

## 621 LU SHU'S CHARACTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED

A group of people looked around. "Captain was beside me just now. How did he suddenly disappear?!"

"I saw him just now too! Before the soldiers of the sea retreated, he had helped to shield me from an attack," said someone.

"Captain!" Mo Chengkong shouted, but there was no reply.

The group of people did not know what happened and did not know what to do. They had lost their Captain...

Chen Zuan pondered about it. Something was not right. With Lu Shu's abilities, it was not possible that he had silently been kidnapped... Chen Zuan remembered that when the soldiers of the sea retreated, one of the blue-faced soldiers of the sea looked back and blinked at him. Back then, Chen Zuan had thought that this soldier of the sea had been out of its mind. We were completely different species! There was no point flirting!

Thinking about it now, that soldier was clearly Lu Shu!

Lu Shu did not tell anyone that he was going into the sea, as he was not sure what he would encounter underwater. He was not sure whether he would create a large movement in the water. No one would know even if he made mischief underwater. It would be easy for him to pass the blame...

He had hinted to Chen Zuan as he had wanted to pass on the information. Chen Baili had to know. If he was stuck underwater for too long, Chen Baili may have to come save him.

Thus, he had to let Chen Baili know that he went underwater. But as for whether Chen Zuan would be able to catch his hint and not let the others know, he was not sure. Lu Shu felt that Chen Zuan should be able to understand him, right?

Lu Shu was not too sure either...

But Chen Zuan did not disappoint him. He went to find Chen Baili and told him about the situation. No matter how much the others tried to look for Lu Shu, Chen Zuan did not say anything.

Chen Baili thought about it and said, "That is too risky."

"Second Master, will you go to save him? Chen Zuan asked curiously.

"But I choose to trust him," Chen Baili said. "He should have a good grasp of his abilities."

Chen Zuan was unhappy. Whatever he said, he would be faced with doubt and disdain from Chen Baili. But he would trust whatever Lu Shu said without question. This difference was just too large! But he did not dare to say anything else. His Second Master was infamous for his short temper. He heard that when Chen Baili saw the soldiers of the sea yesterday, he got upset. Once he made his move, even the bronze armor was no match for him...

When Chen Baili knew that the bronze armor could be removed, he accidentally injured two soldiers of the sea in his regret...

Chen Baili hung up his Taoist robes and looked out. Chen Baili carefully asked,

"Second Master, I feel that my performance at the remains this time..."

"Go away."

Lu Shu wore a mask and blended in with the soldiers of the sea. He realized that the soldiers of the sea did not meet with any resistance underwater. If Lu Shu did not have water-type abilities, he would not have been able to blend in.

He was very relaxed. When his water-type abilities reached Class C, he was just a step away from intertwining with the water element. Walking underwater was not a problem for Lu Shu.

They walked on the sea bed. Their surroundings were pitch black.

In this kind of environment, Lu Shu could only rely on the water element to sense the movements in his surroundings. He realized that there were more than ten soldiers of the sea wearing bronze armor in front swimming.

This was very different. Lu Shu and the rest were walking, while they were swimming. They were obviously different.

Were these soldiers of the sea the ones controlling the rest and had the surname Ke? Lu Shu was ready to make trouble. He had the chance to launch a sneak attack on the Ke's. If he were to fight them face to face, it would be hard to deal with more than ten Class C's. But if it was a sneak attack, it would be much easier. It seemed as if they did not guard themselves against the soldiers of the sea behind them.

No one suspected that a human had infiltrated their ranks...

Lu Shu saw that the ordinary soldiers of the sea did not have minds of their own. They were just numbly walking forward.

Suddenly, Lu Shu approached a trench. There was something shining hidden in the trench, swimming around.

The Ke's led the way into the trench. The soldiers of the sea followed suit and went into the trench. Lu Shu followed behind them. When he entered the trench, he realized that there was another world underneath. A grand crystal palace stood on the sea bed. The palace let gorgeous rays of light. This place was as pretty as a picture. It was like the underwater crystal palace in the myths!

Lu Shu and the rest were brought into one of the castles. All the ordinary soldiers of the sea quietly stood in the castle. There was a stage that let off green rays of light.

A soldier of the sea with the surname Ke released the dust in his hand on the stage. Lu Shu realized that more than ten soldiers of the sea walked off the stage with bare arms. Many soldiers of the sea followed behind.

The waves of energy coming from these soldiers of the sea were not strong. They continued to grow stronger.

After the soldier of the sea with the surname Ke finished doing so, he walked out of the castle. Lu Shu did not know what he was going to do. The ordinary soldiers of the sea sat cross-legged with their eyes closed in the castle. Lu Shu hurriedly followed suit.

He sensed that the soldier of the sea beside him was rapidly restoring his health. Lu Shu had guessed correctly. These ordinary soldiers of the sea could not die. If the

soldier of the sea with the surname Ke placed the dust on that stage, ordinary soldiers of the sea could regenerate.

What was this mysterious stage? Lu Shu was curious.

As the other soldiers of the sea sat cross-legged with their eyes closed, Lu Shu secretly opened his eye and looked carefully at the stage. For some reason, Lu Shu suddenly felt that Chaos, which had been sleeping, suddenly woke up. It was as if it was very interested in that stage.

Lu Shu secretly looked at the soldier of the sea beside him. He realized that the remaining soldiers of the sea were like puppets whose strings had been detached. He hesitated before releasing the awakened Chaos!

Chaos, which had taken the form of a dragon, swam towards the stage and took a bite of the stage.

Chaos then swallowed the bit of the green stage that it had bitten off.

Massive waves of energy were suddenly released from the stage. Chaos happily fed on the waves of energy. The soldiers of the sea that had been sitting cross-legged suddenly started to turn into dust. The soldiers of the sea that were still wearing the bronze armor slowly disappeared. The bronze armor, that had suddenly lost its support, fell to the ground.

Lu Shu was slightly annoyed. His character had been destroyed too quickly. He did not prepare for this! He quickly put Chaos, which was still eating the green stage, back in the Seal of Lands. Chaos once again fell into a deep sleep. Lu Shu could sense that when Chaos was transforming, it did not undergo a complete transformation.

Another explanation would be that without Hai Gongzi, it would not be able to use its own ability to completely transform.

Chaos, which had eaten the green stage, now had five talons instead of four!

A soldier of the sea with the surname Ke and wearing the bronze armor rushed over. When it saw that the stage had disappeared, he said in shock, "Who destroyed the Dragon Stage and my soldiers?!"

He felt that something was not right. He looked at Lu Shu, who was pretending to be a soldier of the sea. "Why haven't you disappeared?!"

Lu Shu felt very awkward. Others could disappear, but he could not...

Lu Shu was silent for two seconds before answering, "I was thinking of disappearing later..."

The soldier of the sea with the surname Ke was confused.

These soldiers of the sea depended on the Dragon Stage. Was it appropriate for you to disappear later?

"From Ke Wenli's distress, +666!"

At the same time, a white flying sword as thin as a thread cut through Ke Wenli's head. Concealed Arrow!

"From Ke Wenli's distress, +1000!"

## 622 STRINGENT HIERARCHY

Dragon Stage. The name itself seemed to suggest something. Lu Shu recalled the scene when Chaos swallowed the Dragon Stage and it appeared that the Panlong inside could not wait to be eaten up, as though it was trapped inside.

