

Carefree 821

Chapter 821: Encounter

"In the Divine Dao of the vast Spiritual Realm, there are two Emperors. One is the Celestial Thearch, and the other is Excellency Mount Mang.

"And in the Immortal Dao, there are at least three Zenith Heavens!"

...

Fang Yuan left Songxia County and revealed his original appearance. Walking casually with a book basket on his back, he looked like a student on a carefree journey.

White smoke rose from kitchen chimneys, and candles were lit up in villages.

After walking in the mountains for a while, he came across a fair. This place was more crowded than Songxia County, but for some unknown reason, everyone was expressionless and lifeless.

In front of an open-air tavern beside the street, the old man who owned it stopped Fang Yuan. Revealing his sparse and yellow teeth, he asked, "Young man, where are you going?"

"The capital of Ye!"

Fang Yuan sat down in the tavern and glanced around.

There were few customers, so it was understandable that the old man tried to look for more on the street. The seats for customers were in the front of the tavern, and the kitchen was at the back. White steam rose from the boiling water in the kitchen.

"The capital of Ye is a good place. You'll reach it after going over another mountain."

The old man said with an affected smile, "But it's not safe nowadays... Refugees wreak havoc, drought has ruined vast expanses of land, and starved people eat children... Following the royal preceptor's suggestion, the king has killed seven supervisory officials. He's also capturing young children for making pills. Are you really going to the capital despite the turmoil there?"

"Uncle, why do I feel that you don't sound like an ordinary person?" said Fang Yuan with hidden meaning.

"Hehe... I simply learned a bit from all kinds of guests!" said the old man with a reserved smile.

"Moreover, the mountain in front is dangerous too. A giant demon has recently occupied the mountain, and it likes eating humans!"

Bloop! Bloop!

Meanwhile, something like a human hand floated onto the surface of the boiling water.

"How about it? Would you like to rest here tonight and have some dumplings?" His smile became even stranger. "The dumplings here are famous for their great taste."

“Is the stuffing made of human flesh?” Fang Yuan smiled subtly.

“You got it right. It’s precisely made of human flesh!”

A green glow flashed across the old man’s eyes, and his appearance suddenly became ferocious.

The youth walking on the street, the aunt selling clothes, the butcher slicing meat, and all the others in the surroundings paused and turned around, their eyes also emitting green light.

The entire fair began to look unreal in the thick fog.

Numerous figures crowded around Fang Yuan, their expressions indifferent and their legs disappearing in the fog.

“Servant Ghosts?!”

Fang Yuan seemed to have expected it and sighed.

Ferocious tigers not only ate humans, but they were even better at confining souls. To survive, these souls captured by the tigers had to assist them, and that was how the phrase ‘the servants of the tiger’ came about.

But right now, there were at least five hundred Servant Ghosts in the fair, which was terrible.

Whoosh whoosh!

The illusion of the fair completely disappeared in a breeze, but the number of Servant Ghosts kept increasing. They suddenly gathered and surrounded Fang Yuan.

“The demon that eats humans is actually your master, right?”

Fang Yuan looked around, but only saw a bleak mountain wilderness. He could not help laughing. “How dare mere ghosts appear before me? Are you courting death? Or are you courting death?”

He shouted lightly—a powerful and impressive aura suddenly rose and expanded around him.

Many Servant Ghosts shrieked in pain and hurriedly backed away, their figures about to melt.

Righteous Qi rendered the ghosts powerless!

Fang Yuan was not a Confucian scholar, but the three thousand Great Daos eventually all led to the same destination. Moreover, having been a teacher for decades, he could effortlessly simulate Confucian techniques.

Confucian scholars in this world refined a mouthful of righteous Qi. Even if they could not fight at all, legend had it that once they achieved great success in cultivation, their shouts were like the rage of the heavens and could scare ghosts and spirits away.

There was once a Confucian scholar whose shout killed half of the heretic cultivators in a city.

Of course, Fang Yuan was not at such a realm, but it was a piece of cake to kill hundreds of Servant Ghosts with a shout.

“Ah!”

Shrieks rang out everywhere.

The old man in front of Fang Yuan was stunned as he saw a plume of white Qi rising from Fang Yuan’s body.

The Qi current was harmless to ordinary people. But to them, it was like the sun, melting their flesh and blood into dark smoke and dissipating their entire bodies.

In the blink of an eye, the souls of more than thirty Servant Ghosts vanished from the world.

Such an unforeseen event immediately attracted the attention of their master, who had been manipulating them behind the scenes.

Aw! Aw!

Clouds curled in strong gusts, and a tiger’s roar was heard throughout the forest.

A frightening sound swept across the area, negating the righteous Qi and protecting some of the Servant Ghosts.

A giant silhouette quickly approached during the shocking, furious roar.

“It’s indeed a tiger!”

Fang Yuan gazed at the demon approaching him and swept it with the Heavenly Eye Seer Spell, but his expression was a bit strange.

As expected, it was a giant tiger with feline eyes and a white forehead. It was the size of a mountain, and its domineering aura implied its identity as the ruler of the forest.

But Fang Yuan was slightly surprised by the unfathomable temperament hidden in it.

“Demonic nature? Evil Qi? No wonder... This demon is only eighteen years old? Was it corrupted by Mental Demons as well?”

Humans could be corrupted by Mental Demons, and so could beasts.

But the growth of this giant tiger was horrifying.

Its achievement in 18 years would take other demon cultivators 180 or even 1,800 years to attain!

Aw! Aw!

The giant tiger glared at Fang Yuan, as if it would pounce forward in the next moment.

Suddenly, a cyclone engulfed it. By the time the cyclone subsided, the mountain-like tiger was replaced by a youth.

“I’ve found you! Dream Demon!”

The youth’s eyes had no pupils. But despite his lifeless expression, his words stunned Fang Yuan.

“You are... the Lord of the Void?!”

Fang Yuan's expression was solemn.

The Lord of the Void was most proficient at dividing and evolving his spiritual will which carried demonic thoughts. He was known to be undying due to his countless incarnations.

Apparently, one of his demonic thoughts inhabited this giant tiger's body. More importantly, he immediately took control of it and appeared as soon as he discovered Fang Yuan.

Only by conversing with him did Fang Yuan feel the concept of the void attacking and eroding his foundation.

It was not an attack by the Essence Soul or any physical body, but by a higher-level 'concept'!

This giant tiger was not the original body of the Demon God, so Fang Yuan could definitely overpower it. But in a battle of concepts, where they expended the most fundamental things they had, Demon Masters were no match for Demon Gods.

However, Fang Yuan was an exception!

Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao!

A mark emerged on his right hand and evolved into another Great Dao, one that was astonishingly sharp.

This dreadful Great Dao seemed to embody all armaments that had ever existed on battlefields, and it immediately devoured all the void concept.

"You..." The youth took a few steps backward, looking shocked. "Demon God? Not quite. But you possess the power of a Demon God using external aid!"

The Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao was a Great Dao as well!

With its help, Fang Yuan could fight against any incarnation of the Lord of the Void!

And the Lord of the Void was not foolish either, immediately understanding the situation. "You're only a Demon Master, but you actually concentrated an auxiliary Dao. Impressive! Really impressive! I acknowledge... that you qualify to be one of us!"

A Demon Master with a Pseudo Dao was nearly as capable as a Demon God and could not be underestimated.

"It seems that... there was some misunderstanding, but this doesn't matter anymore, right?"

Fang Yuan stood with his hands behind the back and smiled.

With the Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao, he had nothing to fear unless this Demon God's original body arrived here.

He could readily annihilate this Demon God's incarnation in front of him.

"That's right!"

The Lord of the Void adjusted his state quickly.

Regardless of what had happened, the Demon Master before him was worth befriending.

“What happened to the Mental Demon Battlefield afterward?” Fang Yuan finally asked this burning question.

“The situation is very unfavorable. The Celestial Thearch’s ability is far beyond our imagination. He’s the most powerful one in this world, especially with the world’s support in times of crisis... ” said the Lord of the Void. “Most of my original body and the Infinite Devourer’s... were defeated and sealed. Even the majority of the Mental Demon Battlefield was refined. We’re in a dire situation!”

“As expected...”

Fang Yuan raised his head and gazed at the purple star.

In the sunlight, the green star beside it shimmered, while the purple light became feeble. He immediately felt more assured at this sight.

“Of course, there were Demon Gods who sneaked away, including Li Hen and Ancient Netherworld as far as I know... Ancient Netherworld is a bit more pathetic. Strictly speaking, he’s already dead...” the Lord of the Void said. “I’m sure that Ancient Netherworld is still hiding in the Spiritual Realm, but I don’t know whether Demon God Li Hen has returned to the Mental Demon Realm! I need your help now!”

He looked at Fang Yuan and sounded sincere.

“You... want me to help you save your original body?”

Fang Yuan had a rough idea about his request.

“That’s right. Most of my friends’ bodies and mine are endangered... While I’m still fine, they can’t hold on for long...” said the Lord of the Void frankly.

He did not have any concept of an original body, so he would not mind losing it. At worst, he would lose some power, which could be recovered soon.

But other Demon Gods like the Infinite Devourer might be annihilated.

“How did the heaven’s will of the Spiritual Realm suddenly become so efficient?”

Fang Yuan was slightly astonished. Those Demon Gods should have been able to hold on for many more years given how slowly the Spiritual Realm ‘consumed’ the invaders previously.

The Lord of the Void went silent for a moment before uttering the most important piece of intelligence, “It’s not the Spiritual Realm, but the Celestial Thearch!”

“You’re saying...”

Fang Yuan’s eyes immediately glistened.

Chapter 822: Contract

Although the Celestial Thearch was an Emperor and the strongest in the Spiritual Realm, he still had to obey heaven's will.

Even with the ability to refine origin power and not become corrupted, the Mental Demon Battlefield was still sealed away for the Spiritual Realm to slowly feed on.

However, the circumstances were clearly different now.

The seal on Mental Demon Battlefield had been broken, and Demon Gods were appearing. To the Celestial Thearch, this was both a risk and an opportunity.

This was because the Spiritual Realm was unable to immediately absorb the Mental Demon Battlefield. As such, he was able to provide assistance and enjoy a share of the resources.

This was similar to the proverb: "A general in the field is not bound by the orders from his sovereign."

"Reaching Demon God is not the end point for us. Besides, those on the same level as us in other worlds will also not give up on the hope of making a breakthrough..." said the Lord of the Void with hidden meaning behind his words. "We have what the Celestial Ruler needs the most—freedom!"

The Divine Dao titles conferred were mostly based on the Spiritual Realm's heaven's will.

Compared to Zenith Heavens, the Celestial Thearch faced many more restrictions.

It was the trade-off for being the strongest in the Spiritual Realm.

On the other hand, Demon Gods came from foreign realms and were thus absolutely unrestrained and unscrupulous.

What would happen if the Celestial Thearch knew a bit about the Demon Gods' intrinsic nature?

"The worst possible scenario is that he falls and becomes a Demon God? The best possible scenario is that he gains partial freedom and breaks away from most of his restrictions. This will enable him to be just like a Zenith Heaven while remaining the strongest in the Spiritual Realm!"

Fang Yuan pondered and said, "The key here depends on the extent of corruption by the Mental Demon origin power and the Celestial Ruler's own choice."

"Keke... I can guarantee you that no one is able to resist the temptations from the Mental Demons."

The tiger youth possessed by the Lord of the Void laughed strangely.

"However, even if the Celestial Thearch falls, we won't gain much from it if all the Demon Gods are exterminated. Hence, you need my help..."

Fang Yuan had already grasped some of the details of what the Lord of the Void wanted.

