

R. Paradise 711

Chapter 711: Accumulated Results

Two resentful servants were pushing and shoving each other under the wall, with one of them seemingly preparing to unleash an exoskeleton.

Su Xiao watched the two resentful servant, who were dangerously close to each other, with a sense of exasperation. He had been waiting for them to walk away on their own, but to his surprise, they seemed ready for a full-blown fight.

Su Xiao stood up on the wall and unsheathed his sword, realising that he couldn't let these two resentful servants continue quarrelling or even fighting, as it might attract more of them.

"I'll kill you!"

One of the resentful servants was already enraged to the limit, unable to control his emotions.

"What are you doing..."

The other resentful servant, relatively calm, suddenly felt a breeze above his head.

Swoosh!

A bright flash of the blade passed by, beheading the infuriated, resentful servant. The expression on his face remained one of anger.

Blood sprayed onto the face of the other resentful servant, causing him to pause for a moment before he could shout.

Sizzle~

The sound of a retracting metal wire was heard as it coiled around the throat of the resentful servant, preventing him from shouting.

Su Xiao rushed forward, his speed astonishingly fast, and delivered a quick slash. The speed of the slash was so incredible that the resentful servant had no time to react.

Clang!

The dragon-slaying flash emitted a soft hum, leaving the resentful servant standing still with a bloodline across his face. His head had been sliced in two.

Su Xiao looked at the dragon-slaying flash in his hand, puzzled by the previous slash. He had only intended to make a quick side slash, but the speed of that slash was unbelievably fast, even surprising himself. It was a spontaneous motion.

"What just happened?"

He attempted a few more slashes, but the incredible speed from earlier did not reappear.

In that brief moment, Su Xiao's skill "Master of Swordsmanship" at level 30 emitted a golden light, but he had not noticed it himself.

Although he hadn't noticed the change in the "Master of Swordsmanship" skill, Su Xiao had a vague feeling that perhaps his swordsmanship ability was more than what it appeared to be. Just that one swift slash couldn't be explained by his current understanding of the skill.

Just with the speed of that last slash, if he had used it against Di Luo Mu Duo, the result might have been fatal even if the opponent didn't die.

[You killed a resentful servant.]

[Obtained 0.3% World Source, total World Source now 16.4%.]

[Permanent increase of 8 mana points.]

[You earned nine merit points from the Holy Church, which can be exchanged for rewards from the old priest at the "Yanfeng Church".]

...

[You killed a resentful servant.]

[Obtained 0.4% World Source, total World Source now 16.8%.]

[Permanent increase of 10 mana points.]

[You earned ten merit points from the Holy Church, which can be exchanged for rewards from the old priest at the "Yanfeng Church".]

...

The bodies of the two resentful servants lay on the ground, their blood staining the nearby area. Su Xiao didn't bother to dispose of the corpses, as the smell of blood had already spread. This was why he had refrained from engaging in combat until now.

Now that he had made a move, his original plan of sneaking into the temple had to change. It became the "Su Infiltration Method," which essentially meant killing his way in.

When he had encountered the bone-spiked rats earlier, Su Xiao had felt that a secret infiltration into the Temple was unlikely, so he had prepared in advance.

Su Xiao focused his mind, and a few seconds later, a loud explosion came from the direction of the main entrance of the Luan Cave Temple.

Boom!

The flames soared at the main entrance of the Cave Temple, shattering the temple gate into pieces, and fireballs were scattered in all directions.

"Enemy attack!"

"Intruders!"

Several shouts rang out as Su Xiao stayed in the corner of a small courtyard within the temple, waiting in place.

The hurried footsteps approached, and Su Xiao opened a slit in the courtyard's door. He could see hundreds of resentful servants holding torches rushing toward the main entrance through the gap.

The flames were soaring at the main entrance, and ordinary alchemical bombs couldn't have caused such a large fire. But if gasoline bombs were used, it would be a different story.

Once the resentful servant reached the vicinity of the main entrance, they didn't spot any enemies. The fire at the main entrance was urgent, and it had already started to spread into the temple.

"Put out the fire quickly!"

The leader of the resentful servant had veins popping on his forehead. The Cave Temple was their territory now and couldn't be burned down.

If avenging the deaths of grudge creatures was a blood feud for Su Xiao, then setting fires was even more unforgivable, as it involved destroying the temple.

Su Xiao didn't care about any of this; his goal was simply to infiltrate the Luan Cave Temple. Whether the resentful servant was angry or not was irrelevant to him.

The fire had started to spread towards the Great King's Hall, and the ordinary people imprisoned inside were also escaping.

In less than two minutes, no single person was left in the iron cages near the courtyard. Some of the ordinary people were on the verge of collapse due to fear, but among them were those with stronger psychological resilience. When the first person escaped from the cage, within twenty seconds, there was not one person left inside.

This was a chance for escape, and those ordinary people, despite their fear, seized it. The situation in the temple had become increasingly chaotic.

Taking advantage of this chaos, Su Xiao left the small courtyard and entered the central and rear area of the Great King's Hall.

He moved swiftly along the edges of the Great King's Hall. Whenever he heard footsteps nearby, he immediately concealed himself. If he couldn't hide, he killed the witnesses.

A few minutes of fast progress brought Su Xiao to the spacious courtyard where he had seen the formation earlier. Along the edge of the courtyard, people were huddled in iron cages.

Su Xiao rushed to the cages and, with a swift swing of his sword, cut open the doors of several cages. In the astonished gazes of the ordinary people, he instantly disappeared into the empty courtyard.

He had taken advantage of the chaos in the temple to cause even more confusion. The ordinary people also noticed this opportunity for escape. Although they were terrified, some among them had better mental fortitude. When the first person escaped from the cage, within twenty seconds, no one was left inside.

Now, the situation has become even more favourable. The fire at the temple's main entrance had spread to the front of the Great King's Hall, and the ordinary people who had been imprisoned inside were also escaping.

In less than two minutes, the resentful servant spotted the four scattered escapees.

...

At the main entrance of the Luan Cave Temple, the leader of the resentful servant had an extremely grim expression. He appeared enraged, but in reality, he was fearful. He was currently in charge of the temple, as his master was still sleeping in the Eternal Life Pool.

"My lord, what should we do?"

A resentful servant rushed to the leader, his clothes mostly burnt.

The leader of the resentful servant looked like an angry wolf, his muscles tense.

"Don't panic. Most of you stay and put out the fire while a small group guards the passage from the Great King's Hall to the Hall of Law."

"What about the ones who escaped?"

"Don't worry about them; they can't escape the Cave Temple. Our top priority is to capture the intruders."

This leader of the resentful servant had formidable strength and quickly sensed the abnormal situation amid the chaos.

More than four hundred resentful servants were left behind to fight the fire, with over three hundred of them remaining. The remaining hundred or so followed him directly toward the Hall of Law.

The passage leads from the Great King's Hall to the Hall of Law.

Drip, drip.

Blood fell from the edge of the dragon-slaying flash as Su Xiao walked confidently through the well-lit corridor. Nearby, there were over a dozen resentful servant corpses.

Before this battle began, Su Xiao had a strange feeling, a kind of comprehension about his swordsmanship. His slashing speed had increased several times to a point where it was almost unbelievable, even to himself.

Su Xiao performed a few slashes, and a "blade net" appeared before him. This "blade net" was not composed of blade aura but simply the residual image left behind by his slashes. This incredible speed was not an attribute enhancement or equipment bonus but rather Su Xiao's own understanding of swordsmanship.

This lightning-fast slashing speed perfectly matched the sharpness of the dragon-slaying flash. The combined combat power of the two was not a simple addition of 1+1. Su Xiao's cumulative efforts over time were finally erupting today.

Chapter 712: Evil Creature

After a fire broke out at the Temple, despite the efforts of hundreds of vengeful servants, the flames were brought under control but could not be extinguished.

The leader of the vengeful servants arrived at the passage between the Main Hall and the Dharma Hall, only to find several bodies scattered in the three-meter-wide corridor, their forms far from intact, with a pungent smell of blood filling the air.

"Chase them! We must not allow the intruders to enter the Main Hall," the vengeful servants' leader ordered, leading his group into the Dharma Hall.

The Dharma Hall was located in the middle of Yulindong Temple, occupying a small area with various rooms used for meditation and living quarters. At that moment, deep within the Dharma Hall stood a large door leading to the Main Hall, guarded by dozens of vengeful servants who remained unfazed by the temple's fire.

A short distance away, on a rooftop, Su Xiao crouched on the glazed tiles. He had fought his way from the Main Hall to this spot, eliminating dozens of vengeful servants in the process. Over time, he had grown accustomed to the changes in their combat techniques.

If this had been earlier, facing dozens of vengeful servants would have been impossible for him. However, things were different now. If he charged in head-on, these vengeful servants wouldn't be able to stop him.

Su Xiao had been waiting patiently because, among the vengeful servants, there was one creature that caught his attention.

Vengeful creatures were not limited to humans; they included various animals as well. However, except for rats, vengeful animal creatures were scarce.

The creature he spotted had a physique resembling that of a cheetah, with mostly black fur and white fur on its head and back. When Su Xiao saw it, he had a vague sense of familiarity, but remembering it took him a while.

It was a vengeful creature transformed from a honey badger. Su Xiao couldn't fathom how these vengeful servants had acquired honey badgers. Honey badgers were carnivorous animals, relatively small in size, and they had a penchant for eating bees, sometimes even quickly feasting on venomous snakes. They were known for their fierce temperament, and in the natural world, there were hardly any creatures they feared. They were either fighting or on their way to a fight. Due to the distinctive white fur on their heads, they were often called "Flathead Bros."

