

## Paradise 41

### Chapter 41: You Did Such A Great Job!

Lin Huang was swamped with work for the next two days.

All the people that were sent to him by Yi Yeyu had not been disqualified. They were at least iron-level rank-2, some of them were even iron-level rank-3.

To make matters worse, they were unhappy when they found out that they had to listen to Lin Huang's orders for the next two days. It seemed ridiculous to them because Lin Huang was not even iron-level.

Not knowing what else to do, Lin Huang summoned Tyrant to beat some of them up when they disobeyed him. Only then would they listen to him.

Although Lin Huang did not have powerful abilities, his identity as an Imperial Censor was a rare enough occupation for others to fear him as soon as they found out. When some of them heard that he had two monsters and he was a genius by Imperial Censor standards, they had to bite the bullet and listen to him regardless of the what they thought.

Meanwhile, Yi Yeyu was even busier. There was a limit to the summoning of her green wooden door, and she could only use it 10 times per day. There were 70 to 80 people who were not disqualified since the assessment started and they were scattered in different locations on the map.

She had to get the staff to gather the members who were close to each other and bring them all back within three days.

Yi Yeyu rented the meeting room on the hotel's first floor and gathered all the participants there.

Seeing that some of them were badly beaten, she knew it was Lin Huang's doing to get them to listen to him. As everyone showed up, Yi Yeyu now had a better impression of Lin Huang and his methods.

After quick glances to ensure everyone in the room was in fact not hurt too severely, she started to speak.

"I bet you all have many questions with regards to what has happened the past few days, about why I have gathered all of you here and why you are not allowed you to leave. Let me explain the reason now. Please do not be worried."

"This is what happened. We noticed that the monsters from the desert area to the grassland on the east of Snowy Mountains Town which covers a few thousand kilometers have been acting strangely for the past few days. They have been savagely attacking humans, and are unafraid to fight to the death. After some investigation, we think there is a possibility that a transcendent monster from a with abilities to charm other monsters has appeared nearby," she said calmly.

Everyone was shocked when they heard what Yi Yeyu said.

A transcendent monster was no joke. The reason why a C-grade medium foothold needed a transcendent to guard the foothold was the existence of other transcendent monsters.

A transcendent monster could lead an army of monsters and destroy a medium foothold with a population of millions of people, within a night.

“However... Don’t worry. The association has sent us a transcendent human. He should be here sometime today. He will investigate the situation in the areas nearby and look for the cause of this unusual occurrence. When the problem is solved, I will talk to the management authorities to get the assessment going or perhaps pass everyone who was halfway through the assessment. That said, please be patient and wait inside the foothold,” she said. By the instant ease of tension in the room, Yi Yeyu’s words had comforted the people.

Everyone was here with the goal of becoming a Reserve Hunter. It would be like striking a jackpot win for them if the management was to pass all of them straight away.

In reality, the Hunter Association was not very strict with the Reserve Hunter’s assessment.

It was the head examiner who set the assessment content and standard.

The passing rate made no difference to the association. But with the situation very different to the way protocol dictated, Yi Yeyu filed a report with the management.

Everyone calmed down after what Yi Yeyu had said.

However, there were a few people who raised their hands with questions. “If this foothold is not safe, can’t we just ride eagles and get to other footholds?”

“It might not be safe to ride on the eagles now,” Yi Yeyu explained.

“I was attacked by a flock of White Feathered Goose when I was climbing the mountains. Although an Eagle is most definitely faster than the geese, if it was surrounded by a flock of those geese, the possibility of escape would be nearly impossible,” Lin Huang said, on behalf of Yi Yeyu.

Hearing what Lin Huang said, everyone gave up on their plan to escape on eagles.

After the meeting was adjourned, everyone left with an explanation that they were satisfied with and stayed in the foothold as they were told.

As Yi Yeyu and the rest of her staff were back, Lin Huang was finally freed of his duties.

It was pretty late at night when he left the hotel. While Lin Huang was practicing with his sword in his room, Yi Yeyu called him and asked him to meet her in her room.

Lin Huang was skeptical at first, but he went anyway.

When he entered her room, there was another man in Yi Yeyu’s room.

The man looked very ordinary and may have been in his 30s. He was slightly tan, slender, and stood at about 180 centimeters tall.

Yi Yeyu introduced the man to Lin Huang immediately. “This is Master Zhang Bo. He was sent by the association to look into the situation,” she explained.

“Nice to meet you, Master Zhang.”

Lin Huang could not tell that this man who looked ordinary was in fact, a transcendent, partly because of the fact that he was the first transcendent that he had ever seen. He could not help but stare at him. However, he looked like he was no different from any normal person and Lin Huang could not sense any extraordinary abilities from him.

“Master Zhang, this young man is Lin Huang, the one I mentioned to you earlier,” Yi Yeyu continued as she introduced Lin Huang to Zhang Bo.

Zhang Bo patted Lin Huang’s shoulder with a warm smile. He seemed friendly.

“Young man, please tell me about the monster attack you encountered during your assessment. Recount the incident as carefully as you can, do not spare a single detail,” he asked.

Lin Huang nodded and told him everything.

As Yi Yeyu did not know all the details of the encounter, listening to Lin Huang talking about the dangers that he had gone through, she was even more impressed by this young man abilities.

Lin Huang took 20 minutes to tell his story. Once he finished, Zhang Bo again, patted him on his shoulder, much harder this time. “You did great, young man! I believe you will be an extraordinary hunter in the future!” he said.

Lin Huang was shy to hear the compliment. He just blushed and scratched his head in response.

“From what you said, there’s a high possibility that there is, in fact, a charm-class transcendent monster,” Zhang Bo said casually with a smile. “Let me hunt it down. I will try my best to find it and kill it before daybreak!” he continued.

“Isn’t it better to do it in the morning?” Yi Yeyu asked.

Yi Yeyu asked out of concern as monsters were known to be more energized at night so they would be more powerful.

Of course, Zhang Bo knew that but he did not care. “There’s no need to wait, the earlier we solve this, the earlier we will be relieved of the threat,” he replied.

Apparently, Zhang Bo was a resolute person. He then opened the window in Yi Yeyu’s room and leaped forward. He flew out of the window and disappeared in a blink of an eye.

Looking at Zhang Bo’s ability to fly, Lin Huang became envious of him.

Yi Yeyu seemed to see through what Lin Huang was thinking and laughed. “Keep training, young man. You’ll be able to fly too when you became a transcendent.”

Lin Huang was embarrassed, so he changed the subject. “Who is this Master Zhang?” he asked Yi Yeyu.

“Zhang Bo the Air Gun is a powerful gunman. He was upgraded to a transcendent two years ago. Before he became a transcendent, he was on the Gold Hunter Leaderboard and he was the 33rd best in Division7.” Yi Yeyu explained.

“Is being the 33rd best considered an achievement?” Lin Huang asked as he did not find that impressive.

“You know nothing. Do you know how many hunters there are in Division 7? There are more than 100,000 Gold Hunters alone. Those who are in the top 1000th are the best in the entire industry!” Yi Yeyu rolled her eyes at Lin Huang and gave him a lesson on the leaderboard.

“So what is your rank?”

“I’m No.998,” Yi Yeyu said proudly.

“Okay, it’s great that you are among the top 1000 people then,” Lin Huang said and gave her a perfunctory compliment.

“Why does it sound like you think I suck for being no.998?” Yi Yeyu glared at Lin Huang.

“That’s not what I meant! Let me tell you again,” he said. Lin Huang then used a sarcastic voice and shouted, “Wow, it’s so amazing that you’re among the top 1000 people! You did such a great job!”

“Go back to your room now,” Yi Yeyu growled, extremely irritated.

Chapter 42: The Transcendent Is Dead?!

It was five o’clock in the morning, and the sky was still dark. Lin Huang woke up with a start from his slumber.

He heard a rumbling noise from far away. It sounded like thunder or continuous bombing.

Even the hotel’s glass windows were vibrating.

“Is that thunder?” Lin Huang thought. It seemed really strange as the noise sounded more like it came from some heavy artillery fire.

Putting his doubts aside, Lin Huang walked to the window and looked at the sky.

It was dark and with a few stars in the distance. It did not look like it was going to rain at all.

“Could it be the two transcendents fighting?” he thought. Just as Lin Huang imagined the idea in his mind, the noise suddenly got far away and within minutes, it disappeared.

Lin Huang then emptied his mind. Since it was still dark outside, he went back to sleep.