Hence, the source of power of the people of the sea was not the remains as what he had expected, but the Panlong.

Speaking of which, who exactly were the people of the sea? Where did they come from? Lu Shu was utterly confused.

However, the destruction of the Dragon Stage would probably help to alleviate the pressure on Safety Island. In any case, the students there would no longer need to face tens of thousands of sea soldiers.

In fact, that was precisely what happened. After the battle, the Daoyuan Class students were engaged in a heated discussion about how to collect more bronze armor, as the majority had yet to complete their suit except for the Flood of Bronze.

In the end, however, the people of the sea did not return...

No one knew the reason. Having had plenty of rest and now fully energetic, the students waited anxiously for the next round of attack, which never came...

In fact, only Chen Zuan and Chen Baili knew it was because of Lu Shu. Chen Zuan sat beside Du Xuemei, gazing at the sea surface emotionally, wondering how Lu Shu even did that...

It sounded cool to blend into their enemies' team and venture into the deep sea alone. But Chen Zuan was unable to do it.

Meanwhile, Lu Shu waited for a whole minute before other people of the sea arrived. He had maintained his shocked gesture all along! Everyone was equally stunned. Someone asked, staring at the collapsed Dragon Stage, "Ke Wenli, what happened?!"

The mask was an excellent tool. In times of emergency, Lu Shu's identity could never be suspected with Ke Wenli's face, when other people's attention was fully drawn to the Dragon Stage.

Lu Shu almost forgot his new name. He answered immediately when he realized the person was asking him, "I have no idea! It's already like this when I arrived!"

At this moment, a black soldier paced over calmly, followed by a hundred black soldiers in perfect synchronization. The leader shot a cold look at the palace and said, "There's a human here. The destruction of the Dragon Stage is a serious matter. All of you, go and find that human!"

All of the soldiers clad in bronze armor saluted, "Yes, Sir!"

Lu Shu turned to see piles of bronze armor scattered on the floor of the palace, but no one seemed to have any intention of putting them away. But Lu Shu remembered it...

Actually, he would have picked them up if the other people of the sea had not arrived so soon. Otherwise, it would be strange if he was seen collecting thousands of sets of armor alone...

Curious about whether these black soldiers were unconscious beings just like others, Lu Shu poked one of them when he walked past, as he pretended to be searching for "himself".



Yet, the black soldier slowly turned his head and looked at Lu Shu. "Yes?"

"Haha, nothing..." Lu Shu squeezed out an awkward smile. They did have consciousness...

By logic, it would mean that there were more than one Dragon Stages in the palace if those soldiers were unconscious. Then, Lu Shu followed the rest as the group dispersed themselves and joined in the search. After all, he was acting blindly on sheer luck as he had no knowledge about Ke Wenli at all. This was much tougher than his Japan mission, when the Heavenly Network had prepared him well on Kirihara Yousuke's information.

What if he was suspected by those particularly close to Ke Wenli? Besides, the only thing on Lu Shu's mind now was the bronze armor left behind in the palace!

"Ke Wenli, where are you going? The human must be strong. Follow us!" someone shouted.

Lu Shu stopped his movement. "... Sure."

That made him rather upset. Lu Shu walked towards them and started searching every corner of the palace in a group of five.

His mind was slowly brought to ease. Same strategy as always, he would kill whoever suspected his identity...

At the very least, there were no Class B's present. In water, Lu Shu had the advantage. Hence, he was confident that he could escape safely even when everything failed.

Lu Shu remained quiet the entire time, afraid of saying something wrong. But he knew it was going to be a futile search, since the target was among them.

Lu Shu also noticed that the people of the sea had purposely avoided the most majestic building among all the palaces, as if it was impossible for the human to hide there.

He followed around for a long while and visited almost every corner of the other palaces. Lu Shu analyzed that the relic was highly likely in the main palace if it was anywhere under the sea.

"Okay, let's go and report," a soldier clad in bronze armor said.

"We'll be punished again," someone complained, "That human will be chopped to pieces when we find him!"

Lu Shu laughed coldly in his heart. He would certainly have a good time with those people of the sea after he figured out the situation there.

He did not want to take the move as of now, as it required around two more days before the complete recovery of his aurablades. It would be safer to act then. At the moment, the main task was to familiarize himself with the details here.

Lu Shu followed the group to a side palace. A soldier summoned up all his courage and reported, "My Lord, we could not find the human."

In the palace, a black soldier was seated in a padded chair. He fixed the twenty soldiers in front of him with a frosty stare and hissed, "Trash. Do it yourself."

Lu Shu was puzzled. What did he mean?

In the next second, the soldiers beside him separated themselves into two rows and removed their helmets. Lu Shu then realized their hairstyle was rather strange and unique, they had braids of hair twisted on top of their head.

Slap! Another slap!

Lu Shu stared in shock as the soldiers started slapping each other harshly. Was the hierarchy here so stringent? The lower-class were ordered to slap each other for failing their task?

### **623 SOMEONE DIED!**

The slapping sound continued on, but Lu Shu was unwilling to follow suit. He would not get slapped for nothing!

Meanwhile, his partner was ready to slap him, but unable to do so because Lu Shu still had his helmet on, which covered half of his face. Yet, slapping the helmet would be disastrous to the palm.

"Slap me. Quick. If not..."

Just when he was about to urge Lu Shu to remove his helmet, Lu Shu said, "Please pardon me."

Then, Lu Shu gave him a good, big slap, resulting in the latter becoming paralyzed on the floor. His legs were twitching, looking as if he was dying...

Ke Wenduo was silent.

Everyone stopped to look at Lu Shu, dumbstruck...

"From Ke Wenduo's distress, +666..."

"From..."

The black soldier on the chair also took a while to recover from his shock. He used to enjoy this kind of humiliating punishment, but never had he expected loss of life here.

What the heck had happened!

Under other people's astonished stares, Lu Shu looked at the one on the floor helplessly. Why was he so weak...

In fact, Lu Shu's current physical strength was almost equivalent to that of a Class B, whereas those soldiers of the sea were still at the beginning of Class C. Without their protective armor, they could not withstand Lu Shu's slap at all.

The black soldier stood up and walked to Lu Shu. He cursed at the soldier on the floor, "Good for nothing!"

Then he turned and ordered Lu Shu, "Remove your helmet!"

Other soldiers were feeling sorry for Ke Wenli, as he probably would not survive the black soldier's personal punishment.

In the past, there were those who tried to disobey the black soldier, but all ended up quite miserably. In their world, black soldiers could take their lives as they pleased.

However, Lu Shu did not do as ordered. He lowered his head with his helmet on.

The black soldier asked coldly, "Why is your helmet still on?"

Lu Shu pondered for two seconds. "My head is cold..."

The black armored soldier was rendered speechless.

"From Ke Zhi's distress, +666!"

"From..."

How was that a valid reason?!

Lu Shu had considered the option of protecting his identity by removing his helmet, but his hairstyle was nothing like the others. Although the mask could turn his hair blue, it could not adjust his hairstyle.

Therefore, he could not take off his helmet, even if he wanted!

Lu Shu sighed in distress. Why was everything so unpredictable...

