

Mystical 1181

Chapter 1181: Becoming Stronger 3

At the outskirts of the Lily of the Valley, in a deserted mountain area.

A group of people parked their car just beside a small forest. Garen, Kong Xinxue, Nine-Tailed Fox, and the two siblings who wished to be trained, Yuria and Yurijie, a total of five people had got down from the car.

All of them were in the dark green camouflage military uniform with all sorts of items hanging on their bodies. They were also carrying a huge backpack, which looked rather packed.

Nine-Tailed Fox led them deep into the forest once they had gotten down from the car.

“This is an emergency base where my subordinate would use to train. Feel free to stay as long as you like and I’ll let you use it for free,” Nine-Tailed Fox said generously.

“Thank you,” Garen nodded as he looked at Yuria. “My training towards you will start from here.”

“Understood!” Yuria replied loudly. He felt that Garen was filled with mystery. He, who was just a normal secondary school student was able to come in contact with so many mysterious things. Furthermore, he seemed to strangely have a very wide network as well and his powerful Saber Art seemed to be trained out from an actual battle.

“Let’s go...”

Garen then followed Nine-Tailed Fox as they headed forward swiftly.

Yuria and his sister followed tightly from behind and Kong Xinxue was the last one walking behind everyone else.

They walked passed a few Tripod Surveillance Towers which had swivel surveillance systems with red lights coming out from it.

“This is the scanning system installed for this base. It can scan and detect any movement in an area of up to two hundred and fifty meters,” Nine-Tailed Fox explained. “I’ve spent tens of millions on this system.”

She explained as she walked further in.

Soon a jade-green pond appeared in front of the forest. The oval-shaped pond looked rather sticky and one could even smell the faint stench coming off from it.

“This is it,” Nine-Tailed Fox pointed at the pond.

“This is the location?”

Garen walked towards the pond, turned around and looked at Yuria as if there was nothing wrong with it.

“This is where you’ll train.”

“Huh?” Yuria walked towards the pond and looked into the water confusingly.

Then, Garen revealed a mysterious smile.

“This is the best place for your training, where you can enhance your actual strength within a short amount of time.”

“Is that so?” Yuria looked at the stinky water inside the pond and could not figure out why this place suited him at all.

“Don’t believe me?” Garen smiled as he gave him a strong kick on the back.

Yuria immediately plunged into the pond and a huge splash followed along.

Yurijie and the rest were stunned but they suppressed their doubts within themselves. They knew that Garen would never harm Yujia, hence, this action was definitely part of the training.

“Brother Saber?” Yuria surfaced his head out of the water with a confused look on his face.

“This is your training,” Garen laughed.

“My training?”

Yuria was confused. It was not just him as the rest were confused as well.

Garen then hinted him on what his next action would be.

“Try and raise up your right arm.”

Yuria then raised up his right arm confusingly as he heard the instruction.

His entire arm that was exposed was densely filled with black leeches, These black brown leeches were attached to his arms with their tails hanging freely downwards. they swung about freely like a bunch of black ropes...

Yuria then swung about the leeches on his hand.

“Are these... Leeches?... Ahhh!!!!!!” He started screaming madly as his face turned green and then purple before his face became distorted. “My God!!!”

He immediately tried to swim up towards the shore.

“Hehe. There’s at least thirty four of them. Pretty popular,” Nine-Tailed Fox was impressed.

“That’s right...” Garen nodded.

Yurijie looked at him from the side with a worried look as she covered her mouth with her hand whereas Kong Xinxue was just crossing her arms and observed coldly as if she was looking at a circus act.

“What are you afraid of?” Garen moved forward and tried to kick Yuria who was almost out of the pond back down into it. “Haven’t you realized?”

“Brother Saber! I’m dying! For real, I’m about to die...! This is a murder, not a training!!” Yuria was on the verge of crying as he fell back into the pond. This time, his entire body which was exposed to the water excluding his face was covered in leeches, which could not be pulled off.

“Looks like you have not realized it,” Garen shook his head. “Enjoy yourself inside.”

The Nine-Tailed Fox took out the ropes that she had prepared beforehand with a crafty look on her face.

Ten minutes later... Yuria was entirely tied up and thrown into the pond. What was revealed was his face so that he could breathe

“Help!!” He cried out loudly, but Yurijie did not come and attempt to save him at all. Instead, she was pulled to one side by someone and gave up after a few moments of hesitation.

“Enjoy your bath. We will head in and have our meal,” Garen waved his hand as he brought the rest into a small house which could be faintly seen.

Two hours later...

Yuria was on the verge of dying...

Three hours later...

Yuria was on the verge of dying...

Five hours later...

Yuria was really about to die...

It's dark...

Yuria was...

"Eh? It's already dark..." He opened his eyes as he realized he had fallen asleep.

There was a person squatting beside the pond. It was Garen.

"Are you awake?" Garen said calmly. "How's the sleep?"

"Pretty comfortable. Despite it being rather smelly, it was the best sleep I have had for a long time," Yuria responded truthfully.

"Have you realized?" Garen asked calmly.

“What?” Yuria was shocked as the horrible memories came back to him where he was still inside a leech’s pond!!

“Ahh!!!!” He started screaming again.

“Stop screaming!” Garen slapped his head. “If the leeches are able to suck your blood, do you think you would be still alive?”

“Uh.... that makes sense,” Yuria reacted. He raised his hands up and looked at his arms, where all the leeches were still densely attached. However, none of them were swollen and it was obvious that none of them had sucked his blood out at all.

“What is the meaning of this?” He finally calmed down and asked.

“What’s going on? You’ll have to answer it yourself.” Garen stood up. “Feel it carefully. Your body is currently rejecting the leeches from sucking your blood and the leeches seem to see you as some sort of a host. A host that they can attach onto.”

“A host?” Yuria did not understand the situation.

“Yes. Try and feel it. Feel your body’s abilities. This is the essence of your training,” Garen walked away slowly as he ignored him. Yuria was gifted with this ability and all he had to do was to awaken it.

The sky gradually became darker and dimmer.

The water had become colder as well but Yuria was not able to perceive it as his entire body was covered in a thick layer of leeches.

“Ability? I have a natural ability?”

He muttered softly as he realized that something was off since the leeches were not sucking his blood at all. They were just hanging by his skin as if they were a bunch of short ropes.

“Will he succeed? With this idea.”

Kong Xinxue asked softly as she and Garen stood near the pond, peeking at Yuria who was in the pond.

“Perhaps he will. Perhaps he won’t,” Garen did not have a definite answer. “He had already awakened this ability from the previous battle and all I’m doing now is to making him realize how to utilize this ability.”

“However, it sure seems very disgusting,” Kong Xinxue covered her nose. “I couldn’t help but have goosebumps just by seeing him with so many leeches attached on his skin.”

“You’ll get used to it,” Garen sat on the floor. “I’ll take a rest. Just give me a shout when he realizes that he could use the ropes to escape to the shore.”

“Sure,” Kong Xinxue nodded.

Garen had something planned for himself as well, where he planned to take this opportunity to use the Soul Ring to forcibly increase his Saber Art.

From the moment he had decided to increase it until now, he had accumulated enough Soul Energy to increase his Saber Art by one grade.

The amount of Soul Energy required for this upgrade was actually very little. However, since this world’s restriction towards this pure energy was so great, it took Garen a very long time to accumulate to this amount.

If it were the past him, he would not even bat an eye to spend this small amount of Soul Energy as the amount of energy that could not be sensed meant that he had only spent a very minute amount of it.

He then stared at his Skill Pane and locked his sight on the Saber Art option.

‘Unnamed Saber Art – Third Grade. Thorough Comprehension Realm. Full Completion.’

It was a simple introduction since it was a foundation of all the Saber Arts that he knew. Hence, it was just a simple derivative technique.

Garen attempted to guide the Soul Energy to connect it to this skill slowly.

The Soul Energy then slowly but surely moved towards the Skill Pane in the form of transparent threads.

Pew!

The vague noise started ringing inside Garen’s ears as he witnessed the Skill Pane absorbing the Soul Energy greedily and crazily.

He was still sitting on his knees with his eyes closed on the outside. Kong Xinxue leaned against a tree as she looked at Yuria from afar and did not notice Garen’s situation at all. She could not realize, to begin with.

There was nothing strange going on in Garen’s body.

The Soul Energy’s Threads were soon absorbed completely by the Skill Pane and disappeared.

Hence, there was a new modification to the Saber Art in the Skill Pane.

“Unnamed Saber Art +1 – Unnamed Realm, effect: All Saber Art techniques would have a +1 in speed, strength, precision. Has an unknown effect.’

Garen was looking forward to it as his body had already reached the pinnacle of this world. Only the Ancient Endor’s civilization had this unique ability to forcibly enhance his Saber Art by a grade and

caused an unknown effect, forcing a mortal's power to a realm where one had never seen before via the Soul Ring Energy.

"It's unfortunate that I couldn't find any Potential Points here since it is also one of the ways to increase my skill," Garen stood up remorsefully.

He saw that Kong Xinxue had already fallen asleep as she leaned against the tree.

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He lifted his arm to look at his watch, and couldn't believe that it has been over three hours. He did not realize or sense the flow of time.

"How tiresome," Garen got up and walked to Kong Xinxue.

Swoosh!

The eye-opening movement of this woman seemed to have some sort of a sound effect.

Her sense of alert was strong, startling Garen the moment he went near her.

Garen understood that everyone was focused on Yuria because he was the actual, main character. He had heard Nine-Tailed Fox mentioned once before. Even though it was not mentioned in detail but he knew more or less of it. The entire plot revolved around Yuria so following up on his movements was what they had to do.

Currently, Yuria has yet to awaken the ability that should be done so. It may be the effect brought about by them as transmigrators, hence they would have to make up for this.

And since Yuria discovered by chance the energy that Garen was looking for to help him grow strong, Garen went with the flow and agreed to it.

"How is it?" He asked gently in the darkness.

"Quite alright. Seemed to have come to a realization," Kong Xinxue nodded and stretched her arm out to tidy her long hair. Her fiery red, long mane emitted a dark red glow under the moonlight. Paired with her bright eyes and alluring body figure, it boasted a sort of temptation filled with mystery and purity.

"I heard from Nine-Tailed Fox that no matter how she tempted you, you were still adamant to choose me?" Kong Xinxue said calmly. "Is it true?"

"What do you think?" Garen replied rhetorically and smiled.

"I think it's very possible so I'm here to ask you," said Kong Xinxue. She had one arm akimbo as she continued. "Honestly speaking, I was really, really satisfied with my original brother, Kong Xiaofei. Too bad I found at the end it's been changed to you. Can you understand that contradicting feeling of dissatisfaction yet understanding?"

"I understand. Everyone's the same. The original Kong Xiaofei must have the same revelation of you occupying Kong Xinxue's body," Garen nodded.

"Yes," Kong Xinxue nodded. "That's why I probed into your attitude. I did not think you were the gentle kind, and without realizing it myself, I have fallen deeply for you. I enjoy teasing you, watching your every smile, every gesture. Oh, right, it's not suitable to use every smile here. Of course, you could comprehend the sort of person I am. It's not in my nature to fall for a maniac but it is in my instinct to do so. It was when I found out about your perverted attribute, that I fell in love with you."

"..."

"Do you believe what I just said?"

"I don't..."

"I don't believe myself too actually. I'm only prying into your perverted side, that's all," Kong Xinxue's revealed her true personality again. "I thought that with the both of us alone in such a dangerous environment, all you had to do was make a move and a weak young lady like me wouldn't be able to fend off from being pushed to the grass and forced to ** and **. I honestly thought you'll get all riled up to take action but now it seems like you are a safe, harmless being. I am relieved, but also saddened by the defiance."

