

Divine 2431

Chapter 2431: Mission 111

She nodded. "In that case, alright."

Gary exchanged a surprised glance with his Tribe Chief.

Adams, too, couldn't hide his astonishment.

He had come to express goodwill merely to make an appearance in front of the sorcerers. He hadn't expected Xuelai to acquiesce to his previous attitude. If she hadn't agreed, he had a backup plan: follow behind but not too closely.

But...

She actually agreed.

What?

Adams found himself momentarily unsure of what to do.

"We're all headed to the Huang Family. Our families are close, so let's stick together. Gary, check if the Thunder Fire Clan needs assistance. If we need help, we can turn to them. Since we're going to be friends, let's drop the formalities," Gu Chaoyan announced loudly.

Gary's expression stiffened.

The Tribe Chief...

Did she have something in mind for Adams?

Now that Gu Chaoyan had made her position clear, Adams was determined to do the same.

“I’ll organize my clansmen right away. Let’s all lend a hand!” Adams declared sincerely.

As Adams left, Gu Chaoyan gave a subtle wink to Gary.

“We’ve got plenty of supplies; we can handle the quilts and animal skins ourselves. Let’s ask the Thunder Fire Clan for assistance with the rest. They have abundant resources and can help us with those. At most, we can contribute by preparing food for the Thunder Fire Clan as well,” Gu Chaoyan explained, concerned that Gary might be contemplating something else and might not grasp her subtle hints.

Gary grasped Gu Chaoyan’s intentions almost instantly.

It became clear that the Tribe Chief had agreed for the sake of unity, not because she shared Adams’ sentiments. Gary felt a twinge of guilt for the misunderstanding.

“What are you waiting for? Our tribesmen are disciplined. Don’t touch our crucial supplies, or we’ll be short on necessities!” Gu Chaoyan bellowed.

Gary couldn’t afford any delay. He rushed out, swiftly coordinating the cooperation between the two races.

Despite the promise to support each other, the Five Elements Clan, with its abundance of resources, didn’t have spare hands to assist the Thunder Fire Clan. At most, they would share some resources with them.

Soon, the Thunder Fire Clan found themselves burdened with numerous items from the Five Elements Clan.

Fear of the sorcerer’s presence kept any potential dissent in check; they dared not oppose the arrangement.

The Five Elements Clan continued their journey with renewed cheerfulness.

Gu Chaoyan, who had initially been displeased, now felt a sense of satisfaction.

Had it been any other tribe, she might have restrained herself, but against the Thunder Fire Clan, she held nothing back. They had taken advantage of the Five Elements Clan in the past, and she was determined to reclaim what was rightfully theirs.

The sorcerer, well aware of the unfolding dynamics, chose to feign ignorance.

As they walked alongside each other, he couldn't help but remark, "You..."

Gu Chaoyan nonchalantly shrugged, choosing to ignore him.

The sorcerer wisely refrained from intervening.

Among the Five Elements Clan, joy was palpable, while the expressions of the Thunder Fire Clan members turned increasingly sour.

"Tribe Chief, have we fallen victim to a scheme?" inquired a member of the Thunder Fire Clan.

"Yes," Adams confirmed unequivocally, "Even if that's the case, you must bear with it and handle these items. The presence of the sorcerers in the Five Elements Clan leaves us with no choice. Either they won't side with you, or you'll have to accept this burden. Clear?"

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The members of the Thunder Fire Clan nodded in reluctant agreement.

Though they were willing to bear the burden, a sense of discomfort lingered. The tables had turned from the times when they used to dominate the Five Elements Clan. Now, being on the receiving end of mistreatment felt unfamiliar and unsettling.

Adams led his clansmen, trailing behind the Five Elements Clan, contemplating the significant change in Xuelai.

He couldn't help but acknowledge that she had undergone a remarkable transformation. In the past, he had held a disdainful view of her, whether as the Tribe Chief or simply as a member of the Thunder Fire Clan. He perceived her as foolish, lacking in practical skills, and prone to making unintelligent decisions.

