them, Narissa's face turned red and she looked at Fang Yuan with maniacal eyes, "Such a powerful person... I really want to... suck dry his vitality. If I suck him dry, I can definitely form an immortal body!"

"Suck me dry? You?"

Fang Yuan glanced at her and casually waved his hand.

"Kaboom!"

The dark clouds in the skies loomed and a bolt of lightning split into three bolts in an instant.

Without a doubt, Little Night and Little Vegetable were struck and knocked out. However, a whirlwind appeared beside Narissa and carried her away.

"Wruuuuu! Wrrruuuuu!"

Gale winds raged and swept away the sands and rocks, causing the atmosphere to become dimmer and more chaotic.

"Pprrrraatt!"

A tent was torn and blew into the sky.

A terrifying tornado appeared and ravaged a path through the campsite. A blonde-haired, blue-eyed Caucasian slowly walked out from it with a solemn look on his face.

"What a powerful mutant... he's much stronger than Ma Kunyuan!"

Fang Yuan watched and felt a sense of disappointment in his heart, "Just that it's such a pity... his way does not match mine!"

After all, Ma Kunyuan was a cultivator and the Thousand Year Willow also accumulated sufficient spiritual energy. Whereas, the mutant in front of him had already fully transformed spiritual force into wind attributes.

Unless Fang Yuan wanted to specialise in wind-type spiritual spells and abandon his identity as the God of Thunder to become the God of Wind in the future, else, Fang Yuan could not fully utilise this person's energy.

"Just that..."

Fang Yuan raised his head and looked towards the sky, "Tempest Jani! Your powers are already so close to Calamity Grade, just that it's a pity you still cannot reach that stage!"

"The most honourable!"

The blond-haired, blue-eyed Jani touched his chest and saluted like a graceful Caucasian aristocrat, "We have no intentions to make enemies with you, we just hope that you can come to Golden Eagle Federation. Our evolvers need your powers and leadership!"

"Your group of western evolvers will accept me, a Middle Continent person?"

Fang Yuan snickered, "Furthermore, aren't you all Golden Eagle Federation's secret agents? How come you all defected to the mutants' side?"

"Mister God of Thunder, you are too narrow-minded..."

Seeing such, Jani could not help but to shake his head, "Us evolvers are already a brand new type of species! We are brothers and sisters, why care about race and skin colour?"

"Furthermore... don't you know the latest developments? The Federation has already formally established a contract with Black Man Society. A great era that truly belongs to evolvers has arrived! If you come to the Federation, you will receive unimaginable freedom and everything..."

"Not only that..."

Fang Yuan shook his head, "You are a terrible persuader! I reject!"

"That's a shame!"

Jani waved his arm and an invisible gale of wind swept Narissa off the ground and carried her out of the campsite.

Just when he was about to send off the pair of Japanese ninja, Fang Yuan moved.

"Kacha!"

Fang Yuan took a step and immediately, lightning flashed and thunder roared in the skies crazily which rivalled the tornado.

"Come, lightning!"

A green coloured bolt of lightning landed on Fang Yuan's body and turned into a golden armour. Fang Yuan's speed was greatly escalated and in a blink of the eye, he appeared in front of Jani like a bolt of lightning.

Chapter 417: Under the Tree

"Boom!"

Fang Yuan pushed out his palm and a flash of lightning shot out, carrying with it what seemed to be all the wrath of heaven!

"Wind!"

Jani had a solemn look on his face and raised both his hands. A green wall of wind materialised around him.

"Bump!"

The lightning bolt and whirlwind collided and decimated each other with a bang. Except, the whirlwind fell apart faster than the lightning bolt did.

Seeing this, there was a drastic change in Jani's expression, and he tried to retreat promptly.

"Too weak! Too weak!"

"Zap!"

Fang Yuan strode forward with lightning flashing all around him. All the electricity fed the Lightning Armour he was wearing and caused it to increase in size until finally, a giant figure made out of electricity was created.

"Roar!"

The electric giant moved as though it was alive and waved his hand. In response, storm clouds began to gather and grow so much that they swallowed up the tornadoes summoned by Jani.

"Ah..."

Jani then fled without looking back.

To be able to control the regional weather all by himself! Jani finally realised the gulf between him and Fang Yuan.

The electric giant bellowed and swung out a palm towards Jani's back.

"Bang!"

The green shield protecting Jani was shattered and the bolts of lightning scorched his back.

"Impossible... how could there be a mutant this powerful in the world!"

Jani shrieked, and blood spurted from his mouth and nose. He ran past the boundary and out of the camp.

"Boss!"

In the near distance, the humongous werewolf had overturned a tank. It howled and ran on all fours to Jani's side.

"Let's go!"

Narissa transformed into a vampire bat and screamed.

"This God of Thunder... we are no match for him as of now!"

"I don't believe it. How can an amateur yellow monkey overcome us?"

The humongous wolf was not the brightest and seemed like it was going to continue challenging Fang Yuan.

'This is quite interesting. If Jani evolves one more time, he would be a good experimental subject... and this little wolf is about to die!'

Fang Yuan thoughts ended there and he waved his hand.

"Thunder, come!"

"Zap!"