Suddenly, the black soldier swung his trident towards Lu Shu with a dull bang.

The transparent Cheng Ying sword instantly appeared in Lu Shu's hand. He yelled, "Go!"

Lu Shu immediately stepped a small step back to avoid the trident. Then, he curled his

body and sprang forward, slashing his sword towards the opening between the black soldier's helmet and pauldron.

The black soldier gasped in shock. Never had he expected an ambush here and then, by such an incredibly strong opponent. There seemed to be an invisible yet extraordinary weapon in his grip, but the black soldier was unable to react equally fast. In addition, his trident was too clumsy against the Cheng Ying sword!

The black soldier tilted his body as much as he could, hoping to survive the attack with the hardness of his armor. In the next instant, however, two flying daggers swooshed out of Lu Shu's celestial map. They were his real trump cards in hiding!

In fact, a slash with the Cheng Ying sword would have ended the fight, but Lu Shu did not want the armor damaged...

"From Ke Zhi's distress, +1000!"

In the meantime, all the other soldiers had been wiped out by deep sea white sand. Giggling, Anthony rose up from the floor and arranged the sand into a line that went "Isn't it impressive!"

Lu Shu was stunned. "You can even arrange the exclamation mark..."

The line was full of anticipation for a compliment. Lu Shu smiled cheerfully, "Your control over Anthony has improved. Very impressive."

"Certainly!" There came another line plus an exclamation mark.

Everyone thought Lu Shu had come alone, but he was smarter than that. Why would

he take the risk, knowing that the creatures under the sea were at least Class B's?

As a spirit, Anthony had no need for air. Besides, he could easily move about in the sea bed which consisted of earth.

Undeniably, earth-type Metahumans were really powerful, which explained the safeguards against them among various big organizations. That was why the fortress of the Collection of Gods had its underground structure protected by mixed steel bars. It was believed that the metal-type Metahumans were much easier to deal with as compared to the earth-type.

It did not mean the metal-type were weak. On the contrary, they were shockingly powerful, just that they could not sneak in secretly like the earth-type.

As a matter of fact, Lu Shu had informed Lu Xiaoyu earlier about his plan. Therefore, Anthony had been following Lu Shu closely behind under his feet.

Lu Shu packed the dead bodies into his Seal of Lands and changed into the black armor suit...

To him, his undercover mission had failed over and over again, which led to a constant change of identities...

The one in the Collection of Gods was better. This time, his identity had been exposed every two hours on average. Even Lu Shu himself was a bit distressed...

Lu Shu sized up the black armor, which looked much better than the bronze one, just from appearance alone. It would certainly boost one's combat abilities.

A fatal weapon on the battlefield!

Giggling, Anthony sank into the floor. No sooner had Lu Shu walked out than he saw the leader of black soldiers approaching him...

So what now? He did not even know that person's name! Would his identity be exposed again...

### **624 THANK YOU BRO**

Lu Shu was disguised as a soldier of the sea called Ke Zhi. All the soldiers of the sea had the surname Ke. As for his relations with others, Lu Shu did not know anything. He did not even know Ke Zhi's hobbies. Under these circumstances, it would be easy for his character to be destroyed.

The leader of the black armored soldiers walked over. "How are the results of the investigation?"

Lu Shu thought about it and said, "We didn't find anything. I've sent them out again."

The soldiers of the sea with bronze armor had been kept in the Seal of Lands. Anyway, this castle was very big. He could just come up with an excuse.

The black armored soldier suddenly said, "This time, I have given you this responsibility for you to show your potential. If you are able to produce results, I will give you permission to undergo training at the Dragon Stage for three days."

Lu Shu pretended to be elated. "Thank you master!"

The black armored soldier waved. "Okay. No need to call me Master in private."

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. Can't you follow the script? Were Ke Zhi and this black



armored soldier on good terms with each other?

Lu Shu was silent for two seconds. He tried again. "Thank you brother?"

"From Ke Ming's distress, +666!"

Seeing the distress points, Lu Shu knew that he had said something wrong. What was wrong with you? Can't you just let me call you Master?

"Thank you sister?"

"From Ke Ming's distress, +666!"

"Thank you bro?"

"From Ke Ming's distress, +666!"

Ke Ming looked coldly at Lu Shu. His eyes were full of anger. "Ke Zhi, have you gone mad? I am your second uncle!"

Lu Shu was slightly sad. "Kill him."

He had not even kept this disguise up for ten minutes. He was doing worse than usual...

The Deep Sea White Sand stretched out and surrounded Ke Ming. It shut Ke Ming's mouth immediately.

"From Ke Ming's distress, +1000!"

Lu Shu kept Ke Ming's corpse in the Seal of Lands and took on Ke Ming's appearance. He could not understand why there were always people eager to destroy his character...

Were they all crazy? Can't you just let me live?!

With Lu Shu and Anthony joining forces, it would be frightening if these Class C's could survive. But other than the castle which Lu Shu could not understand, the others did not seem to be much of a threat to him.

Should he use Ke Ming's appearance and get rid of all the black armored soldiers?

Lu Shu had planned to pass the bronze armor to the Heavenly Network. The Heavenly Network would be able to make good use of it. The Heavenly Network had many difficulties to deal with. It was not because they did not have sufficient manpower. It was because they had a vast territory to cover.

This was Lu Shu's guess. He had not made full use of the bronze armor's potential. It was best to leave these kinds of things to Nie Ting.

According to what Ke Ming had said, there was still a Dragon Stage inside the main palace. What was with the soldiers of the sea? How did they trap two dragon souls? They even used the power from the dragon souls to carry out their training.

Lu Shu felt that there was something wrong. It felt that they had used underhand means to do so. Didn't Hai Gongzi use the dragon race to cover up for his shortcomings? What would happen if he called Hai Gongzi out here?

But now was not the time for this. Lu Shu felt that he should get rid of the rest of the black armored soldiers.

He imitated Ke Ming's way of walking and took a walk around. Other than the main palace that he had not explored, there were 99 black armored soldiers left outside.

He did not expect the soldiers of the sea, who seemed very impressive, to be in the thrall of the Dragon Stage. It was like the Blood Devils, that had only hid in the remains to escape a disaster. He did not know much about the soldiers of the sea.

A black armored soldier bowed to Lu Shu. "Master, what should we do now?"

Lu Shu imitated Ke Ming and said calmly, "Haven't I said before? Don't call me Master in private."

The black armored soldier was confused.

"I'm your second uncle," said Lu Shu.

"From Ke Jian's distress, +666!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. They all had the same surname and were from the same family. Since Ke Ming could become a leader, the others were definitely younger than him, right? Even if he was older, saying something wrong would not produce so many distress points, right?

Ke Jian took a deep breath. "Master, I am your third uncle."

Lu Shu was confused. Why was this so complex? What was going on? Why was the

third uncle under his own nephew's command? What a mess!

Give me a break! Lu Shu was sad again. "Kill him."

The Deep Sea White Sand flashed past.

"From Ke Jian's distress, +1000!"

Lu Shu later on encountered more than 30 black armored soldiers. He was utterly muddled by the intricate and complex relations among the soldiers of the sea. He pointed at the others and tried to sort things out. What is the name of your uncle's father? What is the name of your second auntie's father...

