

R. Paradise 891

Chapter 891: The Seven Sins

The Mind Blade did not trigger any immunity effect, indicating that this ability was not a form of forced mental control. Through practical experience, Su Xiao discovered that the Mind Blade typically provided immunity against strong mental control abilities, such as forced charm or mental stun.

The influence he was currently under was more of an emotional amplification, which misled his judgment. The amplified emotions, in combination, led to his impaired decision-making. Su Xiao's strong willpower could quickly suppress it if it were a single emotion. For example, when he saw that female student, although he had the urge to assault her, he managed to restrain himself through sheer willpower.

Realising the nature of the problem, Su Xiao breathed a sigh of relief. The real danger of this emotion-influencing ability lay in its subtlety. Once detected, it was no longer as threatening.

As for how to dispel it, Su Xiao had already identified the symbols on his arm. Given his capabilities, breaking the influence wasn't tricky. He converted 100 mana points into Qinggang Ying energy, channelling it into his right arm.

Qinggang Ying's energy surged outward, different from its usual surface attachment; this time, it shot directly outwards. The energy brushed past the seven symbols on his arm. As he meditated, Su Xiao sensed the symbols gradually leaving his skin, gathering in the air to form the phrase "parting gift."

The symbols completely disappeared, and Su Xiao opened his eyes. With the source of emotional interference resolved, he felt much calmer. The earlier influence on his emotions had caused considerable mental turmoil.

Blood dripped from Su Xiao's mouth as he understood what had happened. The anomalous violator, the target of his hunting mission, had attacked him. At some point, this violator used an ability called "Scythe of the Seven Sins" on Su Xiao. This ability could be cast over a kilometre away, likely only needing a photo or alias of Su Xiao to take effect.

Such a distant casting range, combined with solid concealment and emotional manipulation, made this ability exceptionally dangerous. It could indeed kill invisibly by amplifying emotions like arrogance, anger, lust, gluttony, and greed. Even if the target didn't die directly from the Scythe of the Seven Sins, they might fall prey to other characters in this dangerous world.

Fortunately, Su Xiao's willpower was strong enough. Otherwise, his personality might have drastically changed under the influence of his ability. It wasn't just about torturing enemies or impulsively killing; it could have led to a total loss of control.

While powerful, this ability also had significant drawbacks. Once forcibly dispelled, the Scythe of the Seven Sins caster would suffer a backlash, permanently losing 10% of their maximum health and 3 points of intelligence. These penalties were severe.

Su Xiao wiped the blood from his mouth. The violator had given him quite the "surprise." According to the known information, the violator was aware of Su Xiao's existence, likely due to

prior encounters with hunters. This violator might have substantial experience and could have even killed hunters before.

Hunters and violators were inherently enemies, but their abilities varied widely, so there was no natural counterbalance. Survival depended on strength, illustrating the danger of the hunter's role.

The violator had sought Su Xiao first, reminiscent of the red clown, a violator Su Xiao had encountered who actively sought out hunters. Both understood hunters and took proactive measures in the derived world.

"I almost got played," Su Xiao thought, relieved now that his emotions were no longer influenced. His mind was more precise than lifting a weight off his shoulders. Previously, it felt like an invisible hand was manipulating his emotions, mixing them into a chaotic tangle. Clear thinking was impossible.

With the Scythe of the Seven Sins dispelled, Su Xiao felt significantly lighter, as if he had been carrying an increasing burden that he had now thrown off.

He had no time to deal with the violator hidden in the shadows. Finding the violator would be tricky, even with Aleister's help and the resources of the Misaka Network. Aleister would not assist anyway.

Having faced the violator once, Su Xiao doubted they would reappear soon. He now had defences against their ability, reducing the likelihood of falling for it again. This violator was exceptionally tricky, having already engaged Su Xiao in a round without confrontation.

"Bubu, if I act abnormally again, bite me immediately," Su Xiao instructed.

Bubu tilted its head, seemingly asking, "Bite the head?"

