

Paradise 811

Chapter 811: The Pale Man's Trump Card

There were three ways to kill the God's Figurine combat soul.

The first way was to kill the God's Figurine. However, only a True God could do so.

The second way was to kill the monster soul inside the God's Figurine. However, the strength requirement to kill the combat soul was extremely high. Since the pale man's combat soul was on black gold-rank, only a combat soul that was at least two ranks higher, which was yellow gold-rank, would be capable of killing it.

As for the third way, it was to exhaust the Life Power of the God's Figurine.

This method was very time-consuming. Since the God's Figurine defense was exceptionally strong, it could sustain the attacks with its body and its Life Power would not be consumed at all. Therefore, in order to deplete the God's Figurine Life Power, the only way was to let the God's Figurine attack continuously so that their Life Power would be constantly used during the fight.

Another way was to kill the owner of the God's Figurine in the combat soul.

As long as the owner of the God's Figurine in the combat soul died, the combat soul inside the God's Figurine would collapse. Consequently, the God's Figurine would return to its initial form which was a palm-sized statue.

Lin Huang was unable to execute the first two methods. The third method was way too time-consuming. Therefore, he chose the fourth method.

Lin Huang was still thinking how to get rid of the two God's Figurine combat souls and approach the pale man. He did not expect him to instruct the two God's Figurine combat souls to surround Charcoal and come to Lin Huang by himself.

It was a fantastic chance and, of course, Lin Huang would not miss it.

The two God's Figurine combat souls would certainly fail to kill Charcoal. To avoid the pale man from running away after the failed attempt, he secretly set up everything with his telekinetic threads, so the man did not discover anything.

This explained everything that had happened up till now.

The man's limbs and neck got entangled by thousands of telekinetic threads. He was now being strung up in mid-air like an insect trapped in a spider web. He could not break free from it at all.

"I don't know where you're from and I don't need to know either." Lin Huang stared at the man coldly. "It's because there'll only be one type of person who'll hurt me and the people around me, which are the dead."

After finishing his words, Lin Huang pointed in the direction where the pale man was.

The telekinetic daggers then sped towards the pale man, resembling piranhas that were attracted by the smell of blood.

The man became a live target as he was entangled by the telekinetic threads.

The daggers struck the pale man like swimming fishes and the sound of colliding metal could be heard. The sound could be heard so frequently as if it was a torrential downpour.

As he was protected by the demigod relic, he did not sustain any injuries. Still, he looked upset because he could clearly sense that the Life Power in his body was gushing out uncontrollably in an attempt to restore the Life Power of the demigod relic.

"I can't let this continue. It can last for five minutes at the most and my Life Power will be drained." He immediately contacted the two God's Figurine combat souls, issuing a new instruction.

The two God's Figurines got out of the deep pit, appearing right in front of the man in a flash.

One of them surrounded its sharp claws with Life Power, striving to tear the telekinetic threads apart. Another one stood right in front of the man, blocking all the attacks.

"You're really naïve." Lin Huang was amused.

He moved his fingers slightly and the telekinetic threads then headed out for the wry-faced monster. It immediately dodged the threads and was unable to assist the man.

Again, Lin Huang snapped his fingers.

The trajectory path of the telekinetic daggers began to change. They avoided the snake-headed monster that was blocking the front of the man and continued attacking him without any obstacles.

The man's plan had failed again. He was furious.

"Don't worry about me. Activate ranged attack and destroy all the telekinetic daggers!"

After receiving a new instruction, the two God's Figurine combat souls did as they were told.

The snake-headed monster lifted its hooves up and stomped hard on the telekinetic daggers surrounding it. The wry-faced monster extended its sharp claws as well, attempting to destroy the telekinetic daggers.

"Although it's stupid, it's still acceptable." Lin Huang guffawed when he saw that. He had a plan in store.

After patting Charcoal's head, Lin Huang and Charcoal opened their mouths at almost the same time. Black dragon flames rushed out of their mouths again, enveloping the entire area where the wan man was.

Although the spitting of dragon flames looked the same as the last time, in fact, Lin Huang and Charcoal had hidden a spiritual attack within the flames. They wanted to avoid affecting the impact of the telekinetic threads and the telekinetic daggers.

They did not intend to attack with the spitting of dragon flames. Instead, they wanted to create an environment that was beneficial to them.

Of course, this sped up the consumption of the pale man's Life Power as well.

Seeing the arrival of the dragon flames from mid-air, the man had an urge to criticize and curse out loud.

The next moment, everything in front of him turned dark. He could not even see the two God's Figurine combat souls.

He could sense that they were not far away from him.

Still, the two God's Figurine combat souls who were drowned in flames stood there without any defenses.

Aside from the black flames, both of them could not see anything. They were unable to attack the telekinetic weapons now.

The black daggers moved freely in the flames. It was hard to even trace these black daggers as they were covered by the dragon flames.

However, the coverage of the dragon flames was akin to a huge territory whereby he could sense everything that happened inside. The same went for the pale man's position. The daggers managed to accurately strike his body each time.

In addition to the burning effect of the dragon flames, the consumption of Life Power in the body of the pale man did not slow down; it sped up instead.

The energy reaction of the dragon flames had far exceeded the telekinetic power. Although they were very close to each other, as long as it was not visible to the naked eye, the two God's Figurine combat souls would be unable to sense the existence of the telekinetic daggers. They seemed completely blind.

They could occasionally sense the position of the daggers that were slightly nearer to them. However, before they could react, the daggers had disappeared into the dragon flames.

Sensing the condition of the two God's Figurine combat souls, the pale man had to admit that he was doomed.

"Lin Xie, I admit defeat now. Please let me go and I promise that I'll not get you into trouble in the future."

"Admit defeat?" Lin Huang raised his brows when he heard that. "Do you think that you're playing a game now whereby you can replay after you've lost the game?"

"What do you want? Are you asking for compensation?" The pale man looked in the direction where Lin Huang was through the dragon flames. "Make me an offer."

"It seems like you have a bad memory." It was obvious that Lin Huang was not going to let him go. "I've made everything clear just now. Only the dead will attack me and the people around me! You kidnapped Yi Zheng and even attempted to kill me in order to snatch away the God's Figurine. It's enough for you to die twice!"

"Are you sure you want every one of us to die?" The man's tone became calm. In fact, he could not see Lin Huang, but could roughly tell where Lin Huang was, shifting his gaze towards him.

“Just use whatever skills you have since you don’t have much time left.” Lin Huang was not worried that the man could threaten him. “If I’m not mistaken, you have one minute left and your Life Power will be completely drained. You won’t have any chance by then.”

“I’ll do as you wish then. I hope that you won’t regret it later!”

After finishing his words, the man’s Life Power that was depleting was restored abruptly.

Lin Huang could even feel that there was a breakthrough in the pale man’s combat strength. His aura grew stronger and stronger.

Just as his aura reached the pinnacle of black gold-rank, it lasted for about three seconds and again, he made a breakthrough in his combat strength, leveling up to crimson gold-rank! His aura continued to grow and it had no means to stop.

Lin Huang was stunned as he sensed the changes. He felt even more surprised by what he had just seen.

A claw that looked like a sharp blade extended from the head of the pale man. Looking from the top, it seemed like a sharp claw had penetrated through his head. The blood stains could still be seen clearly.

As the claw penetrated through the man’s head, it moved down slightly, resembling a paper cutter cutting a piece of paper.

Lin Huang frowned when he saw this.

The sharp claw continued to move downwards and blood spurted wherever it passed. The claw stopped cutting when it reached his abdomen, retracting back into the man’s body.

After a moment of silence, the squishing of the flesh could be heard. Blood began to ooze out from the man’s wound. The shape of his body began to change as if there was something struggling in his body. He looked like he was in so much pain as he let out some weird sounds that no normal human being could.

Lin Huang’s eyes were wide open as he fixed his gaze on the tremendously terrifying scene.

The man’s wound was being stretched open by an invisible force and there was blood all over his body. A ferocious monster then gradually crawled out of the wound on his body. The man had died, turning into bloody flesh as if he had lost his skeleton.

Chapter 812: The Defensive System of Grade-A Foothold

As the moonlight shone on it, Lin Huang could clearly see the monster’s features.

It was a humanoid monster that was more than three meters tall. There were blood stains all over its body. It had four limbs like a human and could stand straight on both of his legs.

However, unlike humans, it had no skin. It also had no scales or feathers like the rest of the animals. It looked like a human specimen with its skin ripped off. There were countless disgusting pustules on its body.

It had a peculiar head. There were no human organs and the only organ it had was a ferocious mouth that occupied almost half of its face. Steely fangs crowded in its mouth. If one were to describe it, it was like an egg with a wide mouth and pustules all over it.

Lin Huang had seen many ugly monsters in the monster guide. However, this was the ugliest one he had ever seen.

“It has no winky for real. It’s too ugly to be loved,” Lin Huang thought to himself. Soon, his facial expression became serious.