"That's right!" After a period of silence, the Lord of the Void continued, "Helping me is actually helping yourself as well. As long as we rescue those Demon Gods, we can take over the Spiritual Realm and obtain absolutely incomparable benefits!"

"I'm not silly enough to wage a war against the Spiritual Realm just because of an illusory promise!" Fang Yuan shook his head. "I can help you, but on two conditions! First, I want to advance to Demon God! Any agreement made is based on this premise, or else I dare not collaborate with you. Second, which I require you to pay first, the Mental Demon lower realm descending technique and the coordinates of multiple worlds in this universe!"

Previously, when he had made a deal with Demon God Ancient Netherworld, he had only received the Mental Demon realm traversing technique and was not told how to get past the dimensional limitation.

"The lower realm descending technique? This magical technique is rather profound, so much so that not all Demon Gods are able to grasp it... The most I can provide you with is information on a few of the neighboring worlds..."

The Lord of the Void haggled out of habit.

In view of this, Fang Yuan sneered in his heart.

If other Demon Gods did not have it, so be it. But how could the Lord of the Void, who was known for having billions of incarnations and being the best at concealing his realm traversing, not have it?

After a moment of confrontation, the Lord of the Void was the first to start speaking. "Your strength has already reached 10-Essence Demon Master and is now at the stage of finding your own Dao path. You are only one step away from forming your own Great Dao and becoming a Demon God..."

"Although I'm not able to give you the lower realm descending technique, I can provide you with the coordinates to a few worlds. Since your Dao path has some similarities with my Dao of the Void, I'm certain that one of the worlds is highly suitable for you! However, you must first sign a contract with me!"

The Lord of the Void demand for a binding was expected.

He did not know that Fang Yuan had Dream Master techniques and could traverse between realms effortlessly. Moreover, even if he were to suffer damage, it would be no big deal.

The Mental Demon realm traversing technique required others to cross over themselves; thus, they would lose everything if they died.

What Fang Yuan currently used was naturally the Dream Master techniques that he had improved upon himself, and it was best at plundering across thousands of worlds safely. However, the Lord of the Void was unaware of this, fearing that Fang Yuan would be gone for good.

"Oh? A world that especially suits my advancement?"

Fang Yuan's eyes gleamed.

The Lord of the Void was after all a Demon God. If he made such a judgment, then the benefits of that world would certainly be great.

"If that's really the case, I can consider signing the contract. However, the most I can promise is to participate in the war, and that is also after my breakthrough!"

In this respect, Fang Yuan would not yield an inch.

He previously did not sign a contract with Demon God Ancient Netherworld precisely because he was afraid of being duped.

However, things were different now. With the Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao, he was almost on the same level as a Demon God. Thus, the possibility of him being fooled was almost non-existent.

Despite this, the conditions that he was fighting for were also exceptionally relaxed.

“Not possible... Although you’re only a fine line away from reaching Demon God, even having your own Great Dao, not a single Demon Master will dare guarantee their advancement to Demon God. There must be a time limit—at most a hundred years!”

As expected, the Lord of the Void immediately raged back.

If he were to really slowly wait for Fang Yuan to break through, even the Infinite Devourer would be gone by then.

“A hundred years? Not enough, at least five hundred!”

“Are you joking? If so, I’ll have to reduce the number of coordinates and give you at most two!”

“That’s not possible. At the very least, I want ten of them! Otherwise, how would I know if this wasn’t a trap? Furthermore, the world you mentioned that was especially suitable for my breakthrough must be the first one in our deal!”

...

With regards to the contract, both parties were haggling over every single detail, completely not possessing the demeanor of a Demon God and a Demon Master.

When it came to matters that were of great concern to their own interests, only idiots would let go of profits without careful consideration.

Finally, the Lord of the Void put forth his bottom line.

“Two hundred years and the coordinates of five worlds! That’s my bottom line! After you agree, you will gain my friendship!”

“Friendship from a group of Demon Gods in imminent crisis?” Fang Yuan sneered, but still nodded his head after pondering for a moment. “Fine... Considering that this is our first deal, I’ll suffer some losses.”

“...”

The Lord of the Void was dumbfounded and did not say anything further. White mist emerged around him and transformed into characters of the Mental Demon language to form a contract.

Fang Yuan read the contract character by character. Fortunately, he had diligently studied beforehand and the effort had not been wasted.

“I agree to this in my name as Dream Demon!”

As he spoke indifferently, his right hand tapped the empty space, and the symbol of the Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao appeared on the contract.

“Very good. I’ll give you my summoning ceremony. Once you’ve broken through or hit the deadline of two hundred years, you just need to initiate the ceremony to contact me!”

With a swing of his arms, the Lord of the Void sent a few sparkling light orbs flying toward Fang Yuan.
“As promised, these are the coordinates of the five worlds.”

Once all of this was completed, the tiger youth suddenly stagnated. The white in its pupils quickly faded away and turned clear.

This tiger was simply one of the hosts that the Lord of the Void had selected.

Previously, he had only showed himself after detecting Fang Yuan’s presence.

Once the Lord of the Void separated from it, what was left was simply an Earth Immortal-level demon.

“Y-You...”

The tiger looked at Fang Yuan in great fear.

“This tiger is also rather pitiful!”

Fang Yuan could not be bothered to say anything to it. It was already a puppet now, destined to become nourishment for the Lord of the Void in the future.

Even if he were to slay this tiger, it would at most cause the Lord of the Void to merely grumble.

After all, the world was so vast, so what kind of host could not be found?

“As you have offended me, you must compensate me!”

Fang Yuan thought for a while and waved his hand. “Your punishment is merely to be my mount and to carry me to the capital of Ye!”

“Thank you, Sir! Thank you!”

The tiger youth promptly stooped down and turn into a giant tiger. It then ran as fast as lightning after Fang Yuan got on its back.

“The Lord of the Void’s Myriad Division Technique is indeed terrifying...”

The sound of the wind could be heard from both sides, yet Fang Yuan sat leisurely, as though he was on the ground, and started to ponder about the Lord of the Void.

This Demon God’s Myriad Division Technique allowed demonic thoughts to be hosted in billions of living beings.

Moreover, such a magical technique was not only applicable to a single world.

Fang Yuan reckoned that this Demon God’s demonic thoughts were lying low in other worlds as well. Otherwise, how could he be known as undying?

“Nevertheless, he was probably genuine and sincere in collaborating this time.”

Previously, this Demon God had taken him to be a misbehaving Demon Master and thus treated him as though he was a nobody who could be easily crushed.

After he found out that Fang Yuan had the combat power of a Demon God, he immediately conversed on equal footing. Strength determined the attitude received! This instead made the Lord of the Void seem very trustworthy.

“It seems like the Lord of the Void had found a few of the Demon Masters who happened to luckily escape that time and knew about my abnormal actions... Of course, these are all just trivial matters.”

The major event that Fang Yuan really cared about was still his advancement to Demon God.

With his Omnidirectional Divine Demonic Armament Dao as a foundation, he would instantly grasp two Great Dao once he became a Demon God. By then, he would be among the stronger Demon Gods.

Only with such confidence could he then act freely in the Spiritual Realm and tackle matters such as plotting to stop the Celestial Thearch or rescuing the Demon Gods.

“According to Demon God Ancient Netherworld, Demon Gods like the Infinite Devourer and Lord of the Void are obviously one small team. Perhaps I can really join them, or at least maintain a friendly relationship...”

Fang Yuan counted. It seemed that ever since he made contact with the Mental Demon Realm, all those he had offended were higher beings and not on good terms with him.

It was probably time for him to look for some reinforcements.

Other things aside, when the Demon God who had deprived Dream Masters of their Dao path came, it would be pretty good to have others supporting him even if they were unable to fight alongside him.

“Of course... the Lord of the Void may not necessarily be reliable. These world coordinates still have to be tested one by one!”

As he thought to himself, Fang Yuan suddenly patted the tiger below. “You don’t happen to be the demon that the King of Ye dotes on, right?”

“I wouldn’t dare!” The tiger denied at once. “That demon has astonishing magical powers and is on par with Heaven Immortals. I’m definitely not a match for it!”

“Oh? That’s interesting then. What’s its background?”

Fang Yuan’s interest was piqued.

“It seems to be a thousand-footed dragon centipede!”

Chapter 823: Monastery

Capital of Ye.

Although the country of Ye was small, its capital was constructed rather majestically.

Presently, the markets were desolate, and the pedestrians were malnourished and living in fear, giving off the impression of a doomsday scene.

*According to that tiger, a Heaven Immortal centipede demon has bewitched the King of Ye to become obsessed over cultivation. He didn't even hesitate to prey on virgin children to refine the Seven Orifices Exquisite Pill... *

Fang Yuan was walking along the streets while dressed as a scholar.

The markets that were originally bustling with noise had few pedestrians now. Nevertheless, from time to time, there were soldiers on horses passing by, giving off a sense of chaos.

*The King of Ye is tyrannical. On top of that, there are natural calamities and man-made disasters. Thus, it's understandable that the country is in complete disorder. As for that centipede demon, it's really quite fortunate... *

With strength comparable to a Heaven Immortal, it would be among the top in the 72 sects and was not just some average demon.

It was probably because the neighboring Gods and Immortals were unable to take it down that the centipede demon was able to get away scot-free.

Furthermore, it knew its limits and only harmed this remote and insignificant small country. It was difficult for the Heavenly Court to pay attention to it, or have the energy to care, even if it took notice of the situation.

After all, the escape of the Demon Gods and the chaos across the world were more important matters for the Heavenly Court.

Comparatively, a mere centipede was indeed nothing much.

"Sambhogakaya Monastery?"

Fang Yuan walked along the streets for half a day and arrived at a grand monastery.

The monastery was constructed with red bricks and golden roof tiles. The corners of the building were glazed, and the walls were decorated with gold leaves. The architecture was grand and extremely extravagant.

A gust of strong sandalwood scent assaulted the senses by merely standing outside the huge mahogany door. In the plaza in front of the main hall, there was red sandalwood burning inside a large copper furnace.

Despite some of them appearing malnourished and sickly with emaciated bodies, there were still countless believers contributing gold, silver, and rice.

In contrast to the believers, the monks inside the monastery were all plump and well-fed, having glowing faces.

"The name, Sambhogakaya, was actually very particularly chosen..."

Fang Yuan was in deep thought.

There were the Three Bodies of Buddha in Buddhism and the Three Pure Ones in Daoism, all of whom had exceedingly great magical powers.

It was audacious of the centipede to choose this as its monastery's name. 1

"Stop!" He reached the main hall and wanted to walk further in, but two monks immediately blocked his path. "Our monastery's back court only receives high officials and nobles. Mister, please remain here!"

"Since the door is conveniently wide open, why keep people away?"

Fang Yuan faintly smiled.

"Hmph!" After hearing what he said, a monk immediately held up his rod. "The Sambhogakaya Monastery belongs to the king. How can it be considered ordinary? Quickly leave, or else we'll beat you and drive you out!"

"Merely an ordinary person!"

Fang Yuan surveyed the area.

This Sambhogakaya Monastery naturally did not have any aura of Buddha's teachings. On the contrary, the area was covered with karma and even had a faint hint of demonic energy.

Under his gaze, the monks in front of the hall were actually ordinary people, but they had grave karma. Evidently, they were usually committing quite a few evil deeds.

So much so that even the Buddha statue in the middle of the hall was shrouded in a layer of reddish-black light and did not seem like a righteous god.