After transforming into a vengeful creature, the honey badger's size had clearly increased significantly. Flathead Bros were known for their bravery even in their original forms, but now, with their enhanced bodies, their combat prowess had likely increased substantially.

Su Xiao recalled a news story he had seen once: a Flathead Bro was living next to a lion, separated by a metal fence. The lion had provoked the Flathead Bro, who dug a hole under the fence overnight, eventually confronting the lion underground. Surprisingly, the Flathead Bro won the fight, biting the lion's face and sending it to the hospital. This was a true news story, not a reporter's fabrication.

Su Xiao looked at the Flathead Bro not far away and could still see traces of blood on its fur.

Just as Su Xiao was considering how to enter the Main Hall, the sound of hurried footsteps reached his ears, and the leader of the vengeful servants arrived with reinforcements.

The vengeful servants' leader surveyed the area and, satisfied that there were no immediate threats, breathed a sigh of relief. However, his mouth curled into a grimace when he saw the Flathead Bro nearby. This creature showed no mercy—when it had first transformed into a vengeful creature, it had sunk its teeth into his leg and hung on for five days without eating or drinking. At that time, the Flathead Bro was in its infancy and nowhere near as powerful as it was now.

"Liya, is there anything unusual here?" the vengeful servants' leader inquired, and the Flathead Bro, which had been resting, opened its eyes.

The Flathead Bro shook its head, and from its gaze, it was clear that it had become a sentient being.

"Ha!" The Flathead Bro bared its sharp teeth and emitted a unique roar.

"I know this is your territory, but there are intruders now, and we cannot let them enter..." Before the vengeful servants' leader could finish his sentence, the Flathead Bro, who was crouching on the ground, suddenly stood up, lowered its head, and charged at him.

"Hey, you..." Without waiting for the vengeful servants' leader to speak, the Flathead Bro rapidly pushed off the ground with all four paws, leapt into the air, and lunged at the vengeful servants' leader.

Seeing the menacing charge of the Flathead Bro, the vengeful servants' leader regretted his decision to transform this creature into a vengeful being. It was too aggressive.

Reluctantly, the vengeful servants' leader quickly stepped back, displaying remarkable speed as he retreated several steps.

Would the Flathead Bro give up so easily? Not a chance. Transformed into a vengeful creature, its physical abilities had greatly enhanced and always possessed an indomitable spirit. Now, with its enhanced body, it was even more formidable.

Boom, crash... After a loud noise, the Flathead Bro, bleeding from the corner of its mouth, emerged from a dilapidated building. Though it had been beaten and battered, it clutched a large piece of flesh in its mouth.

This scene caught Su Xiao's eye, and without a doubt, it was the opportunity he had been waiting for.

Su Xiao silently leapt from the rooftop to the ground. As he landed, he immediately activated his "Shave" technique and rushed toward the shattered door leading to the Main Hall.

Although dozens of vengeful servants were blocking his way to the door, he had to escape now, as there was no guarantee of another opportunity.

"He's the intruder! Kill him!" roared the vengeful servants' leader, still nursing his leg wound, but Su Xiao had already reached the shattered door with his "Shave" technique.

Su Xiao's breathing slowed; he knew he had only one chance. He would face the onslaught of over a hundred vengeful servants if he couldn't dash through instantly.

Even with his vastly improved speed in drawing his sword, facing over a hundred vengeful servants, the vengeful servants' leader, and the Flathead Bro, the odds of breaking through were slim.

At that moment, only about a dozen vengeful servants blocked Su Xiao's path. Their jaws clenched tightly, and their bone-like exoskeletons encased their arms, forming various types of weapons.

Su Xiao quickly assessed the situation around him. Judging by the speed of the vengeful servants' leader and the Flathead Bro, he estimated that he had around four seconds to break through.

He sheathed the "Dragon Beheading Slash" and adopted a stance for his "Ring Break."

Clang!

A pale blue ring-shaped blade radiated outward, and in the instant of executing the "Ring Break," Su Xiao swiftly slashed more than a dozen times toward the shattered door. Each strike unleashed a blade of energy.

The "Ring Break" first made contact with the surrounding enemies. While the vengeful servants' exoskeletons were incredibly tough, they were no match for the "Ring Break's" slashing force.

In an instant, the vengeful servants near the door were cut in half, and the following blade energies shredded them into a rain of meat fragments.

With a loud crash, the blade energies cleaved the shattered door leading to the Main Hall into pieces. Su Xiao charged straight into the doorway.

Once he entered the Main Hall area, Su Xiao planned to find a way to shake off his pursuers and then search for the Soul Lamp. As he stepped into the Main Hall, his heart inexplicably skipped a beat as if he had entered an extremely foreboding place.

Seeing Su Xiao enter the Main Hall area, the vengeful servants' leader's eyes burned with fury. The Main Hall was their forbidden territory.

The vengeful servants' leader stood still, a bone spear growing from his palm, about two meters long.

Gripping the bone spear tightly, he flexed his muscles, arching his entire body like a tightly drawn bowstring. It seemed as though he was a bow, fully charged with power. He swung his arm, hurling the bone spear with all his might. As the bone spear was released, his right arm rapidly shrivelled.

Chapter 713: Successful Breakout

The howling sound of breaking wind came from behind Su Xiao, and his pupils contracted. His intuition told him that it was too late to turn around now.

A counterattack shield formed around Su Xiao, and as soon as it formed, the bone spear pierced into it.

Boom!

A loud noise spread, ringing in Su Xiao's ears. A shockwave emanated from behind him, accompanied by an irresistible force.

Su Xiao's body flew forward, his speed incredibly fast, as if he had been hit by a high-speed train on his back.

Bang.

Su Xiao crashed into a building in the main hall, but that wasn't the end. He immediately burst out from the other side of the building. Even so, his figure didn't stop and continued uncontrollably flying forward.

Bang, bang...

After crashing through three buildings, Su Xiao landed in a flowerbed. Soil and grass debris flew up several meters high, and his forward momentum finally stopped. The flowerbed was now silent.

At the entrance to the main hall leading to the central temple, the leader of the vengeful servants sat on the ground. His right half of the body had withered, but he still ordered the nearby ordinary vengeful servants to help him up and looked towards the flowerbed where Su Xiao was.

"Master, the intruder should be dead."

"I hope so."

The leader of the vengeful servants stared at the flowerbed, afraid that the enemy was still alive because he couldn't enter the central temple. It was his master's command.

"Ha!"

At the broken door, Flathead seemed to want to go in and chase Su Xiao. Just when all the vengeful servants were closely watching the flowerbed, a hand reached out from the flowerbed.

Although there was a counterattack shield for all-round protection, Su Xiao was still dizzy from the impact. If it weren't for the counterattack shield, he would not have been able to withstand that blow with just his flesh and blood. The bone spear just now even had the potential to kill a Heroic Spirit in seconds.

His back was burning with pain, and his entire skeleton felt like it was falling apart. Although his condition was not good, Su Xiao needed to shake off his pursuers quickly, or he would be doomed.

When Su Xiao stood up and prepared to penetrate the central temple area deeper, he found that the vengeful servants were only watching him from a distance and hadn't stepped into the main temple area.

Seeing this scene, Su Xiao immediately guessed what was going on. It was either that there was something the vengeful servants feared in the central temple area, or it was the command of the vengeful servant leader.

Su Xiao leaned towards the latter because Flathead had already crossed that door and entered the central temple area.

"Liya, what are you doing? Do you want..."

"Ha!"

Flathead turned around and bared its teeth at the vengeful servant leader. At the same time, both of its front paws entered the central temple area.

"You..."

While the vengeful servant leader confronted Flathead, the ordinary vengeful servants were not idle. They used their exoskeletons to generate various throwing weapons and hurled them at Su Xiao.

The counterattack shield floating around Su Xiao rang out as it was struck by the vengeful servants' projectiles, demonstrating its strong defensive capabilities.

Ignoring the vengeful servants, Su Xiao quickly rushed towards the depths of the central temple area.

Seeing Su Xiao rapidly moving away, Flathead, lingering at the entrance, became angry. It didn't care about anything else and rushed into the central temple area to chase Su Xiao.

"Disobeying the master's command..."

The vengeful servant leader generated a bone spear in his left hand, and his muscles swelled nearly to the point of exhaustion.

Flathead, who was chasing Su Xiao, stopped and turned to look at the vengeful servant leader.

Swoosh!

A bone spear-carrying a terrifying howl flew towards Flathead.

Boom!

The stones splintered, and the bone spear pierced into the side of Flathead's body, creating a large crater on the ground. Stones flew past Flathead's fur.

The vengeful servant leader staggered a few steps and then fell to the ground with a thud. The master's will could not be violated, but he couldn't help it when the shot missed.

Flathead nodded at the vengeful servant leader, turned around, and charged towards the direction where Su Xiao had disappeared. Today, only one of them could survive, and God seemed to favour the intruder, according to Flathead.

In the central courtyard of the main temple area, he was not sure where to go after Su Xiao arrived. The mission information was too vague, and he needed to find the specific location of the Soul Lamp on his own.

The good news was that the central courtyard of the main temple area was quiet, with no trace of enemies.

At this moment, footsteps approached behind Su Xiao. He turned to look and saw that Flathead had caught up.

Flathead abruptly stopped a few meters away from Su Xiao, baring its sharp teeth.

Su Xiao and Flathead stared at each other for a few seconds, and both sides rushed towards each other.

According to Su Xiao's guess, Flathead should be at the same level as the vengeful servant leader. The vengeful servant leader was responsible for the Great King's Hall, while Flathead guarded the Law Hall.

A counterattack shield floated around Su Xiao as he and Flathead approached. Flathead, the size of a cheetah, had exoskeletons all over its body. Flathead's exoskeleton differed from ordinary vengeful creatures; it was black and covered its entire body, exposing only its eyes.

