

Oh My God 71

Chapter 71: Birth of a Hero

Wang Xiaojuan and Bai Jiacao exchanged a glance, and the girl carefully opened the paper crane.

It had been folded decades ago. The paper was very brittle, and the picture had faded away.

Even so, they could still vaguely see a small, smiling star. It hung high in the darkness and protected the carefree girl under it.

“Ah, this is the paper crane the nurse gave to your grandmother when she was young!” Bai Jiacao exclaimed. “Young Juan, you have to keep it!”

Wang Xiaojuan thought about it and folded the paper crane carefully before she stuffed it back into the pendant. She tied it around Big Tooth’s neck once more.

“I think it’s better if I keep it here. This is a fragile thing, and I don’t have anywhere to put it in school. Young Cao, can you keep it for me?” she asked with a smile.

Bai Jiacao panicked a little. She waved her hand and said, “It’s too precious. Can I?”

“If someone like you can’t, what is a crybaby like me supposed to do?” Wang Xiaojuan looked downcast. “Young Cao, my parents are gone, and my grandparents have passed away too. If you don’t help me. I won’t know what to do.”

Bai Jiacao thought about it for a long time. Then, she sucked in a deep breath and nodded somberly. “Alright, Young Juan, I promise you, we’ll guard Granny’s star together!”

Wang Xiaojuan finally smiled, as if she had found her pillar of support.

She promised to go to the Meng family for dinner at night, but first, she had to go back to pack up the thing left by her grandmother.

Bai Jiacao sat by the parterre and stared at the horribly damaged region.

Suddenly, she spoke to Meng Chao, who had been standing beside her. “Big Brother, I don’t want to stay in Dragon City No.1 anymore.”

Meng Chao was taken aback. “What?”

“I said that I don’t want to stay in that stupid Dragon City No.1 anymore. Even if the houses there are big, the environment is good, the facilities are complete, and the spirit energy there smells good, I don’t want to stay there anymore. I just want to stay here.”

Bai Jiacao hugged Big Tooth and said seriously, “Blessed Heavenly Garden is my home. I won’t move from this place!”

Meng Chao fell silent. He saw a notification pop up in front of his eyes.

[Special citizen Bai Jiacao (Dark Witch)’s possibility of being corrupted has been reduced by another 5%. The future of Dragon City has become more stable. Increased contribution points by 1,112.]

He was bemused. 'What's going on? I didn't do anything. So why did my sister's corruption rate fall by such a large degree? The reduction rate is higher than from the two critical points which would have changed her life.'

His thoughts raced, and the memory fragments of his previous life connected together.

In his previous life, Granny Wang did not die in the monster invasion. Instead, she died in the invasion of the Ghost-eyed Golden Winged Flame Beetle.

The old lady was burned to a crisp by the flames the superbeast spat out along with her Sword-toothed Hunting Dog, so she did not have the chance to join the Eternal Journey.

Everything in the pet's collar also turned into dust that returned to the pages of history.

No one could see the small star the nurse from Earth drew before her death a long time ago.

Bai Jiacao's heart was entangled by all sorts of negative emotions, and she sank deep into the dark abyss. In time, she even stepped onto the evil path.

But in this life, many things had changed.

Blessed Heavenly Garden might have been invaded twice in succession, but the residents launched their fierce counterattacks. They obtained a large amount of war resources and fighting experience. They had their very own broken-star superhuman, and the entire region had become stronger.

Granny Wang might have ended up dying, but her corpse remained mostly whole. She then successfully completed the transformation ceremony and turned into an honorable Eternal Being, which meant she would continue fighting to protect her hometown and her beloved granddaughter.

Bai Jiacao was entrusted by Granny Wang with her dying will, and she found a whole new fighting spirit. Granny Wang's spirit in heaven shone on her, so she should be able to walk down a bright path.

Meng Chao smiled from the depths of his heart.

It was not just because he obtained more than one thousand contribution points.

It was because he finally saw the crystalline butterfly flap its wings to stir up an insignificant breeze. Then, under the amazing effects of chain reactions, that breeze turned into a storm that was about to raze through the land.

But before the storm arrived, darkness would descend upon them. Yet no matter how long the darkness lasted, it would shatter in the end, and they would welcome the brightest dawn.

"Big Brother, I don't want to learn singing and dancing. I want to train. I want to become stronger. Trust me, I know what I'm fighting for now. I can control the strongest power." Bai Jiacao stroked Big Tooth's head with a face full of determination.

Meng Chao looked at his little sister for a long time before he suddenly reached out and ruffled her hair.

"Alright," he said gently. "You'll start by practicing your stances for an extra two hours every night. I'll help you become stronger."

“Stances again?! Somebody help me!” Bai Jiacao exclaimed.

For the final two days before the national college examination, Meng Chao shut himself in his house to study.

It was almost meaningless to do last-minute preparations. Right now, what he needed the most was to relax his mind and focus so that he could go through his national college examination in his best condition.

The night before the national college examination, another piece of good news brought him great delight.

[Your first healing-type quest has been completed. Elite citizen Ning Shewo’s hands have recovered by 93%. He has recovered the high-grade basic functions of his hands.

[Quest reward: Increased contribution points by 453. Increased Skillfulness with Basic Harvesting Skill by 50%. You have now moved from Specialist Level to Master Level.]

A numb feeling surged through his entire body. It felt as if electricity coursed through his veins.

It went from his central nervous system to the nerve endings. His nerve ganglia and sensory cells continuously split up and propagated. They were like the growing roots of a tree, but they grew at a pace that was a thousand times faster.

His fingertips became so sensitive that it was insane. Even if he just casually rubbed them against a table, he was able to detect a few fine holes.

When he harvested monsters next time, his movements would be even more meticulous and accurate.

But what caused him the greatest joy was that not only had Ning Shewo recovered, he had also won against his junior brother, Poisonous Hands Liao Santong, in the battle.

He saw this news on the largest monster forum in Dragon City.

Ghostly Hands and Poisonous Hands were both very famous people in the harvesting circle. Since they were competing in public, their competition naturally gained the attention of the public. Some people even used unmanned aerial vehicles and their handphones to film the entire process.

Harvesters did not compete using their fists. Instead, they competed with the number of resources they managed to harvest and how the resources looked.

Coincidentally, this time, a pair of Dual Star Crocodiles had appeared in the fog.

These superbeasts were always twins and always moved together. Their size, weight, distribution of organs, and body structure were the same as well. Even their cranial capacity was about the same. That was why they were able to share their consciousness and senses when they fought.

They had a thick shell and layers of bone lamellae overlapping with each other and intersecting in them. Even anti-tank missiles could not pierce them, so the difficulty of dissecting them was very high.

Hence, Ghostly Hands and Poisonous Hands could have a crocodile each. They competed fairly and squarely to see who harvested faster, gathered more resources, and whose rare materials had a better appearance.

Even though these superbeasts weighed several thousands of kilograms and looked like mini tanks, the two masters did not spend a lot of time on them. Their competition ended in a flash.

Meng Chao watched as they swung multi-function mechanical arms and used all sorts of huge saws, chisels, adzes, and axes so quickly that they turned into a terrifying gray blur. The two men seemed to be swinging their tools wildly in a disorganized fashion, but they were so accurate that they should have been wielding surgery knives. They dismembered the superbeasts like a butcher would an ox and opened up the deformed bone lamellae before removing it. As Meng Chao watched them, he knew that he still had a long way ahead of him.

Ning Shewo won.

His harvesting time was faster than his junior brother's by seventeen seconds. The weight of the resources he harvested was higher by 3.5kg, and he also managed to perfectly extract the Remote Sensory Crystal, which was the most important component in the Dual Star Crocodile's brain. It was used to share their consciousness and senses, and it was connected with more than one hundred nerves that were as fine as hair.

Poisonous Hands Liao Santong might have also managed to remove the Remote Sensory Crystal in the other Dual Star Crocodile, but he broke three nerves, and its quality became inferior to that of Ghostly Hand's Remote Sensory Crystal. He had to admit his defeat with a sour face.

[Ghostly Hands won against Poisonous Hands!]

[Didn't they say that Elder Ning is poisoned and could not be cured even after he sought out all sorts of famous doctors? I thought they said that he could only retire in silence. Why is he still so powerful?]

[Which medical team treated him? He managed to recover so well!]

The monster lovers on the forum cried out in surprise.

What shocked them the most was not Ning Shenwo's recovery or victory. Instead, it was his actions after he obtained complete victory.

In front of hundreds of his harvesting friends and onlookers, Ning Shewo announced that he would donate half of his money to form Fire Relayer Foundation. It would specialize in helping children who came from poor families but had extraordinary talent in harvesting.

Also, he would set up an online lecture series to teach all that he had learned in his life for free. He would provide guidance to whoever wanted to learn, and he would even share the Seven Dissection Methods Performed in Reverse, which was the most advanced skill in the harvesting field.

After he said those words, the people burst into a ruckus.

The foundation was actually not THAT amazing.

Due to the unique taxation system, many of the powerful and rich people in Dragon City set up all sorts of foundations to help those in the middle and lower classes. This was a legal way to avoid paying taxes.

But what about the second thing he said? He wanted to teach everything that he had learned? What did Ning Shewo want to do?

Even his junior brother, Poisonous Hands Liao Santong stared at him in dumbfounded shock.

“Junior Brother Liao, we’ve been competing against each other for decades. I know exactly what you’re thinking about.” Ning Shewo placed his hands behind his back and said with a smile, “In truth, in the past, I did enjoy competing against you, both in public and in the shadows. As we competed against each other, we managed to gain ourselves the titles of Ghostly Hands and Poisonous Hands. I even felt smug about it for a time.

“But now that I think about it, we’re Earthlings in the Other World. We’re surrounded by monsters, so it’s meaningless for us to fight among ourselves.

“I might seem to be suffering a loss by offering all that I’ve learned to the public, but if more people can learn my harvesting skills and gather more resources for Dragon City, the fighting strength of Dragon City will grow. Our descendants will then be able to live a safer life. Their futures will also be brighter.”

As he spoke, Ning Shewo patted the dumbfounded Liao Santong’s shoulder three times.

“Junior Brother, I know that you have been bothered for decades by how our master taught me the Jade Assessment Skill. I was petty and afraid that you’d surpass me, so I wasn’t willing to tell you about it over the past few decades.

“Fortunately, I was severely wounded some time ago, and it made me think about many things. I also obtained a mysterious senior’s guidance and was enlightened. I was reborn, and I woke up. Later, let’s go aside, and I’ll tell you all the critical points of Jade Assessment Skill.”

“What?” Liao Santong took two steps back. His beard quivered. He could not quite believe what he heard.

The monster forum descended into a complete madness. [A mysterious senior enlightened Elder Ning and helped him be reborn? Just what sort of legendary person are they?!]

Kindling shone in front of Meng Chao’s eyes.

[Ning Shewo’s awareness has increased after he was provided guidance by the Fire Relayer. He has now turned from an elite citizen to a pseudo-heroic citizen. The efficiency of Dragon City’s resource recovery rate will increase as he and more people change. Increased contribution points by 999.]

Meng Chao’s heart surged, and he could not calm down even after a long time.

Suddenly, slight shame rose in him.

He had only begun to make contributions with so much gusto because he was bound to Kindling and could get contribution points.

But Principal Sun, Granny Wang, and Elder Ning were not bound to any system. If they made contributions, they were not able to get any benefits. In truth, they actually had to pay a hefty price for it.

Even so, they did it willingly, and they faced death with a smile.

Compared to them, he was nothing. What right did he have to provide guidance to others so they would be “enlightened and reborn”?

“I should say that Principal Sun, Granny Wang, and Elder Ning have provided guidance to me,” Meng Chao mumbled. “So, the citizens’ units are not fixed. Heroes are not born. All normal citizens can turn into elites, and elite citizens can turn into heroes.

“Then, what sort of citizen am I?”

‘Am I a normal citizen, elite citizen, special citizen, or...’

Chapter 72: Day of the National College Examination

Meng Chao exited the website and sat down with his legs crossed in the Treasure Tower Stance. He imagined himself as a towering tower on a lone island standing in the midst of raging waves.

His chaotic thoughts were like raging waves, but his heart gradually calmed down despite them. His eyes started shining like a light at the top of a tall tower. Golden light shone from them and cut through the waves.

‘The seniors are shining brilliantly, but the future has to be built by us, the younger generation!’

Meng Chao opened his eyes. They shone brilliantly.

Before, he did not intend to activate any skills.

But the quest to heal Ning Shewo had helped him gather more than two thousand contribution points.

Besides, he had been practicing Thunder Rapier for a long time now, so the price to awaken this basic skill had become much lower.

Meng Chao thought about it for a moment before he chose to activate it. Then, he pushed it to Specialist Level in one go.

Because of it, he now had three great force execution techniques, two great fighting skills, nine great stances, and also Dragon Hibernation Stance.

There were also the relative breathing techniques and meditation methods, along with his Perfect Level Basic Gun Technique.

He had already perfectly mastered all the skills that he could learn in high school. His Skillfulness with them was almost maxed out.

However, he could still awaken some advanced skills.

He could push one of his existing skills from Specialist Level to Master Level or even Perfect Level with the remaining five thousand contribution points.

But he did not need to do that for the time being. After all, he should only use his best materials at crucial moments.