The moment it got out of the pale man’s body, its combat strength had increased three ranks higher to yellow gold-rank.

Regardless of how it looked, it was undoubtedly strong.

After sizing it up, Lin Huang’s face suddenly turned solemn. His change in mood was not because of its combat strength but because of the disgusting yet devilish aura it exuded from its body. Lin Huang hated it as soon as he sensed the aura just like how an ordinary person would detest seeing a cockroach. However, his hatred was hundreds of times stronger.

“An abyssal monster...” Lin Huang knew where the monster came from the moment he sensed its aura.

It was not his first time fighting an abyssal monster. He had the same feeling each time, but it was rather obvious this time.

The dragon flames on the ground had stopped burning.

The skinless monster staggered before it managed to balance itself.

At that moment, a beam of dazzling red light struck from the sky and the position of the skinless monster was the center point. The area with a circumference that spanned hundreds of meters was enveloped by the red light. At the same time, a red warning page popped up on Lin Huang’s Emperor’s Heart Ring and a short buzzing sound like an alarm was heard.

“Warning! It’s suspected that an imperial-level monster has invaded foothold No. 3A5!

“Preliminary inspection shows that it’s an abyssal monster of yellow gold-rank!

“Target has been identified. Please head over to this location and kill it!”

It was a message sent by the defense system of the Grade-A foothold. The defense system would inspect all the safe zones every minute. If it happened to sense any unusual aura from monsters, they would immediately mark down its coordinates and send a warning message to those who had authority over it.

The skinless monster was on imperial-level. Therefore, only imperial-level would receive this message.

Coincidentally, Lin Huang’s Emperor’s Heart Ring was granted this authority as well.

He had heard about such a defense system at the Grade-A foothold earlier in Division 7. However, it was his first time encountering the activation of the defense system.

All the imperial-level in Wanbao City received the warning message at almost the same time.

“Is this a loophole in the defense system of the Grade-A foothold? Or is there any new monster type that managed to get rid of the detection of the defense system? If it’s the latter, I’ll have new research material.”

“Is there a monster invasion? I’m bored. I can now get into the fight and get some materials! Eh, it’s on yellow gold-rank. It seems like I can’t fight it...”

“It’s at the west of the city and it’s too far away from me. If I were to go from the east, it’s about 1,800 kilometers away. Why doesn’t it come to the east of the city? There are so many beautiful ladies here...”

“I can make soup with the yellow gold-rank monster. I hope it’s not a humanoid monster or an extremely ugly monster. Now, that’ll spoil my appetite.”

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Many imperial-level then headed towards the west of the city.

There were very few people there and it was an abandoned plot of land. In fact, nobody was willing to save the coordinates of any location near this place since they could not be transported and had to fly over there.

“Warning! You’re reaching your target. You’re 237 meters away from the monster. Please get ready!”

The message suddenly popped up on Lin Huang’s Emperor’s Heart Ring. He then turned off the notification, lowering his head to look at the skinless monster which aura had reached its peak.

The skinless monster gradually raised his head, taking aim at Lin Huang in mid-air with its head that had no eyes. It slowly opened its ferocious mouth wide and said in the voice that sounded exactly the same as the pale man’s, “It’s so difficult for me to get into the human foothold. I’ve been particularly careful over the past few months as I was afraid that my identity will be discovered. I even managed to get into the Grade-A foothold a few days ago. I never expected that I’d bump into you...”

Lin Huang was speechless. Before the skinless monster revealed itself, he really had no idea that it was a monster. He thought that it was the top management from the underworld.

“If you had listened to me just now and let me go, perhaps you could still survive for a short period of time. However, since my identity has been exposed, I don’t need to hide my true abilities any longer. It’s time to deal with you...”

“Eh, are you sure that you’re going to waste your time on me?” Lin Huang pointed at the beam of red light that emerged from the sky. “The defense system of the foothold has been activated. All the imperial-level in Wanbao City are rushing over here. If you were to stay here for another minute, perhaps you’ll be besieged by a few of them.”

“I’m not worried about them. I don’t even need a minute to kill you.” After uttering those words, the skinless monster then disappeared from its original position.

The next moment, Lin Huang could detect that the skinless monster that was within his territory appeared right in front of him. He was unable to pull out his sword in time as the monster's sharp claws were about to strike the left of his chest.

Lin Huang had no choice but to create a Dark Mirror, blocking the attack right in front of him.

At almost the same time when the Dark Mirror was created, the ghost-like claws then hit the surface of the Dark Mirror.

Just as they collided with each other, a crack was instantly formed on the surface of the Dark Mirror that used to be unbreakable. It was like a tempered glass being struck by a heavy object. There were white cracks that were visible to the naked eye all over it. However, the cracks lasted for less than a second and eventually, the Dark Mirror collapsed, turning into broken shards.

Lin Huang's eyes dilated as it was his first time witnessing the Dark Mirror being destroyed in one hit.

After the Dark Mirror was broken, the remaining force struck Lin Huang. In the next second, his body flew away from Charcoal's back like a meteorite. He then landed on the ground and a deep pit was formed.

"Are you still alive?" The skinless monster could clearly sense that Lin Huang's aura was still there.

It took a glance at Charcoal, but did not fight it. Instead, it appeared right on top of the pit where Lin Huang landed in a flash.

It extended its claws and was about to make another attack. However, it could sense that there was a heat wave coming from behind.

As it turned its body around, it had no idea when Charcoal appeared behind it. Charcoal opened its mouth wide and dragon flames began to gush out of its mouth.

"If you're on imperial-level, I might be afraid of your dragon flames. However, you're just tickling me now." The skinless monster struck a blow with its claws and it managed to get rid of the dragon flames.

A trace of fear flashed through Charcoal's eyes as its opponent had managed to get rid of its dragon flames. It knew very well that its opponent's ability was far beyond its own.

Catching a glimpse of the deep pit below it, Charcoal shifted its gaze, staring deadly at the skinless monster. Nevertheless, it did not retreat.

"Dragonkins used to be arrogant and it was impossible to tame one. You're an exception. You're so faithful to the human." The skinless monster laughed. Of course, it knew that Charcoal was trying to protect its master.

"Why are you commenting about me? Didn't you follow someone's instructions too?" Charcoal stared at the skinless monster, confronting it. It secretly hoped that it could buy Lin Huang some time so that he could recover from his injuries.

"My master is on True God-level rank-9. It's known as the God Master in the virtual world. You can't compare despicable creatures like humans to my master..." After finishing its words, the skinless monster realized that something was wrong. "Are you buying time for that human?!"

The skinless monster was mad as it extended its claws and again, it pounced towards the deep pit below it.

Right at that moment, Charcoal appeared right in front of him and bit its head.

Before Charcoal could sink its teeth into its disgusting head, an immense force reached Charcoal's torso and it flew away, landing in a deep pit that was hundreds of meters away.

"I'm not going to kill you because you're a dragonkin and the concentration of your blood is close to pure blood. If I were to catch you alive for the God Master, I can probably train a few of the dragonkins with pure blood. I can level up to a True God by then." The skinless monster looked at Charcoal coldly. "However, if you were to continue bugging me, I have no choice but to kill you. I'll bring your dead body back. The sorcerer can make you into a dead puppet."

Chapter 813: The Imperial-Level Versus the Imperial-Level

At the bottom of the pit, Lin Huang was quietly resting. There was a bowl-sized hole on the left side of his chest that penetrated all the way to the back of his chest. He had even lost his heart.

His breathing was extremely weak and his body was about to die. However, he still had his consciousness.

Flesh grew out of nowhere in his chest. In less than two seconds, a heart was quickly formed, connecting all the blood vessels. His body was then further healed.

Lin Huang's breathing slowly stabilized and he gradually opened his eyes. He then realized that he had almost died just now. However, his Divine Regeneration had saved him.

He could feel an immense pain throbbing from every part of his body, accompanied by numbness as if he had experienced an electric shock. Through his Territory skill, he could sense that the skinless monster had appeared on top of him. He wanted to get out of the pit, but he was unable to do so. Even moving his fingers was difficult for him.

Fortunately, Charcoal appeared and blocked the skinless monster's attack.

"The difference in ability is too large..." Lin Huang forced a wry smile.

The skinless monster managed to break the Dark Mirror with its claws. The remaining force even penetrated the Dark Mirror and struck its chest with ease, almost killing Charcoal.

"After returning to its real body, aside from its combat strength that's being upgraded to yellow gold-rank, even its strength and speed have changed," Lin Huang secretly analyzed the difference between them in his mind, "It seems like I need to upgrade my combat strength to imperial-level."

"Xiao Hei, if Charcoal's combat strength is advanced to immortal-level rank-9, which level can I upgrade my combat strength to?"

“Normally, your combat strength can be four ranks higher, bringing you to crimson gold-rank. However, there’s a limit on your body. The maximum limit is only black gold-rank. Therefore, you can only reach the peak of black gold-rank.”

“That should be enough. I’ll use four Monster Upgrade Cards and upgrade Charcoal’s real battle ability to immortal-level rank-9,” Lin Huang instructed without a moment of hesitation.