A bolt of lightning fell from the sky and turn into a longsword that the electric giant armed itself with. The giant lunged forward.

"I am Jax, the most powerful of the werewolves!!!"

Jax shouted with all his might. His eyes were bloodshot and the hair on his skin was standing on edge. He seemed to went crazy at that moment and rushed forward aggressively.

"Poof!"

A flash of red.

The electric sword had impaled the werewolf and all his internal organs were fried in that instance.

"Bump!"

The werewolf fell to the ground and all its hair retracted to reveal a white-skinned man.

His eyes were filled with hatred, but all the energy had gone out of him and his hands went limp.

"God of Thunder....."

Wu Tie came to Fang Yuan's side. His iron skin peeled back until he looked normal again.

"Jani has already left!"

Fang Yuan closed his eyes. He could no longer sense the presence of the other party.

After all, nothing could really stand in the way of wind-type mutants if they were intent on running away, unless Fang Yuan had pursued them doggedly at the very start.

"Besides this, the camp has two captives. They are probably spies from Japan. They will be under your charge!"

"Alright!"

Wu Tie did not know what else to say.

He had always found the giant werewolf very difficult to handle.

But with the coming of the God of Thunder, not only was the werewolf slain, but even the more powerful Jani and Narissa were forced to run away. Fang Yuan was truly incredible.

"By the way, God of Thunder, haven't you already gone deep into the fog?"

Wu Tie ordered his men to dispose of the werewolf corpse and asked his question.

"It's okay... if we rush over now, we can make it!"

Fang Yuan smiled charmingly in his disguise as a middle-aged handsome man. He then transformed into a lightning bolt and surged into the distance.

"So this is how powerful the Dragon Team Leader is?"

Wu Tie suddenly felt a wave of confidence. He then proceeded to clear up the damaged campsite and prepare for what was to come.

.....

"Hmm?"

As Fang Yuan rushed into the fog another time, he immediately sensed a difference.

"The density of the air... has decreased? Was it because of my duel with Jani that led it to contract? If this is the case, the tree is self-aware and can be considered a demon."

Fang Yuan kept his Lightning Armour on. Not even the white fog could penetrate it, much less the willow catkins. He travelled like a hurricane and arrived at the park.

He could hear the sound of fighting coming from ahead.

There were a number of monsters with tentacles, along with a disgusting enchanted tree tumour. It was a motley crew, and they began to attack the travelling cars.

A shimmering water curtain surrounded the cars and it was their only defence.

Another batch of creatures came in for the kill.

They were all humanoids, but they were very tall and muscular. They had living roots extending from their bodies, and they punched the water curtain repeatedly. The array shook every time they hit it.

"We can't hold on for much longer... these parasitic humanoids are too aggressive!"

At the heart of the array, the Daoist Guo Jing turned pale. He held a little flag in his hand and nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Where's the team leader? This is going to kill us!"

Red Sister called out agitatedly, and a blue mist emanated from her hands.

"Crack!"

Outside of the water curtain, a few parasitic humanoids instantly froze and turned into ice statues.

"Crack! Crack!"

After a few breaths, cracks began to appear on the ice, flesh and blood then exploded outwards. All that was left were skeletal structures made out of roots, they then quickly disappeared into the ground.

The Daoist Guo Jing was extremely disturbed by the sight.

'These demonic creatures... they seemed to have replaced the skeletal and nervous structures of their hosts with their own. The procedure of parasitism must be terribly painful... but its success would make them uncommonly strong!"

"Fire!"

At the side, Searing Flames screamed and spewed a stream of fire. All the parasitic humanoids that came into contact with it turned into fiery torches.

Most of the warriors got into formation with their guns and set up a line of defence with their firearms.

Even so, the alarming number of parasitic humanoids coming at them was threatening to overwhelm them.

Shortly after, the rows and rows of parasitic humanoids formed a thick wall surrounding the array and the travelling cars.

"If Boss still doesn't arrive, we are all going to die!"

Searing Flames began to cough violently after spewing several jets of fire in a row. He was also beginning to tire.

"The mutants outside are not to be underestimated. We must hold on....."

The Daoist Guo Jing muttered ominously.

"Kachak!"

Suddenly, there was a flash of light.

A great electric field appeared and the outburst of energy caused many of the parasitic humanoids to fall.

"Boss!"

Seating Flames actually wept tears of joy.

"You are finally here!"

"I sensed that there was danger here."

Fang Yuan strolled forward, the lightning crackling all over his body.

"Bang!"

A layer of mud on the ground exploded outwards without warning and a large python charged towards Fang Yuan.

When it was 3 metres away from him, a bolt of lightning appeared and struck out at the python.

"Crack!"

The large snake trembled and spontaneously combusted until it turned to ash.

"This willow tree is strong in terms of its reach and survivability. It is also a model for the parasitic humanoids. However, its individual strength is nothing special!"

Fang Yuan shook his head. But he was aware that it had more to do with his arrival.

Anyone else would have died in the face of an attack by the parasitic humanoid army.

"Boss!"

As Fang Yuan entered the array, three of his followers surrounded him happily.

"How are the casualties?"

