

Divine 2441

Chapter 2441: Mission 121

“In the past, when winter ended and spring blossomed, wild beasts emerged from intermediate hibernation, correct?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

Her gaze shifted between Adams, the Five Elements Clan, and the Thunder Fire Clan elders, signaling that she sought their input on this matter.

They nodded in unison, offering a swift affirmation.

Surviving the challenges of the winter’s harsh conditions also meant being cautious of the ferocious beasts roaming the area. Failure to evade or lack of ability to resist could lead to casualties within the clan. Some were fortunate enough to escape with their lives, but many bore injuries inflicted by these creatures.

Hence...

The Huang Clan’s proposition to accept them was met with immediate agreement, and they set forth without hesitation towards the Huang Clan.

As they approached the Huang Clan, a sense of jubilation enveloped them. This year, they had successfully evaded the threat.

With the Huang Clan’s favorable location and the protection of their numerous members, everything seemed promising.

“Is this the first time the Huang Clan has expressed willingness to protect us?” Gu Chaoyan, overlooking the joyous expressions, posed the question.

“Yes,” came the unanimous response. This held true for clansmen of all ages.

The Huang Clan, being a major clan, might engage with other large clans, but interactions with smaller clans like theirs were rare. It seemed unlikely they would extend protective measures willingly.

Gu Chaoyan sensed something amiss.

“Do you believe the Huang Clan might have ulterior motives?” she questioned.

Members of both races waved away the notion, denying, “That’s impossible.”

“A large clan like the Huang Clan would only be burdened by bringing us along. How could they have any ulterior motives? We’re simply fortunate to gain the protection of the Huang Clan. Tribe Chief of the Five Elements Clan, don’t overthink it. We need to hasten to the Huang Clan.” The clansmen, fearing any last-minute changes, hurriedly expressed their thoughts.

Gu Chaoyan remained uncertain about the Huang Clan’s intentions towards smaller tribes.

She continued to send Gary to inquire from the clan. Everyone was eager to reach the Huang Clan as quickly as possible.

She could only press forward.

For now, she shelved the sorcerer’s words, deciding to contemplate them later.

On her side, vigilance remained essential.

If all else failed, she, as a Paragon Martial God, could protect them.

The ascent up the mountain proved more challenging than usual, yet the excitement of the people from both races heightened as they climbed.

Midway up the mountain, members of the Huang Clan personally emerged to welcome them.

The welcoming party consisted of individuals resembling guards of the Huang Clan.

Their countenances were stern, affording no warm reception. Regardless of the visitors' race, they delivered their message with a serious demeanor, "Proceed up the mountain. Your designated area is still ahead."

Adams, initially wearing a smile and attempting small talk, found his expression stiffening. There was neither time nor opportunity for gratitude.

In this manner, they followed the Huang Clan guards up the mountain.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan maintained a cold and impassive demeanor.

The attitudes of the Huang Clan members who had come to inform them sharply contrasted with those now welcoming them. This contrast dampened the spirits of many clansmen, who perceived a decline in the Huang Clan's enthusiasm.

For a moment, an awkward atmosphere settled among the gathered clans.

Yet, their ingrained reverence for the major clans propelled them forward, fostering hope as they approached the Huang Clan.

On the mountain, a multitude of individuals from the Huang Clan and various other clans congregated, creating a tightly packed space.

From the front, the Huang Clan members vociferously issued orders, sounding more like commands given to subordinates.

The members of the Five Elements Clan and the Thunder Fire Clan exchanged glances, a silent acknowledgment of the disconcerting situation they found themselves in.

Initially, when the Huang Clan approached them, they were informed that this year, the Huang Clan had identified an increased presence of ferocious wild beasts. Seeking to unite the strength of various clans, the Huang Clan invited them to their territory. They were promised a designated place and location.

Filled with hope and reverence, they arrived, not expecting a lavish life in the Huang Clan but anticipating the protection and accommodations offered.