"Have you guys not encountered any problems with this?" Lu Shu was speechless.

But corpses could not answer. Lu Shu silently placed the corpse and the armor in the Seal of Lands. He would remove the armor once he had the time to do so.

Lu Shu felt that he could not feed the black armor to Chaos yet. The thousand tridents he had should be enough to last Chaos for a while. He had to treasure the black armor. It may be useful in the future.

Disguised as Ke Ming, Lu Shu took a walk around. He even went back to where the Dragon Stage was and shoved all the bronze armor on the floor into the Seal of Lands.

There were only about 60 black armored soldiers left. The soldiers were all gathered at the main castle gate keeping guard. They were all Class C's. Even with Anthony's strength, he could not possibly kill all the 62 soldiers in one shot. Furthermore, his lightning aurablade had not fully recovered.

The soldiers of the sea had decreased significantly in number. He could not cover it up with just a lie. He could only go forward.

Lu Shu quickly walked towards the gate of the castle and coldly to the guards, "Everyone, come with me to kill the humans! Let them know the consequences of entering the castle!"

A black armored soldier softly said, "Master, then who will protect our Majesty? He has not fully recovered. What if the humans take this chance to enter the castle?"

Lu Shu calmly said, "Off with his head."

"From Ke Yun's distress, +1000!"

### **625 BLACK HELME**

The black armored soldier slowly removed his helmet. The black armored soldiers beside Ke Yun knew that he could not avoid punishment either. But they did not empathize with him. While their Majesty was recovering, Ke Ming's words were absolute. Ke Yun's loyalty to their Majesty was no excuse to oppose Ke Ming.

Lu Shu coldly said, "Do you mean that our Majesty is afraid of those lowly humans?"

"No, Master, I know where I have done wrong." Ke Yun lowered his head.

"Raise your head." Lu Shu was in character now...

Now that Lu Shu knew that there was a much more powerful being in the main palace who was still recovering, he could heave a sigh of relief...

The other black armored soldiers did not dare to look over. Everyone felt that a slap to the face would not be much. As long as he did not get caned, it would be fine.

Pa! Ke Yun was dead...

"From Ke Yun's distress, +1000!"

The rest of the black armored soldiers were speechless.

"From..."

"From..."

Lu Shu received a large wave of distress points. All the black armored soldiers were dumbfounded. They were frightened by Ke Yun's body on the floor. Was his punishment so harsh? Their leader was furious! The group of black armored soldiers kept quiet out of fear. No one dared to speak!

Lu Shu was amazed by the strict hierarchical system here. He had wanted to make use of the opportunity to kill a few more, but no one dared to oppose him.

It was as if Lu Shu was walking on a steel wire. The steel wire was a few thousand meters from the ground. One mistake and you would die.

Ordinary people would be very careful, but Lu Shu was different. Lu Shu did front flips and back flips... he walked to the end and walked back. Boldness of execution stemmed from superb skill...

"His body will be left here as a warning to all of you. Does anyone dare to talk back to

me?" Lu Shu was strict and his expression was very dark.

He was afraid that he would lose the corpse. He could not disguise himself as someone else and take the black armor away.

Lu Shu pondered. He suddenly said, "After carefully thinking about it, what Ke Yun said made sense. Our Majesty has to be protected. You, you, you... and you." Lu Shu pointed at ten black armor soldiers. "The ten of you, follow me to kill the humans!"

The black armored soldiers were dumbfounded. Ke Yun had died for nothing. Couldn't you think carefully before you attacked? If you felt that he was right, then he would not have to die...

Although they thought so, no one dared to raise this point. No one dared to even mutter a word.

Before Ke Ming had been killed by Lu Shu, his moods were unpredictable, but he had never killed anyone. The other black armored soldiers thought that the palace had been infiltrated by humans, thus they could understand Ke Ming's abnormal behavior.

Lu Shu used the excuse of killing humans to bring the ten armored soldiers out of the palace. At first, he had wanted to bring the 62 soldiers up to the island and get Chen Baili's help to kill them. But in the end, he brought them out in batches to kill them batch by batch. This way, he would be able to handle them with Anthony's help. He could not have to trouble Chen Baili.

As they swam up the trench, a black armored soldier suddenly asked, "Master, are you feeling unwell? The way you walk is slightly..."

"Kill him," Lu Shu muttered.

The black armored soldier was speechless.

But the Deep Sea White Sand did not appear. Lu Shu awkwardly laughed, "Ha ha, I'm just joking..."

What, are you screwing up at the most important moment?

"Master..." A black armored soldier asked, "Who are you talking to?"

Lu Shu did his best to maintain his character. "Is it your business who I want to talk to?"

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Be careful! He is not our Master!"

The black armored soldiers dispersed. All their daggers were drawn!

Lu Shu realized that the auras of the ten black armored soldiers had merged together. It was like the first time he had encountered the soldiers of the sea on the island. Back then, Lu Shu could not even determine their strength.

This black armor was very strange. Lu Shu suddenly felt the armor on his body reacting, but it was countered by the aura of the black armored soldiers.

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. Was it because of this armor?

He had struck gold!



"You guys are very daring to oppose me!" Lu Shu did his best to maintain his character...

The Deep Sea White Sand came late. It proceeded as usual, with every grain of Deep Sea White Sand becoming a bullet!

The black armored soldiers were prepared. They raised their shields. The Deep Sea White Sand had to hit the shields with the appropriate amount of strength in order to injure the soldiers.

The Deep Sea White Sand attacked, but the ten soldiers formed a pale blue ball of light that deflected the sand. Lu Shu was somewhat surprised. Could they mount a defense through the combined power of their black armor?

Lu Shu shouted, "Concentrate your attacks at a single point!" Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow attacked the ball of light in turn. The Deep Sea White Sand also attacked where Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow were attacking.

Their defense was very tough. Lu Shu had not seen any defense which Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow could not break through in one shot!

But the difference between a Class B and a mid Class C was just too large. The ball of light only lasted for ten seconds before it shattered like glass under the attack. The ten black armored soldiers could not defend themselves and died by the trench!

"Hm, they're all dead." Lu Shu nodded his head in satisfaction. He had prevented his character from being destroyed. But his solution was not quite right. At least his character was stable now, right?

Lu Shu looked at the black armor on his body. If ten sets of armor could create such strong unified energy, then what about 100 sets?

If they were faced with a Class C of similar strength, the Class C would probably be defeated in a matter of minutes.

When the soldiers of the sea had seen the Flood of Bronze and retreated, Lu Shu had still thought that they were afraid of the Flood of Bronze. But thinking about it again, it seemed like they were afraid of being held back by the Flood of Bronze. In the end, they were most afraid of Chen Baili on the island.

Lu Shu was very excited. He had to get his hands on all the black armor.

He turned and headed back to the palace. Anthony suddenly rose from the group with a sheepish smile. He even had a silver fish in his hands, which he passed to Lu Shu. The Deep Sea White Sand wrote in the background. "Put this in your invisible storage equipment."

Lu Shu was silent. "So just now, you controlled Anthony to go and catch fish..."

"Yup! It's definitely delicious!"

### **626 SMALL WHITE FISH**

Lu Shu stared blankly at Anthony, who was laughing sheepishly. Was it appropriate for you to go catch fish while there was danger here? But the silver fish seemed very special. It was as big as his palm, yet he could not sense any waves of energy from the fish. These remains were odd.