"Manageable. The most pressing issue is that the ammunition does not work on those parasitic humanoids. A few of the warriors are dead and some were victims of parasitism. We've already injected them with medicine..."

Although Professor Chen had prescribed poison, victims of parasitism might keep their lives if they were injected with it shortly after.

Of course, if they had not been victims of parasitism, they would die within ten seconds of coming into contact with it.

"Mm, let's go!"

Fang Yuan commanded the travelling cars to stay together and led the way. The group managed to smash open the big door and steered into the park slowly.

When the fog cleared slightly, Guo Jing and company saw a great willow tree that had virtually blocked out the sun. Its overflowing branches looked like dragons and its trunk stretched up into the heavens. The willow branches draped down like curtains and the catkins danced about in the wind.

"Wow... so this is the thousand year old willow tree? It is huge!"

"Damn it, all our electrical devices are not working!"

A warrior shouted.

"Does this mean that we cannot use the remote-controlled explosives, but can only demolish it at close range?"

Searing Flames looked up at what seemed like infinite catkins and he felt his scalp go numb.

"Tsktsk... if I could acquire the core of the tree, I would definitely be able to carve out a magic tool!"

Guo Jing was fantasising about this magic tool when his facial expression suddenly changed.

"What is that?"

From the foundations of the tree, translucent figures began to emerge. There were men and women, old and young. The fog was dense and they had blank looks on their faces. Suddenly, they looked over.

Their focused gazes were immensely unsettling.

"This is... the people who had once inhabited this area... spirits? Demons?"

Red Sister felt a chill in her bones.

"This demonic tree can even enslave spirits?"

Fang Yuan immediately chided his men.

"What are you guys yammering about? These so-called spirits are but manifestations of electric waves and magnetic fields... the willow tree acts as a medium that allows the magnetic fields to appear, that's all!"

Fang Yuan went on.

"The failure of our electrical devices has everything to do with the large magnetic field of the willow tree. From now on, I want everyone to remain calm, because when we enter enemy territory, our senses might be assailed by all sorts of illusions..."

As Fang Yuan spoke, he stamped a foot on the ground.

"Crack!"

A hole was blown into the ground.

Following that, they could see a large parasitic rat head that had been charred by the explosion.

Guo Jing and company could not help but let out cold breaths of air.

The implications were clear. To come into contact with the tree, they all had to face illusions and evil spirits, not to mention possible ambushes from the parasitic beasts!

The difficulty of their mission was insane!

Chapter 418: Ignite the Explosives

"This place is indeed a node for spiritual energy!"

As soon as Fang Yuan saw the willow tree, he was ecstatic.

He could sense that the willow was like a black hole, sucking in spiritual energy from the natural environment around it and releasing a vibration of a specific wavelength.

Of course, from a scientific point of view, this was merely the magnetic field emitted by a living thing.

Under the usage of such a magnetic field, all living things with a consciousness started to 'revive' and hallucinations were flooding their minds.

'If this was the ancient times, they would call this a demonic tree which has the ability to recover souls... It's a pity that it is trying to confuse me with such an illusion...'

With a fiery glow in his eyes, everything became clear to Fang Yuan.

Unfortunately, around him, even the strongest-willed soldier succumbed to the overflow of hallucinations and fell to the ground.

Under the influence of the magnetic field, even his 3 subordinates seemed like they could not hold on for any longer.

This was especially so for Searing Flames and Red Sister. They did not have the proper training to strengthen their willpowers and in this aspect, they were like normal humans and were much weaker than Guo Jing. In no time, they started to waver.

"Sigh... my subordinates are all useless!"

With a sorrowful thought, Fang Yuan sent a message to Guo Jing. "Old Guo... your responsibility is to protect everyone and prepare to retreat!"

"Roar! Roar!"

"Creak!"

From the surroundings, parasites started to gather. With the help of the illusionary effect, it was extremely easy to kill a cultivator as powerful as Guo Jing.

"Understood, boss!"

With a change in his expression, Guo Jing took out a jade bottle and smashed it on the floor. "Nine days of dew, reveal the sacred god! Strike!"

"Bang!"

Steam started to form and turned into balls of white fog which then flowed into everyone's forehead.

"Whooo!"

Red Sister and Searing Flames were gasping for air but quickly regained their composure. The other warriors started to awaken and retreated out of the park.

"Puppet, rise!"

Fang Yuan waved and a streak of lightning appeared. The car filled with explosives started to move and followed behind him.

"Rpppppp!"

Streaks of lightning ripped across the park, vaporizing all the parasites and reducing them to ash.

If Fang Yuan did not attract all the firepower to himself, Guo Jing and the rest would have no chance of escaping.

"Thousand Year Willow... don't resist any more... I've seen through you and your antics!"

Fang Yuan laughed and raised his hands.

"Ripppppp! Ripppppp!"

Streaks of lightning struck from above and the willow branches that were as strong as metal rods started to break and fall to the ground. Some of them burst into flames.

"You are good at altering the environment to aid in your attack and are even more well-versed in fighting an entire army. However, I am a super powerful single entity... you cannot stop me!"

Fang Yuan took a huge step forward and a row of cars followed behind him.