"So, are you saying this because you want me to do it, or you don't want me to do so?" Garen laughed. "To push you down on the grass, rip off your clothes and underwear before I ** you violently with my **, giving you absolute pain and pleasure. I feel that this is not a bad idea after all."

"What a vile nature. See, it's coming out..." Kong Xinxue made a tsk sound, took two steps backward and stared at Garen intently.

"Wasn't it you who tempted me? Xiao Xuexue..."

Swoosh!

Garen lurched forward suddenly and with one arm, grabbed Kong Xinxue by the waist.

It was obvious she went back and changed into a tight, black miniskirt and black, long stockings over her long, slender legs. She was taken aback by Garen's sudden movement and turned to run but was seized by her waist.

Ah.

Before her scream could make its way out, Garen covered her mouth with his other hand. Her white, t-shirt tightened with the movement, emphasizing the outline of her bountiful bosoms, making her more alluring under the moonlight.

Sniff...

Garen took a big whiff of her hair.

“You smell so good...” After coming to this world and deciding to completely relax here, he suddenly realized many of his suppressed urges were being aroused more and more.

“What are you up to?” Kong Xinxue was tense. She might have a foul mouth and was constantly using filthy language, but it is the first time for her to have a guy to be in such close, physical contact with her. As Garen’s muscular body hugged her, she was overpowered by the smell of his musky pheromone.

“What do you think I’m going to do?” Garen laughed. “Weren’t you the one who told me that during the dead of night beneath the raven moon, I should push you onto the grass and do ** and ** to you? You are powerless to resist anyway,” he leaned in and whispered into Kong Xinxue’s ear.

“Shouldn’t this kind of thing...be of mutual consent?” Kong Xinxue’s body stiffened. “A pervert like you would act so common? Even before you are able to think of a more extreme and perverted act, such a common way is definitely an insult to your noble identity!” She started to give in...

“Still acting tough?” Garen’s wormed his finger into her mouth, stirring and playing with her silky saliva, emitting a squishing sound.

“You uh...” Kong Xinxue could not say anything anymore.

“Relax,” Garen beamed. His other arm moved up slowly, viciously grabbing her protruding bosoms made apparent by her tight shirt.

“Aiyaya... Am I seeing something that I’m not supposed to?” Suddenly, a listless, female voice came from the side of the forest.

It was Nine-Tailed Fox.

She was dressed in a tight, white leather suit, walking slowly out from deep within the forest.

Garen's actions halted, and he released Kong Xinxue gently.

"Did you record it?" He asked, smiling. "I displayed classic moves which I thought of earlier!"

Nine-Tailed Fox smiled sneakily and devilishly and gave a thumbs up.

"Nice posture!!"

At the side, Kong Xinxue was gasping for breath. She felt sticky with her sweat. Seeing this, she knew she had been schemed by these two.

"You... You adulterous couple!!" She yelled in rage.

"Didn't I say before? No matter an extrovert or introvert, you can be defeated by a woman's body facing this sort of thing," Nine-Tailed Fox laughed with delight. She was truly a fox.

Garen walked over from the other side. Both of them took out a miniature compact camera, turning it on to view the recording while gasping with admiration.

"What are you up to?!" The camera was playing Kong Xinxue's voice. She looked like a poor little girl who was about to be **.

"Alright," Garen held the camera while smirking coldly at Kong Xinxue. "Hand over the remaining negatives. As an exchange, I can hand this to you."

Kong Xinxue had almost calmed down. She stood up.

"Such a despicable tactic..."

"But I am a pervert!" Garen said matter of factly, "shouldn't I resort to despicable tactics?"

“Yes, Garen is known to be the lowly lord. Who asked you to underestimate him? Nine-Tailed Fox exclaimed with her sweet voice.

“...”

“I found it...”

“Out of the blue, Yuria’s voice came from afar.

“Oh?”

The trio immediately put away their joking mood and walked out of the dark forest.

From far, they could see Yuria standing alone in the middle of the lake. Half of his body was in the waters, there were groups of black leeches surrounding him.

“Leeches...” The leeches around Yuria suddenly plummeted down like raindrops. Each of them dried up as if something had sucked them dry.

Seeing Yuria’s situation, Nine-Tailed Fox was dumbfounded.

“He’s that powerful? It looks like he has gained something significant.”

“Now onto the next event,” Garen strode forward and stood by the lake to watch Yuria.

“Next event?”

On an empty field of green grass was a base surrounded by various monitoring and interference infrastructure.

There were two large dirt colored circles right in the center of the field, looking like two large pits.

Sunlight shone from above as Garen stood silently in the center of one of the pits, with a hand wielding a wooden blade. Dressed plainly in white t-shirt and jeans, his soft red hair fluttered with the wind.

"The main purpose of this training and your mission task is to use the blade in your hands to strike me," Garen looked at Yuria, who was getting into the pit slowly.

"Strike you..." Yuria looked at the wooden blade in his hand. It was a wooden knife over a meter long with a slight curve. It was fine and long. "Does touching your sleeve count?"

"Yes," Garen smiled. He didn't mind him being smarty pants.

He snapped his fingers and Kong Xinxue who was not far away appeared by the pit, gnashing her teeth. She was holding a timer.

"Now, I will not move and stand here for two hours," Garen dully said. "You will use your sword to touch any areas of my body. It's considered a pass even if it's my hair."

"Isn't that very easy?" Yuria chuckled. He saw his sister, Yurijie, appearing by the pit. She looked worried.

"Brother, you have not fully recovered..."

"It's alright," Yuria waved his hand. "I'm almost completely healed." He turned to look at Garen. "Brother Saber, shall we begin?"

"Yes," Garen's lips curled. "Anytime."

Yurijie shook her head.

“Brother Saber is underestimating Brother. He could face off such a terrifying skilled guy earlier at the ocean... I hope Brother will be careful and not hurt Brother Saber.”

“It’s you who are looking down on your Head Minister,” Nine-Tailed Fox smiled saying as she stood by the side. “Although I don’t know what sort of a cruel battle you have experienced, but...you won’t be able to fathom the true greatness of Kong Xiaofei...”

Clang!!

Just as she finished her words, Garen maintained his posture of holding his blade in reverse in the pit as if he never moved.

Yuria, who charged forward towards Garen earlier, was tossed high up and fell on the dirt ground not far away with a bang. His black, training tight suit was full of dirt and stained mustard yellow in color.

Cough cough...

He climbed up and stared at Garen who was still motionless. His earlier relaxed demeanor disappeared without a trace.

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“What... was that?” Yuria replayed the earlier scene in his head.

He dashed forward again swiftly and struck the wooden blade on Garen’s thigh.

He felt the wooden blade struck empty air, and he was tossed up high and cast a few meters away.

“Again,” Yuria patted the dust off his body and dashed over.

“Forewind!!” He yelled. His wooden blade drew a streak of round arch heading at full speed towards Garen’s waist. That was also the spot where the slanting wooden blade held by Garen was undefended.

Wham!

An odd noise was heard. Yuria saw a blur in front of his eyes, was thrown into the air and felt his world spinning. His butt hurt, and coming to his senses, he once again crashed onto the ground not far away.

“Again!”

He shouted before making charging forward.

Wham!

“Again!”

Wham... Wham! Wham! Wham!!

Rounds and rounds of tossing and crashing noises were heard. Without feeling weary, Yuria charged at Garen in the pit again and again yet each time he was thrown away peculiarly.

Every time he got up, he tried to charge at different angles but unfortunately, he has not been able to get close to Garen within a two-meter range. He would only be able to stride into the area before he was hit and tossed up again.

“What the hell... is this?!” Yuria played back the entire process of him being thrown up over and over in his head.

He was bruised all over and was pained all over. Beads of perspiration dripped down from his forehead and temples, sliding down his face with an itchy feeling. A few drops almost seeped into his eyes.

“Damn it!”

He was flustered.

“Don’t tell me I can’t even see his moves clearly?”

Flashes of newly realized energy slowly released from his body. It was ripples of boundless soul power.

Yuria crouched down and arched his body like a predator about to strike his prey, sharp yet calm.

“Brother Saber... Better be careful. I’m about to get serious. I can’t really grasp this newfound power.”

Garen did not speak. He smiled, and with one hand, held the wooden blade horizontally in front of him. He looked like an unmovable mountain.

“Hydra!”

This word instinctively flashed before Yuria’s eye. His soul power released by his body became bug-like crawly lines, sticking onto Garen’s body. It seemed to absorb something out of him.

Yuria felt his body becoming a lot lighter.

It was useful!

His heart flashed with glee.

He charged forward and struck with his wooden blade.

Swoosh... Clang!!!

The wooden blade drew an arc and stabbed at a speed doubled from before. It was then pushed upwards and struck in its body by Garen's blade tip.

A large force flowed from the body of the blade through its handle and into Yuria's body.

Fu...

He was thrown away again without any sense of control.

Wham!

His body crashed heavily on the ground. It was still the same area he had crashed multiple times earlier. Pressures of pain surged into his brain.

"Why?..." Yuria's vision became blurry.

"Why..." He struggled to lie on the ground and stared at Garen's direction. He could not hear anything. He has overexerted his willpower and could not handle it any longer.

"Why... did I still fail...?"

Hydra's ability had allowed him to see clearly how he was tossed away.

It was just that once the tip of his blade hit the body, he was prised and thrown away.

"What's going on?" Head Minister's voice was heard. "Can't do it anymore? It's only been an hour."

“Brother...!!” His sister’s voice was heard coming from far away.

By the pit.

Yurijie covered her mouth and looked at Yuria with worry as he struggled to get up.

“Brother... How could it be?” He was the person who fought off the half Cyborg T-Rex!! For someone who could slaughter a cyborg, how could he end up here...?

Nine-Tailed Fox was fixated at Garen who was in the pit. Her eyes flashed interest and seriousness.

“I told you, you underestimated Kong Xiaofei.”

Kong Xinxue gasped in admiration but was quickly suppressed by her strong pride.

“That’s all he can do, bullying a young child!” She snorted coldly with disdain.

“Relax, he’s fine. Your Brother Saber knows when to stop,” Nine-Tailed Fox comforted when she saw the worry in Yurijie’s eyes.

“Mm...” Yurijie could tell that although her brother was tossed away multiple times, he did not actually suffer any wounds. Her worries eased up a little.

In the pit.

“Based on the opponent you described,” Garen spoke, “the opponent you want to defeat trumps on speed during attacking. In other words, he’s good at instant eruption of power.”

He drew his wooden sword gently, making a light swishing sound.

“So I will use a simple, hastened eruption of attack against you. Channel your energy well, observe my movements clearly, try to avoid them and hit me. This is what you should be doing.” Garen’s voice transmitted into Yuria’s ears. He was still crouching on the ground.

He lowered his head, no expression could be seen.

He initially thought that after a series of combat exchange, the difference between him and Head Minister wouldn’t be that big but now it seemed as though as Head Minister’s capability was as deep as a bottomless pit.

The figure standing there was an indestructible mountain that he couldn’t go beyond.

Fu... Shh... Fu... Shh...

Every deep breath he took inhaled and exhaled got longer. He rested shortly and regained his energy.

Yuria picked himself up from the ground and placed his wooden blade vertically against him, clenching it tightly with both of his hands.

“I’m in debt of your teaching...”

“Go full force,” Garen responded lightly. “I don’t know where these strange power of yours come from but I only see two outcomes during battle, life and death.”

“Life and death...?” Yuria knew these words were a warning to him. If this was a real combat, he would have died several times already.

“Come forth,” Garen placed his wooden blade horizontally.

Yuria's hands grasped tightly on his blade's handle. Finally, the soul power was raging all over him and slight peculiar changes were appearing on his body.

