

Oh My God 591

Chapter 591: Wandering Specter Under the Blade

Before the former Reaper Squad members could stimulate their muscles to squeeze out the destructive shrapnel from their bones, a bloody saber thrust through the chest of a Reaper at the end of the squad. It looked like it was decorated with loads of fangs and was burning.

The glare of the saber was as red as blood, and it instantly spread from the Reaper's chest to his entire body.

The Reaper screamed shrilly in pain before he was devoured by the raging, bloody flames.

A thunderous roar rang out.

The bloody flames on the saber exploded like fireworks.

They cut the Reaper and the armor in half.

The Reaper's two halves fell limply on the floor.

Only a ball of bloody fog was left, which came from the Reaper's blood being evaporated by spirit flames. It remained where the Reaper once stood in the shape of a shuddering human.

Between the fog and smoke was the God of Death who had killed the Reaper. He carried Bloody Soul on his shoulder, and his right arm was bound by a chain that shone with runic symbols as he strode over.

With each step he took, it looked like he was stomping on the Reapers' chests.

It made the former Reaper Squad members' hearts and lungs shrink to the max, and they felt like they were suffocating.

The Reaper Squad's leader coughed up blood while he howled, "Meng! Chao!"

But it was not just Meng Chao that had come.

Two former Reaper Squad members moved too close to the wall because they were now covered in blood and were feeling dizzy from the flames, shockwaves, and destructive shrapnel.

While their attention was drawn by Meng Chao, more than ten spikes and stone snakes suddenly shot out from the walls of reinforced concrete.

The spikes had rebars, and they pierced the gaps and steering gear of the motorized armor.

Stone snakes bound the two's limbs and necks.

Before they could react, they were already pulled over.

The two Reapers were shocked. They struggled with all their might and tried to activate their vitality magnetic fields to crush the reinforced concrete, but a lot of their spirit meridians were cut by the destructive shrapnel mixed with monster bone and crystal powder.

They were now like punctured rubber pipes. Their spirit energy gushed out from all over their bodies, and they could not create sufficient pressure.

And while they were struggling, the spikes crawled through the gaps in their motorized armor into their armpits, abdomen, crotch, and all sorts of soft but vital areas.

Their struggles dwindled in intensity.

Very soon, they simultaneously heaved a long sigh and stopped moving, letting the stone snakes pile on them and bind them in a frenzy. Their bodies, motorized armor, and reinforced concrete blended together and turned into a post-modern art work made of blood, torn flesh, broken bones, cement, and rebars.

Behind the two bloody and deformed statues was Lu Siya. She drifted over slowly and stood beside Meng Chao.

Meng Chao, Lu Siya, and Xiong Wei's presences were like a collapsing cliff that covered the remaining ten or so former Reaper Squad members.

Behind the trio came gang elites, and they were several times the number of the trio. They appeared from behind the rolling smoke, and hundreds of black gun muzzles pointed fiercely at the ambushers who thought that they had victory in their grasp.

Even if the former Reaper Squad members had personally witnessed the gates of hell slowly open in front of them in the depths of the wild, they had never felt such despair before.

"Retreat!" The Reaper Squad leader immediately made his decision.

The former Reaper Squad members had managed to flee from death in the wild, and they were modified by the monsters before they were sent into the lair to carry out secret missions. They were naturally not ordinary people.

When the Reaper Squad leader realized that the situation was not going as planned, he immediately released a large amount of thick, slightly black, and bitter-smelling blood-red fog from the gaps of his motorized armor.

The blood-red fog moved as if it possessed a life of its own. It kept spreading and splitting up like frenzied vines, and in an instant, it filled up the entire tunnel.

"Careful, it's poisonous!"

Meng Chao's nasal mucosa was stimulated. His expression changed, and he immediately told the normal gang members to retreat. They were to absolutely not get touched by the blood-red fog.

But Phantom Bear Xiong Wei did not care about it and delivered his second punch.

However, the Reaper Squad leader had already used the blood-red fog as a cover to lead all the former Reaper Squad members to crash into the wall beside them, which had become really brittle after the anti-monster mine blasted it.

With a loud crash, the seemingly sturdy wall gained eight large holes.

Due to their desire to survive, the former Reaper Squad members ignored the destructive shrapnel that dug into their flesh and bones. They drained their life force to make their spirit flames burn while they charged forward.

“It’s really him!”

Xiong Wei’s attack missed. When he came in contact with the Reaper Squad leader’s bitter blood-red fog, his palms instantly let out sizzling sounds, as if they were immersed in concentrated sulfuric acid. Right away, a layer of greasy white bubbles appeared on his skin due to the corrosion.

He quickly pulled his hands back and circulated his spirit energy to repair his damaged flesh.

Meanwhile, his expression became unprecedentedly grave. “He’s Wandering Specter Zhong Li!”

“Is he the person who once escaped from Saber Jin Wanhao?” Meng Chao cocked his eyebrows.

By then, they had already learned half of the former Reaper Squad members’ names, characteristics, and weaknesses through Su Lun.

They were old that the former Reaper Squad’s leader was Wandering Specter Zhong Li, someone who was extremely difficult to handle.

Ten years ago, he was a robber who committed every act of evil conceivable.

He was evil, but he was also really smart. He never went to the outside world to burn and pillage. Instead, he stayed in the lair and targeted the gangs, black market guests and merchants, and the guests of the monster coliseums.

With this model of crime, he managed to temporarily be free of being hunted by the secret police, but he did not manage to run away from the wrath of Saber Jin Wanhao, the master of the lair and the Underground Emperor.

Jin Wanhao released a kill on sight order and ordered all the gangs to kill Zhong Li.

But this audacious person was already used to a world where evil ruled, so he had some deviant methods that made him really hard to deal with.

Even if Saber Jin Wanhao personally took action, he did not manage to kill him with just one slash.

He only managed to cut his face apart with an astonishing saber glare.

When Zhong Li was heavily wounded, he realized that if he continued staying in the lair, he would be crushed by Jin Wanhao and the gangs.

So he decided to flee from the lair and surrender to the secret police. He also requested that he join the Reaper Squad.

The Reaper Squad carried out suicidal missions with a mortality rate that was nearly 100%.

Naturally, they would not mind an increase in members.

Besides, even if Jin Wanhao could rule over the lair and was the Underground Emperor who could do whatever he wanted, he seemed to have reached some sort of agreement with the nine great mega corporations, which resulted in him never leaving the lair .

Zhong Li managed to stay alive through sheer luck.

Since he was the only person who managed to run away from the Saber, he did not regard this as something shameful, but as a glory, so he decided to call himself the Wandering Specter, because he moved like a specter and managed to escape from the Saber.

No matter how lucky the death row convicts who joined the Reaper Squad were, they would usually be unable to carry out more than ten missions.

Wandering Specter Zhong Li was the same. On his seventh mission, he ran into a monster horde, and his entire squad was wiped out.

When the reinforcements cleaned up the battlefield, they found a lot of corpses. After some DNA tests, they found half of Zhong Li's heart, and with it, they announced that he was dead.

They did not expect that he would still be alive and had turned into a member of the monster civilization's special forces.

No one knew what sort of thing was pulsating in place of his heart.

"After them!" Meng Chao, Lu Siya, and Xiong Wei shouted together.

The trio led a large group of gang members after them.

The former Reaper Squad members led by Wandering Specter Zhong Li used every trick at their disposal to slaughter their way out.

They were completely different entities compared to the normal robbers who took in too many Deification Capsules.

While they fled, they continued disassembling their twisted motorized armor, because it was now just a burden.

They then stuffed their motorized armor full of grenades, crystal bombs, and all sorts of despicable items before throwing them at their pursuers.

Then, in the midst of the explosions, flames, smoke, and continuously collapsing walls, they minimized their breathing, heartbeat, body temperature, and scent wafting out of their pores to become really elusive, just like wandering specters.

The gang members and the trio could not figure out where they were as the former Reaper Squad members kept appearing and disappearing from their sight.

Since Zhong Li had managed to survive Saber Jin Wanhao's attack, he was definitely a first-class escape artist.

He had also been targeting bad folk in the lair for years, but was never caught by the gangs. He had great understanding of the terrain in the lair and knew how to turn it into his best "weapon".

Meng Chao and the others only had a limited time to set up their trap, so their encirclement was made in too much haste.

Besides, the borders were currently on fire. They could not bring all the elites back to the coliseum.

With their current manpower, while they could deal a heavy blow to the former Reaper Squad members, killing all the monster puppets, including Wandering Specter Zhong Li, was beyond their power.

During the chase, Meng Chao, Lu Siya, and Xiong Wei managed to kill some more of the former Reaper Squad members.

Meng Chao swung Bloody Saber and cut another former Reaper Squad member's spine. The person fell limp on the floor and was captured alive by the gang members.

Lu Siya's spike also thrust into the crotch of a former Reaper Squad member. That person had to depend entirely on his luck to survive.

Xiong Wei spread his fingers wide open and slammed a former Reaper Squad member's head and helmet into his body. There was no way the man could survive it.

Unfortunately, the three were just mooks who trailed behind the squad.

The real target was Wandering Specter Zhong Li, but he moved like he was soaring through the clouds in the blood-red fog. With just a few jumps, he rushed to the borders of the coliseum.

A few gang members who were guarding the coliseum risked their lives to stop him, but they were all shrouded by the blood-red fog that Wandering Specter Zhong Li released.

It corroded their bodies, mottled their motorized armor, and deep red rust covered the armor's surface.

Their skins also became covered in a series of red, shiny, and terrifying pustules.

Pain and fear overcame them, so there was no way they could stop the frenzied Wandering Specter Zhong Li.

"Move!" Zhong Li roared, and the gang members became his stepping stone. He stepped on them, and they flew into the audience seats.

He cackled, and like a bird soaring in the sky, he jumped over the border of the coliseum.

Behind the wall was a densely populated residential area and the hive-like buildings, which made the place as complicated as a 3D maze!

Chapter 592: Spoilers

'As long as I can escape into the residential area and use the complicated terrain as cover, I will definitely be able to shake off my pursuers!'

Wandering Specter Zhong Li and the former Reaper Squad members all thought the same thing.

The simplest way to escape was to get into a residential area and immediately toss napalm bombs around them to ignite more than ten buildings while killing more than fifty people in the process. Then,

the place would rise up in chaos, and thousands of citizens would flee everywhere like headless chickens.

After that, they would just need to steal a few hooded cloaks worn by the residents, restrain their breathing and scent, and join the chaotic crowd. In this way, they would be able to pass off as common citizens and escape.

Ten years ago, Wandering Specter Zhong Li had used a similar tactic more than once to escape the encirclement of the gangs.

Today, he was going to do the same thing. Not only did he show no signs of a lack of practice, but was even filled with abnormal excitement. 'Meng Chao, Lu Siya, and Xiong Wei, even if you work together, it doesn't matter. In the past, even Saber Jin Wanhao was unable to kill me, so you're far from being qualified!'

Just as Zhong Li expected, he heard Meng Chao and the others' exasperated shouts behind him.

They seemed to have realized that it was impossible for them to carry out any effective blocks before Zhong Li and the others fled into the residential areas. They could only shoot at them in vain from behind.

The former Reaper Squad members and Wandering Specter Zhong Li had received strict training. No matter how dense the bullets were, since they were fired from far away, they could dodge them at ease or activate their spirit energy magnetic fields to cause the bullets to change trajectory.

Zhong Li tilted his head and avoided an armor-piercing shell that had electrical arcs surrounding it.

He saw two strands of his hair fall off and grinned. Then, he stomped on the external wall of the coliseum.

At the same time he created hundreds of intersecting cracks on the wall, his speed rose to another level. Like an arrow, he charged into the residential area.

Meng Chao and the other pursuers were not going to be able to stop him.

