

Daily Life 1151

Chapter 1151: I Already Can't Take It Anymore

When the headmasters of No. 8 West City High and Purple Garden High School saw everyone from No. 60 High pull out their spirit swords and launch a surprise attack on the students from both schools, they flew into a rage.

“Chen Tianxiang! You – you’re shameless! You actually had your students bring in spirit swords! Smuggling in personal items... I’ve never seen such a shameless person!”

“President Qi, I think that No. 60 High should be disqualified at once! This isn’t in line with the rules of the body technique competition at all! It’s unfair!” Headmaster Zi Yan from Purple Garden High School frowned deeply as she expressed her dissatisfaction.

The two headmasters got up in protest, but President Qi just shook his head. “It is truly rare for students to be able to cultivate a spirit sword space at the Foundation Establishment stage. Since No. 60 High was able to pass the inspection round undetected, this can’t be considered a violation of the rules.

“While the battle this time is focused on the exchange of physical techniques, students still need to observe the situation and adapt accordingly when it comes to survival. As long as their actions make sense when using magic or even collecting supplies, this can’t be seen as violating the rules.”

President Qi made himself very clear with his words.

To observe the situation and adapt accordingly...

Simply put, as long as you passed the anti-cheat inspection at the very beginning, no one could say anything even if you took out some heaven-defying, earth-shattering magic treasure during the competition.

Although it was a body technique competition, it was, in the end, a battle for survival; in this sort of situation, those who were too naive wouldn’t survive...

A number of the headmasters present approved of President Qi’s words.

“That’s right! What President Qi said is right!”

“I also agree with President Qi’s opinion! To be able to bring weapons in is a testament to their skills! We can’t say it’s unfair!”

Headmaster Zi Yan’s lips twitched at these words.

When all was said and done, she and the headmaster of West City Middle School had been a little too naive... Seeing how this lot was agreeing with President Qi, anyone could tell that they had also thought of ways for their students to bring in personal items.

Otherwise, why would they be so vocal in their support?

Both schools thus could only accept their bad luck.

Fortunately, not all their students were lost during this surprise attack. Of the twenty students in total from No. 8 West City High and Purple Garden High School, four ultimately escaped.

No. 60 High didn’t pursue them either.

Since it was the first day, there was no need to directly eliminate them all, and it was better to leave them some dignity.

Besides, only four people remained from both schools; they were pretty much done for. Even if they didn’t act, they might not necessarily be able to survive the next seven days.

Although No. 60 High won this battle, they didn’t feel like they had done anything, mainly because the two schools had already been worn down by their fight earlier. No. 60 High had chosen the perfect moment to launch a surprise attack, which practically sealed their victory.

Moreover, Wang Ling had only coasted along throughout the whole thing, and felt that he had done even less. He very carefully evaded all attacks in order to prevent the force of the backlash rebounding on these students.

The life-saving function of the protective golden light was useless; Wang Ling's backlash was so powerful that even when restricted, the rebound was still over a hundred times stronger.

In other words, if someone punched Wang Ling, the force of the backlash would completely trigger the protective golden talisman into activating the shield, only to directly shatter it.

It was so hard for Wang Ling...

Not only couldn't he hit someone directly, he still had to evade their attacks, so from beginning to end, Wang Ling couldn't launch any attacks himself; instead, he gave the impression that he was riding everyone's coattails as he avoided attacks non-stop.

But the truth was that Wang Ling did give some extra battle support.

For example, it looked like Hero Guo had cut down the tree with Ghost Tooth, but it was actually Wang Ling who had done it... He had no other choice. As an upstanding individual who upheld core socialist values, Wang Ling had always understood what it meant to "become spring soil to nourish the flowers."

To be a supporting character wasn't a bad thing

The main thing was that it was the way of the Wang family to not stand out too much.

...

"We should find a place to set up camp before the sun sets." After sending the students from both schools packing, Lotus Sun calmed down and analyzed the map once again.

They had to be careful when choosing the camp site. For example, they would be easily surrounded if they chose terrain that was too high; choosing a cliff or some place similar might prevent them from being attacked by spirit insects and beasts, but once they were surrounded by other people, they would have no choice but to jump off the cliff.

Thus, they had to find a place with food, water, and a relative abundance of spirit plants. As long as there were spirit plants, Lotus Sun would be able to create some simple pills for driving away insects and even spirit beasts.

She was from Huaguo Water Curtain Group, and was the future successor; there was no way she would disgrace her family in this national competition.

As long as there were enough spirit plants, Lotus Sun had enough room to display her skills.

But the problem now was where they should set up camp.

Nine Dragon Mountain was called as such because of its terrain. Like dragon claws, nine mountain peaks encircled a massive mountain dome, which was Nine Dragon Mountain's main peak.

Nine Dragon Mountain was thus in fact made up of ten mountains in total. The main peak naturally was the richest in resources, but it was also very likely where most people would be competing for them. Wang Ling and the others were too far away; even if they hurried over now, it was very likely that someone else had already grabbed key resources. The group would need to consider it at length if they wanted to seize these resources.

Thus, No. 60 High could only pick the closest Dragon Claw mountain peak and claim a place relatively rich in resources first.

"Nine Dragon Mountain — Fire Peak," Lotus Sun suggested after analyzing the map.

Fire Mountain was one of the Dragon Claw peaks of Nine Dragon Mountain, which had something like a tropical environment. While it was slightly warmer, it was abundant in resources, and more importantly, it wasn't far from their position.

Apart from that, there was also a supply point next to Fire Peak.

Based on the current map, there already wasn't a better place than Fire Peak.

Of course, they couldn't rule out the possibility that a school might have already entered and occupied Fire Peak.

After some discussion, they still decided to seize Fire Peak.

Since using the turtle-breathing skill would slow them down tremendously, Lotus Sun came up with a fabulous solution.

She used Mysterious Sea's strength to combine everyone's spirit energy together to ultimately form a massive turtle shell to shield them.

"This is the Blue Turtle Shell Spell; your aura won't be exposed when you breathe inside this shell, and it produces the same effect as the turtle-breathing skill," Lotus Sun explained.

Lotus Sun knew how to use this spell, but she would have worried about how long it could last, if everyone's spirit energy hadn't been combined together. Now, it was like ten people driving a train as they lent Mysterious Sea their spirit energy and cast the spell together.

But this created a problem...

Mysterious Sea realized that Wang Ling really had too much energy.

As a sword spirit, this was the first time in her life that she was sensing such boundless spirit energy, and she suddenly felt the urge to cry out loudly in her heart: Stay away... I already can't take it anymore...

Chapter 1152: Group Favorite Ling Zhenren's Reserve Team

When they approached Fire Peak, the terrain finally opened up, and Wang Ling saw a huge number displayed at the top of the dome of the main peak.

[Survivors remaining: 759]

This was the number of current survivors. In less than four hours, a bunch of people had already been eliminated.

Wang Ling surmised that there would be two waves of mass elimination. The first wave would be when everyone was seizing territory in the first two days. When the situation stabilized after a few days, most school teams would adopt a defensive strategy, and the second wave of mass elimination would happen on the seventh and eighth days of the competition.

In order to win, everyone would inevitably engage in close battle, and when that time came, the officials would definitely intervene to manipulate the situation. For example, they would deliberately direct powerful spirit beasts toward campsites to drive people out.

Apart from ensuring the students' safety, the teachers in charge of security were actually also responsible for directing the way, which in the national competition meant making use of strong spirit beasts and driving them in particular directions; essentially, this wasn't that different to the shrinking poisonous circle in the combined military training for six schools.

But to use the spirit beasts, you had to ensure that they were strong enough to act as deterrents.

On the entire journey, while Wang Ling did his best to contain the naturally aggressive aura which he gave off, the nearby spirit beasts in the jungle didn't dare approach the group at all.

It wasn't just spirit beasts; even snakes, rats and ants that sensed his aura hurriedly fled...

Furthermore, there were also Wang Zhen, Liu Qingyi, Gu Shunzhi, Zhenyuan and Fang Xing, these five. Including Wang Ling, this six-men team was just like walking demon-repellent incense that terrified bugs and vicious beasts alike.

