

Divine 2401

Chapter 2401: Mission 81

“Even though the Thunder Fire Clan members have wronged us, they don’t deserve to die. That’s enough,” Gu Chaoyan remarked with a light tone.

The members of the Thunder Fire Clan gazed at her in astonishment.

Adams gingerly touched the wound on his face, bewildered.

“How dare he strike me?” Adams protested.

“Receiving a blow is already a lenient punishment,” Gu Chaoyan responded calmly. “I, Xuelai, am the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan. Did you not assert earlier that I, Xuelai, would serve as the wife of the Thunder Fire Clan’s Tribe Chief and contribute to your clan? Your words have offended me, a member of the Five Elements Clan.”

Silence ensued.

“Who do you think you are, Thunder Fire Clan? How dare you imply that I, as the Tribe Chief, should dedicate myself to your cause? I am the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan, and I will hold this position for the rest of my life. If any person is willing to dedicate themselves to the Five Elements Clan, it is acceptable, contingent upon the consent of our clansmen. However, if they are unwilling, we won’t impose such a commitment on them. Is there any reason for us to offer our contributions to others?”

More silence.

“So, being struck is already a merciful response.”

Silence continued to reign.

“Given your earlier comments, I, the Tribe Chief, am determined to ensure you remain within the confines of the Five Elements Clan forever,” Gu Chaoyan declared, her eyes flashing with a fierce intensity, as if she were a sword on the brink of delivering a fatal blow.

Adams was utterly confounded.

Why...

This was what she had once fervently pursued.

Wasn't she previously attempting to extort him with the same request?

‘Why is she refusing now?’

“What?”

Adams found himself momentarily flummoxed, uncertain about his next course of action.

Had Xuelai truly changed?

What had transpired to bring about this transformation?

Adams began to question the path of his life.

Gu Chaoyan articulated her stance with clarity. “If you wish to exchange for the bamboo house and weapons, you must offer something of equivalent value.”

Silence hung in the air.

“As you are unable to provide such an offering, let's go.”

Still, silence persisted.

“Given that you’ve already been disciplined for your earlier insult, I won’t bear any further grudge.”

Silence remained unbroken.

“Let’s depart.”

Having spoken these words, Gu Chaoyan was in no hurry to linger any longer and swiftly made her way out, leaving behind Adams and the members of the Thunder Fire Clan.

In truth, she could have simply declined to meet him.

Yet...

She was well aware that if Adams persisted, he would make frequent appearances. Her past actions had conditioned the Five Elements Clan members to panic upon seeing Adams. This sense of unease was ingrained in them.

She didn’t want her clansmen to live in constant fear.

Hence, she met with them, clearly conveying her stance. Her clansmen would naturally comprehend and cease panicking.

Her next goal was to strengthen the Five Elements Clan.

Exiting the room, Gu Chaoyan returned to the area where the prey was being processed.

She had previously stated that she would oversee the handling of the prey, so the clansmen had suspended their work and engaged in other tasks in the interim.

Upon her return, the clansmen reassembled and resumed discussions with their Tribe Chief on how to manage the prey.

The meat, air-dried as it was, had considerably deteriorated. Its taste was wretched, fishy, and unappetizing. While the clansmen were accustomed to such fare, Gu Chaoyan had different preferences. She couldn't tolerate such food and intended to devise a way to preserve and prepare it. Naturally, she would be the one to lead this effort.

Regarding the prior dispute between the Five Elements Clan members and her...

Chapter 2402: Mission 82

It was here.

Traditionally, they had always favored air-drying the meat for preservation, which was a common practice among the clans.

However, the Tribe Chief's mention of potential issues in the clan during winter had struck a nerve. What if something went wrong with the dried meat?

The most pressing concern for the clansmen was that the Tribe Chief suggested consuming a portion of the meat now. Given the Five Elements Clan's belated food storage, there was an apprehension about potential scarcity in the future.