The savior's power was finally fully activated!!

His muscles started to expand while his skin bruised purple and red.

Puff!

The first step. The first step that was stomped on the ground struck tremors in Yuria.

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam...!!

With the continuous footsteps, Yuria was a fearless warrior, unafraid of death. The soul power gathered in his body and was roaring!! His body and mind charged towards Garen without turning back.

Like a hero charging at a giant.

Watching the changes he underwent, especially his eyes, Garen finally smiled. He stood there silently, watching him approaching closer like a roaring, attacking tiger.

"Forewind!" X2!

The two, same yells were heard simultaneously.

The same move was played by both their hands. Using the same technique, the wooden blades drew the same route of arc.

Cling!!

The wooden blades' tips were held against each other for the very first time.

The blades were touching tip by tip accurately and held against without slanting on either side!!

Yurijie covered her mouth, her eyes widened to its limit.

Nine-Tailed Fox was visibly moved. Her earlier casualness disappeared.

Kong Xinxue clenched her fists lightly and looked at Garen with complicated feelings.

The wind was blowing gently. It was not by Mother Nature but rather a breeze wielded by the two wooden blades.

A saber art that seemed to be as fast as or faster than the wind. The Forewind of the Four Directional Winds was a move that proved to be of an essence of Garen's created saber art.

And now this move was blocked by a student of his that he had taught for no more than two months.

He did not hold back.

Garen was clear on this.

"Interesting..." Garen's lips curled wider. He looked at Yuria whose blade was locked against his. This little guy who he thought he could easily torture had surprised him time and time again.

Should he say no wonder he was the main character of this world?

Even he couldn't help but feel envious.

Although it was a saber art that he casually came up with, to face off his move of unrestrained Forewind would take at least the Thorough Comprehension Realm to achieve the Sword Master state.

Yuria never received any formal saber art training and his Martial Arts Realm wasn't that high yet he possessed battle instincts and intuition that far exceeded wild beasts. His inhuman instincts enabled him to instantly capture miraculous breakthrough points. And that was the only part he could catch up on, the tip of Garen's blade.

This was also the only flaw of the Forewind.

There was nothing perfect in the world. No matter how perfect a thing was, perfection itself would present a flaw as perfect meant fulfillment, and fulfillment meant self-sufficient and sealing out any exchange from the outside world without able to advance any further. This was an absolute taboo in any path.

And so Garen placed the only flaw on the tip of the blade that has the fastest speed in the Forewind. This was an area where enemies would find it hard to capture and even experts that shared similar agility as him wouldn't be able to discover this.

But Yuria was able to achieve it.

Using a series of action that was far slower than his.

Cling!!

The two wooden blades flung away, giving out a crisp sound of colliding metals.

Yuria took a few steps back while Garen remained where he was without moving an inch.

Between the two of them, one of them was gasping for air in desperation and perspiring endlessly, his sweat dripping on to the dirt ground; while the other was standing there quietly like a statue as if he had never moved at all. The two extreme end of situation drew a vivid comparison.

For a moment, the entire field fell silent that even the three spectators did not make a sound. They were afraid to disrupt the duo. Anyone could tell that Yuria was at a crucial moment. If he could grasp that strike more accurately, he would instantly diminish the gap between strength and reach directly to Sword Master state. Even though it was after he activated all his ability that added up to his in-the-moment burst of talent, it was still breathtaking enough.

Even for Garen, he realized this realm at the end of the first world. The Sword Master was in actual fact the equivalent of the King of the Century from the Secret Technique world. Above that would be a stage that could trigger superhuman strength but this world was restrained so the highest level in this world would be the Sword Master state.

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“Are you done resting?” Garen said lightly.

Hu...

Yuria took a deep breath and halted his body’s movements. His eyes gleamed with never-before-seen flickers of fighting spirit.

“I’m done.”

“Come then,” Garen showed a sense of seriousness.

The first time.

For the first time, he placed his left hand on the handle.

It was then that everyone realized that Garen had only been using one arm at the beginning. Just one, right hand to merely push Yuria to breathlessness.

An unyielding pressure was emitted by Garen, mounting Yuria to the point of slight asphyxiation.

“How powerful...!”

He gathered up his energy, no matter if it was the borrowed force from the savior or the newly realized Hydra, he turned all of it to his own.

Puff!

He took a step forward dramatically, before lunging towards Garen.

In that instance, the two wooden blades collided onto one another.

Clang!!!

The summer's breeze was warm and the leaves rustled from the wind. The sun rays quavered with the flow.

Golden fragments appeared in sight as though the entire forest turned into a golden ocean with clear ripples.

Yuria lay flat on the ground with open arms in the pit, gasping for fresh air. He couldn't be bothered with the sweat drenching the dirt ground and staining his body. He was exhausted beyond words.

He felt an endless weary sweeping him away.

Yurijie hurried to him, carrying a basin of water and a water bottle. She kneeled by her brother and carefully wiped the sweat and dirt off on Yuria with a towel.

Pat...

Sounds of footsteps drew near and stopped by Yuria.

It was Garen.

With complicated feelings, he looked at Yuria on the ground. The wooden blade in his hand was broken in half and only the lower half was held.

"I... Is that considered...a pass?" Yuria asked breathlessly.

Garen was silent for a moment before closing his eyes in contemplation.

"You're still far from that."

He answered in a low voice.

"Oh..."

Yuria smiled bitterly.

"But this time, you passed..." Garen suddenly turned and walked away. The remaining half of the wooden blade was stocked on his shoulder. He did not even notice Yuria and his sister sharing a smile of joy and excitement behind him.

Nine-Tailed Fox jumped into the pit agilely and walked towards Garen.

“How proud. You’re really dead set on keeping your pride.”

Nine-Tailed Fox whispered in glee as they crossed by.

“Say whatever you want to,” Garen wasn’t in the best of moods. “Your time is up next.”

“Of course,” Nine-Tailed Fox nodded and treaded lightly towards Yuria.

“See what you did, starting at such a high point. Don’t you know it’ll be hard for me to teach you?” She walked towards the siblings and looked at both their puzzled faces.

“Alright, your Head Minister had handed you over to me. I will be guiding you on far-ranged attack training,” Nine-Tailed Fox gave a sneaky smile.

One day later...

After resting for a whole day, Yuria and his sister were brought to an empty basement by Nine-Tailed Fox.

The four walls of the basement were of a black metal surface. There were tiny traces of bumps and hollows all over the walls. It was unknown what was the place used for.

There was only one entrance and the door was a three-meter thick, heavy metal conveyor.

The sibling duo wore bullet-proof vests and stood in the center of the basement. Each of them was holding a high-power gun. They both had a dull and absent look on their faces. It seemed that they didn’t think Nine-Tailed Fox, a young lady who looked like a student, would fiddle with such a horrifying, killing weapon.

They had labeled Garen and Nine-Tailed Fox as mysterious students and these impressions were crushed so badly by these two guns.

Nine-Tailed Fox stood opposite them with her back against the wall. She was wearing a black, tight suit that outlined her bosom and lower half body finely. The sort of sexy, tight outfit that sent little student blushing.

Both Garen and Kong Xinxue stood and watched by the side.

“And now,” Nine-Tailed Fox spoke gently, “I will train you on how to react to an intensive quick-range attack. Base on the opponent you described, he seems to be fitting to this style.”

“Mm,” Yuria focused his mind and nodded solemnly. “Yes, large-scale magnetic pins attack. He would first lay down a large number of pins so that he could draw them to attack anytime.”

“Then it’ll be easy,” Nine-Tailed Fox smiled. “What you need is how to avoid this sort of quick and mass attack, how to find out a way out from the storm.”

“So what should I do?” Yuria was earnest to learn.

“What should you do?” Nine-Tailed Fox lifted the gun in her hands. Her smile became eerie.

Seeing the gun in her hands, the sibling duo suddenly thought of a discouraging possibility.

“Don’t tell me...” The duo’s faces darkened.

Bang!!

The gun fired.

“As expected!!!!” They turned as pale as ghosts. No wonder they were required to wear bullet-proof vests. Firing a high-power gun in a secret lair with highly reflective metal walls was plain murder!!

“Hehe, you guessed it right!” Nine-Tailed Fox beamed, revealing her small, canine teeth. “Too bad there are no prizes for that.”

Ding Ding... Clang!

The bullet ricocheted in the basement. Its trajectory was too fast to be captured by the eye, only ricocheting shots could be heard and the marks of golden fiery sparks were seen scattered on the walls and ground.

The sibling duo crouched down with their hands over their head, laying flat on the ground. They didn’t dare move an inch. Their faces were distorted with fright.

Clang!

A ricochet bullet landed on the floor not more than half a meter away from them.

Ah!!!!

The duo screamed out of fear. Their faces were pale as they hugged each other tightly.

Standing by the side, Garden was speechless at the sight of both of them.

“I was still envious of this young fellow. I spent quite a long time to realize the realm yet this guy caught up using some mess of an ability. But now it seems...” He shook his head helplessly as he sighed.

Kong Xinxue also went pale. She retreated discreetly behind Garen in an attempt to use him as a shield. Ricocheting bullet has aimless targets. Whoever was hit only had bad luck to blame.

“You maniacs, can’t you give a warning before opening fire.”

“Scared?” Garen looked at her teasingly.

“No!”

Kong Xinxue would never admit that. Suddenly, she saw the change in Garen’s face as he looked at the wall behind her.

“Careful!”

He shouted.

Ah!!!

Kong Xinxue rushing into Garen’s embrace as she gave a blood-curdling scream.

“Hahaha!!” It was when she heard Garen’s guffaws that she realized she was fooled.

“You!!” She immediately broke away, wanting to curse.

Swoosh!!

Out of a sudden, a flash of silver appeared between them.

Garen nonchalantly sheathed his long blade into its scabbard.

A black bullet was slashed in half and dropped by their feet with a clang.

Kong Xinxue was startled. The chill in that instance and seeing the flickering silver light, she thought that Garen was raising his blade at her. She would never forget that undismissable sense of suppression.

“What a saber technique!” Nine-Tailed Fox clapped. “But our Ah Xue seemed to be frightened off her wits,” she teased.

“You’re the one scared off your wits!!” Kong Xinxue has actually never experienced such random, dangerous combat world in the past few worlds. It has been a peaceful journey for her. Although she knew Nine-Tailed Fox back then, she knew they were different from her but she did not take it to heart. This time was different. Having witnessed first hand of that saber art, she felt fear.

“Head Minister... Are you sure you’re human!?”

Yuria got up in disbelief.

Yurijie nodded with force. If it weren’t for her seeing it with her own eyes, it would be hard to imagine a human being taking down a bullet with a cold weapon. Even if the bullet ricocheted a few times, causing the speed to decrease, it was trajectory that could be caught by the naked eye.

Garen smiled.

“Focus your mind on it. After the first ricochet, the bullet isn’t as hard to catch anymore.”

“Yes,” Nine-Tailed Fox clapped. “Now you two fire at me. Don’t worry, I have changed the bullet to a special kind. Those that are hit will not die. At most it will cause this huge of a wound,” She gestured circles about the size of a knuckle.

“This is what you call a special bullet?!! What difference is this from an explosive bullet!?” Yuria was absolutely terrified. “No... This is not considered a bullet anymore? This is a cannon...”

“I’m sure it’s not a cannon,” Nine-Tailed Fox could guess what he was trying to convey. “So, to avoid death and to protect your sister, young man, bring your strongest instinct to full play!” She gave a thumbs up, “do your best!”

“Do your best my ass!” Yuria wanted to scream but Nine-Tailed Fox did not provide him the chance. She held her hand up to the ceiling and fired the gun again.

Bang!

The bullet started ricocheting.