"What a guy... This is the Divine Dao's approach of having others offer sacrifices to oneself and gathering believers..." It only took a moment for Fang Yuan to see through the centipede demon's scheme. "It plans to make a breakthrough using the Divine Dao to form a dragon body? Seems like it also intends to absorb the country of Ye's luck."

"Courting death!"

Seeing Fang Yuan not leaving, the two monks guarding the entrance were enraged and swung their wooden rods to smash his head.

Bang! Bang!

After two loud bangs, the two monks flew backward. They were like paintings hanging on a wall and slowly sliding down.

"Oh gosh... These two masters, why were you so careless?"

Beside Fang Yuan was a sloppy Daoist priest who came over while laughing mockingly. "You even hung yourself on the wall. Buddha's teachings are indeed profound. We admire you!"

Fang Yuan expressionlessly glanced at him.

A moment ago, it was this sloppy Daoist priest who had interfered and taught these two monks a lesson. In reality, however, he had actually saved their lives. Had it been Fang Yuan who made a move, they would not have been let off so simply.

“Who are you?”

The remaining monks were indignant. They surrounded the area while carrying weapons such as wooden rods and vajra scepters, each and every one of them looking tough.

They only belonged to the outermost of the monastery and were just gangsters originally. There was still a group of senior monks who had true magical powers supporting them at the back, so they naturally did not have any qualms.

The sloppy Daoist priest had a full beard and looked as though he was in his forties or fifties. However, he had a youthful voice and seemed to be just a youth. His neither new nor old robe was in tatters, and his hair was so greasy, it was unknown how long it had been since he had last bathed.

Swinging both his hands, his sleeves generated a strong gust of wind, and all the monks that were rushing in collapsed. His strength was not to be underestimated. “I am an itinerant cultivator, Gongsun Kunlun, and I wish to consult the royal preceptor!”

When it came to proper matters, his eyes instantly glistened.

Sword Immortal?

Fang Yuan was hiding at one side and enjoying the show.

“Move aside!”

Gongsun Kunlun took a large stride forward and intruded into the Sambhogakaya Monastery’s back court.

Behind the Sambhogakaya Monastery was a forest of pagodas.

Right in the middle stood a golden pagoda. It was said to have been bestowed by the King of Ye, and just its construction budget was already half of the country’s taxes that year.

“Which evildoer dares to intrude into the Merit and Virtue Forest?”

Within the forest of pagodas came multiple cold voices.

With greedy and bloodthirsty looks in their eyes, many gloomy-looking monks clad in black kasayas walked out from the Merit and Virtue Forest.

“Descendants of demons?” Gongsun Kunlun was infuriated at the sight of these monks. “In broad daylight, you demons actually dare to bewitch the king and gather believers. You’re practically committing the most heinous crime!”

He seemed extremely outraged and struck out his palm. “Heaven’s Will Five Lightning technique!”

Whoosh!

There was a white flash.

Fang Yuan heard a series of mournful shrieks around him.

The senior monks were originally maintaining their image. But now, each and every one of them had fear written all over their faces as black vapor dispelled from their bodies. They were in complete disarray amid the thunderbolts.

Lightning was the toughest and most positive power in the world. Thus, it was best at exterminating evil spirits.

Smack!

Gongsun Kunlun strode forward, stepping on the kasayas on the ground. Shaking a kasaya, a large red centipede fell out from inside.

This centipede was unbelievably huge. It was as thick as a child's fist, over half a meter long, and looked absolutely terrifying. Its outer shell was covered with red strands of blood, and many of its legs were still struggling and trembling.

"Ah!"

"Why did all the masters turn into demons?"

When some of the believers saw this scene, their eyes turned white and fainted from the shock.

"The royal preceptor is a demon. Today, I, Gongsun Kunlun, shall enforce justice on behalf of heaven!"

The sloppy Daoist with his stern righteousness was like a thunder god and struck first.

He did not need any other magical powers or secret techniques. With just one technique, he was already invincible. He headed straight into the Merit and Virtue Forest and arrived at the golden pagoda.

"Daoist priest... Our patriarch is coming and he won't let you off!"

The two demons guarding the golden pagoda were clearly significantly stronger than those earlier.

As they stared at Gongsun Kunlun, fear showed in their eyes. "Our patriarch has gone to give a sermon for the king. By now, he should have received the news and will soon return."

"I'm waiting for him to return to dispose of all of you together!"

Gongsun Kunlun laughed heartily. For the first time, he tore off the cloth bag on his back and unveiled a sword case.

Vzzzt!

Multiple streaks of sharp Sword Qi pierced toward the sky in a towering rage.

The sound of the sword was so astonishing, it was as though a dragon's roar spread across the high heavens.

Impressively, Gongsun Kunlun was a sword cultivator!

Just from looking at the unusual phenomenon from his sword case, it could be seen that his intrinsic spiritual sword had to be exceptionally terrifying.

“In my whole life of cultivation, I have refined seven swords which specialize in chopping down wrongdoings!”

Gongsun Kunlun seemingly sighed. “Dubhe Sword, unsheathe!”

Swoosh!

A streak of radiant light shot out from the sword case. In a split second, it broke through the golden pagoda’s defense and impaled the two demons.

The sword had flown over a hundred steps and easily beheaded someone!

He’s indeed a Sword Immortal!

Seeing this, Fang Yuan nodded to himself.

Among all Immortals, Sword Immortals could be considered first in terms of combat power, and their methods were not to be underestimated.

In particular, their characters were such that they would rather break than bend. Once they got angry at matters of injustice, they would not waver in the slightest, even if they were to fight until the heavens fell and the earth cracked.

At this moment, Gongsun Kunlun possessed the demeanor of one who would continue going forward despite having millions of people in his way.

“Demon!”

As he shouted, thunderbolts swept across the sky and broke the entrance of the golden pagoda into pieces.

Whoosh whoosh!

After a short while, the flying sand settled down and revealed the full view of the golden pagoda’s interior.

On the walls were countless depressions, forming a densely packed checkered pattern.

In every square was a virgin child clad in a kasaya, each executing a technique with a lifelike appearance.

“Ah! Demon, I must kill you today!”

Gongsun Kunlun was enraged. With a brush of his sleeves, thunderbolts extended from above.

Kaboom!

Right at this time, the golden pagoda shook slightly. A golden curtain of light emerged from the pagoda’s roof and cascaded down like a screen of water.

“Which junior dares to break into my pagoda?”

A hoarse voice was heard from the silhouette that had flown over from the direction of the Ye palace and was standing on the pagoda’s roof.

“Die, demon!” Gongsun Kunlun’s eyes reddened and revealed his sword case. “Dubhe, Merak, Phecda, Megrez, Alioth, Mizar, Alkaid!” 1

Swoosh!

The seven spiritual flying swords formed a fatal network of swords and enveloped the entire golden pagoda.

“Kill!”

Gongsun Kunlun recited a magical technique, and Sword Qi burst out, instantly overturning the pagoda’s ceiling and revealing a monk clad in a crimson kasaya.

Vzzzzt!

Two flying swords launched, impaling both of the monk’s hands.

Vzzzzt!

Another two swords nailed down both legs.

Shortly after, the remaining three swords took care of the face.

“Seven swords in one, exterminate!” Gongsun Kunlun exclaimed. The flying swords pierced through the air and heavily damaged the royal preceptor’s body.

After seeing many believers closing in, Gongsun Kunlun immediately shouted with a loud voice, “This demon wrecked the country and brought suffering to the people. Today, I am acting on behalf of heaven. The King of Ye is tyrannical and demons come to this country. Don’t tell me that all of you still don’t understand the situation even now? This royal preceptor is a demon!”

Kaboom!

At this moment, the ground quivered, and the golden pagoda collapsed loudly.

A huge earthquake struck and the ground cracked.

An enormous figure suddenly appeared from the earth veins. It was a centipede with an unimaginably massive body. “Junior, how dare you damage my Dharma body! You’re courting death!!!”

Footnotes:

Ch 823 Footnote 1

Sambhogakaya is one of the Three Bodies of Buddha

Ch 823 Footnote 2

These are the names of the seven stars in the Big Dipper.

Chapter 824: Dragon Transformation

A thousand-footed dragon centipede!

The demon was over tens of meters long. It was covered in a golden outer shell and had legs similar to sabers. It was as though an evil dragon from the earth veins was causing a turbulence.

“Hmm? What a bastard. It already possesses a Golden Body?” Gongsun Kunlun was even more outraged after seeing this. “How many people have you harmed through such immoral practices?”

It was almost impossible for a demon to become a dragon. This was especially so for this centipede, as it was not under the family of snakes, pythons, nor carps. The only method was cultivating via false means with the aid of the Divine Dao.

Although this centipede was using the Divine Dao method, it continuously seized every opportunity. It constructed the golden pagoda, gathered virgin children, and engulfed the Dragon Qi of a country.

Such a demon would only bring disaster to the people. Any righteous person seeing this would certainly exterminate it.

“Seven swords, strike together!”

Gongsun Kunlun executed a sword technique, and the seven flying swords combined to form a huge sword in midair.

This sword seemed to be purely created from starlight. The seven stars formed by the flying swords were dazzling and flickering within it.

“Slice!”

Accompanied by rumbling winds, the huge sword directly sliced down from midair.

Its torrent dashed down from a thousand meters high, as if the silver stream of a galaxy had plunged from the highest heaven. ¹

Sword Qi poured down like a heavenly river sweeping everything away. It carried abundant momentum and was actually going to behead the dragon in one strike!

Clang!

The huge sword fell and sliced the centipede’s back, producing a startling loud bang.

Within the explosion of golden light, the huge sword was jolted away. Its surface had hints of cracks appearing, and the seven flying swords were lamenting.

“On the seven stars, form the Big Dipper! Enhance my body with the power of the Stellar Lords!”

Gongsun Kunlun’s face turned dark red and shortly changed his motion.

The whole universe was crystal clear. Suddenly, in the middle of the day, there were seven stars burning brilliantly and casting down stellar power.

This was a godly technique that prayed to the Stellar Lords and the stars for power.

Under the enhancement of the seven stellar powers, the huge sword recovered and struck again.

Roar! Roar!

The thousand-footed dragon centipede looked toward the sky and roared, spitting out a golden inner core.

Swoosh!

Golden light dashed across the sky like a shooting star and clashed with the huge sword.

Poof!

Gongsun Kunlun's expression changed multiple times. Then he opened his mouth and violently spurted out a large mouthful of blood.

This inner core was the essence of this centipede demon's thousand years of tireless cultivation. Furthermore, it was mixed with Dragon Qi and energy from people's beliefs, making it exceptionally violent.

With just one hit, the seven stars huge sword cracked, exploding in all directions and sending the flying swords into disorder.

"Junior, you destroyed my Dharma Body. Now, you'll pay me back with all the flesh and blood from your body!"

The dragon centipede's tail swung. Gongsun Kunlun was immediately sent flying away and crashed into some rubble.

"*Sigh* ... Getting eliminated instead of eliminating the demon. Ending up in your situation is really pathetic."

Gongsun Kunlun was unable to move at all, and his consciousness was dizzy, but he could still hear a voice ringing in his ears.

Shortly after, in front of him stood a hazy figure laughing mockingly.

"This... is the person who intruded into the monastery initially?"

Gongsun Kunlun recognized him after some difficulty and struggled to speak. "Quickly leave!"

"Real flying swords are not like how you used them!"

Fang Yuan shook his head. With a wave of his hand, the seven flying swords immediately arrived before him, as though there was an invisible pull.

"Hmm? Another person here to exterminate demons?"

The centipede demon was startled for a moment, but soon gave a sinister look. "I just found a small country to absorb some Qi for cultivation. The immortal sects and the Divine Dao aren't all that concerned, yet you lowly beings actually dare to court death?"