What was peculiar was that Flathead had one white exoskeleton on its head.

Su Xiao and Flathead closed in, and Su Xiao performed a slash, leaving a faint golden slash mark in the air. The slash was swift and aimed directly at Flathead's head.

Flathead was startled by the speed of the attack and quickly lowered its head.

Ding.

A piece of white exoskeleton was sliced off, the one on Flathead's head, and its white fur was also cut off, leaving it with a flat head.

Ordinary Flathead dared to fight against fierce animals like lions and hunting dogs with a medium-sized dog's body size. Moreover, this Flathead, which had become a vengeful creature, had a large size and strong attributes, at least not weaker than Su Xiao.

After the long sword passed by, although it almost severed Flathead's head, it didn't seem to bother Flathead. It bit down on the blade of the long sword, intending to snap it in half. Unfortunately, Su Xiao's +12 reinforced long sword was adamant. Realising this, Flathead curled its entire body into a ball, wrapping the long sword around it like a black ring.

Su Xiao was puzzled momentarily, wondering what kind of move this was.

After hesitating for a moment, Su Xiao swung the sword towards the ground, trying to cut Flathead in half while it was still biting the long sword.

Boom!

The long sword smashed into the ground, creating a large crater. Flathead was still wrapped around the long sword when the dust cleared, like a black ring.

Chapter 714: 34%

"Amid the bizarre battle, Flathead surprisingly clamped down on Su Xiao's knife and refused to let go, wrapping his body tightly around it.

Su Xiao attempted to kill Flathead with the knife, first striking against complex objects, but for some reason, Flathead remained unharmed. It was probably because Flathead's teeth were sharp enough to bite through counterattack shields, as his teeth clamped onto the Dragon Beheading Flash and used his body to resist the force, preventing the blade from directly striking him.

Seeing that slashing attacks were ineffective, Su Xiao began trying to set fire.

After using three incendiary bombs, Su Xiao found that Flathead's black exoskeleton seemed to have a heat-resistant effect, rendering the fire useless.

After trying several methods in succession, Su Xiao became helpless. He couldn't relax his guard now; who knew if Flathead would release the Dragon Beheading Flash and take a bite at his throat?

Should he let Flathead continue to clamp down? That wouldn't work, either. Su Xiao couldn't use the knife to attack the enemy now; he could only use Flathead as a hammer, and the Dragon Beheading Flash had become a hammer with Flathead as its head.

Moreover, if Flathead suddenly let go and attacked Su Xiao in the intense battle, it would be troublesome.

"Let go, let's call it even," Su Xiao said.

Hearing Su Xiao's words, one of Flathead's eyes opened. Su Xiao, who understood the meaning behind Flathead's animal-like gaze, probably meant, "Silly, I won't let go. What can you do?"

Su Xiao's fingers, wrapped in metal armguards, stabbed towards Flathead's eye, prompting Baldy to close his eye and protect it with his exoskeleton quickly.

With a ting, Su Xiao's finger landed on the exoskeleton.

With his fingers feeling somewhat numb, Su Xiao devised a plan. Although he couldn't kill Flathead in this way, he could prevent the other from causing trouble for a short period. Killing Flathead now wasn't the key; getting rid of his pursuer and finding the Soul Lamp was the best choice.

Su Xiao raised the Dragon Beheading Flash, took a deep breath, and tensed the muscles in his legs.

Suddenly, the Dragon Beheading Flash disappeared into thin air. Su Xiao had stored it in his storage space, but Flathead, being a living being, couldn't be stored in the storage space and naturally fell.

Flathead, who had just let go, looked somewhat surprised. Su Xiao had already turned sideways, gathering strength, and kicked Flathead with all his might.

Bang!

Flathead was sent flying like a soccer ball, whooshing into the distant sky. His speed was so fast that it even created layers of shockwaves.

Su Xiao watched Flathead, who was gradually disappearing into the sky, emitting an angry roar. He had successfully entered the main hall area and escaped his pursuers.

Su Xiao's strength attribute, including equipment bonuses, reached 67 points, which was already considered superhuman strength. He had no problem dismantling a high wall barehanded. His powerful kick had sent Flathead flying several kilometres, possibly even a dozen kilometres.

Having shaken off his pursuers, Su Xiao began to patrol the central hall courtyard. Since he didn't know the location of the Soul Lamp, he had to search each room one by one.

Half an hour later, Su Xiao had searched almost all the rooms in the main hall area, leaving only the main hall itself.

From the name "main hall," it was clear that this place was used for placing and worshipping statues of gods.

Su Xiao stood before the main hall's door, hesitating to enter. This place gave him an ominous feeling, and he didn't want to enter unless it was essential.

Pushing open the main hall's door, the first thing that caught his eye was a large pool of water. The pool was rectangular, filled with a light green liquid that seemed bottomless. This liquid exuded a strong vitality.

[Hint: The Hunter has reached the main hall of Liu Dong Temple.]

[Natural Talent Awakening Mission (Second Stage): Soul Lamp (Completed)]

The second stage of the natural talent mission was completed because Su Xiao had already seen the Soul Lamp.

Deep inside the main hall, a skeleton sat on the altar, and in front of the skeleton was a lamp. The lamp had a simple appearance, and there was nothing special about it, but a soul crystal was placed in the position of the lamp wick. This soul crystal was the lamp wick of the Soul Lamp.

When the soul crystal burned, it emitted a white smoke, which was absorbed by the white bones. This lamp, powered by a soul crystal, was the Soul Lamp.

[Natural Talent Awakening Mission (Third Stage) has been activated; this is the final stage of the natural talent mission.]

[Hint: When this mission is completed, the Hunter's natural talent, 'Soul Devourer,' will awaken.]

[Natural Talent Awakening Mission (Third Stage): Destroy the Soul Lamp]

Difficulty Level: Lv.26

Mission Description: Destroy the Soul Lamp by any means necessary.

Mission Information: Do not assume that what you see is a threat; the threat hides in the darkness.

Mission Deadline: 30 minutes

Mission Reward: None

Mission Penalty: Deduct one natural talent awakening opportunity; in this world, no more natural talent awakening missions will be accepted.

...

Su Xiao was about twenty meters away from the Soul Lamp, with a pool of water in between. Fortunately, he could bypass this pool.

Raising the Dragon Beheading Flash, Su Xiao hesitated for a moment. He ultimately chose not to unleash the blade's edge. The natural talent awakening mission would be too simple if the blade's edge could easily shatter the Soul Lamp.

White spiders crawled out of Su Xiao's sleeve one by one as he prepared to use alchemical bombs to test it.

As dozens of white spiders approached the Soul Lamp, Su Xiao's gaze became increasingly sharp, ready to deal with any unexpected enemies.

Su Xiao instinctively tightened his grip on the hilt as the white spiders neared the Soul Lamp. Typically, this was the moment when the final boss would appear.

When the white spiders were three meters away from the Soul Lamp, sweat dripped from Su Xiao's cheeks. The current situation was truly bizarre.

When the white spiders were two meters away from the Soul Lamp, Su Xiao squinted his eyes, his gaze fixed on the white bones behind the Soul Lamp.

One meter, fifty centimetres, ten centimetres.

Su Xiao's eyes narrowed when the white spiders climbed onto the Soul Lamp, and he decisively detonated the alchemical bomb.

Boom!

A burst of flames erupted, shattering the Soul Lamp and the white bones behind it. It wasn't a final boss at all; it was just an ordinary white skeleton.

[Natural Talent Awakening Mission (Third Stage): Destroy the Soul Lamp (Completed)]

[Hint: The Hunter has completed the natural talent awakening mission and can now awaken the natural talent, 'Soul Devourer.']

[Hint: When awakening the natural talent, the Hunter will be significantly weakened. Be sure to choose a safe location for the awakening.]

[Congratulations to the Hunter for completing the natural talent awakening mission.]

[Hint: The completion of the natural talent awakening mission is being evaluated. The Hunter's actions in the next five hours will determine the final completion rating of the task. Currently, completion is at 34%.]

Su Xiao's heart began to race, mixed with the joy of completing the natural talent mission and a sense of impending danger, a feeling of imminent death.

Su Xiao turned and tried to escape without hesitation, but the doors behind him suddenly closed with a loud rumble. He raised his hand to slash at the doors.

With a clang, Su Xiao's palm tingled as a barrier repelled him.

Ten barriers appeared inside and outside the Temple when the Soul Lamp shattered. Even if Su Xiao had left the main hall and detonated the alchemical bomb from a distance to destroy the Soul Lamp, he would still be trapped inside the barriers. In this case, his risk wouldn't decrease but would only increase.

A difficulty level of Lv.26, what a daunting mission difficulty. According to normal thinking, destroying the Soul Lamp should have been challenging, and approaching it might trigger traps or enemies. So Su Xiao's act of exploding the Soul Lamp wasn't about expecting to destroy it but about drawing out the unknown enemies.

In reality, the risk during the execution of this mission wasn't high. The difficulty of this mission didn't lie in destroying the Soul Lamp; it lay in how to survive and escape Liu Dong Temple after destroying the Soul Lamp.

Gurgle~

Bubbles emerged from the pool inside the main hall. This pool was the Pool of Eternity."

Chapter 715: Fear

Bubbles surged up in the pool, and Su Xiao stared intently at that spot, instinctively taking two steps back.

Now, the entire main hall was enveloped in a barrier, becoming a cage. Su Xiao glanced around and realised that escaping wouldn't be easy, especially with whatever was in the pool not giving him any time to do so.

With a splash, the pale green pool water overflowed and spread to Su Xiao's feet. He faintly saw something floating beneath the pool.