The clansmen were arduously trying to convince Gu Chaoyan. They understood that she had their best interests at heart but couldn't bear the thought of wasting food.

Gu Chaoyan grappled with the challenge posed by their deeply ingrained beliefs. The clansmen's fears of hunger and coldness ran deep, leading them to be anxious about every aspect of their situation. Beyond their anxieties, they had little else on their minds. Their prevailing mindset favored a conservative approach for survival.

Nevertheless, Gu Chaoyan's insistence persisted. She reasoned, "Dried meat carries a high risk of spoilage and offers limited nutrition, primarily serving as a hunger suppressant. If we consume some of the meat now, it will replenish the nutrients for a few individuals. When we are in good

health, winter will be more manageable. We now possess weapons, which will facilitate hunting, and I can arrange traps.”

“Under my approach, I will guarantee that you won’t endure starvation in the winter.”

“Eat some fresh meat. There’s no need to dispute this with me. My mind is set, and I have to pursue this course of action. As for the smoked meat, if you’re concerned about unforeseen circumstances, we can have both—drying a portion and smoking a portion. This year, we’ll smoke a small quantity. When this year concludes, and you judge it suitable, you can make a decision for next year.”

“We must prepare and cook the meat during this period. It’s essential for everyone, and no one is exempt,” Gu Chaoyan asserted firmly.

“Once your bodies recover, you’ll experience fewer illnesses, leading to an improved quality of life.”

“We have a wild boar that’s been prepared—half smoked, half dried—and the remaining wild rabbits have been cooked for everyone to enjoy,” Gu Chaoyan declared resolutely.

Despite her convictions, there were still clansmen who sought to persuade her once more.

Aina chimed in from the side, “Consider this: when have we ever had a wild boar for the winter in the past? We’ve already amassed an abundant supply of prey earlier this year, surpassing anything from previous seasons. With our weaponry and the ample time at our disposal, we can surely secure more hunting opportunities.”

“The Tribe Chief has devised a plan, and we should follow it. Our current comfort is a direct result of the Tribe Chief’s leadership. What reason do we have to doubt her?”

Upon hearing Aina’s remarks, the clansmen found themselves unable to object.

They resumed their tasks peacefully.

Given that her clansmen were more experienced in dealing with the prey, Gu Chaoyan chose not to participate directly. However, she arranged for someone to learn from her about making bacon. Subsequently, a portion of the meat was used for smoking.

The air-dried meat, although there were many subpar pieces, was not particularly palatable overall. Nevertheless, the bacon stood out for its exceptional taste.

The aroma of the bacon intensified with each passing moment.

The enticing scent drew everyone's attention.

"Tribe Chief, observe those folks. They were initially hesitant about wanting smoked meat, but now they're all lured by the aroma," Aina remarked with a playful grin.

The clansmen had harbored doubts about the Tribe Chief's intentions, which had fueled their initial reluctance.

"Tribe Chief, I apologize for my earlier opposition to the idea of smoked meat. In the winter..."

Chapter 2403: Mission 83

"I'm the one craving smoked meat," Aina declared with anticipation.

Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but chuckle.

Aina, a lively and cheerful girl, always seemed to be in high spirits, which was quite delightful. Gu Chaoyan had great trust in her.

"Alright, Aina's got a hankering for smoked meat. Join me this winter, and I'll whip up something scrumptious for you," Gu Chaoyan promised with a warm smile.

"Tribe Chief!" Aina exclaimed with excitement, feeling genuinely thrilled. It seemed like the Tribe Chief was finally prioritizing their tribe over the Thunder Fire Clan, and their winter preparations were well underway. Aina was hopeful that the Five Elements Clan would continue to prosper, allowing them to lead a better life. Just the thought of it brought her immense joy.

Meanwhile, the person responsible for cooking the meat had already started, and the tantalizing aroma wafted through the air. No matter what the clansmen were occupied with, they couldn't resist the mouthwatering scent of the meat.

Meat was being prepared!

And they would savor it when they took a break.