Meng Chao's gaze focused, and he stood up. He hooked up a saber with a thick back, making it shine, and brought out a draft paper.

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh! The saber released raging silver slashes in the chaotic small room.

In an instant, Meng Chao delivered dozens of slashes, but he did not touch the table, the chair, the bed, or any of the things on the shelf.

Even the thin draft paper dancing at the tip of the saber was not torn.

Meng Chao's precise control over the One Hundred Saber Techniques had already reached a level where even the teachers from First High School, Second High School, and Construction High would clap their hands and praise him if they saw it.

But this was not enough.

He bent his knees a little, and his muscles contracted. Thud, thud, thud! He jumped on the wall and started moving about the room in three hundred and sixty degrees. It was an unbelievable sight.

He had already practiced his stances to the point that he had mastered them. With the help from Ripple Force, he felt as if there was a strange suction force coming out of his legs that helped him stick to the walls or even the ceiling.

His slashes changed from fierce to somber. They started to sound like thunderclaps.

With a heavy saber, he managed to bring out the essence of Thunder Rapier.

In a flash, it was as if thunder had started roaring in the room. A storm began brewing.

"Whew..."

The bed, table, and chairs started creaking, as if they could not withstand the air flow. Meng Chao then stopped brandishing the saber. He exhaled, releasing a white puff of air. It accurately struck the draft paper dancing in the air.

Multiple tears had been left behind on the draft paper by the slashes just now. When he blew on it, it fell apart and turned into a pentadecagon.

Meng Chao smiled. "With such a saber technique, sword technique, and my Perfect Level Basic Gun Technique, I'll definitely be able to succeed in my national college examination tomorrow!"

A fiery red dawn welcomed the final day of the national college examination.

Meng Chao leapt out of bed feeling refreshed. Every cell in his body was eager and restless.

Bai Suxin knocked on his door and gave him a pair of red underwear and red socks so that he would have good luck and get good results.

Meng Chao wanted to laugh, but he did not want to deny his mother's goodwill, so he took them obediently.

But when his father brought over red pants and a red belt, he rejected the offer sternly.

The dining table was covered with various breakfast dishes. His parents had practically bought all of the available breakfast food from all the stalls in the area.

Bai Jiacao woke up because of the fragrance. She extended her grubby hands sleepily, only to have her hand slapped away by her mother.

The parents were more nervous than anyone else in the house, but they pretended to be nonchalant while they comforted Meng Chao.

"It'll be fine. You just have to relax and take the test. As long as you show all you can do, it's fine no matter how many marks you get."

"Even if you can't get into the universities, getting into postsecondary specialized colleges is good too. When you enter society, you can continue learning. You might have a chance to become a superhuman yet."

"Bah, don't curse our son. If you don't know how to speak, shut up! With our son's current strength, he's even stronger than the kids in the key high schools!"

"I'm just trying to get him to relax! Don't be so nervous! If you're nervous, you're going to make him nervous too!"

When Meng Chao saw that his parents were about to start arguing, he quickly grabbed a fried bread bannock and a steamed bun so that he could leave. "Dad, Mom, I'm leaving. Don't worry, it's just the national college exam! It'll be like a game!"

His footsteps were firm as he walked out of Blessed Heavenly Garden.

Usually, there were not many cars on the streets, but it was exceptionally empty on that day. Only the public buses specifically assigned to carry the examinees moved in between the residential areas and the exam area.

But there were a large number of armored airships and superhumans in the air. They were all ready to fight.

The anti-aircraft guns and guided missile launchers on the skyscrapers also showed their ferocious faces.

The Red Dragon Army and armored machines were stationed on the important roads and strategic high grounds.

Dragon City was ready to fight and was filled with a murderous aura.

Since it was the day of national college examination, it was the day that the youths decided their fate. The city could not allow the monsters to invade their territory.

A long time ago, the intelligent superbeasts had understood one truth: during the cycle of the four seasons, there were two days on which they were absolutely not to invade Dragon City.

One of them was New Year's eve.

The other was the day of the national college exam.

Once, twenty years ago, when Dragon City had just restored the national college examination system from the chaos, an Apocalyptic Beast led a large group of superbeasts and high-grade monsters into Dragon City in an aggressive wave.

Superbeasts were divided into nine ranks. Those at the bottom three ranks were known as Nightmarish Beasts, while those in the three ranks in the middle were known as Hell Beasts, and the most brutal, most cruel, and most destructive were ranked among the first three ranks. They were Apocalyptic Beasts.

The Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon was an incredibly difficult and ruthless creature among the Apocalyptic Beasts.

It possessed nine heads with extremely good self-healing properties. Even if three or five of its heads were cut off, they could regenerate.

The creature's scales also had the properties of crystals. Not only were they incredibly tough, they could control light at will so they could hide their bodies or release lasers.

The Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon possessed offense and defense, and it was an incredibly aggressive creature.

The monster hoard it led also contained a large number of Nightmarish Beasts and Hell Beasts.

This terrifying army had reigned supreme in Monster Mountain Range for a long time.

But because they invaded Dragon City on the day of the national college examination, they stirred up the full-fledged fury of the Dragon Citizens.

All Earthlings—from the foot soldiers of the Red Dragon Army to six-star superhumans and those ranked above who had reached Deity Realm and possessed great abilities—fell into a frenzy. They swiftly made it call a retreat from its conceited attack.

But that was not the end.

“Those who trample on our national college examination must be eliminated, no matter how far away they are!”

The Survival Committee, the Supernatural Tower, and the officers of the Red Dragon Army worked together to release the greatest declaration from Earthlings.

Ten Deity Realm superhumans led the elites of Dragon City outside. They launched the fiercest offense Dragon City had ever seen since they transmigrated. Their weapons reached the depths of the fog, straight into the nest of the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon.

It has to be known that superhumans are also divided into nine star ranks. Those with one to three stars are at Earth Realm, those with four to six stars are at Heaven Realm, and those with seven to nine stars are at Deity Realm.

Those at the peak of Heaven Realm are six-star superhumans. They have already broken a wall that everyone acknowledges is incredibly difficult to break, and it is the goal that many powerful people dream of achieving in their lives. It is the peak that they can reach step by step after Dragon City managed to compose a scientific cultivation method.

That was because if they wanted to break through Heaven Realm to Deity Realm, they could not just rely on science. They also needed unique epiphanies, a bit of luck, and some help from Mysticism.

Each Deity Realm elite was like a strategic weapon at the level of an atomic bomb. They usually did not carry out tasks that required them to target specific targets.

They were supposed to explore the foremost areas of life sciences, excavate the ancient ruins buried under the Supernatural Tower, plan the direction of Dragon City's strategic development, refine martial arts, figure out the essence of technology, and develop more superhumans in Earth Realm and Heaven Realm.

But at that time, due to the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon attacking on day of the national college examination, ten Deity Realm elites and the Red Dragon Army worked together to execute the law. They went into the depths of the fog and chased the creature for more than three months while using everything at their disposal. In the end, they stormed the enemy's nest and killed the Crystalline Nine-headed Dragon.

Dragon City paid a devastating price for it. Two of its Deity Realm elites were injured badly, and one prompt strike force from the Red Dragon Army was completely destroyed.

But everyone thought that the sacrifice was worth it.

“Ruin my national college examination, and I'll destroy your home!”

This was the message humans sent to the monsters.

When superbeasts reached the level of Hell Beasts or Apocalyptic Beasts, most of them obtained intelligence equal to that of humans and understood the threat they posed. From then on, they no longer dared to cause trouble on the day of the national college examination.

Meng Chao smoothly arrived at the exam area. It was located at a high school in Nine Sand Region.

The examinees were randomly allocated to different exam areas, and Meng Chao found a few of his schoolmates among the examinees, such as Class 6's Fatty Jr., Wang Tao.

It was not the time for them to enter the exam area yet, so the students from Ninth High School gathered together under the shade of a purple tree and chatted with each other.

One person said that he did not manage to sleep well last night and had a stomach bug in the morning. He vomited whatever he ate.

Another person mentioned that he was worried that he would have a stomachache, and whatever should he do if he had to go to the toilet later?

A third person decided to do last-minute preparations with a pale face. He started mumbling under his breath and begging all the gods on Earth to protect him while he flipped through his biology textbook to memorize a few more monsters' organs.

When Meng Chao came over, everyone shut up in tacit agreement and turned their heads around.

Meng Chao was stunned. "Am I that unpopular?"

"Ace Student Chao, could you not come over to deal a blow to us?" Wang Tao said with a gloomy face. "We know your tricks by now. If we pay any attention to you and ask you how much you've prepared, you'll definitely humbly say that your preparations were so-so and that you're not in a good condition. You'll even say that you don't know the answer to a lot of questions.

"Then, when the results come out, ha, you'll easily reach the admission score for Dragon City University, and you'll keep a low profile by saying, 'Ah, I haven't reached the standards for Dragon City University's martial arts course. I knew it, I flunked.' We know your style, so there's no need for us to make us feel gloomy."

"Am I that sort of person in your eyes?" Meng Chao asked.

Fatty Jr. nodded. "Be more confident. Turn that question into a statement. You're that sort of person."

"Alright, since you said that, then there's no need for me to be humble." Meng Chao thought about it and said faintly, "Honestly, I've made ample preparations, and I shouldn't have a problem getting into Dragon City University's martial arts course."

The students looked at each other before they covered their ears. "I'm not listening! Nope! Go away, you stupid ace student! Move away from us bad students!"

Ring!

It was time to enter the exam area.

Chapter 73: Performance of an Ace Student

The poor performing students had expressions that said "Regardless of whether I crane my neck or hunch my shoulders, I'll end up beheaded". They looked death in the eyes with firm gazes and went to their execution grounds—No, they went to the exam area.

Meng Chao remembered that he had the same expression in his previous life, and he could not help but smile.

The written test lasted for a total of five hours, but they were only tested on one subject. It was a comprehensive test that combined biology, physics, chemistry, maths, strategic analysis, and other subjects. It was incredibly hard.

Besides, the test did not provide any chairs. The exam table had a computer on it, and based on the examinees' height, it was adjusted to an awkward height where they could not stand nor squat comfortably.

Only when the examinees' stances had reached a certain standard were they able to somewhat position themselves into a comfortable stance and focus on completing the test.

They were allowed to go out to take toilet breaks, but the toilet was located on the other end of the exam hall, and if they went to and fro, they had to waste a lot of time.

This was a test on the youngsters' control over their organs.

In the past, there were many examinees who did not have smooth blood flow after they stayed in a position where they half stood and half squatted. Their legs became numb, and they fainted.

Even if they gritted their teeth to persevere, they could not concentrate, and they did not manage to get good results.

When the examinees walked into the exam area, they immediately let out loud wails.

The difficulty of the exam had increased to the least year. The exam area was not flat. Instead, the left side of the hall was elevated, creating a twenty-degree slope while the exam desks and computers were screwed in place by screws.

The examinees had to stand in their stances on a twenty-degree slope. They could ignore it for some time, but it was way too much to focus on a comprehensive test for five whole hours in that position.

Meng Chao could not help but snicker. He remembered it now. In his previous life, he was one of the wailers.

He really did not know which immoral invigilator had thought of such an exam area.

Naturally, his current self was not afraid of this small difficulty. Based on his student number, he walked to his seat as if he was walking on flat ground and scanned his fingerprint and iris.

Two screens rose slowly by his side to envelope him in an isolated space. He could only see the heads above the shields, but not others' screens, keyboards, or movements.

[Please put on your earphones.]

A notification popped up on the screen.

Meng Chao put on the earphones and heard rustling sounds. Soon, loud howls echoed by his ears. It was as if the gates of hell had been opened. He also heard the sounds of fierce beasts crunching on meat and bones.

It was a listening test.

It was not as insane as the mental strength test, but it lasted for a long time. With all sorts of monsters harassing the students, it became difficult to concentrate for five hours.

Of course, the students could adjust the volume. In fact, they could even turn the sounds off.

But they would be marked based on the volume. If they muted the sounds, their score for the listening test would be zero, and they would be assessed as not having firm willpower and could not register for any professions that required a steady mind.

Meng Chao casually moved the volume to the max. As the creatures screeched in his ears, he swayed his head and even whistled.

Thud, thud, thud.

Someone knocked on his screen.

When he looked up, he saw an invigilator, who was staring at him in disbelief.

“Hmm?”

Meng Chao removed his earphones in puzzlement.

Deafening roars from monsters could still be heard from his earphones.

The invigilator heard them, and his gaze turned even stranger. He whispered, “Don’t make any noise. You’ll affect the other examinees.”

“Oh, sorry.” So Meng Chao shut up and reentered the zone. He saw a timer on the monitor.

Half a minute later, the first question popped up on the screen. It was a picture of an Iron-armored Rhinoceros.

The examinees needed to draw the main organs of the Iron-armored Rhinoceros and point out its weaknesses.

This was not a problem for Meng Chao. He immediately started moving his pen over the drawing tablet.

The second question was about the five great types of crystal engines. He was to draw their basic structure and fill in the spirit energy conversion formula.

The third question required him to list out the key characteristics of the nine great stances as well as the eighteen breathing techniques and meditation techniques.

The sixteenth question was a comprehensive application question.