His Counterattack Shield appeared by Su Xiao's side, and the energy of the Qingsteel Shadow enveloped his Dragon Slayer Flash. The situation was clear now. In this room turned into a cage. He and the creature in the pool were the only ones left who could survive.

Gradually, long dark green hair floated up to the surface, and immediately after, a stunning woman emerged from the water.

Through the pale green pool water, one could see that this woman was naked, her full body covered in long, dark green hair flowing with the rippling water.

The woman glanced at Su Xiao and smiled at him, unbothered by her alluring curves being exposed to his gaze.

"Do you like what you see?"

The woman gave Su Xiao a seductive look and sat on the pool's edge with her legs crossed, only her private parts concealed by her thighs.

A red light flickered in Su Xiao's eyes, and he lifted one foot, walking towards the woman.

"You must be tired from your journey. Come closer, and I'll make you experience the utmost pleasure."

As the woman called out, Su Xiao approached her slowly, the red light in his eyes becoming more pronounced.

When Su Xiao reached the woman, she looked at the knife in his hand.

"Put it down. It's quite inconvenient, and you might end up hurting me. Can you bear to harm a woman about to be beneath you?"

As she spoke, the woman's nails elongated.

Swish!

The long knife sliced through, cutting the woman's throat almost in half. The red light in Su Xiao's eyes quickly faded, and he jumped back. Thanks to the effect of his "Mind Blade," he was not charmed by the woman.

"Wouldn't it be better to be quietly devoured by me? Why struggle? Your actions will only make your death more painful."

The woman smiled, and the wound on her neck quickly healed, with no sign of blood.

Although there was no blood from the woman's wound, the Qingsteel Shadow energy infiltrated her body, causing the smile on her face to gradually fade.

"Using energy to corrode me, is that your choice, mortal?"

As the Qingsteel Shadow energy penetrated the woman's body, her appearance changed. Her fair skin turned black, and her entire body started to swell.

In an instant, the woman's initially frail body expanded to the extreme, turning into a four-meter-wide meatball.

From the moment this woman appeared, Su Xiao only felt malice, a thick and malicious malice.

The meatball rolled and plopped into the pool, gradually sinking to the bottom.

Su Xiao stood by the pool, noticing that the pale green pool water inside was decreasing. Realising this, he immediately threw an alchemical bomb into the pool.

He stepped back and ignited the alchemical bomb.

Boom!

The pale green pool water splashed, and the pool's edge cracked. The water inside the pool began to burn.

As it burned, the pool water rapidly decreased, and in no time, the flames were extinguished, revealing the bottom of the pool.

An unknown creature stood at the bottom of the pool. The beast had no muscles or skin; it was just a skeleton. If one looked closely, one would see that although the creature had no powers or skin, it had internal organs within its skeleton. Its skull contained eyeballs and a brain, among other body tissues. The creature's skeleton was wrapped in a thin membrane as if the flesh had been peeled away while it was still alive.

As for where the creature's flesh had gone, the answer lay in its weapon. The creature held a peculiar weapon, which seemed to be a leg bone of some kind of animal, wrapped in its fresh, red meat.

This unique weapon resembled holding the leg of a skinned beast in one's hand.

Taking advantage of the fact that the creature remained motionless at the bottom of the pool, Su Xiao immediately used the Eye of the Apostle to investigate the creature's information.

[Comparing both parties' intelligence attributes... Comparison complete. Our intelligence is 92.3% of the enemy's, obtaining 71% of the enemy's information.]

The information is as follows:

Name: Orphan of Resentment · Xius (Life Assimilation Rate: 97%)

Category: Resentful Creature · Lord-level Creature!

Health: 100%

Mana: 1000/1000

Strength: 70

Agility: 69

Stamina: ??

Intelligence: 65

Charm: 8 (Normal state 65)

Skill 1: Source of Resentment (Passive LV.30), ??

Skill 2: High-Strength Bones (Passive LV.26), Due to prolonged immersion in the Pool of Immortality, Xius's bones are extremely tough, granting +25 defense.

Skill 3: Life Assimilation (Active LV.25) can increase the "Life Assimilation Rate" and restore a large amount of health by devouring the flesh of living creatures. When the "Life Assimilation Rate" reaches 100%, it will evolve into a complete form.

Skill 4: Life Ladder (Passive LV.33), ??

Skill 5: ??

Skill 6: Soul Infection (Aura LV.20), can erode the souls of all living creatures within 30 meters, causing 5% of the enemy's maximum health as actual damage every minute.

"Skill 7: Immortal (Passive LV.37)???"

...

Shu Xiao's mouth twitched after seeing the information about the Orphan of Resentment.

"Oh, damn."

Shu Xiao muttered softly. He rarely lost his composure like this, but this time, he faced an opponent that was too strong. Not to mention the astonishing attributes and stamina attributes, even just the skills, all at the lowest level of LV.20, were enough to make Shu Xiao drink a pot.

Moreover, the only LV.20 ability was an aura type. Even if this big boss stood next to Su Xiao without doing anything, if Shu Xiao didn't consume recovery potions, he could only last for more than 20 minutes before dying.

"Phew."

Under the water pool, Resentful Orphan Resus exhaled a cold breath. The 'Inner Bent Knife' covering the muscle tissue in his hand rotated a few times as if he was finding the proper grip. It was a blunt weapon with no blade.

Boom!

The entire main hall shook, and dust fell from the ceiling.

With a whoosh, the Orphan of Resentment, Resus, jumped out of the water pool and stood not far from Su Xiao.

"Mortal, do you know what you've done? The Magic Association and the Holy Church were about to compromise with me, and you dare to interrupt my evolution. I was just one step away from becoming a god."

Without eyelids, the eyeball of the Resentful Orphan Resus looked incredibly eerie, embedded in the eye socket.

When the Resentful Orphan Resus stood in front of Shu Xiao, he realised that this was very tall, at least over 3 meters tall.

"Mortal, I'm talking to you. Leave your last words."

The Resentful Orphan Resus pointed the muscle-bent knife in his hand at Shu Xiao.

"This used to be my line, but it's not a big problem that you're saying it now. As for the last words..."

Shu Xiao took out a cigarette, lit it, and took a deep drag. Perhaps this was his last cigarette.

"No last words. If you're capable, just kill me."

Su Xiao dropped the cigarette in his hand, and his gaze became exceptionally sharp.

"Boring last words."

He suddenly disappeared from where he stood without any apparent movement from the Resentful Orphan Resus.

Boom, the sound of a burst of air came, and the gust of wind from the Resentful Orphan Resus charging blew Su Xiao's black hair. When Su Xiao caught sight of the Resentful Orphan Resus' figure, the muscle-bent knife in his hand was already smashing towards him."

Chapter 716: Recruit?

"The air wave spread and the muscle-curved blade smashed against the counterattack shield.

Su Xiao's legs sank deep into the ground, and the ground shattered instantly. Just as he was about to raise his hand to strike, a tremendous force surged from the muscle-curved blade.

Su Xiao was somewhat surprised. He had already resisted the strike force of the Orphan of Resentment · Xius, so what was this second wave of tremendous force?

Su Xiao didn't have time to think further; the muscle-curved blade had already knocked him away.

Bang.

Protected by the counterattack shield, Su Xiao collided with the wall. Because there was a barrier, the wall was unusually stiff, which was not a good thing and would cause him injury upon impact.

Su Xiao had just landed and hadn't had a chance to stand up when the Orphan of Resentment Xius rushed forward again, raising the muscle-curved blade in his hand, ready to flatten Su Xiao.

Sizzle~

The boundary-breaking thread entangled the Orphan of Resentment · Xius, freezing Xius's movement as he swung the muscle-curved blade.

Seizing this opportunity, Su Xiao hit the ground with his hand to get up and jumped away from the Orphan of Resentment · Xius.

The Orphan of Resentment · Xius looked down at the boundary-breaking thread entwining it, gradually exerting force with its arms.

Creak, creak...

The boundary-breaking thread shattered, falling under the feet of the Orphan of Resentment · Xius, about a third of its length now defunct.

Su Xiao retracted the remaining two-thirds of the boundary-breaking thread. This time, the opponent he faced was formidable to the point of astonishment but not yet to the point of despair.

Firstly, the Orphan of Resentment · Xius couldn't break through the counterattack shield in one strike, and its speed was not fast enough for Su Xiao to be completely unable to react.

The most important thing was whether Su Xiao could harm the Orphan of Resentment · Xius. If the opponent's defence was solid, Su Xiao would basically not need to fight, as he would be beaten into a pulp in less than half an hour.

Blood dripped from Su Xiao's mouth. He began to approach the Orphan of Resentment · Xius.

Seeing Su Xiao's movements, Xius was clearly somewhat surprised. It had not seen a human so unafraid of death in a long time, so it bravely charged towards Su Xiao.

Su Xiao's pupils slightly contracted as he tried to capture Xius's movements.

Boom!

The muscle-curved blade smashed down, and despite a counterattack shield in defence, Su Xiao's knees began to bend.

"Mortal, kneel!"

The Orphan of Resentment · Xius tightly gripped the muscle-curved blade, attempting to force Su Xiao to kneel with brute force.

Realising the situation, Su Xiao immediately turned to the side, and the counterattack shields around him dispersed. Without the counterattack shields to block, the muscle-curved blade struck down.

Boom, rubble splattered. Every strike from the Orphan of Resentment · Xius was powerful enough to take a life.

Taking advantage of the opening created by the muscle-curved blade's strike, Su Xiao launched an attack.

The long blade sliced through the air and appeared instantly in front of the Orphan of Resentment · Xius, who immediately turned his head.

Clang.