"Bite the leg!" Su Xiao corrected.

Bubu gave a sheepish look, indicating understanding.

Knock, knock, knock. A knock came on the door. Bubu jumped off the bed, wagging its fluffy tail as it opened the door.

A blond, spiky-haired teenager wearing sunglasses entered. He wore a floral shirt with the buttons undone, exposing his chest and abs, complemented by a gold chain and shorts, giving the impression he had just come from the beach.

"Yo, I heard you were looking for me?" The newcomer, Tsuchimikado Motoharu, greeted. He was a multi-faceted spy whose combat prowess wasn't impressive, but his unique position in Academy City meant no one would dare touch him.

"I've been waiting for you for a while. You're lucky. If we had met an hour earlier, things might have turned out differently," Su Xiao remarked.

Tsuchimikado was puzzled by this comment. If they had met while Su Xiao was still under emotional influence, Su Xiao might have beaten Tsuchimikado to extract information about the Necronomicon's whereabouts.

Chapter 892: The Spy's Way of Survival

"So, you've done all that for Aleister just to see me? I don't believe I'm that charming," Tsuchimikado Motoharu said as he stood cautiously by the door, fully aware of how dangerous Su Xiao was—a cold-blooded killer without hesitation.

"No need to be so wary. If something happens to you here, I'll have more than just Aleister. Plus, there will be other forces coming after me," Su Xiao said, his demeanour noticeably calmer and more organised after dispelling the emotional interference.

"It's just a matter of mutual benefit," Tsuchimikado replied, finally walking into the room and sitting on the sofa. He kept his sunglasses on, a habit to prevent others from reading his eyes—the windows to the soul, a critical survival tactic for a spy. Being read meant being dead.

In the original story, Tsuchimikado appeared to be a laid-back teenager, but the reality differed. He was meticulous and level-headed, with a unique willingness to risk everything for friends and protect his adopted sister, even if it meant opposing the entire world.

"You came to see me for information, right? I can't think of any other reason," Tsuchimikado said, fingers interlocked and leaning forward.

"Of course. I came to Academy City to find something," Su Xiao responded.

"And what might that be?"

"The Necronomicon, or whatever it's called."

Tsuchimikado went silent, his eyes narrowing behind his sunglasses. After a long pause, he sighed.

"I'm sorry, but that item might no longer exist. Your efforts might be in vain," Tsuchimikado said, standing up to leave.

"For the sake of finding that item, I'm willing to do things I'd rather not," Su Xiao said, smiling as he watched Tsuchimikado. The spy stopped in his tracks, turning to look at Su Xiao.

"If you dare touch anyone around me, I'll make a pact with the devil to drag you to hell with me," Tsuchimikado said, pushing his sunglasses up his nose.

"Seems like you've misunderstood something," Su Xiao said. He had no intention of threatening Tsuchimikado with his loved ones, as it would be an inefficient method yielding unreliable information.

"To be precise, I don't know exactly what the Necronomicon is. Don't be so surprised. My goal is merely to locate it, nothing more," Su Xiao explained.

"Locate the Necronomicon..." Tsuchimikado mused, then continued, "Is it your organisation that wants you to bring it back?"

"More broadly, just to find it. If things get too dangerous, I can destroy it," Su Xiao said.

"I don't trust you," Tsuchimikado shook his head. He knew the Necronomicon's true nature, recognising its danger.

"Think carefully. Look at what I've done just to meet you. You can see it this way: I risked everything to help Aleister take down a saint of the magic side just for a clue. If I don't get information on the Necronomicon..." Su Xiao trailed off, implying the dire consequences of failing his Tier 3 promotion task, which could lead to his demise.

After a long silence, Tsuchimikado sighed and sat back down.

"If I don't give you a lead, we both go to hell, and my people stay safe?" Tsuchimikado asked.

"That's one way to look at it," Su Xiao agreed.

