

Divine 2391

Chapter 2391: Mission 71

Giles appeared somewhat ashen and wore a grim expression, but he seemed to be uninjured.

Upon seeing Giles's expression, Gu Chaoyan deduced that there was no intruder. If there were any intruders, Gary and the others would have raised the alarm, alerting the entire clan to be on guard.

So, what could have caused Giles's distress?

"Giles, what's happened?" Gu Chaoyan asked, seeking to reassure him. "Stay calm when faced with a situation."

Giles also attempted to regain his composure.

Even when facing outsiders in confrontations, he could maintain remarkable composure.

However...

Today was different.

The people from the Thunder Fire Tribe had arrived.

The Thunder Fire Clan had never engaged in combat with them. When their Tribe Chief sent emissaries to request resources, it typically ended with the Tribe Chief taking whatever was left in the clan and departing contentedly.

Gu Chaoyan was in a position to comply with these requests.

Yet, life within the clan was far from easy.

Without those resources, the already-scarce Five Elements Clan would be vulnerable to raids or malicious intent from other clans.

In the past, they might have acquiesced to such demands.

But now, the situation had changed completely.

The clan already enjoyed a thriving environment, and its members harbored hope for the future. The Five Elements Clan was flourishing, and as long as they didn't disrupt the present, a prosperous life was within their grasp.

Furthermore, the Tribe Chief had enlisted Garcia to craft a multitude of bowls, further enhancing their quality of life.

Their lives were continually improving.

The unexpected arrival of the Thunder Fire Clan took them all by surprise.

Upon witnessing the clan's prosperity, the two Thunder Fire Clan representatives displayed an unmistakably covetous look, indicating their desire to claim these resources for themselves.

As for the Tribe Chief...

Adams, the head of the Lightning Fire Tribe, had consistently acquiesced to their requests.

Despite the current Tribe Chief demonstrating a more responsible and dutiful approach, there was no guarantee that the appearance of the Thunder Fire Clan wouldn't revert the Tribe Chief to her previous ways.

In their pursuit of the clan's resources, the Thunder Fire Clan likely intended to offer the Tribe Chief highly tempting conditions.

Giles had yet to voice his concerns, but it seemed as though he could already foresee the outcome.

He shut his eyes and expressed his despair, “Tribe Chief, the Thunder Fire Tribe’s people have arrived.”

“Thunder Fire Clan?” Gu Chaoyan found the name somewhat familiar, as though she had heard it mentioned somewhere before.

After a moment of contemplation, she recalled that Aina had referred to this clan.

Why were they here?

“When encountering other tribes, there’s no need to fear. If they have malicious intent, we can defend ourselves with bows and arrows. If not, we can continue on our way. Didn’t I mention this before? Or do you find the Thunder Fire Clan particularly challenging to deal with?” Gu Chaoyan inquired calmly. While she wasn’t entirely pleased with how Giles and the others were handling the situation, she also understood that they had never encountered such a predicament before. Consequently, she didn’t judge them too harshly.

Giles regarded the Tribe Chief with astonishment.

In the past, the Tribe Chief would have been overjoyed upon hearing that visitors hailed from the Thunder Fire Tribe.

They had maintained peace with that tribe.

Had the Tribe Chief truly moved beyond her previous mindset?

“Tribe Chief, they wish to speak with you.”

Chapter 2392: Mission 72

“If they wish to meet me, it might imply they harbor no hostile intentions and are not seeking conflict,” Gu Chaoyan mused.

Giles was torn and didn't know how to interpret the situation. Ultimately, he nodded, acknowledging that, indeed, the Thunder Fire Clan had displayed no signs of ill intent thus far.

Gu Chaoyan more or less grasped the unfolding situation.

"In that case, let's meet them. I want to understand what they're after."

Internally, Gu Chaoyan contemplated the circumstances.

She turned to Garcia and instructed, "Garcia, keep trying to improve your skills. If you succeed, continue refining your craft in this manner moving forward. If you encounter any difficulties, I'll be there to teach you."

After delivering her orders, Gu Chaoyan addressed Giles with calm assurance. "Let's go."

Giles, though somewhat perplexed, nodded in response.

For a brief moment, he was uncertain about the exact nature of the situation.