“Consuming Monster Upgrade Card x4.

“Monster card used. Charcoal has obtained an upgrade in combat strength.

“Its new combat strength is Immortal-level rank-9!”

After Xiao Hei had finished its sentence, Lin Huang felt an immense strength gushing into his body.

There was an instant breakthrough in his combat strength, leveling him up from immortal-level rank-9 to imperial-level.

The aura of the black gold-rank that was released from his body grew stronger. It then stopped growing as it reached its peak and was about to get to the imperial-level. (The Knight skill is activated after the first ride on the summoned monster. The user does not need to be riding the summoned monster all the time.)

After attacking Charcoal, the skinless monster was about to instruct the two God’s Figurine combat souls to capture Charcoal alive. It then sensed that Lin Huang’s aura was growing drastically from the deep pit.

“Did he just level up to imperial-level?!” The skinless monster was shocked. Soon, it realized that Lin Huang’s aura had stopped growing as it reached black gold-rank. Sarcastically, it said, “I might be afraid of you if you were to level up to crimson or yellow gold-rank. If you’re just a black gold-rank, perhaps you can only stay alive for a little longer.”

“Is that true? I think a black gold-rank is enough to kill you!” Lin Huang steadily rose from the deep pit, holding a golden ink sword in his hand. It was a demigod relic that he had just gotten from the Stairway Mall.

The sword name was Ba Huang and Lin Huang had exchanged 120 million points for the sword. It was an expert-grade demigod relic.

The skinless monster soon noticed the combat sword in Lin Huang’s hand.

“It’s an expert-grade demigod relic! Why do you have such an awesome weapon?” Greed filled the skinless monster’s eyes.

Lin Huang stood up straight with his sword, pointing the tip of his sword towards the skinless monster.

The skinless monster opened its mouth wide and it disappeared abruptly from its original position.

On the other hand, Lin Huang’s body transformed into a silhouette and gradually faded away.

In mid-air, the two figures crashed into each other again and again like lightning bolts.

Each collision resulted in an blast like a nuclear explosion. The ground that was thousands of meters away shook as if it was afraid of the collision between the both of them.

The vibrations even stirred up the atmosphere and radiated everywhere. The wind was blowing strongly along with howling in the air.

The ground that was hundreds of meters away from the two of them became flat. Even the grass could no longer be seen.

On the other hand, Charcoal continued to fight the two God's Figurine combat souls.

Charcoal had leveled up to black gold-rank and the combat strength of the two God's Figurine combat souls was affected by the skinless monster whereby they had leveled up to gold flame-level.

Basically, Charcoal was incapable of fighting the two God's Figurine combat souls. It was difficult for it to fight even one of them since there was a huge difference in combat strength.

However, it decided to fight in a nasty way by hiding behind the Dark Mirror all the while.

If the two God's Figurine combat souls happened to launch an attack, it would block the attacks with the Dark Mirror.

Since it could use all the skills possessed by Lin Huang, the effect of the skills would be exactly the same. That being said, despite Charcoal being the one who activated the Dark Mirror, the defensive effect would still be the same. The defensive power of the Dark Mirror was not 10 times of its maximum attack power but was that of Lin Huang's attack power instead.

Of course, the two God's Figurine combat souls would be unable to break through it. They hit it again and again, but they were reflected again and again.

Charcoal was secretly laughing behind the Dark Mirror. "Haha, it's such a magnificent skill to use."

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Thousands of kilometers away, many imperial-levels were heading towards the battleground where Lin Huang was.

Many of them bumped into their friends and they headed towards the battleground together.

"You've just leveled up to black gold-rank. Why are you going over there? It's a yellow gold-rank monster!" An old man with a white beard who was about 1.6 meters tall frowned as he lectured a man who was at the age of 40 with a height of about two meters tall.

"I'm going over there for fun. I'm not going to fight." The middle-aged man scratched his head. He did not expect to bump into his teacher. "Sir, I thought you've gone to Division 1."

"I just came back two days ago." The old man took a glance at his disciple. "Stop distracting me! Just watch the fight later. Don't fight! Don't you know how strong you are? It's a yellow gold-rank monster. I need to be careful too..."

The middle-aged man suddenly raised his head, looking in the direction where the monster was. "The vibrations are strong. That person arrived so quickly!"

The old man's face turned grave as he turned in the same direction. "There's more than just one vibration wave. There are three of them! One of them is extremely strong and the remaining two are slightly weaker. All of them are on imperial-level! You can only feel one of them because the frequency of its collision is much higher to the point that it's covered the other two vibration waves."

"Do you mean that there are three battles happening simultaneously at one battleground?" The middle-aged man did not sense the two collisions that were slightly weaker.

"No. From the collision itself, it seems like there are two monsters being blocked by three humans. It could also be there are three monsters attacking two humans. However, there must be more than one monster!" The old man's facial expression was stern as he said this.

Chapter 814: The Imperial-Level Life Palace

Lin Huang had crashed into the skinless monster more than 10,000 times within five minutes.

The skinless monster appeared to be nervous as it knew very well that its aura had been discovered. The imperial-levels of Wanbao City would be there at any time.

He wanted to leave with the dimensional portal right after killing Lin Huang. However, he was unable to kill him now and was even bugged by him now. It was difficult for it to get rid of Lin Huang.

To its dismay, the two God's Figurine combat souls had to deal with Charcoal and were unable to help it.

As for its opponent Lin Huang, he only got stronger and stronger in the fight.

After leveling up to imperial-level, there was an increase in his abilities. Still, it was hard for him to get used to the new combat sword.

Soon, he adapted to the new combat sword after colliding with the skinless monster several times. He then had perfect control over his combat strength and Life Power.

Lin Huang noticed that the skinless monster was being impatient. Of course, he knew the reason behind that, so he grinned widely.

"Are you regretting that you didn't kill me before my combat strength was upgraded to imperial-level?"

The skinless monster remained quiet but secretly agreed with what Lin Huang had just said.

"Before upgrading my combat strength, you had the chance to run away. However, that opportunity is gone now.

"Most of the imperial-levels in Wanbao City have gathered at the center of the foothold. They're about 2,000 kilometers away. Your aura has been targeted by the defense system of the foothold. In less than half an hour, more than 80% of the imperial-levels will reach here.

"Five minutes have passed. I need to fight you for another 25 minutes and the reinforcements will arrive. White gold-ranks or even the purple gold-ranks might turn up. I personally think that you might be captured alive.

“Once you’re captured alive, the people from the Union Government will start digging secrets from you. For example, they’ll ask how you sneaked into the Grade-A foothold? Why do you want to collect the God’s Figurine? Who’s the God Master that you just mentioned? The answers to all these questions will soon be revealed...”

“Should I thank you for thinking from my point of view?” The skinless monster interrupted Lin Huang.

“I’m just telling the truth.” Lin Huang shrugged his shoulders.

“If I’m not mistaken, the time limit for the upgrade in your combat strength should be stricter, shouldn’t it? How long can it still last? Half an hour? 20 minutes? Or is it even shorter than that? You’re telling me this because you hope that I can end the battle before the upgrade in your combat strength ends.”

Lin Huang laughed and did not deny the skinless monster’s speculation. “Do you think that you have any other choice? If you want to drag the battle on, I can do it with you. However, can you afford to do so?”

Again, the skinless monster remained quiet. He knew that that was part of Lin Huang’s trick. However, he had no other choices because he really could not afford to let the battle drag on.

The reinforcements from Lin Huang’s side could arrive at any time. The battle was now at a standstill. If the reinforcements arrived, even if there were only one or two of them, its chances of running away would be much lower.

The skinless monster soon made its decision after thinking thoroughly.

“Lin Xie, you’ve no idea what kind of monster you’ve offended,” said the skinless monster in a low voice as it slowly raised its head. It placed its hand in front of its chest and mumbled.

Lin Huang found that it was strange as the skinless monster looked like it was mourning. A huge shadow soon appeared on top of its head.

He frowned as soon as he saw the shadow. It was a very huge altar made of countless white bones.

Lin Huang could see more than 10 types of skeletons. There were palms of giants, a dragonkin’s spine, a wolf’s fangs, and a god’s blood skull...

There were nine dragon’s teeth that were tens of meters long surrounding the altar.

A raised platform that was about three meters tall stood at the center of the altar. It was made of tens of skeletons of different sizes.

On top of it, there was a god’s blood skull that looked similar to a human’s skull. It was slightly bigger in size and was golden in color. It seemed like it was made of gold.

Lin Huang’s face turned grave as he could recognize that it was the skinless monster’s Life Palace at a first glance.

An imperial-level’s Life Palace would usually be created in their body.

One might think of a palace when they came across the name of Life Palace. They might think that creating a Life Palace was like creating an actual palace in their body.

However, that was far from the truth. A real Life Palace could take any form. It could be a building, a mutated monster, or even a human. It could also be in the form of a weapon, armor, or a spaceship.