"A mere small centipede..."

Fang Yuan sneered and snapped his fingers. "Dubhe!"

Gongsun Kunlun stared with his eyes wide open. He realized that the flying sword that he had perfect command of had completely renounced him in an instant, throwing itself into the embrace of its new master.

The Dubhe Sword pierced through the sky, leaving a lightning-like trajectory and stabbing into the eye of the giant centipede.

“Merak!” Upon another shout, the Merak Sword pierced into the centipede’s mouth.

“Phecda!”

“Megrez!”

“Alioth!”

“Mizar!”

“Alkaid!”

Accompanying Fang Yuan’s seven shouts, the seven flying swords promptly stabbed into the centipede’s seven orifices.

“Seven Swords Soul Lock!”

Fang Yuan himself was an expert at sword arrays. Using the flying swords, he had mixed in the true meaning of the Magus Dao, with a hint of Seven Arrows Nail Striking Witchcraft.

Not only did the seven flying swords pierce through its seven orifices, they even directly locked on to its Essence Soul and twisted it violently.

Thump!

Above the inner core, a figure pierced with seven swords emerged and seemed to be still struggling.

But the next moment, the seven streaks of light united and its Essence Soul instantly disintegrated.

With the seven swords attacking together, the demon was exterminated!

Gongsun Kunlun was completely stunned as the giant centipede’s corpse fell to the ground.

His cultivation was outstanding, and his Sword Dao was profound. Naturally, he knew that the centipede’s strength was at Heaven Immortal. Moreover, it had absorbed the country of Ye’s fate and beliefs, so a common Heaven Immortal might not necessarily be able to defeat it.

However, when facing this youth, it took only one move to exterminate it?

Fang Yuan did not pay attention to this and grabbed the golden centipede’s corpse from a distance.

Wisps of mysterious Dragon Qi was drawn out by him, which transformed into a small flood dragon that was similar to both dragons and snakes. Its entire body was yellowish-brown, and it had two claws near its abdomen and a bald head, looking rather incongruous.

A large amount of energy from people’s beliefs followed and transformed into a multi-colored golden wheel of incense.

This was all of the benefits that the centipede demon had received from bewitching the King of Ye and gathering believers.

“Go!”

Fang Yuan lightly touched it. The Dragon Qi immediately soared into the sky, disappearing without a trace.

As for the golden wheel of incense, it returned to the heavens and the earth, not leaving a trace.

“This is a superior Immortal!”

Gongsun Kunlun got up with difficulty, but he was dumbfounded when he saw this. “If this Dragon Qi flies away and finds a new host, perhaps the country of Ye will change rulers!”

During chaos, many wild extraordinary beings often rose.

This Dragon Qi that Fang Yuan released originally came from the country of Ye. By nature, it was fated with this land. Wherever it went, that place would certainly have a formidable person springing up.

“Given the country of Ye’s current situation, it’s too difficult to overcome the old customs already, so it might be better to take decisive action and establish a new country!”

Fang Yuan was not as concerned, as though he had simply done a small passing matter. “So? Are you still able to walk?”

“Still all right!”

Looking at his surroundings, there were already many believers who were kneeling down and shouting for immortals. Gongsun Kunlun laughed bitterly. “Anyway, there’s no choice but to leave now.”

Evidently, the commotion here had alarmed the capital.

There was already a large number of troops rushing over from the palace.

As extraordinary people practicing cultivation, there would always be some trouble when they were involved in secular matters of royalty. Thus, it would be better to return.

...

Songxia County.

“Congratulations, Lieutenant!”

Inside a hall, there were two lines of soldiers saluting simultaneously.

“Everyone, please rise. It’s thanks to everyone’s support that I’m able to reach where I am today. As the saying goes, don’t forget your friends when you become rich. I, Lin Shoucheng, will definitely not treat everyone unfairly!”

Lin Shoucheng sat upright in the master seat and bowed in return.

A few days ago, the official edict had come. As he had meritorious service for appeasing chaos, he was promoted to lieutenant.

In the country of Ye, a lieutenant was already a mid-ranking military officer that could command several thousand people. More importantly, with this title, he was no longer limited by region and could leave the county to eradicate bandits at will, greatly increasing his flexibility.

“We will lay down our lives for you, Sir!”

The other followers also fell onto their knees one after another.

This superior had outstanding martial prowess, made clear distinction between reward and punishment, and was courageous and unwavering. During troubled times, this kind of leader who could continuously lead them toward victories was the commander that they truly needed!

“Haha... Good. Let the feast begin!”

Lin Shoucheng was elated and organized a celebratory feast with his subordinates.

Right at this moment, the sky darkened and muffled thunder came.

A roar similar to dragons and tigers could be vaguely heard rushing into the hall.

“Hmm?”

Lin Shoucheng had extraordinary martial arts. Even if there were ten continuous thunderclaps on a day of drought, he would regard it as nonsense from the heavens.

But now, his entire body shuddered, and his chopsticks fell to the ground when his hands trembled.

“Sir?”

His subordinates all looked toward him. Suddenly, they were dazzled by him, only thinking that he was even more dignified than before.

“It’s fine. I was momentarily lost in thought when I heard the thunderclap!”

Lin Shoucheng remained calm and collected. However, he knew that there was certainly something different about him.

When the feast ended, he immediately summoned Jiang Wang.

“Congratulations, Lieutenant!”

Jiang Wang entered with joy written all over his face. “General Ping Man has already accepted our gifts. He issued a document that states that henceforth Lieutenant can recruit soldiers and eradicate bandits without facing any limitations and can do as you please. Moreover, rich families from several counties can no longer bear the bandits’ disturbances. After knowing about Lieutenant’s fame, they took the initiative to dispatch people to deliver gifts and ask us to provide assistance by sending troops. They promised that once the matter is resolved, they’ll certainly reward us heavily.”

“This is all good news indeed!”

Lin Shoucheng was also elated after hearing the news.

These were all matters for establishing a strong foundation. Continuing steadily, it would not take many years before they achieved great accomplishments.

"Also... today, I keep feeling that something isn't right!"

After thinking about it, he shared the events that had occurred during the feast.

"Unusual phenomenon from the heavens?" Jiang Wang pondered for a moment before slowly shaking his head. "I think... this matter is simply insignificant. After all, we're only tiny individuals with no power in the eyes of the heavens. If there really was defiance, then a single lightning strike would settle it. Why bother giving a warning? Perhaps... this omen represents good fortune and not misfortune!"

"*Sigh* ... I won't keep you in the dark. Ever since the day Mister was frank with me, my heart has been practically in a total mess!"

Lin Shoucheng bitterly laughed.

He and Jiang Wang were both on the same boat, so they had a close relationship and would also discuss matters that were unsuitable to share with their parents.

"I still believe in what Master said. So what about evil Qi—its good when used for good, and evil when used for evil. We just need to follow our hearts and benefit the common people. If someday, we truly obtain a huge opportunity and destiny, we'll have to ask the heavens!"

Jiang Wang clenched his fists.

"Right. This aspiration is also what I desire!" Lin Shoucheng laughed heartily. They firmly grasped each other's hand. "In that case, we'll defy the heavens together!"

...

"Hmm?"

Inside a courtyard located in Songxia County.

Zhi Hua raised her head suddenly, gazing in the direction of where Lin Shoucheng was.

There was a turbulent and mysterious spiritual aura coming from her body. Shockingly, she had already advanced to the next state.

Her progress was so rapid that her heart was palpitating.

"That's odd... why did Lin Shoucheng's fate rise so much, even enabling my powers to break through?"

She was not delighted, but startled.

After laying the bet, both of their spiritual auras were connected. This enabled her to see through illusions and view his fate.

She saw a black python with a waist as thick as a bowl amid clouds of mist. It looked extraordinary and created quite a scene.

Most importantly, its abdomen had grown two protrusions and another one on its head. This was the sign of dragon transformation!

“Impossible. What happened to cause it to grow so rapidly?”

Zhi Hua was both astonished and delighted, yet in her mind emerged a silhouette.

In her opinion, only that unfathomable lord could achieve this.

Chapter 825: Ocean

The boundless blue ocean.

The salty sea breeze was warm.

Gentle waves arose on the ocean, above which seagulls flew past at times.

This was the Golden Sea Route that led to the East. Ever since the Great Geographical Discovery, countless ships set out for the enigmatic East along this route every day, bringing back china, spices, silk, and other specialties to exchange for money at the port.

The ocean was a cradle of dreams, containing astounding amounts of treasure.

A story of a lucky dog getting rich overnight circulated at every port, encouraging more youths to pursue their careers as voyagers. However, they did not know that other than the unparalleled treasures, there were also extreme dangers hidden in the ocean.

Other than natural disasters like storms, there were giant sea monsters, other creatures dwelling in the sea, and even some indescribable beings that could readily capsize ships in a rage.

Of course, the prevailing danger on a sea route was still pirates.

They pursued wealth and loved rum and ladies. After plundering a large fortune, they would squander all of it at pirate ports and then hunt for more.

To men living on the sea, they had been born there and would eventually die there. This was their destiny.

Nevertheless, it was not enjoyable to be a pirate. In comparison to the merchants, they also faced the ocean's dangers and might even be besieged by the royal navies.

In the Western Continent, Ettoman was the country with the strongest naval power. Reaping the most benefits from overseas business, it resented pirate activities and legislated against them. If pirate activities were witnessed on the sea, the pirates could be executed on the spot, regardless of their identities.

The corpses of pirates suspended in the wind could be seen at the ports of Ettoman every day, before eventually being replaced by new pirate corpses.

The battle between the navies and the pirates was an eternal topic in the Great Voyage Era.

The Great Voyage Era!

After the eminent Voyager Michael discovered the sea route to the East based on the Great Geographical Discovery, countries all over the continent went crazy for it.

Countless people rushed to sail the seas and explore the New World despite the danger from cyclones, tsunamis, giant monsters, and pirates. As more continents were discovered, more ships were built with improved capacity and speed.

Wealth flowed continuously into Ettoman, making this island nation more affluent than any other country in the Western Continent.

Attracted by the gold and other treasures, many coastal countries started their maritime business successively.

It was the worst of times. The dreadful ocean devoured young lives like a ruthless beast, and the Great Geographical Discovery was full of colonization and crimes.

It was the best of times. With courage and a little luck, one could obtain wealth and anything else in the vast ocean!

...

“What a fantastic day!”

Donald was over thirty years old. His white shirt was open halfway down, revealing his hairy chest.

As an experienced sailor and voyager, he could tell the good weather today just by smelling the sea breeze.

“At this speed, I can probably arrive at the Drunk Port tomorrow evening and enjoy the turkey and the rum there...”

Donald rubbed his face. His beard was as stiff as steel needles since he had not shaved for a long time.

He was the respected navigator of this ship named ‘Flame and Beauty’.

On a common merchant ship, the captain had the greatest authority, followed by the chief officer, who assisted the captain in managing things on the deck and other sundry duties.

Next was the navigator, who had to be proficient at determining their position using the sextant and the stars, as well as calculating ocean currents and sea routes. The navigator could sometimes be more important than the captain.

Below the navigator was the assault leader, followed by the second officer and the third officer.

The ocean routes were not peaceful at all now, and it was absolutely possible for them to encounter pirates. A capable assault leader and sufficient weapons were crucial for survival at that critical moment!

On pirate ships and navy vessels, the combatants were further classified into artillerymen, musketeers, and so on.

Other than that, there were doctors, chefs, carpenters, accountants... Together with the sailors at the bottom of the hierarchy, they completed the interpersonal relationships on a ship.