Initially, he had believed that upon hearing about the Thunder Fire Clan's arrival, the Tribe Chief would revert to her previous behavior, showing little concern for the welfare of her clansmen and seeking to curry favor with the Thunder Fire Clan.

However, it was evident that her response was far from what he had expected. Not only did she not act in the same manner as before, but she also displayed a heightened sense of concern for the clan's well-being.

Had the Tribe Chief truly undergone a transformation? Giles found himself somewhat pleased.

The pallor that had previously marred his complexion had vanished, yet he couldn't fully relax. While the Tribe Chief appeared rational at the moment, he remained unsure of her reaction after meeting with the Thunder Fire Tribe.

Giles remained troubled as they continued their journey.

After some time, he nervously inquired, “Tribe Chief, you won’t abandon us again, will you?”

As Gu Chaoyan walked calmly, the words from Giles struck her, causing her to fix him with a stern gaze.

Suddenly, it all clicked in her mind. She recalled why the name Thunder Fire Clan sounded so familiar. Aina had once shared that the Tribe Chief’s self-destructive tendencies, as well as the dissatisfaction and neglect from the clan members, were somehow tied to this Tribe Chief. This Tribe Chief had taken actions that disappointed her clansmen due to her affection for the Thunder Fire Tribe’s Leader.

This realization explained Giles’ recent expressions and his anxiety and concern. He had been apprehensive that the Tribe Chief might repeat the past and lead the clan into a path of eternal suffering.

Understanding his concerns, she gave Giles a reassuring pat on the shoulder and spoke earnestly, “Giles, you needn’t worry about me making the same mistakes as before. I’ve learned from my past actions and know how reckless and irresponsible I was in the past. Now, I’m fully aware that my primary duty is to the clan. Everything within the clan holds the utmost importance to me.”

“Whether it’s the bamboo houses in the clan or the bows and arrows, they all belong to our clan. Everything else is out of bounds. I won’t let anyone succeed in taking them.”

“If they’ve come to befriend us, we’ll offer them hospitality and share our food and drinks. Anything else, they can forget about.”

“You don’t need to worry, and tell the clan members not to worry either. I won’t abandon any of you.”

Gu Chaoyan spoke resolutely.

Her words weren’t limited to Giles; they were heard loud and clear by any concerned clan members who crossed their path.

She had established her principles and knew precisely how to act.

She was determined not to let the clan members descend into panic.

For some inexplicable reason, Giles felt a sense of reassurance upon hearing her words.

It might have been because the Tribe Chief had never expressed such sentiments before, or perhaps it was the unwavering confidence in her voice that instilled trust in him.

Chapter 2393: Mission 73

Giles wore a look of complete confidence and unwavering certainty.

Behind the Tribe Chief, he exuded an unmistakable sense of pride.

Their arrival didn't take long.

Gary and a few of his fellow clan members, armed with bows and arrows, regarded the Thunder Fire Clan representatives warily, ready to defend themselves if any provocation occurred.

In reality, Gary harbored a desire for action. He wished to confront these individuals and would rather become enemies with the Thunder Fire Clan than allow them to continue interfering with the Tribe Chief and motivating her to engage in reckless actions.

If they were to become adversaries with the Thunder Fire Clan, they might as well employ their weapons to eliminate the threat entirely, leaving nothing to fret over.

However, the Thunder Fire Clan members appeared fully confident in their Tribe Chief. They refrained from resorting to violence and solely intended to communicate their intentions.

They were aware that once the Tribe Chief spoke, she might take irrational actions.

This was the very situation Gary despised and dreaded the most.

“Are you from the Thunder Fire Tribe?” Gu Chaoyan inquired, her tone cool and unyielding.

Gary closed his eyes in despair.

The Tribe Chief was present, and no one knew if they would repeat the same mistakes and endure a similar existence.

The members of the Five Elements Clan bore grim expressions, all sharing the same concerns as Giles.

Giles nodded to reassure them and whispered, “Don’t worry.”

He then positioned himself behind the Tribe Chief, ready to protect her.

A smug smile spread across the faces of several Thunder Fire Tribe members upon seeing the Five Elements Tribe’s leader.