Lotus Sun had been moving very cautiously at the very beginning, for fear that any loud movements would alarm nearby vicious beasts; there was no way she could have expected them to be scared off by Wang Ling.

The fact that they also didn't run into any other opponents on the way simply made for an extraordinarily easy and comfortable journey, which made one wonder if they had joined a fake survival game.

"I think we might starve today; after walking for so long, we haven't even seen a monkey." Master of Dopey used his sword to push aside the shrubs in front of him. He had also been moving very cautiously at the very beginning, but his movements had become increasingly rough.

"Forget a monkey, there isn't even a bird." Li Youyue also felt surprised. Logically speaking, given the abundant resources around Fire Peak, it was strange that they hadn't run into even one spirit beast. She had been planning to showcase her excellent culinary skills in the wild, but it seemed that she wouldn't get that chance.

Their words in fact caught Wang Ling's attention.

The fact that they hadn't been hampered by any spirit beasts at all on their journey was indeed a little strange.

Wang Ling had originally intended to lay low, and since he had decided to put on an act, then he had to see it through to the end.

Magnifying his spiritual will, the information was instantly transmitted to Odd Zhuo, who was in the command center.

"Not good, *shifu*'s in trouble..." Odd Zhuo received the news and understood Wang Ling's difficulty, but he couldn't directly intervene in this matter. With Old Huang, President Qi as well as the numerous headmasters around, it would be too blatant if he directly took action.

Fortunately, Odd Zhuo had already made preparations beforehand. He took out his phone and "shook" the window for a new group chat called [Group Favorite Ling Zhenren's Reserve Team].

Dog Two: "What's going on?"

Little Silver: "What happened to Master?"

Odd Zhuo: "Shifu's aura is too strong and has scared off the nearby spirit beasts in the jungle. We need to come up with a solution."

Dog Two: "Understood. That is to say, we need to look for a bunch to put on a show?"

Little Silver: "Leave it to me!"

Odd Zhuo nodded before sending a reminder: "When the two of you take action, make sure to cooperate with each other. It wasn't easy to arrange for the both of you to enter the security team... It would be bad if this is found out."

"Understood." One Silver and one dog nodded.

Little Silver and Loopy Toad had gone to Nine Dragon Mountain with Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal; even Wang Ling hadn't known about this. Odd Zhuo had long anticipated that something unexpected might happen, so he arranged identities for Little Silver and Loopy Toad on the security team beforehand.

Since Loopy Toad could already take human form, infiltrating the team was naturally a lot easier.

After receiving the message, one Silver and one dog immediately started to make preparations.

"Master is currently close to Fire Peak." From a mountain peak, Little Silver used his spiritual senses to feel out the creatures in the area; sure enough, they were running wildly in all directions.

"As expected, it's chaos." Loopy Toad nodded and sighed inwardly. Spirit beasts had an innate ability to sense danger, which was a little similar to a human's sixth sense, and sometimes even more accurate.

Thus, Wang Ling might not have released his aura, but as he walked through the jungle, the royal, overbearing qi which he gave off had the air of an ancient vicious beast.

But dealing with his matter wasn't that tricky.

Little Silver and Loopy Toad showed up at the mouth of a hidden cave, and Little Silver bit his finger so that one drop of his holy beast blood fell to the ground.

"Will this be useful?" Loopy Toad expressed his doubts.

"My holy beast blood is a natural draw for other spirit beasts. Don't you think so?" Little Silver raised his eyebrows.

"..." In fact, the mention of Little Silver's holy beast blood made Loopy Toad feel a little sick.

In order to heal him and remold his demon physique as soon as possible, Little Master Ling had fed him basin after basin of holy beast blood... and it had already become a shadow over Loopy Toad's heart.

Delicacies, no matter how delicious, would always make people sick after too much of it...

It was the same with holy beast blood.

However, for those spirit beasts which had never had it before, Little Silver's blood would indeed be naturally attractive.

After a while, Little Silver could hear the sounds of spirit beasts stirring restlessly; in a short moment, it was as if the whole jungle had been revived. Startled, countless birds took flight, leading to an unusual bird tide phenomenon as they flew circles in the sky.

A mere drop of holy beast blood could actually create such tumult. Although he had already anticipated such a scene, Loopy Toad was still shaken; it was similar to the demon beast rampage back then.

"Can you sense it... They're coming."

"Capture the king first to capture his followers. Take down the spirit beast kings first, but be careful not to kill them."

"We just need to scare them, right?"

"That's right, and we need to catch them alive."

"I get it already, we're sending them to Master as extras, so we can't hurt them."

"By the way, a little reward for doing this would be nice."

"Then, half a drop of holy beast blood for each beast king. It's a good deal."

"..."

Chapter 1153: Why Is Wang Ling's Flesh So Nice?

The lethal attraction of holy beast blood caused an uproar in the jungle and drew the attention of several giant spirit beasts close to Fire Peak.

“This scent...” A monkey king with massive arms wrapped in spirit flame licked its thin lips. It was already drooling at the scent, which was similar to that of a thousand-year nectarine.

“A level two flaming arm giant monkey king, a level two blood claw serpent king, dozens of level three spirit beasts, and hundreds of level four and level five spirit beasts...” Loopy Toad sensed the change in the jungle. As long as he kept these spirit beasts under control, it would be enough to put on a good show.

With Little Silver and Loopy Toad working together, dealing with these spirit beasts was a piece of cake.

The level two monkey king and serpent king, which had been the first to arrive, were subdued on the spot. Loopy Toad used the level two serpent king’s body, which was dozens of meters long, as a rope to firmly tie up the monkey king.

“Upper Immortal, spare us.” The two level two spirit beasts who were completely wrapped up together were utterly stupefied; they never thought that a holy beast and a quasi-holy beast would actually show up here. What was more, the quasi-holy beast was a green-furred akita that had actually cultivated a human form!

It should be known that they had already cultivated for over a thousand years, but had yet to achieve a human form.

...

Ten or so minutes later, the team from No. 60 High saw birds wheeling in the sky and hundreds of beasts rushing around in the jungle in front of them.

Led by the level two monkey king and serpent king, numerous spirit beasts ran rings around Wang Ling, but had no desire to fight him, and were just going through the motions... Wang Ling knew that it had to be Little Silver and Loopy Toad who had organized this.

He had already smelled Little Silver's holy beast blood earlier, and after suddenly encountering this bunch of spirit beasts who shouldn't have appeared, but were now rushing about, he instantly knew what had happened.

It was very obvious that these spirit beasts had been forced by Little Silver and Loopy Toad to act as extras.

Wang Ling sighed inwardly at how tough it was to act as extras; while they were running about, it wasn't a chaotic mess; the number of spirit beasts in the area for this exercise had to be controlled. If they swarmed forward in one go, it was possible that this area would be deemed at risk of a beast tide.

The beast tide phenomenon happened every now and then on Night Dragon Mountain, but on average, it was usually once every three months at most. Travel during a beast tide was extremely dangerous, and the command center would definitely send people to intervene at that time and investigate the cause.

There was no need to let that happen.

Luckily, under Little Silver and Loopy Toad's command, these spirit beasts acted in an orderly fashion and didn't arouse the suspicions of the command center.

More spirit beasts gradually filled the surroundings, which added a little more color to this dull jungle adventure.

The truth was that it didn't matter or not if there were any spirit beasts around; Wang Ling and the others could survive on spirit fruits and berries. However, it had been a little unreal just now when there weren't any spirit beasts around at all.

After another half an hour, No. 60 High reached Fire Peak. To their pleasant surprise, there were no signs of a campsite on Fire Peak.

In other words, No. 60 High was the first to arrive.

"We're actually the first team?" Super Chen felt surprised.

The monkey king and serpent king who were currently running around in the jungle were feeling bitter. They had been forced by Little Silver and Loopy Toad to not only agree to put on a show, but to also disrupt the competition by sending lots of little monkeys and serpents to interfere with other teams who had planned to occupy Fire Peak.

This was why Fire Peak looked so clean and untouched when the No. 60 High team arrived...

...

Elsewhere, the mahjong group led by General Bai cooperated with the command center and snuck into the area where Human Devil Xia Lixing was suspected to be.