Bang bang bang bang bang!!

This time it wasn't just one bullet. Nine-Tailed Fox knew they both of them were unwilling to open fire so she blew six shots continuously, finishing a round and tossed the gun aside.

Swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh!

Four of the ricocheting shots rebounded towards her.

A white ribbon appeared in her hand. Nine-Tailed Fox agilely made a turn and dodge the bullet at ease like an acrobat dancing on the tip of a sword. The white ribbon fluttered gently as though she was presenting a beautiful dance.

The sibling duo watched with eyes wide open.

Garen paid close attention to Nine-Tailed Fox's movements.

“Awesome... Her speed has already surpassed that of human...”

“She once said that although her demonic arts couldn't be used, the monstrous body attribute has left behind some superhuman abilities such as this speed,” Kong Xinxue said in a low voice. After that blade-slash by Garen, she has calmed herself down. Although she was still nervous, she was not as afraid as before.

“Oh, really?” Garen fell deep into his thoughts.

Chapter 1185: Business Talk 1

Swoosh!

A specially made bullet swept by Nine-Tailed Fox’s ear. In that course of direction, the bullet seemed to slow down, gently brushing her hair before firing off.

Swoosh swoosh swoosh swoosh!!

And then in a blink of an eye, it resumed to its hastening speed. A few ricocheting bullets leaped past her without touching her body, clothes or even the ribbon on her hair.

“Shoot me!” Nine-Tailed Fox suddenly gave a dazzling smile and yelled at the sibling duo.

Ah!!!

Yuria and his sister jumped in surprise. They couldn’t help but pulled their gun’s trigger.

Bang bang bang!!

Ah!!!! There was no safety catch!!

With pale faces, the sibling duo was visibly shaken by the enormous counterforce. But how could the gun shoot just like that? There was no safety catch whatsoever...

The bullet ricocheted everywhere. This time it rebounded here and there without any pattern, increasing its possibility of danger.

Even Garen who was standing on the side grew solemn.

“She’s really at it recklessly... This sort of specially built gun is big trouble using it on people.”

Kong Xinxue couldn’t be bothered with her pride. She hid tightly behind Garen.

Pat.

Suddenly, Nine-Tailed Fox snapped her fingers. Her lips curled into a peculiar smile.

“Open.”

Buzz!

The wall behind her trembled violently, a large magnetic force appeared out of nowhere.

Clang!

A bullet was sucked into it.

But more ricocheting bullets were still drawing a winding trajectory and all heading towards the direction of Nine-Tailed Fox.

“Nine-Tailed!”

The white ribbons around Nine-Tailed Fox shot out in all directions. With swooshing sounds, nine, white ribbons spread out like a fox's nine tails, fluttering and waving swiftly. The instantaneous display embodied a peacock fanning its tail.

Reacting promptly, Nine-Tailed Fox stepped forward and dashed towards the flying bullets.

"Watch carefully!"

In a white flash, she bent down slightly and landed on a surface not far away. The white ribbons behind her were retrieved.

Everything went completely silent and all that was left was her down on one knee.

"Where are... the bullets?" Yuria hugged his sister, still frightened. Hearing the silence, he regained his composure slightly and looked at Nine-Tailed Fox. He could not bear to watch earlier. The image of such a beautiful, young lady being blown in the head was something he would never want to come by. It was simply too cruel.

He just closed his eyes.

Swoosh. Nine-Tailed Fox stood up with a gentle smile on her face.

Extending her arm, there were nine bullets of various sizes in her palm. Some bullets were crushed to a few pieces but she caught them all.

"Did you watch carefully?" Nine-Tailed Fox's turned her palm down, letting the bullets to fall freely onto the ground.

"...!"

Yuria swallowed his saliva. He was totally oblivious of what happened earlier.

Yurijie lifted her hidden head from his embrace. She was puzzled by the silence. Although she was baffled, she felt relieved. She was not clear what had happened.

Only Garen who stood beside watched the entire process. He applause.

The clapping was crisp, loud and clear in the space.

“What a skillful ribbon art... more so on your dodging skill,” he complimented. “Such a dodging level of ability really surpassed that of human...”

Nine-Tailed Fox’s evading speed was far beyond any regular being. She must have used some special tactic to enhance it just like him. This sort of ability that did not belong to mortals would require a heavy price to pay.

Garen himself has the Soul Ring Power while Nine-Tailed Fox should possess something similar. She was a thousand-year-old demon after all and who could tell for sure for those who transmigrated and experienced various worlds.

With the flow of time, a few hours clocked in quickly.

Nine-Tailed Fox had already drawn out more than ten guns and fired them nonstop. Shell casings were scattered on the ground.

The sibling duo had many bullets scraped past them. Sweat drenched their frightened bodies. Their faces were pale white to the point of dehydration.

“How is it?” Nine-Tailed Fox maintained her composure without breaking a sweat. She treaded lightly around them. She was playing with a white ribbon in her hand, like a child playing with a toy. One could not tell she was the same person who dodged multiple bullets.

“Just how do we... dodge...?” Yuria carefully observed Nine-Tailed Fox’s figure, “I... I really have no clue!” Sweat dripped from his forehead into his eyes. He wiped it away quickly opened his eyes. Nine-Tailed

Fox's face was in close proximity, so close that the distance between their noses was only a finger's width.

He was startled and quivered.

Swoosh!

Nine-Tailed Fox leaped back a few meters, as agile as a deer.

"Looks like there's no realization. Let's continue then. Ah Xue, please help to collect some bullet cartridge. It's piled up at the passage just outside the door."

"Alright!... Alright!" Kong Xinxue ran out to the opened passageway. Not only was there a strong smell of gunpowder, her life was at risk. It was not the place to be. She couldn't wait to get out of there and now was the chance.

Garen carried his blade and walked to the side of the wall, laying against it to rest. Seeing Nine-Tailed Fox's figure, her dodging postures was on play-back in his mind.

"Such a strange, evading ability. It is not at the level of humans. She definitely depended on some sort of special ability to enhance it. That maneuvering speed is faster than mine. My instant attack is quicker than hers but dodging and maneuver are unlike hers."

He compared between them and felt that he and Nine-Tailed Fox has their own pros.

In the next session, Nine-Tailed Fox held a gun and fired at Yuria without holding back. She aimed at dangerous areas such as Yuria's clothes and hair each time.

This frightened Yuria to the point that he dared not move at all.

A day of training quickly came to an end. Bullet casings and bullet fragments scattered around, densely covering the entire ground.

The night was near and the secret room was getting dark. Sunlight was fading from the bullet-proof window on the top, sinking the secret room into darkness.

The first day of bullets-dodging training ended officially. Yuria felt he came up empty-handed except that his heart was about to fall off.

Yurijie was a nerve-wreck. She collapsed on her bed as soon as she reached the central resting bed in the base. She didn't even think of showering before she hit the sack.

The base has a specific showering area but it was hogged by Nine-Tailed Fox and Kong Xinxue. Garen lay in bed, his sharp ears could clearly hear the two ladies fooling around.

Bam bam bam.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

"Come in," Garen didn't need to guess who it was. "The door's not locked."

Hesitating for a bit, the door opened with a creak.

Yuria walked in. His body reeked of scents of ointment and medicine. A band-aid was stuck on his nose. That was evidence of a bullet scraping the bridge of his nose during the day.

"Brother Saber."

"Sit," Garen did not get up. He continued lying in bed. There was only one chair in the room for Yuria to sit down.

"I'm here to seek your advice on the matter that happened during the day," Yuria was direct.

“Day?” Garen replied non-committally. “Didn’t you train the whole day? Still not gaining anything?”

“You can tell,” Yuria gave a bitter smile. “I really learned nothing! I have tried to use all my power to trace the trajectory but it was no use... If it weren’t for sister Nine-Tailed Fox avoiding the vital organs, I don’t know how many times I would have died.”

He sat down in the chair and took a deep breath. A sense of sorrow surrounded him.

Garen didn’t even bother to lift a finger.

“Whether you gain anything or not, won’t you know once you put it to test?”

“Put to test?” Yuria was stunned. He did not know how to try it out.

Clang!

A silvery chill slashed towards his neck, striking a streak of arc in the dark room.

Chills went down his spine as Yuria didn’t think twice to throw himself backward. He saw the blade hacked no more than one centimeter from his forehead, severing a fringe of his hair in half.

“Not bad, young man.” Garen sheathed his blade and returned to lie in bed.

Yuria was in a daze. He sprawled down on the ground in an attempt to evade the stab. Now, even the cold ground could not hide his pleasant surprise.

“I... dodged? Did you hold back, Brother Saber!?” He immediately reacted to it and got up shouting.

“No,” Garen yawned. “It was the same as when I tackled you. This is my normal attacking speed.”

“...” Yuria’s expression was strange. Surprise, joy, pain, struggle, everything was on display in his face. “... Really?”

“Yes.”

Garen closed his eyes and replied listlessly.

Yuria stood there flabbergasted for a moment before decisively giving a bow salute to Garen. He turned and left in a hurry. The energy released by him was entirely different now.

If what Garen said was true and he did not hold back, that means he started from struggling to block against Garen’s strike to evading his ambush. This level of improvement was quite evident.

Hearing Yuria running out in joy, Garen who was lying in bed, opened his eyes.

“The fruition that I worked so long to achieve... was caught up by this young fellow in a few days... isn’t he the main character?” He had a complicated expression in his eyes.

It would be uncomfortable for anyone whose many years of fruition be caught up in a few days. This was envy, an envy that saw his years of work and sacrifice not to be worthwhile.

The training was the same on the second day. The difference was that Yuria went on site alone while Yurijie stayed on the sidelines. Only Yuria could tackle such high difficulty level of evading training so Yurijie who possessed no special powers was off the hook.

Nine-Tailed Fox changed her tactic.

The two metal walls top and bottom interchanged to release large magnetic force.

Wham!!

Countless bullet casings on the ground fired up into the air in extreme speed.

Yuria stood in the center.

“Winds of Four Directions!!” He yelled. Four white blade lights appeared around his sword. He cast away a large number of shell casings amongst clanging sounds.

But many bullet fragments still penetrated the defense net and hit him.

Chapter 1186: Business Talk 2

Wham!

A pry bar that was sucked up and stuck with countless bullet shell casings on the wall suddenly dropped from above crashing towards him.

“Upwind!!” Yuria defended with his saber art.

Garen stood on the side watching, yawning at times. The training has been going on for a few hours. Once the defense was missed, Yuria would receive an inhuman punishment, that is to run naked...

The bullet fragments pulled by the giant magnetic force have sharp edges. Under the high velocity, it easily tore Yuria’s clothes, especially when the bullets flew from the bottom up... sounds of his pants tearing up could be heard.

Nine-Tailed Fox chuckled as though she was watching a comedy as she manipulated the magnetic force to open and shut. It seemed like she was playing and having fun rather than training him. Yuria really had the worst of luck to have her as an instructor.

Finally, the training came to an end.

Yuria improved at the speed of light. From being punished to run naked at the beginning to not being bothered about it anymore. His dodging ability also improved from being a mess to only a small amount of fragments escaping from his defense.

“Hydra!” Yuria suddenly yelled. His skin became purplish red. His muscles expanded. His body thickened. He activated the force of Savior and Hydra at the same time.

“Four Directional Winds!!” He held his saber with both hands and four blade sparks rose in connection by him, instantly blocking a large number of bullet fragments flying upwards from the ground.

“Almost there,” Nine-Tailed Fox clapped and stopped the magnetic force. She treaded over. “If you meet that opponent again, your current state should be able to catch up to his attacking speed as well as other large-scale dense and far range shooting.”