[If there is a Demonic Halberd Pig King weighing 9989kg rushing at you at the speed of 180km/h and you’re a normal soldier who is 1.75m tall, weighs 82kg, has an even distribution of muscle mass, and who has activated the heavy defense mode in a strengthened Type 2 Sword Shield exoskeleton, how far will you be knocked away by the Demonic Halberd Pig King? Will the strengthened exoskeleton be damaged? Will you be injured?

“If the strengthened exoskeleton is damaged, it might need to be repaired. How might you repair it?

“If you’re injured, what sort of treatment will you need to go through?”

This sort of comprehensive question gave the students a lot of room to answer. As long as their answer was logical, it was fine.

Meng Chao moved his hands in a flurry. Tapping sounds rose continuously from his keyboard; he never stopped typing.

The examinees in the cubicles nearby could no longer withstand the monster roars in their earphones, and they shut down the listening test.

But the sound of the ace student hitting the keys like a raging storm was even more of a shock to these poor-performing students who could not think of a single word to write even if they scratched their heads bloody.

They thought about it and decided to put on their earphones again. They would rather be tormented by the monsters instead of the ace student.

Meng Chao tackled the questions smoothly. He used a little more than two hours to arrive at the last essay question.

[Describe the development process and style of firearms after Dragon City transmigrated.]

This was a major question.

Meng Chao thought about it for a while before he started typing his answer.

[Half a century ago, when our ancestors transmigrated to the Other World, they were flabbergasted by the various unbelievable physics and chemistry phenomena.

[Metals that were originally as hard as steel lost their toughness and ductility after being outside for a night.

[The alloys that were supposed to be stainless started rusting.

[Lead and bronze were supposed to only have one characteristic. They were stored inside, but they turned into new materials with all sorts of strange characteristics that were never seen before on Earth.

[Even though most of the materials went through slight changes, it did not cause a lot of trouble to our ancestors' daily lives. Even if the failure rate of public-issued computers and complicated machinery increased by leaps and bounds, it was not as if they were completely unusable.

[But the firearms industry required great meticulousness, and they paid great attention to the stability of materials. If their key materials shrank by even a hair's breadth, or their toughness or ductility changed by 1%, it would have disastrous effects.

[If one component of a supersonic fighting jet's jet engine changed, it could cause the fighting jet to explode in the air.

[If a component in the gyroscopes of a surface-to-air missile swelled or shrank by 0.01mm, we would lose the missile. In fact, it would even change its target.

[Our war fortresses were welded together using unique solders, and they looked as if they were impenetrable, but if the characteristics of the solders changed, our war fortresses might collapse at any point, and all our soldiers would be buried in them.

[In the beginning, our scientists could not understand this phenomenon. They said that it was a demonic art or witchcraft. They suspected that we had transmigrated to the legendary magic world or cultivation world.

[But even magic and divine arts could not stop Earthlings from searching for the truth. Soon, we discovered the super energy source—spirit energy.

[Spirit energy is a very active energy. It can invade the molecular level of any material and interfere with the atomic nucleus.

[The newest scientific research stated that the protons and neutrons in the atomic nucleus form a sphere-shaped vibrational energy level from the two balancing forces inside and outside the atomic nucleus.

[On Earth, no radiation could interfere with the vibrations of the energy level in the atomic nucleus. Hence, protons were believed to be unable to break down. When countless protons were stacked together, they could form a skyscraper, and it was impenetrable. At most, we could only perform changes at the neutron level.

[But in the Other World, spirit energy crashed against the atomic nucleus, and it became very easy to change the proton or neutron's sphere-shaped vibrational energy level. An elemental change thus occurred on a proton level.

[We came to a general understanding of the reason behind the change in our materials, but it was useless in solving the crisis.

[The scientists then used the crystal materials unique to the Other World. They took the crystals, crystal cores, crystal essence, or crystal liquid to create a relatively stable top-grade material.

[It also helped to develop our biochemical technology. We learned to use monsters to fight monsters. In fact, we even changed our civilization into a biochemical civilization, which is completely different from Earth's civilization.

[As we continue to explore spirit energy technology, one day, we will use it to attack the atomic nucleus and master the technology to change protons and neutrons. At that time, we will be like the legendary wizards or cultivators. We will master the ability to turn stone into gold, and turn grain into soldiers.

[But this is what will happen in the future. We need a lot of precious resources and the even more valuable time to do so.

[For now, our understanding toward spirit energy is not great. Crystalized materials are also very rare and expensive. They are not suited to be refined into consumable ammunitions.

[As we faced the aggressive monster hoard, aside from using reusable cold weapons made from crystalized materials and letting martial artists shine with their past glory, we also needed firearms that could be created at a low cost in large quantities, easily used, and which were minimally affected by spirit energy!

[Hence, a genius idea was born.

[If we couldn't create extremely stable, accurate, and expensive high-precision weapons for the time being in the treacherous environment in the Other World, could we do the opposite? Could we increase the weapons' fault tolerance rate and pressure resistant capability and create large amounts of clumsy weapons?

[Since we could not prevent the minor changes in the core structure of firearms, which also happens to be their most sophisticated component, their volume, density, hardness, and ductility, we have to simplify the core structure and create weapons that would not affect our ability to fight even when 1% changes happened to the critical components.

[Even if we fire artillery and components keep falling off, it would not affect us from firing the second shot or even the hundredth shot. Was there a way for us to create such weapons?

[Reality showed that not only did the possibility exist, our ancestors were very skilled in this style of fighting.

[Two hundred years ago, our ancestors and our ancestors' teachers on Earth employed the thought of creating clumsy, durable, and cheap weapons to arm their armies.

[At that time, they could change a random tractor factory to a tank factory, and these factories had to withstand the enemy firing shots at them day and night. In fact, they could even engage in a fierce war at the entrance of the factory itself.

“The production factory workers were all newbies who had just been trained for a few weeks. Even so, this did not stop them from creating clunky-looking tanks. They were driven down the production line with loud rumbling sounds and charged straight to the frontlines. Then, they reduced the enemies' exquisite equipment into scrap metal.

[The environment in the Other World is terrible. It is even worse than the all-out wars that Earth went through.

[Hence, the scientists temporarily set aside the research for high-precision weaponry and brought down the skill level until it was at the level of weapon productions two hundred years ago. They used multi-turreted cannons to increase their firepower and dense rivets to prevent the solders from changing. They continuously increased the thickness of axles and their rigid suspension. This was to prevent the failure rate from all sorts of complicated suspension structures.

[Even though their weight definitely surpassed similar weapons on Earth, the great output from the crystal engines made it possible for these steel monsters to run rampant on the battlefield.

[As technology continued to develop, all sorts of biochemical brains and superbrains were produced. We also copied the brainwaves of heroic spirits and created AIs with high degrees of freedom.

[We could also carve runic symbols and created new armor that could absorb spirit energy to form spirit energy magnetic fields.

[With this equipment, the steel monsters might appear to be old, crude, and clumsy, but in truth, they are war trucks and armored airships that can think on their own. Their fighting efficiency is far greater than that of similar weapons on Earth, and they became Earthlings' mightiest weapons in our development in the Other World!]

Chapter 74: Red Dragon River, Jiangnan Region

When Meng Chao finished answering the question, he gasped a little.

He checked from the top to bottom three times before he chose to hand over his test paper.

At that moment, there was only one hour left for the written test.

The poor-performing students were still typing away with frowns on their faces when they heard screens sliding down ahead of them and someone walking out.

They could only comfort themselves. 'He must be someone who's even worse than me in the tests. He must be in complete despair and have given up completely; otherwise, how could someone actually hand in the test an hour ahead of time when the national college examination is so hard this year?'

Meng Chao walked out of the exam hall and smelled the fragrance from the canteen.

Temporary tents were set up in the field outside. Medical cabins were stuffed full inside them.

The written test which lasted for five hours was incredibly hard. Many of the examinees would grit their teeth to persevere, and when they walked out of the exam area, they would faint.

Hence, the education department prepared a lot of food and a large number of doctors to be on standby. In the mobile medical cabins, the students would be treated with high-energy nutritional fluid and massaged by bioelectricity so that they could recover.

Meng Chao was the first examinee to hand in his test paper, and he gained the privilege of having dozens of masseurs and doctors treating him.

This was part of the reason why he handed in his test paper ahead of time. He did not do it to pretend to be cool. Instead, he wanted to get this treatment, because the practical test was the crucial test.

He slept for a while in the medical cabin before he heard noise around him. The examinees had rushed over with a lot of noise, instantly turning the temporary tents into a market.

Many people plunged headfirst into the medical cabins, while others could not even last until they made it into them. They just fell limply on the floor. Some people failed the tests and lost control over their emotions. They crouched down and started crying.

"Ace Student Chao, did you hear, there's an ace student in our exam area who is especially good. He handed his test paper an hour ahead of time. Isn't that a little too insane?" Fatty Jr. brought a group of Ninth High School students over to Meng Chao and spoke in a manner which revealed just how worked up he was about it.

Meng Chao found himself not knowing what to say.

Wang Tao was stunned for a moment before he screeched. "Hey, Ace Student Chao, are you the crazy ace student who handed in his test paper an hour ahead of time?!"

Once he said those words, hundreds of gazes shifted to Meng Chao.

Some examinees were dressed in Construction High's uniform, and they had seen how strong Meng Chao was during the mental strength test. They lowered their heads and discussed things among themselves.

Other examinees were dressed in Dragon City Great High School or Dragon City Second Great High School's uniforms. When they saw that Meng Chao was only dressed in Ninth High School's uniform,

they could not help but scoff. How could an ace student come out of Ninth High School? He had to be a poor-performing student who gave up ahead of time.

“Wang Tao, could you be a little quieter? Don’t form the same habit as Feixiong.” Meng Chao felt gloomy.

“I was too excited, and I revealed your true abilities. I became a stumbling block in your path to pretend to be a wolf in sheep’s clothing. I’m truly sorry!”

Wang Tao apologized seriously, then paused before he said, “Ace Student Chao, since you handed in your test paper so early, you must be confident. Come, let’s compare answers!”

“We’ve already completed our tests. Is there a need to do that? The results will come out soon.”

The national college exams required the students to answer through computers, and the superbrains marked the answers. They used big data to perform analysis and AI to mark the tests. In at most an hour, the results would come out.

“Oh, come on, let’s just compare answers. Even if it’s just an hour, it’s still torture, you know?!”

That’s how examinees were. They wanted to know their test results right away.

Meng Chao could not win against them, so he could only search his brain for a few of the harder questions and said his answers.

Those questions were comprehensive questions that combined maths, physics, chemistry, and biology. Without rich experience in fights, it would be very difficult to answer them from all aspects.

Some people did not manage to answer them at all, and they were fine with it. Others had written a whole lot and thought that they managed to get every single point, but when they heard Meng Chao’s analysis, they realized that their answers were filled with a lot of mistakes. In fact, their answers were completely different from what the person who set the question had in mind. They could not help but pound at their chests in grief.

“Ace Student Chao, you just dealt ten thousand damage to our weak spirits once more! I hate you!”

Wang Tao wanted to cry, but found no tears coming out from his eyes.

Meng Chao did not know whether he should laugh or cry. “You’re the ones who wanted the answers. Weren’t you just asking for it?”

“That’s right, we’re just asking for it if we ask for answers from you! Come, next question!”

Everyone wailed, but they continued comparing answers. They simply could not stop.

Some time later, a teacher came out to notify them that the results were out, and they could go to the data terminals on the sides of the tent to check their results.

“I got 756 marks! Awesome!” The speaker was so happy that he jumped three feet into the air.

“I scored 499 marks. For the time being, I’m ranked at the 18,000th place in the city. I wonder if I’ll be able to get into a higher vocational college. I’ll have to work hard during the practical test later,” another person said with worry in his voice.

“I’m currently ranked in the 63,000s. Based on the recruiting standards of the universities last year, I still have hope. Everything will depend on my practical test now!”

Wang Tao swung his fists fiercely. Joy was evident on his face.

The examinees from the other schools were the same. Some of them were happy, and some worried. Some were high in spirits, while some sighed. They formed the complicated melody of those taking the national college examination.

“Ace Student Chao, you...”

The students saw Meng Chao checking the data terminal, but his face showed no expression, and they could not help but be stunned.

“Could it be that Ace Student Chao didn’t manage to score well?” They looked at each other at a loss.

“Wait! I know! Ace Student Chao is pretending to suck again!” Wang Tao was the first to react. “He’s pretending to be expressionless because he’s waiting for us to ask him. Then, he’s going to sigh softly and say, ‘Ah, I didn’t score well. I only managed to rank between the top ten thousand.’ That’s definitely the case! Ace Student Chao, I’ve already seen through you!”

“Everyone, don’t be fooled! He wants us to ask him, but we should not! We’ll make him suffer by keeping it in!”

Meng Chao was speechless once more. He shut his mouth tight and engaged in a staring contest with Wang Tao.

They stared at each other for half a minute before Fatty Jr. surrendered. “I lost. This stupid curiosity... Come on, Ace Student Chao, tell us your score and rank, and trample on us as you please!”

“I did pretty good.” Meng Chao smiled. “939 marks. I’m currently ranked at the 1,084th place in the city.”

Silence.

Then, the volcano erupted in the silence.

The students dragged Wang Tao away to beat him up. “You said that you wouldn’t ask, but you just had to! Now, everyone just suffered one hundred thousand damage to their spirits! How are we going to go through our practical test later?!”