It had been a while since they last enjoyed such a treat, especially when the Patriarch was in charge. Everyone was brimming with excitement. Furthermore, today the Tribe Chief had even teased the Thunder Fire Clan members, adding to the jubilant atmosphere.

It was akin to a festivity.

Meanwhile, Adams, along with a handful of individuals from the Thunder Fire Clan who had been previously expelled, returned with deeply disdainful expressions.

Surprisingly, Adams, who also served as the Thunder Fire Clan's Tribe Chief, personally intervened. However, to their astonishment, the Five Elements Clan remained unyielding and refused to share their bamboo houses and weaponry with the Thunder Fire Clan.

Adams was left pondering his next move. It was an unprecedented situation for the Thunder Fire Clan, who had never endured condescension and mistreatment from the Five Elements Clan. How could they vent their frustration?

They contrasted the Five Elements Clan's Tribe Chief's past behavior and attitude with their current one.

"Tribe Chief, if I may speak plainly, I believe we should gather our clansmen, reclaim what is rightfully ours, and expel these individuals from the Five Elements Clan. These possessions naturally belong to us. There's no need to suppress our anger like this. You're even willing to endure hardship and marry that woman from the Five Elements Clan. She's shameless and even claimed that we disrespected her."

Adams, however, remained resolute. "No."

As the Tribe Chief, he bore the responsibility of guiding his clansmen towards a better future, which precluded taking unnecessary risks driven by anger.

“What if we can’t overpower the Five Elements Clan? Have you considered the consequences our Thunder Fire Clan would face? We’ve crossed paths with the Five Elements Clan in the past, and we know the life our clansmen would lead if we were to take such a path.”

Adams’s responsibilities dictated a more measured approach.

“Currently, the Five Elements Clan possesses weapons and bamboo houses to protect their elderly and children. While we may outnumber them and have more resources, did you notice that their weaponry can strike us from a distance? Our weapons require us to approach them for an effective hit. Forcibly taking their possessions would only result in greater losses. Even if we were to somehow vanquish the Five Elements Clan, can’t you envision the inevitable repercussions?”

“Our Thunder Fire Clan has undertaken risks before. What were the outcomes of those actions?”

“Tribe Chief, what do you propose we do?”

Chapter 2404: Mission 84

Adams glanced at his companions, who had already covered some ground, and were still a fair distance from the Five Elements Clan.

“I won’t return today. I’ll spend the night here and discuss matters with the Five Elements Clan tomorrow,” Adams declared. He had contemplated this during their journey and had made the necessary arrangements.

Surveying their surroundings, he determined it was a suitable place for temporary rest. There were no immediate threats from wild beasts, and they should be able to forage for wild fruits to satisfy their hunger. The meat they had brought was still in their possession, which could serve as a backup if needed.

Returning home and then coming back the next day seemed both exhausting and unproductive.

“But regardless, the Five Elements Clan seems unwilling to cooperate. How can we negotiate when that woman desires something other than meat?” A member of the Thunder Fire Clan voiced their frustration.

Various suggestions had been proposed, yet nothing seemed satisfactory. The sense of humiliation they were experiencing was unprecedented.

Adams’ expression grew stern as he stated, “Didn’t that woman assert that being the wife of the Thunder Fire Clan’s Tribe Chief was an affront to her? She’s the Tribe Chief of her own clan, and she’ll remain in that role. In the future, even if she marries someone, she’ll have to continue leading the Five Elements Clan.”

“In that case, I’ll consent.”

“I joined the Five Elements Clan to look after the Five Elements Clan, and, at the same time, the Thunder Fire Clan has integrated with the Five Elements Clan.”

“At this stage, it’s highly unlikely she won’t agree, right?” Adams inquired.

“Tribe Chief! Are we really going to do this? We’re letting that woman off too easily!” The Thunder Fire Clan members expressed their reluctance.

The integration of the Thunder Fire Clan and the Tribe Chief’s affiliation with the Five Elements Clan seemed like an act of yielding too much ground. Concerns about the future of the Thunder Fire Clan arose—there appeared to be no discernible benefits, only potential losses.