These individuals had, by chance, witnessed the sudden transformation of the Five Elements Clan just the day before. They had rushed back to report to their own Tribe Chief with hopes of securing the Five Elements Clan’s resources.

To them, these resources were valuable, and if acquired by the Thunder Fire Clan, they would be akin to the icing on the cake.

The Tribe Chief had organized their visit with this in mind. Their primary objective was securing these resources.

Understanding the Five Elements Tribe Chief’s character, they were confident that if the idea came from her, she would readily present the resources as if they were treasures, lest she be considered too slow.

In the eyes of these Thunder Fire Tribe members, these resources were already as good as theirs.

“Yes, we are from the Thunder Fire Tribe, Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan. Our Tribe Chief requested us to come. He wishes to discuss a matter with you,” one of the Thunder Fire Tribe members remarked nonchalantly, displaying a lack of respect for the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan.

After all, they were well-acquainted with the situation.

“If you have something to discuss with me, you’ll need to come in person to demonstrate your sincerity. Can we proceed with the discussion?” Gu Chaoyan replied icily, showing no interest in the Thunder Fire Tribe members. Simultaneously, she emphasized her authority as the Tribe Chief.

Several Thunder Fire Tribe members were about to express their intentions, but upon hearing her response, they swallowed their words and continued, “Our Tribe Chief has been occupied lately, so he arranged for us to come in his place. In the past, we visited many times ourselves. Why is the Tribe Chief...?”

“The Five Elements Clan follows its own set of rules. While we may be vulnerable, we remain a clan,” Gu Chaoyan stated, unwilling to waste any more time on the matter. She turned and walked away, disregarding the Thunder Fire Clan representatives.

Chapter 2394: Mission 74

The Thunder Fire Clan members stood there in disbelief. They couldn’t fathom being dismissed so abruptly.

In the past, when the Tribe Chief had merely sent over two representatives, she had been eager to offer everything from the Five Elements Clan to the Thunder Fire Tribe, as if she feared something might be left behind.

This time, they had dispatched more people because the offerings from the Five Elements Clan were genuinely remarkable.

Yet, instead of showing gratitude, they were instructed to leave?

Fury welled up within the Thunder Fire Tribe members.

However, Gary and his fellow clan members, armed with bows and arrows, remained vigilant on the sidelines. The slightest provocation might incite an attack. The Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan had already departed.

They weren't foolish.

The weaponry they held appeared exceedingly potent, and they had no intention of meeting an untimely demise.

Someone tugged at another and whispered, "Let's return and report to our Tribe Chief first."

And so, the Thunder Fire Tribe members departed in this manner.

Gary breathed a sigh of relief.

Their relief wasn't just for the Thunder Fire Tribe members; it was also for their own Tribe Chief.

"It seems like the Tribe Chief has indeed changed," someone exclaimed with excitement. The Thunder Fire Clan was most apprehensive that the Tribe Chief would revert to her previous behavior and allow the Five Elements Clan to go without any resources.

Now...

The Tribe Chief had proven them wrong. She hadn't behaved that way at all.

It was genuinely reassuring.

She now carried herself as a true Tribe Chief.

Gary's expression showed a hint of joy. While he felt relief, he couldn't completely let his guard down.

His current concern revolved around whether the Tribe Chief would maintain her current resolve if the few Thunder Fire Clan members successfully persuaded her. Even if she didn't fully yield the Five Elements Clan's resources or disclose the bamboo house construction methods or give them bows and arrows, it wouldn't bode well.

That was the way of the world.

Despite some friendly interactions among clans presently, in the end, races were fundamentally united. When the opportunity arose, they might target weaker races.

Of course, there were indeed clans that were entirely amicable, but the Thunder Fire Clan didn't fall into that category.

There was no possibility of accommodating their demands.

They couldn't yield any resources to the Thunder Fire Clan.

That was Gary's perspective.

Thus, he remained deep in thought.

Meanwhile, the other clan members were elated.

As for the few Thunder Fire Tribe members who had been rebuffed, their faces were flush with anger. As members of the Thunder Fire Race, they were accustomed to asserting dominance in front of the Five Elements Clan. This was the first time they had faced rejection.

Their temperament was unlikely to be kind.

"Can you believe this woman? She's acting all high and mighty," one of them muttered incredulously.