The Dragon Flash grazed Xius's skull, slicing off a piece of the skull.

Seeing this scene, Su Xiao's eyes lit up. The enemy's defence was not as formidable as he had imagined, which meant there was a chance.

After being struck by Su Xiao, Xius stopped in place. It looked at the piece of skull on the ground, and its eyes lost their mockery.

If Su Xiao had been seen as a dying struggling house cat in Xius's eyes before, he was now a hungry wolf capable of taking a bite.

"Pitiful mor..."

Before the Orphan of Resentment · Xius could finish speaking, Su Xiao had already charged forward.

This time, Su Xiao retracted the counterattack shields around him. Although the counterattack shields could block the enemy's attacks, they would also increase their attack area, especially when facing an enemy using blunt weapons.

Blunt weapons, to some extent, restrained the counterattack shields. Every time the counterattack shields were struck, Su Xiao would suffer shock.

With an aura that eroded 5% of his life every minute, Su Xiao wouldn't last five minutes if he were to be shocked a few more times.

Rather than waiting for a slow death, Su Xiao chose to go all in and removed his defence.

Su Xiao actively approached Xius. Xius's eyes seemed to show a successful scheme, and the muscle-curved blade in its hand was not just a blunt weapon; it could devour the flesh and blood of the enemy, provided it struck the enemy directly. So, as long as it hit the enemy once, the battle would be over.

Xius continued to use its original moves, raising the muscle-curved blade and striking.

This time, Su Xiao didn't focus on the muscle-curved blade but kept his eyes on Xius. The muscle-curved blade was too fast, and trying to track it with the naked eye was unwise. Su Xiao began to rely on his sensory warnings.

As the muscle-curved blade struck down, Su Xiao's steps shifted.

Boom.

The muscle-curved blade struck the ground, narrowly missing Su Xiao. His coat fluttered in the strong wind.

Although it looked stylish, Su Xiao was essentially dancing on the blade's edge. Given the force of the muscle-curved blade, being hit once would be fatal, and this thing likely had other abilities.

Su Xiao's Dragon Flash grazed Xius's ribcage, leaving a deep gash on the ribs, even sparking as the energy of the azure steel shadow infiltrated Xius's body.

Xius grunted, and from the angry look in its eyes, the azure steel shadow energy had seriously injured it.

With a successful strike, Su Xiao retreated.

Clearly, Su Xiao's choice to remove his defence, rely on perception to evade Xius's attacks, and counterattack when the opportunity arose was the right one, even though it carried a high risk.

The booming sound continued to echo in the main hall. Xius, wielding the muscle-curved blade, relentlessly pursued Su Xiao, showing no intention of giving up.

Su Xiao, doing his best to avoid Xius's attacks, counterattacked whenever he had the chance and continued to evade when he didn't. He had gained the upper hand for now, having previously been on the defensive.

Was this really the case? Not exactly. As long as Xius hit Su Xiao once, the battle would be over, and Su Xiao's life was slipping away faster than Xius's due to the aura's erosion.

"The value of life in the reincarnation paradise is not the same as in the game. In the game, even if your life value is only 1%, it will not affect your status. However, after three minutes of combat, Su Xiao slowed down noticeably, with only 42% of his life value left. He felt pain all over his body, which was caused by the erosion of the aura.

Su Xiao had at least dozens of wounds on his body, all of which were caused by scraping stones. The stones Xius threw had a power no less than rifle bullets.

Whoosh~

The muscle-bending blade smashed down, and Su Xiao bent down to avoid it. He was about to counterattack when a sharp pain came from his chest, and his movements stopped.

This is bad!

Su Xiao's pupils constricted. This momentary mistake could cost him his life.

Xius also noticed Su Xiao's mistake. It directly released the exhausted muscle-bending blade and used its arms, which extended to three meters, to embrace Su Xiao.

Su Xiao would be in big trouble if he was caught, given Xius's monstrous strength.

The range of this embrace was extensive, and there was no room to dodge. At this critical moment, Su Xiao constructed a barrel-shaped energy shield with a strength of 300 points next to him.

Bang! Xius grabbed the energy shield around Su Xiao, and Su Xiao jumped up from the gap in the barrel-shaped energy shield.

Pale bone spurs grew out of Xius's arm and chest, which were highly sharp and instantly riddled the energy shield. This was one of Xius's skills, extremely powerful but with a long cooldown.

With a cracking sound, the energy shield shattered, and the bone spurs growing on Xius's body began to fall off.

Su Xiao used his skill to narrowly escape at the cost of 300 mana points.

"Not bad," Xius said as it picked up the muscle-bending blade from the ground and glanced at the cuts on its bones. "Human, your strength has earned my recognition. I will allow you to serve me and make amends for your previous mistakes."

Just as Xius finished speaking, Su Xiao received a notification from the Cycle Paradise.

[Notification: The Hunter has received the recruitment of 'Lord-level Creature' Orphan of Resentment · Xius. If you agree to the recruitment, you will become the servant of Orphan of Resentment · Xius in this derivative world.]

[Notification: If you agree to the recruitment, the completion rate of the Talent Awakening task will significantly decrease.]

Since the Reincarnation Paradise provided a notification, it meant that this was a chance to survive, a compromise for survival.

"I refuse."

Su Xiao wielded the long knife in his hand. Today, there were only two outcomes: the enemy died, or he died."

Chapter 717: Belated Revenge

"An ignorant commoner," observed Xiusi, glaring at Su Xiao with rising hostility. "To think you'd be like this. You'll become my sustenance."

Xiusi raised the muscular curved blade, and as the muscles surged on it, it seemed to come to life. After a moment, Xiusi's hand holding the blade drooped as if activating the blade had drained a lot of its energy.

Su Xiao couldn't help but look at the muscular curved blade, but it appeared unchanged from before.

He took out a bottle of Potion No. 1 and drank it down. His health quickly recovered, but his severe pain remained. Realising this, Su Xiao knew he couldn't delay any longer. His forehead had already begun to ache, and after being corrupted by that aura for a long time, his reaction speed had slowed, and there were several times when he almost couldn't perceive the enemy's attacks.

Activating the skill attached to his arm guard, Su Xiao's health suddenly dropped by about a third, and a large amount of blood flowed from his body.

A red blood mist clung to Su Xiao's body surface as he activated the "Lord of Bulls Armored Arm" skill, "Lord of Bulls' Fury," which consumed 30% of his health but increased his strength by 15 for ten seconds.

Su Xiao prepared to go all out. If he couldn't resolve or defeat the enemy within these 10 seconds, his journey in the Reincarnation Paradise would end here, becoming nourishment for the monster before him.

A surge of powerful energy welled up within him, and at this moment, Su Xiao's strength exceeded Xiusi's.

Su Xiao's body bent, and the Dragon Flash in his hand emitted a dazzling light. This was him converting all his remaining mana into Azure Steel Shadow energy and attaching it all to the Dragon Flash. Although it was somewhat wasteful, it would significantly enhance the blade's power.

Boom.

A circular pit appeared under Su Xiao's feet, and he disappeared from his original position, reappearing in front of Xiusi.

With both hands holding the blade, Su Xiao poured all his strength into it.

Faster, it had to be faster, too fast for the enemy to react.

The long blade fell, and the sudden burst of aura from Su Xiao left Xiusi stunned. It instinctively raised the muscular curved blade in its hand.

The Dragon Flash collided with the muscular curved blade, sending shockwaves rippling.

With a loud bang, cracks appeared in the barrier around the room, and Xiusi's feet sank into the ground. Caught off guard, it knelt in front of Su Xiao.

Xiusi's pupils trembled. It was actually kneeling before a human, which infuriated it.

"A mere mortal!"

Xiusi roared angrily as if insulted beyond imagination.

But in the next moment, its anger vanished. The Dragon Flash had pierced the muscular curved blade and, at that moment, revealed its enhanced quality of +12.

With a swish, the Dragon Flash cut through the muscular curved blade and slashed directly at Xiusi's shoulder.

Clang.

The Dragon Slaying Flash entered Xiusi's body, and a large amount of Steel Shadow energy raged inside Xiusi.

"Ah!"

Xiusi let out a roar, and Su Xiao's ears rang.

The Dragon Flash continued to cut downward from the shoulder to Xiusi's abdomen. Xiusi's internal organs were severely damaged, nearly cutting its upper body in half.

Crack, crack, crack.

Xiusi's bones quickly regenerated, tightly enveloping the Dragon Flash inside its body.

Su Xiao tried to pull out the Dragon Flash, but it was firmly embedded in Xiusi's body, and he couldn't move it an inch.

Without hesitation, Su Xiao released the hilt of the Dragon Flash and used his bare fists to strike Xiusi's face. Even though ten seconds hadn't passed, his strength attribute could suppress Xiusi.

Bang.

Su Xiao's fist broke several of Xiusi's teeth. Xiusi, a ferocious character itself, drove its ten-finger bones into Su Xiao's chest.

Splash.

All ten fingers penetrated Su Xiao's chest cavity, and Xiusi began to squeeze, intending to crush Su Xiao's internal organs. But Su Xiao's physical attribute was vital, with a vitality of 60 points, making his body challenging.

With a loud retch, Su Xiao spat out a mouthful of blood. He and Xiusi were entangled on the ground like rolling gourds.

An energy shield was generated before Su Xiao's chest, immobilising Xiusi's hands.

Enduring the intense pain in his chest, Su Xiao used both fists to strike left and right, raining blows onto Xiusi's head.

Bang, bang, bang...

In just two seconds, Su Xiao delivered dozens of punches. This high-level boss, Xiusi, had clearly never been beaten down before, let alone being ridden on top of. It was left stunned by the relentless attack.