Adams reassured them, “What’s there to worry about? We’re just beginning this journey. We have plenty of time ahead to gradually achieve our goals.”

While the Thunder Fire Clan members still harbored some discontent, they ultimately relented. Even if they didn’t endure the consequences, the Tribe Chief would.

“Remember, she’s still a woman. She used to be quite infatuated with me. Now, perhaps she’s being influenced by someone else. However, if I join the Five Elements Clan and remain by her side day

and night, I can make her listen to me and willingly adapt. So, what's the cause for concern?" Adams spoke with confidence.

His situation differed from Xuelai's. Xuelai was the Patriarch's only daughter and thus assumed the role of Tribe Chief by birthright. However, the Thunder Fire Clan followed different customs. Adams' father was one of the Patriarch's brothers, and to secure his position as Tribe Chief, he needed to employ cunning strategies. Reclaiming what was rightfully his was only a matter of time, a mere formality.

Since the clansmen couldn't dissuade him, they ceased their attempts. The Tribe Chief had a clear plan, and when he officially joined the Five Elements Clan, the rest of the Thunder Fire Clan members would naturally follow suit. This journey would bring them into close contact with the weapons of the Five Elements Clan.

As time went on, they gradually acquired their own weaponry. The Thunder Fire Clan's numbers were significant, and in this scenario, even if that woman didn't heed the Tribe Chief's guidance, they possessed the capability to overpower the Five Elements Clan and stage a resurgence.

With this realization, they decided to bide their time for the moment.

Chapter 2405: Mission 85

With their plans in place, the Thunder Fire Clan members felt a renewed sense of confidence.

As darkness settled in, they enjoyed some wild fruits before drifting into slumber. The welfare of their clan always remained at the forefront of their minds, even though they refrained from indulging in the winter delicacies typically reserved for their clan.

The following morning, they awoke, gathered more wild fruits to eat, and set off for the Five Elements Clan with an air of determination.

The Five Elements Clan had fewer tasks to manage at this point. Clansmen were engaged in chores, patrolling, and hunting, and even the smelting furnace was in operation.

Gu Chaoyan pondered how to best prepare for the upcoming winter in the Five Elements Clan. Nowadays, the clansmen relied on animal fur and hide to shield themselves from the cold. These resources were dwindling, and there would likely be a shortage during the winter months.

She contemplated whether there might be a material akin to cotton in this world. It was possible, given the abundance of resources in this land. They only needed to search for it.

Just as her thoughts wandered in this direction, an unexpected visitor arrived with haste.

Gary approached Gu Chaoyan, his expression puzzled. "Tribe Chief, the Thunder Fire Clan has returned once again."

"They mentioned they had another matter to discuss," Gary explained.

Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow. "We've already addressed matters with them previously. Why have they returned?"

Gary couldn't comprehend their motives either.

Gu Chaoyan, however, maintained a composed demeanor. "Let them come. As long as it's not a grave issue, we can engage in dialogue. The Thunder Fire Clan's territory isn't far from us, and it's in our best interest to foster peaceful relations. We may be armed, but the Thunder Fire Clan boasts numerous members, and I'd prefer to avoid unnecessary harm to my people. If we can find a solution through conversation, that would be ideal."

Gary nodded in agreement. The Tribe Chief's perspective was sensible.

As long as the Thunder Fire Clan didn't arrive with hostile intentions and the prospect of violence, it was a favorable outcome. They were acutely aware of the dire consequences that could stem from conflict between their two clans, especially with winter approaching.

"I'll go and invite them," Gary offered.

"Proceed."

Soon, Gary returned with the group from the Thunder Fire Clan. Despite Adams having a plan, he appeared somewhat uneasy when broaching the subject.

“Is there something else you wish to discuss? Why have you come so early in the morning?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

Adams hesitated before responding, “I’ve thought about it since yesterday, and I’ve decided to agree.”