As for the four fruits he had plucked earlier, Lu Shu did not know what to do. But Lu Xiaoyu caught another fish...

This cannot be right. Lu Shu was puzzled. Since he arrived here from the island, he had not seen any living things. Was this fish special?

Lu Shu grasped the tail and shook it. There was no reaction from the fish. He asked curiously, "What's with this fish? Is it dead?"

The Deep Sea White Sand wrote in the background. "I don't know. It was already like this when I found it. It looked yummy, so I caught it."

Lu Shu pondered. He felt that now was not the time to be concerned with the fish. He shoved it into the Seal of Lands.

As Lu Shu shoved the fish into the Seal of Lands, the sleeping Chaos awakened once again and swallowed the fish...

Lu Shu became annoyed. Spit it out! Lu Xiaoyu has not eaten, and yet here you are eating! How do I explain this to Lu Xiaoyu?

Chaos suddenly shouted in pain. Lu Shu looked at Chaos, which had grown to over ten meters from its original two meters. The skin of Chaos repeatedly expanded and healed.

It was as if the silver fish had suddenly regained consciousness and threw a fit within Chaos' body. But in the end, it did not break through Chaos' body.

Chaos once again went to sleep. Lu Shu did not know whether it had fainted from the pain, or if it had to digest the Dragon Stage and the silver fish.

Lu Shu was shocked. A small silver fish actually had such an effect. If he could gather

a few more, would Chaos be able to become like a dragon? A black dragon of a few hundred meters long! How impressive would that be?

He pretended that nothing had happened and asked, "Where did you get the silver fish? Are there any more?"

The Deep Sea White Sand asked in the background. "Are you planning to steal my small silver fish?"

Lu Shu felt awkward. "Ha ha, impossible!"

When he went back, he would find a similar fish to buy. If not, something would definitely happen...

He quickly rushed back. There were 52 black armored soldiers left waiting. Lu Shu thought about what he should say to split the black armored soldiers into batches. Should he say that he had been ambushed in the trenches?

That was not convincing enough. If he wanted to do so, he had to at least have some injuries, right?

Lu Shu smeared some blood on his face and the black armor. Then, he rushed back. He reached the gate of the main palace and shouted, "We've been ambushed by the humans! Ten of you, come with me to provide support!"

After they reached the trench, Lu Shu pretended to look around. "Weird. There was obviously an ambush here. But where is everyone?"

Someone suddenly asked, "Master, have they all died?"

Lu Shu was unhappy. "What kind of unlucky things are you saying? Hurry up! Bah!"

"... bah."

"From Ke Jian's distress, +666!"

"From..."

Lu Shu gave out commands, while Lu Xiaoyu controlled Anthony to launch a sneak attack.

After facing the ten black armored soldiers earlier, Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu knew that they could not let them work together. It was best to kill them before they had the chance to cooperate. This way, they would be able to simplify matters.

The group of black armored soldiers encountered the Deep Sea White Sand and thought that it was an ambush by the humans. But Lu Shu also made his move at the same time. The soldiers only guarded themselves against the Deep Sea White Sand, but not against Lu Shu!

It was an easy kill for Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow!

Lu Shu obtained ten more sets of black armored. Lu Shu could not use the same excuse as he did just now. What should he say this time?!

Suddenly, Lu Shu realized that the water behind him had started to stir up like a spout. Lu Shu turned and realized that there were two very strong waves of energy rushing over. The waves of energy... were from Class A's!

Had Nie Ting entered the remains too?

If not, Chen Baili was the only Class A in the entire remains!

In a blink of an eye, Lu Shu could see the two figures rushing over. Lu Shu turned around and jumped down the trench. He used his water-type abilities to propel himself towards the palace.

He sped through the water like a torpedo launched by a submarine. He shouted from above the palace, "Enemy attack!"

He turned around and saw the Puppet Master, which he had encountered at the Koh Chang Island remains!

Why was he here? Lu Shu was very uncomfortable. Lu Shu could still clearly remember the fight between the Puppet Master and Li Xianyi. This was not a presence that Lu Shu could deal with.

Chen Baili was chasing relentlessly behind the Puppet Master. Lu Shu suspected that the two of them had already fought on land. For some reason, they had come underwater to fight.

For some reason, Lu Shu felt that the Puppet Master had come prepared. It was as if he knew that there was something in these remains. His objective was very clear.

The Puppet Master wore a black robe and floated above the crystal palace. The iron-clad puppet stood beside him. Lu Shu looked up. The hood of the black robe was pitch black. Lu Shu could not see the Puppet Master's face. The iron-clad puppet's body was

fully covered by the iron armor.

Their movements were as smooth as on land. This was the function of the protective gear.

The Puppet Master walked into the crystal palace. He laughed in a sombre manner. "This is not an enemy attack. Call that small white fish out to greet his guest. Tell him that the Puppet Master has arrived."

Lu Shu was dumbfounded.

"From Lu Shu's distress, +666!"

Lu Shu was shocked. He wanted to ask Lu Xiaoyu... did she steal the Majesty of the black armored soldiers while he was fast asleep...

Lu Xiaoyu had caught a silver fish, but the Puppet Master said to call the small white fish out to greet his guest...

It could not be a coincidence. It was as if ten thousand mythological animals were running in his head, saying, "Bro, you may not believe this, but the small white fish you are looking for is gone..."

### **627 EVERYONE UNDER THE THRONE IS A LACKEY**

After Lu Shu entered, he realized that there was a stage similar to the Dragon Stage, but was much bigger than the Dragon Stage.

But what made Lu Shu shocked was that there was nothing on the jade green stage. It was clear that there was nothing there. Lu Shu asked in a low voice, "Did you get that small silver fish from here..."

The Deep Sea White Sand emerged from the ground. "Yes, it was on the stage. I have no idea who put it there."

Lu Shu was dumbfounded.

Lu Shu did not produce any distress points. He could only praise Lu Xiaoyu's luck. She had somehow settled the strongest being in the remains...

From the Puppet Master's tone, the Small White Fish was not very strong. After all, back then when the Puppet Master was talking to a Class A Blood Devil, he did not have an imposing tone. Such a tone only surfaced when he was talking to a Class B Blood Devil.

Looking at the empty palace, Lu Shu had a feeling that the Dragon Stage was a relic. But he did not touch it and end the remains. He ran out again and waved at the Puppet Master. "Orders from the Majesty! Attack him!"

Chen Baili had rushed over. To be honest, Chen Baili was quite surprised. He had thought that the Puppet Master was on good terms with the beings in the remains. Furthermore, he had heard the Puppet Master's voice from far away. He thought that he was warning the beings in the remains. But in the end, they had an internal conflict? This did not make sense...

Lu Shu did not end the remains because he wanted to fight the Puppet Master in the remains. If he ended the remains here, the Puppet Master and Chen Baili would fight outside. This would result in many injuries, as all the Daoyuan Class students would be there too.

With Lu Shu's command, the black armored soldiers came together and soared in the



water. The Puppet Master laughed coldly. "You all are looking to die. I see that the Small White Fish has forgotten the honor of our master. Wait until master comes back. Everyone under the throne is a lackey! You will never enter samsara!"