The form of a Life Palace would depend on its function.

The function of a Life Palace that resembled a weapon would be related to the increment in combat strength. For instance, it could be upgrading one's skill, attack power, or obtaining attack skills with immense power.

Most of them who majored in sword would choose a Life Palace like that as it was the simplest one.

The function of a monster-like Life Palace was basically related to the skill of the monster itself. Some of them would create a Life Palace of an undying monster. With the Life Palace they had, they could probably inherit the traits of the undying species so they could hardly be killed. Some of their Life Palaces would be in the form of a dragonkin whereby they could obtain dragon flames.

The most peculiar type of Life Palace was the prop type of Life Palace.

The owner of a Life Palace like that would obtain strange auxiliary abilities.

Lin Huang had heard from Mr. Fu before that a few of them possessed such a Life Palace.

Someone even had a Life Palace that looked like a clock. The ability of his Life Palace was to stop the time of the region covered by his Life Palace. Of course, it could last for only three seconds at the most.

Another person's Life Palace was a multi-faceted dice with a total of 160 numbers on the dice. The number obtained from the dice would be the number of times of increment in his attack with the highest being 160 times.

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However, Lin Huang knew that the Life Palace could not be created based on one's preferences.

First of all, the form of a Life Palace depended on the Life Base of the imperial-level monster killed by an imperial-level.

Aside from that, it also depended on the skill level mastered by the person, their Elemental Enlightenment and many other aspects.

Thirdly, the Life Palace would be created randomly.

Even twins who had similar qualifications and had obtained similar Life Bases could have completely different Life Palaces formed.

The Life Palace could take any form on and would result in different effects.

Just like the altar of the skinless monster which was made of skeletons, Lin Huang had no idea what its function was.

The altar was then completely formed.

The skinless monster gradually raised its head, pointing its finger and slitting its left wrist.

Blood started oozing out of the wound on its wrist, flowing towards the altar like a river.

Soon, the blood flowed into the god's blood skull through its hollow eyes.

After a couple of moments, two beams of red lights flashed through the eyes of the god's blood skull at the center of the altar as if it had suddenly opened its eyes!

Chapter 815: Altar

The Life Palace was the most common building one would come across. In fact, most of the imperial-levels would build a Life Palace in this form due to the training system of that era.

Most of their Life Palaces were in the form of a pavilion or a palace. Among the two of them, many of them had palaces.

Since a majority of them had a Life Palace, they would occasionally compare who had the better palace. Soon, the Life Palaces got more and more luxurious. Some of them could be compared to an actual palace whereby it would be called an imperial palace. As time passed, people then got used to it and named the combat strength of this level imperial-level.

Lin Huang had heard about the building of Life Palaces from Mr. Fu.

Most of the tower type of palaces had a suppressing effect.

As for the totem type of Life Palace, it possessed a summoning effect.

The function of a palace type of Life Palace was rather complicated. It could be a storage space whereby it could hold armed forces. Some of them possessed a suppressing effect whereas some of them could teleport like a spaceship.

As for the Life Palace that looked like an altar, Mr. Fu had never mentioned it before and Lin Huang was seeing it for the first time.

At first glance, he thought that it exuded a dangerous aura. He felt the same as when the skinless monster had first revealed its real body.

Seeing the skinless monster cutting its wrists and offering sacrifices to something unknown, Lin Huang felt insecure.

The ancient daggers blasted off and headed towards the skinless monster, controlled by Lin Huang's Telekinesis since he was now an imperial-level in an attempt to interrupt the sacrifice.

However, they were blocked by an invisible defensive layer which was tens of meters away from the skinless monster. The daggers then struck from another side.

Lin Huang frowned and immediately surrounded the skinless monster and the altar above him with more daggers, trying to find its flaw.

Lin Huang activated his ocular skill but could not find anything odd. The defensive layer was like an invisible eggshell, enveloping the skinless monster and the altar above him. It was faultless.

Attempting to attack with his dagger in an irregular fashion several times, his effort was still in vain. Lin Huang did not want to waste his energy any longer.

Although he had no idea what would happen after the sacrifice, he still had to wait patiently to see what would happen next.

After a short while, the sacrificial ceremony on the skinless monster's side finally ended.

At the center of the altar, two crimson glows shot out of the eyes of the golden god's bloody skull as if it had awakened from a deep slumber.

Lin Huang could feel that the aura released at the center of the altar had reached its pinnacle, and it was hundreds of times nastier than that of the skinless monster.

He gripped his demigod-level combat sword tightly, putting his guard up. He was afraid that something might happen.

In the middle of the altar, after the god's bloody skull opened its eyes, it fixed its gaze on the skinless monster. After sizing it up, the skull began to speak, "Little brat, I can smell the scent of the masked old witch from your body..."

"Sir, my God Master is the Mask Master for real." The skinless monster slightly bent its body as a sign of respect. Since it dared to address its God Master in this way, perhaps it was a True God that was as strong as the God Master. Even if it was not, it would not be that much weaker as well.

"I rarely have any contact with the old witch. It seems like we don't have any conflict to break the contract with you. The function of your Life Palace is quite special as it managed to lead my conscience over here. Do tell. What's your deal?"

"If I want to level up to demigod-level, what do I need to do?"

"Three ultimate-grade demigod relics," the skull said, "If you're just asking for a provisional upgrade, one ultimate-grade demigod relic is enough."

It expected to pay for it. However, the skinless monster did not expect that the demands would be so greedy.

"What... What about leveling up to purple gold-rank?" It did not reply the skull and made another request instead.

"For a permanent upgrade, you'll need an ultimate-grade demigod relic. For a provisional upgrade, you'll need an expert-grade demigod relic."

If the skinless monster had brows, he would be frowning. One could now see that its mouth was turned down.

"I don't have an expert-grade demigod relic..."

"There'll be a time limit for the provisional upgrade. It keeps you on the purple gold-rank for three days with an expert-grade demigod relic. If you only need a three-hour provisional upgrade in combat

strength, an intermediate-grade demigod relic will suffice. If you only need it for 10 minutes, then a beginner-grade demigod relic will do.”

“Exchanging a beginner-level demigod relic for 10 minutes...” It would be trading at a loss. However, the skinless monster had no other choice. Remaining quiet for a short while, he eventually agreed to trade.

“Deal!”

It then took out a beginner-level demigod relic from its storage space and gave it to the skull.

The skull then opened its mouth and sucked it. The beginner-level demigod relic then transformed into a beam of light and entered its mouth, completely disappearing.

At that moment, the skull opened its mouth again, shooting a black beam towards the skinless monster. It penetrated the position between its brows.

The aura of the skinless monster immediately grew and it broke through the yellow gold-rank in less than two breaths. After getting to the white gold-rank, its combat strength continued to grow. Soon, it leveled up to imperial-level rank-5 and was a purple gold-rank.

Its combat strength continued to grow until it reached the peak of purple gold-rank.

The skinless monster felt energized and extremely powerful.

Lin Huang witnessed what just happened with a sinking heart.

Although he could not listen to the conversation between the skull and the skinless monster, he could see that the latter had given a demigod relic to the skull. Soon, the skull spat out a black glow towards it. Its combat strength then began to evolve until it reached purple gold-rank.

Lin Huang’s face turned grave.

Right at that moment, the skull turned its head and looked in the direction where Lin Huang was.

It did not shift its gaze away though. Instead, it fixed its gaze on Lin Huang and sized him up.

It then turned its body around and told the skinless monster, “The little brat won’t die today.”

“What?” The skinless monster was stunned.

“I’m saying that the human brat that you want to kill today won’t die. There was no deadly aura that lingered around his body. Even if you were to level up to demigod-level, you can’t kill him.” The skull continued by saying something strange, “Since your Life Palace looks pretty interesting, it’d be a waste if you were killed. Let me give you another piece of advice. There’s a deadly aura that lingers all over your body and it’s getting stronger and stronger. There are high chances that you’ll die here today. Try to leave this place as soon as possible. Perhaps you can survive...”

After finishing its sentence, the skinless monster did not ask anything else. Looking at the center of the altar, the two red glows disappeared swiftly as if nothing had happened.

Chapter 816: Killing the Skinless Monster

Lin Huang had no idea what the function of the skinless monster's Life Palace was since it was in the form of an altar.

However, witnessing the trade between the skinless monster and the skull, he could roughly guess what it was.

"It seems like it allows communication with the God through a blood sacrifice. They then trade... I suppose they're exchanging something for abilities."

He watched the skinless monster take a demigod relic out and give it to the skull, which then released a black beam of light and inserted it into the skinless monster's body. Its combat strength then began to grow. Lin Huang guessed that was the function of the Life Palace.

In fact, Lin Huang did not find it rare. When he was at the Hunter College, he had read through most of the information regarding the Life Palace. Besides that, Mr. Fu had explained to him before. Theoretically, a Life Palace could possess any function.

His opponent's combat strength was the most troublesome thing to him.

After the trade at the altar, the skinless monster's combat strength advanced from yellow gold-rank to purple gold-rank.