"These items from the Five Elements Clan are genuinely valuable. I reckon they know the worth of these items and are attempting to lure our Tribe Chief with them. She seems rather foolish, so let's

not argue with her. We'll simply head back and report to our Tribe Chief. It may require a bit more effort, but those resources will eventually be ours," remarked the Thunder Fire Tribe member.

"That's correct. She's infatuated and gullible. If we let our Tribe Chief take charge, we won't be requesting a mere portion of their resources; we'll demand the entirety of the Five Elements Clan!" another member declared with arrogance.

"No worries, it's all ours. It's only a matter of time."

The few of them wore smug smiles as they made their way back to the Thunder Fire Clan.

After a few hours, they returned.

The Thunder Fire Tribe's Tribe Chief, Adams, immediately inquired, "Where is the item?"

Chapter 2395: Mission 75

Adams inquired almost arrogantly. He believed that the individuals he had dispatched would easily procure what he desired from the Five Elements Clan Tribe Chief. In his opinion, that woman was probably desperate to offer all of the Five Elements Clan's possessions to please him.

If it weren't for his profound disdain for the people of the Five Elements Clan, she might have eagerly delivered the entire clan to him.

When it came to the Five Elements Clan, Adams was entirely unperturbed and filled with confidence.

The Thunder Fire Clan members exchanged glances.

The leader expressed his outrage, "Tribe Chief, that woman from the Five Elements Race is utterly shameless. We went as representatives of the Tribe Chief to obtain the items, but she didn't afford us any respect. She insisted that our Tribe Chief should discuss it in person."

“How shameless. Just look at who she is. Is she worthy of the Tribe Chief engaging her directly?”

“These people from the Five Elements Clan are growing increasingly audacious. We’ll go over there, and it seems as though they want to devour us.”

“Tribe Chief, what do you suggest we do?” they inquired with respect.

The Tribe Chief had always possessed a volatile temperament. They had assumed that their visit to the Five Elements Clan would proceed smoothly, as it had in the past. However, this time, something appeared awry with the Five Elements Clan’s leader. She displayed an overbearing attitude and dismissed them without consideration. Merely contemplating it infuriated them, but they found themselves powerless to act.

The source of this formidable weapon acquired by the Five Elements Clan remained a mystery. It bore a powerful and intimidating appearance.

The Thunder Fire Tribe members were unsure if they should report this to the Tribe Chief. However, if they were to face repercussions due to this decision, they were determined to make the people of the Five Elements Race and their Tribe Chief pay a steep price. They believed there would be numerous opportunities in the future.

“She expects me to meet her in person?” questioned the Thunder Fire Tribe’s patriarch.

He appeared somewhat irate.

Who did she think she was, making him personally meet her?

The patriarch of the Thunder Fire Tribe disdainfully discarded the item he was holding and expressed his dissatisfaction, “Are you all utterly ineffectual?”

His subordinates were filled with trepidation. They contemplated how best to continue disparaging the Five Elements Race.

At this moment, Adams breathed a sigh of relief. “In that case, I, as the Tribe Chief, will pay a personal visit.”

“The Five Elements Clan claims to possess superior shelter from the elements compared to our hide tents. Furthermore, they assert that they possess superior weaponry, surpassing our current clubs and iron knives. If we don’t investigate, we’d be failing our Thunder Fire Clan’s members. Our Thunder Fire Clan is already a strong tribe. What we urgently need now are superior weapons. These will undoubtedly bolster our Thunder Fire Clan.”

Adams spoke with optimism.

Among the Tribe Chiefs, only individuals like the Five Elements Clan’s Xuelai seemed to lack the foresight to desire a more potent clan. She appeared preoccupied with her family and disregarded the growth of her clan. The other Tribe Chiefs strived to fortify their clans so they could shield their members during inclement weather or bestow a better existence upon them.

In this harsh environment, survival depended on the strong prevailing over the weak. Everyone sought to strengthen their clans to safeguard their members during adverse conditions and grant them a more favorable life.

Ultimately, supplies were scarce, and the weather was harsh. In this context, the powerful thrived at the expense of the vulnerable.

Adams contemplated silently.