“Agree to what?” Gu Chaoyan sought clarification, perplexed by his statement.

“You once mentioned that accepting the role of being the wife of the Thunder Fire Clan was an affront to you. As the Tribe Chief, your position will always remain as such. In light of that, I’m ready to agree. I’ll become a member of your Five Elements Clan, and you will continue to hold the position of Tribe Chief. While I may not officially call you my wife, I see myself as an equal, fulfilling the role of Tribe Chief alongside you. You will lead, and I will wholeheartedly support your leadership.”

Adams was fully aware that he wouldn’t be at a disadvantage in this arrangement, yet it felt a bit strange for him to put it into words. As a man and the leader of his own clan, willingly submitting in this manner, particularly to a woman who had once been quite flattering, left him with a sense of unease.

Chapter 2406: Mission 86

With the matter put forward, Adams intended to leave it at that and return to his clan for preparations, unwilling to waste more time on the issue.

However, Gu Chaoyan’s response was swift and uncompromising. “I don’t agree.”

Adams had already been prepared to discuss the finer details of the arrangement, such as building additional bamboo houses within the Five Elements Clan to accommodate Thunder Fire Clan members and ensuring equitable treatment.

He had anticipated moving forward with the plan, making it all the more surprising that Gu Chaoyan had rejected the proposal.

Adams couldn't hide his disappointment and frustration. He had thought he had done enough to win her over and compel her to agree.

"I've willingly agreed to join your Five Elements Clan, and you don't agree?" Adams was taken aback and found the situation rather absurd.

Gu Chaoyan nodded resolutely. "Haven't I already made my stance clear yesterday? I have no interest in you, the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan. While I have outlined the duties and responsibilities of my role as Tribe Chief, I still have to consider my future partner. But why should that person be you, Adams? Must I agree simply because you've consented?"

"I have plenty of choices, and I intend to make the choice I truly desire."

"Tribe Chief, you should understand your place."

"The Five Elements Clan has no grievances with you, so let's strive to live here harmoniously." Gu Chaoyan's declaration marked the end of the discussion.

"We have no intention of provoking you, but don't harbor any misconceptions," Gu Chaoyan warned fiercely.

Her frustration with Adams had been growing steadily. Whether it was the previous day or today, she had detected a series of schemes within him. As the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan, he might be an adept leader, but to the Five Elements Clan, his scheming nature posed a significant concern.

His propensity for plotting was one matter, but what was truly disconcerting was his willingness to subdue his position as Tribe Chief for the sake of his clan. Such a prospect was unnerving, as it could potentially lead to a confrontation between the Five Elements Clan and the Thunder Fire Clan.

Gu Chaoyan had no desire for such hostilities this year. She was focused on ensuring the Five Elements Clan's welfare.

Although the Five Elements Clan appeared to have everything it needed at the moment, the scarcity of resources to withstand the winter cold remained a significant challenge.

"Tribe Chief, consider this your final warning. I hope to avoid any further occurrences like this," Gu Chaoyan cautioned. "If you have nothing else to discuss, you can return now."

Adams remained speechless.

"The Five Elements Clan is occupied with many tasks, and I don't wish to waste our time on such trivial matters," Gu Chaoyan concluded.

The Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan was taken aback by her sternness.

'What happened to her?' It felt as if she had undergone a transformation. Her words didn't sound insincere.

Was it possible she truly didn't want to be with him?

Logically, it seemed implausible.

Adams had witnessed Gu Chaoyan's actions in the past, making it impossible for him to be oblivious to her true intentions.

Now...

Was she genuinely a different person?

"Tribe Chief, it's best if you depart now," Gary suggested.

The members of the Thunder Fire Clan left in a state of bewilderment.

As they exited the bamboo house, the tantalizing scent of meat wafted in the air.

Winter hadn't even arrived yet, and the aroma of meat filled the surroundings.

"Are you not concerned about starving during the winter? This is utterly preposterous."