Yet, as they neared the Huang Clan, a sense of unease crept in. The Huang Clan's treatment of the arriving clansmen deviated from the promises made – no arrangements had been made for their stay.

“Tribe Chief, what's happening? Why does something feel off?” Gary cautiously inquired of Gu Chaoyan.

Similar concerns echoed from the Thunder Fire Clan members.

Puzzled and surprised, everyone sought answers.

Gu Chaoyan, equally baffled, shook her head. She was as clueless about the situation as the others. This stark contrast from what the Huang Clan had communicated left her perplexed.

Recalling the sorcerer's prior warning, Gu Chaoyan contemplated seeking him out for insights. However, upon searching, she found the sorcerer not in his pristine sorcerer attire but covered in dust, clad in animal skins.

Perplexed, Gu Chaoyan approached him. “What are you doing?”

“There is indeed an issue with the Huang Clan. If I appear as a sorcerer, I fear I won't discern the truth and will face constraints. Hence, for now, I am just a member of the Five Elements Clan,” the sorcerer explained.

The sorcerer had decided to come to the Huang Clan because they sensed that something had occurred in the direction of the Brilliant Race in this land and sought to investigate.

Initially intending to go alone, he changed his plans upon hearing from the people sent by the Huang Clan, discerning that matters were more complex than they seemed. Hence, he joined the Five Elements Clan in their journey.

At the mountain's base, he had warned the Five Elements Clan, but they insisted on proceeding to the Huang Clan, and he did not halt them, still uncertain about the unfolding situation.

"You don't know what happened?" Gu Chaoyan inquired.

"I don't know. Despite being a sorcerer, I'm not omnipotent on this mainland," the sorcerer replied.

"Understood," Gu Chaoyan acknowledged.

She surveyed the clan members and the situation ahead. Gathering the Five Elements Clan, she whispered, "Put away our bows and arrows quietly. Don't let the Huang Clan notice. In case of any trouble with the Huang Clan, our bows and arrows might help protect our clansmen."

Upon hearing this, the Five Elements Clan members swiftly stowed their bows, sensing that something was amiss. Revealing their weaponry might lead to unpredictable consequences.

Originally thinking their bows and arrows could improve their standing with the Huang Clan, they now hesitated.

After instructing the clan members, Gu Chaoyan turned to Adams, "When you return, instruct your people to keep quiet about the bows and arrows. Our two clans will still support each other. Once settled, we can provide you with some bows and arrows. In case of future challenges, everyone should strive to escape. Also, remember..."

"Be cautious of sorcerers. If anything occurs between us."

“At least we’ll have the protection of sorcerers, so don’t panic if anything happens in the future. Stay calm; your life is more important,” Gu Chaoyan reassured Adams.

Adams felt a mix of surprise and gratitude. Her previous stern stance during Percy’s incident had left an impression, making his unexpected protection by the sorcerers all the more touching. When they arrived at the Huang Clan, they thought their two clans would face a bleak fate, but now armed with weapons and sorcerers, they felt a newfound sense of security.

Despite the Thunder Fire Clan having little to offer, Gu Chaoyan’s willingness to protect them at this critical juncture left Adams deeply thankful. “I understand. No matter what, our Thunder Fire Clan will do our best to assist your Five Elements Clan,” he promised.

Gu Chaoyan acknowledged his pledge but harbored reservations, knowing the Thunder Fire Clan’s limited capacity to help in this situation.

Observing the troubling scene ahead, where the Huang Clan seemed to be confining and attacking members of other clans, Gu Chaoyan reconsidered their course of action. To ensure her clansmen’s safety, she proposed descending the mountain instead of proceeding to the Huang Clan.

“Let’s see if we can choose to go down the mountain,” she suggested.

“Let’s give it a try. It seems there aren’t many Huang Clan members at the foot of the mountain,” Adams agreed.

Gu Chaoyan nodded, and they set their course to explore this alternative route down the mountain.