Before seven o’clock in the morning, the Emperor’s Heart Ring on Lin Huang’s finger vibrated and woke him up a second time that morning.

It was Yi Yeyu who called.

“What’s wrong with her, calling me so early...” He looked at the time. It was only 6:40. Lin Huang mumbled to himself and picked up the call.

“Lin Huang, come to my room. I have something important to tell you!” Yi Yeyu shouted over the phone, sounding deadly serious.

“So early?” Lin Huang said, still annoyed.

“Stop dawdling. Come now!” Yi Yeyu hung up the phone.

Lin Huang washed his face. He did not even brush his teeth, he just gargled water and left.

When he arrived at Yi Yeyu’s room, she was pacing up and down in her room, an intensely concerned look on her face. She did not even notice that Lin Huang was already in her room.

“What happened?” Lin Huang said as he closed the door. It was unusual to see Yi Yeyu like that.

“Zhang Bo is dead!” Yi Yeyu said as she turned around to face Lin Huang.

“Whaa..ttt?!” Lin Huang stuttered. He was in shocked. “You mean the transcendent that we met last night?”

“I was woken up by a rumbling noise at four in the morning so I guessed they were fighting. I used a Scouting Relic to look in at their battle. At first, they were fighting not far from the mountains. Then, they got further away and more than two hours later, he was killed by the monster, and his dead body was eaten. The monster was badly injured and escaped underground,” Yi Yeyu said.

“Did you inform the Hunter Association yet?” Lin Huang asked, surprisingly calm.

“I informed them at around six in the morning. It was the first thing I did when I knew he was killed. I have also sent the recording of their battle from my relic,” Yi Yeyu replied with a nod.

“What did the Hunter Association say?” Lin Huang asked.

“They said the next transcendent will take at least two days to arrive...” Yi Yeyu responded, a helpless look on her face. “However, now that the transcendent monster is badly injured, it will lead the other monsters to kill humans around the footholds to engulf their Life Light to heal itself before the next transcendent comes.”

“Why can’t you bring the transcendent here with your green wooden door? Wouldn’t that be much faster?” Lin Huang said, as the thought suddenly crossed her mind.

“The green wooden door is just a regular Dimensional Relic. It’s not as magical as you think it is. There are many limitations to it. It can only go to places that I have been, as well as locations of which I have the coordinates for. There are limitations to the distance too, where it can only transport people that are within a 3000-kilometer radius. It will not just send you wherever you want to go,” Yi Yeyu shook her head.

“Then how about the quantity? Is there a limitation to that as well? How many people can you send through in a day?” Lin Huang asked.

“The maximum capacity would be 300 people at once and five trips back and forth per day. Which means I could send and bring 1500 people in a day. But there are more than 200,000 people in this foothold...” Yi Yeyu shook her head as she had thought of the plan before but it would not work.

“There are too few eagles here as well, less than 50 of them...” Lin Huang said. He thought they could use the eagles and leave the foothold, but soon he figured that plan would not work.

“Forget about it, let’s not think of it anymore. I will gather everyone here at eight o’clock. I will send all of you away,” Yi Yeyu said. Knowing that she could that send all of the residents, Yi Yeyu hesitated no more and decided the best course of action herself.

But if we leave, 200,000 people will be killed by the monsters,” Lin Huang stared intensely at Yi Yeyu. He did not agree with her plan to leave all the residents to certain doom. They were talking about human lives after all.

“I will stay,” Yi Yeyu said calmly.

Lin Huang was quiet after what Yi Yeyu said. He was thinking if he should get Xue Luo and Bing Wang to help, but after some thought, he decided not to.

Although he had saved Xue Luo’s life, Xue Luo had restored his Life Wheel and even gave him an epiphany.

That said, they did not owe each other anything.

Moreover, Xue Luo was one of the monsters. It would be too much to ask if Lin Huang was to get her to kill a transcendent monster that had done nothing to her.

After much thought, Lin Huang asked, “You said the transcendent monster was badly injured, which would mean that the possibility of it fighting would hardly be a worry, but it can still lead all the monsters here. There are level-1 and level-2 wild zones nearby where the strongest monsters are not more than bronze-level monsters. If we stay to fight them, we might win!”

“Although the monsters’ levels aren’t high, there will be so many of them. Even a gold-level hunter like me would die from exhaustion if the monster crowd was to attack. I’m one of the members of the Hunter Association. I have to stay to protect the residents. You guys have yet to register yourself with the association so you guys are not hunters yet so there’s no need for all of you to stay. I know you’re young and full of justice, but this is not the time to be heroic. Stay alive now so that you can avenge those who died when you’re stronger in the future,” Yi Yeyu said and shook her head as she disagreed with Lin Huang’s plan. It seemed like she was already prepared to die.

Looking at her, Lin Huang did not say a word.

It was eight o’clock in the morning two hours later. Everyone gathered in the meeting room on the hotel’s first floor after receiving Yi Yeyu’s emergency alert.

Lin Huang sat quietly in the last row of the meeting room.

Everyone included Bai Yan were there. After a moment of silence, Yi Yeyu started to speak.

“The reason why I called all of you here is because I have bad news,” Yi Yeyu said. She then took a deep breath and told them the truth. “The transcendent that was sent by the association found the transcendent monster which caused the uproar last night. However, at six in the morning earlier today, he was killed by the monster,” she said.

The crowd went completely silent after hearing what Yi Yeyu said, but soon, an uproar erupted among them.

“If a human transcendent can be killed by the monster, this foothold isn’t safe at all,” someone said.

“We should’ve left yesterday. Now, this foothold has been marked by the transcendent monster,” another person shouted.

“Miss head examiner, you should be able to send us away right?”

“Miss head examiner, it was you who made us stay, you should be responsible for our safety!” more people said, yelling over each other.

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Overwhelmed by the accusations, Yi Yeyu was upset but she did not say a word.

“Everyone please be quiet! Let the head examiner finish what she was saying,” Lin Huang who sat at the last row stood up and said.

“Lin Huang, you’re responsible for this too. If you didn’t stop us, many of us would have left a few days ago,” another crowd member cried. As it turned out, Lin Huang’s heroic act too attracted some accusation.

“Do you have a death wish?!” Lin Huang roared and summoned Bai. The vampire appeared and stood quietly by Lin Huang’s side, staring at everyone in the room.

Looking at Lin Huang’s expression, some of them were silenced immediately. They recalled getting beaten up by Lin Huang’s monster for disobeying him and shuddered in silence.

“Lin Huang, don’t exploit your power,” Bai Yan said as he stood up across Lin Huang and summoned his Lion-Headed Troll, ready to fight him.

“Both of you this stop right now!” Yi Yeyu shouted. She could not take it anymore!

Seeing Yi Yeyu so mad, the whole crowd was on edge as to what would happen.

“I’m not done yet,” Yi Yeyu continued. She suppressed her anger and said, “I have already informed the management of the association. They are going to send other transcendents here. The thing is, they will need two days to arrive so I’m thinking of sending all of you away from here before that.”

Hearing what Yi Yeyu said, the crowd calmed slightly. Nobody had any objections.

After a moment of silence, a young voice spoke up from the last row, “Miss head examiner, you can send everybody away. I will not leave!”

#### Chapter 43: A Reason To Stay

It was Lin Huang who said the words from his seat in the last row and everyone turned around to look at him.

“Lin Huang, don’t mess around. You would die if you stayed. It’ll be no help at all!” Yi Yeyu scolded.

She had always thought that he was a good person. The more they connected, the more good sides to him she found. She did not want him to stay with the risk that it might destroy his future.

“Miss head examiner, please listen to what I have to say,” Lin Huang insisted and looked Yi Yeyu in the eyes.

However, Yi Yeyu was stubborn. The situation was really awkward.

Suddenly, the meeting room’s door swung open. A young man in a white robe, with his hands in his pockets, walked slowly into the meeting room.

“Yeyu, why don’t you listen to what this kid has to say,” the man said loudly to Yi Yeyu from the back of the room. From his tone of voice, Yi Yeyu and this man seemed to be close.

Yi Yeyu was stunned at the man’s appearance. “Brother, why are you here?” she asked.

“I was running errands nearby, and I heard that you were working as an examiner here. So, I thought I would drop by after I was done with my task. Before I got here, I noticed that the official website of Division7 has gone viral with a video of a transcendent’s death,” he said. To the surprise of all in their state of mourning, the man in white robe laughed.

“You shouldn’t be here,” Yi Yeyu said, a solemn tone to her reply.

“If I didn’t come, knowing the way you’d react, you’d be dead in two days,” he said with a stern look in his eyes. The man knew his sister very well.