There were no students in this area; all of them had been shepherded away by the teachers.

“Human Devil was here...” The Old Devil gazed at traces of withered spirit plants on the ground. Only Xia Lixing had this terrifying ability to wantonly devour life.

As they advanced, they could sense Human Devil’s power of death and blight.

General Bai gazed at the footprints on the ground; each of them gave off the smell of death. For anyone who stepped on Human Devil’s footprints and followed in his path, the cells in their bodies would swiftly wither and die, as if they had been exposed to radiation.

“He’s stronger...” The Old Devil stared at the footprints on the ground, a hint of worry on his face under the Three Circles mask.

“How have things changed compared with when you fought him last time?” asked General Bai.

“It’s very troublesome.” The Old Devil shook his head slightly and said bluntly, “When I fought him back then, only the places he touched would wither and age. This large area of decay, however, now proves that Xia Lixing’s Holy Devil Imprisonment Technique has advanced greatly... even to the point of perfection.”

All of a sudden, the Old Devil’s expression turned alarmed. “Not good!”

“What are you thinking?”

“The Holy Devil Imprisonment Technique can help him absorb the souls and devour the cells of all living things. Nature phenomena like the rainbow mist occur every day on Nine Dragon Mountain... For example, if this person devours all living things on Nine Dragon Mountain, and then waits for them to be revived by the rainbow mist, and then devours them again... If this continues nonstop...”

After the Old Devil said this, everyone else present shuddered. If this really happened, it truly would be the legendary perpetual motion machine.

Devour living things, then devour them again... General Bai truly hadn't considered this.

“We must get rid of Human Devil Xia Lixing as soon as possible.” General Bai was deeply aware how serious this matter was. This area had already been blocked off, and the top priority now was to get rid of Human Devil Xia Lixing!

What was worse was that since coming here, they hadn't found any traces of Human Devil. This was an absolutely cunning enemy; if they didn't get rid of him, who knew what would happen.

General Bai contacted the command center again. “Command center! We have yet to find traces of Human Devil Xia Lixing – please triangulate his position again!”

...

The truth was that at that very moment, a black shadow was quietly following Wang Ling.

After Human Devil was resurrected, he urgently needed a young body brimming with energy to become complete, and his target was none other than the ten individuals from No. 60 High.

To be exact, his main target was Wang Ling...

For some reason, Xia Lixing sensed that the aura on the body of this young man with the dead fish eyes was extremely tasty, far beyond that of his peers. Although everyone was of the same age in the group, their bodies in the end were essentially different.

As a well-rounded young man in the aspects of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty, and labor, the reason why Wang Ling's flesh was so nice was very simple.

It was because he slept and got up early, he didn't drink soda, and he didn't stay up late...

Chapter 1154: High-End Automatic Pill Maker

Human Devil Xia Lixing really lived up to his reputation; the highest realm wasn't to devour all living things, but to meld them all together.

After cultivating the "Holy Devil Imprisonment Technique" to perfection, Xia Lixing could easily turn himself into a shadow and lurk in the shadows of living things as he waited for the right moment.

It was usually difficult to detect this sort of hidden operation.

Well...

It wasn't anything out of the ordinary.

The truth was that the moment Xia Ling set his eye on No. 60 High, Wang Ling had already detected his presence.

It was just that Wang Ling didn't know that the person following him was the legendary Human Devil Xia Lixing.

After all, Wang Ling hadn't even been born when Xia Lixing rampaged through the world.

But times had changed and things were different now.

No one could have expected that one day, an invincible baby would be born.

Furthermore, the baby's parents were crazy enough to have a second child...

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In fact, it wasn't just Wang Ling who had noticed Xia Lixing; so had Fang Xing, Wang Zhen, Liu Qingyi, Gu Shunzhi and Zhenyuan.

But when they saw that Wang Ling wasn't taking any action, they didn't hurry to act.

In the next moment, they communicated with each other in the mental space constructed from their thoughts.

"I sense malice behind us. Should we do something to get rid of it?" Wang Zhen asked. Used to his parents beating him up since young, he was especially sensitive to malice. Wang Zhen had known the moment Xia Lixing appeared, and he had swiftly thought up countermeasures. When it came to Xia Lixing's devouring spell, which he relied on to get stronger, normal attacks were sure to be ineffective; only a combined mental attack to severely injure his soul would work.

"But Ling Zhenren hasn't made a move yet; I think we should just let it be. In any case, he isn't much of a threat; he's just an annoying mosquito." Liu Qingyi shook her head slightly. Devouring spells might appear tricky, but they were in fact just child's play in the Domain of the Gods above. Nowadays, most cultivators who still used devouring spells to become stronger had unstable foundations – they looked strong, but would collapse at a single blow.

"I also think that there's some deeper meaning for Ling Zhenren to not act. Why don't we leave it for now and observe the situation?" Zhenyuan also nodded his head and expressed his opinion in the mental chat space. "My Crimson Flame Jade Ruler Mirror can combat this sort of devilish spell. If necessary, I can directly wipe this devil off the map at any time without leaving a trace."

"There's no need to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Immortal, you can relax. I just checked the Heavenly Dao list, and I've discovered that this Xia Lixing is currently on the Heavenly Dao wanted list. He'll be punished by Heavenly Dao for his cruelty, so it makes no difference if we leave him alone for now. He'll disappear sooner or later," Gu Shunzhi said at that moment. He was the cosmic keeper of order, and knew the name of every wicked person.

While Xia Lixing had a very high criminal index value in this world, he didn't even rank in the top 100 on the Heavenly Dao wanted list.

So after Gu Shunzhi checked this Human Devil Xia Lixing's wanted index value, he instantly lost interest in him. This was nothing more than an ant that could be squashed to death at any time; how could he possibly be more important than the competition?

...

On the other side, Xia Lixing was feeling a little suspicious – for some reason, he felt like he had been discovered?

But these people in front of him were nothing more than students of a cultivation high school.

Indeed, Xia Lixing didn't really believe that he had been discovered. They were just a bunch of Foundation Establishment students... How could they possibly detect him?

He had to be mistaken.

He was extremely confident in his "Holy Devil Imprisonment Technique." Logically speaking, no one should be able to detect him when he was hiding. Now, however, Xia Lixing was starting to have doubts about this operation.

Thus, he didn't take action right away, but decided to observe for a while longer.

Then, it turned into a very bizarre scene.

At that very moment, six people from No. 60 High were aware of Xia Lixing's existence.

But the grand and mighty Human Devil Xia Lixing didn't know that he had become their target...

...

Late in the afternoon, No. 60 High occupied a pretty good position on Fire Peak.

Wang Ling, Hero Guo, Super Chen and Xia Ming were responsible for cutting down trees and gathering wood to build a temporary camp.

The two ladies Li Youyue and Liu Qingyi were in charge of lighting a fire for cooking.

Wang Zhen, Gu Shunzhi, Zhenyuan and Fang Xing were responsible for collecting spirit plants and hunting.

Hunting wasn't anything difficult for them.

Because of Little Silver and Loopy Toad's earlier summons, the level two serpent king and monkey king were also responsible for helping out in the jungle hunt as they offered up prey as sacrifice to No. 60 High... Thus, the food No. 60 High had that night was especially plentiful. In addition to the spirit fruits and berries on Nine Dragon Mountain which they had collected, Wang Zhen and the others had also caught a wild level four fire yak, which was enough food for all of them.

"Level four? How did you catch it?" Li Youyue found it incredible; she had initially thought that catching a few pheasants would already be amazing enough.

They could actually eat beef on the first day of this survival battle...

"It wasn't that hard. We had barely gone a few steps when we saw it lying to one side and already dying. To end Brother Yak's pain, I went up and finished it with one strike," Wang Zhen said.

Li Youyue: "..."

On the other side, the construction of the camp was also done. Wang Ling actually didn't help much, only because Super Chen and Hero Guo were too enthusiastic. After cutting down the trees, they used their spirit swords to slice the tree trunks lengthwise, before they carefully peeled off the rough tree bark. This bark was very dry, and could be used to make a fire.