With every step he took, he could feel the magnetic field caused by the willow tree intensify. Many lone souls and spirits roared and dashed towards Fang Yuan fearlessly as though they wanted to flood him by their sheer numbers.

All of these were useless!

A blue streak of lightning surrounded Fang Yuan, vaporizing all the spirits and souls which got close to him.

"Ripppppp!"

Behind him, the military truck was damaged and its tires exploded. However, it was still being dragged forward by an invisible force and continued to make its way.

Not long after, Fang Yuan arrived at the root of the willow tree and with his outstretched hand, he could touch the emerald-green tree bark.

"It's a pity... even if your magnetic field reaches an extreme, it will still not have any effect on me!"

Fang Yuan caressed the bark of the tree and sighed. "After all... this is only the miniature version of harnessing the power of the environment around you. You have yet to gain full control over it!"

Even a Calamity Grade mutant could only harness the power of a 'place'. By creating a magnetic field, they would be able to affect a location.

However, since the power belonged to the magnetic field, it could be neutralised, reduced or even avoided!

Only by harnessing the power of an 'area' could the mutant be invincible!

If the willow tree were to continue to develop to be able to harness the power of an area, Fang Yuan would surely retreat... After all, the power of an area was the power which only belonged to a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master in Da Qian!

Without such power, these dream masters could never match up against a True Divine or True Elemental.

"If I let you continue to grow, there is a possibility that after the third or fourth occurrence... you might be able to develop the power of an area?"

Looking at the willow tree, Fang Yuan's eyes glistened.

This realm was a realm most concentrated with energy compared to the few realms Fang Yuan had visited before and could therefore support the existence of powerful beings.

Previously, the laws which governed the realm did not allow for that to happen.

Now, things were changing.

"If I can be one of the first few to harness the power of an area, even if I cannot bring it back with me, I can learn more about achieving a breakthrough to the 7th Tier of the Illusionary Divine stage..."

Fang Yuan suddenly felt inspired all of a sudden.

His natural talent and the fact that he had the advantage of having fixed stats meant that he could traverse many worlds and retain his cultivation. As long as he were to break through a certain stage, he could do so very simply in another realm so long he had the ability to do so.

However, the difficulty of achieving breakthroughs would vary from realm to realm!

"The higher the classification of the realm, the harder it would be to achieve a breakthrough! This world is only beginning to change... The laws are muddled at the moment and I might have the chance to obtain the power of an area!"

Fang Yuan's eyes widened with excitement.

Although the Area Beings here could not compare to a 7th Tier Illusionary Divine dream master in Da Qian, it was still powerful in its own area!

If he were to reach that stage, he could retain it in his fixed stats and return to Da Qian without having to go through the same bottleneck again!

This was sort of cheating and playing the game out of limits!

Even other dream masters would not be able to do this for they did not have Fang Yuan's special ability.

'In other words, if other dream masters were to achieve a breakthrough here, they would still drop in their cultivation as soon as they return to Da Qian. However, for me, it will be forever and I will never have the same bottleneck in any world that I go to! All bottlenecks can only restrict me once!'

"Therefore... for my ambitions, please sacrifice yourself!"

Fang Yuan laughed heartily and stretched out his right hand to grab the tree.

"Rumble!"

Lightning erupted and the Thousand Year Willow shook frantically. Its branches wavered erratically as they diverted their attention from the fleeing Guo Jing and company to Fang Yuan.

Not just that, the earth beneath the entire park split and countless roots emerged from below. Like arms, they waved in the air like possessed demons.

"They have begun fighting. Let's go!"

Seeing this scene, the 3 other members of the Dragon Team started to flee. "According to Leader's personality, he will surely explode the willow tree as soon as possible!"

"Rumble!"

Indeed, not long after, a shocking explosion was seen from the park.

A mushroom cloud floated up and was visible to almost half of the entire city and Wu Tie was among the ones witnessing it.

At the moment of the explosion, the park was destroyed and razed to the ground. The surrounding houses shook and their windows shattered. The soil and mud started to curl up, forming a weird-looking image.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

This was only the beginning.

After a few moments, the tremendous shockwave started to spread out.

The earth shook under the shockwave as though a tsunami was crashing through it.

Although Guo Jing and company had already tried their best to flee, they were still caught by the shockwave as a layer of soil rose above them before trapping them beneath.

...

"Spit!"

After a long while, Searing Flames wriggled out of the soul and spat out a mouthful of dirt from his mouth. As he coughed violently, he struggled to speak. "We... we were almost buried alive!"

"This is only a small problem..."

With a yellow glow, Guo Jing appeared but was in a much better state than Searing Flames. "With my Burrowing Talisman, you will not die..."

"How's our leader?"

Red Sister looked around, only to witness the complete destruction of the surroundings.

The park which once housed the willow tree was razed to the ground and a big crater emerged in the centre of where the park once was.

"Leader... he's not dead, is he?"

Seeing the dystopian scene, Searing Flames swallowed his saliva and sounded unconfident.

"In such a destructive explosion, it should be quite hard for Leader to survive..."

Guo Jing stroked his beard and rolled his eyes. "The willow tree cannot run but Leader can. I'm sure the both of you have seen how fast he can go..."