Yi Yeyu did not say a word.

The man in white robe then turned around and looked at Lin Huang who sat at the last row of the meeting room.

“Young man, my name is Yi Zheng. I am Yeyu’s brother. I heard from outside that you have a plan. Let’s hear it then.”

Hearing the name, many people in the crowd gasped, especially Bai Yan. With his mouth wide open, he looked like he really admired Yi Zheng. He knew very well that this man was no.11 on the Gold Hunter Leaderboard in Division7. He was terrifyingly powerful.

Lin Huang did not know anything about him. He nodded and said what he had in mind.

“This is my plan. There are more than 200,000 people in this foothold. It’s impossible to escape with every single person. To survive, the only way is to fight! Although the human transcendent would take two days to be here, we should act now as the transcendent monster is badly injured. In such a short period of time, it would unlikely be able to fight again. So what we should be watchful for there’s a horde of monsters out there!”

“To tackle the monster horde with the current number of hunters we have in this foothold would be a bad idea. We have insufficient manpower, but we can ask for help. We can get the Hunter Association to announce an emergency mission and increase the mission reward. People would be lining up to help. Till then, Miss Yi Yeyu would have to use her relic to get to foothold No.7C87 and bring over a few thousand professional hunters. Of course, this is only one of the viable options, for now.”



“The areas around the Snowy Mountain Town are basically level-1 and level-2 wild zones with very few wild-3 wild zones we need to be worried about. If we have sufficient hunters, we can start the fight before the monster horde makes their move. One Silver Hunter could easily conquer a level-2 wild zone within minutes.”

“Moreover, we have the geological advantage on our side as the foothold backs up to the mountains. As soon as we kill all the monsters on the mountains, we can hold back the monsters that are in the desert across the mountains for at least two days. I’ve climbed the mountains before. Although we are human, without any tools, even an iron-level rank-3 Reserve Hunter would need two days to climb those mountains. All we need is to do is guard the foothold for two days until the human transcendent arrives to kill the transcendent monster.”

“About the canyons on the east of Snowy Mountain Town, there are not many monsters there. We can get the staff to clean up the place, block the mouth of the canyon with a giant rock and leave a small path for us to walk through. Then we guard the entrance and kill all the monsters that come in. By my calculations, that will severely thin out the monster horde!”

“The only thing that we cannot defend ourselves from are the birds in the sky. So, we will need a team to specifically tackle the birds.” Everyone was stunned when they heard what Lin Huang said.

Yi Yeyu was stunned too, she did not know that Lin Huang would have so many ideas.

Even Yi Zheng was surprised, he clapped his hands immediately after Lin Huang finished and said, “That’s amazing! Your mind is clear and your proposal is very feasible.”

“I will inform the management now and get them to spread the mission word around while Yeyu will bring the hunters over. We will discuss the details when everyone is gathered,” Yi Zheng said and looked at all the people in the meeting room. “All of you don’t have to be a part of this. You guys can follow Yeyu when she’s going back to the medium foothold. I’ll get her to talk to the management to give all of you a pass in your assessment,” he continued.

After he gave his instructions, Yi Zheng then contacted the Hunter Association. Soon, the proposal was approved.

“It’s been arranged. They will announce the mission now. Please bring these kids with you and go,” Yi Zheng said and nodded towards Yi Yeyu.

“Alright, please come here. I will send you all to the medium foothold,” Yi Yeyu said. She then summoned her green wooden door while waving to the people to join her.

Lin Huang remained seated.

“Lin Huang, come here now!” Yi Yeyu shouted at him.

“I’ve told you that I will not leave,” Lin Huang insisted.

“Young man, you will be of no help even if you stayed. It was your idea. If we manage to win the battle, you will have half the reward to yourself,” Yi Zheng explained as he worried that Lin Huang thought they wanted to take all the glory.

“I would stay even without any rewards,” Lin Huang continually insisted.

“What do you want, Lin Huang?!” Yi Yeyu was mad and shouted at Lin Huang.

“I will only leave when I see all 200,000 people survive!” Lin Huang replied, looking straight into Yi Yeyu’s eyes. Yi Yeyu who was staring at him looked away. She was quiet.

It was awkward for Yi Zheng as he thought Lin Huang wanted to stay for benefits.

The rest were quiet too, some of them were embarrassed.

“I’m staying too!” Suddenly, someone in the crowd shouted.

“Mee too!”

“I’m staying to kill those monsters!”

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They volunteered one by one since one of them had taken the lead.

However, Bai Yan was the coward in the crowd. He mumbled to himself, “All these idiots giving their lives away...”

“Alright, stop acting like a hero. You guys are not children playing house,” Yi Yeyu had tears in her eyes when she yelled at them.

“Lin Huang will stay, those who are iron-level rank-3 can stay too. The rest who can’t even fight an iron-level monster, why would you want to stay?! Go back to medium foothold and train!” She shouted.

#### Chapter 44: Cleaning Up

Yi Yeyu brought more than 50 people, Bai Yan included, when she left the place. Including Lin Huang, there were 12 of them that stayed. Apart from Lin Huang, everyone was iron-level rank-3.

“Since you guys have decided to stay, you have to listen to us!” Yi Zheng said to them. “This is now a battlefield. Your personal safety is secondary to the priority today. Today isn’t all about you. The lives of your comrades matter too. Therefore, you will have to follow my instructions and move as a unit. Understood!?”

“Yes, sir!” The squad of young men stood at attention and shouted.

“What’s your name?” Yi Zheng turned around and looked at Lin Huang.

“Lin Huang.”

“Good. You said you want to see 200,000 people survive. Now I’m going to pass these 10 fellas to you. Your mission is simple. Keep them alive. Do you accept this mission?” Yi Zheng asked and smiled at Lin Huang.

The reason why he gave him this mission was to prevent him from going to battle.

He knew Lin Huang was smart, and with these 10 men, he will not do anything that would put them in harm’s way.

“Mission accepted, Sir,” Lin Huang replied.

Lin Huang nodded and agreed. He knew what Yi Zheng was up to, but he had a plan of his own.

If these young men were to be with the other hunters, they might have weighed them down too.

Professional hunters would never rely on a bunch of young men who were not even registered as Reserve Hunters.

Meanwhile, leading 10 iron-level rank-3 men to clear a level-1 foothold would not be a problem for Lin Huang.

The young men had witness what Lin Huang was capable of as two of them had suffered severe beatings by Tyrant before. The wounds on their faces were still recovering so they obeyed him without question.

Although Yi Zheng did not know that Lin Huang was an Imperial Censor, seeing that nobody objected him being their leader, Yi Zheng knew Lin Huang must either be powerful or a young man with an interesting background.

Just when they agreed on the proposed arrangement, Yi Yeyu brought 300 professional hunters back with her.

Most of them were Silver Hunters. There were 30 Copper Hunters and five Gold Hunters.

Most of them knew who Yi Zheng was. They all showed him a great deal of respect, even the other Gold Hunters too.

Yi Yeyu left right after she sent the hunters through while Yi Zheng started to make other strategies and arrangements.

All 300 hunters spread out quickly to their assigned post. The 20 Copper Hunters were sent to clear the canyon. The Silver Hunters were clearing the foothold on the alps while the Gold Hunters were responsible for cutting the giant rock at the bottom of the alps.

Yi Yeyu made four trips from the medium foothold and brought back 1,200 professional hunters in total. Almost a thousand of them were Silver Hunters, with 20 Gold Hunters while the rest were either Copper Hunters or hunters with terrifying powers or unique abilities.

Before the monster outbreak, Yi Zheng followed the plan suggested by Lin Huang and sent the 1,000 hunters out to clear the mountains and canyons.

In the meantime, the giant rocks there are cut by the Gold Hunters while the smaller boulders were moved by 10 thousand able-bodied adult residents of the foothold to block the mouth of the canyon.

Lin Huang and the rest were sent into the canyon to clear up the monsters. There were two or three of them in a team of Bronze Hunters but there were 11 of them altogether.

There were not many monsters in the canyon. With the involvement of the other professional hunters, the team led by Lin Huang did not even encounter a complete monster in the first hour.

“These professional hunters are so competitive. We have been searching for so long and have changed a couple of routes. All we could find were some monster body parts and trails of blood on the ground,” a tall and strong man in the team complained.

His name was Zhou Le. He was one of the guys who picked a fight with Lin Huang a few days back. The scars that he got from Tyrant were still fresh on his face.