“I’m sorry!” Fatty Jr. wept tears of regret. “I really shouldn’t have gone to ask Ace Student Chao! I let all of you down, everyone!”

The students might have caused a ruckus, but they knew that after the results of their written tests were out, they needed to use every second they had to replenish their energy so that they could recover from their fatigue.

When another hour passed, a bell rang, asking them to gather up. Dozens of school buses picked them up to head to the practical test area.

“Ace Student Chao, thank you.”

The practical test areas for universities and higher vocational colleges were different. Many students parted ways there.

One person went up to Meng Chao before entered a bus and said sincerely, "If Chu Feixiong and you hadn't formed a study group and taught us so many new force execution methods or talked about monster structures to increase our knowledge, my written test results would have increased by thirty marks compared to my mock test."

"My parents have always wanted me to get into the Spirit Electricity Engineering School. The minimum passing score for it is very high. I originally didn't have high hopes for it, but now, I'm filled with confidence. It's all thanks to your help!"

"Me too! Ace Student Chao, once the national college examination is over, we'll treat you to a meal!"

"From now on, we'll treat you for all your milk tea and supper!"

"By the way, you're definitely someone who will get into university and become a superhuman, but even if you soar through the skies, we're still friends. If you need any help, we'll definitely help you!"

As Meng Chao looked at his schoolmates' enthusiasm, he felt a wave of warmth in his heart.

"Don't worry, regardless of whether we get into university or higher vocational college, we'll all be fighting for Dragon City. We'll be comrades for life. There'll be plenty of areas where we will need each other's help in the future, so now let's work hard together and fight for our dreams!"

Meng Chao smiled brilliantly and swung his fist under the sunlight.

The school bus raced south.

It drove down a path with red flags and all sorts of banners Wishing the students victory.

The school bus carried Type One Examinees who were going to take the test for university.

The students from First High School, Second High School, and Construction High School occupied half of the bus.

The students from the three famous schools competed against each other with their gazes and presences, and innocent bystanders would be easily injured because of it.

"We're going to be going through the practical test later with these monsters... What a pain!"

Wang Tao had a frown on his face. He cast a glance at Meng Chao, who sat beside him. Then, he said gloomily, "Ah, whatever, I shouldn't be saying this to you. You're even more of a monster than they are!"

Meng Chao smiled faintly and closed his eyes to rest.

Soon, the school bus trembled. It slowed down, and the sounds of raging current could be heard from outside the window.

They arrived at the Red Dragon River.

If they looked into the distance, they could see fog and rain hanging before a mountain range. There was a winding river with a raging current right before them. It divided Dragon City into the south and north.

On the other side of the river were countless factories and army camps. More than one thousand armored airships moved about the rainbow-colored clouds and fog. They were prepared for war and gave off a murderous aura.

It was the legendary Jiangnan Region!

On Earth, the Red Dragon River was one of the longest rivers and had one of the highest amounts of water flowing through it.

The Red Dragon River was one of the oldest origins of civilization in the country from which Dragon City came.

With the rich gifts from nature, two huge cities with a dense population and flourishing industries had been built on the banks of the Red Dragon River. There was one city on each side of the banks.

The two cities went through several generations of competitions and turned into important military and industrial bases.

As generations passed and the people made developments, the scale of the cities continued expanding. More people were connected by the natural moat, and more bridges and underground tunnels appeared. The two cities merged into one, which created a large metropolis that housed millions of people.

When Dragon City transmigrated from Earth, they were in an age of reformation that spread like a storm.

The lords of the old gradually turned weaker and fell into decline. New powers rose to prominence, and the orders of the new and old fought against each other. There was a high possibility that war would erupt, and all sorts of sudden dangers popped up which intensified the conflicts.

To handle the wars, the country where Dragon City was situated went through a large scale mobilization and performed a lot of constructions inland.

Multiple light and heavy industrial cities as well as high technology production centers located at the coasts faced the threat of being attacked by enemies and were all moved inland.

Dragon City was positioned at the center of the country, so transportation within it was very easy.

Besides, the population was dense, and food was plentiful. The foundations of their light and heavy industries were pretty good too. So it was only par for the course that they turned into the main city that welcomed the migration of the industrial factories and technology production factories.

Chapter 75: Four Great Fighting Occupations

After ten years of moving and construction, Dragon City reached the peak of its glory while it was on Earth. It had a population of tens of millions.

Millions of them were specialists and high-quality workers who moved over from the coastal cities.

There were also more than one hundred full-time universities, hundreds of research centers and industrial parks, and two steel organizations. The researchers and production workers numbered to millions.

To deal with the cruel competition, Dragon City categorized its industry. They had upstream and downstream industry chains, and a large number of military industries as well as military bases hidden underground, where they would be able to withstand the impact of nuclear weapons.

There were also industry innovated towns and technology innovated towns around Dragon City. All of them were coastal towns that moved inland and formed more than ten satellite cities. Together with Dragon City's main city area, they formed a super metropolitan area that was rarely seen on Earth.

All this transmigrated to the Other World in just one night.

Due to the overlapping spaces and pressure from both sides, the space in the area around Dragon City's metropolitan area started showing very strange signs of folding and elongating spaces.

For example, there was originally a small industrial town with a population of two hundred thousand people around fifty kilometers in the north of the main city area.

After they transmigrated, a mountain range from the Other World was positioned between the town and the main city area, and now, the distance between the town and the main city area was extended by one hundred kilometers.

Since the distance between them was far and there was fog around, the people from the main city area only discovered the town twenty years later.

At that time, the industry town's population had shrunk from two hundred thousand to thirty thousand.

They lacked resources, their technology regressed, and order collapsed. Since they only had two hundred thousand people and their production system was incomplete, it was not enough for the town to maintain its civilization in the Other World.

Many of the citizens who were rescued were already at their last breath from all the torture they went through. In fact, to survive, their organs, limbs, eating habits, and moral values had all changed drastically.

Jiangnan Region went through the same.

They struggled for more than a decade in the fog before they were discovered by the main city area.

Fortunately, the region was not a small, normal town. Jiangnan Region's population was large enough to ensure the flames of civilization burning even when the creatures from the Other World invaded them.

But the monster invasions became more serious, and their fog was even denser than in Jiangbei. Space-time rifts were much more common there, and they also had more monsters appearing among them. Those monsters happened to be more brutal as well.

Hence, the customs in Jiangnan Region became even more boorish than Jiangbei, or rather, not many normal citizens remained to live there. Instead, it became a playground for the Red Dragon Army and the superhumans.

If someone was not skilled, they would never dare to set up their homes in Jiangnan.

Of course, this area was still somewhat lucky, since they were discovered by the main city.

Many of the industrial parks and industrial towns were still lost in the depths of the fog.

The authorities had once sent a large group of expeditionary forces to search for them, but since the space folds had caused a large change in the terrain, many of the small towns and satellite cities were not in their original positions.

Besides, the interference from the fog was very great. Visibility was low, and the explorers were also attacked by monsters. Their progress was very slow.

Even so, "fortifying the Jiangnan Region, connecting the satellite cities, and searching for the lost towns" was still the strategy Dragon City carried out for decades. They never changed it.

Regardless of whether it was their moral principles or because they wanted to get more people and increase production capability, the Survival Committee did not give up on the satellite cities and the industrial towns which might be tormented by the monsters in the fog.

Hence, every year, the examinees took their practical test at the frontlines of Jiangnan Region.

The Survival Committee used this method to tell the examinees just where the humans' weapons and willpower were supposed to be directed.

"It's time to get out of the bus. If we want to cross the river, we have to switch to an armored train."

"The Red Dragon River is so magnificent!"

"Look! There's monsters in the river!"

The examinees got off the bus to exercise their limbs. When the wind from the river and mist blew against them, they cried out in surprise.

After they transmigrated, the terrain on Earth and the terrain in the Other World had melded together in all sorts of strange ways. Through an unknown method, the Red Dragon River managed to be connected to a river in the Other World, and it was a river with a high volume of water.

Since the volume had suddenly changed and there was a lot of mud and sand gathered at the bottom of the river, there were a few times when the Red Dragon River had spilled out.

After Dragon City transmigrated, the first disaster they faced was the Red Dragon River overflowing. Its surface area became a few kilometers wider than before, and the river water surged, drowning many citizens.

After the flood, a pandemic raged among the people, and it led to the appearance of a zombie hoard.

After decades of management and the stabilization of space, humans managed to conquer the Red Dragon River once more.

Even so, the military was still in control of several miles of the bank, and normal citizens were not allowed to readily approach it.

It was no wonder then why the examinees gasped in surprise when they saw the surging water and the waves.

The sand and minerals from the Other World flowed down, which made the river water turn slightly red, and the river lived up to its name of the Red Dragon.

While the waves surged, quite a number of aquatic monsters bared their teeth and claws.

Most of these monsters were rather weak and could not fight on land. They were usually killed by humans and turned into important sources of good protein.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

Dozens of armored airships lowered themselves and threw stun grenades that were like deep water bombs into the river, blasting up water pillars that reached hundreds of meters tall.

Countless aquatic monsters were knocked unconscious. They floated to the surface of the river and were caught in a high-durability fishing net with hooks in it. All of them were caught.

But some of the aquatic monsters were not willing to be caught so easily. They jumped out of the river and tried to attack the armored airships.

But there were dozens of meters between them. Even if they managed to jump into the air, they were already at the last of their strength. They were instantly shot full of holes.

There were also superhumans who were holding the fort in the air. If some rare aquatic monsters showed up, the superhumans and the armored airships would surge forward to suppress them.

Soon, the savage and hideous aquatic monsters were dragged to the shore.

There were harvesters already waiting there. After they did some simple processing, they used mechanical hands to send them to fish processing factories.

After going through the magnificent processes in the production line, the aggressive monsters would end up as meat stuffed in cans.

The luncheon meat cans were made from leftovers of aquatic monsters along with the meat of gigantified earthworms and various food additives.

The blood of the examinees began to burn with fervor.

“Earthlings are indeed the most fearsome creatures in the entire galaxy. Wherever we go, we will eat everything in our wake!”

“Monsters? To these poor creatures, we might be the ones who are monsters.”

“We will definitely obtain the final victory in this war of survival!”

Dozens of school buses were parked at one of the military bases at Jiangnan.

The soldiers sized up the examinees who got out of the bus with curious and envious gazes.

Some of the old soldiers who looked as if they had just returned from the frontlines based on their scruffy beards and tattered clothes grinned and greeted the children. They reminded them to bring a few more diapers when they went through their practical test later so that they did not end up peeing their pants.

“Whirr! Whirr!”

The armored train had a crystal engine installed in it, which let out a shriek. Gas surged into the air. Smoke surrounded the area, and the black cannons in the carriages looked incredibly mighty.

Thousands of examinees got into the armored train and headed to the main Jiangnan area through the iron bridge.

As of then, the surface area of the Red Dragon River was twice as wide as when it was on Earth. Every day, the currents flower fiercely and waves crashed at the banks, sending stones into the sand. It looked incredibly magnificent.

However, no matter how fierce the river was, it was conquered by humans.

After decades of construction, twelve Dragon River Bridges were built on the river, which was so wide that the other side could not be seen. Five more were being built at the moment, and they looked like swords that could pierce a city. They were symbols of Earthlings conquering the Other World.

It was the first time many examinees rode on the armored train to cross the Red Dragon River. When they saw the raging waves and the fierce monsters being trampled under their feet, they could not help but cheer.

Among them, Chu Feixiong cheered the loudest.

The examinees taking part in the practical test for universities were distributed among dozens of different exam areas. The two best friends were pretty lucky and were put in the same area. They ran into each other coincidentally in the armored train and were ecstatic.

Chu Feixiong’s results in the written test were pretty decent. He scored 812 marks, and he was ranked among the ten thousands in the city.

To quote him, “I have always been average when it comes to written work, but even so, I managed to rank among the ten thousands. As long as I can bring out the shocking Super Reckless Bull Force during the practical test and my overall score reaches the top five thousand, I’ll have hope to get into military school and even the heroic spirit course!”

He was not lying. Over the last month, Meng Chao had provided guidance to a lot of citizens, but he naturally paid the most attention to his best friend.

But the guy was a little bullheaded. He just practiced Reckless Bull Technique all the time, and the more he practiced, the more high-spirited he became.

It was not some unfathomable ultimate divine art, so after practicing it for around a month, and since he was born with monstrous strength, he might actually truly be able to create a miracle.

At that moment, the screen at the top of each carriage lit up.

The noisy carriages immediately fell silent. Meng Chao and Chu Feixiong stood on their tiptoes to look.

The screen showed the introduction to the four great fighting occupations.

Each of them represented the ace courses of the famous universities with the highest minimum passing scores.

The first to appear was a young military officer in a camouflage uniform. He appeared to be in his twenties.

He stood as straight as a javelin, and he stood in front of a collapsed fortress.

“The Other World is a place where the mind’s interference on matter is far greater than it was on Earth. Here, our spirits and will are no longer illusions. There’s a possibility to make them existences that can be seen with the naked eye,” said the heroic military officer.

“The human brain is constantly sending signals to the outside world through brain waves. After receiving great stimulation and having made a decision to refine your will until it is as strong as steel, you will release a large amount of highly concentrated brain waves.