"I wonder how much of the willow tree is left after such an explosion..."

...

In the middle of the crater.

The broken branches of the willow tree laid everywhere and were ablaze.

With the streak of a lightning, Fang Yuan appeared with a shocked look. "Wow... Considering the power of such a magnitude, If I was in the epicentre of the explosion, I would be reduced to ashes too..."

The widely-spread willow tree branches were no more and a big and empty trunk stood in the middle.

Countless roots emerged from the ground only to be burnt by the flames.

A few other stumps emerged. They seemed to be drained of energy but were all out in protecting the core tree trunk.

Green lines started to flow across the trunk and roots of the tree as though it had a life of its own.

"Hehe... This is indeed a plant with a strong will to live!"

Fang Yuan landed on the hot ground and waved his hand.

"Whooooo!"

Invisible knives formed by wind appeared and the severely damaged tree trunk was sliced, revealing an emerald-green core.

Streaks of green lines started to spread towards the roots, transferring energy and life to them.

"Give me everything of yours!"

Seeing this, Fang Yuan's eyes glistened and he stretched his right hand out.

Without obstruction, the lighting-covered hand broke the green arteries of the tree before grabbing on to the core of the tree.

Just as Fang Yuan's hand landed on the core of the tree, there was an explosion!

Amidst the cries of wronged souls, an extremely powerful source of energy erupted!

"Finally! Is this your final move?"

Fang Yuan revealed a cunning smile. "Attacking with your spirit? This is what I fear the least!"

Fang Yuan was different from other mutants. After dream-traversing to many worlds before, his mind was steadfast and the mind attack coming from the willow tree was nothing to him!

Chapter 419: The Driver

Ultimately, the Thousand Year Willow was a plant. Even though it had developed a lot from the occurrences and had a mind of its own from absorbing the spiritual droplets, it was still simple-minded for the past 20 years and was at most on par with a smart beast.

Even though it might have a strong mind power, it was nothing to Fang Yuan.

Fang Yuan stood where he was, closed his eyes and allowed the willow tree's mind to attack him before striking back with his mind and enjoying the process of absorbing the tree's spiritual energy.

"Kacha!"

In his body, the 2nd Grade of the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell was broken through.

The progress bar continued to fill up and in an instant, half of it was filled.

The process of absorption lasted for quite a while. As soon as Fang Yuan came to his sense, all that remained of the stump of the willow tree was a dried up piece of wood which crumbled into powder upon touch.

In his hands, he now had an emerald-green tree core which was around the size of an egg. It was translucent and let out a glow even more dazzling than that of a diamond and it seemed to be brimming with life.

"This is where the essence of the willow tree lies. However, to me, this is similar to Jani's power of the wind. All of these are external forces. Although I can absorb it, the disadvantage would outweigh the advantage. I'll just treat it as a treasure which would aid in recovery in the future!"

Examining it in close detail, Fang Yuan realised that the pure spiritual energy of the willow tree had long been absorbed by him moments ago and these were the leftovers.

Of course, to the average human, this would be a treasure which could potentially bring the dead back to life.

At this moment, Fang Yuan gazed at his stats window and noticed a huge change:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 5.0

Spirit: 20.0

Magic: 20.0

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell (Grade 4 (55%))]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)], [Fiery Golden Eyes (Level 1)]"

"Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell: The 1st Grade would grant you the Spiritual Droplets Affined Body and an increase in your energy sense! 2nd Grade of Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell would grant you the ability to release spiritual energy! The 3rd Grade of Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell is complete! You now have the ability to spiritualise!"

"The ability to spiritualise... Is this my Murderous Grade skill?"

Fang Yuan was lost in his thoughts.

In actual fact, up until now, his abilities were no different compared to the Murderous Grade mutants. However, due to the fact that he was able to make full use of his ability and had too many unpredictable techniques, he created the illusion that he was a Calamity Grade mutant. All of these were just an illusion.

"The different grades of the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell is in fact the grading of the mutants. After all, this is a technique which I have created to suit the laws of this realm..."

Thoughts ran wild in Fang Yuan's mind.

If he was a normal person, the completion of the 1st Grade would allow him to form the Spiritual Droplets Affined Body and an increase in his energy sense. This would make him a Mortal Grade mutant.

The completion of the 2nd Grade would give him the ability to release spiritual energy and this would make him similar to Daoist Guo and Little Night before the second occurrence. He would be a Ghost Grade mutant with the ability to execute spells.

Only now at the 3rd Grade, with the ability to spiritualise, would Fang Yuan be able to have the ability to go against an entire army and the combined forces of other mutants, putting him up at the Murderous Grade.

"Spiritualise!"

With his spiritual will, Fang Yuan commanded and in an instant, he disappeared.

No! He did not disappear. There was a shadow where he once stood.

"I am here and I am not here at the same time... to make things simple, I would be able to become illusionary for a short instant and therefore dodge powerful firepower and attacks... Only with this technique of spiritualising would I be able to go against an entire country's army and have the potential to rule the world!"

If a normal person were to cultivate to such a stage, they would be able to go head-on against powerful mutants like Jani.

Since this was Fang Yuan, it would mean that his power would be multiplied and this meant even more destructive force!