"A total disaster. Someone's waiting for me to come back for dinner," Tsuchimikado said, relaxing completely and staring at the ceiling as a gentle breeze lifted the white curtains.

"The Necronomicon, also known as the Book of Evil Spirits, is filled with dark and forbidden magic. Compared to it, other black magic is child's play. It can disrupt the world's balance, a force beyond elemental magic. Simply put, it can cause destruction, permanently destroying everything," Tsuchimikado explained.

He paused for a moment before continuing.

"Do you realise how dangerous what you're looking for is? Just give up now."

"Keep talking," Su Xiao urged, gesturing for Tsuchimikado to continue. The spy smirked, thinking quickly. He was here at Aleister's behest.

"About 400 years ago, a magician harnessed the Necronomicon's power. Surprisingly, he self-destructed the first time he used it, taking an entire city with him. Upon learning this, the Church of the Cross sought the Necronomicon, later claiming to have secured it in their magical vault. In truth, they never found it.

"Then, 300 years ago, another magician discovered the Necronomicon, only to self-destruct like the previous one. This time, it happened by a lake. When the Church arrived, the lake water had turned into a gaseous form that could dissolve anything. It took the Church years to contain the damage, and the Necronomicon vanished again."

Tsuchimikado recounted the Necronomicon's history and its dangers.

"So, it's a kind of technique or spell? Like a one-time powerful weapon?" Su Xiao asked, still puzzled. Tsuchimikado wouldn't have been so reluctant to share information if it were just that.

"If that were all, the Necronomicon wouldn't be so dangerous. But the true threat lies in its permanent destruction. Anything it destroys can't be restored. That lake, for instance, remains a bottomless pit to this day. No matter what you fill it with, it reverts by midnight. The filling materials simply disappear from existence," Tsuchimikado explained.

Hearing this, Su Xiao understood the Necronomicon's true nature. It documented a technique or spell that, once used, annihilated the very existence of its target, making restoration impossible.

"And you think I'd study its techniques and then blow up a city?" Su Xiao asked, amused.

"Of course not. While the Necronomicon is dangerous, its actual value is limited. Moreover, every time someone masters its techniques, it mysteriously vanishes again," Tsuchimikado replied.

"Tell me where it is, and I'll make it disappear forever."

"I can't do that."

"I'm not sure of its exact location myself. Would you believe that?" Tsuchimikado said.

"No."

"I figured as much. Someone's misfortune probably curses me," Tsuchimikado sighed.

"However... there's a recent rumour. Someone found the Necronomicon and plans to use it," Tsuchimikado said.

"Tell me who, and we can pretend we never met."

"Just waiting for you to say that," Tsuchimikado replied. All his previous resistance was to get Su Xiao to this point. Providing information and then cutting ties was the spy's way of survival.

"木原," Tsuchimikado said, only uttering a name before leaving the room.

"Tree-rich?" Su Xiao asked.

"The older generation," Tsuchimikado clarified, closing the door behind him. Outside, he exhaled deeply.

"The Kihara family, don't blame me. This is your own doing," he muttered.

Chapter 893: Lady White

After Tsuchimikado Motoharu left, Su Xiao closed the curtains and locked the door. Based on the clues so far, the Necronomicon was in the hands of the Kihara clan. The Kihara clan was a large group directly under the Board of Directors in Academy City, with over four thousand members.

Most of these four thousand were non-combatant researchers, with only a few hundred having combat abilities, primarily members of the Hound Dogs. If Su Xiao moved against the Kihara clan, Aleister might intervene. However, Su Xiao was beyond caring. If he couldn't obtain the Necronomicon, he was as good as dead. Faced with life or death, why should he fear Aleister?

Moreover, Aleister rarely left his Windowless Building. Even if Su Xiao annihilated the Kihara clan, Aleister would most likely send subordinates to deal with him rather than intervene personally. Unless Aleister was willing to abandon his long-planned grand scheme, he wouldn't act directly. Compared to that scheme, the Kihara clan was insignificant.