“On Earth, these brain waves would soon disappear. They would be torn apart by Earth’s magnetic field and the sun.

“But in the Other World, the radiation from stars and the magnetic fields of the planets are slightly different.

“With the nourishment and protection from the super energy, spirit energy, the humans’ brain waves can last for a long time in the air. Even if our bodies die, our beliefs, will, and mind can turn into determination and continue existing.

“This determination is not your soul. It’s not what we claim to be ghosts or spirits either. They don’t have personalities, thoughts, or feelings. They’re just like pictures and videos, and they have loyally recorded their master’s most brilliant thoughts and their greatest wishes before their deaths.

“If their minds shine brightly enough and their wishes are strong enough, their determination will not fade away even after a long time has passed. In fact, they can absorb spirit energy and continue growing. They can also attract others with similar determination and gather together to turn into heroic spirits!”

Chapter 76: The Grandeur of Powerful Occupations

Before his voice faded away, the young military officer’s eyes suddenly shone as brilliantly as new stars.

His military uniform swelled up, and he released waves of black flames that shone with a golden light.

Almost one thousand black flames gathered behind him. Gradually, they turned into a black war fortress. Then, they grew limbs and turned into a black steel giant!

“Twenty years ago, a small tactics unit of the Red Dragon City once defended a war fortress to their very last man. Unfortunately for them, the fog cut off their escape route. They were surrounded by monsters

and found themselves in a hopeless situation where they were alone with no backup,” the young military officer said.

“But even when dealing with a hoard of monsters, the resolve of the commander and his nine combatants did not shake. They faced death with a smile and defeated waves upon waves of monsters. They lasted three days and three nights. When there was only one soldier left, he grabbed a bunch of grenades to die together with the monsters!

“Their bodies might have perished, but their wills remain forever in the realm of the living. Their determination to defend the war fortress to the death has also been deeply embedded in the land where their blood was spilled.

“After more than a decade’s worth of refinement, the ten soldiers’ final determination was gathered together, and they turned into this heroic spirit known as Black Steel Guardian.

“I am Chen Tai, Captain of the Red Dragon Army. I have been fortunate enough to be acknowledged by this heroic spirit, and I have resonated with the determination and wills of the martyrs. I became the heroic spirit user of Black Steel Guardian. Here, I swear that I will continue to carry out the martyrs’ dying wish. With my flesh and blood, I will turn the martyrs’ determination into the sharpest blade and walk down the path of the martyrs to continue protecting our hometown for eternity.

“The martyrs were able to protect the fortress for three days and nights while encircled by monsters. Hence, Black Steel Guardian’s ability is Impenetrability!”

The young military officer shouted, and the heroic spirit turned into black fog to envelope him.

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang!

Someone fired a gun at him, but the dense shower of bullets was blocked by the heroic spirit.

Another person then picked a rocket launcher to fire a shot at him. But to the examinees’ shock, the rocket was also blocked by the heroic spirit. The projectile froze in the air in a bizarre fashion.

“Heroic spirit, enter my body!”

The young military officer growled, and the black fog entered his body. It bulged up, and his skin instantly turned a shiny sheen of black, which gave off a metallic feeling. He looked like a mighty, black metal tower.

He stepped forward and threw a punch at the rocket that was frozen in the air.

Boom!

The rocket exploded, but he was completely unharmed.

“Spirit weapon, become one with me!”

The young man shouted again and lifted a warhammer that was made with nanometal, liquid alloy, monster materials, and the crystals of the Other World.

Golden runes and black flames seeped out of his body to crawl into the warhammer through his arm. The warhammer then changed shape. The students could not believe their eyes when they saw that it became larger and grew all sorts of skewers and spikes that created a bumpy surface.

Such a gigantic thing that should weigh several tonnes was not something humans could swing.

But the heroic spirit appeared behind the young military officer again. With the power given to him by Black Steel Guardian, he swung the warhammer and created a tornado. He delivered a full-powered strike, and the remains of a discarded war truck were lifted and thrown more than one hundred meters into the air.

The examinees felt their hearts surge when they saw this.

“This is a heroic spirit user, one of the four great fighting occupations in Dragon City!”

“He’s so fierce and strong!”

“The ones who resonated with the captain are just the heroic spirits of a small tactics unit. Even so, they’re already so terrifying. There are plenty of peerless fighters who left behind their wills and determinations after they died. The stronger their spirits are, the more likely they are to turn into powerful heroic spirits. Won’t those who can resonate with such heroic spirits be invincible?”

“It’s no wonder why the minimum passing score for the heroic spirit course in the military school is so high! I’m going to give it my all! I have to get into the heroic spirit course!”

Chu Feixiong was so excited that he hooked his arm around Meng Chao’s neck. “That’s the one! Becoming a heroic spirit user is my dream!”

Meng Chao spent a lot of effort to slap Feixiong’s arm away. He rolled his eyes and said, “Aren’t you going to become a general? Why have you changed your decision to become a heroic spirit user?”

“Rubbish. You know where I stand in terms of intelligence. When I see those numbers and strategy analyses, I feel a headache right away. Yet you want me to go into the commanding course and slowly make my way from the bottom of the military ranks to the rank of general? That’ll take too long!”

Chu Feixiong slammed his fist against his palm. “But the heroic spirit course is different. If I can resonate with the old generals who died and become their heroic spirit user, won’t I instantly gain their abilities and become an awesome general?”

“Urk...” When Meng Chao saw how his best friend was letting his imagination run completely wild, he could not hold back from dashing his hopes a bit. “But I heard that it’s very difficult to become a heroic spirit user. You need intelligence, strength, a good personality, and good moral values. You need to qualify in all these aspects before you can have the chance to resonate with a heroic spirit. Are you sure that generals who sacrificed their lives will resonate with you?”

“You need dreams, no matter what.” Chu Feixiong was full of confidence. “My intelligence might be somewhat lacking, but I have good moral values!”

Meng Chao didn’t know what to say about that, so he just continued watching the screen.

At that moment, the video had already cut to a new scene.

Standing among the tall mountains was a large machine.

At first glance, it looked like the amalgamation of the largest truck and a mining truck that could be seen on Earth's mines.

But in front of it was a large scraper. Around it were dozens of cannons, and the carriage behind it was entirely sealed.

It had four large mechanical arms. One of them had an impact hammer, another one had a drill, the third had a steel hammer, and the last a quick-drying cement nozzle. It looked like a mighty steel demon.

A calm, mechanical voice came from the driver's cabin, which was protected by layers of armor. "Many people's knowledge of machine masters is limited to people wearing all sorts of strange-looking, strengthened exoskeletons or driving all sorts of magnificent but impractical mecha to fight against monsters.

"But strengthened exoskeletons are just a single soldier's equipment. Its efficiency in killing multiple monsters in a go isn't too high. Humanoid mecha that are more than five meters tall are also products born from a fantasy; they only waste resources. There are a lot of obstacles when it comes to using them, and they don't have a lot of value in practical fights.

"These two cannot bring out the true strength of a machine master.

"A real machine master should control large, multi-function buildings or war bases to repair bridges and roads as well as connect natural moats. And while they complete the preparation work for construction, they can also build a large number of war fortresses.

"On the other side, in our cabin, we have a macromolecule polymer printing system and automatic repair system. We also have a large number of armored unmanned aerial vehicles and self-thinking war trucks. If we run into an enemy, one machine master will be equivalent to an army!"

As the man spoke, the cabin of the large machine in the video suddenly opened.

Buuuzzzzzzzz!

Hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles flew out from within. They gathered together in the air before scattering like a swarm of bees.

Shick, shick, shick, shick!

Hundreds of six-legged machines that resembled metal spiders crawled out. They surrounded the war machine to form a tight defense circle.

With the dual protection from the sky and ground, the machine master could stay inside to calmly fix the war fortress.

Once the war fortress took shape, the soldiers at the back could be stationed inside and fortify the place. Even if monsters that numbered to more than one hundred times the number of soldiers in the fortress came to attack, it would still be very difficult for them to conquer this station.

When the stations were connected, defense towers and signal towers could be built, and humans were able to expand their living space with great determination, albeit the method was a bit crude.

Hence, machine masters were able to occupy one of the spots among the four great fighting occupations.

Meng Chao watched carefully.

He knew that in the past, due to the fog and the powerful interference from the spirit energy magnetic field, the internet signal around Dragon City was not good. Hence, it became incredibly difficult to make the idea of armored unmanned aerial vehicles to launch a massive attack come to life, because they heavily relied on signals to give them commands.

Without armored unmanned aerial vehicles, the fighting power of the machine masters was mostly taken away from them. When they worked outside, they had to depend on other fighting-oriented occupations.

But as the fog scattered away and Earthlings discovered all sorts of information transferring technology that could fight the interference, the machine armor style, which was a fighting style that used armored unmanned vehicles, self-thinking war trucks, and strengthened exoskeletons, continued to increase the status of machine masters.

If they had sufficient resources and stable signals, a well-trained machine master could control more than one thousand unmanned armored vehicles and self-thinking war trucks, which made them practically invincible.

Quite a number of examinees in the carriage who were interested in machines shouted in glee. Their faces were bright with excitement. It looked as if they had already managed to get into the University of Technology's machine course and become an honorable machine master.

Then, the video changed again.

It still showed the plains, but this time, they were covered in bugs.

All sorts of deformed and mutated insects squirmed in the area.

There was only one empty spot at the depths of the insect swarm, and it had the diameter of around three to five meters.

Sitting cross-legged at the center of the empty spot was a girl with an indifferent face.

The savage and ugly insects were a stark contrast to the girl's fair skin. The examinees' hearts pounded when they saw her. They were worried that she would be torn to shreds by the insect swarm the next second.

However, the insects looked as if they had been bewitched. They were rooted to their spots and even trembled a little. They... appeared to be kowtowing to the girl.

The girl suddenly opened her eyes.

Purple light shone within them. Spirit marks moved from the corners of her eyes to her temples. Then, they shot out to turn into tens of thousands of thin electrical arcs that shot toward the insect swarm.

The girl stood up and started walking forward elegantly.

The insect swarm immediately split up and opened a path for her before gathering up behind her. They went into all sorts of formations according to the girl's will, as if they were her most loyal army.

The girl with the purple light shining in her eyes faced the camera and said coolly, "I... am the insect hoard!"

"How cool! Scenes that will only appear in the ancient games on Earth turned into reality over here!"

Silence filled the carriage for a while before the examinees gasped in surprise.

"This is the monster controlling course from Agricultural University, right? The monster controllers are very powerful. They can use all the monsters in the world, and they have more room for freedom compared to the steel army formed by the machine masters. Their requirements for resources are also very low. They're most suited to fighting in the depths of the fog, since it's filled with dangers everywhere."

Meng Chao felt tempted.

Agricultural University was known as Monster University, and it was one of his goals.

Agricultural University had two ace courses. One of them was the resource course, and the other was the monster controlling course.

The resource course was a support course, while the monster controlling course was a fighting course. Fighting courses were more popular, which was why the minimum passing score for the monster controlling course was usually higher.

'Should I use my in-depth knowledge about monster structures and become a monster controller?'

He thought about it carefully, but decided not to.

Monster controllers had to use their minds to invade monster brains.

But mind connections were two-way paths. When the monster controller controlled monsters, some part of their brains' nerve ganglion was open for invasion, and it was very easy for enemies to take over their minds.

Meng Chao could not say anything about others' minds being invaded, but he had a lot of secrets in his head, so it would be better if he were a little more careful.

The introductions for the heroic spirit users, machine masters, and monster controllers were complete. Now, the three great fighting occupations in the supernatural category were made known to the examinees.

The last was the main attraction, and it was naturally the introduction of the martial artist. It would be introduced by Dragon City University's martial arts course.

But not much needed to be said about it, because the examinees were far too familiar with it.

First, their bodies and mental strength index had to be refined to the point that they were as strong as steel.

Then, the spirit energy would be led into their bodies so that they could activate all one hundred and eight main spirit meridian systems.

The spirit energy would circulate through them and the spirit acupoints that intersected with the main spirit meridians, which made it look like an electric circuit board. They would then form a complicated spirit picture in the body.

Each spirit picture could activate different spirit magnetic field rotation energies, which unleashed the potential in a person's genes. It could also guide the spirit energy in the world so that the user could release mighty attacks.

People who could do that were known as martial artists.

Chapter 77: Large Dragon's Might Cannon

The will of the heroic spirit users was strong, the steel army of the machine masters was mighty, and the monster controllers' biochemical beasts and insect swarms that filled the world were awesome and terrifying, but when a martial artist researched the secrets of spirit energy and genes to the limit, they could deliver ultimate moves that could destroy the world. They could easily kill the heroic spirit users, machine masters, and monster controllers.

If the people themselves were killed, the heroic spirits, steel army, and insect swarms as well as huge beasts became useless.

Hence, martial artists were ranked at the top of the four great fighting occupations.

At the very least, it was currently ranked at the top.

"Martial artists, huh?"

Even Meng Chao could not stop the light that lit up in his eyes.

The feeling of landing solid punches and using one's own bodies to open the path was something all hot-blooded teenagers could not ignore.

As Meng Chao thought about it, the rumbling sounds from the tyres suddenly changed.

They had passed the metal bridge and arrived at Jiangnan region's main area.