Zhong Li noticed a group of messy and smelly homeless people curled up under the building ahead of him.

He thought about killing five of them to terrify the remaining homeless people. They would start running and shouting in a panic, creating chaos that would spread like an avalanche.

Just when he gathered his power, his gaze was attracted by a homeless person.

At first glance, this homeless person was no different from the people around him.

He only had one arm, one leg, and one eye. His face was covered in scars, just like that of Zhong Li, and his facial features were scrunched up together. He was truly a sorry sight.

But for some reason, when Zhong Li saw him, uncontrollable fear rose from the bottom of his heart.

He felt just like a normal person would if they stood at a cliff and faced a bottomless abyss.

“He’s...”

Zhong Li tried his best to see the face of the homeless man under all those scars.

But he could only see the one eye that was as clear as a crystal, as brilliant as a gemstone, and as bright as the afternoon sun on the face that was even uglier than his.

When that eye swept over him, Zhong Li felt like he was bound by chains made of lightning and froze in the air.

He could only watch as the man removed his hood and drew a short sword that was not much bigger than an embroidery needle. While yawning, he did a casual stab in Zhong Li’s direction.

Thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud, thud!

The homeless man only had one leg, one arm, and one eye. He had also only delivered one thrust, but hundreds of sparks even more brilliant than the stars exploded in the air.

Each spark traveled in a flighty and unfathomable trajectory, and all of them landed on Zhong Li.

They crept into the spirit acupoints between his main meridians and branch meridians. None of them missed.

Wandering Specter Zhong Li screamed.

Hundreds of wounds exploded on his body, and his spirit energy started gushing out rapidly.

While he was flailing as he fell from the sky, all of his energy spilled out. His skin withered away until it looked like the tree bark that was one thousand years old. He looked like he had been cursed with the most malicious curse and turned into an emaciated skeleton.

When he crashed on the ground, Wandering Specter Zhong Li had already turned into a puppet with its strings cut and joints crushed. He was completely disassembled.

Even though he was alive, he could not move a single finger. He could not even control his breathing and heartbeat.

The remaining former Reaper Squad members were terrified.

They did not dare come forward to help him or face the one-armed, one-legged, one-eyed homeless man.

They looked at each other, and in a show of great teamwork, they spread out and fled in all directions.

The one-armed, one-legged, and one-eyed homeless man did not even bat an eyelid. He raised his shortsword and flicked it. Then, the shortsword, or rather, the long needle, flew away.

It was followed by a cheerful whistle.

The shortsword was immediately surrounded by spirit flames and electrical arcs. It spun rapidly and traveled at lightning speed while leaving elusive afterimages in the air. In an unbelievable manner, it pierced all the former Reaper Squad members’ stomachs.

The stomach was the most important spirit acupoint in the human body aside from the center of the forehead.

The one-armed, one-legged, and one-eyed homeless man's shortsword seemed to contain incredibly strong spirit energy. It surged into the former Reaper Squad members' organs and limbs through the wound on their stomachs.

No matter what sort of brutal and terrifying modifications they received from the monster civilization and no matter what sort of deviant tools they had, they were all rendered useless. The men screamed and fell from the sky. The only thing they could do then was to cover their stomachs and roll on the ground.

Their eyes bulged out as they stared at the electricity-bound shortsword spinning around in circles above their heads. Its bright halo was like a net that surrounded the entire place. It released a peerlessly powerful presence that could suppress everything. It was at that moment that Wandering Specter Zhong Li and the former Reaper Squad members snapped out of their dreams and knew just what sort of terrifying existence they were facing.

"D-Deity Realm!" they cried out in fear and despair. "He's a Deity Realm superhuman!"

"Big Sis Ya, you sure have a lot of people who respect you." Meng Chao stood at the top of the grandstand of Mutual Gold Coliseum and watched Wandering Specter Zhong Li and the other former Reaper Squad members make a fool of themselves outside.

They were all captured right away, so he focused on the large embroidery needle surrounded by electricity as it spun and whistled in the air. Meng Chao finally released a long sigh and smiled. "You actually managed to bring Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue to save me? He's one of the legendary Deity Realm superhumans!"

"Stop flattering yourself. I'm not that respected. I didn't ask Senior Ye to come and save you, either. He snuck into the lair in secret by himself," Lu Siya said. "Did you actually think that the outside world really gave up on the lair after locking it down?"

Meng Chao was stunned. "Didn't it?"

"Of course not. Even though the Survival Committee is temporarily unable to completely solve the problems in the lair because it doesn't have enough money, space, and other resources, it doesn't mean that we will give up on the lair and the near one million citizens living here!

"Besides, so many robbers had appeared out of nowhere within just a few days. The Deification Capsules are also a forbidden drug containing some unknown tech that just popped out. It'd be strange if there weren't more schemes behind them! How could we just watch the lair fester slowly while we delude ourselves and sit twiddling our thumbs?"

"In truth, two squads snuck into the lair to investigate the truth. One of them was overt, and the other covert. On the surface, Man-eating Shark Zhou Chong led the veteran hunters to sneak into Leprosy Village. Meanwhile, at the same time you went inside, Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue led another group of elite investigators and secret police into the lair."

Meng Chao was shocked. "But Vice Director Nie said—"

“Vice Director Nie said that the government has no choice but to lock down the lair fully and ignore it, right?” Lu Siya smiled. “That’s the truth on the surface. But that’s just us releasing fake news to trick the abnormal beast and robbers.

“We would never give up on the lair, but since the battle at the borders of Dragon City broke out at the same time and a large batch of resources and powerful fighters had to be moved to the frontlines, we had trouble sending manpower into the lair. This was a reality that we had to resign ourselves to.

“The only top fighting power we could send into the lair was Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue. He was the only Deity Realm superhuman that could be spared.

“If we had acted according to procedures and had Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue lead a large group of people into the lair in a flashy manner, it would have looked cool and all, but the Vortex and its puppets like Su Lun would have split up and disappeared once they received news of it. They might have also come up with other plans to sow problems for us!

“We only had one Deity Realm superhuman. Even though he is very strong, he can’t split up and catch all the enemies at the same time. For Senior Ye to make best use of his abilities, we could only patiently wait for the enemies to expose themselves so we could capture all of them at once!”

“I see!”

Meng Chao came to an understanding.

He thought about it carefully and had to admit that this was the most effective plan.

The fighting power of a Deity Realm superhuman might be unfathomable, but if he really fought, he would not be able to discover all of the moles in the gangs, and it would also be impossible for him to get rid of all the enemies spread all over the lair. It would also be very difficult for him to resolve the misunderstanding between Leprosy Village and the gangs.

If Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue had really entered the lair in a flashy manner, with how mysterious the Vortex was and how cunning Red Brows Su Lun was, they would have had one hundred ways to deal with him without drawing blood.

For example, even if Wandering Specter Zhong Li was a nobody compared to the Vortex and Red Brows Su Lun, once he put on a hooded cloak, he would become a completely new man. The moment he joined the crowd and fled into the underground maze, Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue would have to dig through every nook and cranny and waste a lot of effort looking for him.

“Speaking of which, you weren’t involved in the plan to investigate the lair. Why were you dragged into this mess, AGAIN?”

Lu Siya glared at Meng Chao and grumbled. “I didn’t want to get involved in the chaos in the lair. Everyone knows that the lair is a mess, and the people involved in it don’t get any benefits from it.

“After the accident in Noble Descent Hotel, my grandpa was very happy and began to regard me highly. He gave away a lot of the tasks in Sky Pillar Corporation so that he could teach me hands on for more than a month.

“My father also spent a lot of money and invested an astronomical amount of cultivation resources on me so that my cultivation realm would reach new heights.

“The battle that would decide the future of Dragon City was supposed to be a chance for me to shine. I intended to kill a few Hell Beasts beautifully and then help some Deity Realm superhumans under my father’s recommendation to kill a few Apocalyptic Beasts and create sensational news stories. I’ve even already corresponded with the media companies and bought my fame.

“But when I was about to hop into the fray, I heard that you turned into a puppet, betrayed humanity, and killed your teammates in the lair. Do you have any idea how I felt at that time?”

The more Lu Siya spoke, the angrier she became. She even gritted her teeth in exasperation.

She could not help but extend a finger and poke Meng Chao’s chest a few times.

Chapter 593: Meng Chao’s Surprising Rewards

Meng Chao did not expect that the one to save him and prove his innocence would be Lu Siya.

Now that he thought about it, it was... pretty shocking.

If it were not for the fact that Lu Siya trusted him fully, he really did not know how he would have solved the situation.

Perhaps the lair would have gone up in flames, just like he remembered from his previous life.

“Thanks, Big Sis Ya.” Even though his chest hurt due to Lu Siya’s poking, Meng Chao still felt warmth in his heart, and he thanked her sincerely.

He stopped talking for a bit, then extended his thumb and index finger to pinch them together.

“Speaking of which, when you heard that I killed Bullet Xue Rui and the others, did you really not suspect me? Not even for a second? Not even a tiny bit?”

“What’s that? You don’t trust me?” Lu Siya snorted as if she was really displeased with Meng Chao’s question. “I might not know about the others, but I know you. If you really wanted to betray us, you would have done so a long time ago.

“The underground area beneath Raging Waves and the accident in Noble Descent Hotel were way better places to betray humanity compared to the lair. Since you managed to stay true to yourself during those times and faced death fearlessly, I just couldn’t think of a reason why you would turn traitor at this time.

“Besides, there’s one more important reason that made me believe that you didn’t kill Bullet Xue Rui.”

“What’s that?” Meng Chao asked.

Lu Siya grinned and said calmly, “If you had really turned traitor and killed Bullet Xue Rui, you wouldn’t have been so stupid as to let others see you.”

“...” Meng Chao could not help but laugh. “You know me, Big Sis Ya.”

“You’re my most important investment to date. There’s no way a good investor would not know her investments.” Lu Siya grinned. “Fortunately, even though I gave up on the chance to shine at the frontlines to save you in the lair, I didn’t come away with nothing.

“I honestly don’t know whether to say that you’re really lucky or really unlucky. It’s like you always appear at the wrong place at the wrong time and fall into the enemy’s most dangerous schemes. But for some reason, you keep disabling the enemy’s schemes with your fists.

“Thank goodness you were around this time.

“Otherwise, no matter how meticulously the abnormal beast research department and the secret police planned and how proper Vice Director Nie as well as Senior Nie’s plans were, the Vortex might have ended up succeeding.

“You prevented the lair from being destroyed. This achievement is similar to saving the transmigrating experts in Noble Descent Hotel. Forget about how the higher ups will reward you, the gangs alone are going to host a party to thank you for saving them.

“Don’t worry. I won’t let you suffer any losses. I will definitely help you get all the profits you’re supposed to get. If any of the gangs dare to pay you a penny less, I’ll crush them!” Lu Siya said boldly and slapped her chest.

Meng Chao was not thinking that far ahead.

Aside from the gang members, there were nearly one million normal citizens living in the lair.

He had chosen to risk his life to save all of them.

However, when he thought about it carefully, aside from forming good ties with the superpowers who could do whatever they wanted, like the nine great mega corporations, he would also benefit from becoming friends with the people in the gangs, especially since he had plans to change Dragon City’s future.

From this angle, he might have accidentally played a good move that would provide long-lasting effects.

As the two of them spoke, Golden Tooth, Black Bone, Poison Scorpion, and other gangs’ middle as well as higher management brought a large group of their trusted subordinates.

When they looked at the burning VIP room that was shrouded in smog behind them, quite a number of gang leaders felt their hearts race with fear. They could not imagine just how miserable they would have ended up if Meng Chao were not around. The forces they had built through decades of hardship would have also ended up in a state they did not want to think about.

Under Phantom Bear Xiong Wei’s lead, they fell into a neat row to salute Meng Chao and Lu Siya.