They attempted to cautiously descend the mountain alongside the Five Elements Clan. However, their retreat was short-lived as a group of armed youths from the Huang Clan emerged, encircling them from behind.

The leader, wearing a cold expression, approached, questioning, “Why? Where do you intend to go?”

“Do you think you can freely come and go within the Huang Clan’s territory?”

“In the beginning, it was your Huang Clan that allowed us to come and go freely! If you don’t let us leave now, what sets you apart from bandits?” A member from the Thunder Fire Clan, feeling deceived, raised his voice in protest.

The Huang Clan members responded with mocking laughter.

‘Bandits?’

They saw themselves as not bandits but entities aspiring to assert control in this region.

“Didn’t you come here out of greed for the Huang Clan? You can only blame yourselves for your avarice. If you didn’t covet it before, how could you end up in such a predicament?” the Huang Clan member self-righteously asserted.

Gu Chaoyan signaled to the Thunder Fire Clan member to cease arguing with someone who had their own motivations. Though the Thunder Fire Clan member appeared reluctant, he refrained from further words.

Yet, the Huang Clan member lingered, locking eyes with him and smirking, “Do you now understand your place?”

“Since that’s the case, I’ll leave you as a complete corpse!”

In the next moment...

The machete was raised.

As the scent of blood permeated the air, the person’s head fell to the ground.

Adams, fueled by anger, wanted to rush forward, but Gu Chaoyan restrained him. Acting impulsively could lead to dire consequences, especially since this person seemed indifferent to Adams’ affiliation with the clan.

As the crowd ahead scattered, the individual with the cold expression declared, “Aren’t you moving? Does anyone else wish to meet my blade?”

Gu Chaoyan took Adams by the hand, leading the two tribes forward.

The designated territory, however, differed from the description given earlier. Instead of a mountainous area, they found themselves in a vast, empty space. People from various races were huddled in groups, with no room to set up even an animal skin tent.

Chapter 2444: Mission 124

They found themselves in a low-lying area, with the Huang Clan positioned at a higher elevation, essentially creating a cage-like confinement.

This place induced fear in the eyes of individuals from every race, surpassing the terror of ferocious beasts. The constant threat of beheading by the Huang Clan members left them in a perpetual state of dread.

“What are they trying to do?” Adams exclaimed in a low, hoarse voice.

Adams had reached a breaking point, realizing that the situation was vastly different from what he had anticipated. A Thunder Fire Clan member had died without reason, yet Adams felt powerless to intervene. Gu Chaoyan had even restrained the surviving clansman, exacerbating Adams’ sense of helplessness.

Feeling on the verge of madness, Adams questioned how they had ended up in such a perilous situation. If they had avoided the Huang Clan and selected another base for survival, they wouldn’t be trapped in this dangerous environment. The uncertain future weighed heavily on everyone’s minds.

Unable to resist the Huang Clan members, Adams struggled to comprehend their intentions. Gu Chaoyan, despite her calm demeanor, admitted, “I can’t tell.”

The motive behind the Huang Clan's actions remained elusive. If their goal was to conscript these people for labor, imprisoning them made little sense. Similarly, if they sought their lives, they could have executed them already.

As more individuals from different races ascended the mountain, they found themselves squatting and waiting, uncertain about what lay ahead. It was conceivable that they hadn't yet reached the true territory of the Huang Clan.

How could they discern the intentions of the Huang Clan?

Gu Chaoyan surveyed their surroundings. Trapped in a low-lying area, the Huang Clan monitored them from above, limiting their actions and preventing any attempts to leave discreetly.

"Adams, calm down and assess the situation. It's daytime, and there's little we can do now. Let's wait until it gets dark," Gu Chaoyan advised in a hushed voice.

Adams began to feel a bit more composed.

Fortunately, while the Huang Clan restricted their freedom, they were at least provided with food, ensuring the clansmen wouldn't go hungry.