Donald owned some shares in the shipments this time.

As an expert in overseas trading, he had estimated that after the shipments were transacted, he would profit by more than 250 gold coins. That would be sufficient for him to purchase a bungalow in the Ottoman countryside with hundreds of acres of land. He could then retire and live a peaceful and affluent life.

The years of sailing and countless dangers he had been through became no big deal in comparison to the benefits.

Sigh... I've been away for so many years. How's my family doing? Perhaps little Arthur has already learned to speak?

Donald missed his wife and his son.

With that thought, he could not help glancing at something below his neck.

There was a strange metal pendant on a fine hemp string, emitting cold and hard light.

The pendant was like a tiny dagger with a peculiar shape, and Donald had bought it from a mad witch in a pirate market.

It has a special meaning, representing the master of all armaments. You've sensed its greatness, so it belongs to you...

Donald could still remember the witch's words.

Nevertheless, out of his respect for the witch, he had paid three silver coins for it.

Actually, Donald really suspected that it was only the witch's marketing technique.

He had no idea why he had bought the pendant. It was as if he was enchanted by it at that time.

The experienced captain had seen it and thought it might be the sect symbol of a faith in the East or something related to the Evil Gods. Therefore, he had advised him to discard it immediately or give it to a priest. However, it was impossible for Donald to discard this thing worth three silver coins unless he went mad.

Furthermore, anything related to faith, gods, and spirits had to be regarded with caution.

A god or some unknown being might be watching you covertly, and abandoning the pendant might cause a disaster!

"From the East... Perhaps it's the sect symbol of an armament master?"

With that thought, Donald gripped the pendant and prayed, "The grand unknown being in the invisible world... I praise you sincerely and worship you piously... Please lead me and let me complete this voyage successfully!"

Any experienced sailor would rather believe in luck and destiny.

Although many countries on the continent still banned religions, Ettoman—the country with the highest level of civilization and freedom—had a very liberal attitude toward religions.

Basically, as long as the religion was not from an evil sect and did not advocate the doomsday or anything aggressive, it could receive fair treatment and equal opportunity to be preached.

While Donald had already believed in the Luck Goddess, he would still turn to another being when he felt uncertain.

After all, although those preachers guaranteed the existence of the goddess, Donald had never felt that she replied to his prayers.

Well, Donald could at most be considered as one who did not truly believe in anything, or one who believed in everything.

But the prayer was apparently different this time.

Feeling the heat in his palm, he was astonished and stared at his pendant.

The strange armament was neither a saber nor a sword but similar to both, with a smooth outline and a peculiar shape. Traces of all sorts of armaments could be found in it.

Right now, the black pendant felt cold again, as if everything that had happened was only an illusion.

But for some unknown reason, he continuously felt intense anxiety, which informed him that an extreme danger was imminent!

“Damn... Could this really be a hint from the god?”

He pulled his collars and climbed up onto the lookout of the mast like a monkey.

The weather could not be better. There were neither any clouds in the sky nor any fog on the ocean, allowing him to see things at a long distance.

Donald looked in a certain direction.

In that direction, a black dot approached them slowly before finally turning into a galleon.

After seeing Flame and Beauty, the galleon raised its speed and sailed toward them aggressively. Their ship showed no signs of their identity.

“Defense!” Donald shouted immediately to alert the rest of the crew.

“What happened?”

With a commotion on the deck, a white captain pushed the sailors aside and walked out.

“Unidentified ship discovered five nautical miles to the left!” said Donald, gritting his teeth.

“Hmm?”

The captain looked through a copper, hand-held telescope, and his expression became solemn as well.

“Assault leader, prepare to fight! Other sailors, return to your respective cabins and prepare to row!”

The sailors on Flame and Beauty took action immediately, while Donald watched the approaching galleon with a nervous expression.

The closer it came, the clearer they could see the artillery on the giant ship and the large number of people on the deck. An unsettling atmosphere immediately spread among them.

Finally, the sound of cheers was heard on the other ship and a black flag rose.

On the flag, there was a white skull with two intersecting bones below it.

“It’s a pirate ship!”

The least favorable situation became a reality. The captain took a deep breath. “Turn around now!”

Shualala!

Dozens of oars immediately extended from both sides of Flame and Beauty, pushing the water together in an orderly manner to make the ship turn around and flee.

However, with the sound of a bugle, the other ship also sped up like a ferocious beast pouncing at its prey.

As soon as he compared their speeds, Donald closed his eyes, knowing that their own ship could by no means escape the other.

The captain knew it as well. Taking a deep breath, he gave the command. “Everybody... prepare to fight!”

Chapter 826: Believer

Bang bang!

The pirate ship attacked first. Flame and Beauty was heavily bombarded amid white smoke.

The deck cracked in the explosion, and a few unfortunate sailors were hit by solid shots and died miserably.

“Damn it!”

Donald gripped his musketeer tightly.

Facts proved that a merchant ship was completely no match for a pirate ship. In front of the aggressive pirates, Flame and Beauty was like a helpless girl assaulted by a strong, fierce man.

Bang!

With another loud explosion, a chained shot was fired and hit the mainmast of Flame and Beauty accurately.

Donald saw the attack and jumped off the mast in advance, but he still sighed in grief when he saw the mast had been broken in two.

At this stage, Flame and Beauty had no hope of escaping the pirates, and close combat was unavoidable.

Aw! Aw!

The pirate ship quickly drew close and moved to the side of Flame and Beauty.

The pirates shouted and wielded flying claws. Climbing onto the deck of the merchant ship, they started to slaughter the crew of the ship.

“Charge with me!”

The assault leader on the merchant ship had to take responsibility now, bringing a large group of sailors and combatants to fight against the enemies.

Bang bang!

Donald’s palms were sweating. Hiding behind some cover, he shot a pirate’s head with his musket.

Fighting was a necessity in order to make a living on the sea. As an experienced voyager, he had fought pirates many times.

But after seeing the ferocity and the sheer number of pirates this time, Donald felt hopeless.

There are too many enemies, and all of them are highly skilled. This can’t be any ordinary pirate team!

Splash!

At first, the sailors had occupied an advantageous position and fought under the captain’s leadership, blocking the pirates at the edge of the deck.

But the pirates soon became impatient.

Following the sound of a bugle, there was a huge splash as tentacles covered with suckers suddenly extended out of the ocean.

The tentacles that were as thick as a bucket wrapped around a few unlucky sailors and pulled them to the bottom of the ocean.

“Sea monster!”

The sailors cried out in shock, and the pirates immediately broke through their defense, steadily boarding the merchant ship.

Rumble.

Flame and Beauty swayed continuously, as if a gigantic beast hiding in the ocean kept striking the ship.

Bloop! Bloop!

Numerous bubbles rose, a vortex emerged, and an octopus as large as a hill came out of the water. It was nearly half as big as the ship, and its eight tentacles blocked the sun while slaughtering the crew like a demon’s hands.

“It’s the Octopus Marauder Team!”

Seeing this scene, Donald's eyes were filled with desperation. "Aren't they supposed to be on the Nightmare Ocean? Why did they come here?"

The next moment, a scary figure jumped from the pirate ship onto the deck directly. Wielding his dual cutlasses, he killed the captain of Flame and Beauty with ease.

Donald was overwhelmed by desperation.

...

Whoosh!

Waves washed the beach, on which hermit crabs moved happily among the shells.

At times, the cries of seagulls rang out from on the coconut trees.

The sunlight was dazzling.

"Cough cough..."

Donald turned over and coughed violently.

He was in poor condition. He had lost almost all of his equipment and was covered in mud, sand, and seaweed.

"Thank you, Luck Goddess! Thank you, unknown being!"

Instead of complaining, he was extremely grateful.

After all, surviving such a pirate attack was more important than anything else.

At the end of the battle, he did not manage to get on a lifeboat because the blast from an explosion had thrown him directly into the ocean.

Fortunately, the Octopus Marauder Team was busy counting their gains and did not bother chasing after each one of them.

After all, he was as good as dead without a boat in the boundless ocean.

But undeniably, Donald was lucky. He had grabbed on to a wooden plank and drifted with the ocean current, which had sent him to this deserted island.

Anything was possible in the vast ocean, and he was lucky enough to survive.

"Huff huff!"

After resting for a while, Donald stood up and observed the island.

It was one of the many deserted islands commonly found in the ocean. He felt much more relaxed at the sight of the exuberant coconut trees.

But that was followed by sorrow.

The pirates had captured Flame and Beauty and plundered all the goods on the ship, making him suffer substantial losses. After all, he took on a few debts for the profits this time, and he would become bankrupt just by paying the penalty fees.

Of course, he might not even return to his homeland alive.

Donald could only pray sincerely that this deserted island was not too far from shipping routes, and that a merchant ship would pass by and save him.

If that did not happen, he would probably have to spend the rest of his life on this island.

“God... regardless of which one you are, I sincerely believe in you. Please save me from this place!”

Piety would definitely arise when desperation was mixed with a trace of hope.

Donald gripped the pendant on his neck, which was the only thing he had with him other than his clothes.

And he had a mysterious feeling that when he fell into the ocean, the pendant had protected him and let him grab on to the life-saving wooden plank.

Therefore, after cracking two coconuts and having some replenishment, he immediately tidied up his clothes and prayed with unprecedented piety.

His praying lasted for half an hour.

It continued until Donald felt dizzy, almost unable to hold on anymore, when a voice suddenly rang out in his mind, “You... call my name, and I will respond!”

“I... am the master of dreams and controller of all armaments!

“My believers... will know my name—the Dream and Armament Master!”

...

The voice was so unexpected, but so real.

Donald was stunned, and then he burst into tears. “Ah... My God, I repent before you. I suspected the existence of gods previously... I’m a sinner!”

Having experienced such a mysterious event when his life was threatened, Donald was now a pious believer of the Dream and Armament Master.

...

” *Phew* ... Finally done with one!”

Fang Yuan also heaved a sigh of relief at this moment.

He was now dream-traversing again, which had allowed him to descend into this world.

Moreover, while he was in the Great Voyage World, his state was different from Donald’s.

There seemed to be a natural shield that separated him from reality, making it hard for him to interfere with the real world.

“A pure observer? How can I do anything then? How can I harvest the world and comprehend a Great Dao?”

Fang Yuan was naturally unresigned, but he knew that it was the defense mechanism of this world.

In this higher dimension universe, the worlds were at a much higher level and much more capable of coping with invaders.

“Could this world have a restriction, expelling extraordinary forces like gods or powerful external beings?”

Fang Yuan could only make a guess.

Of course, being proficient in the Dao of Dream Master and the realm traversing technique, he was unwilling to retreat like this. After studying this world for a while, he finally managed to place a Faith Token in the real world.

It was a pity that the witch who had first obtained the Faith Token already had her own faith and some power. Therefore, Fang Yuan’s reckless injection drove her mad.

But this sailor named Donald was better.

Although he did not have much potential, he was becoming more pious.

“Of course, a mere believer can at most allow me to communicate, and that’s definitely insufficient to support my arrival in the world! The creation of Faith Tokens also takes a lot of time and effort. I need to cultivate him for now, at least developing his ability so that he can spread the belief back in the human world!”

Fang Yuan was profoundly interested in this Great Voyage World.

In fact, following the Great Geographical Discovery, humans had gradually realized that they were not the only intelligent life in the world.

Moreover, the mysterious forces in this world were beyond their imagination.

The gigantic monsters in the ocean were only the tip of the iceberg.

There were a plethora of gods and unknown beings outside the realm boundary!

Their state was similar to Fang Yuan’s now. They were expelled or sealed, but could influence the world through their believers.