The fists continued, but after Su Xiao had punched out hundreds of times, the effect of "Lord of Bulls' Fury" disappeared, and a sense of weakness set in.

Sensing Su Xiao's fists losing their strength, with cracks all over its skull, Xiusi seized the opportunity to counterattack. It exerted force with its hand and snapped several of Su Xiao's ribs with a crisp sound.

The severe pain made Su Xiao's consciousness begin to blur, but if he gave up now, the outcome would only be one word: death.

A flintlock pistol appeared in Su Xiao's hand, the "Dawn Roar" given to him by the old priest. Seeing this flintlock pistol, Xiusi's eyes filled with fear; it seemed to recognise the weapon.

"Dawn..."

Su Xiao didn't care about Xiusi's thoughts. He inserted the flintlock pistol's barrel into Xiusi's eye socket, which Su Xiao had already shattered. The cold barrel pressed directly against Xiusi's brain.

"No!!!"

Bang!

Smoke spread and golden holy water exploded in Xiusi's brain.

Hiss~

A foul stench spread and Xiusi's body twitched, gradually transforming. Its height returned to that of an ordinary person, and flesh appeared on its body, once again taking on a woman's appearance.

Dark green hair lay on the ground, and Xiusi had lost its breath. The flintlock pistol was embedded in her eye socket; she was the female executor mentioned by the old priest, the one who had saved many lives with this gun. But today, she died under this gun.

According to the old priest, this female executor had long been dead, but that wasn't the case. There must be a story behind it, a story worthy of being written into a novel, but Su Xiao didn't want to delve into it.

"You have killed the Lord-level creature, Xiusi."

"Kill the boss-level creature to obtain extra rewards, 7000 Joy Coins + Soul Crystal (Medium) x2.

"Orphan of Resentment·Xiusii is a lord-level creature, gaining 13% of the world's origin, totalling 42.8%.

"You obtained the Book of Repentance (quest item).

"You obtained a treasure chest (golden).

...

Su Xiao didn't bother to look at the items on the ground. Instead, he grabbed Xiu Si's fair arms and pulled her hands out of his chest. "Cough..."

Su Xiao coughed up a large amount of blood, staining Xiu Si's chest red, preventing her lifeless body from further exposure.

"This woman is ruthless."

Su Xiao lay beside Xiu Si's corpse, trembling as he poured two bottles of the first-tier potion and poured them into his mouth. At this point, he didn't care about the side effects of the medicine; he just wanted to stay alive.

A small amount of mana in his body transformed into Azure Steel Shadow energy, eradicating the interstitial cells in the first-tier potion.

Due to the incorporation of interstitial cells, the first-tier potion had a strong healing effect, especially for internal injuries.

Su Xiao's several ruptured internal organs were repaired, and after lying on the ground for half an hour, he finally regained some strength.

Picking up the items dropped by Xiu Si, Su Xiao was stunned when he touched the Book of Repentance (quest item), and a smile appeared on his face.

The talent awakening mission was completed faster than expected. Only a few hours had passed from infiltrating the Temple to now.

"There's time to complete the main mission. I wonder how many of those heroic spirits are still alive."

Su Xiao sat on the ground; he needed to rest now, but he couldn't shake the feeling of unease. He had encountered two groups of heroic spirits plus Masters on the way, but he hadn't encountered a single Contractor. This was highly unusual. Where had all the Contractors gone? Were they hiding?

Su Xiao had checked the Derivative World Communication Platform before. At first, there was nothing unusual with the platform, but as time passed, fewer and fewer Contractors spoke on the platform. Now, there were hardly any Contractors speaking.

...

Fuyuki City, at an underground bar.

The bar's doors were tightly closed, and if you looked through the crack in the window, you could see dozens of corpses lying on the floor.

Three men and women sat inside the bar, seemingly unconcerned about the bodies on the ground.

A seductive woman stood behind the bar, her long purple wavy hair and her voluptuous figure making her very enticing.

"Brother Huang, it's so boring here. How about we tear through this Derivative World? It's only a second-tier world."

The woman leaned over, intentionally giving the man in front of the bar a glimpse of her assets.

The man picked up his glass and downed the fiery liquor inside.

"No, the boss instructed us to clean up the Contractors in this Derivative World first to prevent that kid from teaming up with other Contractors. That kid should be busy fighting with heroic spirits right now. Whatever the boss says, I'll do."

The man exhaled a breath, and faint sparks could be seen in the hot air. His name was Huang Feng, the vice-captain of the Bloodgate Adventure Team, a third-tier Contractor who had once chased Gudao.

"He's just a second-tier rookie. No need to be so serious."

The woman straightened up, feeling a bit annoyed by her failed seduction.

"Shut up, Die. It's only because Brother Huang is in a good mood. If the boss were here, you'd be dead for speaking like that."

A chubby man sat in the corner, and in front of him knelt a second-tier Contractor, looking dazed.

"Chubby, don't tease him. He's my slave, not a dog."

"Ha, isn't being enslaved by you the same as being a dog? I'd rather be a dog than be enchanted by you."

Chubby tossed a peanut, and the second-tier Contractor immediately caught it in his mouth.

"So obedient. If I had known, I would have specialised in psychic abilities."

Chubby kicked the second-tier Contractor away.

"How's the progress?"

Huang Feng spoke; he was usually reserved and taciturn, one of the two people Stein trusted the most.

Stein only trusted two people: his wife and Huang Feng. They had a close bond even before entering the Reincarnation Paradise.

"It's going well. We haven't alerted anyone. There are just five 'left,' and these five seem to have sensed something and are hiding."

Die smiled, her charm-based abilities making it easy for her to control second-tier Contractors.

"We have five days left on the Catalyst Clock. Find the remaining five Contractors within ten hours."

Huang Feng poured another glass of liquor.

"Understood."

Die stretched lazily and walked out of the bar.

"Brother Huang, is it okay for us to kill second-tier Contractors like this? Are we not violating taboos?"

Chubby seemed genuinely worried.

"Our powers are restricted, so using standard methods won't break any rules."

Huang Feng fell silent, and the bar descended into silence.

...

In a sewer in Fuyuki City, a man covered in mud sat, a cigarette dangling from his mouth.

"Damn, where did these lunatics come from? Without saying a word, they started hunting me down. Did I mess with their ancestors or sleep with their wives or something?"

If Su Xiao had seen the man's face, he would immediately recognise him as the Umbrella-less Brother, the wild main tank he had encountered during the Survival Trial.

The Umbrella-less Brother wore unique clothing with a noticeable bulge on his back, housing a simple parachute. It seemed that the Survival Trial had left a lasting impact on him, giving him a strong sense of unease.

"Ah, second-tier is too dangerous. First-tier is better..."

The Umbrella-less Brother sighed, his recent experiences filled with frustration. He had been fleeing since entering the Holy Grail World, all the way up to now.

Chapter 718: Burn

"In the depths of Liudong Temple, in the main hall.

Su Xiao lay motionless on the ground, seemingly asleep, next to the body of the orphan of resentment, Xiusi.

"It seems... luck is on my side this time."

Su Xiao sat up and glanced at Xiusi's body. In terms of strength comparison, Xiusi was much stronger than him, but ultimately, he won. There were reasons for his own strength, as well as Xiusi's unfamiliarity with his own abilities.

Su Xiao speculated that Xiusi had just evolved into this state. His attacks were monotonous, and he didn't seem to use heavy weapons regularly. Moreover, he was not familiar with using skills.

If Su Xiao had the attributes and skills of Xiusi, he would never charge at the enemy but choose to fight a prolonged battle. With the soul-corroding aura, no one could outlast Xiusi.

Su Xiao breathed a sigh of relief. Now that Xiusi was dead, the danger level inside Liudong Temple had significantly decreased. As long as a large group of resentful creatures didn't surround him, he could leave Liudong Temple without any problems.

Su Xiao didn't plan to leave Liudong Temple like this. He still remembered a hint from the previous reincarnation paradise.

[Talent awakening task completion assessment in progress. The hunter's actions within five hours after killing will determine the final completion percentage of the talent awakening task, currently at 34%.]

From this hint, Su Xiao's actions within five hours after completing the task would determine the completion percentage of the talent awakening task.

The importance of completion percentage was self-evident. The higher the completion percentage, the stronger Su Xiao would become after his talent awakening.

Talent levels ranged from E to SSS, and the completion percentage of the talent awakening task determined the level of Su Xiao's talent after awakening.

As far as Su Xiao knew, the highest level of talent awakening for the first time was S, while achieving SSS required a second awakening.

Regarding the second awakening, Su Xiao only knew one piece of information: it couldn't be achieved simply by completing tasks or collecting items. It required luck and strength.

With the current 34% completion, it would be good if Su Xiao's talent ability could reach level B after awakening, and S-level was out of the question.

"I need to continue."

Su Xiao stood up, walked to Xiusi's body, and pulled out the Dragon Slashing Flash from his body. As for the Dawn Roar inside Xiusi's eye socket, this gun had already fired.

With Boss Resentful Orphan Xiusi defeated by Su Xiao, not to mention the resentful creatures currently in Liudong Temple, he searched the room for a while. Finally, he found the node of the barrier beneath the pool.

The energy of the Steel Shadow attached to the Dragon Flash and the Dragon Flash pierced through the magical node of the barrier, causing the barriers around the room to disappear.

Not only did the barriers around the room disappear, but the several layers of barriers that had appeared earlier also disappeared, leaving only the outermost barrier that concealed Liudong Temple. This barrier should have its own independent source of magical power.

Just as Su Xiao was about to leave the main hall and charge through Liudong Temple, he felt a sharp pain in his chest.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

Su Xiao coughed up several mouthfuls of blood in a row. His injuries were more severe than he had imagined and couldn't be suppressed with just a few bottles of No. 1 potion.