Then, they did not even dare to breathe as they stared at Broken Sword Ye Xiaoye respectfully while he stood at a distance not too far away.

Since Deity Realm superhumans were the pillars who had been standing tall for fifty years and protecting Dragon City through the storms of the Other World, their prestige was incomparable.

The gangs were relatively sensitive and did not like the Deity Realm superhumans from the outside world visiting them on usual days to interfere with their business, but now, the lair was on fire, and everything was in a mess. The might of a Deity Realm superhuman, undoubtedly, became a pillar of strength in their hearts.

With Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue protecting them, even if they heard that Red Brows Su Lun betrayed the lair, they were no longer panicking.

Among the three big gangs in the lair, Black Bone, which was controlled by Phantom Bear Xiong Wei, was the greatest benefactor.

It was about to become the greatest gang in the lair and step above Golden Tooth.

Poison Scorpion' support was Sky Pillar Corporation, and Lu Siya had hope to take control of Sky Pillar Corporation in the near future, so Poison Scorpion was naturally happy to see Meng Chao and Lu Siya gain great achievements. They were the most outstanding pair among the Golden Era, and the gang listened to whatever they had to say.

But Golden Tooth was dejected and in alarm.

They did not know whether their gang leader, Saber Jin Wanhao, could even be considered to be alive. It probably would be more accurate to say that he was already dead.

Their vice gang leader, Red Brows Su Lun, betrayed the humans and joined the monsters. He even planned to destroy the entire lair.

This was a huge blow, and the strongest gang in the past was immediately shaken so much that they were on the verge of breaking down.

But Song Jinbo's appearance brought Golden Tooth back from the edge of breaking.

As a member of the higher management in charge of all the entertainment industries under Golden Tooth, he was a veteran who had been working in the business for decades.

Once he gathered all the information and analyzed the situation, he knew very clearly that right then, both their gang leader and vice gang leader were compromised. To Golden Tooth, the most important problem was not whether it could retain its position as the strongest gang in the lair, but whether it could manage to not break down overnight.

Golden Tooth was currently in a critical situation where it might fall apart.

Since the pillar that had been supporting the gang for decades had already fallen, Golden Tooth had to look for a new coattail at the fastest speed before they really started to decline.

They were in a hurry, and Song Jinbo did not have the time to choose carefully.

There was only one firm and strong coattail within sight, and that coattail... was Meng Chao.

As the most outstanding member of the third generation in the Lu family and a person who was supported by the giant that was Sky Pillar Corporation, Queen Bee Lu Siya could definitely mobilize more resources than Meng Chao.

But Sky Pillar Corporation already had a loyal soldier in the lair—Poison Scorpion.

It would be undignified for Golden Tooth to ignore their pride and fight against Poison Scorpion to ride on Sky Pillar Corporation's coattails. This would destroy the balance between the nine great mega corporations and the gangs, which would bring new troubles.

But Meng Chao was different.

On the surface, he had nothing. Even if he had Superstar, the Broken Star Club, and Blue Home's support, he was unable to fight against the nine great mega corporations for the time being.

But Song Jinbo valued Meng Chao's potential as the youngest Heaven Realm superhuman in Dragon City.

The current incident could be taken as an example. Meng Chao had managed to slaughter his way out of a certain death situation. In the end, he even miraculously turned the tides. In the future, who was to say that he would not create the tenth cultivation family that was not part of the nine great mega corporations?

More importantly, helping someone in need was always better than giving gifts to someone who already had everything, be it on Earth or the Other World.

To the nine great mega corporations, Golden Tooth was just an insignificant force after it lost Saber Jin Wanhao.

Even if they groveled at their feet while the other turned a cold shoulder to them, they would have to wait until the nine great mega corporations were in a good mood to give them their attention.

Meng Chao was different.

His strength and the forces under him were at the golden period of development. If he obtained Golden Tooth's full support, he would be like a tiger with wings and would climb to higher heights.

If he were to be bound tightly to Golden Tooth, perhaps they would not be riding on his coattails anymore, but would enter a mutually beneficial relationship and become allies with an unbreakable bond.

Song Jinbo also had some great ambitions.

He was loyal to Saber Jin Wanhao and was willing to work for Golden Tooth's gang leader for the rest of his life, but now, the Saber was broken, Red Brows had betrayed them, and Golden Tooth did not have a leader. Someone had to step forward to clean up the mess.

Why couldn't he be that person?

When he acted according to Meng Chao's will to secretly contact his old friends in Golden Tooth and the other gangs, Song Jinbo had already calmly thought through all these problems.

He also obtained a lot of information from Leprosy Village's Su Mulian.

Then, with his years of experience in society, he guided her to make a series of decisions.

And now, when he met Meng Chao again, he was confident.

“Brother Meng Chao, I’m really thankful for saving me, Golden Tooth, and the entire lair. Golden Tooth won’t be able to repay your kindness to us even if we crush our bones for you.”

Song Jinbo wept as he thanked Meng Chao.

He stopped talking for a moment and changed his tone to one of earnestness. “More importantly, through your guidance, we understood deeply that it’s unhealthy for us to have been so discriminatory toward Leprosy Village over the past few decades. We’ve been wary of them and exploited them. It’s impossible for us to maintain such a relationship with them anymore.

“If we want to ensure that order remains in the lair for a long period of time so that we can help all the lair citizens get more benefits and a brighter future, we must destroy the misunderstandings between the lair and Leprosy Village. We must work together so that we can brave the storms together!

“I’ve already represented all the people in Golden Tooth in a discussion with Ms. Mulian.

“Once this situation comes to an end, Golden Tooth will definitely invest a large amount of resources in reconstructing Leprosy Village, and through reconstruction, we will sign a new, healthier, and fairer tactical cooperation agreement with Leprosy Village’s Wild Wolf.

“At the same time, we’ll bring in a lot of external capital and power to reform the lair so that the whole lair, including Leprosy Village, will improve and gain a new life.

“And the external power that we’ll favor will be you, Brother Meng Chao, no, Mr. Meng. We really hope that you can serve as the middleman and bring in various resources from Superstar, Broken Star Club, and Blue Home to help Golden Tooth, Wild Wolves, Leprosy Village, and the whole lair see new hope!”

Chapter 594: The Vortex’s Tracks

Meng Chao did not have time to deal with the “kind will” from Golden Tooth and Leprosy Village for the time being.

However, to heighten Golden Tooth and Leprosy Village’s morale, he still reached an agreement with Song Jinbo and Su Mulian.

Based on the agreement, Meng Chao was going to prove that Song Jinbo had noticed long ago what was strange about Su Lun and secretly contacted Meng Chao. Both of them then worked together to destroy the enemy’s scheme.

With this agreement, Golden Tooth, which was now led by Song Jinbo, was finally able to sigh in relief.

Naturally, they acknowledged Meng Chao and became even more thankful to him.

Golden Tooth, Poison Scorpion, and Black Bone were now dealt with, and the other middle-sized and small gangs naturally followed their lead.

But even when the gangs had become united, it did not mean that the chaos naturally came to an end.

The fire at the borders of the lair still raged, and there was an increasing number of refugees and casualties. Quite a number of densely populated residential areas and factories as well as warehouses with dangerous items stored inside still faced great threats.

Leprosy Village was located at the core of the lair, and it was shrouded by raging black smoke. It was like a black volcano that rose from the ground.

According to the deadline set between Meng Chao and Wild Wolf, Meng Chao had five more hours.

However, Meng Chao believed that the villagers would not be able to last another five hours, because they were continuously tormented by flames and smog.

At that moment, the lair was like a building that had the fire on its walls extinguished, but flames were still raging under the debris.

If they were careless, then all the problems they had solved might come back.

They had to mobilize all their forces and get rid of the fire within the shortest amount of time possible and set up a large number of temporary hospitals and shelters so that they could distribute medical and relief resources equally and in a fair manner.

That was the only way they could restore order and get rid of the “fire” completely.

Even though Su Mulian could represent Leprosy Village in communication with the gangs, the misunderstandings and conflicts that had been building over decades were not something that could be resolved with just a few words.

And asking the gangs to set up anti-fire walls, temporary hospitals, and shelters around Leprosy Village, as well as asking the lair citizens to fork out a large amount of resources to help the badly battered villagers was just impossible, because they were in trouble themselves...

They had a host of problems, and everything seemed to be a mess. They had to bring out the maximum amount of patience and kindness to solve the problems slowly.

Fortunately, Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue was serving as a garrison. Lu Siya also used her status as the Queen Bee to tempt as well as intimidate the people. With Meng Chao also acting as the mediator, they would definitely walk down the correct path.

The entire lair was like a machine with different parts mashed together, but they did not quite fit together. Now, it was starting to operate slowly.

Even if the parts clashed against each other and created noise as well as sparks, it operated with increasing smoothness, and everything would soon fall into place.

Now, there was one final problem left.

The Vortex.

This creature was full of schemes and still lurked in the dark. No one knew whether it had anything else up its sleeve.

Based on what Red Brows Su Lun told them, the Vortex could mobilize the former Reaper Squad members and robbers who took in Deification Capsules, though the latter was just a force it decided to assemble spontaneously.

These monster puppets who had betrayed humanity were practically all captured.

Ever since the Noble Descent Hotel ambush, the Survival Committee started mending the fence. They set up a lot of security networks with tight defenses underground to ensure that the monster civilization would be unable to use super sandworms or other underground creatures to dig tunnels and send batches of ferocious monsters under Dragon City while they were all unaware.

The Vortex was now alone.

And it was an intellect-type abnormal beast. Aside from changing its form by sticking itself on humans, it didn't have any other powers. Its fighting strength wasn't so horrifying that it could destroy the world, so it should be unable to cause much trouble.

But for some reason, once Meng Chao remembered that it was a Supernatural Entity, he still felt fear thrum in his heart.

It was as if there was a poisoned needle hanging on the back of his head and poking at him.

Even if the Vortex was already at the end of its rope, Meng Chao would not allow this creature to flee and escape its punishment.

This creature had taken his shape and committed heinous crimes. It also turned him into its scapegoat.

No one and no monster was allowed to walk away scot free after doing such things to him!

Meng Chao swore that he would rip the Vortex into shreds and expose it under the sun for 180 days so that it was reduced to ashes. Then, he would grind that ash into powder, pour cement over it, and throw it into Red Dragon River.

But no one knew where the Vortex hid.

Even Red Brows Su Lun had no knowledge of it.

Based on what he said, every time the Vortex appeared, it was to make a request or to give him orders.

Besides, every time, the Vortex popped up with the most unimaginable identity and at the most unpredictable time as well as place. It was elusive, and Red Brows Su Lun could not figure it out.

Hence, when Meng Chao pretended to be the Vortex pretending to be him to use his indistinguishable acting to trick Su Lun, Su Lun never doubted it.

Su Lun was smart. He knew his predicament very well, and he told everything he knew. Meng Chao did not think that there was any need for the man to hide anything.

However, just then, to capture Wandering Specter Zhong Li and the other former Reaper Squad members, Meng Chao did not interrogate Su Lun in detail, so they had yet to talk about many important topics.

Su Mulian, Song Jinbo, and Phantom Bear Xiong Wei went off to gather their manpower and resources in the lair to get rid of the fire and perform disaster relief.

Lu Siya, in the meantime, was in charge of interrogating Wandering Specter Zhong Li and the others in hopes that they could get the truth behind why they received monster modifications.

Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue remained suspended above Mutual Gold Coliseum and looked down on the entire lair. He intimidated all the petty thieves who had ill intentions and wanted to steal from others while they were suffering. His actions increased the citizens' morale by letting them know that the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower had not given up on them yet.

He also expanded his vitality magnetic field to the max to scan for existences that might appear to be the Vortex.

At that moment, Meng Chao decided to interrogate Red Brows Su Lun again.