He directed his clansmen to prepare some gifts, intending to bring them as an offering to the Five Elements Clan on the following day.

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The so-called “gift” was merely a collection of essential supplies.

Among the most crucial items within the 500 meters were animal skins, primarily used for crafting tents to shield against rain and snow. Following that were provisions, including wild vegetables and precious wild beast meat.

Given the meat's susceptibility to spoilage, they wisely preserved it by drying most of it, ensuring long-term storage for the harsh winter ahead. These dried meat supplies were a vital resource to sustain them during the cold months.

Adams had thought ahead and asked his clansmen to prepare a modest amount of dried meat, just enough to support the Five Elements Clan, reflecting his foresight.

This was particularly important because the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan lacked strategic thinking and readily agreed to share their resources.

To Adams and the Thunder Fire Clan, this small gesture was a generous and respectful act, considering their circumstances.

With night approaching, Adams decided to delay his journey, choosing to set out for the Five Elements Clan at dawn the following day.

The members of the Thunder Fire Clan were elated, knowing that they would soon receive fresh supplies.

As the first light of dawn broke, they began their day's activities. The women attended to various clan duties, while the men gathered their tools and set out for their daily task: hunting.

Adams, accompanied by a few clansmen, departed from their clan towards the Five Elements Clan, carrying some dry food with them for the journey. The round trip would consume a full day, but with adequate provisions, they would not go hungry along the way.

Without any means of transportation, they had no choice but to rely on their legs for travel. Fortunately, the journey was relatively safe, and walking was a common mode of transportation for them.

After over two hours of walking, they finally reached the Five Elements Clan.

From a distance, Adams observed the Five Elements Clan's humble and tattered appearance. It had only three tents for the entire clan, with the Tribe Chief as the sole occupant. These meager accommodations were far from sufficient for the injured or elderly members of the clan.

Eating meat was a luxury they had rarely experienced. Their diet mainly consisted of wild vegetables.

However, something had changed. The Five Elements Clan now seemed to have constructed more substantial shelters that appeared superior to the old tents. Adams could see young men from the Five Elements Clan carrying weapons and displaying a newfound vitality, some even bearing the spoils of hunting.

Adams was both relieved and delighted, wearing a broad smile on his dark countenance. It seemed that their visit today was timely, as they could help forge a brighter future for the Five Elements Clan.

Meanwhile, the demeanor of the Five Elements Clan's men visibly shifted upon spotting Adams and his companions. It was evident that they did not welcome these uninvited guests.

The visitors from the Thunder Fire Tribe had come the previous day, but today their Tribe Chief had come personally. The Five Elements Clan's residents were unsure of the Tribe Chief's intentions and were determined to safeguard their newfound prosperity.

The Five Elements Clan members were on high alert, while those from the Thunder Fire Tribe appeared more at ease. Adams declared, "I'm here personally to discuss matters with your Tribe Chief, and I, Adams, have important business to discuss with him."

Gary, noticing the situation, gestured for the Thunder Fire Tribe members to remain where they were while he went to inform their Tribe Chief. His expression was a mix of emotions, reflecting the complexities of the situation.

After an extensive search, he finally located the Tribe Chief within a group of women who appeared to be deliberating on their recent prey. Over the past few days, the clan had assigned several individuals to spearhead the hunting efforts, knowing that winter was approaching and it was imperative to dry and preserve meat for the harsh months ahead, ensuring their fellow clansmen could stave off hunger and survive.

Until now, it had been these women who led the effort, and it seemed they intended to proceed as usual. However, the Tribe Chief appeared to have a different perspective, her excitement evident as she voiced her opinion.

Gary hesitated to disrupt this scene, but recognizing the Tribe Chief's authority, he felt compelled to report all the recent developments in the clan. He held great respect for her.

Thus, they had to discuss the Thunder Fire Clan Tribe Chief's arrival. "Tribe Chief," Gary called out softly.

Gu Chaoyan, absorbed in her thoughts about the dried meat, appeared to have forgotten yesterday's events. She regarded Gary with puzzlement, asking, "What is it?"

Gary found himself in a conflicted state of emotions, uncertain of how to feel about the situation.