The purple gold-rank was the last rank of an imperial-level. It was the most unattainable level for anyone below the demigod-level.

Lin Huang knew that his opponent would have a backup plan. However, it was out of its expectations.

"I'm in trouble."

When the skinless monster was still a yellow gold-rank, he was barely able to suppress it as he was on black gold-rank. However, as the combat strength of his opponent became two ranks higher and managed to get to purple gold-rank, even a black gold-rank could not handle that.

Lin Huang secretly contacted Xiao Hei. "If I were to continue upgrading my combat strength, how long can my body bear the additional burden?"

"Without Divine Regeneration, your body will completely collapse after three minutes at the most if you were to level up to crimson gold-rank.

"With Divine Regeneration, your body can sustain for about 20 to 30 minutes on crimson gold-rank. Your body will collapse after 30 minutes. You can last for about two to three minutes on yellow gold-rank. You'll definitely die if you stay at this level for more than three minutes."

"What about white gold-rank? How long can my body sustain?" Lin Huang continued asking.

"It's quite meaningless to ask this question. At 10 seconds the most, your body and soul will collapse."

"I know. Activate two Provisional Combat Strength Upgrade Cards."

...

After its combat strength was stabilized, the skinless monster said, "Lin Xie, regardless of how strong your secret skill is, you'll just receive an upgrade in combat strength. You can't become a true imperial-level!"

It actually believed what the skull said regarding the deadly aura because it was now in Wanbao City. An imperial-level could appear at any time and it would be killed. Perhaps this was also the reason why its body released a strong, deadly aura.

"I have to admit that you're really an amazing opponent. However, it should end here." After finishing its sentence, the skinless monster then appeared right in front of Lin Huang.

It pointed its finger between Lin Huang's brows.

At that moment, Lin Huang's combat strength grew immediately and had broken through crimson gold-rank, getting to yellow gold-rank.

He extended his palm and the Dark Mirror was quickly formed again, blocking the front of Lin Huang.

The skinless monster's finger that was initially pointing at Lin Huang's brows then aimed at the Dark Mirror, but its attack was soon reflected.

The skinless monster was caught unaware and again, it flew away.

It was difficult for it to balance itself in mid-air. It then stared at Lin Huang in shock. "Your combat strength... How could it be?!"

"Nothing's impossible."

Lin Huang then transformed into a shadow. There was a spark in the air as his demigod relic streaked across the sky.

"Since you've used your trump card, let's see who will be the winner of this battle!"

After uttering those words, he hurled his sword forward.

In mid-air, the collision between the figures had instantly intensified and it was 10 times stronger than before.

The area that was hundreds of kilometers in circumference was affected by their battle as well.

The clouds had cleared away and the bird monsters had fled. Even the ground began to crack open and a huge gully was formed. The mountains collapsed and the peaceful lakes were stirred.

The explosive sound of the battle spread throughout the entire Wanbao City. The rumbling of thunder could be heard late at night, awakening many of the ordinary people.

Those who were heading towards the battleground clearly sensed the energy fluctuation as well, and their faces turned grave.

"The battle's become much more intense now!"

"Perhaps only the purple gold-ranks can result in such an energy fluctuation."

“The battle is so intense. Perhaps they’ve used their trump cards!”

Right at this moment, a warning from the defense system of Wanbao City was issued.

“Warning! The combat strength of the invader has increased!”

“Its combat strength is now on purple gold-rank!”

Seeing the warning, many of the imperial-levels who wanted to watch the battle began to wonder if they should go to the battleground.

If the combat strength of the monster was only on yellow gold-rank, it would probably miss out on achieving black gold-rank if it were injured. However, it was now on purple gold-rank and was just one step away from getting to demigod-level. Perhaps there were less than five of them in Wanbao City who could fight it. They would be seeking death if they were to go to the battleground.

“The monster is skilled!” The old man squinted his eyes. “The human who’s blocking its way isn’t weak.”

The middle-aged man next to him was upset. “I was still wondering if I could benefit from the fight. It seems like I have no chance to do so now.”

At the battleground, Lin Huang crashed into the skinless monster again and again.

After getting to yellow gold-rank, he knew that he did not have much time remaining. He only had three minutes at the most.

If he failed to kill his opponent within three minutes, he would die.

Even if his body did not collapse, the skinless monster would not let him go when he returned to being immortal-level rank-1.

The skinless monster was extraordinarily hostile. Its opponent’s Sword Dao was way too powerful. Even though it had leveled up to purple gold-rank and was only one step away from getting to demigod-level, it was still pinned down by the yellow gold-rank.

Despite the fact that it was wearing demigod-level armor, it became slightly injured after each collision.

“No, I can’t let this continue. I might be the one that dies.”

The skinless monster panicked. It knew that the upgrade in Lin Huang’s combat strength would be limited in terms of time. However, it did not know that he only had three minutes. As it thought about what the skull said, it felt that Lin Huang’s reinforcements would arrive very soon. Again, he recalled the skull commenting that there was no deadly aura lingering around Lin Xie’s body. It had used up all its skills and had no way to defeat Lin Xie, so it wanted to retreat.

It did not show any hint of its fear to Lin Huang and set its plan in mind.

After a short while, it shouted at Lin Huang, “Lin Xie, since I can’t run away, let’s die together!”

As soon as it finished its sentence, blood started oozing out of its skinless body.

The blood then coagulated at a speed that was visible to the naked eye and flesh was formed. It continued to grow. In just the blink of an eye, the skinless monster’s body became much more muscular.

It was originally three meters tall and it looked slightly skinny. It was now four meters tall and was even brawnier.

Again, Lin Huang battled the skinless monster. Unexpectedly, a metallic sound was heard as his sword struck it. There were no wounds and only white stripes could be seen wherever his sword made contact.

The skinless monster smiled wryly, opening its big hand and pouncing towards Lin Huang.

Lin Huang frowned. Again, he brandished his sword, piercing it through its chest. He retreated as he felt the impact traveling up his arms. He then managed to block most of the impact.

At that moment, the flesh on the skinless monster's spine began to creep across its body. A figure was then formed in the blink of an eye.

Lin Huang caught a glimpse of it. It was another skinless monster. The muscular humanoid monster was now an empty shell.

Unexpectedly, the empty shell pounced towards Lin Huang.

The real body of the skinless monster took out a dimensional portal and looked at Lin Huang with an insulting expression as it pushed open the door. "Have fun with my clone. See you!"

It did not know that when its real body got out of the empty shell, Lin Huang had secretly contacted Xiao Hei.

"How long can my body sustain if I were to use another Provisional Combat Strength Upgrade Card?"

"Three seconds."

"That's enough." Lin Huang nodded his head.

...

"Do you think that you can run away?" Seeing the skinless monster that was standing at the entrance of the dimensional portal, Lin Huang gave an insulting smile.

The skinless monster was afraid of him and immediately took a step forward.

Just as it strode into the dimensional portal, a black glow appeared out of nowhere. At almost the same time, it felt a chill coming from its knees. It lowered its head and blood stains extended from its knees to its head.

Before losing its consciousness, it finally saw that the one who had attacked it was Lin Xie who was less than two meters away from it. As it shifted its gaze, it saw that there was another Lin Xie who stood where its clone was. The most surprising fact was that both of them were not on yellow gold-rank but white gold-rank instead.

The dimensional portal collapsed on its own. Obviously, Lin Huang's attack had struck the dimensional portal as well.

The dead body that was cut into half fell to the ground. The skinless monster's real body had died while its clone became limp and turned into flesh.

The two God's Figurine combat souls that were fighting Charcoal transformed into two palm-sized God's Figurines. Charcoal gripped them in its mouth, flying towards Lin Huang.

"Fortunately, the Cloning Card can create a clone anywhere within my territory." Since he was bugged by the clone, not only did Lin Huang activate a Provisional Combat Strength Upgrade Card and level up to white gold-rank, but he had used a Cloning Card as well. He had created a clone of similar abilities to kill the skinless monster. He actually got the idea of using a Cloning Card from his opponent's clone.

Removing the effect of the Provisional Combat Strength Upgrade Card, Lin Huang's body that was about to collapse had been stabilized.

Lin Huang removed the Knight and Integration skills as well, and his combat strength quickly returned to immortal-level rank-1. He felt extremely weak instantly.

Kylie then took all the spoils of war before riding on Charcoal's back and leaving the battleground. Lin Huang then took out his dimensional portal and returned to the hotel.

Chapter 817: Memory Pieces

After Lin Huang had left for less than 10 minutes, two figures arrived at almost the same time at the battleground where Lin Huang and the skinless monster had fought.

They were an old man and a skinny man.

The elder was about 1.6 meters tall with white hair. However, what stood out was his pair of bright piercing eyes, carefully sizing up the surroundings.

The skinny man was about 1.8 meters tall and he looked like he was 30 years old. He had a gloomy expression. Nobody had offended him but he was born with that face.

"Didn't your disciple follow you?"