Yet, his perspective had shifted.

Observing her leadership as Tribe Chief, he now found her impressively astute. Adams couldn't help but admit that Xuelai surpassed him in intelligence.

The current Xuelai, in his eyes, was genuinely deserving of respect.

It was a departure from his previous stance, where he had contemplated marrying into her family solely for the sake of the Five Elements Clan. Now, he felt a genuine desire to marry her.

However, the gap between them seemed insurmountable.

"Tribe Chief, we'll handle these items. You should go and mingle in front of the Five Elements Clan. Even if you can't catch the sorcerers' attention, try to draw the eyes of the Five Elements Clan," Percy suggested.

The Five Elements Clan was evidently thriving under the present circumstances.

Observing the quilts in their hands, rumored to be exceptionally warm, Adams couldn't resist reaching out to touch one. Indeed, it felt cozy and, with its lid, promised comfort even on the coldest days.

However, it was a pity.

The Five Elements Clan guarded these items zealously, not allowing the Thunder Fire Clan even a touch. It was apparent that the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan had lost interest in their Tribe Chief. He had become a stranger, unwilling to offer any benefits.

Consequently, the Tribe Chief realized the need to establish a positive relationship with him. Perhaps, in doing so, they could secure advantages in the future.

Adams reluctantly suppressed his pride, nodding in acknowledgment. He took a step forward towards the Five Elements Clan.

Although the Five Elements Clan seemed inclined to stop him, they hesitated, remembering the agreement they had reached, and chose to relent.

Adams maneuvered his way to the front of Gu Chaoyan.

Despite the awkwardness, he managed to muster a smile.

“The Huang Clan isn’t far. Let our two clans coexist peacefully during this time,” Adams suggested, cringing at himself for uttering what felt like empty words.

“Alright,” Gu Chaoyan agreed, appreciating the idea of peace.

“That blanket of yours doesn’t seem to be crafted from wild beast fur. It appears to be made of something different. Would you be willing to share some insights with us?” Adams inquired, prompting a skeptical glance from Gu Chaoyan.

Quickly, Adams reassured her, “We’ll do our best to provide whatever you need.”

“This winter, we have many elders in our Thunder Fire Clan. That’s why we’re raising this request. We don’t harbor any other ill intentions.”

“Sure, if you come across anything suitable for blankets on the journey, I’ll inform you. Aina can also teach you how to make blankets. I don’t have any additional conditions, but rest assured, the

Thunder Fire Clan has no intentions of causing harm to the Five Elements Clan,” Gu Chaoyan asserted candidly.

Adams, perplexed once more, questioned, “Why are you willing? Last time...”

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“Last time, you treated us like this...” Adams struggled to find the right words.

“Last time, it was the Thunder Fire Clan that disrespected me for being a member of the Five Elements Clan. You were clearly scheming against me, so why should I be willing?” Gu Chaoyan responded straightforwardly. “Moreover, what you sought last time was a weapon, not a blanket. I won’t provide the weapons of the Five Elements Clan. We are a small clan, and we don’t fare well in conflicts with others.”

“The elders of the Thunder Fire Clan are still human. I don’t want to see them perish.”

Adams appeared to grasp the situation, yet uncertainty lingered. He nodded.

Xuelai had indeed undergone a significant transformation.

She now stood by her own principles, a change Adams recognized as positive.

Although he didn’t dare to push for more concessions, he felt content that she agreed to teach them how to make blankets.

Adams chose not to press further and remained silent as the journey continued.

When it was time to cook, both clans halted.

Gu Chaoyan had previously stated that she would take care of the Thunder Fire Clan's food needs, and the Five Elements Clan treated everyone equally. Meat slices were distributed, but in limited quantities.

Gu Chaoyan approached Gary, addressing him, "Gary, notice how many elders are shivering. Release some blankets and let them huddle together at night. It's not right to witness someone freezing to death while traveling together."

Gu Chaoyan was willing to extend some assistance to the Thunder Fire Clan in this matter, but her support had its limits.