Gu Chaoyan suddenly recollected the previous day. A few Thunder Fire Tribe members had approached her, seeking a discussion that she had promptly declined. Their social statuses were distinct, and since they wanted to negotiate, it was only fitting for the Tribe Chief to engage. The Five Elements Clan had only recently begun to assert itself, and she aimed to stand up for her clansmen, reminding them that they need not be subservient to others.

Today, their Tribe Chief had indeed arrived.

Last night, she had gone out of her way to consult Aina regarding the Thunder Fire Clan, gaining a better understanding of the situation. She discovered that the previous owner of her body had held great admiration for the Tribe Chief and had made a series of foolish decisions. It seemed that this Thunder Fire Clan Tribe Chief was likely attempting to deceive the Five Elements Clan once more.

In light of this, she felt compelled to meet him personally and put a stop to his schemes.

"Tribe Chief, what about these prey?" a clan member inquired.

“Wait for my return; I will handle it,” she insisted.

The clan members fell silent, awaiting the Tribe Chief’s return.

Gary couldn’t help but smile. It pleased him to see the Tribe Chief’s unwavering concern for the clan, alleviating his earlier gloom.

“Are they waiting outside?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

“Yes, I haven’t allowed them inside without your instructions,” Gary replied.

“Let them enter and convene at the meeting place,” Gu Chaoyan instructed as she departed.

Gary nodded and stepped outside to escort the Thunder Fire Tribe members in. Since the Tribe Chief had given her approval, he would carry out her orders, believing that she knew the boundaries of the situation.

Approaching the Thunder Fire Clan’s Patriarch, Gary extended an invitation, saying, “Patriarch of the Thunder Fire Tribe, please come in.”

Adams couldn’t hide his self-assured smile, and the Thunder Fire Clan members shared the sentiment. With the Tribe Chief taking charge, their treatment was entirely different. She had graciously allowed them inside, which made them feel as though they were visiting their own clan, boosting their self-importance.

Gary, despite his discomfort, endured the situation. He and a few clan members maintained a watchful presence, keeping their bows and arrows at the ready to prevent any potential schemes by the Thunder Fire Clan visitors.

He led his entourage into the bamboo house.

Adams couldn’t hide his surprise as he took in the sight of the bamboo house, clearly an unexpected development. He had no idea who had come up with this idea.

Upon entering, he noticed Xuelai within, and Gu Chaoyan's gaze also fell on him simultaneously.

Gu Chaoyan, curious about the girl who had captured the previous body owner's affection, scrutinized her closely.

The Tribe Chief, like the other clansmen, had a sun-kissed complexion, consistent with the people of this world. However...

He was notably tall and exuded a strong masculine presence.

And...

Chapter 2398: Mission 78

However, his facial features were notably more refined compared to the others. His eyes were strikingly large, and he had an angular chin.

He donned a skirt crafted from animal skin, covering his lower body. Additionally, he wore a simple garment made of animal skin draped over his body. This was a privilege exclusive to the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan, something ordinary clansmen did not possess. His physique left no room for concealment, characterized by well-defined muscles and long, graceful legs.

With a bit of grooming, he could undoubtedly be considered attractive. It was no wonder the previous Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan had been drawn to the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan. His appearance was undeniably appealing. This Tribe Chief was evidently more advanced in his aesthetics compared to the others in this world. While most still focused solely on survival, the previous body owner had valued his physical appearance.

Gu Chaoyan found herself at a loss for words, wrestling with her thoughts.

It became increasingly apparent that the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan had come to leverage her role as the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan.

Gu Chaoyan had nearly pieced together the situation.

As for Adams, upon entering, he noticed the female Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan scrutinizing him. He couldn't help but wonder why.

Xuelai had always shown a deep infatuation with him. Her fixation was not on the Thunder Fire Clan as a whole but rather on him.

In Adams' view, something was seriously amiss with her reasoning. A small, nomadic clan like theirs was at risk of extinction, and yet, she seemed oblivious to this fact.

Well, perhaps her peculiar mindset could lead to a better future for the Thunder Fire Clan.

Adams paid little heed to her scrutinizing gaze.

Spotting an available seat, he sat down with an air of authority and motioned for his clansmen to bring forward the items. "With winter approaching, I reckon your clan could use this dried meat," he stated as though bestowing charity.