“They’re efficient, and that’s a good thing. It would be perfect if we did not even have to fight during the monster outbreak. That would mean the foothold is completely safe,” Lin Huang replied after much thought.

“Lin Huang, do you really think we can save the foothold?” Zhou Le asked.

“If we manage to cordon off the canyon mouth, guarding it for two days shouldn’t be a problem. The only thing is...” Lin Huang trailed off with a frown on his face.

“What is that?” Zhou Le asked.

“The canyon mouth is too big. I’m worried that before they can barricade and protect it, the outbreak would happen before we’re ready,” Lin Huang voiced out his concern.

“Lin Huang, don’t you jinx it! I still want to leave in one piece and become a transcendent one day!” A short guy named Yu Guang said. He was also one of the guys who picked a fight with Lin Huang and he too had scars on his face to prove it.

“Don’t worry, as long as I am alive, I will bring you all out of here in one piece!” Lin Huang gave them his word.

“There were people here before us moving in this direction. The monsters ahead must already be dead. Let’s take another route,” Zhou Le said as he bent down and studied the tracks on the ground. He had investigative skills. Although his level was not that high, coming up with such detailed estimations was not a problem to him.

“Sure, which direction should we go?” Lin Huang asked as he trusted Zhou Le’s observations.

“Let’s head in a two o’clock direction from this point,” Zhou Le said to Lin Huang after some thought.”

“Damn it! Zhou Le, can we really trust you? We have been following your route for more than an hour, we haven’t even seen a single monster’s hair.” Yu Guang teased.

“Can you really blame me? We have more hunters than monsters now,” Zhou Le shouted back. He felt helpless that his skills did not bring them any action this whole time.

“You are no help, Lin Huang, please take the lead,” Yu Guang suggested.

“I’m not good at investigating. Let’s follow Zhou Le’s route. If any of you think that your investigative abilities are stronger than Zhou Le, please go ahead and lead the way,” Lin Huang turned and said to the group.

Lin Huang rejected Yu Guang’s suggestion as he knew himself very well.

Although he learned a lot about the basics of investigation, when it came to practical use, he was far from being able to compete with Zhou Le's capabilities.

He thought there was no need for him to lead in something that he was not good at. If something went wrong, he would just embarrass himself.

Hearing what Lin Huang said, nobody dared step up. They then followed Zhou Le's route in silence.

After walking for almost 20 minutes, Lin Huang and the gang finally saw a horde of monsters.

They then moved away and hid. It was a group of Ox Devils. There were more than 20 of them. The tallest one stood at a height of five meters and the shortest one was about three meters tall.

Compared to a human, they were considered giants.

However, they did not belong to the giant family but were part of the mutated monster family.

Being different from the giants, their body sizes did not reflect their abilities.

They were similar to humans as they walked on two feet, grabbed things with their hands, and used weapons to attack and protect themselves.

What differentiated them from the humans was that their ox-like heads as well as their hooves and tail.

The Ox Devils were much smarter than iron-level monsters. They even had their own religion and they could make their own totems to strengthen their abilities.

Lin Huang and the gang saw the five-meter tall totem that was guarded by an Ox Devil.

"There are 26 of them and a religious totem. If I'm not mistaken, that totem gives them 10% extra strength. How do we fight that?" Zhou Le asked softly.

"Go set some traps now. I'll destroy the totem later to attract their attention, and they will definitely come rushing at me like the bulls they are. We will wait here for them to fall into our traps," Lin Huang said. He then took out his GrayEagle17 and loaded them with armored bullets...

Chapter 45: Monster Outbreak!

After more than 10 traps were set, Lin Huang aimed his gun at the totem and opened fire.

"Bang! Bang! Bang!"

Three shots were fired and the totem that was as thick as a pail crumbled as splinters and dust flew around. The five-meter tall totem broke through the middle, and the top half of it fell hard on the ground. Sand and dust rose in a thick cloud around it.

The group of Ox Devils was stunned at first, but soon they snapped out of it.

More than 20 of them roared with rage and ran towards the direction they had heard the gunshots come from.

Lin Huang holstered his gun and took out his iron sword that he had not yet had the chance to use in battles.

At the same time, he summoned Bai.

Lin Huang could gain Life Light if he got Bai to kill the monsters but he would not obtain the rewards for cross-rank killing.

On the other hand, if Lin Huang was to kill the monsters himself, he could not receive the Life Lights.

Both had benefits of their own, so Lin Huang chose to try to get the best of both worlds.

Soon, the charging Ox Devils fell into the traps that were set by Lin Huang and gang.

More than 10 Ox Devils who had their Life Power strengthened, had their hooves trapped tight. They could not move at all and howled at the trap's teeth dug deeper into their limbs the more they struggled. The rest of the Ox Devils ran towards Lin Huang and gang with burning fury.

It was not their first time fighting with monsters. Seeing the Ox Devils advancing upon them, instead of panicking, each of them picked one to fight straight on.

Lin Huang picked one that was of a smaller size, not because he thought it was weak, but because he knew that his ability to jump was far less superior as compared to the rest who were iron-level rank-3. It would have been hard for him to attack the crucial parts of the taller Ox Devils.

Looking at the other Ox Devils, Lin Huang thought of a sentence that had been popular for a period of time. "Do you believe that I can jump and break your patella with my fist?" He shouted.

The sentence was applicable to many monsters in the world.

Lin Huang was only 15. His height was considered normal to people of the same age which was about 1.65 meters (don't worry about his height, he would grow taller later) but he did not even reach the waist of the Ox Devil that stood across from him.

However, he was not afraid to face such an enemy. Instead, he was excited.

He held the iron sword in his hand, the black blade was shining brightly under the sun.

Lin Huang stood where he was and stared at the Ox Devil that broke into a run towards him.

The gigantic Ox Devil stomped hard with its iron hooves and the ground beneath it shook violently.

Its eyes were bloodshot red. It only took a second for it to come within meters of Lin Huang. It swung the huge stone hammer in its hand at him, and there was intense whistling sound from the power of the swing.

In Lin Huang's eyes, the Ox Devil's movement seemed much slower than his. He took one sidestep away from the Ox Devil and the beast's attack missed him by millimeters.

He then swung his iron sword, and blood splashed on the ground.

The Ox Devil groaned while it held the left side of its waist. It stared at Lin Huang in hatred.

Lin Huang's sword made a one meter long cut on the Ox Devil's waist, it had almost sliced through its organs.

"The Great Sword Scriptures are so powerful. With my strength and a normal battle sword, it injured this Ox Devil so badly..." Lin Huang thought, impressed with himself. He thought it would have been good enough if he could just break the Ox Devil's defense, but he did not expect the slash would have such an impact.

Since the epiphany, Lin Huang's Great Sword Scriptures had reached a Blue Epic-level and from the original 18 styles, he now had 36 styles.

The 36 styles did not have a name to each. After it was integrated into his body, it felt like an instinct that he was born with. The skills were carved deep in his mind.

Furthermore, his regular styles could be adjusted just by his thoughts.

Lin Huang felt a unique feeling within himself. Previously when he was in training, he could feel that after he had mastered the skills, a transformation would occur in his swordplay.

Now that he was finally using his sword in battle, he was sure that he could reach a new level of experience with his swordplay.

The Ox Devil that was injured by Lin Huang's sword slash stared at him in anger. With the look, Lin Huang felt a very real fear build up within him.

While he hesitated, deciding if he should run away or to continue to attack, he noticed that the Ox Devil was not paying attention to him.

He took the opportunity and attacked the beast.

It swung its two-meter-long stone hammer again and it pierced through the sound barrier. If he was hit, Lin Huang would have died on the spot.

Hearing the whistle from the stone hammer, Lin Huang ducked down, dashed towards the Ox Devil and slashed his sword down on the monster, from the top to bottom.

The Ox Devil let out a loud groan again. Its arm was chopped clean off its shoulder, spouting blood all over the place.

Lin Huang did not stop attacking the animal. He then stepped on the Ox Devil's knee, leaped up and swung his sword.

The Ox Devil held its throat in one hand and did not make any noise.

A thick vein of its neck started shooting blood up in the air with a hissing noise.

Its bloody eyes stared deadly at Lin Huang. It seemed to not reconcile to the fact that it was at Death's door.

Soon enough, it fell dead on the ground.

"Congratulations, you have obtained an Ox Devil Monster Card piece x1"

“You have completed a cross-ranking kill. You have obtained a Provisional Transformation Card”

“What’s a Provisional Transformation Card?” Seeing the word ‘transformation’ reminded Lin Huang of a web novel that he had read on a novel website called Qidian. It was a story about a man that transformed into a woman. He felt goosebumps rising on his neck and arms when he thought about that. He then looked at the new card that he got.