"He's over there. The vibrations of the battle ended just now. He's such a burden, that's why came over here first." The elder did not turn his head around and continued sizing up the surroundings.

Obviously, the two of them were very close to each other, so they did not need to be really polite when talking to each other.

"I think it's because he has just leveled up to imperial-level. That's when he likes to watch battles the most," the skinny man said.

"He just got to imperial-level and he thought he can go anywhere he wants. He has no idea how dangerous the world is and he'll have to bear the losses later on," the elder grumbled. He then changed the topic. "Let's not talk about him. What do you think about this battleground?"

"No dead bodies were discovered. Aside from the traces of the battle, only two pieces of flesh could be seen on the ground. I've no idea where they're from. We'll need a forensic expert to evaluate it. However, looking at the traces of the battle and the remaining energy, the situation should be almost the same as what we sensed when we were on our way here. There were five of them, two of whom

were extremely strong. The last explosion was on par with a purple gold-rank's power. The other three should've been in a two versus one battle whereby their abilities were relatively weaker..."

"Yes, what you said is along the lines of my observation. Just as the energy fluctuation ended, the warning reported by the defense system was removed. The monster must've been killed and its dead body was probably brought away." The elder nodded his head.

"We can't eliminate the possibility that the hunter might've been killed and the monster has won the fight either. Since the monster was capable of sneaking into the foothold, it means it has the ability to get rid of the defense system. It's possible for it to do the same thing again."

"That could be true but that's less likely to happen. I'm more inclined to another possibility whereby the monster was killed. If what you said is true, it's not difficult for us to ask around whether there's a missing person on yellow gold-rank but possesses purple gold-rank abilities."

While both of them were chatting, the rest of the imperial-levels arrived one after another.

After the defense system had removed the warning alert, they no longer needed to go there. However, almost everybody decided to go as they wanted to see the battle of the purple gold-rank.

Some of them hoped that the hunter had not left yet as they wanted to know him.

While everybody was still searching for clues, Lin Huang had already gone back to his hotel room.

After recalling Charcoal back into its card form, Yi Zheng was released from Kylie's mini world.

Just as Yi Zheng got out of her mini world, he saw that there were blood stains all over Lin Huang's body.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Lin Huang smiled, shaking his head.

He was injured but thanks to his Divine Regeneration, he quickly healed. Only blood stains remained on his clothes.

"Where's the imperial-level? Did he chase after us? He knows that we're staying here." Yi Zheng thought that Lin Huang had escaped from the imperial-level and that it was not safe to be in the hotel room.

"Don't worry. He's dead."

"He's dead?" Yi Zheng was startled. He then looked at Lin Huang with an incredulous expression.

"Yes. He's really strong. I've almost used up all my trump cards to kill it." Lin Huang briefly told him what had happened and was not going to explain any further. He did not want to tell Yi Zheng that the imperial-level was actually not a human but a yellow gold-rank monster instead. He was not trying to hide his abilities but it would take him a lot of effort to explain himself.

When he heard this, Yi Zheng knew that he should not ask any further. Since it involved Lin Huang's trump cards, even though they were friends who trusted each other, he did not need to know about it.

He then recalled the independent dimension where Kylie had brought him to. He gave up his intention of asking any further.

“Are you sure you’re okay?”

However, he was still worried about whether Lin Huang’s body was fine. The bloodstains looked like it was not an ordinary wound. In fact, he was injured because he had saved his life.

“Look at me.”

Seeing that Yi Zheng was still worried about him, Lin Huang sighed, taking off his clothes and revealing his upper body. There were muscles rippling across his body but no scars could be found.

“I have a secret skill that can heal my body. As long as I have sufficient Life Power in my body, I can recover regardless of how serious the wound is.”

“Don’t worry that your combat strength is now sealed. The person who sealed your combat strength has died. Perhaps in less than an hour, the seal in your body will be destroyed and your combat strength will be restored. There’s an underground auction tomorrow. Go back to your room and rest well.”

After sending Yi Zheng off, Lin Huang burnt the stained clothes and took a shower, cleaning all the blood on his body.

He took out the two palm-sized God’s Figurines from the bathtub.

Most of the rewards were still in his opponent’s Emperor’s Heart Ring. He was not going to take them out yet. After all, the most valuable items were the two God’s Figurines.

One of them looked like a cat with a wry face. It had a slender body and there were cheetah stripes all over its fur.

Another one was a snake-headed hooved monster with black scales all over its body, resembling a statue made of black metal.

Lin Huang had never seen the two monsters in the monster guide before.

If he managed to train the two God’s Figurines, he could level up to immortal-level rank-3. However, he knew that it was not the time yet.

One of the reasons was that Yi Zheng was with him. It was difficult for him to explain to him how he managed to move up by two ranks in a day.

Another reason was that he knew that the people from the Wanbao Auction paid close attention to his identity. He would be in trouble if there was an upgrade in his combat strength.

Putting the two God’s Figurines away, his body slowly submerged into the water. He closed his eyes, recalling the battle that had just happened.

Lin Huang had to do his homework this time.

Each time after experiencing an intense battle, he would recall the entire process of the battle, analyzing every detail. He had to figure out what he did wrong so that he could avoid making the same mistake the next time. Another thing he had to do was to analyze his opponent’s strength and determine if there was anything he could learn from his opponent. Also, he would also think from a different perspective, reviewing the entire battle and thinking about whether there could have been a better solution.

Those scenes constantly ran through his mind...

Yi Zheng had been kidnapped. He had saved Yi Zheng and got engaged in an intense fight with the imperial-level. The monster then revealed its real body, offering a sacrifice to the God's Figurine combat souls and its Life Palace.

His brain played back all those scenes very quickly and he recalled all the details. He replayed them again and again.

"I actually had the chance to kill it when it revealed its real body before the appearance of the God's Figurine combat souls and the Life Palace. Before it offered the sacrifice to the Life Palace, I had a chance to kill it as well. I missed two chances..."

"The dragon flames with Charcoal was effective. I've defeated five of its combat souls."

"Nobody can withstand the attack by a demigod relic, not even a demigod. Its clone managed to block my attack as a result of the integration of the clone and the demigod-level. Such a secret skill must've been derived from the cloning skill. Luckily, I figured it out in time and knew that the demigod-level armor isn't on its body but on the clone's body instead. I eventually made the right decision, killing it with my clone."

"It was too risky to make such a decision. If I misjudged and its real body was wearing the demigod-level armor, I wouldn't have been able to kill it. The dimensional portal would've been destroyed and I'd have killed myself since the effect of the combat strength upgrade can only last for three seconds..."

Before he could finish analyzing everything, a few scenes suddenly flashed through his mind. He calmed himself down and began checking what they were. After a short while, he finally found out the sources of those scenes in his Life Lamp. "These are the memories of the skinless monster..."

Chapter 818: The Images in His Head

In the God's Figurine which had a Divine Fire burning, a cloud of pure spiritual energy hovered above the flames and was covered by a layer of faint green glow. It was the protective layer created automatically by the God's Figurine in order for the spiritual energy to block any interference from the Divine Fire.

After some investigation, Lin Huang realized that the images flashing through his head came from the cloud of spiritual energy.

To be exact, the God's Figurine had absorbed the skinless monster's soul automatically after he killed it. With the help of the Divine Fire, it turned the monster's soul into pure spiritual energy.

Since it was filtered through the Divine Fire, most of the information in the cloud of spiritual energy, which was the storage of the monster's soul, vanished. Only a small amount of it remained and was not completely wiped off.

The few images that flashed through Lin Huang's mind was the only remaining information.

"Unfortunately, there's no more information left." Lin Huang did not manage to find out more after checking out the contents of the spiritual energy.

Lin Huang lost his mood for a bubble bath, so he put his clothes on again and returned to the bedroom.

He was initially exhausted physically and mentally from the intense fight. However, he did not feel sleepy at the moment.

His eyes were opened despite lying on the bed as he recalled the few images that had flashed through his head earlier.

The first image was the back of a man.

Although he could only see the man's back, he could discern that the man was young while his body was not exactly strong. He even seemed a little skinny and weak.

The second image was the interior of a hall. There were two rows of powerhouses sitting on both sides in the bright and magnificent hall.

There was a massive golden throne further in the hall with someone sitting on it. However, it was just a black silhouette of which no details could be detected and he could not even determine the person's gender.

The third image was a sky full of blood mist. Under the bloody sky was a variety of monsters gathering all over the land. There were at least millions of monsters within his field of vision.

Meanwhile, the fourth image was a black crack that looked like a spider web. It was a massive crack situated in the sky. The image was dark while the crack was sucking in air rampantly from all directions.

The last three images were all God's Figurines.

Not only did they include the two items that Lin Huang had just obtained, even what he had just refined in his hand was included too.

"These must be the more important memories which it put away deep in his soul without realizing to the point that the memories weren't erased in the preliminary filtering in the Divine Fire. Now, they're just static images with the audio removed.

"The bloody sky in the third image doesn't seem like it happened in our land.