“This is an interesting world full of mysterious forces, while technology is also developing rapidly. With the advent of the Great Voyage Era, everything will be attracted to the ocean, where they can interact and clash... And past rulers are coveting this world covertly...” Fang Yuan murmured.

Of course, he had obtained the coordinates of this world from the Lord of the Void.

After killing the thousand-footed dragon centipede in the Spiritual Realm and giving the benefits to his student, he bade farewell to Gongsun Kunlun and left the country of Ye. Secluding himself in a random wilderness, he started his second dream-traversing exploration in the Spiritual Realm.

As a precaution against the Lord of the Void, he did not go to the world recommended by him. Instead, he chose among the other coordinates.

It turned out that the Lord of the Void was not so kind to him.

Although he gave Fang Yuan the coordinates of the worlds, all of them were very hard to invade.

“But to me, this is beneficial!”

Fang Yuan was not really angry.

After all, the Lord of the Void could only play tricks under the restrictions of the contract.

Moreover, the difficulty in invading the worlds also meant that they had not been exploited before. It was incomparably profitable to harvest such untouched worlds.

“However... expel and seal? This is an interesting defense mechanism... I didn’t expect that in this world, I would enjoy the same treatment as those ancient Evil Gods and past rulers who used to rule this world!”

Chapter 827: Experiment

This Dream and Armament Master was absolutely a generous and merciful god!

Donald, who was stranded on the deserted island, was certain about this.

The god responded to his prayers every day, even teaching him mystical knowledge and martial arts, which significantly enhanced his ability to survive.

Donald had already forgotten everything about the Luck Goddess and started to serve the Dream and Armament Master wholeheartedly.

Humans are different in different worlds. In order to become extraordinary, I can’t follow any fixed method. The fastest and easiest choice is to adapt to the worlds.

Donald practiced using a wooden sword, not realizing that his god was watching his performance as an ‘absolute observer’. From the outcome of his practice, Fang Yuan could even analyze the rules governing this world, thereby probing deeper into the secrets of the world.

In the first stage, I need to enhance his martial arts and enable him to survive on this deserted island! The second stage is to inject extraordinary power into him, and the power is preferably related to water so that he can travel across the ocean even if no one comes to save him. After all, this world is all about the ocean!

Little did Donald know that he was only a lab rat to Fang Yuan.

Summarizing the observations made over this period of time, Fang Yuan also reached some conclusions.

In general, this world allows changes that take place on the mystical side... but the changes can't be so dramatic that they exceed a certain limit. Otherwise, they'll be expelled by the world. Moreover, some physics and chemistry principles still apply here!

In this case, it was fundamentally impossible to teach Donald the Dream Master Dao or other paths of cultivation.

Other than the basics, those things from external realms had to be altered here.

But Fang Yuan was a grandmaster in terms of descending into different worlds. He had encountered numerous situations like this and had developed his own set of solutions.

And after experimenting on Donald and collecting some important data, Fang Yuan was even more confident.

I must start immediately... Can't wait any longer...

He did not want to experience the Adventures of Robinson Crusoe with a middle-aged man, so it was better to solve the problem as soon as possible.

If I accidentally get him killed, I can find another one. The new Faith Token is about to be condensed anyway... Fang Yuan thought indifferently.

Donald would have just been a floating corpse without him. Furthermore, based on his deduction, the probability of success was quite high this time.

Therefore, while Donald was practicing swordsmanship, a stately voice was heard in his mind. "My believer!"

"My Lord!"

As faith was gradually inculcated in Donald, he could hear the god's voice without praying and knelt immediately.

"I'm satisfied with your belief!" Fang Yuan's voice sounded elusive. "This world has forgotten the name of the Dream and Armament Master for too many years. Therefore, I need you to spread my name in the mortal world!"

"God, I will faithfully follow your order!"

Donald felt every cell in his body become excited.

The god told him to spread the belief in the mortal world, and what did this mean? It meant that he could go home! As for the method used to achieve this, he had no doubt at all because it was the promise from a god!

"... I've chosen you to be my agent, so you will share my glory and obtain part of my mystical powers!"

Evidently, Fang Yuan wanted to give Donald a big surprise.

Before Donald had any time to decline, a magic ceremony was deeply ingrained into Donald's sea of consciousness, such that he would be unable to ever forget it.

“Three demon algae and a feather from a seagull... Add them into boiling seawater. Use it to sear three symbols on your body. Lastly, drink sea monster blood! Once you complete all of this, you’ll become a warlock with mystical powers!”

The ceremony was very complete, with every step explained in detail.

Donald’s breathing intensified since he knew its value.

According to the explanation, after successfully completing the ceremony, he would become an Ocean Warlock with the gift of breathing underwater and manipulating water currents and some small fish.

In the end, he could even summon a vortex and conquer sea monsters!

The Ocean Warlock was the king of the ocean!

Having lived on the sea for so many years, he could not resist such temptation at all.

And he had to do it if he wanted to return home.

Unless he would rather continue staying on this deserted island and spending decades waiting for rescue!

“I praise you, My Lord!”

Donald finished his prayer. He had made the choice.

However, the recipe presented another big problem. “Demon algae and a seagull feather are easy to find, but sea monster blood is the issue!”

As soon as he thought of the problem, information about the sea monster in the vicinity emerged in his brain.

Since Fang Yuan wanted Donald to be his lab rat, he had surely taken everything into consideration.

The magic potion recipe required for the ceremony consisted of materials that Donald could obtain on the island straightaway.

Of course, sea monster blood was the most important part, as it was irreplaceable.

In order to become a warlock, he had to first acquire some factors of mysterious forces.

Sea monsters also differed in strength. The sea monster living closeby was only a giant sea turtle and much less powerful than the octopus he had encountered.

Donald had improved his physique, martial arts, and mystical knowledge under Fang Yuan’s guidance, so he should be able to complete the task.

But even if he failed, that would not be an issue.

Fang Yuan could simply find another person to restart the attempt.

As someone at the same level as the Evil Gods and other sources of evil in this world, Fang Yuan had plenty of patience.

...

Although he knew the whereabouts of that sea monster, Donald was not an impulsive person and would not act immediately.

Making some necessary preparations, collecting information, and setting a trap would all take some time.

And in this period of time, Fang Yuan finally condensed the second Faith Token.

"I'll let Donald progress using the indigenous power system. He's a native, so he'll suffer minimal backlash and his destiny won't be twisted too dramatically... That's why I didn't inject power into him, but let him look for the sea monster instead!

"But this time, I'd like to bet big on this one!"

It was natural for an indigenous person to acquire indigenous power.

But what if they acquired external power? That would obstruct the smooth World Thread and lead to all kinds of consequences.

But to traversers, any change would be better than none. Therefore, even if nothing was happening, they would create some upheaval.

...

Orlando was the third officer of the 'Giant Octopus'.

He looked pretty young, about twenty years old. He had a red headcloth on his forehead and a cutlass at his waist.

As the third officer of the infamous 'Octopus Marauder Team', he had the necessary aptitude. In terms of cutlass techniques, he was better than anyone else in the entire pirate team.

Giant Octopus was anchored at a pirate port. Most of the team members took the fortune they had plundered previously and squandered it on drinking and playing.

At the thought of what they had just gained, he could not help smiling.

Flame and Beauty was indeed like a fat lamb. Not only were the goods valuable, but the ship was also sold at a satisfactory price.

The gold coins should have comforted the sailors and helped them recover from the previous fiasco?

Orlando's expression turned solemn.

The Octopus Marauder Team used to be active in the Nightmare Ocean, but they had lost many people in a previous fiasco and had to retreat from the area to recover their power along the shipping routes outside.

"I won't stop here forever. I shall conquer all the seas and become the Pirate King!"

Wild ambition could be seen in the young man's eyes.

Because of this goal, he was much more 'disciplined' than other pirates.

Swoosh!

Orlando thought for a while and unsheathed his cutlass. Streaks of light flowed in the air as he wielded the cutlass.

"My martial arts are too weak even when compared to the Team Leader's, and I can't realize my dreams like this... I'll set myself a small goal first, which is to become the Team Leader of the Octopus Marauder Team!"

There was always an ambition deep in his mind, but he was short of an opportunity.

But tonight, the Goddess of Destiny, or rather someone in the Evil Abyss, noticed him.

Bang!

A ray of light flashed in the sky, and something accurately struck Orlando's forehead.

"Damn it! What is this?"

He cursed in a daze and found that it was a strange pendant.

The black pendant was neither a saber nor a sword but looked similar to both, as if it consisted of all armaments in the world.

"So strange... It seems to have dropped from the sky!"

Orlando felt upset and confused at the same time.

He was so skilled in cutlass techniques that he could slash the wings off a fly that happened to pass by, so how could he miss this pendant?

"This is something mystical. Perhaps I should ask a witch to identify it?"

The young man thought silently, but he was suddenly stunned.

A light screen emerged in front of him:

"Name: Orlando

Level: 3

Strength: 2 (You are stronger than most people due to prolonged practice.)

Speed: 3 (Cutlass techniques require agility. You have gained excellent balance from frequent practice on the sea.)

Physique: 1.5 (You have a powerful physique, but it can be improved.)

Psyche: 5 (Young man, you are gifted with your psyche. Have you considered becoming a sorcerer?)

Identity: Pirate (Third officer of the Octopus Marauder Team)

Specialization: Sailing (Normal), Musket Manipulation (Normal), Cutlass Techniques (Proficient)

Experience: 0 (Experience required before reaching the next level: 100)

“What... is this?”

Orlando was dumbfounded, feeling as if his world view was shattered.

Chapter 828: Repercussions

“Pirate System!”

After testing it in front of a few pirates guarding the ship, Orlando was sure of two things.

First, only he could see this light screen that had suddenly appeared.

Moreover, with practice, he could open or close it with ease.

“But... how did it appear? Why did it come to me?”

Orlando stared at the black pendant in his hand.

The Pirate System had to have appeared under its influence.

He opened his light screen and looked at it carefully. “Looks like it can express my state explicitly... Sorcerer? Am I gifted to become a sorcerer? But why does it feel so strange?”

He was apparently confused by the descriptions in the brackets, not knowing that these were only Fang Yuan’s jokes.

“And... what does experience and level mean?”

Without the knowledge of a traverser, Orlando was baffled, even frightened by this light screen, suspecting that he might have been cursed.

“*Ding* ! This system aims to help the host conquer the seas and become the Pirate King. This permanent quest is now released without a time limit!

“Permanent quest—Pirate King!

“Explanation: As the third officer of the Octopus Marauder Team, you are still a nobody. Young man, all my treasures are in the ocean. Strive to become the Pirate King! Conquer all other pirates and defeat all sea monsters, midgets, murlocs, elves, and Evil Gods from the past to become the indisputable king of pirates!

“Quest reward: 10,000,000 experience!”

...

“I’m the third officer of the infamous Octopus Marauder Team, and yet I’m a nobody?

“Become the Pirate King?”

Orlando wanted to ridicule it, but his breath became more intense as he read the last part. He then felt slighted bewildered. “What’s the use of experience?”

" *Ding* ! Experience is used to increase your level. Every time you level up, you will obtain one stat point and one specialization point, which can then be used to enhance your ability directly!

"Attention: the maximum level of a civilian is 5. Please complete your job placement as soon as possible!"

The Pirate System replied immediately.

Orlando was astonished by how the thoughts from the light screen automatically entered his sea of consciousness, allowing him to understand the meaning of the words.

For example, while the characters on the light screen were in a language unfamiliar to him, he could still comprehend them!

Together with the explanation by the system, he had a rough idea of what it was.