They then gathered lots of banana leaves to cover the tops of the huts, and just like that, two temporary huts were set up, one for the boys and one for the girls.

Super Chen was sweating profusely, but he couldn't hide his excitement. "This really is like a real life version of Minecraft! How exciting!"

Once the two huts were set up, everyone looked again at the huge number projected over the dome-shaped peak.

[Survivors remaining: 678]

Nearly seventy more students had been eliminated...

“Two people per team on sentry duty tonight; we’ll rotate every hour.” After giving the instruction, Lotus Sun began to use some of the spirit plants collected by Wang Zhen and the others to make medicine.

“Don’t you need equipment?” Wang Zhen asked.

“Of course I do.” Saying this, Lotus Sun opened Mysterious Sea’s sword spirit space once again and took out a multi-functional, high-end automatic pill maker.

This was a foolproof machine – the spirit plants and herbal medicine just needed to be put into the machine, which would automatically filter them and quickly make the medicine based on what was required. It was a lot more convenient than a pill furnace! Furthermore, this automatic pill maker was also exclusive to Huaguo Water Curtain Group.

Everyone was stupefied. “Even this is possible?”

All the headmasters in the command center were also astonished.

“Wasn’t it said that it can’t be considered cheating if we can bring things in undetected?” Lotus Sun smiled bashfully.

Actually, there was also a compressed high-end villa capsule in her sword spirit space... It just needed to be thrown on the ground, and a villa would instant spring up.

But on second thought, Lotus Sun felt that this might be too much and could even destroy the balance in the game, so she didn’t take it out.

However, when it came down to it, as long as No. 60 High had Wang Ling...

The balance would always be broken...

Chapter 1155: An Uproar At Night

The temperature on Nine Dragon Mountain plummeted at night. Looking into the distance from his high vantage point on Fire Peak, Wang Ling saw that a lot of areas were actually covered in ice, and it was even snowing; it was a completely different world from Fire Peak.

Fire Peak had a tropical climate, where it was very hot during the day but dropped to a decent temperature at night.

Theoretically speaking, Fire Peak was thus a pretty ideal site for barracks. However, the No. 60 High team never expected that even after setting up camp here for so long, nobody showed up to fight them for this territory.

The cold air in the distance converged with the warm air here to instantly create a vast fog which looked remarkably similar to scenes in *The Game of Thrones*.

It was more dangerous to act at night than during the day, but if someone was in fact good at using the fog as cover, the chances of a successful sneak raid increased significantly.

Wang Ling was hence currently wondering whether anyone would decide to use this opportunity to launch a night attack on them.

But whether there was a night raid or not, Wang Ling didn't really care. In his eyes, this competition was nothing more than a game to pass the time. He didn't treat it seriously, nor did he release his spiritual perception to spy on the enemy.

It was fine to just take things as they came.

At that moment, Wang Ling felt something heavy hit him in the back of his head with a fierce thud, which was then followed by a crisp sound of a collision.

Hm...

Someone had launched a sneak attack on him.

But he had long sensed this person.

Wang Ling thought that this blow might trigger the life-saving effect of the golden talisman, and if he seized the opportunity to collapse and wait to be rescued by the teachers, he might be able to leave the competition as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, that pathetic strike was far from lethal when it came to Wang Ling, and thus didn't trigger the life-saving effect.

The person who had attacked Wang Ling was none other than the team captain of Titan High School, Zhu Hanyun.

It had been a precise blow to the back of the head. The strength which Zhu Hanyun had put into it should have been enough to trigger the golden talisman's defense mechanism before the other party realized what was happening. However, Wang Ling just scratched his head like nothing had happened, which stupefied Zhu Hanyun, who was behind him, as well as instantly caused the latter to raise his guard!

This person...

There was something wrong with him.

That was Zhu Hanyun's shocked thought.

Not only wasn't Wang Ling injured by the blow, it turned Zhu Hanyun's palm numb instead.

"Retreat!" In this desperate situation, Zhu Hanyun sent out a telepathic signal, and Titan High School, who had been prepared to besiege No. 60 High, immediately retreated from the front line.

The truth was that there were a few schools at the foot of Fire Peak at that moment who had joined hands in a plan to surround and attack No. 60 High.

Titan High School had been dispatched as the vanguard, but not long after the school had gone up, everyone unexpectedly received Zhu Hanyun's retreat order.

The temporary cultivation high school alliance formed by Titan High, South Sea Sky High, North Fist High and West Leg Tyrant High gathered together to enquire about the situation.

"What happened?"

"Senior brother is injured!" The little junior sister from Titan High School, Yan Xiaochun, supported Zhu Hanyun as they retreated back down Nine Dragon Mountain.

"How was he hurt?"

South Sea Sky High immediately sent a healing-type student over, who examined Zhu Hanyun's injury. "His right arm is broken – it needs to be put into a splint and wrapped right away, otherwise there might be repercussions."

"Broken?" The team captain of South Sea Sky High, Nan Yixiu, frowned deeply.

Zhu Hanyun's body was extremely hard, yet even with such a physique, he had suffered a fracture; it must have been a violent attack. The problem, however, was that they had been watching the mountain peak closely from the bottom, and there hadn't been any movements at all...

So, the question was: How did Zhu Hanyun injure his arm?

At that moment, Zhu Hanyun's entire face was red; he was so ashamed that he didn't want to say a single word about what happened.

Even if he did, he wasn't going to tell the truth.

He had picked up a rock to attack someone else. Furthermore, he had hit the person on the back of the head, which was a lethal weak point. In the end, not only wasn't the other party injured, Zhu Hanyun himself had gotten a fracture.

What utter humiliation!

“The other side is very dangerous!” Helpless, Zhu Hanyun could only exaggerate his words to magnify No. 60 High’s strength. “I was going to ambush them, but was spotted. They already made preparations earlier on, and used a very strange defensive spell which caused my power to rebound back on me, which is how I ended up like this...”

“The other side was already prepared?” Hearing that, Nan Yixiu frowned deeply.

It seemed that there was also a perception-type player on No. 60 High’s team.

Not only had they foreseen this night attack, they had even taken precautions.

If it really was as Zhu Hanyun said, and the other side had set up a defensive spell which caused his attack to rebound... Nan Yixiu could only think of the Reverse Shield Spell.

But given Zhu Hanyun’s physique, even if he had been hit with the Reverse Shield Spell, it shouldn’t be to the extent of getting his arm broken.

Unless, the other side had cultivated the Reverse Shield Spell to a very high level, which had to be level seven or eight at the very least...

They were all Foundation Establishment students.

Someone had actually cultivated the Reverse Shield Spell, which was a spell that wasn’t part of their main syllabus, to such a high level – Nan Yixiu found this utterly inconceivable.

He never expected their plan to attack No. 60 High from all sides to actually fail at the get go...

But Fire Peak was a very important stronghold, and with their four major high schools joining forces, they had to crack this tough nut.

“Don’t send anyone up for now; the best would be to force them to come down the mountain somehow.”

“Set a fire?” someone suggested.

“Set fire to the mountain and you’ll spend the rest of your life in prison...”

“Of course we can’t randomly set the mountain on fire. Given Nine Dragon Mountain’s unique terrain, however, the rainbow mist in the morning can restore the vegetation and also put out the fire. There shouldn’t be any problems.

“But our main aim for competing with No. 60 High over Fire Peak is to obtain resources. It’ll take some time for the rainbow mist to restore the vegetation. If we seize this territory by setting a fire, it’ll be meaningless since all the spirit plants will have been burned. We have to think of another way,” said Nan Yixiu.

...

On the other side, in No. 60 High’s camp on the mountaintop, Gu Shunzhi had already long noticed the movements at the foot of the mountain. While the bottom of the mountain was covered in a heavy fog, it meant nothing to Gu Shunzhi at all.

“There are forty people at the bottom.” Gu Shunzhi used a stick to sketch out on the ground the distribution of forces at the foot of the mountain. Students from four cultivation high schools had locked onto No. 60’s camp, and were ready to move.

“Are we surrounded?”

Both Super Chen and Hero Guo frowned; for the time being, they couldn’t see a way to break out.

A few minutes later, countless nether flames appeared down below.