After all...

Gary agreed.

Allowing a few blankets wouldn't inconvenience them much and would help maintain a semblance of unity.

Gary took action.

Suddenly, the members of the Thunder Fire Clan found themselves with meat soup and a few blankets.

Their initial grievances dissipated.

Following the Five Elements Clan proved beneficial. A few words from their Tribe Chief, and benefits followed. If she coaxed them a bit more, they could likely secure additional advantages.

The Thunder Fire Clan members were in no hurry.

Observing all of this, Percy couldn't help but let out an embarrassed smile.

Allowing the Tribe Chief to handle it had been the right decision.

Percy watched as the Thunder Fire Clan members enjoyed their meat soup, and then he glanced at the Five Elements Tribe Patriarch. Without awaiting instructions, he approached the Tribe Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan.

With the Three Elements Clan's contribution of three blankets, the elders of the Thunder Fire Clan who had been uncomfortable now had the means to cover themselves in the cold nights. However, the supply was still a bit tight.

Percy carefully assessed the situation within the Five Elements Clan.

The abundance of blankets among them was evident. Almost everyone had one wrapped around them. Moreover, they shared beds, with two or three people to a bed. In some cases, even two men or three women could manage. With this surplus, dozens of additional blankets were available. Percy saw an opportunity to distribute these to the Thunder Fire Clan. Everyone could take turns covering or bundling up, ensuring the comfort of a few strong young men.

Given that the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan had shown some flexibility, Percy felt confident that they could have a constructive discussion.

He gathered his courage and approached.

At that moment, Gu Chaoyan was consuming wild vegetables and abstaining from the broth.

"You're being a bit hard on yourself," Percy remarked with a smile.

Gu Chaoyan shot him a glance.

She was aware of his Thunder Fire Clan affiliation. Besides Adams, he appeared to be one of the more capable individuals in their clan.

As for how she could discern that...

It was evident from the animal skin he wore.

In this yet-to-be-civilized world where clans operated like close-knit families, unity prevailed. However, there were still subtle class distinctions within the clan, although few and not markedly significant.

For instance, the Tribe Chief and a few clan leaders enjoyed better resources than others. While most men had only the lower half of their bodies wrapped in animal skin, some could afford an additional animal skin vest.

The man before Gu Chaoyan was among the few in the Thunder Fire Clan who could don a hide vest—other than Adams, it was a privilege few could claim.

This man's eyes were clouded, not as clear as Adams', and a malicious intent seemed to overflow from his expression.

Gu Chaoyan responded coldly, showing little respect to the Thunder Fire Clan member. "It's not that harsh. The Five Elements Clan has abundant resources, so we can choose whatever we want to eat. It's not like we're unable to eat it."

Upon hearing this, the Second Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan smiled.

He didn't take offense; he understood that the Five Elements Clan had grown stronger, and the presence of a sorcerer heightened their influence. Gu Chaoyan's actions suggested that her fundamental nature hadn't changed; she was using her position to intimidate others.

"Yes, yes, you're right," the Second Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan concurred, trying to ease the tension.

Gu Chaoyan resumed her meal without further words.

The Second Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan felt a bit embarrassed. Eventually, he took a seat and said, "I am here because I have something to discuss with you."

Gu Chaoyan shot him a skeptical glance.

Something to discuss?

They had already agreed on the arrangement for the two races traveling together. Now, he claimed to have something to discuss, and Gu Chaoyan harbored suspicions that it might not be entirely altruistic.

“Go ahead,” she said, setting down her empty bowl. The cold winter still lingered, and Gu Chaoyan hadn’t initially wanted to broach the topic due to the chilly weather. However, she was prepared to listen now that the Second Chief had raised the matter.

In truth, if it weren’t for Adams, Gu Chaoyan wouldn’t have felt the need to engage in a conversation with Percy. Nevertheless, as the two clans were journeying together, she decided to give them some consideration.

Seeing her attentive, Percy proceeded to express his thoughts.