This was a miraculous system that could display his state and enhance his ability through completing quests, gaining experience, and advancing to new levels.

This was definitely tempting to Orlando.

He then felt extremely fearful.

"This kind of ability... far exceeds the team leader's gift of summoning sea monsters!"

Orlando knew that mystical forces existed in the ocean.

The giant octopus manipulated by their team leader was merely the tip of the iceberg.

He had even been to some mysterious islands and continents, which were inhabited by unusual species such as midgets, elves, dwarfs, and even the legendary giant dragons!

But any legendary ability seemed to be no match for this miraculous Pirate System.

"But... I'm not sure whether it really works..."

Orlando was cautious about things that he encountered for the first time, but he had determined to keep this secret to himself, completely forgetting about the idea of consulting a witch.

At this moment, a commotion was heard in the port.

A few pirates ran toward him in a hurry. "Third Officer, there's a conflict between our sailors and the port staff, and Old Single Eye has been detained in the bar."

"They got into a fight because of gambling and women again?"

Orlando frowned.

Such things happened in almost every port.

Normally, it was not considered a big problem that had to be resolved by the captain or the chief officer.

Ding!

At this moment, a distinct reminder sounded out.

Orlando glanced at the two pirates in front of him, finding that they were completely unaware of it and waiting for him to make a decision. He pretended to be thinking and clicked open the quest board:

“Temporary quest triggered—Rescue!

“Quest explanation: As the third officer of a pirate team, how can you let your own subordinate suffer? Rescue Old Single Eye!

“Quest reward: 100 experience (Reward is doubled for the first quest! You’re fortunate, lad. After completing this quest, you can advance to the next level! You will then discover a whole new world!)”

The quest content appeared together with Fang Yuan’s joke just like before.

An opportunity to test it? Just right!

A chilling glow flashed in Orlando’s eyes. “Where is he? Let’s go there immediately!”

...

“He’s swallowed the bait!”

Fang Yuan, as an observer in the empty space, smiled inscrutably.

When Orlando completed this quest and obtained the stat point and the specialization point, the surge in his power would absolutely make him rely on the system from then on.

This Pirate System was naturally Fang Yuan’s masterpiece.

At his level, he could start to study his stats window.

This Pirate System was a seed of power that he had created by referencing his stats window.

Of course, it was no match for his own. This crude imitation was short of many miraculous functions.

In fact, energy was needed to enhance Orlando’s abilities every time!

And where did the energy come from? It had to come from Fang Yuan!

In other words, Fang Yuan injected his own power into Orlando under the guise of a system where experience gains could result in an enhancement of power.

Of course, given his capacity now, it was a piece of cake for him to enhance a pirate’s abilities.

More importantly, even after death, Orlando would be unable to get rid of his deep-seated imprint.

He could withdraw what he had given to Orlando at any crucial moment!

Obviously, poor Orlando was even more similar to a lab rat than Donald.

“Furthermore... the world will see him as a pain in the neck because he’s received my external power. He’ll probably be unlucky in the future... Orlando is doomed to live a life full of trouble and turmoil, and all kinds of danger will force him to rely on the power from the Pirate System, thereby forming a vicious cycle!”

To put it simply, since Fang Yuan was a powerful external being, the world would instinctively expel any of his imprints.

Donald was less affected because most of his abilities resulted from his own training. Even the ceremony drew power from inside the world.

But Fang Yuan injected power into Orlando directly, which was quite awful.

For instance, Orlando would definitely be obstructed when he rescued Old Single Eye. Even if he succeeded in the end, he would offend someone and cause a whole lot of new problems.

This was the evil of this world, and something a lab rat had to endure!

...

On the deserted island.

Donald crouched down at the top of a coconut tree. Gazing at the nearby beach, he could not help swallowing his saliva.

A giant green-haired turtle was resting there, its shell covered with moss and seaweed just like a green hill.

“Is this a joke?”

Having witnessed the sheer size of the giant turtle, Donald almost felt desperate. “Even if it stays still for me to slash, I won’t even be able to cut open its skin...”

However, where there was a will, there was a way. After observing it for a long time, he discovered something. “This giant sea turtle is laying eggs!!!”

The magic of the ceremony only required sea monster blood, and it did not stipulate that the sea monster had to be an adult!

Furthermore, he could try using the egg white as well!

“My Lord... please bless me!”

Donald waited patiently, praying toward Fang Yuan every day.

Nevertheless, the giant turtle was also very patient. It stayed in the nest after laying its eggs and did not leave at all. Donald suspected that it would stay there until the little turtles were hatched.

A few months elapsed quickly.

Other than hunting and eating, Donald spent all his time staring at the giant green-haired turtle and listening to its movements.

Splash!

Finally, on a stormy night.

Wuthering winds blew in heavy rain.

Roaring waves surged upon the stormy seas, just like a dark hell.

A pair of eyes as bright as searchlights emerged from the deep ocean and stared at the giant turtle.

Splash!

With a splash, a monster covered with black scales crawled onto the beach.

It was like a giant crocodile that had eight short legs. Its huge mouth, which contained many sharp teeth inside, took up almost half of its body.

The two giant beasts confronted each other for a moment before suddenly slamming together ferociously.

Thump!

The violent sound rang out like an earthquake, making Donald exhilarated. "Thank you for giving me this chance, my Lord!"

As soon as he saw the two giant beasts rolling into the sea in a fight, he directly ran toward the battlefield without any hesitation, his eyes bright like flames.

Without the giant turtle guarding the place, he quickly reached the giant eggs that were as tall as him.

Other than the eggs, there were giant scales, which looked just like many small shields, left on the nearby ground.

Some of the scales were bathed in crimson blood, appearing sinister in the glaring white light from the lightning.

"Sea monster blood!" Donald's eyes glistened. "Praise the Lord!"

...

Since he had the sea monster blood, it was unnecessary to steal an egg and have the giant turtle hold a grudge against him.

After collecting sufficient blood, Donald immediately retreated into a well-hidden cave.

"Three demon algae, a seagull feather, boiled in seawater..."

All the other materials had been prepared and stored here.

A strange, foul smell was emanating from a crude clay pot.

Donald took off his worn-out clothes, dipped a sharpened wooden stick into clay pot containing the magic potion, and started to inscribe a few strange talismans on his arm.

After finishing all of this, he held up a scale, drinking and licking all the blood on it.

Suddenly, a strong current of heat gushed out, striking him into unconsciousness.

Morning.

"Haha... I made it!"

Donald woke up and felt exhilarated as he sensed the mystic power in his body, but was shocked when he saw his hair. “My hair!”

He found a pond and observed himself for a while, only to admit in frustration that despite the success of the ceremony, there were repercussions—his blond hair had turned green...

Chapter 829: Placement

“Praise the Lord!”

Although his hair had turned green, he was still exhilarated after testing his abilities.

He had now completed the ceremony successfully, becoming an Ocean Warlock who could breathe and manipulate water.

Walking barefoot on the fine sand, he used his will and made a blue fish fly out of the water and land in front of him.

“The key to an Ocean Warlock’s abilities is to feel the ocean and sense all sorts of ocean currents and hidden currents like a marine creature... As for the ability of manipulation, I can only manipulate ordinary fish for now, but I believe that with practice, I’ll manage to manipulate larger fish like sharks and whales, and finally sea monsters!”

Donald had a deep understanding of his abilities now.

Although he still did not have a penny to his name, he was absolutely confident in himself.

Even though all the goods on the merchant ship were lost this time, and he had to pay a large amount of compensation, it was no big deal.

Having become an Ocean Warlock, he was confident of earning hundreds of times his past income from the ocean.

Now that he could easily depart from this deserted island, he felt slightly reluctant to leave.

Before leaving, Donald knelt on the beach and started to pray piously.

“My Lord, I—your pious servant Donald—praise you with a humble attitude. You are the Master of Dreams and Armaments...”

He felt extremely grateful toward this deserted island. At this place, he had gained the Dream and Armament Master’s favor and become an Ocean Warlock who possessed mystical power. It was undoubtedly a precious treasure to him for the rest of his life.

Moreover, Donald would later learn that this was the place where the Dream and Armament Master responded to prayers for the first time in recent years. It could be classified as a holy ground of the religion.

“Very well, Donald! You shall return to the mortal world and recite my name to others! As the Master of Dreams and Armaments, I declare... that you are my earthly agent, my first preacher!”

Fang Yuan's grand voice made Donald shiver in excitement. He kowtowed on the ground. "Yes, my Lord. Your will is my mission..."

...

"Time to leave!"

No matter how much he would miss this place, Donald resolutely left for home the next day.

A crude raft was all he needed to travel across the ocean.

In fact, Donald only bothered to make the raft because he did not want to be too shocking.

As an Ocean Warlock with the ability to breathe underwater and manipulate fish, he could readily extract drinkable water from seawater.

With all this, he could walk slowly at the bottom of the ocean and reach the closest port.

Furthermore, due to his surprisingly good sensitivity to hidden currents and sea monsters, he could avoid them. It was something he had never imagined as a navigator before.

With such abilities, wealth was as insignificant as cobwebs.

...

Actually, when Donald made the breakthrough last night, Fang Yuan had learned even more.

"I have no comment on his green hair, but this drawback can't outweigh the benefits! Generally speaking, this promotion ceremony was successful. Just as I had expected, Donald mastered extraordinary power as an ordinary man!"

Fang Yuan was delighted when he looked at Donald.

Donald's success let him comprehend more about the rules of this world. By applying the understanding to himself, he was about to make a breakthrough as well.

"Nevertheless, such promotions may still be risky... The sea monsters' bloodline originates from past Evil Gods... When he swallowed these mystical factors, he could have possibly immediately formed a connection with them!"

Such Evil Gods were far more terrifying than those Fang Yuan had encountered before.

In other words, just like Mental Demon Demon Gods, they were indescribable.

Sometimes, even an indirect and partial observation of their message imprint could result in all kinds of insoluble disastrous consequences.

"It means that this world is definitely much more powerful than the world of Divine Armaments... There are numerous beings at the level of Demon Gods... However, they're in the same situation as me, and theirs may even be less favorable."

In fact, Donald did not get corrupted during the ceremony and become a sea monster only because Fang Yuan had helped him ward off the disaster.

Otherwise, an ordinary human would definitely go mad after interacting with such powerful beings.

“It’s extremely hard to communicate with the Evil Gods in this world... I can’t even find their original bodies...”

Although they were sealed and expelled as well, Fang Yuan did not manage to find any traces of an Evil God’s original body.

“But that’s expected. According to my deduction based on world theories, only less than 1% of this Great Voyage World is inhabitable, and the other 99% is full of strange spaces and regions...”

He could never be too cautious about Evil Gods.

Fang Yuan speculated that all the Evil Gods were detained separately.

After all, if all the Evil Gods were sealed together, they might devour and absorb one another, thereby giving birth to some extremely horrifying being.

“However, while this world doesn’t allow interference from overly powerful forces, my plan may still work... I can still utilize the power of faith. When I have more believers in the future, I may even open a channel and let part of my will descend into the mortal world, hence obtaining a new body!”

Fang Yuan’s eyes lit up.

To him, it might be worthless to disrupt the entire world through manipulating his agents.

He himself had to descend into the world in order to truly harvest it.

...

Schwing!

The cutlass was unsheathed before slashing across a pirate’s neck.

His expression was cold and gloomy, and one of his eyes was covered by a black blindfold. A black iron hook was seen when he extended his right hand in vain.

This was the second officer of the Octopus Marauder Team, but now his lifeless corpse was becoming cold.

“So strong... Is this the power of the system?”

Orlando sheathed his cutlass, his face displaying his ecstasy as he watched his enemy die.