Su Lun was detained under Mutual Gold Coliseum. He was currently in a monster cage used to hold monsters and connected to high-voltage electricity.

Even though Phantom Bear Xiong Wei had beaten him to the point that his organs shifted, everything under his knees was gone, and not a single spirit flame could burn under his blood-red eyebrows, the lair citizens placed shackles that weighed hundreds of kilograms on him, as if they were trying to vent their rage. There were even three self-destruct collars on his neck.

They were treating him like the most savage and cunning monster.

Red Brows Su Lun looked pathetic. He was covered in wounds and his clothes were dishevelled. He no longer looked as high-spirited and energetic as he did when he was the temporary highest commander of the lair three hours ago.

Meng Chao did not pity this person, who deserved all he got.

He would rather pity a vermin rolling in torment on the ground because of the sun instead of a traitor who betrayed his comrades, hometown, and even civilization.

He was just curious.

In the Noble Descent Town ambush, the Demonic Abyss Eye had also lured a group of humans into being its puppets.

Meng Chao remembered that there were also a lot of humans whose minds were corrupted by the monsters, so they also became puppets.

But these people were either mentally attacked by the abnormal beasts or completely hypnotized or brainwashed.

Some even had bacteria, viruses, or spores implanted in them, just like the legendary Gu poison in China.

Others were taken over by parasites, who crept into their brains and physically controlled their central nervous systems. Their bodies were no longer their own, which was why they helped the enemies.

But Su Lun's mind was completely clear, and he retained all his mental faculties.

After Phantom Bear Xiong Wei and Broken Sword Ye Xiaoyue checked him, they excluded the possibility that he might have parasites or worms in his body or that his brain had undergone pathological changes.

In other words, he joined the monsters in their goal to destroy Dragon City completely of his own free will.

This was definitely more terrifying than any hypnotism, brainwashing, or parasites.

Meng Chao wanted to understand Su Lun's motives, so he could guess whether there were more people like him. People who fell into decadence on their own without being brainwashed or infested by parasites and helped enemies become ticking time bombs buried in Dragon City were really difficult to get rid of.

"Su Lun?"

Meng Chao crouched down in front of the pile of rotten flesh that gave off a really strong stench of blood.

When the former vice gang leader of Golden Tooth who bore the electromagnetic shackles that weighed hundreds of kilograms heard his voice, he raised his head with difficulty. He flashed a grin at Meng Chao.

At the sight of Sun Lun's twisted smile amid the coagulated blood, Meng Chao's heart let out a loud thump.

After a few hours of calm contemplation, Su Lun seemed to have removed himself from the state of being horribly defeated. He regained his usual calmness and sharpness. In truth, he appeared to be even sharper than before.

When someone realized that they were definitely going to die, they would either descend into despair and break down or would squeeze out a power that exceeded their limits from the depths of their soul. In their final moments, they would become a brand new person.

"Hello, Meng Chao, judging by your expression, you've already caught Wandering Specter Zhong Li, but you haven't captured the Vortex."

Since Xiong Wei knocked off half of his teeth, Su Lun had a lisp when he talked. His intonation was a little strange, but his tone was sincere. "Regrettably, I've already told you that I don't know where the Vortex is hiding. There's no meaning for you to continue wasting your time on me.

"I'm someone who's willing to admit defeat. I don't have the stupid thought of dragging the whole lair down with me. The Vortex and I were in a purely mutually beneficial relationship. I don't need to help it hide anything."

"I know," Meng Chao said. "That's why I stopped Gang Leader Xiong and the others from using torture to interrogate you. You should know that there are plenty of people in the gangs who want to cut you into pieces and eat you. That amount of flesh you have isn't near enough to satisfy them.

"I don't want to lie to you. With the crimes you committed, we wouldn't be going overboard even if we cut you into pieces.

“And as Dragon City switches from defensive strategies to tactical offensives, sending death row convicts into Reaper Squads will gradually become inappropriate, and this system will be slowly removed.

“You will definitely die. I cannot save you, nor do I want to.

“But you can choose to die a quick death. Do you want to have a bullet straight into your head, or do you want to be tortured for a long time by Gang Leader Xiong and the furious gang members? In their hands, you won’t be able to die even if you want to. The difference is big, don’t you think?”

Chapter 595: Betrayal and Revenge

“...Makes sense.” Su Lun smiled. “Since I’ve been defeated by you, I do hope that I can die in your hands. I believe that you will let me die a quick death.

“Unfortunately, I’ve already told you everything I know. I have nothing else to tell you in exchange for death.”

“Don’t be in such a hurry. I believe that you really don’t know where the Vortex is hiding, but as long as you answer my question honestly, perhaps I can deduce its thought patterns and operational style to be able to predict its next step,” Meng Chao said. “I just want to know how the Vortex managed to convince you to betray humans and join the monster civilization?”

“It doesn’t seem to have used any sort of hypnotism on you, and it didn’t use any physical methods to modify your brain, either. As the vice gang leader of Golden Tooth and the God of Wealth in the lair, you don’t seem to have been unable to use your talents, and after Dragon City obtained full victory during the northern offense, you had a bright future ahead of you.

“I just can’t understand why a smart person like you would betray everything and take such a risk?”

“Reason?” Su Lun raised his head a little and thought about it for a long time. “Money, authority, power, status. It’s just these things, there’s nothing special.”

A small crease appeared between Meng Chao’s eyebrows. “For these, you were willing to join another race and kill your own kind?”

“Isn’t it enough?” Su Lun asked with a smile. “At least 99% of the wars over the course of nearly ten thousand years of human civilization on Earth were waged due to these reasons. Many of the smartest, bravest, and strongest people raised their weapons against their own kind for money and power, and they slaughtered so many people that blood flowed in streams.

“The victors are heroes and kings, while the losers are murderers and demons.

“I’m just an insignificant, ordinary man. These things are temptations that plenty of heroes and demons are unable to resist, so how could I possibly resist them?”

When Su Lun saw the skeptic look on Meng Chao’s face, he moved his shackles with great difficulty so that he could shrug.

“Fine. If I had to add another reason to it, then it should be... revenge, I guess?” He chuckled rather strangely and lowered his head, using his bloodstained hair and eyebrows to hide his expression.

“Hatred. Only hatred is an even better reason than money, authority, and power to do what I did,” he mumbled.

“Revenge?” Meng Chao frowned. “Who are you taking revenge upon?”

“Heaven Pharmaceuticals, one of Dragon City’s nine great mega corporations,” Su Lun said. “The nine great mega corporations are all working together to commit evil. They’re interest groups collaborating with each other. If you take revenge on one of them, it’s the same as declaring war on all of them. Tell me, aside from the monster civilization, who else would be willing to help me overturn the nine great mega corporations? They’re giants, after all.”

Meng Chao was stunned for a long time. “What sort of hatred do you have with Heaven Pharmaceuticals that you declared them as your mortal enemies and were willing to use the monster civilization’s power to take revenge?”

“They killed my father. Is that enough to make them my mortal enemies?”

Su Lun cast a deep glance at Meng Chao, as if he wanted to vent all his resentment before death, and started talking up a storm.

Honestly, it was nothing special.

It was just a story that happened every day in the business world. The strong feasted on the weak, and those at the top were all corrupted.

Su Lun said that he was born in a rather well-off family. His father was quite a famous hunter, and his mother was a specialist in life sciences. She researched how to process monster materials into gene medicine that would stimulate human potential.

It was a glorious period of time in history. The Monster War had just started, plenty of heroes appeared, and there were plenty of things that needed to be done.

The living conditions of the transmigrators were relatively bad, but hope of victory had already appeared on the fog-shrouded horizon. Runic symbol machines, gene medicine, and spirit energy martial arts appeared one after another and kept on evolving, giving countless heroes a chance to rise up the social ladder and gain power.

To the ambitious youngsters who had great skill, this was the best era.

Su Lun’s parents were lucky people.

They used their courage and wisdom to continuously ride the waves and gathered power and wealth.

When Su Lun reached an age where he began understanding the things around him, his parents had already opened a large pharmacy to create a few successful gene medicines.

Creating gene medicine was the most profitable business during that era.

It was a time when humans fought monsters in the streets the moment they woke up, so any gene medicine that might increase their fighting strength earned unimaginably high profit.

And human mortality rate was at a constant high as well. No one cared about the side effects and consequences of the new gene medicine.

Those who took the medicine might die the next day, but those who did not take it would die right away. This was a simple multiple-choice question.

Unfortunately, to pharmacists, the period of time when they could grow barbarically and shine like fireworks was just too short.

As humans continued retrieving their lost land, mortality rate swiftly fell, and everyone's lives became worthwhile again.

Meanwhile, more than one thousand gene medicines had appeared within a short few years, just like mushrooms sprouting after a rain. It created brutal competition.

What was even more terrifying was that the nine great mega corporations started to enter this market. They used their capital and power to start harvesting the profits like a whirlwind.

This was an unfair war, where one side just pummeled the other side.

The mega corporations had great capital, and they could fearlessly swallow up the small pharmacies.

They could also endure the super long research periods that required large investments before they brought profit. With such actions, they created stronger and much more stable gene medicine.

They also had the strength to promote their goods like they were performing carpet-bombing so that their sparkling brands would enter deep into people's hearts.

The medium-sized and small pharmacies that were developed in home-based workshops and by people that did not have a lot of skills could not hope to fight against the mega corporations.

A number of owners of the medium and small pharmacies chose to accept the olive branch given by the mega corporations and became one of them.

But a handful of pharmacists were stubborn. They were reluctant to give up on their brands and their research results. Some of them also disliked the way the mega corporations did things, which was why they refused to be absorbed into them. They continued competing against the mega corporations in the market.

Su Lun's parents belonged to the latter.

His mother had her own unique thought processes in the field of life sciences and wanted to keep her independence. She refused to join Heaven Pharmaceuticals multiple times, and this mega corporation, which was already a gene medicine giant, multiple times.

However, as Heaven Pharmaceuticals continued expanding, the citizens became more accustomed to choosing the gene medicine produced by a major brand, and the situation of medium and small pharmacies became worse.

As the medium and small pharmacies were either absorbed or went bankrupt, the Su family's pharmacy also ran into operational troubles.

If they wanted to break the monopoly of Heaven Pharmaceuticals, they had to produce a hit product that was even better than their competitors'.

Su Lun's parents placed their hopes on a brand new gene medicine.

Not only did they invest all the capital they gathered over more than ten years into it and even risked their lives for it, they also got themselves into major debt, pawned off everything, and even went to the illegal finance companies in the lair to gather a large amount of funds for research.

For three whole years, Su Lun's parents acted like torches drenched in petrol. They drained their lives and practically did not sleep because of their work until, finally, they saw hope.

A brand new super gene medicine that could stimulate the mitochondria and increase the efficiency of energy transformation as well as release by 30% compared to similar products was about to be born.

Even now, Su Lun still remembered how during those years his parents were like ghosts. He seldom met them.

When he occasionally ran into them, they looked pale and haggard, as if they had just crawled out of a coffin and were about to walk straight back in.

They only looked alive on the day the gene medicine experiment came to an end. Color returned to their cheeks, and they looked really excited.

However, just when Su Lun's parents were about to bring all their test results and the new gene medicine to register at the Supernatural Tower, they received shocking news from the market.

Heaven Pharmaceuticals created a super gene medicine known as Heaven 9!

This Heaven 9 had practically the same particle structure and monster material ratio compared to the new gene medicine his parents created. The effects on the human body were about the same as well. Even the spirit energy magnetic fields that were stimulated produced the same fluctuations.

However, compared to the gene medicine his parents created, the product from Heaven Pharmaceuticals was more mature and stable. Not only did they largely reduce the side effects and sequelae, they also added a series of expensive materials that added to the quality of the gene medicine. In one go, they produced more than ten versions of Heaven 9, including a youth version and flagship version.