“Well, here’s the thing. The blankets your Five Elements Clan provided today are only enough for a few of our oldest and unwell Thunder Fire Clan elders. The rest are left without blankets.”

“Winter has just passed, and while days are bearable, the nights are exceptionally cold. It’s not easy for the Thunder Fire Clan members to endure.”

“I’m thinking that the blankets from your Five Elements Clan are more than sufficient. If you’re willing to make a little more space, we could use dozens of additional blankets. This way, many in the Thunder Fire Clan can have a much more comfortable life.”

“Since you’re willing to share these blankets, it’s a testament to your kindness. I believe you won’t be hesitant with those additional dozens of blankets. The Thunder Fire Clan will be genuinely grateful,” Percy explained.

Percy believed he had presented a compelling case.

Confidently, he anticipated Xuelai's agreement. He knew that appealing to her kindness would likely result in success, especially considering the previous instances where she had relented.

As he had predicted, Adams' pride prevented him from making such a request. Percy, considering himself the most suitable messenger, stepped forward.

"And Adams will undoubtedly carry gratitude in his heart for your generosity," Percy added as a final touch.

Gu Chaoyan glanced up at Percy.

He exuded confidence and pride, qualities that perplexed her.

It was challenging for her to comprehend such a person.

There was a saying: "A grain of rice nourishes kindness, and two grains of rice nourish hatred."

While she had already done the Thunder Fire Clan a favor by agreeing to travel with them, she now felt that their demands were becoming insatiable. A few blankets had morphed into a request for dozens, and she sensed that it might not end there.

Generosity, she realized, could complicate matters.

She wasn't naive.

The Five Elements Clan could be kind, but being overly generous in this world, which had yet to be civilized, could lead to exploitation.

“Are you suggesting that the Five Elements Clan should provide half of their blankets to the Thunder Fire Clan?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

In essence, that was precisely Percy’s proposition. While it might sound peculiar coming from the Tribe Chief, Percy nodded confidently, believing she would agree.

Gu Chaoyan’s smile carried a hint of mockery. “And in return, can the Thunder Fire Clan offer corresponding benefits?”

“This... I can’t promise that, but the Thunder Fire Clan will surely be grateful,” Percy insisted.

Gu Chaoyan’s smile widened.

Her smile seemed to convey that she found something immensely amusing.

“The people of the Thunder Fire Clan must be excellent dreamers. I, as the leader of the Five Elements Clan, have no need for the gratitude of the Thunder Fire Clan. Sorcerers reside in the Five Elements Clan, and your attempts to please them are clear. I have already shown you some consideration, and now you want the resources of the Five Elements Clan? Go and ask the hundreds of members in the Five Elements Clan if they would agree. If they do, I won’t object,” Gu Chaoyan said with a smile.

The Second Chief of the Thunder Fire Clan hadn’t anticipated such a response from Gu Chaoyan.

Their initial motivation was indeed the presence of the sorcerer.

However...

She...

What...

Gu Chaoyan continued, “No need for unnecessary discussions. Your name is Percy, right? Remember, if I, Xuelai, or any member of the Five Elements Clan finds your Thunder Fire Clan dissatisfactory, I can casually, indifferently chase you away.”

“Understand, and don’t overstep your bounds!” Gu Chaoyan’s frustration was evident.

Percy was taken aback. He hadn’t anticipated this outcome.

Assuming she had become more agreeable, Percy believed she would readily accept.

Unexpectedly, she warned against pushing their luck and even hinted at expulsion.

What on earth...

Gu Chaoyan dismissed the notion of needing the gratitude of the Thunder Fire Clan.

Before Percy could respond, Gu Chaoyan summoned Gary, saying, “Gary, come here, I need you to come with me.”

Gary quickly approached.

“Tribe Chief, what’s the matter?” he asked with concern, shooting a glare at Percy from the Thunder Fire Clan.