There was a human and a monster on the top of the card. There was an arrow pointing from the human to the monster.

Lin Huang then turned the card around to read the description.

“Transformation Card: After using this card, the host can transform into any of the monsters that he owns and he will possess all the skills that the monster had. The transformation will last for 24 hours.

“Remarks: This card is a consumable. You can only use this card once.”

After reading the description, Lin Huang was relieved. He was excited to see the effects of the card.

He thought transforming himself into a monster would be an interesting experience. He was ready to use it when he had the time and opportunity.

Suddenly, with Lin Huang deep in his zone, he felt a warm liquid splash on his face.

When he got out of his zone, it was Bai who stood in front of him.

His Blood Power wings turned into a sharp blade and pierced through an Ox Devil’s mouth right to the back of its head.

The Ox Devil’s head was right above his own head, its brain juices and blood showered down on Lin Huang’s head.

“Such a thing shouldn’t have happened on a battlefield. That was incredibly absent-minded. If not for Bai, I would have been smashed by the Ox Devil into a pile of dead flesh,” Lin Huang reflected.

Soon, all the 26 Ox Devils were dead.

Bai had killed most of them, and he had killed six of them.

Just then, Lin Huang noticed that he had 17 white columns added to his Life Wheel.

Before they started their journey again then cleaned off all the Ox Devil blood they were drenched in. The battle had energized everyone, and they could not wait to kill more monsters!

However, when they just started their journey, Lin Huang’s Emperor’s Heart Ring vibrated. The same happened to the rest of them.

Lin Huang saw a message that was sent by Yi Yeyu when he opened the communication page.

It was just a simple sentence, “The monster outbreak is happening, go to the canyon mouth right now!”

Chapter 46: The Fourth Line of Defense



After he turned off his communication page, Lin Huang turned pale with fear. What he predicted would happen had finally happened...

He then led the young men towards the canyon mouth. On the way, everyone was quiet and held their heads as they walked.

They arrived at the canyon mouth about half an hour later.

Lin Huang could see from afar that the 10-kilometer long canyon mouth was blocked off by giant stones but there was still two to three kilometers left unprotected. His heart dropped when he saw that the gap was much bigger than he expected.

What he estimated was that they could block the gap until it was only a few hundred meters wide. His plan was to minimize the possibility of the monsters coming in, as well as funnel them to a single point of which they would focus their attacks to slaughter the monsters.

However, they did not have enough time. Before they could finish their line of defense, the outbreak of monsters had happened.

The gap that was three kilometers long was attacked by countless ferocious monsters.

The residents who were moving the giant rocks retreated under the cover of the hunters.

The war has started. Residents would be targeted by the monsters if they stayed.

Aside from the hunters that were brought by Yi Yeyu, all the hunters who did not leave the foothold joined in the battle.

However, the number of hunters were far too few as compared to the number of monsters.

The 1,000 or so hunters would die of exhaustion if they continued. Under Yi Zheng's orders, they formed several defensive formations.

The first line would consist of the 20 Gold Hunters. They were dressed in armor which were at least gold-level and some even used relics.

As long as their Life Power was not drained, iron-level and bronze-level monsters would not stand a chance against them.

The 20 of them stood around 100 meters apart from each other.

They were positioned at the location which was supposed to be blocked by the giant rocks and killed every monster that came at them.

Many of the monsters were bewildered while some of them were alert to the danger of the experienced hunters.

Sensing the powerful group of people, the monsters rushed to make it through the gaps between the hunters.

The 20 Gold Hunters could not care less as all they could do was to kill as many monsters as they could while leaving the rest that went through the gaps to the Silver Hunters who were not far behind them.

There were 1000 Silver Hunters stood less than 10 meters behind the Gold Hunters.

They formed an arc, which put them at about three meters apart from each other.

They wore armor too and killed the monsters that passed through the first line of defense mercilessly.

The remaining Copper Hunters were ready as the last line of defense at around 100 meters behind the Silver Hunters.

There were only 100 of them and they were 30 meters apart from each other.

Fortunately, there were fewer monsters that broke through the third line of defense so they were not under a lot of pressure as compared to the others. The few monsters that broke in to face their lines were either already injured or weak, and they made easy work of killing them.

Behind the Copper Hunters was the fourth line of defense that was guarded by more than 20 old men.

They used to be hunters but due to injuries and other reasons which had caused their abilities to weaken, they had been living in solitude in this small foothold.

Each of them held heavy firearms. Although they could not use their Life Power anymore, they still had their gun skills.

Yi Yeyu saw Lin Huang and the gang walking towards her from the top of the giant rock in the distance.

She did not say a word but pointed at the Emperor's Heart Ring on her finger and Lin Huang knew what she meant.

Under such condition, the noise of monsters roaring and killing filled the area so Yi Yeyu used her Emperor's Heart Ring to send him text messages.

Soon, Lin Huang's Emperor's Heart Ring vibrated. He opened the communication page and saw a message from Yi Yeyu which said, "There is no more space in the third line of defense, you guys will have to go to the last line. Those old-timers have guns in their hands but they might not be able to fight the monsters. Be alert."

"Copy that," Lin Huang replied to Yi Yeyu and turned around to pass the message to the rest of his troop.

The group of young men was unhappy.

"Clearly she despises us. She's worried that we will slow them down so she puts us at the back," Zhou Le grumbled. He was pissed.

"That's right. When we arrived, the rest had already started fighting. It's obvious that they took their time inform us on purpose, they don't trust us at all! If I knew this all along, why would I stay? I should've left with Bai Yan and the rest!" Yu Guang said in anger.

"We shouldn't be saying all this right now. All of you promised Yi Zheng that you would listen to his instructions," Lin Huang shouted at all of them.

“The head examiner must be putting our safety into consideration, that’s why she came up with the arrangement. Or perhaps she’s concerned that we are not able to take the pressure. After all, we are not professional hunters. We are not even comparable to a Bronze Hunter!” he continued.

“Think about it. If she does not trust us, would she have left the last line of defense to us?”

The last line might seem far away from the action, but it’s the most important one of them all. If it is broken, the lives of the 200,000 residents will be at risk. If the first three lines of defense cannot handle the monsters, they could always leave it to the hunters behind them but not us. So our responsibility is the most crucial!”

Hearing what Lin Huang said, the young men thought it made sense and they were ready to fight yet again.

However, Lin Huang was laughing on the inside. “These dummies are so easily manipulated,” he thought.

He knew what Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng were thinking.

They did not care if there was a fourth line of defense at all. What they really wanted was all the monsters dead by the time they reached the third line of defense.

Lin Huang and the gang were just there for show.

For such a major battle like this crowd of monsters, it was better to have fewer humans in the picture.

Therefore, there would have to be accurate rotations for each line. If one went wrong, the entire defense system would collapse.

Although, Yi Yeyu obviously would not put Lin Huang and the rest of his team into the lines.

If something went wrong, they would put everybody’s lives at risk.

Lin Huang knew very well what the problem was on his team.

His team’s ability was unstable. Their discipline was weak and conformity was much worse as compared to the professional hunters.

Their mentality and ability to handle pressure were uncertain too.

Even if Lin Huang was to lead the battle, he would not have put his team in a major role against an enemy like the monsters that were attacking.

So he was at peace with the arrangement.

To him, it was best that the third line of defense handle all the monster attacks so that he did not have to do anything within the next two days.

Then when the human transcendent arrived, he would kill the transcendent monster and the incident would be over.

Lin Huang was optimistic but things did not go the way he had hoped.

In less than an hour, as Lin Huang and the gang stood a few hundred meters from the north of the third defense line, an uproar broke out.

A couple of monsters broke through the third defense line and stampeded towards the foothold...

Chapter 47: Bloody Scarred Hyena

There was a gap broken in the third line of defense. It was out of everyone's expectation, after all, the monster outbreak had just started for an hour.

Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng who were standing on top of the giant rock was shocked to see the monsters broke through the defense line.

Just when they wanted to fight, they saw Lin Huang who was a few hundred meters away summoning Tyrant to chase after the monsters.

The gang behind him saw and chased after the monsters too.

The monsters that broke through were five Demonic Hyenas, they belonged to the disease-class.

Although they were also called hyenas, they were far different from the hyenas on earth.

Their fur was grayish-black and they were three meters long. Their limbs were long and their bodies were light.