Lu Shu was puzzled. Who was the owner of the Puppet Master? Wasn't he, a Class A expert, a lackey too?

The Puppet Master seemed very loyal. The Class A expert's only wish for his entire life seemed to be drawing in former subordinates for his master.

The iron-clad puppet rushed towards the black armored soldiers. He punched the ripple of defense that the 52 black armored soldiers had formed, causing it to bulge inwards.

But one could die from the bites of many ants. The combined defense of 52 mid Class C's was too much even for the iron-clad puppet.

Lu Shu was lucky. Thankfully, he had not gotten rid of all the black armored soldiers yet. If not, he would be at a loss.

Suddenly, more than ten wooden puppets flew out from the Puppet Master's black robes. They flew towards Chen Baili.

The joints of the wooden puppets were connected, like dolls in a puppet show. They did not seem to have much destructive power.

But the next moment, Lu Shu was shocked. Red threads appeared from the arms of the puppets and headed towards Chen Baili. They were so fast that even Lu Shu could not dodge them!

The red thread was very thin. Chen Baili quickly dodged the thread. Lu Shu saw that there were many holes in Chen Baili's Taoist robes. The red threads from the puppet dolls were very sharp!

The puppet dolls laughed and surged towards Chen Baili. They surrounded him and produced more thread. The puppet dolls stretched out their arms and held on to the red thread from their fellow dolls, creating a net to trap Chen Baili!

Chen Baili's green swords quickly launched a counterattack. They were like bullets that cut through the web. The web was completely destroyed!

"What an insignificant skill," Chen Baili said and laughed coldly. He threw a talisman. An ancient hero in golden armor and holding a long sword appeared in the water. The ancient warrior appeared in front of the Puppet Master in the blink of an eye!

The Puppet Master had no choice but to retreat backwards. The ancient hero's voice was loud and clear. "I am Liu Ling. I will slay any scoundrels with my sword!"

The water was split with a slash of his long sword. Even the Puppet Master did not dare to fight the ancient hero head-on.

If the iron-clad puppet was by his side, they could work together to kill this ancient hero. But the iron-clad puppet was being held back by the 52 black armored soldiers!

The Puppet Master had planned to include that Small White Fish in his forces. The two of them would kill all the humans in this remains. But he did not expect that the Small White Fish would change sides and attack him...

The Puppet Master's black robe flew behind. The lower hem of the black robe was cut by the ancient hero.

The Puppet Master suddenly rushed towards the main palace. The first to be affected was Lu Shu, who was in front of the gate...

Lu Shu hurriedly hid at the side. He did not plan to fight the Puppet Master head-on. When the black armored soldiers saw this, they prepared to go over and protect him. Suddenly, the iron-clad puppet let out a sudden burst of power, breaking the already distorted ripple of defense.

Without their defense, the black armored soldiers were defeated by the iron-clad puppet as easy as burning dry weeds and rotten wood. With a punch, their armor did not break, but the soldiers inside the armor were badly battered by the impact.

Lu Shu ran far away from the main palace. Chen Baili suddenly felt that this... was familiar!

The Puppet Master came to the gate of the main palace and laughed. "Small White Fish, I will kill you on behalf of our Master, you traitor!"

The next moment...

"Small White Fish! Where are you hiding!" The Puppet Master was furious. He did not see Small White Fish in the palace.

He suddenly realized that a small accident may have happened. Didn't that black armored soldier enter the palace to report to Small White Fish? No, wait. There was

something wrong with that soldier!

The Puppet Master went out and looked at Lu Shu. "You are not Small White Fish's guard. Die!"

Lu Shu turned and ran. "Save me!"

The Deep Sea White Sand attacked the Puppet Master in an attempt to block him. The ground of the palace formed a giant stone hand that went to slap the Puppet Master. With a wave of his robes, the Puppet Master turned the giant stone hand into powder.

### **628 DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?**

The Puppet Master hovered in the sea, looking to be in deep thought. Meanwhile, Chen Baili had retrieved another talisman, ready to use it anytime.

"I will take your life another day. You have my word," the Puppet Master said with a cold laugh.

Apparently, he decided not to linger any longer. But Lu Shu was confused about one thing, how could he get out?

Back then, the Puppet Master had thrown the mask to Lu Shu because him touching the relic could not close the remains. Therefore, it was possible to drain him to death right here with Anthony's help so long as the relic remained untouched!

The Puppet Master was too powerful. The two encounters Lu Shu had with him had already impressed him deeply. At the moment, the old man might not have won the fight alone had he not prepared the talismans in advance.

But Lu Shu had another question to clarify...

"Do you know who I am?" Lu Shu asked curiously. He was still using Ke Ming's face.

"... I will," said the Puppet Master.

"Great..." Lu Shu said happily.

"From Cloud Yi's distress, +199!"

Lu Shu was dumbfounded. So the Puppet Master's real name was Cloud Yi? It sounded strange, though Lu Shu could not explain why.

For all this while, the Puppet Master had given him the impression of an old, satanic devil. Anyway, one could never be anywhere close to a decent individual if he had lived for so long playing with a gruesome puppet all day long. Hence, the elegant name was really... a poor match for his image...

In the next moment, the iron-clad puppet returned to the Puppet Master's side under his call. Then, the latter crushed a white pearl in his hand and vanished together with his puppet.

Lu Shu was utterly stunned. What?! It's actually possible to exit the remains without the relic?! That made it impossible to even chase him!

But this time Lu Shu could be certain that the Puppet Master indeed could not touch the relic directly to close the remains. Why was it so? Could it be a privilege of the humans?

However, if the Puppet Master decided to go on a killing spree in the outside world now, Chen Hao and the others would be dead in no time. A bunch of Class C's and

below could never survive the attack of a Class A. He and Chen Baili must get out immediately!

"The relic is the jade green stage in the main palace! Go! Old man!" Lu Shu shouted to Chen Baili, while he himself rushed to the black armored soldiers...

Racing against time, Lu Shu shoved all the black armor into his Seal of Lands before Chen Baili could obtain the relic. No matter what, he could not abandon the armor because it might be of use in the future...

Hence, as Chen Baili flew inside the main palace, he turned to look at Lu Shu picking up armor, speechlessly...

Even if Nie Ting defeated Takashima Tairatsu, what if he did not kill him? No matter how powerful Nie Ting was, what if Takashima decided to avoid him and take revenge in the future?

Hence, it was no exaggeration that Lu Shu had eradicated the biggest threat to the Heavenly Network. Therefore, the superiors had allowed him to keep the Seal of Lands for himself.

Moreover, as an overseas remains, things obtained in the Koh Chang Island did not have to be surrendered either.

But it was a different matter here in the Lop Nur remains. With Chen Baili's presence and the investment of so many resources on the side of the Heavenly Network, Lu Shu could not pocket the relic as he wished. Strategic resources like that were better off left to the Network, and Lu Shu would be happy with those one hundred sets of black armor...

As soon as Lu Shu put all the black armor, including the one he was wearing, into his Seal of Lands, his face returned to his own.

The images of the remains started collapsing in front of his eyes, gushing towards the main palace.

He heaved a sigh of relief. The ten days' adventure in the remains had finally come to an end, and those Daoyuan Class students were safe too.