“The other side is using the Spirit-Summoning Technique.” Super Chen immediately recognized this spell.

Because this was the first thing they had learned in Teacher Pan’s talisman class in the first semester!

It was also during that very talisman lesson that Wang Ling had used this method to call forth the remnants of Looy Toad's soul...

Chapter 1156: Spirit-Summoning Technique Showdown

As the saying went, the greatest truths were the simplest. As a compulsory subject in the first semester of the Foundation Establishment cultivation high school freshmen year, it went without saying how important the Spirit-Summoning Technique was. Recalling how Wang Ling had summoned Loopy Toad by accident back then, and seeing the technique now, everyone instantly felt a sense of familiarity.

They were now under siege by four high schools. After Zhu Hanyun, as the vanguard, lost, Nan Yixiu immediately thought of using the Spirit-Summoning Technique for the joint siege.

There were forty people in total from the four high schools. When they joined forces, the number of spirits they could summon with the technique was no less than a few hundred!

While using these spirits as a vanguard force might not cause the students of No. 60 High any injuries, it was more than enough to sound them out.

Besides, as a basic spell, the Spirit-Summoning Technique didn't consume much spirit energy.

After repeated summonings, there was a massive horde of spirits.

When these spirits of varying colors surrounded the foot of the mountain, it was a ghastly sight right out of a sci-fi blockbuster film.

Nine Dragon Mountain was a modern national natural conservatory for spirit plants and spirit beasts. The spirits that could be summoned weren't weak; the weakest was still a level six spirit beast. Although Zhu Hanyun's arm was broken, it didn't affect his ability to summon spirits with his other hand — he summoned a level four three-headed fire lion!

For a Foundation Establishment cultivator to summon a level four spirit was very remarkable.

It could only be said, as expected of Zhu Hanyun, Titan High's team captain.

While his vanguard operation had failed, it couldn't hide how outstanding he was.

“As expected of Captain Zhu. With this level four fire lion as the vanguard of the spirit army, we'll definitely destroy No. 60 High's troop formation!” When Nan Yixiu saw the results of everyone's summonings, he felt that the situation was firmly in their hands.

Although each summoned spirit certainly wasn't as strong as the real thing, and only had twenty percent of the original's fighting strength, these spirits should be more than enough to deal with the No. 60 High team who was on top of the mountain.

The four high schools were currently working together, and it was understandable that they would flatter each other. But Zhu Hanyun, who had experienced how odd No. 60 High was for himself, felt unhappy for some reason when he heard Nan Yixiu's overblown praise.

He felt that No. 60 High was hiding a lot of talent, and that they had underestimated this school.

Zhu Hanyun dimly recalled, before coming for this competition, that their Headmaster Liu Tian had told them not to look down on the other schools, especially No. 60 High!

When Zhu Hanyun recalled the headmaster's advice, he instantly felt that the words were wise.

At that moment, the four high schools were working together to surround and attack No. 60 High. They had the superior numbers, which seemed to give them the upper hand. However, No. 60 High had now firmly established their position on the mountain, and had successfully set up camp. If the four schools stuck to their original battle plan and sent out troops, only to encounter unusual maneuvers, it would in fact be very hard to predict the outcome.

While they had the advantage in numbers, too many people was also a shortcoming... They had yet to occupy an advantageous position, and so had yet to effectively combine their resources together. If it became a war of attrition, the tables could turn on them.

...

On top of the mountain, No. 60 High also swiftly formulated a strategy in the face of the spirits that were gradually surrounding the foot of the mountain. Given their disadvantageous situation, they decided to hold fast to their position.

No. 60 High also had Mysterious Sea, and wasn't worried at all that the people at the foot of the mountain might use a dirty tactic like cutting off their water source. Mysterious Sea was very strong; if necessary, Lotus Sun could use the "South-North Water Diversion" move to create a route from a nearby river to their feet.

In fact, the moment the spirits appeared, Gu Shunzhi had already come up with 16,820 ways to instantly get rid of them. If he did that, however, he would expose his true strength... After all, they had come to No. 60 High to learn from Wang Ling how to keep a low profile.

"Since they're using the Spirit-Summoning Technique, we might as well do the same," Super Chen suggested at that moment. Everyone could use the Spirit-Summoning Technique, so what it came down to was sheer luck. Zhu Hanyun was able to summon a level four three-headed fire lion. At the same level of spirit energy, Super Chen felt that he should be able to summon something that was around the same level.

Gu Shunzhi: "Using the Spirit-Summoning Technique, is it..."

In fact, it wasn't impossible.

But Gu Shunzhi, Wang Zhen and the others knew very well that if they used this strategy... it carried risks...

They could control their powers, so doing a precise summoning absolutely wasn't a problem.

But god only knew what frightening thing their Ling Zhenren would summon.

"Then that's settled! I'll go first!" As the captain, Lotus Sun raised her hand. She swiftly did the hand seals, and spirit energy gathered in her palms, before she slammed her hands down on the ground!

A spirit-summoning array quickly lit up on the ground, and a huge, pure white flower appeared in front of their eyes.

"What's this?"

“It looks like the snow hibiscus on Nine Dragon Mountain’s Ice Peak! It’s a level four spirit plant, and has some spiritual intelligence!”

“As expected of Captain Lotus Sun!” Super Chen and the others marveled.

Then they all began to summon spirits.

The spirit that Master of Dopey summoned this time was a giant heaven-capturing spirit elephant. While its size wasn’t a problem, it was too heavy, so it didn’t necessarily move quickly. Besides, it was a level six spirit elephant, which didn’t have formidable fighting strength overall.

“Ah, how unlucky.” Hero Guo sighed. He hadn’t gotten a great result at all with his summoning in class before, so he had secretly practiced the Spirit-Summoning Technique for a long time. In the end, when it came to the actual competition, he had nothing to show for it.

“It’s a matter of luck sometimes in a competition; maybe you aren’t cut out for a major competition.” When it was Xia Ming’s turn, he sneered. He was very confident in his Spirit-Summoning Technique. After obtaining extraordinary power from that mysterious white-haired young man, whatever he summoned would surely be unmatched.

He had to put on a good show in front of Lotus Sun!

With that in mind, he began to do the hand seals in one smooth flow.

To everyone’s surprise, however, when Xia Ming slapped his hands down on the ground to activate the spirit-summoning array, a huge array appeared...

What was going on?

The people at the foot of the mountain were stupefied. This spirit-summoning array was too big and rare... It actually burst out beyond Fire Peak and covered half the mountain, like a hula hoop.

Xia Ming himself was frightened by this scale. He had just wanted to show off in front of the girl he liked, but the situation now was a little beyond his expectations.

Boom! With a loud rumble, a giant lava hand, as big as a mountain, emerged from the massive spirit-summoning array...

...

Looking at this giant hand, Wang Ling sighed.

The hair on the back of this giant hand instantly stood up...

Chapter 1157: Everyone's Stupefied Faces

Fire Peak's mountain spirit...

No one knew exactly what happened. As the spell caster, Xia Ming was frozen with stupefaction. The mountain spirit of Fire Peak was a super level one creature of nature, and was much stronger than spirit beasts! Xia Ming never thought that he would actually summon the mountain spirit with the most basic Spirit Summoning Technique!

At that moment, every single person at the foot of the mountain was staring at this giant lava hand with stupefied faces; they were utterly frozen with shock.

"What the heck is that thing?"

"Mountain spirit?"

"How can a Foundation Establishment student summon a mountain spirit?! Even if he's Grandpa Lu[1] reborn, this cheat is too crazy!"

"Retreat! Retreat! Everyone, keep your distance from it!"

Nan Yixiu majored in perception-type magic. He had been observing the movements on the mountaintop all this time, and when the mountain spirit came out, his brain just flatlined and collapsed!

...

At the same time, numerous screens in the command center were flashing. Looking at the scene on the screens, the headmasters rose to their feet one by one in alarm.

“This is... the mountain spirit?”

“Can the Spirit Summoning Technique summon a mountain spirit?”

“It can in theory, but the chances are low. For a Foundation Establishment cultivator to summon one – is this a freak accident?”