Before nightfall, everyone prepared some basic food. However, as darkness settled and the temperature dropped, the Huang Clan forbade them from setting up tents to maintain close surveillance.

With tents, monitoring them became more challenging, but the Huang Clan was unwavering in their decision.

Many individuals struggled in the cold, and despite the Five Elements Clan having blankets, the unexpected downpour rendered them practically useless.

As night fell and heavy rain poured down, young people endured the discomfort, but the elderly in the clan were more vulnerable.

Gu Chaoyan felt a growing sense of urgency.

Resistance was out of the question; objections were swiftly quashed without hesitation.

Frustrated by the situation, Gu Chaoyan decided to take action.

“We have only a few tents, just enough for some old people and children to take shelter from the rain. If you disagree, many people here might start a riot. It’s dark now, and if they do, do you really think you can control them?” Gu Chaoyan questioned.

The Huang Clan members exchanged glances.

She refrained from direct confrontation.

Gu Chaoyan’s argument held merit.

“The hide tent can’t be set up, but”

Chapter 2445: Mission 125

“But we can allow a few people to take shelter from the rain in the caves here,” the Huang clansman pointed toward the caverns behind him.

‘Of course.’

Their intent was clear; they weren’t seeking Gu Chaoyan’s permission but were already making plans to do so.

Gu Chaoyan’s eyes darkened, but she still nodded, returning with a cold expression.

The members of the Five Elements Clan also breathed a sigh of relief. Thankfully, she had returned unharmed. Initially, they had feared an attack from the Huang clan, akin to those who had ventured over earlier.

“Tribe Chief, it’s fine if they’re unwilling. We’ll endure it, even if it’s difficult. After all, we old bones should have perished in the winter if not for Tribe Chief. Living this long is already a blessing,” consoled a few elders from the Five Elements Clan.

Though reluctant to face death, they had come to accept the inevitable.

“Don’t worry, they have agreed to let some people take refuge in the cave to escape the rain,” Gu Chaoyan forced a smile.

The elders were astonished. This was good news; how could the Tribe Chief not be happy?

After a while, members of the Huang Clan arrived, seizing a few elders and children to head towards the caves.

The issue was resolved just like that.

However, Gu Chaoyan couldn’t find it in her to laugh.

Adams approached, fumbling in the darkness. “Xuelai, why are you unhappy? At least, some matters have been resolved.”

Gu Chaoyan shook her head subtly.

“We’ve resolved some issues, but the Huang Clan has gained more control over us,” she candidly revealed to Adams.

“What?” Adams momentarily struggled to comprehend.

“The Huang Clan is well-prepared. Those caves are designated for the elderly and children, and every clan has their vulnerable members inside. We might escape at a suitable time, but currently,

they're holding the elderly and children within 500 meters as hostages. What should we do?" Gu Chaoyan inquired.

In this uncivilized world,

True.

Rules of morality and justice were yet to be established.

However...

Their clansmen remained fiercely united.

Even if death was looming, abandoning their still living clansmen was not an option dictated by their unity.

"So, you're saying they won't release them even when the rain stops?" Adams sought clarification.

"Yes," Gu Chaoyan affirmed with conviction.

A tinge of melancholy settled over Adams.

This melancholy lingered until the next day. With no rain, the elders and children of the clan did not return, worsening the situation.

All of Xuelai's predictions had proven true.

It was indeed the Huang clan's strategy.

"What should we do?" Adams inquired.

Adams had grown accustomed to seeking guidance from Xuelai in all matters.

Throughout their journey, Xuelai had been the decision-maker.

Gu Chaoyan prodded the sorcerer.

Then, she whispered in front of both of them, “Tonight, let’s go to the Huang Clan and see what’s happening. How about that?”

“You mean?”

“Yes, can you do it?” Gu Chaoyan fixed her gaze on Adams. She wasn’t concerned about the sorcerer; she knew he would find a way.

“Sure,” Adams replied.

“Tonight then,” Gu Chaoyan decided.