The Pirate System suddenly changed in front of him:

“Name: Orlando

“Level: 4

Strength: 3 (Your Qilin Arm has become even stronger.)

Speed: 3 (Cutlass techniques require agility. You have gained excellent balance from frequent practice on the sea.)

Physique: 1.5 (You have a powerful physique, but it can be improved.)

Psyche: 5 (Young man, you are gifted with your psyche. Have you considered becoming a sorcerer?)

Identity: Pirate (Third officer of the Octopus Marauder Team)

Specialization: Sailing (Normal), Musket Manipulation (Normal), Cutlass Techniques (Master)

Experience: 0 (Experience required before reaching the next level: 200)

After completing the quest of rescuing Old Single Eye, he had become a level 4 civilian and obtained one stat point and one specialization point.

The stat point was used on strength straight away, while the specialization point was used on Cutlass Techniques.

It turned out that the strength improvement due to this Pirate System was immediately visible.

After going through some trouble and danger, Orlando seized the opportunity to isolate the pirate team's second officer and kill this man who used to be stronger than him.

" *Ding* ! Quest—Killing completed!"

The notification sound from the system was heard, indicating that he had gained another 200 experience.

"Level up!"

Orlando chose to level up immediately, every cell in his body cheering and celebrating. "Even if this Pirate System is an Evil God's curse, I'll take it!"

It had to be acknowledged that after enjoying the convenience that this system had brought to him, he became somewhat reliant on it.

The improvement in strength aside, when he upgraded Cutlass Techniques to the master level, he felt as if the cutlass had become an extension of his arm and a part of his life. It was truly intoxicating.

A notification from the system immediately emerged.

" *Ding* . You have leveled to Level 5, gaining one specialization point and one stat point!

"Attention: Your civilian level has reached the maximum. Please complete your job placement as soon as possible. Otherwise, you can not level up any further!"

"Can't level up?" Of course, Orlando knew the severity of the issue. "Job placement? It seems that the system doesn't consider my job to be a pirate, and it requires a more professional power system like a sorcerer? But... I have no idea where to learn magic!"

" *Ding* ! The host's psyche is detected to be at the Extraordinary threshold. The civilian level is at the maximum. Job transfer requirement is triggered. Unlock job transfer quests!"

But the considerate system provided the choices soon. "... Detecting the host's stats. You can now unlock the following job transfer quests: Sorcerer, Warlock, Mad Fighter, Sanguine Saber Wielder!"

Together with the choices, four corresponding symbols also emerged on the screen.

The Sorcerer had the symbol of a book, the Warlock an eye, the Mad Fighter an axe, and the Sanguine Saber Wielder a cutlass, each possessing some mystical power.

“The Extraordinary threshold!”

Orlando’s eyes glistened. Of course, he knew that mystical forces existed in this world.

But he did not expect to interact with them so soon. If he really mastered something on the mystical side, he could perhaps shorten his preparation time significantly before challenging the team leader.

That was because the team leader of the Octopus Marauder Team was an Extraordinary!

“Since that’s the case, five is the limit of an ordinary person’s stats?”

Orlando added a stat point to psyche directly.

He then heard frustrating feedback. “*Ding!* As your psyche has reached the Extraordinary threshold, you can not make a breakthrough before job placement. Attention—you need to pay a higher price beyond the Extraordinary threshold. Improving your psyche by one point will require double stat points!”

“I knew it wouldn’t be so simple!”

Orlando sighed and focused on Specialization instead.

“*Ding !* It takes three specialization points to promote Cutlass Techniques (Master) to Cutlass Techniques (Extraordinary). You do not have sufficient specialization points! Please press on!!!”

Chapter 830: Spread

Malan Port.

This was a common port in Ettoman, with thousands of tons of shipments entering and exiting it every day.

The blue sky was cloudless. On the dock, a tax collector responsible for registration yawned in boredom and rubbed his eyes.

Although it was an ordinary dock, he could collect a considerable amount of mooring and maintenance fees every day. Even the officers of city hall felt envious about it.

It evidently took a lot of effort for him to reach this position.

But it was not yet the peak trading period. The warm afternoon sun dispersed the morning fog and made him feel sleepy.

Suddenly, he stared wide-eyed in a direction.

At the end of the blue ocean, a black dot suddenly appeared.

The black dot was too small. It took a long time for it to drift near the dock, and it turned out to be a crude—wooden raft?

“What the hell!”

The tax collector rubbed his face in a daze and blinked hard, only to confirm that it was indeed an ordinary wooden raft, even inferior to a fishing boat. Furthermore, there was a figure with green hair on the raft.

Thump!

The raft slowly drew near the shore, and a man with a savage appearance stepped onto the dock with a confident and proud expression.

“Hello, sir!”

The tax collector looked at the patrolling soldiers around him and gained some confidence, taking out a pen and paper while approaching him. “By the king’s decree, any ship stopping at the port must be registered. May I know your name, please?”

The laws in Ettoman were still somewhat unreasonable at this time. For instance, in the inland territories, any goods dropped on the road would automatically become the local nobility’s possessions!

Thus, some of the nobles intentionally built roads full of pits in order to increase their income.

Of course, such feudal lords had gradually become irrelevant as society developed. They were on the decline compared to the new powers in the ever-changing Ettoman.

And according to the king’s laws, any ship that stopped at an Ettoman port had to pay port dues!

To a tax collector who tried to maximize income, was a wooden raft counted as well? Of course it was!

“No problem... My name is Donald!” Donald made a gentleman’s bow. Although he looked like a savage now, his aura was incomparable. He added, “The navigator of Flame and Beauty!”

“Oh! God!” The quill pen in the tax collector’s hand dropped onto the ground. “Goddess bless you! You’re still alive?”

“Hmm...” Donald’s voice was low. “Has everyone heard that we encountered pirates?”

“In our port, yes, because your captain chose this port as the final destination and applied for a warehouse in advance. One month after he breached the contract, we learned from the shareholders and creditors who unsuccessfully invested that Flame and Beauty had encountered pirates and all the sailors had died... By the way, the ship was sold for three thousand gold coins at an auction in a pirate port...” the tax collector said everything he knew and appeared to be sorry. “And... sir, because of your declaration, I’m sorry to inform you that you will need to proceed to the port’s security office to be investigated by the security officer and the navy department!”

Based on Donald’s clothes and vehicle, the tax collector deduced that he was only a survivor, but he had to go through the necessary procedures.

Deep down, he was sympathetic toward Donald.

It was already incredible to survive the pirates' attack, flee to a deserted island, and make a raft to save himself.

It was a miracle to travel across the ocean on a wooden raft despite the currents and waves!

But unfortunately, the creator of this miracle would receive debts rather than flowers and acclaim after reaching Ettoman.

He clearly remembered that some of the creditors were looking for Donald to get him to pay the debt.

As long as the news spread out, they would not miss it.

And by then, the impoverished Donald would definitely be in an extremely poor situation. Bankruptcy was already the best possible outcome.

"I understand. Thank you for your reminder!" Donald smiled and took out a pearl. "This is my entry fee and mooring fee. The rest is your tip."

"Uh... Thank you, sir!"

The tax collector stared at the pearl in his hand.

Even with the advent of the Great Voyage Era, precious items like pearls and agates were still highly valuable.

Furthermore, the tax collector had glanced at Donald's pocket when he opened it and estimated that there were about a hundred pearls inside, each of them with a higher quality than the one in his hand!

"Now, before bringing me to the security office, help me find a hotel. I need to sleep, shower, and have a sumptuous feast!"

Donald smiled confidently, revealing his white teeth.

After becoming an Ocean Warlock, he could obtain any treasure in the ocean. Thus, these debts were nothing to him.

...

Merely three days later, a piece of shocking news spread in Malan Port.

A voyager of Flame and Beauty, who everyone believed to have died at sea, returned to Ettoman half a year after the event!

Moreover, not only did he survive the pirates' attack, but he had also miraculously found a treasure trove of pearls, paying off all his debts at once and becoming a slightly famous plutocrat!

The officers were happy with Donald's fame.

First, they confirmed through their investigation that Donald was not associated with the Octopus Marauder Team.

Moreover, the port needed to have an exemplar that could motivate others to start marine trading and accumulating wealth.

Most importantly, Mr. Donald was extremely generous with his money, and Ettoman made an effort to protect private property. They did not want to do anything that might do more harm than good to themselves.

News could always become rumor as it spread.

In the end, drunk customers in the taverns swore that Donald had found the previous Pirate King's treasure and prepared to purchase a noble title using part of it!

While others were still gossiping about whether Donald would buy the position of a baron or a viscount, this legendary figure was on a black carriage bound for the countryside.

Ettoman was a coastal country with perfect port construction, but the inland scenery was completely different.

Above the horizon, paths intersected with one another on the farmland. The giant wheel on the windmill rotated slowly in the air with the fragrance of wheat.

The carriage continued forward, finally stopping in front of a row of cabins.

With a cane in his hand, Donald wore a black tailcoat, a top hat, and a pair of buckskin boots, looking like a successful man in the upper class.

He gazed at the cabin and tears welled up in his eyes. He knocked on the door.

The door creaked open, and a little boy with blond hair and eyes as blue as the ocean looked out from behind the door.

Donald felt as if his heart was melting when he saw the child.

But the clever boy yelled loudly straightaway, "Mom... there's a stranger!"

"Creditors again? How many times do I have to tell you that Donald didn't die, and that his debts..."

The door opened wider, revealing a countrywoman over thirty years old.

She was dressed in simple and worn-out clothes. Her expression was apparently angry, but her eyes betrayed her fear.

Obviously, the rumor at the port had not yet reached the countryside.

She froze when she saw Donald, the bread basket in her hand dropping onto the floor.

Although Donald's hair was green, his facial features had not changed at all, and she recognized him immediately.

"Villain! Don't bully Mom!"

The little boy spread out his arms in front of his mother like a hen protecting its chicks.

"Sorry... I'm late!" Donald took off his hat and hugged both of them, his eyes full of tears. "Nia, don't worry... There aren't any more debts. Our life will be better in the future!"

When Nia heard his words, she could not speak at all as tears fell from her eyes.

...

This dinner was very sumptuous for people living in the countryside.

There was fragrant white bread, a large bowl of vegetable soup, and a plate of sausages.

In the seasoning bottles, there was even olive oil, fine salt, and spice from the New World.

The little guy's eyes were glistening when he saw this.

"Nia... You've been working so hard all these years. Rest assured. Although I encountered pirates, it was a blessing in disguise. I obtained a large sum of money, sufficient for us to move into the city. Little Arthur will go to the best school and enter the upper class in the future! He'll become a graceful gentleman!"

Donald held his wife's hands tightly to show his determination.

"I believe in you!"

Nia was delighted, cutting the biggest loaf of bread and putting it in Donald's plate.

"Before dinner, I want to pray first!"

When they were about to start eating, Donald took out the pendant he treasured like his life. "This time... I almost lost my life at sea. I only made it back home because of the blessings from this Master of Dreams and Armaments... The great Master of Dreams and Armaments is a righteous god who I can trust with my faith and my life!"

"Since that's the case..."

Nia was only a countrywoman without much knowledge. She said to little Arthur, "This is your father's belief, so we must respect the god as well. Put down the knife and fork first!"

"Oh!"

The little guy put down his eating utensils as he was told to and watched his father's actions.

"Thank you, my Lord, for giving me food..."

There was not any stipulated ceremony, so the prayer was simple. After saying a few words, Donald took up his knife and fork again. "Let's start!"

In his mind, however, he was determined to introduce this great Dream and Armament Master to the both of them after dinner.