Realising this, Su Xiao's eyes showed some unwillingness. Did he have to give up like this?

He obviously couldn't charge through Liudong Temple because of his current physical condition. Su Xiao's body was indeed strong, but it had its limits, and these limits couldn't be ignored by simply roaring, "I want to save something."

Not to mention charging through Liudong Temple, in his current state, it was unknown whether he could handle more than a dozen resentful creatures at once.

After thinking for a moment, Su Xiao pushed open the main hall door and jumped over the wall surrounding the main hall.

As soon as he landed, many rat-like creatures resembling hedgehogs spotted Su Xiao.

"Squeak~"

Hundreds of resentful rats simultaneously emitted screeches. These resentful rats were basically without combat power; they were only responsible for early warning.

Su Xiao swung his sword and killed a few of the approaching resentful rats, then quickly rushed down the mountain. Five minutes later, he arrived at the mountainside.

"In this case... the completion percentage should be quite high."

Su Xiao murmured and then focused his mind. After about thirty seconds, he remotely detonated a bomb left inside Liudong Temple. A dazzling light appeared in the distance silently.

In the Liudong Temple area, a fireball with a diameter of one kilometre began to burn, as if the sun had fallen and crashed into Liudong Temple, turning soil, steel, concrete, and everything into gas.

Boom!

A buzzing sound rang in the ears, and the air pressure blew against him. Su Xiao's left hand, wrapped in a crimson armguard, was placed in front of him.

The sun was blooming, burning everything to ashes!

The high temperature that rushed from the mountaintop made Su Xiao take two steps back involuntarily. He had previously left the only Sun God Apollo in the main hall, and now it had detonated.

[Sun God Apollo]

Quality: Purple

Type: Consumable

Effect: Can consume one mana point to activate at any time (explosion range is two kilometres, increases to four kilometres when activated by the creator), causing 6,000 points of actual burning damage within 1,000 meters and an additional 2,000 points of fire burning damage afterwards.

Hint: Detonating Sun God Apollo takes 30 seconds.

Rating: 143

Introduction: The majesty of the sun, not to be challenged!

...

Apollo's explosion continued. The strength of this bomb lay not in its explosive power but in the detonation effect it produced.

[You killed a Resentful Servant]

[You obtained 0.2% of the World Source, now totalling 43.0%.]

[You gained 9 points of the Cathedral Church Merit.]

...

[You killed a Resentful Servant]

[You obtained 0.1% of the World Source, now totalling 43.1%.]

[You gained 9 points of the Cathedral Church Merit.]

...

Killing notifications kept appearing. In an instant, Su Xiao saw at least a hundred notifications of kills. Whether the Cathedral Church's Merit was valuable remained to be seen, but the speed at which the World Source increased made Su Xiao overjoyed.

After two seconds of Apollo's flames burning, the kill notifications stopped appearing. Su Xiao's World Source had already reached an astonishing 61.4%, the most he had ever obtained in a derivative world.

This made Su Xiao curious and worried about what would happen when the World Source reached 100%. Shaking his head, with his current strength, he was unlikely to obtain 100% of the World Source.

Moreover, Liudong Temple was in a hidden area; otherwise, there wouldn't be so much World Source here.

[You killed the Resentful Servant Leader]

[You obtained 4.1% of the World Source, now totalling 65.2%.]

[You gained 100 points of the Cathedral Church Merit.]

...

As Apollo's flames gradually extinguished, Liudong Temple had already disappeared. This area had become a forbidden zone for living creatures, and Apollo's explosion had levelled it!

The mountaintop where Liudong Temple once stood was a blazing red, and the rocks there had turned into magma due to the high temperature. The air above was distorted; even halfway down the mountain, Su Xiao could feel the terrifying heat.

Although the effect was unique, Su Xiao couldn't help but feel a bit heartache. The cost of the Sun God Apollo was simply too high.

Since the talent awakening task was closely related to Liudong Temple, Su Xiao decided to level Liudong Temple. This should significantly increase the completion percentage of the task.

But that wasn't all. Su Xiao took out an item dropped by Resentful Orphan Xiusi earlier, the "Book of Atonement (Task Item)."

Chapter 719: Alert

[Book of Confessions]

Quality: Light Gold

Type: Mission Item

Effect: After using this item, the completion rate of the talent awakening mission for this time increases by 8%.

Tip: This item will disappear when leaving this derivative world.

Tip: This item is an exclusive drop for the Orphan of Resentment, Xiu Si.

Rating: None

Introduction: Obtaining this item not only represents your excellent completion of the talent awakening mission but also showcases your strength.

...

Su Xiao used the "Book of Repentance," and the mission completion rate increased from 34% to 42%. As for the final completion rate of the mission, it would require a comprehensive assessment a few hours later.

Even so, Su Xiao guessed that the mission completion rate wouldn't reach 100%, but he had done everything he could.

Su Xiao walked towards the direction of Liudong Temple, bearing the scorching sensation. He had promised the old priest to break the dispersion spirit barrier at Liudong Temple.

One hour later, Su Xiao returned to the barren land below the mountain.

"Woof."

Buried in the weeds, Bu Bu barked. Su Xiao waved at Bu Bu, and just as he was about to meet up with Bu Bu, Jian Tong Ying, and others, his footsteps suddenly halted. There was something else in the vicinity of Bu Bu.

"Ha!"

Familiar growls reached his ears. Hearing these growls, Su Xiao instinctively raised his Dragon Slayer Flash, ready to defend against some creature's attack. If one were to look closely at the weeds near Bu Bu, they would spot a creature with white fur on its back.

"They just don't give up, do they?"

Su Xiao tightly gripped the Dragon Slayer Flash, his expression not showing much, but he was surprised to see Plain Head, who had been scalped by him, finding the location of Bu Bu and others. Was he setting up an ambush? Su Xiao immediately dismissed the thought as he glanced at Bu Bu. There was no way Bu Bu would have betrayed him.

Plain Head, who had been scalped by Su Xi using the Dragon Slayer Flash, stood upright, and the two sides began to confront each other.

Bu Bu quickly ran between Su Xiao and Plain Head.

"Woof, woof."

Bu Bu barked at Plain Head a couple of times, and upon hearing Bu Bu's barks, the hostility in Plain Head's eyes visibly diminished.

"Ha, ha, ha~."

Plain Head pointed to his bald hairstyle and then to Su Xiao.

"Woof, woof, woof..."

"Ha~."

"Woof!"

"Ha!!"

Surprisingly, Bu Bu was communicating with Plain Head. Seeing this scene, Su Xiao was a bit bewildered.

"Bu Bu, what's going on?"

Bu Bu turned to look at Su Xiao, and his gaze seemed to say, "Master, this is my new 'friend' I met earlier, and he had a pretty tough time."

Su Xiao's mouth twitched, and for a moment, he didn't know whether to fight or make peace.

After a few minutes of communication between Bu Bu and Plain Head, Plain Head nodded, glanced at Bu Bu, and his expression seemed to say, "I'll give you face today."

Bu Bu happily ran to Su Xiao's side, using his eyes to secretly hint at Su Xiao, as if saying, "Master, when I encountered this guy earlier, I found out that he wanted to seek revenge on you, but I couldn't beat him. Through my efforts, I successfully fooled him."

Su Xiao roughly understood what was going on. After he shaved Plain Head's head and gave him a beating, there was no way Plain Head would just let it go. Plain Head must have returned to Liudong Temple to seek revenge. Along the way, he encountered Bu Bu, who, through a combination of persuasion and snacks, managed to pacify him. Then, Su Xiao appeared, leading to the current situation.

"What does he want?"

Su Xiao, accompanied by Bu Bu, walked toward the barrier.

"Woof."

Bu Bu barked.

"Freedom?"

Su Xiao looked at Plain Head, and Plain Head at the end of the group noticed Su Xiao's gaze and also looked at him.

"You are already free. Xiu Si has been killed by me."

Upon hearing Su Xiao's words, Plain Head Brother froze and instinctively looked towards the distant mountaintop, which was still ablaze in crimson.

Plain Head Brother began to contemplate something. After a few seconds, he approached Su Xiao, pointing at the white fur that Su Xiao had shaved and making a few hand gestures.

"What does it mean?"

Although Su Xiao had a good understanding of 'beast language,' Plain Head Brother's expression was too abstract.

After Bu Bu's translation, Su Xiao understood Plain Head Brother's intention. The previous grudges were forgiven, and Plain Head Brother wanted to return to Fuyuki City, which had been its home before.

Given Plain Head Brother's temperament, it was clearly impossible for him to be subdued by humans. Maintaining a non-hostile relationship with him relieved Su Xiao. Despite appearing strong, he was severely injured and in urgent need of rest.

Once his injuries had healed, Su Xiao would rejoin the Holy Grail War.

Su Xiao was unaware that a group of people was preparing to target him.

The group successfully passed through the outermost barrier of Liudong Temple, which was a one-way barrier easily crossed from the inside.

Just as they left the barrier, Su Xiao turned to look back. What met his eyes was a wilderness.

Liudong Temple had been obliterated, but this barrier still remained. This meant that the barrier concealing Liudong Temple was unrelated to the temple itself, which was quite intriguing.

Who could have set up this barrier? Vengeful spirits? Although that was a possibility, Su Xiao suspected that the barrier was arranged by the Church.

Without the approval of both the Church and the Mage's Association, vengeful spirits couldn't occupy Liudong Temple. This barrier acted as a "fig leaf," concealing certain things that shouldn't be probed too deeply; otherwise, trouble would ensue, just like with this barrier.

Su Xiao didn't have time to ponder this matter. Right now, he needed rest. He led Bu Bu and the others straight to Fuyuki City.