Due to a grand conference and an insane amount of advertising, Heaven 9 soon occupied most of the market and became Heaven Pharmaceuticals' hit product.

They continued updating it, and up to this date, it continued selling like hotcakes. It was the cash cow that continued bringing Heaven Pharmaceuticals money.

"That's..." When Meng Chao heard this part of the story, he could not help but ask, "Are you going to tell me that Heaven Pharmaceuticals' Heaven 9 was stolen from your parents' pharmacy?"

Heaven 9 was a rather famous and popular gene medicine.

It was the most suitable medicine for one- to three-star superhumans.

It could stimulate their cells regardless of whether they were cultivating or fighting. It would expand their spirit meridians, increase spirit energy pressure, and largely increase their fighting strength.

Even Meng Chao himself had often drank Heaven 9 like Coke when he had nothing else to do.

He did not expect that there would be such a story behind Heaven 9.

“That’s right, Heaven 9 was stolen from my family!” Su Lun hissed as his eyes turned bloodshot. “Before Heaven 9 appeared, Heaven Pharmaceuticals’ drug creation style was completely different from my family’s. This is an important reason behind why my mother never wanted to be absorbed into the company.

“But for some miraculous reason, Heaven 9’s creation principles and spirit energy increase was identical to that of my mother. Anyone in the field could tell that it was my family’s style the moment they saw it!

“Besides, after this happened, my parents investigated this matter, and they found that their apparatuses and database in the lab had been tampered with.

“Before they could investigate it in depth, a mysterious fire started in the lab.

“Right after, two of the pharmacists who were in important positions and whom my parents regarded as their right-hand men chose to resign. They both disappeared at such an important time. Half a year later, when the matter was settled, they reappeared as employees of Heaven Pharmaceuticals!”

Chapter 596: Motive to Become Mortal Enemies

Meng Chao frowned. He remained silent for a long time before he nodded slowly and said, “If that’s the case, it’s really suspicious. Has your family ever thought about suing them and asking the Supernatural Tower to handle the case?”

“How could we not have? We went to the drug monitoring department, the Supernatural Tower, the Survival Committee, and all the related departments,” Su Lun said. “But even though the Survival Committee is the supreme ruling organization in Dragon City, it was created by Heaven Pharmaceuticals and the other eight mega corporations. The Supernatural Tower is something they built after they pooled their funds together.

“If we went to the Supernatural Tower and the Survival Committee to sue Heaven Pharmaceuticals, wouldn’t that be the same as trying to sue the judge judging your case?”

“Besides, when Dragon City’s order had just been restored, many of the regions still retained the law of the jungle. The strong feasted on the weak, and they were the ones who ruled. When they faced the monsters’ invasion, all methods to resist monsters were approved and even encouraged.

“My parents fought against Heaven Pharmaceuticals for more than three years and went to all the departments and organizations. In the end, the court’s decision was this: First, Heaven Pharmaceuticals’ Heaven 9 and the super gene medicine produced by my family were slightly different in terms of the creation process, particle structure, and spirit energy increase. They did not deduce it to be an imitation.

“Second, Heaven 9 was already largely produced and was helping countless Dragon City warriors and superhumans gain power. They contributed greatly in the efforts to protect Dragon City, so the corporation producing the medicine needed to be protected.

“Hence, not only did my family’s accusations become unfounded, we were told to stop spreading ‘rumors’ about them imitating my family’s products in society and online. We also had to provide declarations to prove Heaven Pharmaceuticals’ innocence in regards to the past ‘rumors’. We were put in charge of getting rid of all the negative effects these ‘rumors’ caused to Heaven Pharmaceuticals!”

Meng Chao fell silent.

If what Su Lun said was really true, then Heaven Pharmaceuticals had gone too far.

Even though this was not a legitimate reason for Su Lun to betray humans, it explained his motives.

“What? You don’t believe me?” Su Lun cackled. “The nine great mega corporations aren’t good people. They have done plenty of similar crimes!

“They stole my family’s gene medicine formula, stole another family’s runic symbol machine blueprint, and the models for spirit energy martial arts and spirit energy magnetic fields from elsewhere. Once they gathered the culmination of wisdom from countless talented pioneers, they used their vast capital and fame to imitate them.

“Then, through promotions and price wars, they forced the medium and small industries into a corner. In the end, they monopolized the whole market. After that, they could do whatever they wanted to obtain vast profits.

“Over the past few years, the nine great mega corporations became in control of more fields and inventions, which completed their bloody and primitive accumulation of capital. They monopolized all the important fields in Dragon City, then washed their hands clean of all the blood they spilled and made themselves look noble and proper. They even started talking about etiquette and rules.

“Years ago, however, the things that happened to my family were common. Many of the medium and small companies encountered similar things.”

Meng Chao nodded.

He had returned from the apocalypse, so he was not as innocent as other university students.

The nine great mega corporations were definitely not snow white bunnies.

If they were really harmless bunnies, it would have been impossible for them to slaughter their way out of a world filled with zombies and lawlessness and rebuild civilization and order.

Before the Survival Committee was built, the Dragon City was just a magnified version of the current lairs.

No. In reality, they were even more chaotic and ugly than present-day lairs.

After all, the lairs were now restrained by the laws of the outside world. The Supernatural Tower just did not want to manage them because it was not profitable. It was not that it could not manage them.

However, the Dragon City decades ago was really a place where law was gone, and the ugliness of humanity was completely exposed.

Morals, rules, and law were all just empty talk before huge fists covered in bone spikes.

Sky Pillar, Universe, Heaven, Soaring Dragon... The mega corporations back then were all just gangs like Golden Tooth, Black Bone, and Poison Scorpion.

Meng Chao had heard about their style and how greedy they were, so it wasn't hard for him to imagine what Su Lun said.

"I trust that all of their primitive accumulation of capital was bloody and ugly," Meng Chao said. "What happened next? What happened to your parents' pharmacy?"

"It went bankrupt." Su Lun dragged the shackles that weighed hundreds of kilograms forward and shrugged arduously.

He was so angry that the wounds under his knees started bleeding again, and there was also pus flowing out.

But he deliberately kept a calm expression. "To research the new drug, my parents had gone into major debt, and filing a lawsuit against Heaven Pharmaceuticals severely impacted their survivability and development in the field.

"Heaven Pharmaceuticals is a giant in the gene medicine industry. It controls a lot of the raw material providers and even the hunters' lifelines. When many of the providers, advertisers, and distributors who had been working with my parents for almost a decade heard that my family filed a lawsuit against Heaven Pharmaceuticals, they stopped working with us.

"A few of the finance organizations also stopped giving us loans and allowing us to use their credit cards. And if a few were willing to continue giving us loans, the fees for the guarantee and interest rates became so high we couldn't handle them.

"It's really ironic. It's only when one bank stopped working together with us that my parents learned that this bank who has been constantly supporting us while we were still a family workshop had Heaven Pharmaceuticals as its biggest shareholder.

"Heh. And my parents still dreamed of fighting against this giant! It was the same as using an egg to strike a stone.

"Even so, my parents didn't give up. They continued doing everything they could to gather the final funds and complete the super gene medicine's creation and test. Then, they pushed it into the market.

"The problem was, Heaven 9 had already entered the market before our gene medicine and created an unshakeable image for itself due to the amount of advertising. Besides, the quality and stability of their product were slightly better than my family's.

"But there was nothing we could do about it. My family had already invested everything it had into the research, while the other party stole it effortlessly. They could then continue spending money to increase the quality, whereas my family couldn't even fork out an extra penny for further research.

"As a result, when faced with Heaven 9's aggressive strategy to conquer the market, our gene medicine lost. Our pharmacy soon went bankrupt, and my father died of anger."

Even though Su Lun had mentioned that he was taking revenge for his dead father, Meng Chao could not help but gasp.

“When my father was a hunter, his body was very strong. He didn’t suffer major injuries while deep in the wild, and at that time, he was at the peak of his life. He was very powerful,” Su Lun said. “But to be held accountable for the consumers, after my mother opened her pharmacy, he left the hunter circle and returned to the pharmacy to be a test subject for the gene medicine. That way, they could obtain first hand experience and data.

“This compromised his health a lot.

“To develop the super gene medicine, he worked day and night, ignoring his fatigue and injuries way past his limits to test all sorts of formulae. And his body started falling apart right before my eyes.

“The three years of fighting against Heaven Pharmaceuticals in court also destroyed his will.

“On the night the final verdict came out, he smoked for an entire night, and there were more than one hundred cigarette butts left on the floor.

“The next morning, my mother and I found him curled up in a corner. He had died behind the cigarette butts.”

Meng Chao did not know what he should say. After a while, he asked, “And what about your mother?”

“Her company had gone bankrupt and her husband had died, but we had to continue living. To return the debts, send me to school, and get me cultivation resources, she had to come to the lair to work for Golden Tooth.” Su Lun smiled. “No matter what, my mother was a rather famous pharmacist in the field. She had also caused a stir because of the three years in court. Many of the people knew what had happened, so they didn’t underestimate her abilities.

“In the beginning, for the sake of researching the super gene medicine, my family had borrowed a large sum of money from illegal finance companies in the lair, and their greatest creditor was Golden Tooth.

“After we lost the lawsuit, our company went bankrupt, and we naturally couldn’t fork out the cash.

“But Saber Jin Wanhao really acted just like an underground emperor. When he heard about my family’s misfortune, he wasn’t in a hurry to force us to return our debt. Instead, he lent our family a large sum of money to solve the remaining problems regarding the employees and suppliers. It helped solve our critical problems.

“Then, he suggested to my mother that it would be very difficult for her to continue staying in the gene medicine field now that she offended Heaven Pharmaceuticals. It would be better for her to enter the lair and work for Golden Tooth and create gene medicine for the ‘fighters’ in monster coliseums and the gang members.

“He even sponsored a brand new lab, but the condition was that she would have to create gene medicine specifically for him based on his condition, injuries, and illnesses. In other words, she was to become his personal pharmacist.”

Meng Chao understood it now. Everything made sense.

Superhumans’ bodies changed all the time. The higher grade a gene medicine was, the more necessary it was for minor changes to be made in the formula of the gene medicine based on a superhuman’s cultivation realm, fighting habits, and the fluctuation rate of their vitality magnetic field.

Many of the experienced fighters with vast quantities of money had their own personal pharmacist. They usually also had a large squad of technicians to provide full support to them in regards to their cultivation.

If Su Lun's mother had really created the original Heaven 9, she would have had the qualifications to become Saber Jin Wanhao's personal pharmacist.

It could be said that Saber Jin Wanhao had managed to seize the chance to pick up a treasure.

And since personal pharmacists were in control of veteran fighters' physical conditions, physiological parameters, injuries, weaknesses, and other confidential information, they had a strong relationship with their employers. They were usually trusted employees.

This also explained why Red Brows Su Lun was able to enter the lair soon after he graduated from Dragon City University and take up an important position in Golden Tooth. It also explained why his position rose so quickly within just a short few years until he became a military adviser to the vice gang leader of Golden Tooth.

Saber Jin Wanhao was definitely not a muddle-headed and useless person.

As the master of the lair, he did not easily trust outsiders.

Su Lun was the son of his personal pharmacist, so they had a pretty close relationship.

It was no wonder then why Saber Jin Wanhao did not trust Song Jinbo and his other friends, who had been with him for decades, when he was on his deathbed but only let Su Lun know about his condition!

Chapter 597: A Monster Even More Terrifying than Apocalyptic Beasts

"My mother worked for Saber Jin Wanhao for years. She was dejected and never thought about rising to power again, but she had to consider things for her only son," Su Lun continued. "Since the outside world only had bad comments about the gangs, she was worried that if she became involved with Golden Tooth, it would affect my life in the future.