“Who cares – right now, our priority is to save the students! What do we do?!” a headmaster cried out, and his words woke everyone up from their reverie. The mountain spirit had appeared, and the power which this one hand contained was like the wrath of nature; it was far from anything that Foundation Establishment cultivators could contend with.

Although these creatures of nature would stir at particular times of the year, they usually would never reveal their true forms. Actually, a lot of times when natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides happened, they were signs of a mountain spirit stirring, and they were roused when human activity disrupted the serenity of nature. It went without saying how powerful they were; turning over or a yawn could sometimes cause great destruction.

This was also called the force of nature.

At the same time, mountain spirits were shy creatures which seldom revealed their true forms to human cultivators. Some of them slept for hundreds of years or over a thousand years, and they were more used to lying dormant and hidden in the dark.

Thus, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that the mountain spirit of Fire Peak waking up at this moment, and even stretching out one hand, was an anomaly.

“Organize to have people sent over at once.” Old Huang was instantly on the alert.

The inopportune appearance of this mountain spirit reminded him all of a sudden of a very rare possibility...

“Does teacher suspect that this is the work of some evil force?” Director Qi instantly understood. Only human malice could disturb the slumber of nature spirits like the mountain spirit. It was very unlikely that a Foundation Establishment student could rouse a mountain spirit with the Spirit Summoning Technique, unless there was an even more sinister presence nearby! Hence, the moment Student Xia Ming summoned a spirit, evil power surged into the channel which was opened up by the Spirit Summoning Technique, instantly waking up the mountain spirit.

If one were to describe this feeling, it was like being woken up from a sound sleep with a fierce slap to the face.

...

Very quickly, Wang Ling saw the red robes of the special forces in the distance as they hurried over from the station, each of them holding a Code of Nature book. It was clear that they had already prepared for a crisis like this. While the chances of the mountain spirit waking up was very slim, that didn't mean it wouldn't happen.

Code of Nature was a pure, musical bible that had been compiled by Almighty-level cultivators. When a particular sound wave spell was sung in unison, it could placate nature spirits.

But the current situation was a lot worse than anyone could have imagined.

The evil power which had possessed Xia Ming had boosted his strength. Summoning the soul of a level one or level two spirit beast actually wouldn't be unusual, but summoning a mountain spirit was a huge problem.

And the catalyst for the mountain spirit's awakening was Human Devil, who had been following and observing them from the shadows the entire time.

“I can't wait anymore.”

Wang Ling sighed inwardly.

He liked peace and quiet.

And what he hated most was when people bothered him.

He didn't want to be in this national competition.

He wanted the peace being disrupted even less.

Unless the problem was destroyed at its root, it would be very hard to coax the mountain spirit back to sleep just by singing Code of Nature.

Wang Ling fixed his eyes on the shadow which had been following him for a long time in the dark.

Human Devil Xia Lixing was the cause of this disaster.

...

At that moment, Xia Lixing exulted when he saw the mountain spirit appear in its true form. His Holy Devil Imprisonment Technique could devour all living things; if he could devour the mountain spirit, he would become three times stronger than when he had been at his peak!

But just as Xia Lixing was about to take action in the next breath, he felt eyes on him...

A large pair of eyes was fixed on his back like the sun, which made Xia Lixing instantly doubt his entire existence. He sensed that an immense power had locked onto him, like he was nothing more than a small meteorite that had been marked and would be swallowed up at any time.

What was going on?

Who on earth was it...

Two big questions sprung up in Xia Lixing's mind.

Then, he heard the sound of footsteps in the dark.

It was one of No. 60 High's Foundation Establishment youngsters, walking toward him.

Xia Lixing: “?”

Was it this person?

Xia Lixing could feel his three views collapsing.

He had wondered earlier if his presence had been detected...

Wang Ling’s movements now answered his question perfectly.

As Wang Ling’s slightly small and thin figure gradually approached Xia Lixing –

Xia Lixing’s mood fluctuated wildly.

He was surprised, then shocked, and finally, he was deeply afraid.

Wang Ling reached out one hand and simply suppressed him with the Great Purification Spell.

The spirits of the living creatures which Xia Lixing had devoured recently instantly poured out of his body, which was like a black hole!

It was just a split second.

In the forbidden zone where General Bai and the three-person Mahjong Squad had been earlier, the withered spirit plants and dead spirit beasts were miraculously revived.

This frantic outpouring left Xia Lixing weak all over.

The power of Wang Ling’s Great Purification Spell was far beyond Xia Lixing’s imagination – it actually had the powerful effect of turning the rotten into the miraculous.

“Who on earth are you...” Xia Lixing was terrified.

Wang Ling faced him.

He didn't want to say a single word.

This guy was too weak.

He was weaker than anyone in the three-person Mahjong Squad.

He had devoured too many souls, but hadn't digested them properly, so his strength hadn't increased at its core.

He was thus directly reduced to his original form by the Great Purification Spell.

Furthermore, using the King's Eye and the power of Fate Dao together, Wang Ling could see that the Human Devil in front of him was someone who had already died before.

Since he was already dead –

Just let him sleep forever.

So, there was no need for superfluous words.

Wang Ling stretched out one hand and placed it on Xia Lixing's forehead as he used the Great Salvation Spell.

Chapter 1158: Wang Ling's Great Salvation Spell

This familiar pattern of a dead person coming back to life confirmed Wang Ling's guess.

Whether it was Bai Youquan, the son of President Bai, or Nightmare, whom President Qi had captured in Nine Dragon Pagoda, it was the same person pulling all the strings behind the scenes.

The profound truth of Fate Dao was to control life and death, to overturn the heavens and change one's fate; it wasn't just a simple resurrection spell. Xia Lixing had been resurrected, but the power of Fate Dao could rig it so that at a critical moment, any of the Xia Lixings in numerous parallel worlds could become his substitute and die in his place.

Thus, normal Heavenly Dao spells had no effect at all.

But the Great Salvation Spell was different. This was one of Wang Ling's top ten spells of the thirty thousand Heavenly Dao, which could help all living things in the universe to cross over; any evil spirit would fade to nothing under the effect of the Great Salvation Spell. That was to say, no matter how many times Xia Lixing was resurrected on the spot due to Fate Dao, the power of salvation would always exist as long as Wang Ling didn't lift the Great Salvation Spell that was cast on Xia Lixing.

And so, Xia Lixing was now performing the rarely seen death sit-ups in front of Wang Ling...

Wang Ling had no idea how much Fate Dao had been allocated to Xia Lixing by the mastermind behind the scenes.

If Xia Lixing had only been given one hundred, like Bai Youquan, then he would die one hundred times. If it was three thousand... then he would have to die three thousand times.

But Bai Youquan was more foolish compared with Human Devil Xia Lixing.

He thought that he could beat Wang Ling by combining the strength of one hundred Fate Dao together.

Wang Ling felt that in the end, Bai Youquan was still too green.

From what Odd Zhuo said, however, Bai Youquan's mouth was still resolutely shut. He was currently receiving the same sort of torture in Leifeng Pagoda as Immortal She Pi had experienced back then, and would be punished with thunderbolts to the head daily until he confessed.

After a minute...

Under Wang Ling's Great Salvation Spell, Xia Lixing was instantly killed close to six hundred times before he finally died for good.

If this average frequency of dying every 0.1 second was recorded down, it would be a new world record in the cultivation world.

Unfortunately, there was no one here to witness this scene. Wang Ling had cast the spell in a more secluded place, so no one saw anything at all.

After getting rid of Xia Lixing, Wang Ling walked out of the underbrush like nothing had happened. With Human Devil's death, the agitated mountain spirit calmed down. That giant hand of flowing, burning lava pulled back into the summoning array, and Fire Peak's mountain spirit fell asleep once more.

As Wang Ling had expected, Xia Lixing was the cause of this mayhem.

Fortunately, he had acted in time, or all the living things on Fire Peak might have suffered in the wake of the mountain spirit's awakening.

After all, except for Wang Ling...

Few people could fight against a force of nature.

Wang Ling never thought that he would be forced to take a class on environmental protection during this national body techniques competition on Nine Dragon Mountain.

But it wasn't over yet.