Chapter 2407: Mission 87

As Adams stepped out, he too caught the alluring scent of meat in the air. His immediate reaction as the Tribe Chief of his clan was to reprimand.

Gary, however, remained unperturbed upon hearing Adams' comment. He harbored no animosity toward Adams and recognized that, as long as Adams didn't conspire against their Tribe Chief, there was no issue.

In this world, there existed a multitude of clans and various types of Tribe Chiefs. Most were primarily self-interested, with the welfare of their clansmen often taking a back seat. Adams, on the other hand, exhibited behavior that demonstrated his consideration for his clan, even if it involved scheming against their Tribe Chief or other actions.

His critique about the meat was simply an extension of his nature. He was equally strict with himself, all in the pursuit of securing the greatest benefits for his clansmen.

For example, the two pieces of meat they had brought the previous day remained untouched. The mere fact that they had ventured to the Five Elements Clan indicated that they hadn't consumed the meat they had brought.

Gary harbored no ill feelings toward Adams for his seemingly unnecessary concern. He assured him, "Our Tribe Chief will make suitable arrangements. You needn't worry."

Gary's tone was sincere, devoid of any offense or malice, as if he were conveying a simple truth.

Adams observed Gary, took note of the composure exhibited by the Five Elements clansmen, and the weapons they carried. Initially, he had felt that their actions were thoughtless regarding their future. However, he recalled Xuelai's statement regarding their clan's frequent encounters with wild beasts, suggesting that they likely didn't lack for meat.

In hindsight, it appeared that his apprehensions had been unwarranted

It was the Thunder Fire Clan that faced challenges in acquiring meat.

Adams refrained from further comments and departed with a small contingent of Thunder Fire Clan members. The journey back was expected to take at least four hours, and they had already exhausted their dry rations the previous day, with the intention of returning after their discussion.

Adams planned to forage for wild fruits with his group to curb their hunger before reaching their destination.

Observing their departure, Gary directed them toward some food. "You can have a meal here before you leave."

"The clan has prepared some wild vegetable soup for everyone to share."

Gary continued, "The clan cooked meat today. Given that everyone indulged in meat yesterday, they decided to save today's portion and serve it only to the elders and children in the clan. As young men, there won't be any for you. So, please don't misconstrue our hospitality."

Adams, however, retained his pride and declined to partake in a meal with the Five Elements Clan. His self-esteem had already taken a blow today, having expressed his willingness to join the clan and subsequently being rejected. It would be incongruous for him to stay and dine, as he couldn't fathom incurring further indebtedness.

After explaining his decision, Adams and his men swiftly departed, indicating their intention to forage for wild fruits en route to sustain themselves.

As they left, Adams discussed their next steps. "All our plans have fallen through."

“We’ll need to find an alternative approach.”

“The Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan seems to have transformed into an entirely different person. She’s unrecognizable compared to her previous self.”

Chapter 2408: Mission 88

“I can’t change the situation now. We have no one to blame but ourselves for our past arrogance. They now view us with the same disdain that we once held for them. Despite the Five Elements Clan’s attractive offerings, they have already treated us as outsiders. We have no recourse in this matter.” Adams acknowledged the harsh reality, his tone tinged with frustration.

He couldn’t help but wonder how their lives might have turned out differently if he hadn’t underestimated the Five Elements Clan and had merely exploited their resources. Regret gnawed at him, realizing that things could have unfolded differently.

“Tribe Chief,” the Thunder Fire Clan members appeared eager to voice their thoughts, but Adams’ demeanor made them reconsider, and they held their tongues.

Meanwhile, in the Five Elements Clan, Gary, after escorting Adams out, retraced his steps.

Upon arriving at Aina’s location, he fetched some meat soup and wild vegetable paste.

Deep in thought, the Tribe Chief, Gu Chaoyan, was engrossed in her contemplations.

“Tribe Chief, please have some,” Gary urged with an affable smile.