"If I were to go down the line, the 4th Grade of the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell should be the power of a Calamity Grade mutant... I still don't know how far I have to go before I can harness the power of an area..."

"However, I am already the most powerful in the entire world to be able to reach this stage! Comparatively, nobody can ever become more powerful than me, be it beasts or mutants!"

Fang Yuan clenched his fists but remained composed. "Next up... is to clear things up, right? Clear up all the nodes in the world and push my limits to the maximum before peacefully waiting for the arrival of the third occurrence!"

According to his theory, the concentration of spiritual droplets would be 4 times higher more compared to now.

At the fourth occurrence, the Spiritual King Comet would arrive and join the orbit of the Earth.

Therefore, his final chance would be at the third occurrence!

"However... in Chinese Country, I have already checked out every corner. It seems impossible to locate anything else more drastic than the mutation of this Thousand Year Willow..."

The bottleneck of every subsequent stage of the Elemental Spiritual Energy Cultivation Spell would be many times more difficult than the previous stage.

With another 45% to go, Fang Yuan knew that it was still insufficient even if he absorbed another Thousand Year Willow.

With a sigh, he gazed towards the West. "Next up... I'll have to venture overseas?"

Considering Fang Yuan's identity, Xi Menjian would never allow Fang Yuan to leave the country, but Fang Yuan couldn't care less.

He had joined the research centre to gather information about the human body and sense for himself the rules of the world to perfect his theory and his cultivation.

Now, he was leaving for the same reason, which was to achieve a higher cultivation.

The path of cultivation laid in the ability for one to do whatever one wished!

Since he could leave the country with his abilities, what was there left to hold him back?

...

After a few days.

Golden Eagle Federation, Purple Finch City.

The sky was a brilliant blue and there were occasional fluffy clouds floating around.

In the outskirts of the city, on a large empty field, a huge airship was landing.

Although aeroplanes were already invented, they were still the latest technology and the price to fly an aeroplane was still much more expensive compared to that of an airship.

Therefore, if there was no rush for time, the main mode of transport for people and goods were still the usage of airships.

The airport at Purple Finch City was one of the largest in Golden Eagle Federation and there were more than 10,000 passengers and 10,000 tons of goods flowing through the airport daily.

At this point in time, an airship landed and people of all nationalities started to disembark before gazing at the architecture in this foreign country.

As the birthplace of revolutionary technology, even though it had been weakened after the world war, the Golden Eagle Federation was still standing strong and was dubbed the 'Lighthouse of the West' in terms of culture. This attracted people from all over the world to either come here to explore and learn more about the country or even migrate here for good.

"Respectable guests, welcome to Purple Finch City. Please take your leave from the exits of the station in an orderly manner and cooperate with the customs officers. The foreign exchange and the taxis are at..."

From a loudspeaker, there was a female voice speaking in the language of the Federation.

Fang Yuan took his sunglasses down and examined the place curiously.

He had to admit that the Golden Eagle Federation was rather well-developed and was filled with a modern vibe. However, that was all to it.

"Hopefully, I will be able to find what I am looking for!"

Fang Yuan mumbled to himself as he walked towards the customs.

"Sir, please cooperate with the customs officers!"

As two white people took notice of Fang Yuan's skin colour, they gave a dissatisfied look and started to despise him. "Also... show us your travel document!"

"Alright!"

Fang Yuan replied in a fluent Federation language before presenting his passport.

Of course, the passport was fake. Although the Golden Eagle Federation would surely welcome Professor Fang with hospitality and that Fang Yuan would not need a passport and would likely be

granted citizenship, he knew that with his special identity, if he were to reveal his true identity, he would no longer be allowed to leave the country.

Therefore, he had to fake his passport.

However, after glancing at the passport, the two customs officers rudely returned the passport to Fang Yuan before signalling him to quickly take his leave.

The citizens of Golden Eagle Federation were snobbish people.

They were the heart of civilisation. No matter how much they were weakened, they were still the most powerful country in the west, and one of the proudest in the world.

"Hmph..."

Fang Yuan carried his luggage and left the airport, snickering to himself.

If not for the fact that he had to keep a low profile, he would have taught those two snobbish people a lesson.

'Although I cannot physically let them look bad, it is worse now that I have released inauspicious energy in them. They would surely suffer from illnesses and diseases in the future...'

After taking his revenge, he regained his composure and walked to the road outside.

"Hey! Brother, are you from the Middle Continent?"

A white driver noticed Fang Yuan and his eyes glistened. "I am John! Are you looking for a hired car?"

To him, Fang Yuan was a fat sheep ready to be slaughtered for his money, for Fang Yuan appeared young and lost in this big city. Most importantly, looking at how Fang Yuan dressed, he might have quite some cash with him!

"That's right!"

Looking at the driver's sneaky expression, Fang Yuan thought about his previous life where those taxi drivers were out to scam others of their money.

Of course, what caught his attention more was the bloody stench coming from John.

"I want to go to Chinatown. Do you know the way there?" Fang Yuan smiled sheepishly, acting like a dumb customer.

"Of course... I grew up in the estate next to Chinatown. Take my car and I will bring you there for a discounted price of 15 dollars!"