"That's why she kept a low profile. Aside from being Jin Wanhao's personal pharmacist, she never got involved with any of the lair's affairs. That's why only a handful of people know about my family's relationship with Jin Wanhao.

"This life lasted for a few years. My mother helped Jin Wanhao create a few batches of new drugs and set up a large, private cultivation room with advanced equipment under Golden Tooth's headquarters. Jin Wanhao told me later that he had only good remarks about my mother's abilities and loyalty. He believed that she had extended his lifespan by at least ten years. This was an important reason behind why he accepted me so readily later on.

"Jin Wanhao was a man who separated his resentment and gratitude clearly, and when someone did something good for him, he would definitely reward them. He might have more than one hundred flaws, but none of them was stinginess.

"In just a few years, my mother managed to clear all her debts and helped me gather an impressive education and cultivation fund. I didn't disappoint her either and managed to get into Dragon City University. The management course in Dragon City University might not be as glamorous as the martial

arts course, but it's still one of the ace courses in Dragon City. It's also the first choice for non-combative superhumans.

"When she saw that her son was about to have a bright future ahead of him, all her regrets disappeared. My mother achieved all her wishes, and on the day my father died, she left this brutal and ugly world peacefully."

When Meng Chao heard this, he could not help but heave a long sigh.

"Don't be sad for my mother. I believe that death to her was the best relief," Su Lun said faintly. "My mother's soul had already fallen into hell together with my father when we lost the lawsuit and he died. What remained in this blood-red world was an empty shell driven by debt and responsibility. At the moment she carried out her duty and cleared all her debts, the injured body could finally rest in peace.

"But my mother didn't expect that while she and my father obtained eternal peace, as their son, I was tormented by endless hatred. It was like a demonic fire had carved its way into my soul.

"My parents had been forced to their deaths by Heaven Pharmaceuticals, so how could I not want to take revenge and destroy them?"

"Got it." Meng Chao exhaled. "Then, from that moment on, you joined the path of evil and tried to use the monsters' strength to fight against Heaven?"

"I can swear that I never once thought about using external forces in the beginning. Besides, at that time, the monsters were too dumb. They only knew how to bare their teeth and growl like idiots. They didn't have the slightest bit of intelligence, so there was no possibility of us communicating and using each other." Su Lun smiled bitterly. "At that time, I had just entered university.

"I was in the ace course of the best university in the city. I carried on my shoulders a blood feud, and it felt like I had a secret mission unique only to me. I was also regarded with envy and respect, like I'm some child blessed by the Gods, so my spirits were high and my confidence went over the roof.

"I was protected well by my parents since young.

"Even when my family's company went bankrupt, my mother did everything she could to meticulously create a shell for me so that I wouldn't experience the hardships from the ugliness of society.

"That's why my innocent self didn't realize just how terrifying of a giant my enemy was.

"The nine great mega corporations are ten times more terrifying than the most fearsome Apocalyptic Beast. It's a fool's dream to start from scratch and defeat Heaven Pharmaceuticals in a fair and square battle.

"But I knew that even though I didn't inherit my father's talent for martial arts or my mother's talent for drug creation, I had great instincts when it came to operating and managing businesses.

"With this God-given instinct and crazed hard work, I managed to obtain relatively good results in university and got myself all the rewards I could get, so much so that when my professors valued my talent and my peers flattered me, I was on cloud nine and overestimated myself.

“When I graduated from university and joined the very real and brutal society, the neverending trials immediately destroyed my illusions.

“It was only then that I realized that if I wanted to obtain success in this world, having a strong background and connections was more important than abilities and achievements!

“The nine great mega corporations and the nine great cultivation families behind them had all the important departments, positions, and tactical resources in Dragon City firmly in their grasp. They could do whatever they wanted since they were in control of the city!

“Recall the period around thirty years ago. It might have been chaotic and lawless, but it was a golden era when everything was allowed to blossom and grow. We didn’t care about having a strong background or connections at that time. All the people relied on their own strength, wisdom, and courage to survive the process of elimination under the brutal but fair rules. My parents’ generation was full of people who had started from nothing but had become outstanding people with their own strength!

“But in my generation, forget about taking revenge against giants like Heaven Pharmaceuticals, a nameless, poor nobody couldn’t even hope about creating his own business without getting involved with the nine great mega corporations.

“All the fields that provide a lot of benefits have long since been monopolized by the mega corporations.

“The politicians in the Survival Committee and the floor managers of the Supernatural Tower also mostly come from the nine families.

“If normal people want to obtain more cultivation resources, they can only do so through the channels of the nine great mega corporations aside from the black market. Many of the prices for monster materials weren’t originally so high, but the mega corporations hoarded them and started jacking up their price by maliciously sensationalizing them. The most ironic thing is that you can even see the mega corporations’ traces in the deep web and many of the black markets in the lair.

“This is an era in which no matter how much of a genius a person is, they cannot hope to fight against the mega corporations.

“It doesn’t matter what sort of astonishing creation you come up with in the spirit energy martial arts field, runic symbol machines field, or gene medicine field. You will either be absorbed into the mega corporations, or your creation will be stolen and imitated by them in almost no time.

Compared to my parents’ days, the mega corporations now are much better at stealing and imitating products. They also have a larger and better trained legal team. It will ensure that the mega corporation will swallow up the ‘food’ it fancies in the most elegant manner of eating, and it will all be done within legal boundaries. Nothing will then be left of that ‘food’!

“Only two types of people can be successful in this damn era.

“First are those born in cultivation families, just like my peers in university.

“It was only later that I realized that my classmates who never showed any talent were closely tied to the nine great cultivation families. They were all the third generation of the nine great cultivation families’ direct descendants, just like Lu Siya.

“Without any effort, they could obtain things that normal people could never hope to obtain even after fighting for ten lifetimes. With minimal effort, they could obtain greater success than the people who spent all their strength to do something... No, they didn’t even need to succeed, they were the embodiment of success.

“When I obtained success ten times greater than theirs in university, their cheers were sincere, because they knew that no matter how outstanding my performance was, I would become a sharp tool in their hands once I entered society!

“The other type are the ‘smart people’ who have long since acknowledged reality and are willing to become tools, like you. You’re someone who hangs tightly to Lu Siya’s coattails and refuses to let go!” Su Lun said maliciously.

“Um...” Meng Chao’s expression did not change. “I won’t deny that when I was climbing up the social ladder as fast as I could, I obtained support from Big Sis Ya and Sky Pillar Corporation. It’s fine if you say that I’m riding her coattails, but I’m doing this for Dragon City’s future, Earth’s future descendants, and human civilization’s future. It’s not for personal success, so please don’t lump me together with those people.”

“...” Su Lun was stunned for a long time. “I finally understand why I lost to you.

“Unfortunately, when I just graduated from university, I wasn’t as shameless as you are. At that time, I sank into great despair.

“I realized that even if I spent decades on the fight, built my career, and worked hard despite all trials and tribulations, like people in motivational stories, there would still not be a shred of hope for me to destroy Heaven Pharmaceuticals.

“Even if my enemy were an Apocalyptic Beast, I wouldn’t be in such despair. Unfortunately, my enemy was a monster known as capitalism. It’s much more terrifying than an Apocalyptic Beast.

“Even if I wanted to use Sky Pillar, Universe, Soaring Dragon, Thundercloud, and the other mega corporations to fight against Heaven Pharmaceuticals, without decades of hard work and careful planning, I wouldn’t succeed.

“But I couldn’t wait for decades.

“Who knew how much Heaven Pharmaceuticals would develop in the upcoming decades? How much more horrifying would they become, and what would they do in all that time?

“Both starting from scratch or joining a mega corporation couldn’t help me gain my wish. After much thought, I finally cast my sights on the lair.

“Golden Tooth was the final place in Dragon City where you could rise to power and develop at an explosive pace. Chaos brings motivation, and motivation would bring chances for me to take revenge!

“I gathered data and information from decades ago and researched carefully. After that, I realized that the size of the lair and the total number of items the citizens produce were no lower than anything from the mega corporations.

“But since the lair is divided and the gangs don’t listen to each other, the major internal conflicts severely weaken them, and the lair isn’t able to show its full splendor.

“If I could think of a way to gather all the resources and fighting power of the lair and claim it as my own, I would have a chance to defeat Heaven Pharmaceuticals.

“Coincidentally, Saber Jin Wanhao was in control of the lair, and he had close ties with my family. Wasn’t it a God-given gift? Wasn’t it the best way to take revenge?”

Chapter 598: The Correct Way To Take Revenge

Meng Chao knew what happened after that.

After Su Lun joined Golden Tooth, he soon displayed astonishing talent in operating and managing businesses.

Not only did he smooth out the old, complicated system in Golden Tooth and develop a brand new model of operation and profit models, he also put the entire lair through a revolution. He helped the lair change its image, from being seen as dirty, disorderly, and bad, and it attracted a lot of citizens to come over to trade with them and spend their money.

All his projects, including Mutual Gold Coliseum, not only helped the gangs gain a lot of profit, but also increased the harmony among the gangs. Objectively speaking, he managed to maintain the order in the lair and even Dragon City.

Due to this achievement and his personal relationship with Saber Jin Wanhao, within just a few years, Su Lun managed to secure his seat as the vice gang leader of Golden Tooth despite the fact that he was an outsider. He even obtained the title of the God of Wealth in the Lair.

Any other person would have been satisfied after becoming the right-hand man of the Underground Emperor in Dragon City from being just a nameless university graduate, because that was the same as rising to power in just one step.

But to Su Lun, his position was still too far away from his goal of defeating Heaven Pharmaceuticals, and it filled him with despair.

Su Lun explained how after he entered the lair and discovered plenty of unmentionable secrets, he soon realized that he had chosen another dead end.

At the very least, there were two problems that he could not solve on his path.

First, the gangs were not as independent as he imagined.

He had thought that the gangs had the strength to fight against the mega corporations, that once he understood the cause behind the internal conflicts of the gangs, the lair could rise to power.

But soon, he realized that the gangs were affiliated to the mega corporations. Their lifelines—from their resources to their deals—were all firmly controlled by the mega corporations.

After the mega corporations completed their bloody primitive accumulation of capital, they wanted to wash their hands clean of all their crimes, so they removed themselves from most of the gray and illegal industries and pushed them off to the gangs.

“When you work in society, you have no freedom.” These were not empty words.

Even the noble Underground Emperor was exploited and controlled by the mega corporations most of the time. They also remained highly wary of the master of the lair.

The second was Jin Wanhao’s wounds and age.

If there was a sliver of hope that the first problem could be solved, then that sliver of hope lay in Saber Jin Wanhao.

Su Lun admitted that Dragon City’s Underground Emperor had a wild personality and an astonishingly ambitious heart. He could not accept his fate of becoming the mega corporations’ puppet and constantly wanted to break free of the mega corporations’ control so that the lair could rise to power and become the tenth force aside from the nine great cultivation families. He even wanted it to become the strongest force of power.

Su Lun did not even need to entice him with anything. Saber Jin Wanhao himself was the greatest objector toward the nine great mega corporations.

This was an important reason behind why Jin Wanhao dared to secretly take in Su Lun’s mother as his personal pharmacist even after she offended Heaven Pharmaceuticals.

Su Lun did not need to hide his animosity toward Heaven Pharmaceuticals in front of Jin Wanhao.

His animosity had long since festered into poison, and it was another reason why Jin Wanhao trusted and admired Su Lun even more as time passed.

Still, the main problem was Jin Wanhao’s wounds and age.

He was a hooligan at the bottom of the lair, but he had slaughtered his way out of a horde of zombies until he became the Underground Emperor. But the price for that title was decades of fighting, and it left many wounds and pains for Jin Wanhao.

Even if Su Lun’s mother had carefully made gene medicine and created a secret cultivation room based on his physical condition, she could not delay his death.

No matter how advanced gene medicine was, it could not help him become young again, and no medicine could possibly cure him.