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“All these years, the Thunder Fire Clan has never harbored any enmity toward our Five Elements Clan. The camps of the two clans are not far apart. Now, as we journey to the Huang Clan together, the Five Elements Clan is extending goodwill. They fear potential conflicts with other clans along the way and have, as an exception, permitted the Thunder Fire Clan to join our journey to the Huang Clan alongside the sorcerer.”

“As a gesture of goodwill, we even distributed blankets to some elders of the Thunder Fire Clan. The meat from the Five Elements Clan has been turned into soup, ensuring everyone is treated equally.”

“I didn’t anticipate the Thunder Fire Clan’s apparent greed, seeking more items and demanding half of the Five Elements Clan’s blankets.”

“The actions of the Thunder Fire Clan are excessive.”

“Though our agreement to travel together to the Huang Clan will stand, the future will see us no longer sharing meals with the Thunder Fire Clan. The Five Elements Clan will partake in their own provisions. As for the few blankets already distributed, consider them as valuable as meat buns.”

“Gary, relay this message to the Five Elements Clan.”

“Do you understand?” Gu Chaoyan stated with a stern expression.

“Understood.” Gary responded with joy. He eagerly anticipated the implementation of this decision.

Ensuring everyone received equal treatment with food was already a generous gesture, considering the Thunder Fire Clan’s substantial numbers and hearty appetites. Witnessing their apparent greed, Gary was ready to move forward with a sense of relief, focusing on mutual assistance during the journey.

Unexpectedly, the people of the Thunder Fire Clan seemed unchanged, persisting in their desire for more from the Five Elements Clan even after receiving benefits.

Gary, noting this, couldn’t allow such behavior to be encouraged.

Turning away, he got back to his tasks.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan calmly sat down and gracefully requested another bowl from Aina. Aina left with a smile.

Percy remained standing, his face reflecting disbelief.

Not only did Gu Chaoyan refuse to give more, but she also withdrew the original food arrangements. Furthermore, she made it clear that, in the future, if she was dissatisfied, she wouldn't hesitate to expel the Thunder Fire Clan.

Percy felt like he was losing control of the situation.

His intentions, initially aimed at benefiting his clansmen, seemed to have backfired.

Moreover, if the Thunder Fire Clan members learned that the Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan issued such an order upon his arrival, they might harbor resentment towards him. Although he held a position in the clan, he wasn't the Tribe Chief—only the Tribe Chief would be forgiven if mistakes were made.

Percy's expression soured. "Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan, are you truly going to be this ruthless?"

Gu Chaoyan lifted her head, casting a glance at him. "I'm afraid the Thunder Fire Clan is overreaching. I'm taking these steps to minimize losses. You can leave now."

"Don't be a nuisance in my presence, or I can't guarantee I won't take further action."

"I didn't permit you to join the journey to the Huang Clan to cause trouble for my Five Elements Clan."

With those words, Aina arrived with a bowl of hot wild vegetable soup. "Tribe Chief, it's still hot. Drink it while it's warm. Pay no mind to those people from the Thunder Fire Clan. The sorcerer mentioned wanting to speak with you later."

Percy seemed about to say something, but at the mention of the sorcerer, he hastily departed.

Observing Percy's departure, Gu Chaoyan turned to Aina with a displeased expression. "What does the sorcerer want?"

He seemed to bring a lot of trouble.

Aina chuckled.

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“Tribe Chief, the sorcerer didn’t come looking for you. Aina just mentioned it casually. Without her mentioning it, the person the Thunder Fire Clan dislikes would surely not have left,” Aina explained, wearing a pleased smile.

Gu Chaoyan cast a glance at Aina.

Aina, sensing a hint of uncertainty, wondered if she had done something wrong.

Gu Chaoyan couldn’t help but laugh, playfully tapping Aina’s forehead. “You’re starting to resemble me.”

Aina smiled in response.

The two shared a moment of joy.

Equally joyous were those who received the news that they no longer had to share their meat with the Thunder Fire Clan.

The anticipated day had finally come.

However, the people from the Thunder Fire Clan found themselves unable to share in the merriment.