Firstly, the person pulling the strings behind the scenes had yet to be found.

Secondly, the "Eye of Rebellion" curse on Xia Ming had yet to be lifted.

Xia Ming was still traumatized by the fact that he had unintentionally summoned the mountain spirit, and had almost caused great destruction... He was still panicking when the mountain spirit

calmed down, but even after that, he still had a glazed expression, and couldn't come back to his senses at all.

...

The alarm was canceled, and the magic ball in the command center, which was responsible for monitoring abnormal energy, calmed down. When the mountain spirit had woken up earlier, the numbers for the fluctuation of spirit power had instantly maxed out on the surveillance instruments, and then fell just as quickly... It was like a roller coaster.

"Strange..." Huang Feng frowned and asked, "The mountain spirit woke up, yawned, then went back to sleep?"

President Qi also frowned. "It is very strange – I think something's wrong."

It didn't seem to them that the mountain spirit would wake up for no reason at all – something must have disturbed its slumber. As for the idea that a Foundation Establishment student could summon the mountain spirit with the Spirit Summoning Technique, this could in fact be explained as a complete coincidence. For instance, there might already have been signs that the mountain spirit was waking up, and the Spirit Summoning Technique just happened to have an effect similar to that of a sober-up agent.

But not everything could be explained so clearly.

They had to figure out what had disturbed the mountain spirit's slumber.

Old Huang Lao said slowly, "The laws of nature govern the survival of mankind. However powerful our cultivation, and however long we can live, there is only one planet suitable for us to live on, though we recently made a breakthrough in our exploration of space with the discovery of Divine Dao Star.

"Divine Dao Star is too far away from us, however, and is home to many other alien beings. In the end, cultural differences are a problem, and it isn't realistic for cultivators to migrate at present. So, protecting what is in front of us right now is the most important."

Many of the headmasters present nodded when they heard this.

It was indeed important to look to the future, but the priority was still to focus on the present.

Mankind still wasn't united In the current cultivation world, and there were still many shortcomings that had yet to be fixed.

The recent murders in the medical field were a prime example.

These were cultivators who were passionately devoted to their medical careers, but who were senselessly stabbed to death by hoodlums because of a few hysterical patients...

So, this world was still in need of reform and change.

But the very notion of change did imply that cultivators could make progress, step by step, and slowly make the world a perfect and united place.

“Old Qi.”

At that moment, President Qi heard the sound of General Bai's voice.

President Qi: “This is the command center. Go ahead.”

General Bai: “It seems that Xia Lixing is more cunning than I thought. We've lost the target... Can you locate him again?”

“Locate him again, is it?”

President Qi nodded. He spread out his mental powers and covered every inch of Nine Dragon Mountain. He had been a member of the operations team in the hunt for Xia Lixing when the latter was still alive back then, so he was naturally familiar with Human Devil.

A man couldn't disappear for no reason. Xia Lixing was very sly, so President Qi speculated that the former must have used some method to cover his tracks.

But after searching the entire area, President Qi found the outcome inconceivable.

His eyes darkened. “He’s disappeared off the map... How is that possible?”

Old Huang opened his eyes and said, “Xia Lixing is dead.”

President Qi was shocked. “Xia Lixing is dead? This...”

“Since you and I can’t detect any traces of his aura, there’s only one conclusion. A person can’t disappear for no reason. Furthermore, there is too much evil energy on Xia Lixing – it’s impossible for him not to leave any traces behind if he was alive.”

“But how did he die? There must be a reason...”

Old Huang nodded. “Mm.”

He couldn’t hide the grave expression on his face.

At that moment, President Qi glanced at Odd Zhuo, who was on the side, and he confirmed that Odd Zhuo had never left the command center.

That was because based on past experience, it was Odd Zhuo who had a hand in most of these types of odd incidents...

Chapter 1159: The Correct Posture for Shouldering a Wok

As Wang Ling’s cotton-padded jacket, Odd Zhuo was naturally aware of how important the task of shouldering the wok was. This time, however, he felt that it would be hard to place this wok on him. First of all, he hadn’t left the command center. Secondly, even if he fought Human Devil, there was just too big a disparity in fighting strength; Human Devil was too strong, and it would be impossible for Odd Zhuo to get rid of him with his own strength.

But Odd Zhuo, who was well-versed in the ways of carrying a wok, was well aware that even if he didn’t do it, the wok might end up on his shoulders in the end anyway.

It was fine, as long as he didn’t admit to it...

Under Old Huang's and President Qi's gazes, Odd Zhuo did his best to maintain a calm expression. A few minutes later, there was new information from the Mahjong Squad. When the image on screen switched over to the scene, a figure with green hair suddenly popped up in Odd Zhuo's view...

"This is?" Headmaster Chen felt that this person looked somewhat familiar, but he couldn't say why.

That was right... This was Loopy Toad's first public appearance in human form. No one could have imagined that the green-furred akita would actually be able to cultivate a human form in a few short months.

Odd Zhuo remembered that Loopy Toad and Little Silver were supposed to be working together, but only Loopy Toad was making an appearance – perhaps to protect Little Silver's "holy beast" identity.

"Who is this?" There was a wary look in Old Huang's eyes.

On the other side, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal instantly communicated with President Qi. "This is Mr Chong Erhe, a member of the General Office of Strategic Deception's Goon Squad."

"Mr Chong Erhe?" Old Huang mused. He didn't recall seeing this name on the list the other day.

President Qi secretly explained to Huang Feng telepathically, "It's like this, Old Huang: There are in fact some covert names mixed into our retinue this time. These people were appointed by the head of state himself. Even we don't know what the names are; only the head of state does. This is to prevent the true name list from being stolen so that the enemy can't take precautions against the members on the list and will be caught off guard..."

Huang Feng nodded his head and instantly understood. "It's just like the head of state to plan this far ahead."

He had planned to find out who was responsible for this, but since it was the head of state who had appointed these hidden members, he couldn't do anything about it.

"But what is Mr Chong Erhe's background?"

“He’s one of the experts of the General Office of Strategic Deception, and is more powerful than an Itinerant Immortal. Moreover, his techniques are highly effective when it comes to eliminating evil spirits, which is why he was able to destroy Human Devil when the latter’s defenses were down.”

“I see.”

Old Huang felt that he finally understood the whole story, and he thanked Loopy Toad, who was on the screen. “Thank you for your help this time, Mr Chong Erhe! If it wasn’t for you, Human Devil would have continued with his secret mischief, and might have caused irreversible damage to Nine Dragon Mountain’s environment.”

Chong Erhe was Loopy Toad’s human alias, and was actually a recombination of the radicals in Loopy Toad’s name[1].

Loopy Toad was well aware that very few people knew about his human form.

An alias would also help hide his identity.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal had already set up everything for him, like an ID card and whatnot...

He was now a dog with a proper identity! And his registered residence was in Songhai city! How many people nowadays were jumping around because of residency issues? But he as a dog had a residency permit!

Originally, he could only silently help mankind out behind the scenes as a dog.

This could be considered Loopy Toad’s first time stepping out from behind the scenes and onto the stage.

He couldn’t help but feel a little excited. “Old Huang, I’m flattered. In fact, this isn’t entirely my doing.”

When Loopy Toad said this, the atmosphere in the command center instantly froze. Stunned, Odd Zhuo looked up... As the scapegoat who had been fighting hard on the front line all this time, he was abruptly aware of the subtle implication in Loopy Toad's words.

"Director Zhuo – he was the one who arranged everything," Loopy Toad said at that moment.

It was an unexpected answer that nevertheless made sense...

The expressions on everyone's faces changed. Many of the headmasters present turned to look at two people.

One was Headmaster Chen of No. 60 High.

The other, of course, was Odd Zhuo.

Director Zhuo...

How many people were there in the world who could do this title proud?

Things had already come to this point, but Headmaster Chen conversely remained composed. Odd Zhuo's career path was endless – this was also strong motivation for No. 60 High. When No. 60 High was renovated, the old stone sculpture at the school gate would be changed into a life-sized statue of Odd Zhuo.

It was also the greatest blessing for No. 60 High to be able to produce such an excellent student. As the current headmaster of No. 60 High, it was impossible for Headmaster Chen not to brag.