Jin Wanhao was just too old.

Even if his chest flowed with burning ambition, his wounded body could no longer support his dream of bursting forth like a volcano and breaking free from the mega corporations’ control.

Perhaps this was an important reason behind why he was willing to completely let go within just a few years and allow Su Lun to take control of Golden Tooth.

Jin Wanhao had to have known that his death was nigh and wonder if Golden Tooth would still exist after his death.

Su Lun was the person who did not want to see Jin Wanhao die the most.

At the very least, he did not want Jin Wanhao to die so soon.

He was an outsider, and a few years was not enough time to form a solid foundation in the lair.

He only had a smart head and no fighting strength. It was very hard for him to become the final victor during the unpredictable upheaval that was bound to come after Jin Wanhao passed away.

The most important thing was that he had used a lot of revolutionary methods that focused on gaining quick benefits to produce results within the shortest amount of time. He offended and hurt a lot of people's interests, including Song Jinbo's, and most of them were senior members in the gang.

The moment Jin Wanhao died, these people would definitely launch a frenzied counterattack. This was something bound to happen.

He could save himself if he left the lair.

But all his hard work would be gone. He would also be branded as a lair citizen on the outside, so he could forget about taking revenge and becoming an outstanding member of society!

Red Brows Su Lun seemed like the brightest star in the lair on the surface. As the God of Wealth, he was even more popular than the Underground Emperor, who seldom appeared in public.

But when night arrived and he lay in his bed, he was the only one who knew how tormented and anxious he felt. It was as if he was burned by the flames of hell, and every part of his body hurt.

The Vortex appeared before Su Lun at that moment.

In the beginning, Su Lun was naturally shocked and instinctively wanted to fight against the monster.

But he was mediocre in terms of fighting skills and was soon defeated.

To his surprise, the Vortex did not kill or eat him. It also did not brainwash him like what the government said the abnormal beasts would do. It did not plant any terrifying thing into the back of his head, ears, or eyes either.

The Vortex only asked him a question. "Were your parents killed by monsters?"

This might have seemed like a simple question, but it stunned the ace student of the ace course in Dragon City University.

Who was his friend, and who was his enemy? This question originally had an unquestionable and indisputable answer, but at that moment, the answer became blurry and distorted.

“Now, you should understand, right? I didn’t have any other choice!” Su Lun started laughing like a wild beast. “I wanted to fight against Heaven Pharmaceuticals fair and square and in a forthright manner in the business field, then destroy it.

“I’ve also thought about using less than legal methods to become the master of the lair and use its strength to defeat the mega corporations.

“I was even willing to lower my requirements and accept not destroying Heaven Pharmaceuticals but just revealing the truth in the past to the public so that the millions of Dragon Citizens would know that Heaven Pharmaceuticals stole my family’s gene medicine formula. I just wanted my family’s name cleared and to get justice!

“Unfortunately, the mega corporations have practically monopolized everything. They have their hands wrapped so tightly on every path that it’s almost suffocating, and I can’t traverse down those paths.

“I’m trapped. I’m surrounded by dead ends everywhere. They’re interconnected so tightly that they’re like a spider web, and they’ve trapped me.

“Aside from asking for help from the monster civilization, what other choice did I have to take revenge for my parents?

“Tell me, Meng Chao, aren’t you very smart? Aren’t you better than me? Then think. If you were me, what other methods would you have used to seek justice for your parents?!”

“Usually, I refuse to answer hypothetical questions, but what happened to your parents deserves pity, and the mega corporations monopolizing everything and doing whatever they want is indeed a disease that Dragon City must solve as soon as possible, that’s why I will answer you.”

Meng Chao thought about his answer for a while before he said, “If I ran into a similar situation and I had my current strength, I would infiltrate their ranks and continue training and fighting like a madman. I would also secretly investigate all the people who were involved in the case in the past so that I could figure out just who is the culprit.

“When I would feel that the time is right, I would sneak into those people’s houses and deliver varying degrees of judgment based on the degree of crime they committed in the past. If it was light, I’d break their limbs. If it was bad, I’d kill them. I suppose that’s what I would’ve done.”

“You make it sound so simple.” Su Lun scoffed. “What if you were weak, like me?”

“Then, I would have no other choice.” Meng Chao sighed. “Then, I would suppress my hatred, and when the time is right, when the culprits appear in public, most preferably for some really important and high-end commercial affair, I would throw mud at them.

“I would trust that regardless of whether I manage to throw mud at them or not, the media and social media platforms would be very interested in the reason why I decided to throw mud at them.”

“...” Su Lun was stunned once again, just like the time he discovered that the person who pretended to be Meng Chao was Meng Chao himself.

“Besides, I think the chances of me being able to have my mud land on them will be pretty high,” Meng Chao pointed out. “No matter what, you’re a superhuman. Even if you don’t have a strong body and can’t do physical labor, as long as you practice hard day and night, you’d learn at least one skill.

“Then, burn your life and train like a madman. You don’t have to practice anything else, just practice the skill of ‘throwing mud’ until you master it and perfect it. If you had caught them by surprise, I believe that no matter how high their cultivation realm was, your mud would land on them. At that time, it wouldn’t matter whether you decide to tell your motive to the media or the law enforcers. You could just tell everyone the resentment you carry.”

“What sort of revenge is that?!” Su Lun demanded.

“This is the best revenge. It will let the public know the truth, and it won’t stop you from having a life of your own. You won’t harm a single innocent person, either. Isn’t that much better than what you did?”

Meng Chao sighed and stared at Su Lun seriously. “Su Lun, things have already progressed to this point. Have you really never thought that your parents in heaven would have never wanted to see you using this sort of method to help them take revenge? It destroyed you, and you also harmed countless innocent citizens who had nothing to do with you. You destroyed their hopes, blessings, and expectations.

“I believe that when your father fought against monsters in the wild and your mother lived on in humiliation to gather education funds for you, they imagined countless versions of you in the future, but none of them was a demon who wanted to destroy Dragon City!”

Chapter 599: Fusion of Flowing Blood

Su Lun laughed again.

It was as if he finally seized the loophole in Meng Chao’s words. An excited light shone in his eyes.

“Wait. Who said that I wanted to destroy Dragon City?” Su Lun smiled. “I admit that to take revenge against Heaven Pharmaceuticals, I’ve indeed worked together with the monster civilization. You can say that I’m working together with the enemies and have become the monster civilization’s puppet, and I won’t deny it.

“Similarly, I won’t deny that my hands are dyed with the blood of innocents. The entire lair is burning because of my hatred, and I can’t be pardoned for my crimes. Even if I’m really cut to pieces by the lair citizens, it would only be what I deserve.

“But I never wanted to destroy all of Dragon City. It’s the opposite, I’m saving it!”

Meng Chao was stunned for a long time.

He widened his eyes and observed Su Lun carefully for a long time, but he saw no signs of insanity.

“Save Dragon City? How are you going to save it?” Meng Chao simply could not understand Su Lun’s logic. “By turning all the citizens into monster poop?”

“Meng Chao, I thought that you’re different from the other ordinary people and can think outside the box. I didn’t expect that you’d be the same as them,” Su Lun said. “Did you think that once the monster civilization wins the Monster War, the monsters will eat all the humans?”

“Isn’t that the case?” Meng Chao asked.

“Of course not. What’s so tasty about humans? Our size and cutability is far lower than that of large monsters like Demonic Halberd Pigs and Iron-armored Rhinoceroses. When it comes to taste, a lot of the snakes, worms, fish, and prawns taste much better than us, too. Compared to plant-type monsters, there aren’t too many of us, either. Our reproduction rate and life cycle is relatively normal as well.

“Keeping us as livestock and eating us after making us reproduce in large numbers is just too troublesome and not worth it,” Su Lun said. “But it’s different now. After half a century of war and communication, monsters have slowly awakened to intelligence. Some of the superbeasts whose brain volume is much greater than that of humans have created a real civilization, and they are even beginning to think like humans.

“You’ve seen the Vortex’s true form and talked to it, right? Do you think that it’s thought processes are different from ours? No, they’re completely the same!

“Compared to the monsters who only knew how to bare their teeth and are unreasonable, don’t you think that the abnormal beasts who are enlightened are more like humans? Like us?”

“You’re wrong,” Meng Chao said coldly. “It’s not that abnormal beasts can think like humans, but that they can imitate human thought processes in front of humans. These two things are completely different.”

Based on what Meng Chao remembered of his previous life, there were indeed plenty of intelligent beings in the Other World who possessed thought processes that were similar to those of humans.

But this did not mean that the two people could live harmoniously.

Even if there were races in the Other World that were really similar to Earthlings, they usually had basic logic that humans could not understand, tolerate, and accept because of their own logic and morals.

If they treated each other as comrades just because they spoke the same language, they would suffer a major loss.

Su Lun’s eyes sparkled, and he quickly said, “That’s not important. In any case, the monster civilization is already here. The abnormal beasts are completely different from traditional monsters. We can communicate with each other and understand one another. This creates room for negotiations and surrendering.

“Think about it. If you were a smart abnormal beast and the leader of the monster civilization who saw Dragon City, you’d notice that it’s full of treasures formed by the wisdom of human civilization. We hold secrets of agriculture, various industries, technology, and societal history that we accumulated over more than one hundred thousand years of development. If the monsters absorb all these, the newly born monster civilization will instantly obtain more than ten thousand years of knowledge.

“Would you choose to eat all humans and reduce this brilliant city to a barbaric forest again, then make yourself regress and live just like you did before you finally gained wisdom? Isn’t that too much of a waste of talent?”

“I see, I understand now.” Meng Chao pondered what he had just heard. “You think that by surrendering to the monster civilization, Dragon City will be able to survive?”

“We wouldn’t be surrendering, but fusing with them,” Su Lun said. “Human civilization and the monster civilization must fuse together completely. That’s the only way for us all to survive in this brutal world!”

Meng Chao cocked his eyebrows.

“Didn’t you notice? Meng Chao, we’re in grave danger. Dragon City is already standing on a cliff!”

Even though his legs were broken and he wore shackles that weighed hundreds of kilograms, Su Lun regained his past spirit. He even had a wicked charm about him at that moment.

While he gasped for breath, he spoke in a hoarse voice to entice Meng Chao. “Don’t go thinking that you’re so great after you won the northern offense and dealt a blow to the monster civilization. The Other World is huge. Based on our analysis of the Other World’s gravity and ozone layer, this is a planet that is about the same as Earth in terms of size. Monster Mountain Range is just part of one continent on this large planet!

“Would such a planet only have monsters as a sole threat?”

“Apocalyptic Beasts have peerless power, but they’re restricted to this puny Monster Mountain Range. They would rather fight against Earth transmigrators for half a century than step out of this place and move to the expanse beyond Monster Mountain Range. Why is that? Could it be that there are more terrifying existences compared to Apocalyptic Beasts beyond Monster Mountain Range?”

“Over the past half a century, the fog caused by the dimensional vortex protected humans like an iron wall, so many people gained the misconception that monsters are our only threat, and that as long as we get rid of the monsters, we can act as kings and queens and completely rule over this planet we call the Other World.

“But now, more knowledgeable people are slowly realizing the truth. Things aren’t that simple. The soul-stirring Monster War might just be two amateurs poking at each other in the vastness of the Other World. Once the fog dissipates, existences that are more terrifying than monsters will show up, which will result in monsters and humans dying without a grave!”

Meng Chao listened to him quietly and did not retort.

While Su Lun spoke in the tone of an alarmist and seemed to be deceitful, what he was saying was not wrong.

No one else knew the terrors of the Other World better than Meng Chao.

Events in his previous life had also progressed exactly as Su Lun predicted.

Humans won against monsters, but once they stepped out of Monster Mountain Range, they encountered all sorts of existences more terrifying than monsters. In the end, they ran out of resources and lost the strength to turn the tides.