John professionally came over and took the luggage from Fang Yuan. "Let's go... we'll be there in no time!"

"Alright!"

Fang Yuan went into an old-looking steam car and John smiled widely as he closed the door for him. "Brother... welcome to Purple Finch City!"

"Rumble!"

At the steam-powered car roared to life, Fang Yuan's sensitive ears could pick up some other voices.

'Hehe... Ratty John has picked up another business!'

'What an unfortunate foreigner!'

'Hope the Lord blesses him...'

....

'It seems like... this person is not as simple as a driver who is out to scam me!'

Fang Yuan lowered his hat and revealed a sinister smile.

As the black car honked and swerved along the road, they soon arrived at a deserted industrial estate. There were abandoned factories everywhere and old-looking warehouses.

"Is this Chinatown? Why does it seem like we are further and further away from the city?"

Fang Yuan examined the surroundings and casually asked.

"Of course, of course..."

John snickered and had a sinister look on his face as though Fang Yuan was his prey.

Chapter 420: Investigation

"Get down here!"

The carriage stopped in front of an abandoned warehouse. John turned off the engine and pulled open the car door. He cackled.

"My brothers, look what I've brought you."

"Oh! God's gift!"

A few people walked out of the old warehouse. They were all in their hippie getups, hair dyed in multiple colours, tattoos on their necks and wrists, wearing skull-themed chains and rings. They all had black eyeliner on and armed themselves with baseball bats and steel pipes. They approached the car menacingly.

"Get down now, yellow skin monkey from the Middle Continent!"

A red-haired white-skinned youth dragged Fang Yuan forward and eyed him with bloodlust.

"Mm, not bad... this coolie looks healthy. Buyers will like him!"

"Lock him up, and don't forget to scrub him from top to toe!"

"Tsk tsks... before he is sold, let's not waste this opportunity!"

An effeminate hippie smiled and stuck out his tongue, which had a pearl piercing. There was an evil glint in his eyes.

"My god!"

Fang Yuan put on a cool face.

"I don't want to play with you all any longer! By capturing me, do you intend to sell me as a slave?"

He had long heard that during the period of unrest in the Middle Continent, many yellow-skinned people were taken in by the Golden Eagle Federation's sweet-talking advertisements for job opportunities abroad. They had packed up all their belongings and stowed away on illegal immigrant ships, only to find out that they had been sold into slavery. They had become workers of the lowest level and suffered even more than they had in the Middle Continent.

Those that managed to make a name for themselves were the few fortunate ones.

"No no! There isn't any factory or mine around here that still needs workers from the Chinese country. We have a better idea. Isn't that right... Ratty John?"

"Boss Bond, let's take his luggage first. There should be quite a lot of money inside... these Chinese people are like rats; they like to stuff cash and all sorts of resources in their nests!"

John continued to smile as he looked at Fang Yuan.

"Yellow skin monkey, it is unfortunate that you have fallen into our hands. Boss Bond is right, everything you have, both your kidneys, your liver, your heart, your blood... we will sell them all at a good price."

"The black market for organs?"

Fang Yuan furrowed his brows. As one of the top doctors in the Chinese country, he was naturally aware of the progress made in medicine by the other countries.

"The medical expertise of the Golden Eagle Federation has progressed to such a level?"

"No... this isn't right, there is another possibility!"

Fang Yuan's eyes gleamed.

"Even if there is insufficient medical skill, the rejection effect from transplantation can be alleviated through the introduction of mutations..."

"What are you talking about?"

A change came over Bond's face and he immediately waved a hand.

"Get him!"

His surrounding henchmen pounced forward at the same time, and one of them even pulled out a spring knife.

"Alright, scumbags!"

Fang Yuan loosened up his body.

"I don't know how many people have suffered under you all, but it is your misfortune to have met me!"

"Asshole!"

A hippie screamed and came charging at Fang Yuan with a baseball bat.

It was a quick and heavy weapon which could deal severe damage with one blow.

"Thwack!"

The bat was stopped in mid-air by a swift grab from Fang Yuan.

The hippie was unwilling to let go of the bat and was thus swung backwards where he landed on the floor several metres away.

"Kill him!"

Bond called out loudly to his men. Beads of cold sweat lined his brows as he retreated.

Fang Yuan's performance was making him very uneasy.

"Argh!"

An obese man lunged towards Fang Yuan with a steel pipe while a hippie danced about with a knife and approached him from the other side.

Ratty John rolled his eyes but stayed behind with his boss instead of joining the attack.

"Bing bang!"

Fang Yuan surged forward, grabbed the steel pipe and tossed it aside with the obese man still holding onto it.

"Oof!"

The knife in the hippie's hand entered the obese man's stomach as he received a crushing blow to the head from the obese man's pipe.

"Dogshit! Mutant!"

Seeing that Fang Yuan had turned around to face them, Bond and John turned tail and ran away.

Fang Yuan chased them into the old warehouse and with a throw of the steel pipe, Ratty John screamed and fell to the floor holding his thigh.

"Ahh... don't kill me! I'm just his henchman!"

Ratty John crawled backwards pathetically as Fang Yuan walked over.