The air here was even stiffer than in Jiangbei. It was as if the smell of blood, steel, and smoke had gathered together into two drills that forced their way through their nostrils.

Many examinees could not stop themselves from sneezing. Then, they looked outside with dumbfounded expressions. They even forgot to exclaim in surprise.

Thousands of armored airships floated in the air while thousands of newest model tanks stood on the ground. They were a steel army in its truest sense.

Personally witnessing such a mighty army and seeing it through a television broadcast was completely different.

“That’s Huge Dragon Might’s Cannon, right? It’s so fucking awesome!” one examinee could not help but swear under his breath.

Everyone rushed to his side of the carriage with a whoosh. They stuck their bodies out of the carriage window to look.

The light from the setting sun shone on an extremely large and mighty cannon that looked like a mountain. It resembled a steel beast crouching on the wide iron tracks.

Huge Dragon Might’s Cannon was Dragon City’s ultimate weapon.

The cannon barrel was eighty-eight meters long, while the whole thing was two hundred and eleven meters long, twenty-five meters tall, and weighed seven thousand and five hundred tons. Each armor-piercing shell weighed twenty tons, and their high-explosive bomb was ten tons. The fuel required to push a cannonball forward weighed from two to five tons as well.

After Dragon City transmigrated, due to the change in materials and the interference from the spirit magnetic field, practically all cruise missiles could not be used, and the accuracy of tactical missiles was also greatly affected.

They needed to be guided by satellites, and the satellites had to be in synchronous orbit. Only then were they able to bring out their full power. Now, Dragon City did not have satellites, so how could they possibly use missiles?

Without trump cards like the cruise missile, it was very difficult for them to fight against the kings of monsters.

While they could suppress normal monsters with the steel army, the superbeasts were faster, had high defense, and a certain amount of intelligence, which was why they deployed the hit-and-run strategy.

They snuck into Dragon City and caused great damage. Then, before the Red Dragon Army or the superhumans could surround them, they would flee. Yet the angered the Earthlings could only stomp their feet, because they could do nothing about these superbeasts.

That’s why they did not stint on the costs and sent out a large number of expeditionary teams to explore the areas with the richest amount of spirit energy in Monster Mountain Range until they found the nests of these kings of monsters.

It has to be known that not all places can turn into the nests of high-grade superbeasts.

Superbeasts were the same as humans. They liked places fit for immortals to live, which meant clean air, clean water, and an abundance of resources. A good nest was the foundation for a race to propagate, and monsters fought to the death for good nests.

The best ones were located in the depths of the fog, so it was impossible for humans to send an army to clear them.

And since cruise missiles had lost their function, they could not accurately attack spots that were located so far away.

Then, the ancient railway gun was enhanced in a frenzy by the metals in the Other World and spirit energy technology, which increased its shooting range to over two hundred kilometers.

That was how the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon was born.

Even if the monsters fled, they could not bring their nests with them. When an Apocalyptic Beast dared to invade Dragon City, while the Earthlings could not catch it, they set up their Huge Dragon Might's Cannon and razed its nest.

Of course, the creation and maintenance of the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon used up countless resources. The costs for firing a single shot were also insanely high. Before all the nests of the Apocalyptic Beasts were destroyed, there was a high possibility that the bosses of the Survival Committee would die of heart attacks first.

Besides, the Apocalyptic Beasts whose nests were destroyed might instantly go berserk, and they would rush into Dragon City to drag them to hell with it.

Hence, the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon was an intimidation weapon, just like nuclear weapons. Aside from being fired a few times after its creation to intimidate the high-grade superbeasts, it was never used.

But this did not stop it from turning into the guardian of all Dragon Citizens. It was the most brutal symbol of the human race's heavy industry.

"Did you hear? The engineers are currently modifying the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon. Now it can even fire nuclear cannonballs!" someone said with a wild look in his eyes.

It instantly stirred up a wave of discussions.

Whether Dragon City had nuclear weapons had always been a hot topic among the youngsters.

Even though the Survival Committee, Supernatural Tower, and the Red Dragon Army did not breathe a word about it, the citizens believed that they had nuclear weapons.

The thought of a huge railway gun firing nuclear cannonballs was exciting.

"I really want to see the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon display its full might!" someone said eagerly.

And the other examinees immediately agreed with his words.

"Let's not," a girl said. "Once the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon is fired normally or even while loaded with a nuclear cannonball, it would mean that Dragon City is facing its greatest danger to date."

Her words made the examinees suck in sharp breaths. They thought about it and quickly agreed with her. Just how terrifying of an enemy would they have to face for the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon to unleash its roar?

They hoped that they would not have to see it.

A thought flashed in Meng Chao's mind. Pain throbbed at his temples, and before his eyes, he saw the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon howling.

His pupils shrank swiftly. Then, they returned to normal.

They moved past the Huge Dragon's Might Cannon and drew closer to the wall formed by the fog.

It was like a solid wave that surged toward the clouds.

No... it should not be described as a solid. The fog squirmed about slowly, like a huge gaseous object. It looked like it would swallow the city whole at any moment.

The closer the students got to the borders of the city, the more severe the phenomenon of the overlapping spaces became. The terrain that belonged to Earth intersected with the terrain of the Other World like saw teeth.

Just behind them were rows of skyscrapers, but soon, lush, primitive forests appeared.

They were on a side with neat rows of factories and streets, but soon, they saw a crack whose bottom could not be seen. Growing in it were all sorts of strange-shaped plants from the Other World.

Sometimes, some nimble creatures crawled out of the depths of the crack. They appeared briefly in front of the Earthlings before they crept back into the deep crack.

The sounds of artillery shots could be heard in the fog. The endless fights continued.

When the examinees got close to the frontlines of the fight between the humans and monsters fighting for living space, all of them felt their blood surge.

"We're at the exam area! Get out! Hurry up and get out!"

From the moment they entered the armored train, the students fell under military management. Hence, when a military officer shouted at them, they quickly left the train.

They were then transported by crawler military trucks to the entrance of a broken down factory that was bound by vines, since it had been abandoned for a long time.

There were military tents set up around it. Well-trained soldiers surrounded the factory with their weapons ready to fire.

Under the orders of a military officer, the examinees were split into male and female groups and were sent to bathe and change.

This was to check whether they had any severe injuries and prevent them from bringing anything that would allow them to cheat.

They changed into camouflage uniforms made of biochemical materials which were as thin as a cicada's wings. They had fine patterns and all sorts of ports.

Just when the examinees wondered how such a thin fighting suit would be able to help them fend against monster attacks, a group of soldiers with huge spray cans on their backs came forward. They lifted the tubes and connected the nozzle at the chests of the examinees' camouflage uniforms.

"Shick!"

The protective gel in the spraycan was like pudding. When it filled up the interlayer of the camouflage uniform, it swelled up like an inflatable life jacket, but it did not look clumsy. It was designed in accordance with human muscle structure, so each examinee looked strong and mighty.

The gel was made of Non-Newtonian fluid and would not affect the examinees' usual movements.

But if they ran into high-speed attacks, such as a bullet shower or a monster's claws, it would instantly become as firm as steel. Its defense was much higher than that of a normal bullet-proof vest.

The soldiers put all sorts of monitoring equipment, communications equipment, and cameras on the ports so that they could ensure communications with the examinees and ensure their safety.

All examinees received a small military-grade communicator on their wrists. It would notify them of all information regarding the test.

They also got a multifunctional helmet made of super-light alloy.

The examinees now had a brand new look. They looked at each other and started howling in excitement.

Beep, beep. Soon, the screens on the communicators on their wrists lit up.

This was to test whether the system was functioning well and whether everything was connected properly. It was also to check whether the examinees' physiological parameters were connected to the main computer.

Then, the contents of the practical test for the national college exam popped up.

The practical tests every year were set with the requirement that the examinees went through complete simulations of real fights. This was especially the case this year. The title notification was not "national college exam contents" but "mission".

[The fog to the south of Red Dragon River has retreated by 10km over the past half a year. Our army has discovered quite a lot of buildings from Earth that were originally hidden in the fog.

[Among them are numerous factories. They might have important facilities and strategic resources.

[The mission for Squad 5523 is to clear Dawn Machine Factory and eliminate all monsters staying inside so that this factory would return to human civilization!]

5523 was the code for the exam area, but on the mission notification, it turned into their squad number.

[Mission area: The area within the walls of the former Dawn Machine Factory.

[Possible monsters:

[Rapid Biting Rat.

[Number: Unknown, but possibly a lot.

[Illusion Cat.

[Number: Unknown.

[Possible existence of other high-grade monsters.

[Mission time: 00:00 – 06:00

[Total time: 6 hours.]

Chapter 78: A Different Choice

The Rapid Biting Rats were low-grade monsters who lived underground, had strong reproductive abilities, and were very nimble. When they were forced into a corner, they could also be rather aggressive.

Based on what happened in the past exams, the education department chose dozens of test areas at the edge of the fog and set up bait underground to attract Rapid Biting Rats and other creatures similar to them. Their numbers would be high, but they would all be low-grade monsters which were small and nimble.

When the test started, the education department would release all sorts of stimulation chemicals, infrasounds, and ultrasounds to lure out these monsters from the underground. They would run up to the test area, where the examinees could hunt them down.

The Rapid Biting Rats were fast, nimble, and as slippery as loaches. With the standards of high school students, it would be very difficult for them to kill these things, but since their attack power was low, even if dozens of them surged over, they would at most just cover the examinees in bite wounds.

The examinees wore gel protective suits. Their physiological parameters were monitored and invigilators watched them from nearby as well. Usually, no lives were endangered in the test. At most, some examinees had to suffer a little.

Illusion Cat was a middle-sized feline-type monster with sharp claws and swift movements. It had quite a lot of attack power, but to pseudo undergraduates, they were still not so powerful that they could not be overcome.

What the examinees needed to pay attention to was high-grade monsters.

Based on the past tests, during the second half of the practical test, the main invigilator always released some rather fierce and large creatures so that the outstanding examinees could fight them.

If the examinees wanted to get into the famous universities, they could not miss out on killing these “bosses”, because they were worth a lot of points.

Meng Chao thought about it and joined a row with Chu Feixiong. They entered a huge military-grade tent to get their exam equipment.

The “currency” they used in exchange for the equipment was the marks they obtained during the written test.

This was a special rule Dragon City’s education department had thought of to encourage the students to excel in both academics and martial arts.

The results of the written test were not included in the final ranking. If the students wanted to get into university, they had to rely on their practicals.

But aside from the gel fighting suit, the equipment used during the practical test had to be exchanged for using marks from the written exam.

They had to “buy” everything, including knives and bullets.

The better their written tests results were, the more guns and ammunition they could get, and they could also get higher-quality cold weapons.

The total points one could get was one thousand and two hundred points, and the outstanding students from the three famous schools usually scored more than nine hundred points. They then used them to exchange for up to twenty cartridges, a semi-automatic rifle with an infrared scope, and a super alloy saber that could even cut hair.

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This made their efficiency when hunting down monsters to increase by leaps and bounds.

Normal examinees usually scored from six hundred to seven hundred points and needed to carefully consider between buying the super alloy saber or the guns and ammunition.

If they wanted to kill Rapid Biting Rats, they could only get a low-grade saber made from normal materials, which meant that the blade would bend before they could kill a lot of monsters.

As for those who were all brawns and no brains and only managed to get between three hundred and five hundred points, they were basically eliminated from the competition of getting into the famous universities. Even if they managed to train their three basic force execution methods really well, they could not just rely on their bare fists to kill hundreds of Rapid Biting Rats, right?

Of course, there were some rather unique examinees. They had weak abilities but all sorts of strange talents, such as the ability to work machines, create medicine, or control minds.

They had to enter various specialization competitions during high school to get a lot of points.

This allowed them to get all sorts of grand equipment, such as strengthened exoskeletons with great firepower, which could make up for their lack of fighting strength, during the practical test.

However, if they enjoyed the bonus points from the competitions, they could only join certain specializations.

For example, if they gained bonus points from high school machinery competitions, they could only get into the machine course. They were not allowed to get into the martial arts course, heroic spirit course, or monster controller system.

But that was fair.

When Meng Chao and Chu Feixiong walked into the equipment room, they saw one of the special students. His skin was pale, his eyes were swollen, and his lower body was weak, but his upper body was strong. One glance was enough to know that he was a shut-in. He wore a strengthened exoskeleton with powerful firepower and looked like a machine monster.

He was clearly a machine genius. There was no need for them to be jealous of this boy, so they only looked at each other, smiled, and went in to choose their equipment.

“Meng Chao?”

There were already quite a number of youngsters with outstanding presences in the equipment room. When they saw Meng Chao, the eyes of one of them lit up, and he called out to him in a friendly manner.

Meng Chao managed to recognize him as the student council president of Construction High. He was Luo Hai, the person who held his hand during the mental strength test.

Oh, his dad seemed to be a six-star superhuman living in Dragon City No.1—Soul Breaking Saber Master Luo Hai.

“Come, let me make introductions.”

Luo Hai beckoned him over with a smile, as if they were both really familiar with each other. “This is Fang Da from First High School, and this is Xie Feng from Second High School. They are all outstanding people from their schools. Today, they’re the strongest in Test Area 5523. Later, if you run into them hunting in an area, move away from them, because they’ll end up killing all the Rapid Biting Rats!”