“There’s only one way for us to survive. We must hurry and fuse with the monster civilization before the terrifying races of the Other World find us after the fog dissipates. We’ll cover each other’s flaws and help each other. That’s the only way for us to slaughter our way through the Other World when we encounter competition that is one hundred times more brutal than in Monster Mountain Range,” Su Lun said.

“We need monsters, and monsters need us. Based on the speed and level of the monster civilization’s evolution, their leader should possess a sufficient amount of wisdom. It would come to this conclusion as well.”

“Fuse together?” Meng Chao chuckled. “After we bled so much and sacrificed so many of our comrades?”

“If we’re to fuse with each other, someone has to bleed.” Su Lun spat out a mouthful of bloody spit. “The history of human civilization for over a few hundred thousand years on Earth is full of never ending bloodshed and killing. Humans today are all descendants of butchers, executioners, and murderers. The blood of slaughterers flows in us, but that didn’t stop us from creating a brilliant civilization, did it?”

“Makes sense. You convinced me.” Meng Chao nodded slowly. “But there’s a small problem. If we are to fuse together after killing each other for a while, why shouldn’t we be the ones to swing our weapons at the monsters who dare to fight against us so that the smart abnormal beasts come to grovel at our feet while trembling, then submit to us and become our subjects?”

“After we won the northern offense, we’re the ones who have the initiative in our hands. If someone is going to surrender, it should be the monster civilization. I trust that humans are merciful, kind, and united. Once we disassemble the monster civilization and squeeze out all their value, we won’t kill all of them.

“Why must it be humans surrendering to the monsters? Isn’t that something unnecessary? We also have to sacrifice so many lives for that. Those people are our comrades, you know?”

Su Lun opened his mouth, but found that he had nothing to say.

He thought that Meng Chao would underestimate the threat of the Other World and reject the idea of human civilization blending together with the monster civilization. Then, he would repeat the ideology of using their steel army to sweep through the Other World.

If that were the case, he would naturally use some dazzling words to confuse Meng Chao, which might help him survive.

He did not expect that Meng Chao would go straight to the root of his ideology and hit him where it hurt.

“So, selfishness is selfishness, shamelessness is shamelessness, evil is evil. Why did you need to use reasons like revenge and saving Dragon City to make yourself sound like some noble person?”

Meng Chao scoffed. "I know people like you too well. You say that you want to become an outstanding person and take revenge. The first half of your declaration is true, but the second half is false. When you say that you want to take revenge, you're just looking for an excuse to climb up to the seat by doing anything it takes. You're just deluding yourself."

"As long as you have revenge as your reason, even if you sell your soul to monsters or demons, kill a lot of innocent people, destroy families and homes, you will still feel that your actions are justified. You won't feel any guilt, because you 'didn't have any other choice!'"

Su Lun's face swelled up like a red balloon.

"No. That's not it. I'm not doing it for myself! It's for our civilization!" he argued at the top of his lungs. "Compared to the human civilization who transmigrated here from Earth, the monster civilization is more suited for surviving and developing in the Other World. No matter what, monsters are the locals of the planet. Their forms are perfect for the planet!"

Chapter 600: The Leader of the Monster Civilization

Meng Chao found Su Lun's ideals to be rather familiar.

He believed Gao Ye had said something similar after he turned into a Giant Sandworm too.

"Are you going to say that we must turn into monsters to be able to survive in the Other World?" he asked with a frown.

"Isn't that the case?" Su Lun asked and started rambling. "Let me just use a proverb from Earth. The environment shapes a person. So how could the rulers of different planets be the same?"

"The prerequisite for human civilization to be able to gain glory and prosperity on Earth was there was no energy known as spirit energy. Compared to the Other World, materials there were more stable, and the speed of evolution was also one thousand times slower. The sizes of creatures of the same race weren't much different, and even the strongest entities like whales, elephants, and even dinosaurs weren't so strong that they could change or destroy nature itself."

"In that sort of environment, humans called themselves the lords of all races. They created language to communicate with each other and learned how to use tools. Slowly, they climbed to the top of the food chain and developed brilliant civilizations. They also decided on morals, laws, and other things that could help them keep harmony in their society. This is something that happened naturally."

"But it's not the case in the Other World."

"The Other World has spirit energy, and materials here are not stable. Evolution speed is one thousand times faster than on Earth, too. Even if you don't consider monsters and the intelligent life forms of the Other World and just talk about the humans who transmigrated from Earth, you'll find that there is a huge difference between the strongest Deity Realm superhuman and the weakest orphan in the lair in terms of strength, wealth, and power."

"Could the dragons soaring in the sky regard the earthworms in the mud as their comrades and fight with them?"

"Impossible!"

“Admit it. From the moment humans discovered spirit energy after they transmigrated to the Other World and began cultivating, a divide silently but swiftly formed among humans. Right now, even though we all wear human skin, we are a different people. No matter how much we hold onto the morals, laws, and societal relationships from Earth like wishful thinkers to tie the strongest and the weakest together and use slogans like the strong bleeding for the weak to make this bond sound pretty, it can’t hide the fragility and deformity of our civilization.

“Let’s take a simple example. Look at the battle in the lair just now.

“During that battle, Vortex brought a group of former Reaper Squad members and a bunch of misfits who call themselves robbers to wreak havoc in the lair. All the gangs and citizens were badly battered because of it.

“But is the Vortex really that strong? I don’t think so.

“Aside from having the ability to change its shape, it’s probably no stronger than an Apocalyptic Beast.

“The problem is, our civilization is old and frail.

“It is built on the foundation of having a large population, and the morals from Earth require for us to never give up on anyone. We must provide a sufficient amount of resources for even the weakest among us.

“The result is that our enemies can easily find a weakness and hit it, like the buildings with countless humans living in them. They have an even denser population than a hornet’s nest.

“And once such buildings are destroyed, many people are injured and buried under debris. The others then must do everything they can to save them, which requires a lot of resources and takes away the best chance to fight back.

“Look at the smoke outside. The lair is in chaos. Today, Vortex alone was able to create such devastation.

“What if an intelligent life form more terrifying than a monster showed up tomorrow and used the same method to attack Dragon City? Tell me, do you think you’d get lucky again and stop it?”

Meng Chao pondered over this in silence.

He often asked himself this question after he returned to the past.

At the end of the day, when Earthlings learned how to use fire, grind stones, and release their first beast-like howls at the moon a few ten thousand years ago on Earth, they did not have any mortal enemies on Earth.

Human civilization had an absolute advantage on the planet—it managed to develop without any mortal enemies.

All the talk about morals, laws, and rules were special rights of those at the top of the food chain.

But how long could the morals, laws, and order from Earth remain in use when they were surrounded by powerful enemies? Their living environment in the Other World was much harsher, and the rapid speed of evolution continued increasing the gap between humans.

And were the morals, laws, and order that kept Earth in peace a good or bad tool for them to preserve the fire of civilization?

Meng Chao had thought about this for hundreds of days, but never found his answer.

But clearly, Su Lun believed that he had found the answer and reached the truth.

“Wake up, Meng Chao. Even though the people have been saying that we must spread the fires of Earth’s civilization to every corner of the Other World, the truth is, from the moment Dragon City transmigrated here, Earth’s civilization has already been dissolved and lost,” Su Lun said.

“We can’t go back. We’ll never be able to go back to Earth, and we’ll never become Earthlings. We belong to the Other World, and we’re a completely different form of humans. This is a brutal truth that all of us must face!

“The morals, laws, and order from Earth and even our Earthling form are just shackles and obstacles to the brand new humans we’ve become. We must crush them and toss the shards behind us. That’s the only way for us to walk forward to a brand new future with our heads held high!

“Of course, I know very well that no matter how old and rotten the laws and morals are, it’ll be very difficult to crush them. It’s impossible for us to do it by our own hands.

“That’s why we need to bring in the power of the monster civilization to cleanse our civilization and get rid of all the things that are not fit for us to survive in the Other World. I believe that once humans and monsters become one, our civilization will be reborn!” Su Lun said excitedly. He was even foaming at the mouth.

Like a crab blowing bubbles.

When Meng Chao saw that Su Lun had sunk into his circular logic and was completely immersed in it, he gave up on debating with him. He considered his words for a while and said, “What you said sounds familiar. I have a friend named Gao Ye, who said something similar. Do you know him?”

Meng Chao wanted to know whether the humans enticed by abnormal beasts contacted each other or had some form of organization.

“I don’t know. Perhaps I do.” Su Lun did not hide it and answered generously. “I do have some friends who share my ideals. We believe that the rotten form of Earth’s civilization isn’t suitable for us to survive and develop in the Other World. And right now, the nine great mega corporations have monopolized and taken control of Dragon City. There’s so much darkness and unfairness in the city that it’s impossible for us to solve this chronic disease with our own strength.

“We must bring in the monster civilization to cleanse our civilization. That’s the only way for Dragon City to have a future.

“But I don’t know my friends’ names and real identities, because we know very well that we carry the foul name of monster puppets. We are bound to be misunderstood and regarded with hostility.

“Since the Survival Committee and Supernatural Tower are controlled by the nine great mega corporations, they will do everything they can to oppress us.

“For safety’s sake, we only use single wire communication. If we had to gather together, it was in an anonymous chat room on the dark web.

“Everyone speaks their mind freely on the dark web and exchanges their thoughts to continuously perfect our ideals. Of course, we also provide help to each other within our capabilities while ensuring secrecy. We exchange information, resources, and help others complete their tasks. But no matter how many times we contact each other, we hold true to one basic rule—before the time is right, we must never try to figure out the others’ identities.”

This did sound like the standard operation of a secret organization.

Meng Chao did not doubt that Su Lun was lying to him.

But he still pondered over his words and asked, “Speaking of which, you’re smart. You must have been able to figure out your anonymous friends’ identities based on their words, the resources they need, the missions they carry out, and other things, right?”

“There’s too many of them, and they’re in all sorts of fields. We’re made up of all sorts of people,” Su Lun said. “I once asked a friend to help me get rid of a high-ranking gang member who was trying to stop my reforms. He did it cleanly. That high-ranking gang member’s cause of death was heart failure due to his old injuries acting up. No one saw anything wrong with it.

“I believe that he must be one of the best assassins in the city.

“I have another friend who provided a lot of help to me when I was handling the online coliseum. You should know that it has never been easy to get a license for online entertainment and a payment method. Such stuff has been monopolized by all the broadcasting platforms under the mega corporations. The gangs are also looked down upon by the outside world, so it’s practically impossible for us to get approval.

“I didn’t have a lot of hope for it in the beginning and was just grumbling about it, but in a few days, we got through all the complicated approval processes without a hitch.

“Up to this date, I still don’t know which friend helped me.

“But they must be someone important in the Survival Committee and the Supernatural Tower. They must be in charge of an important department and have a lot of power.”

Meng Chao felt his skin crawl.

He did not expect that the monster civilization would have infiltrated so deep into human civilization.

Red Brows Su Lun alone had already caused a ruckus in the lair.

If there were dozens or even a hundred people like him, Dragon City was going to face its harshest challenge yet during the second half of the Monster War.

“There are actually so many people willing to help the enemies?” Meng Chao mumbled in disbelief. “If you defected to the enemy’s side to take revenge and become an outstanding person, why would someone who is in charge of an important department in the Survival Committee betray their own people and join the monster civilization?”

“I think it’s because the difference between human civilization and the monster civilization isn’t as great as you think. Besides, we’re not helping the enemies at all.”

A mysterious and unfathomable smile appeared on Su Lun’s face again. Meng Chao really wanted to punch him when he saw it. Then, Su Lun calmly tossed a bomb at him. “There’s something I keep forgetting to tell you. Based on what the Vortex told me, the leader of the monster civilization was once a human!”