"The crack in the fourth image looks like the Abyss Brink's crack, possibly the other side of it. If that's the case, it must have passed through the air crack and arrived at the human foothold via the Abyss Brink. That's a reasonable explanation. In this case, the bloody sky in the third image could possibly be the virtual zone connected to the Abyss Brink.

"The black silhouette sitting on the throne in the second image should be the God Master the skinless monster mentioned but I can't identify the man in the first image.

"The three God's Figurine images should be the reason why the skinless monster came to our land but I've no idea why would it have or if it looked for the God Figurines. It shouldn't have just created God's Figurine combat souls for all the effort that they're putting in. The nature of a God's Figurine combat soul isn't much more powerful than an ordinary combat soul's. It's just harder to kill..."

Lin Huang thought a lot about the images that he saw but the connection between the images were insufficient. He could not come up with a complete theory.

"If this monster really came from the Abyss Brink's crack, then there might be a change to the five-year catastrophe from the Abyss Brink. It seems like I'll have to visit Abyss Brink after the auction ends." Lin Huang's mind was fully occupied that night. He finally fell asleep when it was past four in the morning as a result of his physical and mental exhaustion.

Around three hours after that, Yi Zheng was going to ask Lin Huang along for breakfast after washing up. The seal was removed automatically the night before. He was relieved now. It was rare that he could relax.

Just when he was ready to knock on Lin Huang's door, he heard the Voice Transmission coming from Bloody behind the door.

"Master's just fallen asleep a while ago. Let him rest during the day. I'll inform him before the auction starts in the evening."

Although Yi Zheng did not communicate much with Bloody, he knew about its existence, so its voice was not a stranger to him. He nodded immediately after hearing what it said. "Sure, then I won't disturb him. I'll be on my own during the day. I'll see him in the evening."

After sending Yi Zheng off, Bloody dashed back to the couch where it proceeded to work on the Heart Network.

Lin Huang slept all the way past four in the afternoon. He only woke up after sleeping for approximately twelve hours.

Although the major fight which took place in the middle of the night did not leave any after-effects on him, it exhausted him gravely. His exhaustion only went away by 60 to 70% after sleeping.

"It's 4.21p.m.? Have I slept for twelve hours?!" Lin Huang projected the clock from his Emperor's Heart Ring as soon as he opened his eyes and was shocked when he saw the time.

"You've overworked your body, so sleeping a lot from the exhaustion is normal. Generally speaking, you'd need three days at the most to recover completely." Bloody floated into the bedroom slowly. "The underground auction only opens at 7.30 p.m. You can sleep for a few more hours if you're still tired. I'll wake you up by then."

"There's no need. My exhaustion won't be completely taken away even if I sleep for the entire day." Lin Huang hopped off the bed directly.

"Then, eat something. I asked Yi Zheng to bring you some food at noon. It's in the cooler box," Bloody had arranged everything accordingly.

Lin Huang nodded and headed straight to the kitchen. He took the food out from the cooler box and brought it to the dining hall.

He asked while eating after sitting down, "Is there any news today?"

“What happened in the middle of the night is up on the local news. The media says an anonymous powerhouse killed the monster that invaded the foothold. From the news on the media, nobody knows who exactly killed the monster. Otherwise, they would’ve come to you for interviews.”

“What else?” Lin Huang asked again after swallowing the fried egg in his mouth.

“Also, many people from the underworld are investigating this. Some of the forces are trying to find out who killed the monster that invaded. Most of them should be interesting in recruiting the killer.”

“How about the God’s Figurine? Did you find anything about it?” Ever since he elevated to immortal rank, Lin Huang planned to find as many God’s Figurines as he could so that he could elevate to immortal-level rank-9 as quickly as possible.

“No clue. I can’t find anything on the Web. I suspect the Union Government secretly did something. There’s no news from the black market as well but it’s only been a day, so it’s normal that we haven’t heard anything yet.”

“It’s been blocked by the Union Government? Seems like the Union Government knows what the God’s Figurine is...” Lin Huang squinted lightly.

Chapter 819: The Underground Auction Begins!

It was early autumn at the beginning of September. The weather was turning cold while the heat from the summer was long gone. The sky turned completely dark before it was even 7 p.m.

After dinner, Lin Huang and Yi Zheng rushed to the Wanbao Auction together. The underground auction was not held there; it was just a hub.

A few staff welcomed them as soon as they entered the entrance of the auction.

One of them asked, “May I know if the both of you are participating in this together or do you want to be separated?”

“Let’s do it together,” Lin Huang answered.

“Please follow me.” The staff who asked the question led the both of them to an elevator as soon as he was done speaking.

“The elevator will take the both of you to a random vacant room underground. You can pick a mask and cloak that you like. Please go to Room B1 after the both of you put on the mask and cloak. Someone will bring you to the underground auction.” The staff tapped open the elevator doors after the simple explanation and watched the both of them enter.

Soon after entering the elevator, the doors opened again and they arrived at an exhibition hall that was more than 100 square meters in size.

There were hundreds of simulation models in the exhibition hall. Each of them wore a different mask and cloak.

Only a minority did not have any cloaks or masks. It was clear that they had been picked by people who arrived before they did.

Yi Zheng was dazzled by the choices at the moment and he had no idea which one he should go for.

However, it was not an issue for Lin Huang. Each and every mask and cloak became clear to him in his head as he scanned through them with his Divine Telekinesis.

He picked the mask and cloak that he desired in less than a minute.

The material of the mask was a light alloy with a silver base and there were not many patterns on it. It seemed extremely plain and simple.

For the cloak, Lin Huang picked a black, long robe. Just like the mask, there were no patterns or decorations on it while the hoodie covered most of his face.

Although he had put on the mask and cloak, Yi Zheng, on the other hand, had not even picked any.

“Aren’t you quick to pick?”

“I’m a psychic. I’d be able to see through all of the masks and cloaks with a scan of my Divine Telekinesis. Naturally, it’s easy for me to pick them.” Lin Huang only realized that his voice had changed after speaking. It must have been a function that came together with the mask.

“I’m dazzled by them. Maybe you should pick for me.” Yi Zheng did not bother to choose his own any longer. “Just get something that’s similar to yours. The simpler, the better. I don’t want anything with patterns or decorations.”

“Sure.” Using his Divine Telekinesis, Lin Huang soon picked three masks and four cloaks for Yi Zheng.

Yi Zheng picked a set among the shortlisted ones that Lin Huang had picked out for him. He selected a golden mask that had no decorations and a long, black robe similar to the one Lin Huang was wearing.

After Yi Zheng put the mask and cloak on, Lin Huang finished putting the remaining masks and cloaks back on the models.

“Let’s go!” The both of them then pushed the door open and left the room.

They lifted their heads and found out that the room that they were in was Room B18. The room numbers got smaller as they walked along the left side of the corridor.

After walking ahead for a moment, the door to Room B11 swung open suddenly. A person in a white robe and a painted mask walked out of the room. The person was skinny and one could not tell if the person was a man or a woman since the robe did a good job at shrouding the person.

The person was slightly surprised to see Lin Huang and Yi Zheng, but soon snapped back to his or her senses and walked towards Room B1 as he turned.

Lin Huang and Yi Zheng were less than 30 meters behind the person. They were following him all the way but were not in a hurry to catch up with him.

When they arrived at the entrance of Room B1, the white-robed person turned around and glanced at them before going into the room.

Lin Huang and Yi Zheng soon followed and entered the room.

The interior of Room B1 was similar to that of a meeting room. There were already 18 people sitting at the long table while there were still three vacant seats.

Among the 18 of them, 17 of them wore cloaks and a variety of masks including the white-robed man earlier. The man who sat at the main seat of the table was the exceptional one. He wore a mask that was as white as a piece of jade but donned a black suit. He did not fit in with the rest of them.

Almost everyone had their eyes on Lin Huang and Yi Zheng.

However, since the masks and cloaks had the function of blocking out detection, nobody could find out anything about the both of them.

Lin Huang glanced through everyone present and his eyes landed on the man in the suit. He figured that man was the staff of the underground auction.

“Take a seat.” As expected, the man in the suit spoke after observing them for a little while, “The dimensional portal can transport 20 people each time. We’re only lacking one more person now excluding me.”

Lin Huang and Yi Zheng then sat down in the vacant seats that were close to them.

The room with 20 people soon fell into a dead silence.

None of them knew each other. Moreover, since their bodies were completely covered, not only were their personal details blocked, but their trust towards each other had dropped to the lowest. so there was nothing that they could talk about.

Although they would check each other out, their eyes usually would not stay on the same person for too long because they could not see anything from just looking. Secondly, some hot heads would treat that as a provocation and that would bring unnecessary trouble to oneself.

Everyone knew that people who were invited to an underground auction were not ordinary people, so none of them wanted to make enemies.

Fortunately, the dead silence did not last for too long as a newcomer came in.

The man in the suit stood up when there were a total of 20 of them. He then brought out a white Dimensional Portal and got everyone to walk through it after activating the transportation coordinates.