For a day, they remained trapped in relative peace.

As dusk approached, Gu Chaoyan began assessing the situation.

She was contemplating how they could escape.

The most viable solution at the moment

was to eliminate the person guarding them in this corner and...

Chapter 2446: Mission 126

Then, they would rely on their clansmen for cover. Stealthily, they planned to slip away from this corner, unnoticed.

The Huang Clan members perceived them as insignificant, presuming they belonged to small, ignorant clans. Consequently, the Huang Clan had assigned only a few individuals to monitor them in this area. Each person was responsible for a corner and rarely attended to all of them.

As long as the members of the Five Elements Clan and the Thunder Fire Clan provided cover, their movements would go undetected.

Gu Chaoyan felt optimistic.

She had already devised a plan for their escape.

Instructing Adams to coordinate with the Thunder Fire Clan members, she assured the Five Elements Clan that everything would be fine as long as everyone maintained an unspoken understanding.

With the preliminary plan set, they waited confidently, anticipating the approach of nightfall when they could put their plan into action.

Gary persisted in trying to join them.

Gu Chaoyan declined his offer outright.

Not because she doubted his abilities, but additional individuals increased the risk of discovery. Moreover, she hoped Gary would keep a watchful eye on his clansmen in her absence. With him present, she would feel somewhat reassured when she wasn't around.

Only after Gary finished speaking did the night fall.

Following a simple meal, Gu Chaoyan nodded at Adams and the sorcerer, signaling that they were ready.

Adams and the sorcerer joined them, understanding the plan without the need for words.

The clansmen on both sides started to gather.

Under the cover of darkness, silence prevailed. The Huang Clan members didn't take the situation seriously, showing little attention to the newcomers.

As the trio approached the Huang clansmen guarding their side, the taller members from both sides congregated even more.

Gu Chaoyan signaled Adams and the sorcerer to stay put. Being tall and strong men, they would easily draw notice, whereas she, being shorter, wouldn't attract as much attention. Moreover, her actions wouldn't cause a significant disturbance.

With a smile, Gu Chaoyan approached the guards.

The two guards were about to question when Gu Chaoyan swiftly incapacitated them without a sound.

She directed Adams to remove their clothes and put them on.

Determining what to do with the subdued guards posed another challenge. Ultimately, she opted to tie them up and place them between the Thunder Fire Clan and the Five Elements Clan, treating them as part of her own group. Upon their return, she would assign three individuals from each clan to stand guard in this position. It seemed like a fitting solution.

This strategic move was a decisive one.

Both clans now had an escape route.

So...

Under the cover of darkness, Gu Chaoyan, along with Adams and the sorcerer, left.

Their destination: the Huang Clan, to uncover what was happening.

They ascended the hill, confirming that these individuals who had arrived at the Huang Clan hadn't reached the clan's territory at all. Instead, they were positioned at the mountain's base beneath the Huang Clan.

It became apparent that the Huang Clan had intentionally confined these smaller clans here.

As they entered the Huang Clan's territory,

Only then did he truly sense that this world was slowly evolving towards civilization.

Chapter 2447: Mission 127

Huang Clan.

It was almost akin to a relatively prosperous small country.

Precisely because of this,

Gu Chaoyan became even more perplexed.

The Huang Clan wielded formidable power, standing as a dominant force in this region of small clans. In comparison, these smaller clans were significantly inferior.

It seemed entirely unnecessary for the Huang Clan to bother with the affairs of these clans from afar.

Then...

Gu Chaoyan formulated a hypothesis.

In a hushed tone, she inquired, “Could it be that the Huang Clan aims to lure all of us small clans to their mountain, subject our clansmen to such torment, eventually making them slaves of the Huang Clan and forcing them into servitude?”

This way, the Huang Clan would establish a structure akin to an ancient country.

A clear hierarchy would emerge.

Masters and servants would coexist.