They had limited dried meat this year, using most of it during the winter. Henceforth, they’d have to sustain themselves on wild vegetables. They could have traveled with the Five Elements Clan,

ensuring safety due to the presence of sorcerers, and daily meat soup to enjoy. Their days were about to become significantly better.

Now, that prospect was gone.

Their happiness was now replaced with disappointment.

After inquiries, they learned that their Second Chief, Percy, was to blame. He had angered the Tribe Chief, resulting in the order to no longer travel together. Furthermore, there was a warning that continued misbehavior would lead to a complete separation.

Understanding the cause and effect, some of them began to harbor resentment towards Percy. Desperate, they sought out the Tribe Chief to mend the situation.

Adams, who had been waiting patiently, rushed out upon hearing the news.

Upon seeing Percy, he delivered a direct slap and scolded angrily, “Who allowed you to act on your own?!”

“Tribe Chief, I’m doing this for the good of my clansmen. I thought she would agree, but who knew...” Percy was equally anxious. While his intentions were indeed for the benefit of his clansmen, seeing their displeased expressions made him realize that things hadn’t gone as planned.

He had been confident when he approached Gu Chaoyan, but now, facing the consequences, he regretted his actions.

Adams snorted at him and left in haste.

Rushing to the Five Elements Clan, Adams found Tribe Chief Xuelai and nervously said, “I’ve learned what happened.”

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

“I’m truly sorry for causing you trouble.”

“What Percy did was his own doing; no one else in the clan knew. I’ll definitely punish him.”

“Adams, I’ve already handled this matter. As for what you want to do, it’s not my concern. Even if he acted alone, he’s still a member of the Thunder Fire Clan, and your clan will bear the consequences of his actions.”

“Don’t say anything more.”

“I understand. I’m here to apologize to you. I won’t ask for anything else,” Adams said. His frustration was apparent. The relationship between the two races was just beginning to improve, and his connection with Xuelai had softened. If things had gone smoothly, the future could have been promising. However, Percy, in his misguided attempt to be clever, had disrupted everything.

“Well, then, I’ll head back,” Adams said, departing with a heavy heart.

“Go ahead,” Gu Chaoyan replied, devoid of emotion.

In her view, the details were not crucial.

Adams returned disheartened.

Percy hurriedly approached. “What did she say? Will she be appeased if you go and apologize?”

“Continue your journey. Don’t dwell on it too much,” Adams advised.

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“Also...”

“Percy, shed that animal skin vest and leave it right here.” Adams hesitated but had to make the difficult decision.

Although Percy was initially taken aback, disappointed, and shouldering the blame for the situation, Adams' words left him even more stunned.

As he prepared to depart, he suddenly pivoted, fixing Adams with a shocked gaze.

His brow furrowed deeply. "Tribe Chief, you're... you're..."

"Are you asking me to disregard the well-being of the clan?" Percy was profoundly shocked; he hadn't anticipated the gravity of the situation.

His visit to the patriarch of the Five Elements Clan was motivated by a desire to safeguard the Thunder Fire Clan, even though the outcome fell short of expectations.

The Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan was infuriated and took drastic actions.

Yet, upon returning to the Thunder Fire Clan, Percy found himself facing unexpected consequences.

"For whom am I doing all of this? Isn't it for the members of the Thunder Fire Clan? Tribe Chief, is this how you intend to treat me now?" Percy's eyes were brimming with disappointment.

He shook his head repeatedly, bewildered.

There was an overwhelming sense of letdown.

Adams gazed at Percy. Percy was a virtuous man, dedicated to the well-being of the clan.

However, when one errs, consequences follow.

"Percy, tell me, when you undertook this, did you consult with me, the Tribe Chief? Did your fellow clansmen give their approval?"

“It was a mistake for you to make such a decision independently. Now that you’ve stirred up such a significant issue, do you believe you can evade accountability to your fellow clansmen?” Adams questioned with gravity.

If Percy hadn’t acted on his own, the subsequent events might not have unfolded as they did.

The clan adhered to its rules, according to Adams.