“I feel it too,” Yuria nodded heavily. “Thank you for your guidance!” From these recent days spent together, he now knew that Nine-Tailed Fox wasn’t as young as she looked. He began to address her respectably in replacement of the earlier casualness.

“Now, you should do what you should be doing,” Garen got up and walked near.

“Do what I should be doing...” Yuria smiled bitterly. He did not know how he should answer.

He only meant to look for his mother but after meeting Galouro and learning about a series of events, he wasn’t that worried about his mother’s whereabouts. The only thing he was concerned was when that self-proclaimed root doctor, Jiatai, would come and seek trouble.

The Vulture’s capabilities were too powerful, and he felt asphyxiated with the pressure and stress.

But they didn't let him off the hook just once. They bore no murderous intent when they had the absolute upper hand, there must be some unknown reason.

"Brother, it's all on you to take care of the person from the Vulture," Yurijie walked over and whispered. Witnessing the training for the past few days, she had attempted to catch up on brother's progress but unfortunately, she possessed no special abilities. She couldn't keep up with this explosive type of improvement. She could only back down and watch at the sidelines.

"Relax," Yuria regained confidence. "Comparing our lower limit, he can't possibly win!" He clenched his fist.

"..."

Garen, Nine-Tailed Fox and Kong Xinxue could do nothing about it. Garen's seemingly joking combat ideology has been deeply embedded into Yuria's heart and now it was to see if the original script would continue to roll on.

After the special training, everything resumed to normal.

Yuria and his sister remained in Lily of the Valley, without leaving again.

Garen and Kong Xinxue 'traveled' back home, reuniting with the transmigrators to discuss the plot's current trend.

Garen managed to pick up intel about the Four Great Cornerstone from these people.

Savior, Mind Reader, Illusionist, Slayer.

Four main characters forever transmigrating and rebirthing. They would naturally experience overlapping lives each time, whether against each other or as alliances. There was some sort of magnetic force between them, attacking them together.

A group of people gathered in Nine-Tailed Fox's seaside villa to discuss the upcoming strategy.

"So you're saying that the remaining three Great Cornerstones have yet to appear. The only one we can confirm is Yuria, the Savior?" The female cop, Li Hua asked. She has a quick temper and was proficient in the snatching type of close combat wushu. She could be considered an expert but compared to the Vulture... her capabilities were similar to Silver, perhaps inferior. However, combat was not her strongest but rather her marksmanship. It was said to be revered of.

"What about Yong He? What do you think?" Uncle Technician looked at Nine-Tailed Fox.

Garen was sitting on the side and it was the first time he heard someone calling Nine-Tailed Fox Yong He. This seemed to be her other formal name.

"That's easy..." Nine-Tailed Fox beamed, "Why don't we just help Savior? We lend our powers to him and the more he's powerful, the safer we are."

"Getting involved in this and following the original plot, many who lent their power to Savior have died. Is it really a good idea?" The young lady with the ginger hair, Yuan Xing, frowned. She was a mature uncle in the past life. The steadiness characteristics of the uncle and the background of the beautiful young lady mixed together gave a peculiar paradox.

"Or I'll arrange everyone to go to other countries by sea to avoid the disaster." Her family has an abundant financial resource in this life, charting the top hundred in the world. Arranging this matter would be a cinch.

"What about my pigs?" Xu Yuan, a brunette beauty, curled her lips, "I have just invested three hundred million in the new farm."

"Pigs pigs pigs! Is there anything in your brain other than pigs?" Yuan Xing smacked her.

“But...”

“No buts! I will compensate you on your pigs,” Yuan Xing was annoyed.

“Now the problem is to first ascertain when the remaining Four Great Cornerstones are arriving. Although we, as transmigrators, are not within the control range of the Four Great Cornerstones’ ability and will not be manipulated by the Mind Reader and Illusionist but on the contrary, this sort of attribute would definitely trigger their attention and get them alerted,” Nine-Tailed Fox explained calmly.

“Everybody pitch in, how do we help?”

“I will cover the expenses,” Yuan Xing flung her arm in generosity. “A budget of fifty billion at the very least!”

“I will take care of the firearms and provide an emergency special task force of around two hundred manpower. They are military elites discharged from various nations! They can handle a few T-Rex sorts of experts without any problems!” Nine-Tailed Fox was confident.

“I can handle the logistics of biochemical drugs,” Pan Pan said. Seeing Garen’s unwitting eyes, he smiled. “Although I am a chef, I have researched a lifetime of biochemical and medicinal my past life. I was a top academician hired by the country. After all, I have lived a few generations and can’t simply do without any capability.”

“I’ll be in charge of intel,” Kong Xinxue spoke with confidence. “I will settle any possible intel turning up on the web, as well as offense and defense.”

“We will be counting on you for head-on combats, Yong He and Li Hua,” Yuan Xing looked at Nine-Tailed Fox and female cop, Li Hua.

“No problem. Leave the far range to me, and close combat to Yong He,” Lu Hua answered solemnly. She then glanced over at Garen.

“Come to think of it, Garen’s ability is quite good. He can take on the mid-range cadres of Vulture. We need a base for our logistics and when the time comes, we’ll depend on you to defend and sound the alarm.”

The way they saw it, although Garen was strong, it was only limited to ordinary people. Taking on the real experts in this world would be beyond his reach.

This level of playing field could only be tackled by Nine-Tailed Fox and Li Hua as an aid.

Only with Nine-Tailed Fox in all her seriousness was the strongest existence among the transmigrators.

“Once Slayer appear, we’ll depend on you, Yong He,” Li Hua solemnly told Nine-Tailed Fox.

“Relax,” Nine-Tailed Fox expression grew stern. “Once it’s that time, I will unleash that.”

“I don’t have a problem here,” Garen did not push it. He wasn’t in the know on how strong Slayer would be, being the finest in this world and judging by Nine-Tailed’s tone, she still has a stronger trump card in hiding.

The transmigrators who were present could deduce that Nine-Tailed was the strongest and holding them together. With her on the top, the others could take a seat back and relax.

“Apart from me, if Slayer were to really appear and go against us, aren’t there still Demonic Lamp and Sea God in the front line? With two almighty blocking in the front, we can be at ease a little,” Nine-Tailed Fox said in a low voice.

“It would be great if they could take part, but I contacted friends from the other two continents a few days ago,” Yuan Xing smiled bitterly. “Demonic Lamp went to another world for a mission. He won’t be able to return for another three to five years. Sea God’s whereabouts are unknown. If he went to another world, then it would be troublesome.”

“Demonic Lamp, Sea God?” It was the first time Garen heard of these two names.

"Mm, these two elites hit it off the best in this world," Kong Xinxue whispered explaining to Garen.
"Demonic Lamp is now the vice president of Slann as well as military head minister with military power over the country. If he could dispatch the troop to encircle and annihilate then Slayer may not stand a chance no matter how strong he is. He'd have no choice but to reincarnate."

"Savage!" Garen nodded. This planet was a lot larger than the few planet worlds he had experienced. It was indeed savage to be able to make it thus far in a world with huge restrictions.

"What about Sea God?"

"The leading expert of the Manatee Clan. It's not human but a large animal being and live in the oceanic trench in the deep sea. Its body is tough beyond imagination and stretch as long as a few thousand meters, about the size of an island. One sweep of its tail could overturn a million ton-class vessels.

After it reincarnated to a manatee, it focused on cultivating martial arts. Moreover, he had once reincarnated into the world of heroes and now he has become an overlord of the entire ocean," Kong Xinxue introduced briefly.

"Not human huh... Tsk tsk," Garen's competitiveness died. With the existence of such a huge being, he in his current, tiny state could be killed with just a sneeze. He thought that he had developed fast in this lifetime but he did not think that there would be someone crazier. Those who trained to such level in this world were really true maniacs.

Chapter 1187: Duel 1

"I'm just going to focus following up on Yuria then. After all, the Savior's friendship must be continued," Garen said.

"That's not a bad point. You and Yuria have a natural, master and disciple relationship, just take advantage of this," Nine-Tailed Fox agreed. "However... I still feel that something is wrong. Ever since the plot has changed, I've already felt this."

“You too?” Li Hua frowned. “Same here. When we were tracking down Vulture’s deployment staff and we fought hand in hand with the two long-range gunmen, I’ve already sensed that the situation seems to have derailed from the original plot. Shouldn’t Vulture’s main focus be on the Savors at the moment?”

“We should look into this.” Right now, Nine-Tailed Fox really seemed like a big shot and not that common, mischievous and adorable little girl.

Garen sat in the corner looking at everyone discussing every possibility. His mind, on the other hand, had drifted far away.

“I’m going to go wash up a bit.” He was a bit bored and whispered to Kong Xinxue. She was currently in the midst of a discussion with Yuan Xing regarding staff placement issues and nodded her head in acknowledgment.

Garen got up and left the room, closing the door softly behind him.

The door was definitely soundproof. Not far away, two stalwart bodyguards decked in black uniform glanced over, then retracted their stares swiftly.

Walking on the thick black carpet, Garen soon came to the washroom. He stood in front of the golden-rimmed mirror and sized himself up.

Staring back in the mirror was Kong Xiaofei’s figure. His short, red hair, his features firm and delicate, his strong physique, his stocky and imposing build, and his solid muscles bulging beneath his white shirt.

He turned on the faucet, hot water streamed out and washed into the sink beneath it.

Garen splashed water on his face a few times, and took deep breaths, feeling much better and relieved.

He could still hear the vague engine and honk sounds from the boats out in the sea. There were people messing and playing around with each other, which made quite a bustling scene.

“Staying on in this world is not an idea, I should go on some missions and earn some Contribution Points. I guess I’ll drop by the Lighthouse Headquarters and have a look.” Garen had this sudden thought in his mind. This world had already confirmed the battle among the Four Great Cornerstones and with huge organizations like Vulture involved in it, the safest choice would be keeping his distance from the hub.

As for Li Hua and the others, perhaps they were the only ones who knew the real purpose they forcefully included themselves in the plot. Contribution points would be one thing, and the second purpose would be gaining benefits from it.

After all, the Four Great Cornerstones were the most mysterious beings in this world, possessing such extraordinary powers in a world with such strict restrictions. If Garen was able to gain a clear idea of this cause and master the principle, he would then be able to achieve this world’s lowest grade of martial powers if he transmigrated to other worlds.

“Perhaps some of the people here were also pulled into this and so they had to take the initiative, like Yuan Xing, Kong Xinxue, and even Pan Pan; whereas some others might be here merely for beneficial purposes, like Li Hua and Nine-Tailed Fox.”

After having a rough understanding of the current situation, Garen decided to put himself in earlier on due to the Soul Energy Forces. Fully adapting to this identity was probably one of the centers of the whirlpool. Later on, Kong Xinxue would basically become Athena who would be constantly kidnapped in the plot. The part where the mind reader fell in love with Kong Xinxue was the most crucial part of the original plot.

“But now, I’m afraid I can’t just join out of boredom anymore...” Garen forced a smile as he turned the faucet off. Lifting his head, he analyzed his face in the mirror.

All of a sudden, a black figure walked by the corridor outside behind him.

“?”

Garen frowned slightly. The reflection he saw from the mirror was a short silhouette and it seemed like a girl. Due to her speed and he was not paying attention, he missed it.

Turning around, the empty corridor stared back at him.

“My hearing shouldn’t have degenerated to this point, should it?”

Other than his sense of sight, he was slightly doubtful about his two other senses. With his Sword Master grade of sense, there was definitely no way he would miss anyone nearby.

He recalled the black figure from just now. It seemed to be a little girl dressed poorly in tattered clothes, she had long hair, but aside from that, the rest was sort of a blur to him.

“Perhaps there are other transmigrators? There are guards stationed everywhere here and people standing guard front back left right, there’s no way anyone can just casually enter and leave,” Garen’s inner intuition was ringing.