If the Huang Clan indeed harbored such intentions,

Gu Chaoyan could begin to fathom their strategy.

“No,” the sorcerer dismissed Gu Chaoyan’s speculation.

Surprised, Gu Chaoyan gazed at the sorcerer.

How could he be so certain it wasn’t the case?

It seemed like a plausible explanation.

Initially, the sorcerer hesitated to broach the subject. However, given their purpose in investigating the Huang Clan, he felt compelled to reveal the truth.

“Do you know why I’m here?”

“It’s because sorcerers can sense that something has occurred in this place.”

“In this world, events that can trigger a sorcerer’s alarm are not as straightforward as they may seem.”

“The enslavement of small clans by powerful ones is a common occurrence in this world, and sorcerers usually cannot intervene.”

“For sorcerers to detect it, there must be a matter involving life, and it’s typically a substantial number of lives. It’s not just a conflict between two races. Sometimes, clansmen will lose their lives.”

“There’s an issue with the Huang Clan,” the sorcerer asserted.

“The sorcerer is absolutely correct,” Adams affirmed. “Sorcerers are revered by our clansmen because they maintain the balance of this world.”

“The Huang Clan must have committed something even more egregious,” Adams continued, placing his trust in the sorcerer.

Gu Chaoyan refrained from objecting.

This sorcerer was vexing.

Yet, he was indeed fulfilling his role.

Perhaps, only sorcerers could rectify the issues involving the Huang Clan.

Since that was the case, she would simply observe.

“Where are you stationed?” A female voice suddenly interrupted. Adams’ arm was seized, and he instinctively tried to break free. Suddenly, more than ten members of the Radiant Clan surrounded him.

He furrowed his brows, refraining from making another move.

As a member of the Huang Clan now, he couldn’t act impulsively.

Before him stood a woman.

The beast skin she wore and the accessories adorning her indicated that her status in the Huang Clan was not ordinary.

Nothing untoward could happen to them.

He replied cautiously, "I'm stationed at the foot of the mountain."

"The foot of the mountain?" The woman seemed to ponder for a moment. After a while, she suddenly remembered something. "Look at those tasks."

With that, she flashed a seductive smile. "It's not a great job. Would you like to join my team?"

Adams subconsciously shook his head.

"You don't?"

"There's no one in the Huang Clan who wouldn't want to work for me." The woman teased, seemingly unbothered by his refusal.

Chapter 2448: Mission 128

"We still have work to do. Let's attend to that first." Adams, startled, swiftly made his escape.

Gu Chaoyan and the sorcerer trailed behind him.

The woman made no attempt to pursue him, nor did she dispatch anyone to intercept.

Adams breathed a sigh of relief.

The woman refrained from chasing after him simply because she wasn't in a rush. As long as he remained in the Huang Clan, she could claim him whenever she pleased.

"What kind of person is she? Why is she so unrestrained?" Adams lamented.

"The leader of the Huang Clan has only one daughter. I believe a woman like her in the Huang Clan is indeed the leader's sole daughter," the sorcerer explained.

Sorcerers possessed general knowledge about the various races in this world, both major and minor.

The Huang Clan had progressed rapidly, with many details escaping the sorcerers' records. Nonetheless, some key aspects were known.

For instance, the Huang Clan's Tribe Chief had only one daughter.

After all, it directly impacted who would succeed as the next Tribe Chief.

In the present circumstances, this woman was poised to assume the role of Tribe Chief a century later.

"Then we shouldn't have fled just now. That woman has taken a liking to you, Adams. If you stay by her side, you might hear everything. She might even be willing to let us go for your sake," Gu Chaoyan quipped.

Adams shot her an annoyed look.

This woman harbored a strong sense of vengeance, still retaliating for their past encounters.

"I wouldn't dare. Have you seen the stares from the dozen or so men around that woman? I'm afraid I'd be nothing but bones by now," Adams retorted indignantly.

Gu Chaoyan burst into laughter.

She simply laughed.