“Place it here,” Gu Chaoyan replied nonchalantly. She didn’t require sustenance anywhere else, but her appetite diminished significantly in this environment.

After setting the food in place, Gary lingered and surveyed the surroundings. It took quite some time before Gu Chaoyan noticed something was amiss.

“What’s on your mind?” she inquired.

In response, Gary approached her with enthusiasm, his curiosity palpable. “Tribe Chief, the Thunder Fire Clan’s Tribe Chief has already displayed such humility, yet you remain reluctant. Is it possible that you truly dislike him?”

Gu Chaoyan scrutinized Gary, recognizing the source of his curiosity.

The disparity was indeed substantial.

From Adams’ words, it was evident just how fond Xuelai had once been of him.

“I no longer like him,” Gu Chaoyan stated earnestly. “I used to like him, and I did try. I invested a lot of effort, but he was like an immovable boulder, and I couldn’t sway him. Since I couldn’t sway him, it’s only reasonable that he’s grown weary and no longer holds any affection for me. Even though he’s reversed his stance now...”

“I am well aware that he still doesn’t like me. What he desires are solely the bamboo houses and weapons of the Five Elements Clan.”

“Whether it was his prior propositions or those that followed, they all revolved around schemes against our Five Elements Clan. Even if he becomes part of the Five Elements Clan and allows me to preside over both clans, how long can I maintain my position? The Thunder Fire Clan has already surpassed us in strength. There will come a day when we have no place left.”

“I understood that I was steering the Five Elements Clan onto a challenging path. Why would I choose to do that?”

“Everyone is content,” Gu Chaoyan declared.

Her words contained both truth and falsehood.

They were truthful because they conveyed her authentic sentiments. They were deceptive because there was no possibility of her desiring Adams.

Gary maintained his foolish grin, viewing his Tribe Chief favorably.

He believed this Tribe Chief to be truly exceptional.

“Oh, and Gary,” Gu Chaoyan motioned for him to sit down, then positioned the meat and wild vegetable paste in front of him. “I don’t have an appetite for meat this morning. You eat it. I have something to discuss with you.”

Gary hesitated. “Tribe Chief, please, eat.”

“If you’re not going to eat, I won’t discuss it with you. Giles would do as well,” Gu Chaoyan stated, rising from her seat.

“Tribe Chief, I’ll eat!” Gary swiftly began eating.

Chapter 2409: Mission 89

Gu Chaoyan nodded with a sense of gravity, untroubled by Gary’s consumption of the meat. The meat was rather pungent and lacked salt, making it challenging to eat. Wild vegetables seemed like a better option, and if it went to waste, it would be better for Gary to finish it.

After observing Gary’s completion of the meal, Gu Chaoyan initiated the discussion. “At present, we have successfully arranged winter shelters for our Five Elements Clan, and we possess weapons for our protection. There is little chance of encountering any trouble, unless we were to encounter an exceptionally formidable clan. However, such a clan is unlikely to venture here.”

“We must now turn our attention to the challenge of combating the cold,” she continued.

“At present, we only have animal skins, and a few small pieces are mainly allocated to the elderly and children. There are also a few for the very frail women. However, these resources are insufficient to withstand the impending snowstorms.”

“Winter is rapidly approaching.”

“We need a solution to this dilemma.”

“What I’m thinking now is that we can’t continue to sit here and wait for death.”

“Select five suitable individuals, and we will venture to a more distant location to seek something that may suit our needs,” Gu Chaoyan declared.

Gary seemed puzzled. What exactly were they searching for? In the past, during the snowy season, they would stock up on food supplies, furs, and charcoal fires to survive. These resources were already considered a luxury for the clan. What else could they possibly be seeking?

“Tribe Chief?” Gary inquired.

“Do you trust me?” Gu Chaoyan questioned.

“I’ll arrange the individuals right away,” Gary promptly replied.

He had unwavering trust in the Tribe Chief. Their current quality of life and the innovations they had implemented, such as the bow and arrow, were all thanks to her. Her judgment had consistently proven reliable.