There were two deformed horns on their heads, there were a ferocious, white, sharp bones on their back, extended from their neck to their thigh.

The rest of their bodies were filled with red pustules. Some were bulging and some were popped and rankled. Their bodies were exuding a disgusting stench.

Lin Huang knew this monster very well as he had read about them before.

As there were not many monsters that were categorized in the disease-class, these Demonic Hyenas were the most common one.

According to the record, they carried more than 300 viruses on their bodies and more than 10 of those viruses were life-threatening to humans.

If proper treatment was not administered in time, it would cause serious infections and even death.

If one was bitten or scratched by them, the consequences would be very serious.

Lin Huang sat on Tyrant's shoulders and took out his GrayEagle17, aiming at the Demonic Hyenas that ran past.

"Bang, bang, bang..." Shots were fired.

The Demonic Hyenas were caught off guard. They were hit and howled in agony.

A few of them were bewildered and became furious when they saw their injured companion. The pack then changed their course and set their sights on killing Lin Huang. They started running at him with murderous intent.

The armored bullets did not hit the Demonic Hyenas' weak spots and the damage done was minimal. However, the same couldn't be said for the pain it had caused.

The gunshots did not scare them away, instead, the shots triggered their vicious rage.

Looking at the Demonic Hyenas running at him, Lin Huang was not surprised. He was actually getting excited.

He slid off Tyrant's shoulders, recalled the beast and summoned Bai.

In terms of combat strength, Tyrant and Bai were almost the same, but in terms of killing, Bai was one level stronger than Tyrant.

He possessed level-2 Blood Power which gave him a pair of sharp blades so the area of attack he had was bigger than what Tyrant had.

A few hundred meters was a short distance, and the five Demonic Hyenas were closing in on Lin Huang.

He just noticed half of the pustules on one of them were torn away and had turned into stripes of scary bloody scars.

Bai stood in front of Lin Huang with his red eyes, the pair of Blood Power wings were out and at full span, blocking the path of the five Demonic Hyenas.

Lin Huang slowly holstered his GrayEagle17 and took out his iron sword.

He locked his eyes on a mutated Demonic Hyena and said to Bai, "Bai, save the one on the left for me."

Bai had got his orders and was ready to execute. He bent his left wing and stabbed it at the closest mutated monster that rushed at him.

The Demonic Hyena that was filled with bloody scars stared at Lin Huang with its grayish-white eyes. It then lunged at him and opened its mouth that was filled with sticky drool in an attempt to bite Lin Huang's head.

However, Lin Huang just stood there with his sword in hand, poised and ready. He then swung his sword, and black blood was splashed to the side as he nearly split the attacking beast in half.

The bloody hyena let out a loud groan and fell to the floor. Its abdomen that was now exposed to Lin Huang had a one-meter long cut running through. Its intestines could be seen, spilling out on the ground.

"Such amazing skill!" Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng exclaimed in unison as they watched from afar on the giant rock they stood on.

Especially Yi Yeyu. Her eyes sparkled with admiration. She thought since Lin Huang was an Imperial Censor, he might be able to use a gun but she had never seen him using his sword.

She was stunned when she saw Lin Huang swing his sword for the very first time.

“This Great Sword Scripture skill is amazing! If I had the same strength as that monster, I might have killed it in one slash,” Lin Huang thought, surprised at the extent of damage he had inflicted.

As its bewilderment faded, the bloody hyena was woken up by Lin Huang’s attack.

Now that it noticed the human upon it was dangerous, it was going to turn around to run away in the other direction.

In its panicked state, it did not notice that it was heading to the foothold where the humans were.

Seeing its attempt to run, Lin Huang took a few steps towards it with his sword in hand. He ran at it with bloodlust in his eye. The bloody hyena saw him attacking and when it tried to duck, Lin Huang launched himself at it and stabbed his sword into its neck.

The iron sword pierced through the bloody hyena’s neck like he was slicing tofu.

The sword went all the way into its body until only the handle was showing.

It was not that the sword was sharp, but because the Great Sword Scripture was terrifyingly powerful.

But it was not the end. Lin Huang held the sword firmly and pierced it further into the dying beast.

The sword was completely buried in the hyena’s throat. The cut was one meter long and almost 80 centimeters deep. A big part of its throat was cut open, and its head was crooked to a side.

Black blood flowed out of its wound like a waterfall on the ground. The ferocious bloody hyena was dead.

A notification came from Xiao Hei.

“Congratulations, you have obtained a Bloody Scarred Hyena Monster Card piece x1”

“You have completed a cross-ranking kill. You have obtained a random Skill Card (Rare) x1”

This time Lin Huang did not even look at the cards that he had obtained as he had just killed the bloody hyena. Just then, Zhou Le and the rest caught up to him.

Bai had killed two Demonic Hyenas on his own, while the remaining two were chased away by the group of young men.

Soon, the remaining two were killed.

Lin Huang brought the young men to the gap that broke earlier and ran at it, his sword held tight in his hands.

A Copper Hunter’s face was pale and he looked like he was about to give up. He was fighting so many monsters alone.

Lin Huang and the rest went to help and killed the monsters. They then asked the cause of the breakthrough of the line of defense.

They found out that when this Copper Hunter was fighting with the hyenas, one of them had mutated out of nowhere. With the massive gain of speed, the mutated bloody hyena bit the hunter's left hand while the other hyenas ran onwards.

"You should treat your wound right away. If you don't treat the virus immediately, there will be consequences," Lin Huang advised him after hearing what happened.

"But what about the battle..." The Copper Hunter said, torn between fighting on or saving himself from an infection. If he retreated, there would be another gap in the line of defense, in his place.

"We will fill the gap for you," Lin Huang assured him, in all seriousness.

"It would be okay if the monsters were smaller. There are many of them, can you guys handle it?" The hunter asked. He was worried about the group of boys before him.

"Sir, please do not underestimate us, especially this fella. He killed that bloody hyena on his own just now with only two slashes," Zhou Le said proudly. He had stood aside earlier as he was afraid that the hunter would not let them pass. He knew that if he told the hunter what Lin Huang had done earlier, he would not think so little of them.

Yi Yeyu's then spoke to them, "Lu Yang, please go back to the foothold to treat yourself. Please let Lin Huang and the gang handle this."

Lu Yang, the Copper Hunter handed over his responsibilities to them with regret in his eyes.

He then left with Zhou Le.

#### Chapter 48: New Skill

Zhou Le and the rest were excited to replace Lu Yang to be part of the third line of defense. But soon, their excitement was replaced with a sense of pressure for the task ahead.

Lin Huang knew very well that it was real this time, and that he was part of this war.

He felt like a puzzle piece in a game of kill or be killed.

This battle was a complete jigsaw puzzle, and the whole troop made up the pieces. If any part of the puzzle was missing, the puzzle would not be complete and they would be defeated.

Lin Huang did not care if the rest were flawed as it was not a factor within his control.

However, knowing that he had been placed in this position with the trust of Yi Yeyu and Yi Zhang, he had to guarantee that he did not cause any mistakes of his own.

Before the next monster wave attacked, Lin Huang rallied his troops and repeated to each of them how important it was to obey his orders in battle.

Zhou Le and the rest nodded immediately. They knew how serious it was and did not hesitate for a moment.

After telling them, Lin Huang looked at the Rare Skill Card that he obtained for the cross-ranking kill earlier.

It was a green card with a big question mark on the front, there was nothing else besides the question mark.

There was a description on the back of the card that he studied.

“Random Skill Card (Rare): You will receive one random Rare Skill Card.”

“Remarks: This card is a consumable card, you can only use it once.”

“Perfect timing for me to gain another skill, what kind of skill would I get this time...”

Lin Huang thought. He only had three skills so far. One was his sword skill ‘Great Sword Scriptures’, another was ‘Robust’ that he obtained from Tyrant and the third was ‘Blood Power’ that he got from Bai.

In reality, ‘Robust’ was a passive skill while Lin Huang could not even summon ‘Blood Power’ yet. The only skill that he could use was the ‘Great Sword Scriptures’.

Fortunately, the skill was useful which allowed him to unleash an immense amount of strength if he ever needed to.

Now that he had an opportunity to get an additional skill, Lin Huang was overjoyed. Although he did not know what kind of skill he would get, Lin Huang communicated with Xiao Hei with hesitation in his mind and said, “Xiao Hei, I want to use this random Skill Card.”

“Are you sure that you want to use this random Skill Card (Rare)?” Xiao Hei asked.

“Confirmed!” he replied.