Adams paid her no mind.

The sorcerer let out a sigh.

This woman indeed had a knack for conjuring up any scenario.

“Let’s keep moving forward and uncover the reason behind the Huang Clan’s actions as quickly as possible. That woman taking a liking to Adams is not a favorable development,” the sorcerer cautioned.

If her interest was merely a jest, it would be fine if she forgot about it after today.

However, if she remembered and returned later, it could be troublesome if today’s events were revealed.

The trio fell into silence.

They continued to navigate through the Huang Clan.

Cloaked in the attire of the Huang Clan, they evaded suspicion.

They roamed through the Huang Clan undetected.

After all...

The Huang clansmen would never have fathomed that the seemingly impoverished clansmen at the mountain’s base were astute.

“This way,” the sorcerer indicated a direction.

As a sorcerer, he possessed an inherent ability to sense certain things in this world, including places shrouded in black fog.

Gu Chaoyan and Adams trailed behind him.

“Be cautious,” the sorcerer advised.

“What is this place? Why is it so cold?” Gu Chaoyan inquired.

“There’s something amiss here.” As soon as the sorcerer spoke, the sound of someone approaching emerged from behind.

Gu Chaoyan swiftly pulled Adams up, and the two of them landed gracefully on the branches above.

Subsequently, the sorcerer also concealed himself.

“Has someone been here?”

“Camilla must have passed through.”

The black-robed man ceased his inquiries only then.

This location remained concealed.

Few were privy to its existence.

It operated as a clandestine secret; no one was permitted knowledge of it. Disclosure could spell trouble.

“Didn’t they mention that sorcerers would arrive? I’ve yet to see any.”

“No, sorcerers are just a legend. It’s more reliable to trust in oneself than to believe in sorcerers.”

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The black-robed man snorted.

He appeared to concur with the statement.

“Who do you think sorcerers are? Once we’ve refined them, let alone sorcerers, anything can make them perish.” The black-robed man emphasized.

“Of course.”

“Now that you’re aware, what’s your plan? I need a total of 20,000 people. How many do we have now?” The black-robed man expressed clear frustration.

“I’ve done my best to entice individuals from both large and small clans. Currently, there are no more to be found. I’ll check if any clans from farther away have arrived. Do we truly need the blood and bones of 20,000 people? If we can’t gather that many...”

“Of course, we need 20,000 people. Otherwise, how can we obtain enough essence energy?” The black-robed man’s tone and demeanor were far from pleasant.

“Let’s wait a bit longer. If we can’t assemble enough people, there are still the Huang clansmen. If the Huang clansmen are depleted, we can gradually recruit more. It would be a shame if we can’t cultivate them!” The Huang Clan’s Tribe Chief suggested.

The black-robed man appeared to be in a better mood.

After all, the issue had been addressed.

There were undoubtedly 20,000 people at the mountain’s base, including the Huang clansmen.

After a brief discussion, they inspected the pool before departing hastily.

Once they left...

Gu Chaoyan descended from the tree and approached the pond.

The frigid air emanated from this pool.

But why was it so cold here?

The closer she got, the more Gu Chaoyan sensed that something was amiss with the pool. Not only was it cold, but it also reeked of blood.

“Run!

They have to run!

“If we don’t escape, those clansmen will die here.”

That was the realization Gu Chaoyan had after uncovering what was happening.

The sorcerer wore a grave expression. He sensed that something was amiss, explaining why nothing seemed right in this world.

“Let’s head back first,” the sorcerer advised.

The black-robed man had already detected someone’s presence earlier. While the Huang Clan’s Tribe Chief believed it was his daughter, it could expose the truth. Their situation would become perilous if the truth surfaced.

The three of them hurriedly retraced their steps.

Upon their return to the mountain’s base, Adams remained in a state of shock.

In this uncivilized world, where concerns revolved around sustenance, health, and the well-being of clansmen, the Huang Clan's ordeal had thrust him abruptly into an alien reality. He had yet to regain his composure.