Under everyone's gazes, he simply shrugged his shoulders and adopted a breezy attitude. "Everyone, you're too kind. The students of our No. 60 High have always been this outstanding."

Hearing this, the other headmasters secretly felt sour in their hearts.

These words sounded so shameless...

But they couldn't find a reason to refute it.

And as an involved party, Odd Zhuo clearly looked distressed...

He knew things would end up like this!

...

On the other side, after the mountain spirit fell silent once more, the attack on Fire Peak picked up again.

It was just that this time, no one dared to use the Spirit Summoning Technique in battle again.

The four high schools at the bottom decided to fight to the death, and gathered all their strength to launch a single combined attack on No. 60 High on the mountaintop. No matter how many people they lost, they would wipe out No. 60 High first!

"The combined attack has started."

Based on No. 60 High's initial strategy, they would still focus on defense. Even in the face of an attack from four schools, everyone was full of confidence. However, something was clearly wrong with one person.

It was Xia Ming.

Xia Ming now felt that he clearly understood what it was like to have great power.

Power was admittedly good, but if he couldn't control it, and ultimately wound up hurting the person he liked... Xia Ming felt that he might as well not have this sort of power. He had frozen when he saw the giant hand of Fire Peak's mountain spirit stretch out of the ground. He hadn't wanted to believe that he was the one who had created the scene in front of him with his own hands.

The mountain spirit had gone back to sleep, but Xia Ming no longer had the courage to use his power.

He was afraid it would go out of control again.

When he was feeling anxious, he felt a warm hand suddenly land on his shoulder.

Who was it?

He turned his head slightly, and was surprised to see Wang Ling standing behind him...

Chapter 1160: Wang Ling's New Fan

When you had power that was too strong for you to control, you couldn't help but shiver and feel afraid – Wang Ling had experienced this feeling countless times as a child.

He would jerk awake on dark nights, afraid that he would do something terrible when he was asleep.

After all, destroying the world would've been a piece of cake for Wang Ling back before the Dao talisman seal was officially developed. But even the Dao talisman seal didn't mean true freedom for Wang Ling – his power was constantly growing, and would one day surpass what the Dao talisman seal could take.

Wang Ling didn't say anything, but the moment his palm landed lightly and comfortingly on Xia Ming's shoulder, their minds became connected.

Xia Ming felt like he saw the whole of Wang Ling's life in a few short seconds.

His tears couldn't help pouring out at the sense of loneliness that came with being invincible.

Wang Ling had chosen to act at that moment because he knew that this was the perfect opportunity to get rid of Xia Ming's "Eye of Rebellion."

But Wang Ling had overlooked one point.

The Eye of Rebellion was also a Fate Dao spell, so when Wang Ling was trying to get rid of it, his fate line converged with Xia Ming's for a brief moment.

And it was this brief moment which enabled Xia Ming to understand what sort of existence Wang Ling was.

The people at school didn't know much about Wang Ling. While their fate lines had converged, which seemed to have exposed him, Wang Ling wasn't worried that Xia Ming would say anything.

Because everything would seem like a dream. Once their fate lines split apart, the memories would quickly disappear and Xia Ming would forget everything.

"It won't hurt any longer." Wang Ling's voice sounded in the depths of Xia Ming's heart to comfort him.

As soon as Wang Ling said these words, the "Eye of Rebellion" curse in Xia Ming's stomach, which was like a festering sore on the bottom of the foot, was pulled out by the root, and completely disappeared.

When Xia Ming came back to his senses, he realized he was crying, but he had no idea what he had just seen.

The Eye of Rebellion, the things that the white-haired young man had threatened him into doing, the hidden side of Wang Ling – he forgot all of it.

But Xia Ming sensed that he had returned to normal. He no longer trembled or felt afraid when it came to his power, and for some reason, he didn't hate Wang Ling at all...

"Classmate Wang Ling... you..."

Xia Ming had thought that Wang Ling would hate him, but when Xia Ming had shrunk back and was feeling afraid, it was Wang Ling who appeared behind him to support him with a hand on his back and give him warm strength.

At that moment, Xia Ming looked at Wang Ling and couldn't help sighing. "No wonder Classmate Lotus Sun likes you so much."

“...”

“Classmate Wang Ling, I’ve decided to give up on competing with you. Indeed, Classmate Lotus Sun deserves someone better.” Xia Ming gazed unwaveringly at Wang Ling and spouted righteous words that alarmed the latter.

“???”

Why pass everything to him...

Wang Ling was stupefied.

If you don’t compete, who will be my shield against that girl?!

Wang Ling never thought that just by casually helping to remove an evil curse, he suddenly gained a new fan...

There was indeed a spell among his thirty thousand Heavenly Dao that could forcibly turn a person into his fan, the kind of fan that chased and supported their idol.

It was called the Great Fan Spell, but Wang Ling didn’t use it often, since it was a little difficult to control how much strength was required; if he used too much strength, the fans would turn into scary “sasaeng fans”... The type that could find out where you live, and hide inside your place for a week as they waited for the chance to take a picture of you in the shower.

Wang Ling had also thought about using the Great Fan Spell before, since his relationship with Xia Ming was a little more tense.

But after considering the bug with this Heavenly Dao, he ultimately didn’t cast it on Xia Ming...

He didn’t want a male sasaeng fan squatting in his house every day and taking pictures of his life.

But why had Xia Ming become his fan?

Wang Ling felt that this might have something to do with Fate Dao.

When the fate lines of two people were connected, it probably had an effect similar to the Great Fan Spell, and smoothed out the wrinkles in “the fetters of fate.”

This was the only feasible explanation Wang Ling could think of so far.

“Advance!” At that moment, there was a loud shout outside No. 60 High’s secure camp fortifications.

Nan Yixiu, captain of South Sea Sky High, and Zhu Hanyun, captain of Titan High, led the charge forward as everyone used hand seals and various spells to bombard No. 60 High’s defense barrier.

But how could it be so easy to break through this barrier? It was Gu Shunzhi and the others who had set it up...

In addition, they were very crafty. In order to make the barrier look weaker, they used one that looked very thin... The ultra-thin barrier was naturally less durable, but Gu Shunzhi and the others had adjusted its recovery ability.

In other words, it looked easy to break this ultra-thin barrier, but it recovered as quickly as it was torn apart.

No matter how much the other side attacked, it felt like they were always one breath away from breaking the barrier.

People who played tricks were all dirty...

Wang Ling sighed with mixed feelings. He felt that Gu Shunzhi and the others had finally learned what it truly meant to “lay low.”

Nan Yixiu, Zhu Hanyun, and the alliance of forty people attacked for a good ten minutes, but still couldn’t break through No. 60 High’s barrier. Taking into account the constant depletion of their spirit energy, they had to retreat for the moment, as they sat cross-legged and regulated their breathing.

“What’s going on? Why can’t No. 60 High’s barrier be broken?”

“It can be broken! I feel like we’re almost there each time...”

The students discussed tactics. No. 60 High really was a tough nut to crack; at least, a lot harder than they had thought.

[Survivor remainings: 519]

Looking at the number of remaining survivors projected above the mountain dome, Nan Yixiu and the others instantly felt a strong sense of crisis.

If they continued wasting time here, they would inevitably be faced with one of two situations if their spirit energy ran out: No. 60 High would launch a counterattack, or their group would be swallowed up by other teams coming here.

This was a huge headache for both Nan Yixiu and Zhu Hanyun. “It’s not good...”

Worse still, Zhu Hanyun’s arm was now injured, and urgently required medical treatment. While Nan Yixiu did have some medical skills, they clearly weren’t enough.

“What now?”

At the foot of the mountain, everyone looked lost.

Just then, they saw a paper airplane actually flying down from the mountain...

The paper airplane hit Nan Yixiu right in the forehead. He opened it and read what was written inside: If you abandon your attack, you can consider forming an alliance with us. Wait until the last day, and we’ll have one final battle on the mountain dome...

“What does it say?” Zhu Hanyun asked.

“It says we can join them, but on one condition,” said Nan Yixiu.

“What condition?”

“Join Classmate Wang Ling’s fan club...”