When Su Xiao reached the outskirts of Fuyuki City, the sky was beginning to lighten. He had teetered on the edge of life and death many times throughout the night.

Upon arriving in Fuyuki City, Plain Head Brother and Su Xiao's group split up. Plain Head Brother hastened into the city with a look that seemed like he was going to seek revenge on someone.

Before Su Xiao, Plain Head Brother had lived in a zoo, and his arch-enemy was a female lion. With Plain Head Brother's current strength, he could easily subdue that female lion.

At the outskirts of Fuyuki City, Su Xiao found an uninhabited villa. He set up several security measures around the villa with his tired body.

In the early morning, in the bedroom of the villa, Su Xiao lay on the bed, with Jian Tong Ying standing beside him. She was using her clumsy little hands to help Su Xiao wrap bandages around his arm, being very careful.

After Jian Tong Ying finished wrapping Su Xiao's arm with bandages, a rare smile appeared on her face.

Su Xiao raised his arm and wasn't sure how many layers of bandages Jian Tong Ying had wrapped around it. His arm was now thicker than his leg.

"That should do it. You can rest now."

"Okay."

Jian Tong Ying ran off, leaving Su Xiao alone in the room. The previous battle had left him severely fatigued. Fortunately, Bu Bu had managed to placate Plain Head Brother. If they had engaged in combat, Su Xiao likely wouldn't have been a match for him.

The Apostle's Eye floated in the room, on alert. Su Xiao lay on the bed to recuperate. With nothing else to do, he opened the Derivative World Contact Platform.

Big E (Free Agent): "What's going on? Why is no one talking? Is something wrong?"

This message had been sent three hours ago, and since then, there had been no activity on the Derivative World Contact Platform.

Christmas (Free Agent): "Is there anyone... alive?"

A message suddenly popped up, and upon seeing it, Su Xiao's pupils contracted. He immediately began composing a response.

White Night (Free Agent): "Umbrellaless Brother?"

In less than a few seconds, Christmas, also known as Umbrellaless Brother, replied.

Chapter 720: Natural Awakening

Umbrellaless Brother's message was quite lengthy, and Su Xiao began to carefully read it.

Christmas (Free Agent): "The one who wields a knife, White Night? It must be you; others wouldn't address me like that. I have limited remaining posts, so the content of this message will be somewhat jumbled. Please understand it bit by bit.

Firstly, three high-ranking contract holders have entered the Holy Grail World. I suspect they used items to enter, but their intentions are unclear; it could be for revenge or some other purpose.

However, they are willing to kill any contract holder they can find! I witnessed them annihilate a small adventure group of twelve people.

The three of them consist of two men and one woman: one male is a fire-type close combat mage (he has ranged abilities, I saw it firsthand), one male serves as the main tank and is slightly chubby, and one female is a controller, likely specialized in charm-based abilities and controlling magic.

I may not have much time left, White Night. You are strong, perhaps... you can survive. Also, aside from those three, there may be only two contract holders left in this derivative world. If those three entered this world using an item, they won't be able to see this message. (My remaining posts: 1)."

After reading this message, which could be considered a farewell message, Su Xiao felt somewhat uneasy.

Based on the situation on the Derivative World Contact Platform, the likelihood of Umbrellaless Brother lying was minimal. After he sent this message, the platform became eerily silent, as if haunted.

"High-ranking contract holders, three of them, hunting down other contract holders..."

Su Xiao took out a cigarette and was about to light it when a weak, female voice came from the doorway.

"P-patient... um, you can't smoke~"

It was Jian Tong Ying, peeking her head into the room.

"Who told you that?"

Su Xiao looked at Jian Tong Ying. With Bu Bu's help, this young girl's mental state had improved significantly.

"My mother."

"Your mother didn't tell you that it's wrong to spy on others."

"It seems... she didn't. I spied on Rin while she was bathing, and when she found out, she invited me to bathe with her."

Jian Tong Ying tilted her head, her short purple hair hanging down to her cheeks.

"That's not called spying. Go play with Bu Bu."

"Oh~"

Jian Tong Ying ran off, and Su Xiao continued to contemplate Umbrellaless Brother's previous message. After a long time, he sent a message on the Derivative World Contact Platform.

White Night (Free Agent): "How much longer can you hold out?"

A few minutes later, Umbrellaless Brother replied.

Christmas (Free Agent): "At most, one day (within 24 hours). They are tracking me. How about we join forces?"

Umbrellaless Brother had used up all his posts.

White Night (Free Agent): "Meet in the Black Mist in 20 hours."

Here, Su Xiao referred to the Black Mist, not as a location in the Holy Grail World with black mist but as an adjective only Umbrellaless Brother could understand.

Previously, in the Trial World, the Dark Forest was shrouded in black mist, so the Black Mist referred to the forest. There was only one forest near Fuyuki City.

Su Xiao's intention was to meet in the forest near Fuyuki City in 20 hours. As for why he didn't go to meet Umbrellaless Brother now, it was because Su Xiao needed time to recover. With his current condition, Bu Bu's aura, and the alchemical potions, he needed at least 18 hours of rest to regain his combat strength.

Furthermore, Su Xiao had only cooperated with Umbrellaless Brother once, and trust couldn't be established so easily. Umbrellaless Brother might have already been captured and forced to send that message. This possibility couldn't be ruled out. If it weren't for the peculiar situation in the Holy Grail World, Su Xiao wouldn't have made this choice.

"It seems like my participation in the Holy Grail War will have to be postponed again, but it's not impossible to cooperate with other Masters."

Su Xiao checked the remaining time for the main quest, which was 12 days. If high-ranking contract holders were really using items to enter this world, fighting against Heroic Spirits would be suicidal.

Su Xiao finally understood why he couldn't see any other contract holders before. This derivative world had become like a "single-player" game because those contract holders weren't hiding; they had all been killed.

What was the purpose of those three people? Simply killing all the contract holders for the Crimson Card? Or breaking through the Holy Grail World?

Both possibilities were unlikely. The Holy Grail World wasn't suitable for hunting contract holders, as the drop rate for Crimson Cards here was only around 20-30%. There were many Second Order worlds more suitable for hunting contract holders.

As for breaking through this world to obtain a large reward? This possibility was also unlikely. The item that allowed high-ranking contract holders to enter low-ranking worlds was expensive and rare. Moreover, high-ranking contract holders would have their powers suppressed when entering low-ranking worlds, so it was mainly large adventure groups that liked to buy such items.

It wasn't for wealth, so it might be for love or revenge. There were very few people in the Reincarnation Paradise who talked about love, so the possibility of revenge was greater.

Possessing items held by large adventure groups, seeking revenge, and not progressing with the main quest after entering the derivative world to directly kill contract holders—this might be a strategy to prevent Second Order contract holders in the derivative world from joining forces. They aimed to eliminate them one by one, denying them the opportunity to unite. This strategy was decisive and ruthless.

Su Xiao had various clues running through his mind. Although he didn't like using schemes and tricks, in the Reincarnation Paradise filled with intrigue, using one's brain was essential for survival.

"Why does it feel like they're coming for me..."

Su Xiao exhaled a puff of smoke. It wasn't because he was overly self-absorbed, but because he met all the conditions mentioned.

Having a grudge with a large adventure group (Bloodgate Adventure Group), possessing formidable strength, and being capable of killing high-ranking contract holders whose powers were suppressed when they joined forces with a large number of Second Order contract holders—all of these made Su Xiao a prime target.

"Stan?"

Su Xiao was now quite puzzled. Suddenly, he felt a slight burning sensation in his hand; it was the cigarette burning down. He extinguished it in the ashtray on the bedside table.

"If it's Stan seeking revenge, how did they find me?"

This was something Su Xiao couldn't understand. His number was a fake number, and aside from that, other things could be traced, such as an item stored in his space with coordinates, or his blood, among other things.

These things could be used for tracking, but the cost was high. Given Stan's style, would he really go to such lengths for a seed member? Su Xiao needed to sell off all his equipment and fill the profits from two to three derivative worlds to afford such tracking. Moreover, high-ranking contract holders were only allowed to enter derivative worlds one level below their own; this was an iron rule.

The current situation could be described as a tangled mess, but Su Xiao had a feeling that if it was indeed Stan who sent someone to kill him, it wasn't just the decision of a large adventure group; there was a greater force behind it.

Su Xiao didn't dwell on this matter any longer. If they came, he would kill them. If he couldn't defeat them, he would escape. If he couldn't escape, he would die. There was nothing to fear. He had nothing to lose, and desperation might lead him to hunt down the Bloodgate Adventure Group directly.

Relaxing his mind, Su Xiao quickly entered a deep sleep.

Fifteen hours later, Su Xiao's fingers twitched, and he sat up on the bed. He began to remove the bandages from his body.

The wound on his chest had roughly healed, as long as he didn't engage in too brutal of a battle.

Moonlight streamed into the room. Su Xiao yawned and, with a clear mind, checked the completion progress of his Talent Awakening mission.

[Talent Awakening Mission Completion: 95% (Exceptional).]

[Hint: For 70% of contract holders, the Talent Awakening Mission completion is below 40%. For 20% of contract holders, completion exceeds 60%. For 5% of contract holders, completion is at 70%, for 3%, it's at 80%, for 1%, it's at 90%, for 0.13%, it's at 92%, and for 0.00041%, it's at 93%...]

Based on the hints, it seemed that Su Xiao had exceeded the requirements for the mission. As for reaching 100% completion, he never had such an expectation. With his current strength, it was simply unrealistic.

"Paradise, awaken my talent."

With a formidable enemy approaching, Su Xiao needed to awaken his talent ability to enhance his combat power.