"If my guess is correct, the Huang Clan's Tribe Chief and that black-robed man are utilizing that pool to cultivate some forbidden power. To facilitate the cultivation, they require human bones and blood as sacrifices. Besides the chilling cold emanating from the pool, there's also the unmistakable stench of blood. I fear many missing clansmen have been thrown into that pool."

"The Huang Clan's Tribe Chief has become somewhat deranged over this matter. He didn't hesitate to offer up the Huang Clan. Every day we linger here increases the danger."

"We need to devise a plan to escape as soon as possible," Gu Chaoyan proposed.

"Of course," affirmed the sorcerer.

The situation appeared more intricate than he had initially perceived.

While the three of them were engrossed in conversation, a sudden commotion arose at the mountain's base.

"Gary, go check what's happening!" Gu Chaoyan urged, concerned that their recent actions might lead to discovery.

Gary hastily departed.

Shortly afterward, he returned in a hurry.

Gary appeared perplexed as he conveyed, "Tribe Chief, the Elder Miss of the Huang Clan is looking for someone here."

"That Elder Miss from the Huang Clan has always been haughty and has never visited such a place. That's why the Huang Clan guards are acting so aggressively. I don't know who they are searching for. It doesn't concern us; we can simply stay here in peace," Gary suggested, attempting to reassure the Tribe Chief.

Upon hearing Gary's words, Gu Chaoyan felt a sense of relief, while Adams struggled to maintain composure.

He seemed unable to sit still and looked as if he wanted to find a place to hide.

How could it not concern them?

Elder Miss was likely seeking him.

Their encounter with the Elder Miss on their way out was terribly unfortunate, and it spelled trouble for them.

Gu Chaoyan smiled at Adams.

"What are you laughing at? If I'm in trouble, everyone will be affected. Don't think that I, Adams, will be the only one suffering." Adams was on the verge of anxiety. Seeing Xuelai's apparent amusement, he couldn't be in a good mood.

If the Elder Miss found him, it could be disastrous.

Gu Chaoyan stopped smiling and reassured, "Why are you so worried? We're all gathered here. Just stay away from her, and we won't let her find you."

"Don't forget, when you encountered her, you were wearing the Huang Clan's attire. Now, among these restrained clansmen, not only is it challenging to single you out with so many people around, but they won't pay any attention at all."

“Just nod; everything will be fine,” Gu Chaoyan reassured after ceasing her laughter.

Adams finally felt some relief. He lowered his head, almost as if he feared someone might glimpse his face.

Gary, somewhat surprised, had assumed the situation didn’t involve them, but it became apparent that it did.

However, now wasn’t the time for questions. Gary, being tall and robust, strategically positioned himself behind Adams, anxious that Adams might indeed be discovered.

The Elder Miss of the Huang Clan scoured the area with her entourage but couldn’t locate the person she sought. Her initially pleasant smile faded, replaced by a pallor.

All those who worked at the mountain’s base were present.

Today, she had taken a liking to that particular person, asserting that he was employed here.

Could it be a falsehood?

The Elder Miss of the Huang Clan detested being deceived.

He might resist her authority, but lying to her was unacceptable.

This realization infuriated the Elder Miss of the Huang Clan, prompting her to shout at the mountain’s base, “Find him! Search every nook and cranny of the Huang Clan! How dare he lie to me! I’ll kill him!”

“Yes, yes, yes, we’ll undoubtedly find him and dismember him!” The individuals surrounding the Elder Miss of the Huang Clan exuded delight. From seeking his favor to desiring his demise, they unequivocally favored the latter.

Having encountered the man before, they acknowledged his merit.

If he truly won the Elder Miss's favor, they would be left with nowhere to go.

These individuals harbored their own calculations.

Nevertheless, they genuinely threw themselves into the search with enthusiasm.

Displeased with the foul odors, the Elder Miss of the Huang Clan departed immediately.