"Do you know... where is the doctor in charge of harvesting organs?"

Fang Yuan asked casually.

"I don't... don't know. The boss communicates directly with him!"

"What a pity. You are no longer of any use to me!"

Fang Yuan grabbed him by the head and yanked it sideways.

"Crack!"

There was a piercing sound of splintering bones and Ratty John's head turned a full 180 degrees. Fresh blood spurted from where his head still hung partially on his neck.

"Dogshit! Dogshit!"

Fang Yuan could sense that Boss Bond went deep into the warehouse instead of escaping. He kicked over a couple of crates before snatching up a hand pistol among a large pile of cash.

As Fang Yuan approached, Bond immediately raised his pistol and took aim.

"Alright... mister, all this has been a damned misunderstanding!"

"See, there's lots of money here... you can choose to take it all, or fight me to the death..."

Bond's voice was quivering slightly.

"The Brother's Sect can tap on the influence of the Black Man Society. Even though you are a mutant, you are still a foreigner... as long as you let me leave, everything will be kept under wraps... believe me!"

"Black Man Society?"

Having heard about the largest mutant association in the Golden Eagle Federation, Fang Yuan threw out a coarse laugh.

"If your death can bring them to me, that would be best. But right now... I don't need your money yet, nor your life!"

"Zoom!"

With a flash, Fang Yuan snatched Bond's pistol away from in front of him and broke his index finger for good measure.

"Bring me to your base camp, and find me the doctor!"

Fang Yuan toyed with the pistol casually and brought it to Bond's forehead.

"You want to meet our leader? Alright, I'll bring you to him!"

Bond nodded as cold sweat appeared on his brows.

"Get on the car!"

Fang Yuan dragged Bond up the car.

"If I even sense that anything is going wrong, I'll fire immediately... you can try me!"

"Of course not!"

Bond grimaced and started the engine.

'This... is a city filled with blood and sin!'

Fang Yuan gazed out of the car windows and was slowly absorbed into his surroundings.

This trip was an impromptu one. The God of Thunder's mysterious disappearance after duelling with the Thousand Year-old Willow Tree was news that would shake up the mutant community.

There would be chaos in every ministry in the country.

Of course, Fang Yuan could scarcely be bothered by these things.

He chose the Golden Eagle Federation over the Blue Star Alliance because the vampires and werewolves had the power of their bloodline. He was not interested in the god dao of the Curia.

Also, there was something else that led him to choose the Golden Eagle Federation.

Fang Yuan opened his luggage and took out an idol of the Aquilaria Maitreya.

This artefact was originally in the possession of Guo Jing, and the second inspection he conducted managed to yield some answers.

This idol was, in fact, a key, or rather, half a key.

From the information Fang Yuan had gathered, the other half was with a collector in the Golden Eagle Federation.

The unrest in the Middle Continent was a blow to the collector community. Many prized treasures and artefacts were taken overseas.

Fang Yuan was extremely interested in this mysterious idol as well and thus wanted to get to the bottom of things once and for all.

"Your heart rate is 88 beats per minute, 17 breaths per minute... you better keep things within this range, or I'll shoot!"

Fang Yuan had noticed that Bond kept stealing glances at him from the front, and decided to reveal the barrel to him as a gentle reminder.

'Devil... he's the devil from the Middle Continent!'

Bond laughed bitterly and extinguished the ideas he was entertaining in his mind. It was safer to just follow orders and drive on.

.....

While Fang Yuan was on his killing spree at the Brother's Sect hideout.

On a docked airship, in one of the offices.

The two white inspectors who had interrogated Fang Yuan before were called into the office, and they stared back at several solemn-looking men in black windbreakers.

"Chief!"

"So you are the two idiots who let him go?"

One of the men in black had a bad temper and gave them a hard kick each.

"What is happening?"

The security officer standing by took out his handkerchief and mopped the cold sweat off his brows.

"We are the Federal Special Investigation Bureau. We have reason to suspect that a dangerous person has entered our borders through this place! You are both to be questioned!"

A man in black windbreaker flashed his identity card.

"No way... please provide proof that you are from the Immigration authorities..."

Just as the security officer gave his weak retort, he received a punch on his face.

"Idiot. Do you know the gravity of your mistake? You superior won't be able to protect you. Follow me to the Investigation room, or I'll arrest you for not complying with the military law!"

The man in black with a pale face was looking more threatening than ever.

"Okay... fine!"

In truth, even though news regarding the existence of mutants had already spread all over the world, but it was still very difficult for most people to accept it.

Especially for the Special Investigation Bureau, newly set up but nearly unlimited in power. They would have to cooperate with and adapt to the system.

Still, it was not a surprise that investigators of the bureau liked to throw their weight around.

Under violence and intimidation, the investigators got what they wanted shortly, that is a video recording.

"It's him!"

A few of the men in black widened their eyes and scrutinised Fang Yuan's disguise on the screen.

Of course, the video proved that was no identity proof on the passport, just one single word: "Idiot!"

"Ping!"

The chief officer in black smashed his fist onto the table. His eyes were bloodshot.

"Impudent yellow skin monkey, I'll definitely catch you one day!"