He walked out and stood at the golden corridor, he noted the attentive guards on duty at both ends of the corridor.

Frowning as he made no discovery, Garen returned to the washroom to dry his hands with the hand dryer. Then only did he go back to the room where everyone was discussing the problem.

Sweeping across the blue sea, the seagulls screeched loudly and together with the sounds from the waves, it gave off a refreshing feeling.

The sun shone on the sea’s surface, standing on the beach one could see sparkles of gold on the sea’s surface.

“How wealthy...!” Yuria was strolling on the beach with his sister. Passing by the beach umbrellas, he could not help but gawk at the beautiful ladies under the umbrella sunbathing with their bare naked chests.

“Brother... Can you not embarrass me?” Yurijie could not help but pinched him hard. Both of them were wearing orange colored swimsuits, just that hers was a bikini. However, her figure was obviously overshadowed by most of the beauties on the beach. As she observed Yuria’s gaze constantly fleeing toward the ladies, her heart was full of jealousy.

“Why is it embarrassing!” Yuria was like a legendary who had no clue on how to conduct himself with dignity, he did not even feel guilty for stealing a few more glimpses. “Aren’t I just fulfilling their original intention of dressing up by staring? Think about it, these gorgeous ladies spent so much effort to doll up, but if nobody even enjoys or appreciate their effort then what’s the use of it.”

“Well, you could at least be a little more discreet! Such an embarrassment!” Yurijie complained as her face turned a bright shade of scarlet red.

“Why is it embarrassing?” Yuria shook his finger, “Xiaojie, seems like you have yet to truly realize Brother Saber’s essence!”

“Essence?” Once the topic related to Garen was brought up, Yurijie’s face instantly turned solemn. “What essence?”

“I remember Brother Saber once said, if you want to achieve victory, you have to use some sort of secret technique or an unexpected attack to catch your enemy by surprise. Shock them so much that they can’t react on time, and then you’ll be able to succeed.” Yuria was getting slightly proud as he spoke about his feelings. “So I came to a new realization of this principle.”

“What principle?”

“That is...” As Yuria was about to talk about the true meaning of Sword Master, his eyes suddenly stared at a lone pleasure boat out at sea.

The white pleasure boat was straight towards the both of them swiftly. Two figures could be seen standing at the bow of the boat from afar.

One of them had his arms crossed around his chest. He was tall and muscular with a doctor’s white coat draped over his suit that was being blown by the sea breeze, which made him neither fish nor fowl.

“That’s very fast...” Yuria’s expression panicked.

“What?”

Turning around, Yurijie saw the two people on the pleasure boat.

The other person was selectively ignored by the sibling duo as their focus was entirely upon the Root Doctor, Jiatai.

Faraway, Root Doctor greeted them with a wave of his hand, smiling.

“No, not here! There are too many people here! The innocent will be hurt!” Yuria looked around. The horrible sight of police’s corpses lying everywhere came to mind and his heart fell. The unscrupulous behavior of Vulture’s men definitely left an impression on him.

“Xiaojie, go find Brother Saber. Give Galouro a call too and tell him the situation over here, I’ll handle the Root Doctor!” Yuria said firmly.

“No!” Yurijie was alarmed, “I want to be with you...” “Listen to me!” She was straight away cut off mid-sentence, and Yuria had never looked so serious before.

“Don’t worry, I’ve been through so many miserable trainings just to be ready for this day!”

“Brother...!” Yurijie exclaimed with concern.

“Go quickly!”

Yuria pushed his sister and started marching towards the part of the beach in the distant where there were lesser people.

Yurijie gritted her teeth, this had already happened, all she could do was to find Garen and the others as soon as possible to save her brother on time.

Getting up, she swiftly ran in the direction of Nine-Tailed Fox's villa by the sea.

"What! The Root Doctor is here?!" Garen stood up, blurting out in shock. He stared at Yurijie who was panting in front of him. Nine-Tailed Fox and the others were still in the room discussing details as he leaned against the doorframe outside to take a breather. Just when he was starting to feel bored, he saw Yurijie, who was invited along, running towards him. The moment she approached him, she blurted out the distressing news.

"Yuria went alone?" He pulled out two of his long sabers and asked solemnly.

"Yeah, Brother says he'll be fine himself, but I'm still worried..." Yurijie's face was full of concern.

"Lead the way."

Garen was silent. It was still uncertain whether the Savior really did grow up. In the event they were unexpectedly messed by Vulture's men, all their previous hard work would be wasted. One of the reincarnation characteristics of the Four Great Cornerstones was that once one dies, one would have his or her memories wiped out and would not remember one's identity.

Therefore, the only way to maintain his relationship with the Savior was to ensure that Yuria did not die.

Both of them left the villa quickly. On the way, Garen used his mobile phone to contact Nine-Tailed Fox and the others. They, too, soon caught up.

Not long after, sounds of metal clashing from a distance could be heard.

Without hesitation, both of them darted straight in the direction of the sound's source. They were getting nearer to the place where the battle was going on.

Whoosh!

All of a sudden, waves of sand blew up in front of Garen, nicely blocking his and Yurijie's path.

They instantly paused in their tracks and raised their hands to block the sand from getting into their eyes.

After the sand fell to the ground, a one-eyed man dressed in a blue, military uniform appeared before the two of them.

The man was expressionless and had silver, short hair, the white gloves he was wearing was illuminating under the midday sun.

"Vulture No.7, Yindu."

He bowed his head slightly, it was a sort of etiquette, a courtesy to an opponent.

"Get out of the way or die!" Sword in hand, Garen's face darkened.

"Die?" The corners of Yindu's mouth raised slightly into a smirk. "You can try."

Hiss...

In a flash, Garen lunged forward, dragging a long print on the sand with his feet. In a blink of an eye, the saber appeared in his hands and lashed out.

Swoosh!!

The silver arc instantly struck Yindu's neck.

The breeze from the blade blew the short hair on Yindu's temples. He raised his arm suddenly and grabbed the saber's blade.

Chapter 1188

Clang!!!

Yuria held up a gold stool and grudgingly deflected the silver needle flying towards him. He was rolling around and jumping about on the beach like a monkey.

The Root Doctor, on the other hand, stood firm as he twitched his fingers. He seemed quite relaxed.

"Looks like you are more agile than before." He yawned and continued saying, "but you are still extremely weak."

"That's just because I haven't shown you what I'm capable of yet!" Yuria shouted while dodging the almost invisible steel needles. "What are you conspiring?! I haven't done anything wrong, so why are you purposely... Hu... Coming after me?!"

"Conspiring?" Root Doctor Jiatai lit up a cigarette casually, took a puff, and exhaled smoke rings. Under the scalding sun, it was almost impossible to see traces of the white smoke rings.

"I have no interest in explaining to someone who's about to die. Instead of using this time to talk, why don't we settle this quickly so I can go back to drink my milk? Apparently, milk strengthens chest muscles, recently I've been feeling that my pectoral muscles seemed to be drooping..."

(Pectoral muscles? Aren't you sure they were not breast enhancements?)

Yuria was at a loss whether to cry or to laugh. As he was about to speak, he did a backflip just in time to avoid another attack of a row of steel needles.

The entire row of steel needles flew towards where he stood, causing a racket as it came into contact with the sand.

“Alright,” Jiatai looked around. “That’s about it, time to pack things up.”

Just like before, he reached out his right arm slowly, aiming it in the direction of where Yuria was at.

“This move again!!” Yuria’s whole body began to shake.

“Brother! Catch!” Suddenly, a voice sounded from afar.

Yuria turned around, just in time to see a long item spinning towards him. It was his sister! She had managed to make it on time and even brought along his saber!

It was as if he was on an emotional rollercoaster. He was so close to giving up all hope, but now the hope had returned.

With a leap, he dove toward the saber.

“Grab.” At this moment, Jiatai’s hand tightened up slowly.

Buzz...

The sand on the ground began to vibrate from deep within.

Boom!!!

In that instant, countless sand particles flew up. A mass amount of needles rushed upwards, all aimed at Yuria in the middle.

“It’s over.”

Jiatai said lightly.

“Winds of Four Directions!”

Almost at the same time, four rays of gold light appeared midair.

In an instant, the countless needles as fine as an ox’s hair were blocked by the golden lights, bent, broke and smashed out into all directions.

Whoosh!

One of the broken needles brushed Jiatai’s cheek, drawing blood.

He was stunned. Absolutely stunned...

His frame of mind now was probably as perplexed as Garen back then. Not everyone could relate to this feeling of seeing a bastard who took only ten or more days to crack a technique one had been pouring all of his heart on for the past several years. The mixed emotions of jealousy and grief aroused a deep, concealed feeling.

When the person first told him, he did not believe the person at all. That was why he decided to personally make a move, all to prove that the person was wrong.

“But now...” Jiatai reached out and caress the wound on his face, his fingers dabbing on the blood that was trickling down. “It really is...blood.”

One by one, droplets of blood continued dripping on to the sand, dyeing the sand blood red from its original golden.

Garen held his saber with one hand as he stared silently at the figure standing a couple of meters away.

“Still not giving way?”

Yindu had on gloves that seemed to be made of gold or iron, his hands were still intact. However, the gloves that supposed to block weapons were currently covering his mouth.

Droplets of blood continued to drip down from between his fingers.

Cough cough...

He coughed a few times.

Slowly, he tried to recall the scene that just took place.

He did manage to grab the blade, there was no hidden surprise. The saber did not get through his gloves, and neither did it touch any other parts of him. So why? Why!

“Why...!” Yindu did not expect himself to be fatally injured as the battle had just started. After all, he was Vulture No.7, ranked number seven among the tens and thousands of elite troops of human armed forces!

“Do you think I’m as silly and stupid as the others and explain to you the profound mystery of my ultimate move? Save it.” Garen said impatiently. “Alright, listen up, let me pass through, I’m in a rush.”

“Are you humiliating me?!” Yindu struggled to stand and keep his body straight, “Or are you saying that you’re definitely going to win!?”

“Well, is that not it?” Garen asked, pointing his saber towards the ground.

Suddenly, he caught a glimpse of his opponent smirking. It was not a good sign.

Boom!!!

A ball of flames suddenly exploded where Garen was at. It was a bomb!

The bomb ignited a ball of scarlet red flames on the sand, its massive impact exploding in all directions, sweeping up scorching hot air.

Among the flames, the burning smog suddenly started to spread.

A loud slam sounded.

A golden spark of saber divided the flames into two, like a golden crescent, which was orientated at Yindu.

Boom!!!

Another violent explosion broke between the saber and Yindu. The gravel rushed up into the sky along with the massive impact of the explosion turned the small grains of sand into countless hidden deadly weapons, landing on the saber smashing the tracks all over.

“Hmmp!”

Garen grunted. His body was still midair in the midst of a somersault, his saber a total miss as it was shaken by the explosion’s gigantic force of impact.

Hu hu hu hu...!

Together with his saber, he started spinning like a wheel, slowly forming a huge golden wheel saber and crashed towards Yindu.

Yindu's expression changed swiftly and started backing down fast. After a match like this the first time, he already knew close-ranged battles with someone like Garen, a Sword Master-Level person, would be the most idiotic thing for him to do, hence why he was badly injured before he could even exert his best advantage.

However, he would not repeat the same mistake again!

"Super-miniature."

He casually dug through his shirt pocket and scattered the items outward.

Numerous spores-like tiny bomb particles rushed over to Garen. In a flash, hundreds of super-miniature bombs formed a hemispherical shape and rushed towards Garen to cover him.

Whoosh!

Right at that moment, Garen's figure darted to the side in midair, slanted his saber and spearing it into the beach nearby.