In his view, the Five Elements Clan should be grateful for receiving such a precious resource as dried meat.

Gu Chaoyan regarded the dried meat intently, her expression serious. The Thunder Fire Clan members, however, were not particularly generous, having brought only two pieces of jerky, which amounted to a modest portion compared to the prey the Five Elements Clan had acquired that day.

Their offer seemed somewhat insincere when contrasted with the gift of dried meat.

Gu Chaoyan refrained from commenting, and no one from the Five Elements Clan stepped forward to accept the offering.

Gradually, the smiles on the faces of the Thunder Fire Clan members faded. At Adams' signal, they reluctantly placed the dried meat on the table.

No one from the Five Elements Clan appeared to be concerned about the meat, surprising Adams and the Thunder Fire Clan members. This was precious meat, something they rarely had access to. Unbeknownst to them, the Five Elements Clan still had a surplus of prey to handle, rendering this small quantity of meat insignificant in their eyes.

Gu Chaoyan finally broke the silence, saying, “Don’t mention the meat. We don’t require it at the moment. As winter approaches, the Thunder Fire Clan must stockpile provisions. Take it back to your clan. You mentioned having something to discuss; what is it?”

Adams felt a twinge of annoyance but decided against arguing about two pieces of meat, deeming it unimportant. “Indeed, there are matters we should discuss.”

“I think the bamboo house you built is not bad, and your clansmen’s weapons are also not bad.”

Chapter 2399: Mission 79

“As winter approaches, with this bamboo house providing shelter from the snow and cold, it would be highly beneficial for us to learn how to use weapons effectively for hunting,” Adams conveyed with an earnest expression. “I intend for you to arrange for some of your people to teach us the art of crafting and wielding such weapons. By doing so, I believe our clans can successfully endure the winter together.”

The Thunder Fire Clan possessed considerable strength in this region. Nonetheless, they were not immune to the harsh forces of nature. Winter’s arrival brought freezing temperatures, leading to the tragic deaths of many clan members. Adams was determined to prevent his clansmen from perishing due to freezing or starvation. Thus, they considered these two requests to be of utmost importance.

Adams was confident that Xuelai would support his appeal. She was willing to go to great lengths to assist him, and he anticipated her agreement.

Tension gripped the faces of the Five Elements Clan members, who fervently hoped their Tribe Chief would reject the proposal. Their clan was already fragile, and without this, they might lose the means to survive peacefully. There was a very real possibility they’d be forced out in the end.

While the Thunder Fire Clan's Chief currently appeared benevolent, it was only because he sought something from them. If he had no requests, he could be quite ruthless. This point had been made abundantly clear.

The clan members were perplexed, wondering about their Tribe Chief's thoughts. Anxiety coursed through them, fearing her immediate acquiescence.

In response to Adams' request, Gu Chaoyan calmly nodded.

Certainly, bamboo houses and weapons were essential for ensuring their clans' survival through the harsh winter, preventing deaths from freezing and starvation. But these were valuable possessions of the Five Elements Clan, and the Thunder Fire Clan couldn't expect to obtain them in exchange for a mere two pieces of meat, could they?

"Sure," Gu Chaoyan responded casually.

The members of the Five Elements Clan appeared increasingly despondent.

Adams couldn't hide his delight. "Xuelai, do you have any doubts?"

Feeling content, he added a touch of warmth to his tone, addressing her by name to make her feel appreciated.

Gu Chaoyan, however, remained straightforward. "Of course, I do."

Adams appeared perplexed. "What?"

"Considering you want the bamboo houses and weapons of our Five Elements Clan, what do you intend to exchange for them? These two pieces of meat? That... seems rather absurd, doesn't it?"

"Yesterday, Gary and his people went hunting, returning with numerous wild rabbits and even a wild boar. These two pieces of meat have little value to the Five Elements Clan. It's unreasonable for us to surrender our weapons for them," Gu Chaoyan stated, regarding Adams as though he were acting foolishly.

Gary nodded in agreement. The Tribe Chief was absolutely correct.

Even if they intended to provide assistance, they should expect a fair exchange. How could they accept such a perfunctory offer—two pieces of meat in exchange for such valuable resources? It was a fanciful notion.