Percy stood stubbornly at the side, not acquiescing to Adams’ perspective.

Adams signaled for other clan members to remove Percy’s vest. “Take a moment to reflect on your actions.”

With that, he proceeded to organize the clan members to resume their journey.

They only halted for a rest when dusk was approaching.

Before retiring for the night, there was one final meal.

During this meal, the two clans kept their cooking separate. The Five Elements Clan stayed distinct from the Thunder Fire Clan.

The Thunder Fire Clan had no fresh meat; whatever they possessed was dried. They reserved it for special occasions and wouldn’t consume it unless necessary. Moreover, the dried meat lacked the savory aroma of the Five Elements Clan’s meat, which they enjoyed in their meals.

The Thunder Fire Clan members voiced their grievances against Percy.

On the other hand, the Five Elements Clan members were quite content.

Without the presence of the Thunder Fire Clan, they could indulge in more ample provisions.

Observing the dynamics between the two clans, the usually aloof sorcerer took a seat in front of Gu Chaoyan, sporting his signature smile. “You’re a man who seeks vengeance for his actions, and it could be disastrous if you provoke him.”

“I’m concerned that the Thunder Fire Clan members will hold him responsible.”

“In this world, every race thrives on unity. Once someone is isolated, survival becomes precarious.”

The sorcerer conveyed his thoughts to Gu Chaoyan, devoid of any ulterior motives.

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Knowing that this had happened, he was surprised by her way of doing things. Very few women would be so decisive and could not help but come over to chat.

But he said that.

It was a little like saying the Tribe Chief of Five Elements Clan was cold-blooded and heartless.

Gary hurriedly wanted to explain when he heard this. “Sorcerer, you’ve misunderstood our Tribe Chief. It’s not that our Tribe Chief is cold-blooded and heartless, but that person from the Thunder Fire Clan has really gone too far.”

Upon hearing Gary’s explanation, Gu Chaoyan interrupted him.

Facing the sorcerer, she articulated, “You mentioned that it’s unreasonable for me to take this stance. Have you considered the repercussions for me if I don’t?”

“Percy from the Thunder Fire Clan proposes ideas solely for the benefit of his clan. If I were to reject them, it would undoubtedly breed discontent within the Thunder Fire Clan. I’ve already

committed to both clans to journey to the Huang Clan together. With the Thunder Fire Clan harboring grievances against my Five Elements Clan throughout this extended journey, can the two clans coexist harmoniously?”

“Now, due to Percy’s actions, the entire Thunder Fire Clan is entangled in this matter. They harbor resentment towards him. This extends even to the tribal level.”

“Moreover, since Percy instigated this, he should bear the consequences.”

Having conveyed her perspective, Gu Chaoyan refrained from further self-defense.

Hailing from a more civilized world, she was accustomed to rules and consequences for actions. In this untamed world, where such rules were less defined, she asserted her own principles. In her view, Percy, having provoked her, should be subject to the consequences according to her established rules.

At this juncture, the sorcerer clearly grasped the significance behind her actions.

Among the members of the Thunder Fire Clan, feelings were split between animosity towards Percy and animosity towards her.

As Percy initiated the situation, the onus should be on him to shoulder the responsibility.

The sorcerer nodded, realizing he may have delved into a topic better left untouched.

“I understand,” the sorcerer stated solemnly.

Gu Chaoyan nodded in acknowledgment.

The sorcerer, seemingly reluctant to delve further, glanced at her and then walked away.

Observing Percy’s departure, Gary trailed behind him.

Approaching the sorcerer, Gary ventured boldly, "The sorcerer might not be aware of the events leading up to this, which could explain his opinion of the Tribe Chief."

The sorcerer fixed his gaze on Gary.

Aside from the Tribe Chief, Gary held a significant role in managing various affairs within the clan. During his time in the Five Elements Clan over the past few months, he had gained some insights. Despite always maintaining politeness towards a sorcerer like him, Gary had refrained from taking sides on many issues, always aligning himself with the Tribe Chief. His actions were driven by a genuine concern for the Tribe Chief's well-being.