Boom boom boom boom!!

Countless sparks of flames blocked Yindu's sight as continuous sounds of the super-miniature bombs exploded. He had an extremely bad feeling all of a sudden.

Just as he was turning around to leave, he saw a silver-white saber directed straight at his neck.

"What a pity." Garen peeped out from behind the saber. "You lost."

From the beginning to the end, he only had one hand on his saber, even right this moment.

Yindu raised his head slightly, beads of perspiration seeped down his forehead but he dare not wipe them away. As an agile sort of powerhouse, he was still tricked by the opponent and being played around like a monkey. Even his strongest point could not be exerted to try to get a hold of his enemy, and that was no doubt the biggest irony to him.

“How did you do it?” He asked dryly.

“How did I do it?” Garen was speechless. “You’re someone who uses explosives, yet here you are in a close-range battle with me competing for our speed. Wouldn’t it be ironic if I, a Sword Master, was to lose to you? Do you even know what are the main cores for Sword Techniques and Saber Techniques? Speed! Ruthless! Accuracy!”

“I can make seven shots in one second, there’s no way you can be faster than me!” Yindu was slowly losing his calm.

“I can do sixteen in one second,” Garen said lightly.

“...”

On the empty beach.

Yuria both hands were on his saber, facing the Root Doctor Jiatai.

His whole body’s center of gravity was slightly sinking. He seemed like a cheetah, arching its back searching for its prey, his sharp eyes dead fixed on Jiatai, his hands continuously adjusting the silver saber to its position and angle.

Both men took small steps as they walked around in a circle, trying to find out their opponent’s flaws or loopholes.

Both parties were high-killing powerhouses, so one measly loophole that they discover would instantly determine one's win or loss.

The scorching sun shone unrelentingly on the both of them. Whether it was Jiatai or Yuria, they sweating more and more. Jiatai was sweating so much so that his clothes were thoroughly wet.

As for Yuria, his sunburnt skin was starting to peel off. He could feel a burning sensation when his sweat trickled over the wounds.

On the other hand, Yurijie was standing far away watching the battle. She was totally hung up on Yuria, her eyes wide opened and only blinking it when they were really dry.

"Good boy... Long time no see... So... It's actually..." Jiatai's physical exertion was almost breaking the scale. He could not even remember how many years had he not been in such a high-intensity battle. His chest was beating so fast it seemed to be on fire. Turns out, the suit that was pretentiously used as a bragging tool had now become the heaviest burden and it was consuming his energy by the second.

Sweat continued to flow into his eyes along the strands of his hair, but still, he did not dare to wipe them away.

This highly concentrated standoff crushed people's energy the most.

"You're the one, last time you had me... Poorly beaten up, you don't know anything about respecting the elders and loving the younger ones..." Yuria heaved heavily as he glared at the other person.

Suddenly, he saw a loophole and rushed forward.

Whoosh!

His golden saber lit up and almost sliced Jiatai by his side, scaring the latter to near death.

Clang clang clang!!

Three continuous needles darted out, forcing Yuria to react in defense and to not continue his attack.

Their standoff had been going on for some time already.

Once Jiatai used his large-area steel needles to break out, Yuria activated his Hydras and Savior ability, the perfect block of Winds of Four Directions, directly switching both ultimate moves into consumption.

“Well, I say... Can’t you just... Respect an elderly?” Jiatai could no longer hold himself.

With such a never-ending consumption, there was no way he could compare with this young lad. After all, he was already sixty-four years old.

“Why can’t you respect my youthful fifteen-year-old mind then!” Yuria could feel the skin on his back hurting more and more. His head was getting a little dizzy as well, a sign that he was close to falling into a heat stroke coma.

At this moment, Jiatai’s heart ached. If he had known earlier that this would happen, he would not have accepted this mission voluntarily and saved himself from all these embarrassments.

“The person behind... She’s your sister, isn’t she?” He suddenly asked, trying to divert the attention of the other party. “Seems like I’d have to be a little more despicable then...”

Chapter 1189

Crack...

Garen’s leather boots sank into the sand as he stood in the distance, staring at Yuria and the Root Doctor Jiatai in the midst of battle. Both of them have already reached the point of exhaustion.

“Now as soon as I join in, the battle will end immediately.”

Garen spoke casually. Sensing there were people behind him, he could tell it was Nine-Tailed Fox and the other’s footsteps.

“Then why don’t you?” Nine-Tailed Fox and a group of her men dressed in black swiftly walked toward Garen’s side and stood still, also staring at the battle that was happening on the beach far away.

“Why should I? From the beginning to the end, Vulture had never shown malice s any of us, no?” Garen asked in return, slowly keeping his saber into its sheath. “I’ve already let the rascal go, I just wanted to probe them.”

“So now they know our capabilities then, right?” Nine-Tailed Fox stood beside him with her arms crossed around her chest, she seemed to agree with his method.

Garen was unsure of her thoughts. Her active participation this time around probably had something to do with other intentions.

He already knew now, even if it was among the transmigrators, nobody had the same talent attributes as him in terms of abilities, so the only thing in each world that could make himself stronger was to grasp the familiar plot and obtain benefits that he needed from it.

Garen did not know what the others want, if it was the same as what he wanted, something related to Soul Seeds or Soul Powers, perhaps the final hostile list would be even longer...

At this moment, it was clear who was the winner and loser of the battle on the beach. After Jiatai continuously threatened Yuria verbally, he decided to retreat.

A submarine emerged from the sea, bringing him away from the beach and disappeared quickly into the waters.

It was only then Garen and the others walked over slowly. Nine-Tailed Fox quickly brought people over to treat the wounded. This was the best opportunity to build relationships. After all, a savior’s friendship would be one of the greatest advantages of the plot.

Garen stood far away as Nine-Tailed Fox brought people over. Li Hua and the other transmigrators were still nowhere to be seen, even Kong Xinxue had disappeared.

"I don't know why, martial power grades in this world clearly exceeded my expectations, but I still don't get any sense of crisis at all. What is this?" He fondled his chin, thinking that he must have been too relaxed and slacking too much recently.

Nine-Tailed Fox looked on as Yuria and his sister were taken away when Li Hua suddenly appeared beside her.

"How was it? What's the situation?" Li Hua whispered.

"Something is not right," Nine-Tailed Fox frowned slightly. "The plot is a bit out of control, I feel that something is really wrong!"

"Does it have anything to do with Yuria? Or is it that newbie, Garen?" Li Hua frowned too. She knew Nine-Tailed Fox's hunch had always been extremely accurate.

"It seems that... No." Nine-Tailed Fox walked further away to prevent eavesdropping, the sea breeze ruffled up her hair but she was not bothered at all.

"I just feel that something's wrong and it's not the way as it is before, yet I can't tell what exactly."

"Perhaps it's a misconception?" Li Hua asked.

"No..." Nine-Tailed Fox shook her head. "Nevermind, I'm not going to think about it anymore. We will take one step at a time for now. All we need to do is stay close to Yuria, the Savior will naturally lead the main line. Right or wrong, there will be clues sooner or later, we just need to be more prepared, that's all."

"Yeah."

Garen, overcome with boredom, tended to Yuria's injury. Determined that Yuria was just asleep due to over-exhaustion, he too went back to sleep. He was currently in his state of relaxation as he knew that the threats in this world were not exactly a lot. With his Sword Master-Level powers, he was basically invincible on land, not to mention if he used his Soul Ring to rank up his Saber Art realm. Soul Energy nourished his body all the time.

Yuria and his sister, Kong Xinxue, Nine-Tailed Fox, the transmigrators... These people seemed to be evolving along with the plot all the time, whereas he was the only one at leisure.

Ever since the battle at the beach, Yuria seemed to be somewhat triggered and started to train every day to strengthen himself.

On the other hand, Nine-Tailed Fox and Kong Xinxue got together every day for discussion.

As for Garen, he just did not bother with any of those things. He would go to the restaurant every day and ordered some small dishes, enjoyed the hot springs, do saunas, and occasionally show up for classes to reminisce the memorable, high school era.

Life was unrestrained.

As for money? There was no need to worry about it. With his capabilities, it was nothing for him to earn a little cash. There was this one night when the National Security Agency came visiting him and they spoke all night long. After that, Garen received money that an average person could never get in a lifetime. It was more than enough for his casual spendings.

All he had to do was to lend a hand in urgent times. He became the so-called Chief Instructor of some Special Forces Team, or maybe it was some military coach or some other title.

As for what team exactly, he himself had forgotten already. It was enough for him to lead a better life anyway.

Of course, news of the other party's identity soon came to Nine-Tailed Fox. It turned out to be Vulture's men. Seemed like Vulture and homeland security have always come hand in hand.

This, however, was confusing for Garen and the others. Why did Vulture's men kill a large number of maritime police at the sea then? It made no sense.

But Garen was too lazy to think about all these things.

Anyway, his only mission on-hand was to stay behind for garrison duty and just wait for news from Nine-Tailed Fox and the others.

This kind of boring yet comfortable life lasted for more than two months when there was finally new updates.

Lying in the huge bathtub by the French windows, Garen soaked in the milk bath scattered with rose petals. With a towel over his neck, he relaxed lazily with his eyes half shut.

The city night was extraordinarily fascinating. Helicopters occasionally flew across the sky, the city's traffic and sweeping lights set off against the night background.

"Is there a new situation?" Garen looked at Kong Xinxue idly. She was sitting not far away watching the television. "Otherwise, how would you be so free to drop by my place?"

Kong Xinxue had the remote control in her hands and rolled her eyes at him. After switching channels a few times, she finally muted the television.

"Look at you, which part of you actually look like a student? How long have you not return home? Father almost believed that you're missing."

"It doesn't matter anymore." Garen shrugged. "We're all just passersby of this world, too much nostalgia wouldn't be good for everyone."

Speechless, Kong Xinxue stood up and walked over.

"The situation has changed. Yuria received news that the Vulture's strongest man will be showing up soon."

"So what?" Garen did not move at all.

"What do you think?" Kong Xinxue retorted, "I came all the way here, anxious to tell you this news, why do you think I'm doing this?"

She combed her hair.

"Root Doctor from the previous time, Jiatai, is ranked sixth in Vulture, there are five stronger ones above him. Earlier on when Yuria knew about this, he decided to leave to find his mother, a formal top bounty hunter. Do you want to tag along?"

"What? You are all preparing to go out to sea?" Garen reluctantly opened an eye and glanced at her.

"At least you know that. We don't have much manpower up for combat. So, are you up for it?" Kong Xinxue was getting impatient.

Garen did not respond immediately, he just turned and leaned into the tub.

"Why don't you all just go straight into the main subject? Go after Slayer, get rid of him or maybe initiate a good relationship with the opponent and warm up a bit? Why must we only follow Savior?"

Kong Xinxue frowned slightly. "What are you thinking? Why did you ask such a question? Isn't Savior the plot's mainline? Why do we follow if not him? Or perhaps you think you are capable of defeating Slayer?"

Why not you go off alone and take care of him, that would save us a whole lot of trouble. We'll just do what we're doing and what we want to do."

"No, I'm just living my own life. I don't want anything to do with this kind of hard work. The Four Great Cornerstones cannot be killed, they'll resurrect after a year, so what's the point of killing them in the first place?" Garen said in a serious tone. "What I care is, what are your true motives in all this? Perhaps you guys are able to take advantage of the Four Great Cornerstones and obtain some benefits out of them?"

He added with a yawn.

"I just don't want to waste my efforts."

Kong Xinxue did not reply immediately but started to ponder. It looked like she was contemplating whether to tell Garen the truth.