Adams gazed at Gu Chaoyan in astonishment. “Xuelai, what’s gotten into you? Weren’t we discussing how to mutually benefit our two clans, striving for betterment?”

“Why are you suddenly making demands?” Adams expressed his disappointment, attempting to unnerve her with his disappointment.

Gu Chaoyan was puzzled. “Tribe Chief, are you suggesting that you want to gain something without offering anything in return? You aim to take the possessions of the Five Elements Clan without providing us anything?”

“Are you living in a dream?”

“Even if we have the welfare of our clansmen at heart...”

Gu Chaoyan was poised to continue, seeking a balanced solution.

Chapter 2400: Mission 80

“You must offer something that can benefit our Five Elements Clan,” Gu Chaoyan asserted.

The members of the Five Elements Clan couldn’t help but silently chuckle upon hearing their Tribe Chief’s resolute stance. It seemed the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan exhibited a similar pattern of behavior.

In the past, their Tribe Chief had treated him well and willingly provided supplies. However, instead of expressing gratitude or repaying the kindness, he grew increasingly avaricious. Within the Five Elements Clan, he seemed fixated on taking without offering anything in return.

Having grown accustomed to receiving, he now found himself taken aback when he couldn't have his way.

People like him deserved to be left to their own devices and given the cold shoulder. The best course of action would be for him to depart as soon as possible. The mere thought of this brought relief to their minds.

Did the Tribe Chief genuinely believe that she was a simpleton, using the Five Elements Clan as a means of soliciting help?

"Fine," Gu Chaoyan responded wearily, considering it a waste of her time to continue the conversation.

Upon hearing their Tribe Chief's words, the Five Elements Clan members couldn't help but inwardly rejoice at her decisiveness.

Adams, sensing the gravity of the situation, called out anxiously, "Wait!"

The bamboo house and weapons of the Five Elements Clan held immense importance for the Thunder Fire Clan. It was precisely because of this that he couldn't afford to miss this opportunity.

The Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan was evidently no fool, comprehending that her current position was fundamentally different from the past. She wielded real power now, and her confidence in asserting her stance was palpable.

Did she merely wish to attain her desires?

He would comply with her wishes.

Adams leaned back, his gaze focused on Gu Chaoyan. He spoke seriously, "I will do as you ask."

Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow in response.

“Weren’t you always interested in becoming the wife of our Thunder Fire Clan?” Adams continued. “I pledge to marry you, and once you become a member of the Thunder Fire Clan, you will bear the title of my wife. Your actions will carry the authority of a wife, and they will be appreciative of your contributions. I, Adams, will also ensure the well-being of your Five Elements Clan, guaranteeing that they will lack nothing.”

“From this moment onward, you may serve the Thunder Fire Clan peacefully.”

“My clansmen may not be amenable to this, but I, Adams, concur,” Adams declared with a solemn demeanor, as if reluctantly agreeing to the arrangement. He conveyed an air of discontent, as though the Five Elements Clan owed him something.

Gary and the others couldn’t contain their fury, their fists clenched, yearning to strike Adams. He displayed an unprecedented level of shamelessness, taking advantage of them yet speaking as though he were on the losing end of the deal.

To have the Tribe Chief serve as his wife and exert influence on behalf of the Thunder Fire Clan, while the people of the Five Elements Clan would be under the control of the Thunder Fire Clan? The more they heard, the more incensed they became. What did he take the Five Elements Clan for?

Gu Chaoyan hadn’t expected Adams to treat Xuelai as the Tribe Chief, so she turned to Gary, signaling him to take action.

At first, Gary was taken aback.

Gu Chaoyan nodded affirmatively.

With a clear understanding of her intentions, Gary promptly readied himself to take action.

Without a moment’s hesitation, he unleashed a powerful punch towards Adams’ face, catching him off guard. By the time Adams reacted, he found himself utterly overmatched by Gary’s unrelenting assault. Gary appeared to have lost control, delivering a relentless beating.

The other members of the Thunder Fire Tribe contemplated intervening, but the Five Elements Clan swiftly raised their bows and aimed arrows directly at them, dissuading them from taking further action.

“That’s enough,” Gu Chaoyan intervened, observing that the beating was nearly concluded.