But Lu Shu did not let down his guard completely, because he knew he had to fight the Puppet Master outside the remains together with Chen Baili!

However, when he returned to the real world, he saw Chen Hao and the rest leaning against a vehicle, chatting and smoking. It seemed that the Puppet Master had never appeared at all. Lu Shu asked at once, "Did you see anyone get out of the remains in advance?"

Chen Hao said with a smile, "Are you fooling me because I've never been to the remains? How can someone get out of the remains in advance?"

Lu Shu and Chen Baili exchanged a startled look. It appeared that the Puppet Master had been transported to somewhere else.

"It would be hard to kill him if he can teleport like this," Chen Baili said with a sigh.

Lu Shu understood his concern. The Puppet Master could escape once he realized the conditions were against him. But Lu Shu said after some consideration, "I think he may not be able to use it anytime, anywhere. Maybe the number of white pearls he has

is limited, and the one he used was the only one in the remains."

"It can't be the last one," Chen Baili shook his head and said, "He could have done much better than using up his only means of survival. Not all hope was lost for him back then."

Lu Shu pondered and realized this line of thought made sense. He could have returned to Safety Island and hold Daoyuan Class students hostage, or even capture Lu Shu.

"Where's the armor?" Chen Baili asked, looking sideways at Lu Shu.

"Oh. With me," said Lu Shu.

He poured out a few hundred sets from his Seal of Lands. Chen Baili said calmly, "More."

A few hundred sets more were poured out. Chen Baili was getting impatient. "More! Can't you stop being naughty, kiddo? They are very useful to us. Why do you need so many of them?"

This time, Lu Shu took out thousands of sets in one go. The pile was as huge as a hill!

All Daoyuan Class students who had just exited the remains drew a startled breath. They were quite happy for getting a few parts of the armor, and those who obtained one or two full suits were complacent about their achievement. But their gain was nothing in comparison to Lu Shu's!

Knowing that Lu Shu had no intention to surrender the black armor, Chen Baili asked, "Why do you need them?"



Lu Shu acted dumb. "Them? What are you talking about?"

Chen Baili laughed aloud. "So I've returned you the favor."

Lu Shu knew what he was referring to. "Sure you have."

Who was not selfish? With tens of thousands of bronze armor, the border of the Heavenly Network would be impregnable unless Class A's or B's had come themselves!

At this moment, Lu Shu suddenly thought of something. As his mask was given by the Puppet Master himself, it was very possible that the Puppet Master would trace down this line to find him.

What the heck... Was he in danger?!

### **629 WHERE IS MY SMALL SILVER FISH?!**

Transportation of the tens of thousands of bronze armor sets became the most crucial task at hand. Everyone understood its significance, as the excellent defense it provided would drastically increase the individual combat effectiveness of Heavenly Network soldiers.

The usual countermeasure against such heavily armored troops would be the employment of elemental-type Metahumans, as their armor could only guard against physical attacks. However, hardly any organization could manage a huge army of well-disciplined Metahumans.

The military carriers drove towards the Capital under Chen Baili's supervision. The very fact that a Class A's protection was necessary for the transport of a pile of armor could reflect the degree of emphasis the Heavenly Network placed on it.

All Daoyuan Class students conscientiously surrendered their armor to the people in-charge. Their military contributions were recorded as well.

Although some of the armor was bought by girls for the ones they liked, no one would be so greedy to claim the military credit for themselves. It was a tempting thought indeed, but one would certainly have his reputation tainted by doing so.

Despite the high price quoted for the armor, in fact, one set of armor or the military credit it was the equivalent of, was worth much more than 500,000 yuan. Yet, conventional thinking made the students unable to realize the truth, until they received their cultivation techniques and promotion of military ranks. Only then did they turn their grudges towards the Flood of Bronze to sincere gratitude...

Members of the Flood of Bronze, including Mo Chengkong, still had to return to their own cultivation college in the end. But over the short span of only ten days, the name "Flood of Bronze" had become their title of honor.

This time, all the Daoyuan Class students were involved in the military training. Hence, no one was unaware of the glorious accomplishments of the Flood of Bronze on Safety Island. After they returned to school, all of its members would carry a sense of pride for their common identity.

"Brother Shu, we hope to see you again," Mo Chengkong led the members of the Flood of Bronze to bid Lu Shu farewell.

Lu Shu smiled and said, "Take care of yourselves. I wish you all the best."

Then Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu left the Lop Nur campsite at once on the special car

arranged by Chen Baili.

They had to head to the nearest city and wait for the next flight back to Yuzhou. Instead of staying in their hotel room, Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu climbed to the rooftop of the 27-storey building. They extended their lower legs over the rooftop. At the moment, the setting sun was hanging over the horizon, spreading peace and quietness across the world.

"Lu Shu, where is my small silver fish?" Lu Xiaoyu asked, expressionless.

"Let me have a look at it," said Lu Xiaoyu.

"Do you not trust me?" Lu Shu pretended to be unhappy.

"No, I don't."

"Well, Chaos ate the fish..." Lu Shu said, distress all over his face. Lu Xiaoyu would never give up until she got what she wanted.

Then, Lu Shu lowered his voice and explained Chaos' background story. In the end, he added, helplessly, "Actually I also didn't expect it to wake up suddenly and eat that fish..."

"Okay." Lu Xiaoyu gave a nod of understanding.

Lu Shu smiled and said, "I knew it! Xiaoyu, you are the most understanding..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Lu Xiaoyu interrupted, "Since Chaos or whatever it is ate my small silver fish, it'll be fine if you let me eat Chaos."

"From Lu Shu's distress, +666..."

"It's born from the divine water and it was only loosely related to the evil dragon by blood before it became a weapon spirit. Therefore, strictly speaking, it's not a living thing now..." Lu Shu explained, trying to say that it was not edible...

"Hey, Lu Shu..." Sadness suddenly surfaced on Lu Xiaoyu's face. "A girl I met in the military training, died in the remains."

Lu Shu suddenly went silent. Then, he said, "We always have to face these, don't we?"

"I wasn't that close to her," Lu Xiaoyu said softly, "She was pretty when she smiled. She would always offer to share her snacks with me when she saw me. We didn't talk much. It's not that I'm very saddened by her death. I'm just thinking, how heartbroken her family must be."

Lu Shu was suddenly reminded of what Taniguchi Bunndai had said to him when she made a 90 degrees bow to him in the courtyard. Those words flowed out of his mouth naturally, "But, some things must be done."

"You've changed, Lu Shu," Lu Xiaoyu said in a serious tone, "This time, for real."

Lu Shu remained silent for a long while, as though being surrounded by a warm web. It was not that he wanted to be selfless, or willing to contribute, but he had been influenced unconsciously by those people's action, which had reminded him of the importance of honesty and sincerity.

There were things he must do. He would do it, but only if he wanted to.

Suddenly, he smiled. Lu Shu rubbed Lu Xiaoyu's head and asked, "You've changed too, haven't you?"

"Lu Shu."

"Yes?" Lu Shu turned to look at Lu Xiaoyu.

"Anyone can die, except you," said Lu Xiaoyu.

"Xiaoyu," replied Lu Shu, gazing at the distant sun as it finally disappeared at the end of the cityscape, "Neither of us can die."

...

Liuhai Lane Courtyard House, the Capital.