“This is...”

Fang Da and Xie Feng’s fathers were all Heaven Realm elites who were at the same level as Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu. They belonged in the same circle, so it was only natural that they were familiar with Luo Hai.

But they had never met Meng Chao. When they saw that he was nothing special to look at, they could not help but be puzzled.

“This is Meng Chao, and he’s someone extraordinary from Ninth High School. He’s very famous in Tiger Forest Region,” Luo Hai said with a smile.

“Ninth High School?”

The two elites from First High School and Second High School looked at each other and could not help but snicker.

Meng Chao swept a glance over the group and got an accurate grasp of the three people’s mindsets.

Luo Hai might seem to be very friendly, but he had his own thoughts in his head. He had to be thinking about using Meng Chao to attract the attention of the two elites so that he could avoid getting entangled with them during the practical test. Then, he could quickly kill all the monsters and get points without any distractions.

First High School's Fang Da was a plump boy with a round face. He might have seemed harmless, but his eyes shone with a cunning light. He had to be someone not easy to deal with.

Second High School's Xie Feng appeared to be rather prideful, but he definitely had the ability to back it up.

Even though they had their own plans, they were still children, even if from aristocratic families, who had yet to graduate from high school. They wanted to become stronger and were full of life as well as vigor. So, Meng Chao did not find himself disliking them too much.

He nodded and greeted Luo Hai before he went off to choose his equipment.

Since they were going to deal with Rapid Biting Rats, which were small, nimble creatures, guns were naturally the best choice. Luo Hai and the other two bought more than one gun and a large number of bullets.

Of course, they also bought cold weapons. Otherwise, when they finished using their bullets, they would have to catch rats with their bare hands, and it would be rather embarrassing.

The main targets of the practical test the year before were the Golden Claw Spiders. Thunder Rapier was a suitable skill for the examinees to use to kill these things.

This year, their main targets were the Rapid Biting Rats, so they needed downward slashes as well as rolling slashes to fight against them.

Practically everyone bought sabers.

The bones of the Rapid Biting Rats were especially tough. Besides, when they used downward slashes and rolling slashes, the damage to the blade was very high. Hence, everyone bought super alloy sabers, which were of very high quality.

The elites from the famous schools who obtained high marks in the written test even bought more than one saber.

When it was Meng Chao's turn, he fell into deep thought.

'My results might be pretty good, but the outstanding students from the three famous schools aren't there for show. They're all aristocratic children, and they have a lot of resources supporting them. They might have already gone through countless simulations that are similar to this practical test in their homes.

'If I fight against them head on, I'll have no problem in getting into Dragon City University or Agricultural University, but if I want to make sure that I can get into the specialization I want, I need to think carefully about this.

'How should I use the monster knowledge I currently have and get as many points as I can?'

Meng Chao shut his eyes and thought of the structure of the Rapid Biting Rats. He also considered the uses of the materials in their bodies.

After a moment, he came up with a plan. He chose to buy ten Type 35 light hand grenades.

Beep, beep!

Each hand grenade was worth twenty marks, so two hundred points deducted from his written test.

The ten hand grenades and a tactical hand grenade was sent into his hands. He could easily hang them on the ports of his gel fighting suit.

Chu Feixiong chose a light machine gun with great firepower. He then wrapped two criss-crossing ammunition belts over his chest. With his bulky body that weighed more than one hundred kilograms, he looked like a war maniac.

When he saw Meng Chao's choice, he could not help but gasp. "Meng Chao, are you thinking about using anti-small monster hand grenades to hit the Rapid Biting Rats? That'll be such a waste!"

Anti-small monster hand grenades had always been used to kill small monsters like snakes, insects, rats, and ants. It was the most convenient firearm to be used in such situations.

But there was a prerequisite for it. The small monsters had to gather together and form a dense insect swarm or rat hoard.

When a hand grenade was thrown over there, the whole group would die, and the sight would be just amazing.

But during the practical test, the number of Rapid Biting Rats would definitely not reach the amount required to form a rat hoard. Besides, there were more than one thousand murderous examinees who would go after them, so the monsters would definitely scatter and flee.

The rats were fast and nimble, and their fur was as tough as steel needles, so they held a certain degree of destructive abilities.

If someone threw a hand grenade, they would at most be able to kill one or two of them. The rest of the explosive damage would be wasted, so it was better to use bullets.

At the very least, bullets were cheap. Even if they had to use three or five to kill a Rapid Biting Rat, it was still better than wasting a hand grenade.

Meng Chao smiled and sized up the weight of the ten hand grenades in his hands. He felt that he could bear it.

So, he bought another ten light hand grenades and five napalm bombs, which were even more expensive.

When he hung these things off his body, Chu Feixiong was not the only one shocked. Even Luo Hai, Fang Da, Xie Feng, and the other examinees who were choosing their equipment were shocked.

'What's this guy doing? Is he thinking that he got too many points in his written test and wants to enjoy the feeling of spending lavishly?'

They fixed their eyes on Meng Chao and watched how he would spend his remaining three hundred points.

Meng Chao chose a Lightning Saber.

The Type 10 Lightning Saber was a super saber made of alloy ten years after Dragon City transmigrated. It was modeled after more than one hundred ancient sabers on Earth and the essence of dozens of modern military sabers.

Its full length was 0.9m, and it weighed 4.5kg. Its center of gravity was balanced, and there was a lightning pattern on both sides of the blade, which increased its toughness and speed. If an elite brandished it at full speed, they could even break the speed of sound.

If it were regarded with Earth standards, it would be a perfect saber.

Chapter 79: The Practical Test Starts!

However, Lightning Saber was made of normal metal. As progress was made and time went by, it gradually fell behind other weapons.

When it was used to hit the shells and bones of monsters, the blade bent easily and even cracked.

During the Year 55 of the New Era, the most advanced cold weapons were fused with monsters' bone powder and metals from the Other World during their creation. Some even had crystals added into them. With nanotech and memory metal folding technique, they were able to break the limits of cold weapons and firearms.

In the hands of superhumans with great spirit energy, super sabers were not just able to release sword glares and saber flames that would reach dozens of meters, but could meld into different shapes and release different attacks.

They were also stupidly expensive.

The skill required to use Lightning Saber was not high, but it was of excellent quality and very cheap. It was, thus, often used by the Red Dragon Army and normal citizens.

During the practical test, its price was the lowest as well. The students could get one with just sixty points.

"Meng Chao, you were very generous when using your points to buy those hand grenades. You spent four five hundred points on them without even blinking. But when it comes to cold weapons, you're being so stingy. You know they're the most important weapons of all, don't you?"

Chu Feixiong chose a Large-toothed Shark Saber, which was created during the Year 45 of the New Era. He stared at the coldly glinting saw-toothed blade in satisfaction and did not agree with his best friend's choice.

"The Rapid Biting Rats might be small, but their spines are really tough. If you use such a cheap saber, its blade will bend after just a few hits. If you can't kill them with one strike, it won't be counted into your points as well.

They only had a limited number of bullets. Even if they exchanged all their points for bullets, it was impossible for them to get high marks through shooting.

They needed to rely on cold weapons to kill during the second half of the test.

Everyone paid a lot of attention to the cold weapons. The Large-toothed Shark Saber was the lowest quality saber that they could accept. No one was like Meng Chao and chose Lightning Saaber, which was really cheap.

Meng Chao thought about his answer. "As long as I'm careful and cut them through the gap in their spines and not touch their tough bones, I will be able to cut their central nervous system right away. I won't have to worry about a bent blade."

"I just let down my guard for a moment, and you seized the opportunity to act cool again. Look at you, acting all smug!" Chu Feixiong said.

"Examinees, please choose your weapons on your own. Don't talk to each other!" said the invigilator who stood in the corner. He had a very stern tone.

But his eyes were full of curiosity. He did not understand why this examinee, who had managed to score so high, would make such ridiculous decisions.

Once he bought the hand grenades and the saber, he had around two hundred points left.

Everyone thought that Meng Chao would definitely choose a gun this time.

Even if he could no longer buy a semi-automatic rifle, he could still buy a small pistol to protect himself.

To their surprise, however, Meng Chao swiped and tapped until he reached the supplementary items. He chose the highest grade tactical emergency health kit, which was only used by medical soldiers.

'What's that for?' The examinees were confused. 'Is he afraid of being injured by the Rapid Biting Rats?'

The more Meng Chao bought, the more enthusiastic he became. After he examined a few outdoor MRE, he chose four bags of the highest grade MRE.

Most of the onlookers were stunned. They could understand that Meng Chao was being careful when he bought the emergency health kit, but why did he buy the MRE?

They would be inside just for six hours, and they were going to kill Rapid Biting Rats, which were small monsters that were not very threatening. Just how bad was this guy's stamina that he could not even last for a quarter of a day?

But if he really could not last, he could get a few energy gels, chocolate bars, or high-grade nutritional fluid. That was the normal choice. No one would act like him and buy MRE as if he was going on a feast during the test!

Meng Chao ignored everyone's shocked gazes. He used his final points to buy a multi-purpose military shovel. Then, he stuffed all his things into his backpack. "I'm done. Let's go!"

"Are you... really not going to get any bullets? You still have time to change your decision!" Chu Feixiong stared at him in shock.

“There are various ways to solve problems.” Meng Chao smiled.

The examinees were geared up to their teeth. Aside from the youthful look that had yet to fade from their faces, they actually looked like hardened soldiers.

They walked out of the equipment room valiantly and in high spirits to enter the final waiting room.

To his slight surprise, Meng Chao saw the old principal from Ninth High School here.

Principal Sun, who usually looked bleary-eyed and clumsy, was dressed in a murderous-looking camouflage uniform. He also had guns and weapons on his back, which was something rare for him. He looked even cooler than when the fog descended on them a few days ago.

“Hello, Principal Sun!” Meng Chao and Chu Feixiong were both very surprised.

It was only after they asked that they learned that Principal Sun was also an invigilator and patroller. He was in charge of protecting the examinees’ safety.

“You have to personally patrol the area even when you’re at this age and have such a high status?” Meng Chao was amazed.

“The practical tests for university entry are militarized. In school, I am a principal and you are my students. But when it comes to the national college examination, I am a military officer and you are my soldiers. It doesn’t make sense for the soldiers under me to rush into the fray while I stay at home with no soldier to command, right?”

Principal Sun smiled. “This has always been the custom of Dragon City’s national college examination. Every year, during the practical test, the school leaders personally come to the frontlines and fight with the children. Otherwise, your parents would be worried.”

“Then, please don’t push yourself. You were injured pretty badly during the monster ambush three days ago, right?” Meng Chao whispered.

On the night the fog descended, Principal Sun’s “heavy cannons” released loud bangs the entire night. When he came back, he was sent straight to the hospital. It seemed like his organs were all damaged.

Meng Chao had been thinking about visiting Principal Sun in the hospital after the national college examination, so he did not expect that Principal Sun would stand here as if nothing had happened to him.

“It’s thanks to your reminder that day. Those Evolved Demonic Air Ripping Eyes were really damn crafty. Luckily, I was only injured lightly and have fully recovered now!” Principal Sun slapped Meng Chao’s shoulder.

Meng Chao really wanted to get closer to heroic citizens so that he could get affected by their heroic spirits or something.

However, the invigilators and examinees could not have too much contact with each other, and Principal Sun had a great sense of propriety. After giving a few words of encouragement to the Ninth High School students, he moved to the side and refused to say anything else.

Under the guidance of the chief invigilator, all the geared-up examinees sat down in meditative positions and used Dark Tortoise Stance to regulate their breathing.

Their breathing was elongated, and gradually, they imagined themselves as old tortoises who had entered hibernation. They focused their minds and calmed their breathing to nurse their bodies while they waited for the final battle.

Time passed.

The clock turned 23:55.

The military had already surrounded the dozens of examination areas at the edge of the border. Through the special equipment they buried underground, they released chemicals and infrasounds to the depths of the examination areas.

The combination of chemicals and infrasounds brought chaos to the Rapid Biting Rats' central nervous system, so they thought that an earthquake was about to happen and ran to the surface.

The military also dumped a large amount of sticky liquid with stimulative scents around the examination areas.

The sticky liquid was extracted from the insides of the Rapid Biting Rats' mortal enemies—snake-type monsters. It made the Rapid Biting Rats think that there were snakes with their mouths wide open waiting for them outside.

Hence, the large number of Rapid Biting Rats would only run around the examination area, but would not dare to step out of it, which made them perfect targets for the examinees.

23:57.

The invigilators and patrollers entered the exam area to ensure the examinees' safety.

11:59.

The Internet was connected. Big data started pouring in, and all the examinees' physiological parameters and the images their cameras caught were instantly transferred to the superbrains. Through infrared rays and image analysis, they could calculate just how many monsters they killed and how many points they could get from it. Then, it was reflected on their communicators.

Each examinee could check their points and ranking live and predict whether they could get into the university of their choice. Then, they could choose whether they wanted to fight defensively or aggressively during their subsequent hunts.

Meanwhile, in the monitoring center at the back, aside from the recruiters from the universities, many of the powerful people from the Red Dragon Army, Supernatural Tower, and other major industries paid attention to the practical test so that they could choose the talents that caught their eye.

Strength, speed, spirit energy, and beautiful killing techniques were all things that could be cultivated or even forcibly taught to a person.