As the Dimensional Portal shut slowly, Lin Huang and the rest realized that they had arrived in a hall as a flash illuminated before their eyes.

Lin Huang looked around after hearing chattering.

There was an auction stage not far away. A lady wearing bunny ears was standing on it and she was looking at Lin Huang and the rest of them.

“To the guests who have just arrived, please take a seat wherever you like.”

Lin Huang turned to the other side and found that most of the seats were vacant, but around 100 of them were taken. There seats on the first two rows were almost occupied.

The chattering came from there.

Lin Huang glanced over and saw a few pairs of people talking to each other. He figured that they must have come together.

The 20 of them scattered and found their seats after listening to the lady on the stage.

Noticing there were no more seats in the center zone on the third row, Lin Huang found two vacant seats in the middle of the fourth row and sat down with Yi Zheng.

“This venue’s so small. There are only a total of 1,200 seats,” Lin Huang said through Voice Transmission and smiled.

“The underground auction’s usually small-scaled. Moreover, Wanbao City’s under the ruling of the Union Government. They’d need to give face to the Union Government, so they have to keep it low,” Yi Zheng explained, “The more people they invite to auctions like this, the more trouble there might be.”

They were chatting out of boredom since there was still time before the auction began.

More and more guests were transported to the venue while the seats became occupied.

When it was almost 7.50p.m., the 1,200 seats were all filled at the venue as all the invitees arrived.

The lady in the bunny ears finally spoke again when it was 8 p.m. sharp, “Good evening, our honorable guests. Welcome to the auction. I’m the auctioneer of the current auction, Bunny Ears. There’s no need to suspect my name. It’s obvious that it’s not my real name. I hope we can have an enjoyable evening today and that everyone will purchase something that they desire.”

“Let’s cut to the chase and send the first collection to the stage!” She corrected herself as soon as she was done speaking, “To be exact, this is the first set of collections.”

As she spoke, 20 naked men walked onto the auction stage and stood in two rows. The opening act caused many of the guests to discuss among themselves.

“Are they human slaves who have been castrated?” Lin Huang frowned while Yi Zheng looked displeased.

There were no traces of genitals on the lower half of the 20 naked men.

“Isn’t the surgery pretty darn clean-cut?” The gray-robed man who sat behind Lin Huang could not help but say out loud.

“It seems like I must explain myself,” Bunny Ears spoke again, “These 20 men aren’t human slaves like what all of you are thinking. Although they look exactly like humans, they’re actually artificial men made with genetic technology. This batch is just the first whereby they’re small-scale tests. All of them are on the combat level of immortal-level rank-9.”

“There are 20 of them and the opening price will be 100 million Life Crystals each. The bidding increment has to be at least five million Life Crystals. We’ll begin the auction with No. 1!”

Chapter 820: Mutant

Each and every artificial man was different. The auctioneer only gave a simple description like a summary about them due to the time constraint at the auction.

At the same time, the organizing team projected the detailed information of each of the artificial men on the screen behind the auction stage.

From the projected information, it was clear that these artificial men were very different from one another.

Some of them were proficient in either Sword Dao, Saber Dao, close-distance combat or telekinesis.

“They have an ability on par with a double mutated monster and come with five skills. They’re similar to customized summoning beasts in the form of humans and their price is equivalent to purchasing an immortal-level rank-9 summoning beast.” Lin Huang raised his eyebrow after reading the details. “But coupled with the fact that obtaining new skills from learning makes them more powerful than summoning beasts, I just can’t understand why their price is higher than summoning beasts.”

Lin Huang was not exactly interested in artificial men like those. He already had more than ten summoning beasts which talents were more powerful, so it was unnecessary for him to purchase such artificial men. Moreover, such living creatures could not be made into cards directly like how he could with Bai and the rest. He would not mind purchasing one if they could be made into cards so that he could train them bit by bit.

However, Lin Huang had no idea if artificial men were classified as humans or monsters. If they were humans, there would be no Monster Card given when they were killed. The most one could get was Skill Cards. If they were monsters, the chances of getting Monster Cards were slim even if all 20 of them on the stage were killed.

Lin Huang decided not to participate in the auction after giving it some thought.

“Lend me some Life Crystals if I don’t have enough later,” Yi Zheng who was sitting beside him said through Voice Transmission suddenly.

“Sure.” Lin Huang nodded directly. He did not lack money and he was not afraid that Yi Zheng would not return the money.

The artificial men were sold one after another on the auction stage.

Yi Zheng, who sat next to Lin Huang, suddenly called his bid when they were auctioning the sixth artificial man.

“150 million!” Lin Huang was stunned to hear his price and turned to ask, “What do you want to do with this thing?”

“I want the military to study them,” Yi Zheng replied through Voice Transmission, “If possible, I’d like to purchase three of them: a spear cultivator, a sword cultivator and one that’s proficient in close-range combat.”

“Sure, let me know if you’re out of Life Crystals.” Lin Huang nodded.

Yi Zheng had grown up in a military family and he actually had a job in the military. However, it was just a cinch whereby he had little power in his position.

The objective of him going to Division 3 to train was mainly for him to add colors to his experience. Just like those who were studying their Ph.D. on Earth, many of them were required to study abroad.

Although Yi Zheng’s direction of development in the military had nothing to do with research, it would be an achievement for him to bring the artificial men back. Furthermore, the military would definitely reimburse his spending.

After intense bidding, Yi Zheng managed to purchase the sword cultivator at 270 million.

Later on, he purchased a spear cultivator at 230 million and a close-range combat cultivator at 240 million.

The man in red mask right behind Lin Huang and Yi Zheng could not help but mumble out loud, “I wonder what’s he going to do with so many male artificial men given that all of the ones he purchased are strong.” He was judging Yi Zheng beneath his mask.

“I’d like to purchase an artificial female, but the thing is, there isn’t any...” Yi Zheng forced a smile while shrugging helplessly.

Most of the other bidders only purchased one while a minority of them purchased two. Yi Zheng had purchased the most and he happened to purchase the three strongest ones. However, he was analyzing the three artificial men’s abilities and the fact that they possessed the skills and test reports from the factory. He did not notice how the artificial men looked like at all.

In reality, just like the man in the red mask, most of them were hoping to see the female version after seeing this batch of artificial men. However, the auctioneer revealed they had yet to perfect the manufacturing technique of the artificial females, so none were produced this time. It might be next year if the technical issues were solved.

Soon, the 20 artificial men were all sold out. Bunny Ears then presented the second collection.

The staff brought ten cabinets that were around two meters high onto the auction stage.

Ten metal cages were revealed when the red cloths were lifted. There was a lady in each cage. They were naked and seemed no different from humans, just that their breasts were much larger than ordinary ladies’.

“Busty women...” Lin Huang frowned. It was not his first time seeing busty women being auctioned. He had seen them once when he went to the Mystery Auction with Leng Yue Xin in the past.

Busty women were not human; they were mutants produced by human and busty monsters.

However, these mutants almost went extinct 800 years ago. It was impossible for ten of them to exist even if they were the Descendants of the Sin.

Clearly, these ten busty women were created through genetic modification elixir made of living female bodies through genetical technique. One wondered how many women died from the modification process for them to come up with ten end products.

“This Wanbao Auction must be related to the Mystery Auction.” Lin Huang had not thought of that earlier when the artificial men were auctioned. Now that he saw these busty women, he figured that these two auctions must have the same supplier or may even be run by the same person.

Soon, the busty women created an outburst that was even bigger than before.

It was clear that Wanbao Auction had arranged that on purpose. They auctioned male artificial men first to gauge the crowd’s anticipation of artificial females. Although there were no artificial females, they could get many busty women.

Although he pitied these women, Lin Huang did not participate in the bidding while next to him, Yi Zheng did not bid since his last purchase.

The reason being that it was redundant for him to purchase them. As long as there was no end to the production of such mutants, there would be more busty women and other mutants sold at various auctions.

As he thought of the mutant’s situation, Lin Huang could not help but think of Xiao Mo who he met at the Purple Crow training camp. The kid was a mutant too.

Although he seemed like a human on the surface, there was a Descendants of the Sin’s mark on his body. It was a mark of shame for him that would follow him for the rest of his life.

“I wonder how’s that kid Xiao Mo now...”

Soon, the ten busty women were sold out in the heat of the crowd’s enthusiasm

The third item was a batch of combat-type mutants.

Lin Huang was in deep thought when he saw the third batch of items.

“There must be an organization that does genetic modification exclusively behind this Wanbao Auction which captures humans illegally and creates these mutants in mass production. These artificial men might even be related to the organization. They dare to do this in the ruling area of the Union Government, so perhaps even the Union Government’s internal department isn’t that clean too.”

Lin Huang thought of the bunch of demigods who had plotted to kill Mr. Fu as he thought about this. He was frowning even more now.

“They knew the catastrophe from the Abyss Brink is coming soon, but they’re still thinking of ways to benefit themselves unscrupulously.”