Shi Xuejin was reading a thread-bound book in his deck chair. Suddenly Nie Ting passed him a not-so-important document, a record of Lu Shu's doings in the remains this time.

There was no mention of the black armor, but only a detailed account of how Lu Shu had eliminated the threat outside the remains, formed the Flood of Bronze to alleviate the overall combat pressure and ventured into the depths of the sea alone. The document was definitely compiled by Chen Baili because no one else knew what happened in the sea.

Shi Xuejin read through and smiled. "A heart of gold, right. A fist of iron, also right.

But why was he struck by lightning?"

"Are you really surprised?" Nie Ting said, emotionless. To him, that fellow's irritating words and actions deserved a bloody lightning strike long time ago.

"Haha, don't be angry," Shi Xuejin said. After some thoughts, he continued, "We've discussed the divine punishment and I think the lightning must be a form of the punishment. The transformation of certain creatures will attract lightning, though the ceiling seems higher for humans. I always believe that reaching the peak of Class A will encounter divine punishment because it defies the natural order. Hence, it's unrealistic to think that Lu Shu himself was punished. Instead, it must be due to some creature that was with him."

### **630 THE MYSTERIES OF THE PUPPET MASTER**

"If it's a creature, what can it be?" mused Nie Ting.

"There's no way to know. After all, it can't be he himself. Otherwise, he would be even stronger than you now," Shi Xuejin said with a smile, "But I suggest you talk to him about the divine punishment, as you are only one step away from that juncture of life and death anyway. I'm afraid you will be punished too if you really can reach that level. Hence, he may give you some useful advice."

Nie Ting's brows suddenly twitched slightly on his expressionless face. "Are you telling me to ask him to teach me how to survive the divine punishment?"

"Well, well." Shi Xuejin quickly switched his eyes back to his books. "I didn't say that."

"But isn't that what you meant?"

"Then did it ever occur to you that Lu Shu is probably the sole survivor who has survived the divine punishment in the past hundreds of years?" Shi Xuejin added again, "In any case, you can't deny that Lu Shu is indeed more experienced than you in this aspect..."

"Why? Is he better because he's been struck by lightning?"

Shi Xuejin went quiet. All along, Nie Ting had always prioritized the greater good. In recent years, he had sacrificed too much for this belief. However, at this critical moment, Nie Ting had done something irrelevant to the grand picture, when he was well aware that Lu Shu was the best candidate in the Heavenly Network for overseas affairs and that Lu Shu's experience in surviving the punishment would be of great help to him in the future.

But Shi Xuejin understood Nie Ting was not entirely at fault, because Lu Shu was particularly talented at pissing people off. Honestly speaking, Shi Xuejin was also curious about Lu Shu's survival. Legend had it that no one could live through the divine punishment, so how did Lu Shu do it with his sheer Class B abilities?

At this moment, Nie Ting took out his phone and dialed Lu Shu's number calmly. That made Shi Xuejin unspeakably astonished, as even someone as proud as Nie Ting would lower himself and ask Lu Shu for advice out of the fear of the divine punishment?! After Lu Shu picked up the call, both of them remained silent for more than ten seconds...

In the end, Nie Ting took the initiative to break the ice. "I heard that you were struck by lightning?"

Pa.

The call was hung up...

"HAHAHA." Nie Ting, who used to be forever composed, suddenly burst into laughter. "WONDERFUL!"

Shi Xuejin was dumbstruck.

"We must watch out for the Puppet Master." Nie Ting suddenly changed the topic. "According to Heavenly King Chen, he may not be as strong as Li Xianyi and I, but stronger than Heavenly King Chen. In addition, his moves are unpredictable. We can't be complacent if there's bound to be a fight for our lives or to the death."

Practitioners who won through erratic moves were always looked down upon. But the Puppet Master was an exception, as he had even provoked the ire of other Class A's.

At this moment, Nie Ting suddenly received a piece of information. The South American remains had closed. Countless lives were lost during the battle between the Puppet Master and the Saint. No winner.

Nie Ting and Shi Xuejin looked at each other in shock. No one knew what had happened inside before the closure of the remains. They had expected the Phoenix Society to secure the relic as they held the geographic advantage in the two Americas. But this result was definitely unforeseen!

Shi Xuejin drew a startled breath. "Two Puppet Masters. Two top-power Class A's? My father has certainly not mentioned this before."

"Maybe the Ancient Yi family we faced was simply the tip of the iceberg," Nie Ting



said, his tone was somber. The origin of the Puppet Masters was certainly mysterious. Just when they were cautious about the presence of one Puppet Master, they realized there were more than one of them.

"Chen Baili said that the Puppet Master might have targeted Lu Shu, and it's only a matter of time before he finds Lu Shu. Should we prepare for it?" Shi Xuejin asked.

"It will take a while. Order the overseas personnel to watch the Puppet Master's movement closely. Report immediately once he is spotted near the border," said Nie Ting, "But have you considered that actually none of us knows any of the Puppet Masters' true appearance? We always think that those in the black robes are them. At first I thought maybe they could be very ugly. But now, think about it, what if they are not? What if they are just like you and me, like normal people? It's too easy to blend in. Class A's can't be guarded against easily."

"Alert Lu Shu. We can't endanger him because of our carelessness," Shi Xuejin said.

Nie Ting nodded and phoned Lu Shu again. In spite of their unhappy encounters, Nie Ting would not purposely act against Lu Shu at this moment. Lu Shu must be well informed about the Puppet Masters before it was too late. After all, Lu Shu had left too many clues and he would not be able to keep himself in hiding for long.

However... Sorry, the number you are dialing is unavailable...

Nie Ting's expressions darkened at once. "Is this his ring tone or has he blacklisted me?"

"Probably his ring tone..." Shi Xuejin bit his gum. It was them who started the trick...

"You call," Nie Ting said and hung up the phone.

...

Before they boarded the plane back to Yuzhou, Lu Shu had first received Nie Ting's call, and now Shi Xuejin's. At first, he did not plan to receive any more calls, but upon second thoughts, Shi Xuejin must have something important to say in the second call.

Lu Shu's face grew grave after he put down his phone. Meanwhile, the boarding gate was already closing. After they were seated on the plane, Lu Xiaoyu asked, "Did something happen?"

"Yes. There are more than one Puppet Master. Also, Shi Xuejin warned me to watch out for them, because I've probably painted a target on my back," Lu Shu said with a sigh.

"Then fight them," Lu Xiaoyu said straightforwardly.

"I... will probably lose..." Lu Shu's brains throbbed in pain. They were two Class A's!

"Then hide first. Fight them later," Lu Xiaoyu replied as though it was common sense.

But Lu Shu still had the feeling that something was wrong. During the flight, he quickly scrolled through the past records of distress points. After more than two hours, the Blood Devil's name had finally appeared, followed by one called "Tiger Zhi".

Lu Shu gasped in shock. That was the reason he felt strange at Cloud Yi's name back then! It was because the Puppet Master's name did not match with what he had

remembered earlier.

He would have realized on the spot that the one he met in the sea was not the previous one at all if his memory had been better.

What would happen if he had been targeted by two Class A's? Lu Shu pondered seriously about Shi Xuejin's advice. Maybe he really had to avoid the danger by using another face!