But the wisdom and courage people displayed with normal bodies was the base for people to become powerful.

Midnight arrived.

It was a brand new day, and the practical test began.

A loud signal flare flew into the clouds from the military commander's vehicle.

The countless eager examinees in the dozens of examination areas rushed into the most important battleground of their lives.

After dozens of years of being a part of the Other World, the former Dawn Machine Factory had already been trampled so badly by the creatures of the Other World that it was unrecognizable.

Thick vines had pushed through the cracks on the ground and wrapped themselves around the building and broke cement. They even split the pillars made of reinforced concrete, which resulted in most of the building collapsing.

The walls were originally smooth and flat, but they had crumbled to reveal a dark hole. There were also cracks that intersected with each other like spider's web led to who knew where.

There were more than one hundred stone pillars, but the world around them had corroded them until they looked like fangs. They stood tall in the depths of the machine factory like a stone forest that reminded people of a maze.

"Screech!"

Countless Rapid Biting Rats the size of cats moved about in a frenzy in the ugly space.

"Kill them!"

Many of the examinees started firing their guns the moment they jumped on the walls of the machine factory. The dense firepower shot a lot of the Rapid Biting Rats full of holes, but the examinees also lost a lot of bullets.

The examinees who came from key high schools ignored the Rapid Biting Rats scurrying about their feet. They focused on heading into the depths of the factory.

Since the military had placed the stimulative scent of the rats' mortal enemies outside the exam area, it was only natural that there were only a few Rapid Biting Rats by the edges of the perimeter.

It was a dumb choice to stay on the outskirts to kill the rats.

They should head to the center of the machine factory and search for the place where the Rapid Biting Rats gathered. It was the best way to maximize the efficiency of their hunt.

Dawn Machine Factory was huge. It had more than ten departments and all sorts of affiliated facilities. Even if there were more than one thousand examinees wandering about inside, it was not very cramped.

But the map the military provided was the version of the factory before the transmigration.

After the changes the area had gone through in fifty years, it had long since become unrecognizable. The paths and stairs that originally existed were no longer around.

Besides, it was dark. The visibility was incredibly low, and the place looked like a shattered maze.

Only a few examinees were able to analyze the situation in detail and instantly locate the path heading to the core through the destroyed space.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

While most of the examinees were fumbling about outside and quite a few people fell into the depths because they slipped, which caused them to sprain their ankles or wrists, three figures jumped about lightly on the strange stones that looked like intersecting canine fangs or broken pillars. Their movements were so light that they looked like smoke that had no weight. Very quickly, they covered dozens of meters and landed at the center of the factory.

They were First High School's Fang Da, Second High School's Xie Feng, and Construction High's Luo Hai.

The three elites looked at each other and smiled.

Chapter 80: Luring the Rats Out of their Holes

"Looks like we're the only ones in this exam area who can put up something of a fight against each other," Fang Da said lackadaisically.

"That's right. I really can't muster any interest to fight when I have to face you two and the Rapid Biting Rats." Xie Feng pursed his lips.

Luo Hai looked away and cast a glance at the darkness in the distance. He quirked his eyebrows.

'Strange? Meng Chao did not get in. Did I make a misjudgment and he's really just someone slow?'

Luo Hai did not say anything more and charged in with his two competitors.

They were in the largest department of Dawn Machine Factory.

Now, it was the home of tens of thousands of Rapid Biting Rats.

"Screech!"

When there was a sufficient number of them, the Rapid Biting Rats unleashed a terrifying ferocity. They bared their teeth and pounced at the trio.

Bang, bang, bang!

The trio fired calmly using burst mode. Practically every bullet they fired delivered a headshot to a Rapid Biting Rat.

The cameras and the infrared scanners immediately captured the images of their kills and completed the calculations once they were uploaded to the tactical data link.

Twenty points, thirty points, fifty points, one hundred points.

The trio's points shot up by leaps and bounds.

The numbers representing their ranking in the city became smaller, and they drew closer to the top.

There was a rule set during the practical test: Students were not allowed to snatch each other's prey and to have any internal conflicts; otherwise, they would be chased out of the exam area.

Besides, there were a lot of Rapid Biting Rats. With the ammunition they brought in, they would not be able to kill them all.

Hence, the atmosphere between the three elites was rather harmonious. They killed the rats in a relaxed manner and were even in the mood to joke with each other.

"Hey, Luo Hai, let's talk about that idiot from Tiger Forest Region. Why did he choose ten expensive grenades, flame bombs, and the cheapest saber, but didn't get a single pistol or bullet? Does he really lack confidence in his shooting skills?" Fang Da asked with a smile.

"His shooting skills aren't good? At least he knows his limits by choosing so many hand grenades. But he still wasted a lot of points. Why did he buy an emergency health kit and MREs? Heh, he's pretty interesting. Is he afraid of hunger or death? Seriously, all sorts of talents come out of Tiger Forest Region." Xie Feng was smiling as well.

Luo Hai gritted his teeth and said nothing. He just continued shooting.

The three elite examinees' performances were seen by the high school teachers, university recruiters, powerful fighters in the military, and the bosses in the business industry through the monitor in the monitoring center.

"Fang Da's gun technique is pretty good. As expected of Eagle Eye Fang Rui's son," said a military officer in the uniform of a colonel. "Every bullet goes through a Rapid Biting Rat's eyeball. He fired a total of three hundred and twenty-seven shots, but missed none. He's a talented young'un and we'll be taking him!"

"Old Xing, no one is going to snatch him from you. You don't have to look as if you're about to stake your life to fight for him." A university lecturer who looked very elegant smiled. "Dragon City University has more of a fancy for Xie Feng. I heard that he completed the training with Raging Wave Stance when he was just thirteen.

"During his three years of high school, he continuously ranked at the top of stance competitions in the city. Regardless of which university he goes to, he will become a powerful martial artist, but if he wants to enter Deity Realm, he has to enter Dragon City University's martial arts course and learn the Overkill Style!"

"Wait, why are you being so impatient?" A superhuman with a gaze as sharp as blades smiled. "Soul Breaking Saber Luo Wu is a master of sabers. Even so, his son didn't fall too far behind in points compared to Fang Da and Xie Feng when it comes to shooting technique. Later on, when they finish using their bullets, they will need to start killing with cold weapons. We'll see just who will be the king of the exam at that time!"

The powerful fighters looked with admiring gazes at the youthful but fierce children in the test area.

However, as they listened to the three children bicker, they could not help but be curious. “Who is this Meng Chao they speak of?”

He had attracted quite a lot of attention during the mental strength test in Tiger Forest Region, and now he also brought eyes to himself when he decided to take another path and choose a large amount of hand grenades, flame bombs, emergency health kits, and MREs.

A powerful fighter brought up Meng Chao’s test footage and data, then put it on the screen.

The invigilators and powerful fighters noticed that he had not managed to get even a single mark even though the test had begun five minutes ago!

“Is this student... taking a stroll in the exam area?” one of the people could not help but ask.

If Meng Chao could get into the practical test for university entrances, it meant that his speed, strength, and shooting technique had already reached the standard of best humans on Earth.

At that moment, aside from him, even the weakest examinees had already killed more than ten Rapid Biting Rats.

But he had his hands placed behind his back while he took a stroll around the factory. Sometimes, he even crouched down to grab a handful of dirt or vines and sniffed them. He did a lot of strange things, but never fought.

While the invigilators and the powerful fighters were puzzled by his actions, he started working calmly.

After going through handfuls of dirt, he finally found a place that satisfied him. He brought out his military shovel and started digging. Soon, a huge pit was before him.

He tore open an MRE meant for a single soldier and mixed the refined sugar as well as chocolate with some of the high-calorie nutritional fluid in the emergency health kit. He then rolled them into a few small balls and threw them into the pit.

Soon, a large number of mutated earthworms, millipedes, and all sorts of creepy crawlers of strange shapes crawled out of the cracks in the earth and the broken walls. They were all attracted by the sweet scent.

Meng Chao used the military shovel and dug out all these Other World crawlers. They came in all sorts of colors, had faint acidic properties, and weak poison. He tossed them on the ground and started identifying them carefully.

“What is he doing?”

The invigilators and the powerful fighters looked at each other, but they could not understand what he was trying to do.

The Other World crawlers could be considered as monsters as well, but only somewhat.

If Meng Chao killed them, he would not get any points!

Meng Chao did not know that he had become the center of attention.

But even if he would have known, he would not have cared.

He chose the Other World crawlers he needed and brought out the lancet knife and suturing needle from the emergency health kit. He cut the dozens of Other World crawlers up and dissected them to get some materials.

Then, he used the heater from the self-heating MRE and the items in the emergency health kit to make a simple extraction device.

He carefully crushed the materials from the Other World crawlers and tossed them in. Then, he added fructose water, heated it, stirred it, and extracted it.

Half a minute later, the originally murky crawler liquid released a crystalline blue shine.

Meng Chao straightened his arms in front of him so that the crawler liquid would be as far away from his body as possible. Then, he used his palm to gently fan the mouth of the extraction device .

A slightly stimulative and gamey smell wafted into his nostrils.

He nodded. 'That's the scent, all right.'

Meng Chao sealed up the test tube and calmly started hunting.

At that moment, most of the students had already killed dozens of Rapid Biting Rats.

Most of the elites from the three famous schools had taken down close to two hundred rats. Some even managed to kill more than that.

Meng Chao did not bring any guns with him, and his effectiveness was not high.

Besides, he seemed to have some sort of preference when it came to hunting the Rapid Biting Rats. There were a few times when he just ignored the large Rapid Biting Rats strutting by his feet. He could not be bothered to use any of his strength.

When another ten minutes passed, he only had five Rapid Biting Rats under his name.

"Is that student... killing just female rats?" an invigilator voiced his puzzlement in the monitor center.

Male rats were slightly larger. Their fur was shinier, and their fangs were also slightly sharper.

But when they were converted to points, both male rats and female rats were worth the same amount of points.

The female rats were small, so it was harder to hit their vitals, making it harder to kill them.

Did this student have a grudge against female rats?

"Look, he sat down again!"

On the screen, Meng Chao lifted the five female rats by their tails and searched for a dry spot to sit down comfortably. Then, he continued with his harvesting job.

His lancet knife danced about like a silver butterfly, and the suturing needle moved as if it had some form of strange magnetic force. It always managed to bring out incredibly fine and fragile materials from the depths of the female rats' stomachs.

Meng Chao tossed the slightly red materials into the crawler liquid and added acetaminophen and cardiotoxic drugs [1]. They were both commonly seen medicine in emergency health kits. The former could be used to increase blood pressure, and the latter could stimulate the heart.

This time, he only heated the liquid until it was around sixty degrees before he moved the heater away.

Then, he squeezed out all of the meat stock fried rice from the single serving MREs. It was fragrant and greasy, and he rolled it into ten huge rice balls.

Next, he divided the semi-translucent liquid that was mixed with monster materials and crawler liquid into even portions which he injected into the rice balls.

Soon, the rice balls that had crawler liquid released a strange, bluish light.

"He seems to have extracted the female rats' reproductive glands, and the crawler liquid can stimulate the nervous system."

At that moment, a few university recruiters were finally able to decipher what he was doing. "He added acetaminophen and cardiotoxic drugs in them to turn them into some sort of... dope? And it's not for humans..."

Meng Chao brought the ten rice balls which had additives in them to a pipe full of murky water in a corner of the machine factory.

Decades of dirty water and mud had accumulated there, which made the place stink so much that he wanted to puke.

The place was also covered in traps. The ground might have seemed to be black at first glance, but if he stepped on it, he might actually die.

The normal examinees and the elites from the three famous schools were not willing to come here to hunt.

Besides, there weren't many Rapid Biting Rats here anyway.

A few could be seen here and there, but before anyone could aim at them, those rats would run into the drainage pipe at lightning speed. The bullets were not able to catch up to them.

Meng Chao grinned. He tossed the ten rice balls around the drainage pipe.

His movements were very skilled. He made sure that there was a distance of several meters between each rice ball.

Once he was done, he took two steps back and crouched down. Then, he removed all the hand grenades and flame bombs from his body to line them up in front of him.

Since he was far away, the other examinees could not see that he had thrown the rice balls out. They only saw him cradling his face and squatting in front of the drainage pipes.

They could not help but laugh after seeing that.

‘What exactly is that guy doing? Everyone knows that the Rapid Biting Rats are very wary creatures. If you squat there, even if they can’t see you, they’ll still be able to smell you.

‘You can wait for the rats to come to you, but it won’t work. Even if you squat there until it becomes bright outside, you won’t see a Rapid Biting Rat crawling out.’

The examinees shook their heads and looked at the empty cartridges in their hands. They tossed the guns in their hands to the side and drew their cold weapons to begin their second stage of hunting.

Meanwhile, the recruiters, powerhouses in the military, and the bosses of the business industry had completely different expressions.

Through the infrared scanners they had installed inside and outside the drainage pipes, they saw that a large group of Rapid Biting Rats had started charging madly at the mouth of the drainage pipe.

It was as if Meng Chao was blowing a clarinet that they could not see and controlling the minds of the Rapid Biting Rats with a mysterious piece!

Translator’s Note:

[1] What the author wrote doesn’t exist. So I searched for something that did based on his descriptions.