Garen was not in a hurry. After all, searching for the Soul Energy Force Field was his secondary objective when he came to this world. He mainly wanted to fix his own state of mind, his rigid mind was incompatible with the art of relaxation. Even if he did not find any clues that directed him to Soul Energy, it did not matter to him. Instead, his interest toward the Lighthouse further increased.

In the fifty-story high-rise hotel, both of them did not speak for some time. One was pondering while the other was waiting.

"You do know the original plot, don't you?" Kong Xinxue asked suddenly.

"I know a bit but I'm not exactly familiar." Garen nodded in response.

Kong Xinxue turned around a few times with her hands behind her. She sorted out her mind carefully before speaking once again.

"In the original plot, the main focus was the story of how Vulture helps Savior, supports him and fight against Slayer. Everything revolves around the grievances between the three generations of Slayer and

Yuria. The first generation of Slayer was killed by Yuria alone. That was the first generation. After the second generation of Slayer resurrected, he started to seek revenge but he was killed by Yuria and Vulture together. That was the second generation. As for the third generation, Slayer came to life once again and killed Yurijie. By this time, Vulture had fallen apart and there were numerous internal contradictions so they were unable to help Yuria, leaving Yuria alone in the battle. This time, there will be two endings, one is Yuria will be killed along with everyone who is with him, and the other ending would be him perishing together with Slayer.”

Kong Xinxue explained briefly.

“In the entire plot, the constant focus is always the battle between three generations of Slayer and Yuria. The two other Cornerstones would appear somewhere in the middle, Mind Reader and Illusionist. They will also deal with Slayer in different positions.”

“Well then, which generation are we at now?” Garen asked.

“The first generation, which is also the first time Savior and Slayer came into contact. Vulture is just by the side helping Yuria but did not officially join in the battlefield. In this generation, Yuria basically dealt with Slayer alone. This is also the most peaceful generation,” Kong Xinxue lamented. “That’s why we dare to follow Yuria’s whereabouts everywhere. If it’s the second or third generation, the age of bloody chaos, we wouldn’t have dared to do it so obviously.”

“So what is your main intention?” Garen pestered. “If you all had no benefits from this, you wouldn’t have done everything so out in the air already.”

Chapter 1190: Plot 2

“Of course it’s all for benefits,” Kong Xinxue nodded. “Let me tell you this, many people may know about this secret, but they just choose not to expose it.”

“What secret?” Garen was getting curious as well. “To be able to attract so many transmigrators’ and even the Nine-Tailed Fox’s attention, that shouldn’t be just some ordinary thing.”

Kong Xinxue was not ashamed at all as she sat in the tub, her back facing Garen.

“Four Great Cornerstones are known as they are all due to one main thing which is the Sacred Sigil.”

“Sacred Sigil?”

“That’s right.” Kong Xinxue nodded. “The reason the Four Great Cornerstones can outstand other people plainly is because the four of them possess extraordinary powers and this is where the Sacred Sigil works its magic.”

“So you guys want to obtain the Sacred Sigil?” Garen asked out of curiosity, “If it’s that easy to claim it, can you guys can get it?”

“Obviously it’s not easy to get it,” Kong Xinxue rolled her eyes at him, “but there are many parallel worlds out there and some of the older generations of some worlds have been researching for a long period of time and they’ve concluded that a certain amount of energy can be drawn out from the Sacred Sigil by undergoing some special transplant, not seizing, but just absorbing a little. This is actually pretty impressive already. Once one gets a hold of this and leaves this world, they are free to use the powers of the Sacred Sigil. Although it won’t be as phenomenal as it originally was, it won’t be subjected to the world’s regulations and restrictions. This is the advantage of receiving powers of a low martial arts world. It’s the same as how you get powers from the Mother Stream System which is applicable for most worlds’ regulations.”

Garen nodded as a sign of understanding.

“Then what’s the main purpose of the Sacred Sigil’s powers?”

“There are four kinds corresponding to the Four Great Cornerstones.” Kong Xinxue simply broke everything into detail. “First on the list would be Slayer’s Sacred Sigil, then Mind Reader’s Sacred Sigil, Illusionist’s Sacred Sigil, and last of all, Savior’s Sacred Sigil. A Sacred Sigil would allow us to possess a portion of the Four Great Cornerstones’ powers, but just a weaker version of it. The good thing is that it’s usable in any world out there, the bad thing is that it’s not much of a use in an upper martial arts world.”

“That’s why some people want it, some people are not bothered by it. Just like those of Sea God Grades, why would they care?” Garen seemed to understand.

“That’s right.”

“I guess I understand the basics of it.” Garen touched his chin. “For us transmigrators, the Slayer’s and Mind Reader’s Sacred Sigil would be our top picks, followed by the Illusionist’s and Savior’s. The Savior’s Sacred Sigil has very rigid restrictions, that’s why it is not as popular as the others.”

“Yeah.” Kong Xinxue returned a smile. “It’s great that you understand. I want the Mind Reader’s Sacred Sigil, Nine-Tailed Fox wants the Slayer’s, I guess everyone wants different things. Due to the fact that this is a weakened version, there’s plenty of copies out there. One Sacred Sigil is sufficient to be given to ten or more people, but the conditions to acquire those are extremely tough, which is why everyone is working so hard.”

“Yeah, everyone’s putting in a lot of effort.” Garen nodded in agreement. “If that’s the case, that thing won’t be much big of a use for me then...What time am I able to go to the Lighthouse Headquarter? Compared to this, I’m more interested in going there.”

“They’re still under lockdown, you will have to wait for this plot to end and for the powers of the Sacred Sigils to slowly die down in order to prevent the activation transmission of rules in the world. I’d say you won’t be able to go over any time soon,” Kong Xinxue explained. “You’d have to at least wait for the first generation to end.”

“How long would that be?”

“Probably a few years time.”

“That’s long...”

Garen was speechless Ever since he found out the existence of the Lighthouse, he had always been eager to check it out. He would not have to just walk his own wild path or swim in Mother Stream anymore, a more convenient way was always better.

“Alright then... I’ll just wait for a couple more years.”

After Kong Xinxue left, Garen started to think about the possible situations that might occur. A few years time was not exactly a long period of time in his opinion, it would pass like a breeze as it was back in the Mech World. There were plenty of ways to pass time too, but it was what Kong Xinxue revealed about the powers of the Sacred Sigils that caught his attention.

If he guessed it right, the Sacred Sigil’s powers could be a variant of Soul Energy. Since the Four Great Cornerstones were able to use such a vast amount of Soul Energy, why was he not allowed to do so?

With that thought, inspiration started seeping into his head. He started researching everything that was related to the usage of Soul Energy.

After staying at a high-class hotel in Slann for a long period of time, the occasional trip back home to see Kong Yuan was something arranged by the government, even reporting to the university in advance. Sometimes, the security department would contact him and assign him to difficult tasks. Though they were not much, Garen would always complete the tasks successfully.

Unconsciously, a year had passed.

Garen had also gained a certain reputation in the international market, living up to a success rate of 80%, which was an impressive score in a high martial powered country like Slann. As for the in-between tasks that were unsuccessful, they were basically troublesome things like searching for wanted people, which Garen simply gave up on.

In the National Security department, the nickname given to him was Sword Master.

While he was enjoying his leisure life, Yuria was already holding meetings with Vulture’s high graded powerhouses. The forth powerhouse had been defeated by Yuria, the third one resigned voluntarily, while the second one tied with Yuria. The situation only subsided one night after a year’s time when the first ranked powerhouse trashed him completely.

Within the year's time, Yuria traveled around in hopes of finding his mother, Light Path. He brought his sister along as they wandered around the world. Naturally, the experiences he gained had surpassed many adults that were older than him. In the beginning, he would occasionally return to the hotel and ask for Garen's help regarding problems with his Saber Art. However, later on, he only dropped by for the occasional visits, a form of etiquette as a disciple toward his master. As for Saber Art pointers, there was not much that Garen could teach anymore due to the rules of this world. Techniques of higher levels were not usable and all the techniques available were already taught.

Easier said, Yuria had already finished his apprenticeship.

Yuria was now just slightly weaker than Garen. Other than Garen's power card of raising his realm grades, if they were to fight against each other, the ratio would be a four to six.

Due to problems with expenses, Yuria would accept some of Garen's government missions. In fact, those tasks were assigned to Garen but he outsourced them to his disciple and the reward money would be split into half.

If not for Yuria's unwillingness to join the government, he would not have to make this choice in the first place.

Thud.

The teacup was placed gently on the glass table.

Yuria slowly exhaled a breath of hot air, the scent of tea calming his nerves. Raising his head, he looked at Garen sitting in front of him.

"Minister, how many unrestricted combat people did you recruit? Why are the people contacted this time around all our old friends?" He frowned and asked.

“There’s no other way, welfare is pretty good,” Garen answered lazily. “Unrestricted combat has now basically separated from school and has set up its own organization. The small fraction of people who stayed voluntarily will occasionally pick up the subcontracting tasks that I have outsourced. The pay is good, the risk is low, so naturally, everyone is willing to do. What’s not good about it?”

“Although you’d take care of problems personally, that isn’t a big problem. However, do you really not care about these things?” Yuria rolled his eyes. “You’re basically using the public funds to raise your own private soldiers.”

“Private soldiers your ass.” Garen could not control his laughter as he scolded Yuria. “Look at that bunch. The moment something happens, the ones who will back out and run away will definitely be them!”

“Alright then... I’m used to it anyway.” Yuria leaned on the sofa, shifting into a more comfortable position. He was dressed in a white windbreaker and long fitted jeans. His beard had not been shaved for a long time, making him look unnaturally mature. He did not look like a sixteen or seventeen-year-old. A year of running around in search of his mother had brought him experience and maturity.

“So tell me, why are you here? I know you wouldn’t look for me unless you wanted something,” Garen held his teacup, sitting lazily in his white pajamas.

“Heh... I knew I couldn’t hide it from you,” Yuria smiled begrudgingly. It was a little disgusting coming from a grown-up looking man doing that expression...

“Hurry up, stop dilly-dallying,” Garen was slightly irritated.

Yuria’s expression became dead serious.

“So here it goes, although I couldn’t find my mother this time around, I sort of have this feeling that she’s avoiding me somehow.”

“Avoiding you? Why?”

"I don't know." Yuria's brows tightened in a frown. "That's what I'm frustrated about, what more..."

"What more what?" Garen took a sip of his tea.

"This time out on my trip, I met a weird guy. He seems to know me and he came over to me all secretive telling me that my target had died and asking me not to waste my efforts and hurry back to converge," Yuria spoke with a bewildered expression.

"Converge?" Garen was confused as well. "He said your target is already dead? Does he mean..."

"No... Not that meaning," Yuria shook his head, "he seems to think that I belong to some organization or something. Converge. Who do I converge with? He didn't say anything about all this. He disappeared right after I turned around. It's just all very strange."

"And after that when I was on my way back, I inadvertently received a small note which warned me that I'm in danger. It also had instructions on it asking me to burn it right away and not let anyone else other than me see it," Yuria just could not figure it out.

"So you burnt it then?"

"Burnt it? I didn't tell anyone about this, only you right now. I suspect that I'm somehow dragged into something."

Garen sorted out all the information he just heard. Yuria's situation was not mentioned at all in the plot, whereas Nine-Tailed Fox and the others were still in other countries trying to pave the way for Yuria. The news was not unusual. The only odd thing was that Slayer and the others who were supposed to appear by now were still nowhere to be seen. According to the plot, they should have appeared long ago, but there was still currently zero news of them.

"Well done, don't tell anyone about this, your sister included. This matter won't be much of use other than worry everyone else, everything will be clearer when there are more clues." Garen explained, "I'll pull some strings and try to find out whatever I can for you and see what kind of people are trying to get into contact with you or to influence you or whatever..."