The sorcerer smiled.

He found the dynamics within this clan to be truly fascinating.

The individuals in the clan appeared to be distinct.

"What transpired in the past?" he inquired.

"Indeed. In the past, the Tribe Chief extended generous treatment to the members of the Thunder Fire Clan. Numerous resources from the clan were willingly shared with them. However, instead of reciprocating with respect, the Thunder Fire Clan responded with greed. They regarded the Tribe Chief and the Five Elements Clan not as allies but as sources to exploit."

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The sorcerer turned his gaze towards Gary.

Gary proceeded to share with the sorcerer the intricate details of the past, shedding light on the Thunder Fire Clan's prior ruthless behavior. This revelation aimed to elucidate why the current Tribe Chief maintained such strict measures against the Thunder Fire Clan.

The Thunder Fire Clan member named Percy warranted no sympathy whatsoever.

Wasn't his current motive reminiscent of his past actions?

"Gary, I understand. Rest assured, I won't harbor bias against your Tribe Chief," assured the sorcerer.

Gary responded with an honest smile and a touch to his head.

He deemed it worthwhile to muster the courage to convey this information.

He wasn't afraid of the sorcerers blaming him, but rather, he feared potential misunderstandings that could lead to irreversible consequences for the Tribe Chief.

Fortunately, all seemed well.

The sorcerers comprehended the Tribe Chief's perspective.

The two clans resumed their journey.

Though members of the Thunder Fire Clan continued to assist in carrying various items, the once harmonious atmosphere between the two tribes had shifted.

Yet, there were no outright conflicts; they proceeded on their way.

The food, however, remained separate between the two races.

Every day, the aroma of the Five Elements Clan's meat soup wafted through the air.

Aside from the Thunder Fire Clan abstaining from the meat soup and Percy facing ostracization within the clan, no significant incidents occurred.

They traveled in this manner for a full ten days.

Finally, they were on the verge of reaching the Huang Clan.

The Huang Clan occupied an advantageous position atop a high mountain.

To reach the Huang Clan, the journey necessitated ascending the mountain first.

As they approached the mountain's foothills, the sorcerer sought out Gu Chaoyan once again, casting a searching gaze upon her before posing a reminder, "Are you certain about proceeding to the Huang Clan?"

"Absolutely. Given the presence of ferocious beasts and the desire of our clansmen for the protection offered by the Huang Clan, it only makes sense for us to continue. Moreover, we are almost there, so why turn back now?" Gu Chaoyan found the sorcerer's inquiry peculiar.

The decision to head to the Huang Clan had been collectively agreed upon before they embarked on their journey.

There was no reason to renege on their commitment now.

Furthermore, the majority of the clansmen were in agreement. Based on past experiences, ferocious beasts tended to emerge during the spring.

With a resolute demeanor, the sorcerer refrained from further commentary.

"Let's proceed. The Huang Clan awaits above. Stay vigilant. We can't predict what might happen," the sorcerer cautioned.

Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow.

'Anything?'

What did he mean by that?

And why did the sorcerer make this trip?

She harbored a suspicion that the sorcerer's visit held more complexity than it seemed.

In response, she instructed Gary to summon Adams.

Simultaneously, she requested Gary to gather a few senior clansmen.

Before ascending the mountain, a discussion was imperative.

As for the sorcerer, it appeared he was testing something, much like the day the snow ceased.

Gu Chaoyan chose to disregard the sorcerer.

Instead, she seated herself on the ground and awaited their gathering.

In a departure from the past few days, Gu Chaoyan proactively sought out Adams, who approached her with a cheerful demeanor.

"Xuelai, what's the matter? Why did we stop?" Adams inquired.

Despite the numerous complaints from Thunder Fire Clan members in recent days, Adams seemed unfazed, maintaining his straightforward approach.

"We're on the verge of reaching the Huang Clan."

"Above us lies the territory of the Huang Clan."

"Everyone, it's confirmed, right?"

"Xuelai, do you have any questions?"