Many different images flashed on the front of the card replacing the question mark.

The images changed so fast that it made Lin Huang dizzy for a moment looking at them.

About 10 seconds later, the images stopped flashing and the card started shining in a bright white.

Soon the white light faded, and a new card appeared.

“Congratulations, you have received a Body Movement Skill – Spectral Snowsteps.”

Lin Huang was excited to hear that he received a Body Movement Skill.

He was planning to pick a better Body Movement Skill to train himself if he made it out of the war alive. His mind was set on training to be even better at using his sword.

He did not expect that he would randomly have picked the card.

He took a good look at the new Skill Card immediately.

The top of the card was a pair of feet stepping on snow, however, there was no trail of the feet on the snow.



Lin Huang then turned the card around and read the detailed description.

“Skill Card”

“Skill Name: Spectral Snowsteps”

“Rarity: Rare”

“Skill Category: Body Movement”

“Skill Level: Gold-rank”

“Status: Available”

“Remarks: This is a unique body movement skill. There is no rank limitation, it’s effect changes with the host’s ability.”

Card Remarks: Mediocre”

“That is a good skill!” Lin Huang was over the moon after he read the description. There was no level limitation to utilize this card, he was concerned that it could only be summoned with Life Power.

He then looked at his Exclusive Card, and as expected, there was an additional skill.

“Host: Lin Huang”

“Gender: Male”

“Age: 15”

“Combat strength: None (Exceeded assessment limit)”

“Skill 1: Blood Power (Level-2)”

“Skill 2: Great Sword Scriptures (Sword Skill)”

“Skill 3: Robust (Beginner)”

“Skill 4: Spectral Snowsteps (Body Movement)”

“Summon authority: Activated”

“Available number of summons: 1”

“Remark: You still suck...”

He glared at the last remark given by Xiao Hei and ignored the remark once again.

He was happy that he gained a Body Movement skill, and he then put his attention to the battle.

As everyone was focused on the battle, nobody noticed what he was doing.

Soon, the monsters broke through the second line of defense and ran towards the third line ferociously.

It was a group of Ox Devils, but there were not many of them.

Lin Huang and his troop did not have to put much effort into killing them all.

Almost four hours into the morning, the third line of defense where Lin Huang and his troop were guarding had encountered 11 attacks. However, they managed to kill the monsters easily.

Until the afternoon, which was six hours later, the third line was attacked 22 times.

Lin Huang could feel that the intensity of the attacks rising.

Not only Lin Huang, but Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng noticed it as well.

They started to worry as it was not a good sign.

When the sky turned dark, the monster became even more furious.

They did not know if it was caused by the sun setting or the Transcendent monster was hypnotizing them to attack with a greater vengeance.

From six o'clock in the evening to midnight, the pressure rose for Lin Huang and the gang within the six hours as they had encountered 46 attacks. They were attacked almost every seven minutes.

Although they were stressed, none of them complained as they knew that the Gold and Silver Hunters in front of them had it even harder than they did.

Yi Yeyu had been directing her attention at Lin Huang's location.

She was worried that they could not take the assault. However, Lin Huang and the gang proved themselves again and again with each attack wave that came their way.

They showed the other hunters that their small team was no weaker than any Copper Hunter when they banded together.

A couple of Copper Hunters who had doubted their abilities in the beginning were worried that this group of young men would slow them down but soon, they were impressed by this bunch of young men that stood with them defending the region.

Under Lin Huang's leadership and instruction, the young men were very cooperative.

Although they panicked occasionally, the situation was handled by Lin Huang and Bai.

Lin Huang's performance had gotten the attention of many hunters in the area. Although he was not even iron-level, he had shown his strength and abilities that surpassed any iron-level hunter. Even some of the iron-level rank-3 monsters were killed in no more than five slashes of his sword.

Bai's performance was impressive too. Apart from some of the monsters that had extraordinarily strong defensive abilities, he basically killed the monsters in single attacks.

Because of the both of them, the 12 men team managed to stand strong.

Soon, it was the wee hours of the morning. Although it was so late in the night, it was not as silent as usual. The ruckus and roars of the men and monsters could be heard from all around.

It could have been the noisiest day Lin Huang ever experienced ever since he knew.

Noises of angry monsters and humans shouting were deafening, and gunshots could be heard from the heart of the battlefield.

When it got late, the monsters got even more bloodthirsty!

The third line of defense was broken a couple of times as the monsters got stronger.

Fortunately, Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng managed to arrive on time and handle the situation.

However, the people were getting worried. From the outlook of the situation, it was certain that the third line of defense would collapse. It was just a matter of time...

Chapter 49: A Piece of Bad News

Most of them started to get tired of the intense attacks they were being pummeled with.

At four o'clock, right before dawn, the duration of attack was then almost 20 hours.

Lin Huang felt drained from all the fighting.

If not for his passive skill 'Robust' that was supporting him, he would not even have the strength to lift his sword.

The young men's condition was slightly better than Lin Huang but they were not in any form to continue holding the line.

Lin Huang did not know how many monsters he and Bai killed.

The Life Wheel in his body had been filled with Life Light and it was almost overflowing. There were 357 columns that were filled with white light, and there were only three gray columns left in his Life Wheel.

"Xiao Hei, cut off the Life Light transfer between me and Bai now!" Lin Huang instructed Xiao Hei immediately when he noticed what was happening to his Life Wheel.

"You have requested to cut off the transfer of Life Light with Bai. Disconnection is complete!"

Xiao Hei fulfilled Lin Huang's request immediately.

The disconnection was to allow the Life Light to be transferred to Bai as the Life Light in Lin Huang's Life Wheel was almost full.

Once the 360 columns were full, Lin Huang could get a Life Light Baptism if he was to kill an Iron-level monster and he would be upgraded to iron-level.

However, the upgrade to Iron-level would come together with a Life Seed.

The Life Seed was used to strengthen talents that one was born with or had the potential to wield so it was crucial to choose wisely.

Life Seeds were categorized into five which were the Elemental System, Strengthening System, Psychic System, Special System and Compound System.

Lin Huang knew which Life Seed he wanted since the beginning. He wanted the Sword Strengthening System, which could only be obtained by killing monsters with his sword.

However, no monster that fit the criteria existed in the monster horde so Lin Huang chose not to upgrade to iron-level at the moment.

It was six in the morning. The sun rose from the horizon shedding light on the battlefield.

Lin Huang just chopped off a monster's head, panting as he did. He looked up to the direction of sunrise.

"The sun is finally out..." he thought.

The past two hours was hell as every minute and every second was a torment to them.

He chose not to upgrade to iron-level. Although he had his passive skill 'Robust' to support him, his strength was not comparable to the young men of iron-level rank-3.

Every swing of the sword was getting harder for him.

"Lin Huang, are you okay?" Zhou Le and the rest noticed that Lin Huang was slowing down.

"Shouldn't be a problem over a short period of time. But if the situation persists, I think I won't be able to take this anymore," Lin Huang honestly voiced out his concern. He estimated that he could stand for a maximum of two hours.

"Why not you take a rest. We can handle it," Zhou Le suggested although he knew that without Lin Huang, the task would be much more difficult.

"It's no use even if I rest, the most I could take would be a couple more hours. Furthermore, it's not only me, everyone is exhausted. The line will collapse if we give in, it's just the matter of time," Lin Huang shook his head while looking at the gap at the canyon mouth. "We need to solve the root of the problem!" he concluded.

"What is the root of the problem?" Zhou Le asked immediately.

"The breakthrough of the defensive line is caused by the amount of monsters which is far too many. Our people are limited, our strength is depleted too. The solution is easy to say, but very hard to do. We have to minimize the size of the entrance and funnel down the monsters. We have to make the gap at the canyon mouth smaller," Lin Huang said.

"However, looking at the situation now, we can't move the giant rocks to the canyon mouth. Each giant rock is the size of a small mountain, none of our storage spaces are big enough to contain it. All we can do is rely on the residents in the foothold. Even with tools, we would need a few hundred people to move the giant rocks to the canyon mouth. Now that the battle is this intense, the residents can't be moving the giant rocks as they would be the targeted by the monsters once they enter the battlefield," he said. Although Lin Huang found the root of the problem, he could not think of a suitable solution.

"It's not necessary that we use giant rocks to block the canyon mouth, am I right? Why not we just pile up the dead bodies to block the canyon mouth? Since most of the monsters have strong solid bodies, the corpses would work great. If not, we can pile even more together to further strengthen the wall," Zhou Le said casually.