Gu Chaoyan had already made up her mind. Regardless of whether she found cotton or not, they had to locate as much edible food as possible during their journey or discover alternative means to combat the cold. In essence, they had to make an attempt.

Once Gary had departed, Gu Chaoyan began formulating her plans for the future. Given that they were limited to traveling on foot, they could only cover a limited distance in a day, and they wouldn’t be able to bring back significant quantities if they found anything. She had a contingency plan in mind to address these challenges.

When the time came, they would construct a simple wheelbarrow to transport their findings back.

First, they needed to prepare for the three-day expedition, ensuring they had enough provisions to last.

This initial undertaking was relatively straightforward, as Gu Chaoyan was primarily interested in exploring the world in this new environment.

Gary swiftly coordinated the arrangements, selecting a mix of young and older individuals. Gu Chaoyan didn't require further details; she trusted Gary to handle it appropriately.

"We're planning a three-day journey this time. We'll finalize the clan's preparations today and assemble the necessary dry rations for our trip," Gary relayed the information.

Chapter 2410: Mission 90

"Absolutely, Tribe Chief!"

Doubt was a stranger to them.

Their enthusiasm knew no bounds.

No matter what recent actions the Tribe Chief had taken, it was all for the betterment of the clan. Moreover, the Tribe Chief was constantly innovating. If they could lend a hand, it would bring them immense joy.

How could they not be thrilled?

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As the next day broke, they gathered and embarked on their journey.

The entire clan observed their departure in anticipation.

With the exception of Gu Chaoyan, everyone exuded a strong sense of determination.

Aina yearned to join, but Gu Chaoyan promised to take her along next time, so she stayed behind within the clan.

It was Gu Chaoyan who charted their course.

She aimed for a place dense with trees, increasing their chances of discovery. After all, barren landscapes offered little in the way of findings.

For the Five Elements Clan, surviving on wild vegetables alone was insufficient. To satisfy their hunger, farming was essential.

She hoped to stumble upon something worth planting along the way.

After half a day's walk, exhaustion and hunger set in, prompting Gu Chaoyan to order a break.

Despite their unwavering spirit, the lack of any discoveries left these valiant individuals feeling disheartened.

Gu Chaoyan remained remarkably composed.

This endeavor was inherently challenging.

It demanded patience and resilience.

But the potential rewards were significant.

After a brief rest, Gu Chaoyan led the group onwards.

From noon until sunset, their efforts yielded no results. They found nothing of value during their journey.

As daylight persisted, they located a suitable resting spot, and a few clan members couldn't help but feel a sense of unease.

Their initial excitement had stemmed from the expectation of a fruitful outing, only to discover they had ventured in vain. Anxiety naturally crept in.

Previously, whether it was constructing bamboo houses or crafting bows and arrows, progress had been swift.

The current difficulty in bringing them out left them disheartened.

Gu Chaoyan took a moment to survey the surroundings before the sky darkened completely, planning their route for the next day.

In the realm of the Five Elements Clan, they resided in a relatively desolate region.

Even if she opted for a path through densely wooded areas, the difference was minimal.

They were constrained by the path they had chosen.

Regrettably, they had no map to guide them; such a tool would have simplified matters.

After a while, Gu Chaoyan returned, noting the lingering dejection among the few clan members.

Gary appeared somewhat anxious, evidently eager to say something but unsure how to console them.

Gu Chaoyan reflected for a moment and offered words of reassurance, saying, "Don't lose heart. My initial plan for this expedition didn't include guaranteed success. I intended to explore and learn more."

"If everything were readily accessible, why would life be such a struggle for every clan?"

“The bamboo houses and weaponry you behold aren’t the result of a single night’s effort. I’ve contemplated and attempted them tirelessly, facing countless failures. This is what’s shaped me today.”

“It’s the truly challenging endeavors that yield the most valuable rewards.”

“The Thunder Fire Clan, in the past, also amassed its treasures through hard-fought battles.”