Hearing what Zhou Le said, Lin Huang was stunned and let out a laugh, "I didn't think of that. It's brilliant!"

Lin Huang then proposed the idea to Yi Yeyu.

Yi Yeyu checked the message that was sent by Lin Huang. She was stunned at first, but soon she showed her excitement and forwarded the message to Yi Zheng.

Yi Zheng was happy too. He then spread the proposal to some of the Gold Hunters and they started to collect dead bodies.

Soon, the dead bodies were piled up into a small hill which became a line of defense by itself. Yi Zheng spilled oil on the dead bodies to avoid the monsters from climbing over them.

With the piling corpses, the canyon mouth became smaller and smaller.

When it was near noon, the canyon mouth was only about 300 meters wide, which was what Lin Huang had hoped for at the beginning of the attack.

The people's fear was finally reduced.

The monsters which attacked Lin Huang's third line decreased from every few minutes to every half an hour.

Even the second line of defense was much relaxed now.

Yi Zheng stood on top of the giant rock and gave Lin Huang a thumbs up.

Lin Huang then pointed at Zhou Le who was next to him and sent a message to Yi Yeyu to explain that it was Zhou Le's idea.

The next afternoon, everyone was more relaxed. They even had time to eat and rest.

Seeing that the sun setting behind the mountains, Yi Yeyu prayed that nothing would go wrong that night and that the human transcendent would arrive on time to kill the transcendent monster to end this once and for all.

It was six in the evening, and the sky was getting dark. The monstrous roars were getting more intense.

Yi Zheng stood on top of the giant rock and looked into the distance.

He saw a pack of what looked like 100,000 monsters approaching the foothold. He was about to say something when his Emperor's Heart Ring vibrated.

Lin Huang and the rest's ring vibrated at the same time.

Since he had a moment to respond, Lin Huang opened his Emperor's Heart Ring.

A news alert popped up on the page.

"Since eight in the morning yesterday, a monster outbreak happened on the east side of Division 7. The density and coverage of the attack this time was at the small footholds No.7D120, No.7D122 and No.7D123. A wide area was destroyed by the beasts. There were no survivors. The death toll has

reached 670,000 people. The same has happened to the small foothold No.7D121, but the condition there is unclear. There are transcendent humans making their way there. We will give you a full update when we receive more details....”

Seeing the news, most of them who were relaxed became tense.

“That’s not good...”

Lin Huang frowned. The footholds nearby had been destroyed by monsters. The only one standing was Snowy Mountain Town. The transcendent monster must be targeting Snowy Mountain Town next. Since it was hurt by the human transcendent around that area, it would not stop until it has killed all the people around the foothold!”

Chapter 50: Monsters Coming at Full Force

Yi Yeyu, Yi Zheng and the rest had gloomy looks on their faces.

After a relaxed afternoon, they did not expect to receive bad news like that.

Now that the massacre of people in the three footholds had happened, that meant Snowy Mountain Town would be attacked by all the monsters that attacked the three footholds. The amount of monsters would be four times more than the original number!

The other hunters knew that too, the atmosphere on the battlefield turned ice cold.

“Lin Huang, do you have any plans?” Zhou Le said in a weak voice and took a deep breath to calm himself down while anticipating what Lin Huang would suggest.

Lin Huang shook his head. “There’s nothing else we can do but fight. Let’s just pray that the human transcendent arrives soon.”

Soon it was night time again. Although everyone was less enthusiastic from the bad news, the battle had to go on.

None of the 1000 hunters were slacking. They were defending their own line of defense.

When it was nine at night, Yi Zheng heard a subtle sound coming from afar.

It was approaching the canyon at the speed of light.

He looked far in the distance, but his vision was clear even at night.

He saw a massive group of monsters coming.

He could not see clearly what kind of monsters they were due to the dust that surrounded them, but he could feel the ground shake beneath his feet.

Many hunters felt the tremors too.

Lin Huang knew monsters that could cause this must be really big and there were many of them.

Without confirming what kind of monsters they were, Yi Zheng shouted to the people from his perch on top of the giant rock.

At such a time, he should have been more enthusiastic to motivate the people or else the defense lines would be easily broken if the low moral persisted.

“Everybody, the monsters from the few areas are here. I believe everyone can feel the ground trembling and you should know very well that there will be more monsters coming our way. This is the last foothold in the area. The transcendent monster will not give up until it destroys this foothold too. The only choice we have right now is to fight! Besides that, there’s no other solution.”

“It’s 9:23 p.m. right now. The Hunter Association said the transcendent human will be here within 48 hours. There are another nine hours to that 48-hour mark. This means, we have to fight for another nine hours and we will be saved.”

“I believe everyone has heard about the transcendent human the association has sent. He is Yu Chanli, he was no.4 on the Division7 Gold Hunter Leaderboard. He’s a strong Imperial Censor as well. Now that the transcendent monster is badly injured, as soon as Yu Chanli is here, it will definitely be killed, without a doubt. With that, the monster horde will retreat immediately,” he assured them.

“Now that the other footholds have been destroyed, that’s over now. We need to put this behind us. Let’s do this together! From now onwards, we only have one goal which is to guard this place for nine hours! We fight for this one and only goal! Because as long as we fulfill this goal, all of us here and the 200,000 residents in Snowy Mountain Town will survive!”

What Yi Zheng said was extremely effective. It was unclear if it was Yu Chanli’s name which they had heard before or the fact that they only had nine hours left to fight, all of them were energized.

Even Lin Huang repeated to himself, “This is the last nine hours, we must hold on!”

After the motivational speech, Yi Zheng turned around and looked at the monsters in the distance.

They were Giant Armored Elephants. Although they belonged to a species of mutated monsters, they were like no other, mainly because they were huge!

All of them were at least 10 meters tall. They were considered giants among all monsters. Even Tyrant who was iron-level rank-3 was considered petite when it stood among these monsters.

From its trunk, the Giant Armored Elephant had metal armor all the way to its hip.

The same metal was fitted on its head too. Its entire head was covered in metal armor, and only its eyes and flapping ears were showing.

The metal parts were not fixed, they were born with it.

Such monster had bones made partially of metal. This gave them a terrifying defense that no other monster possessed.

Yi Zheng frowned while he looked at this group of Giant Armored Elephants.

Their existence presented a very real danger to the lines of defense as their body weight and impact could easily destroy the giant rock wall.

Once the wall was destroyed, the rest of the monsters would rush in.

“Yeyu, you stay here, I’ll handle the damn elephants!” Yi Zheng told Yi Yeyu while holding a fine sword in his hand.

His white robe fluttered in the wind. He then hopped towards the giant rocks below.

He stepped on the monsters’ backs and heads and ran towards the Giant Armored Elephants.

Looking on as her brother left, Yi Yeyu was not concerned for Yi Zheng’s safety. With his ability, as long as the transcendent monster did not show, he was invincible.

Although the Giant Armored Elephants were big, most of them were only iron-level or bronze-level. Only some of them were silver-level. They could not threaten Yi Zheng at all.

Soon, Yi Zheng was among the Giant Armored Elephants. Every swing he took with his fine sword, a gold flash could be seen. He pierced through a Giant Armored Elephant’s head.

Not long later, he managed to kill a few hundred Giant Armored Elephants.

Yi Zheng returned right after he killed all the Giant Armored Elephants. He did not delay his actions as he knew that the Giant Armored Elephants were just the first horde of monsters who came. There would be more coming their way.

He came back to the giant rock and stood on top with his hands folded like nothing had happened.

Yi Yeyu who was standing across him gave him a thumbs up. He looked the other way. He wanted to look cool but could not help but smile at his sister.

Soon, there was a new horde of monsters along the horizon. However, Yi Yeyu and Yi Zheng remained where they stood as those monsters did not possess the ability to break through the wall.

The both of them allowed them to forward so they would be behind other monsters that were closing in. Then, there were more monsters coming from far away. The monsters were filling up the grassland outside of the canyon.

Just when Yi Zheng was ready to kill all the monsters beneath the giant rock, he heard a rustling sound behind him.

He turned around and saw black dots on the top of the mountains behind the Snowy Mountain Town. The black dots stood out even more against the white mountains as they dashed downwards.

As she noticed where Yi Zheng was looking, Yi Yeyu looked at the mountains behind her as well.

She screamed. “Aren’t those Sand Spiders? I hate spiders!” she squealed.

Yi Zheng’s lips were twitching when he heard what Yi Yeyu said. “Now, pull yourself together, this is not about you hating spiders. The spiders are so far away from us. How do we attack them?”