Ss—

Su Xiao's portable radio crackled to life.

"It seems the Kihara clan is your obstacle," Aleister's voice came through the radio. He had heard Su Xiao's conversation with Tsuchimikado Motoharu through the space transmission lines.

"Yes. Are you going to intervene?"

"This will disrupt my plan, affecting steps 2034 to 2265. Stop."

Aleister's voice was devoid of emotion.

"Aleister, I told you before that I could help you. Time, place, target—just provide these and I'll handle the specifics. I've done your tasks, now it's my turn. You can't just tell me to stop because it disrupts your plan."

Su Xiao's grip tightened on the radio, causing cracks to appear.

"Leave Therestina Kihara Lifeline. The Necronomicon isn't in her hands. If you want to obtain it quickly, go to District 2. You'll find what you're looking for there. Consider this payment for the previous task."

Aleister didn't escalate the confrontation, instead providing crucial information. This was due to several factors, mainly Su Xiao's demonstrated combat prowess and the previous matter involving Kanzaki Kaori.

"District 2? I'll think about it."

Su Xiao crushed the radio in his hand, then closed his eyes to sense his surroundings. Several small, barely visible space transmission lines floated around him. With a wave of his arm, he shattered these lines, preventing Aleister from monitoring the room.

Having discovered the Necronomicon was with the Kihara clan, Su Xiao had anticipated Aleister's obstruction. However, Aleister hadn't expected Su Xiao's firm stance, which essentially conveyed: I've done your tasks, and now you're quibbling with me?

If Aleister indeed turned against Su Xiao, it would spell disaster for both. Su Xiao would ensure Aleister regretted it deeply.

Aleister might appear unfathomable, but Su Xiao saw him as a highly goal-oriented mage with significant weaknesses, including his inability to expose himself and his limited deployable combat force.

After clearing the room of Aleister's surveillance, Su Xiao took out two treasure chests and placed them on the wooden table. Even though Aleister couldn't see the chests, it was better to be cautious.

With a cigarette in his mouth, Su Xiao used the Redemption of Fate to light it, preparing for the thrilling moment of opening the chests.

There were two chests: one light gold, the other dark purple. They were the spoils from Mugino Shizuri and Stiyl Magnus.

Exhaling a puff of pale golden smoke, Su Xiao activated his "Emperor's Blessing" and reached out with his "Black Hand of Luck." Meanwhile, Bob the dog imagined Su Xiao's hand emitting black smoke as the light gold chest trembled like a frightened maiden.

Bob's imagination was impressive, and when Su Xiao opened the light gold chest, a golden light filled the room.

"It's shining!"

Su Xiao smiled, his previous frustration from the confrontation with Aleister vanishing. He eagerly awaited the contents of the light gold chest.

[You have opened the treasure chest (light gold).]

[You have obtained 9,000 Paradise Coins.]

[You have obtained 13,000 Paradise Coins.]

[You have obtained Soul Crystal (Medium) ×4.]

[You have obtained Lady White (Light Gold).]

[You have obtained Mr. Black (Light Gold).]

[Lady White]

Origin: Academy City · Love and Passion's Weiland Aphrodisiac Company

Quality: Light Gold

Type: Wand (Entirely white, 30 cm long)

Durability: 115/115

Attack Power: 1–30

Equipment Requirements: Female, 75+ Intelligence, 8+ Strength, 8+ Charisma, Wand Mastery Lv. 25+.

Equipment Effect 1: Healing (Passive) – Increases healing effects by 8% + Intelligence × 5%.

Equipment Effect 2: Heartbeat (Passive) – Each healing will be judged. If the target is male, increases the target's defense/magic resistance by 10%. If the target is female, additionally increases healing by 80 + 5% of lost health.

Equipment Effect 3: Excitement (Passive) – Due to this weapon's particular use, increases Charisma by 5.

Rating: 270

Description: If you try to turn on the switch below it, you will discover a "new world," where vibration and joy coexist. Don't forget to recharge it, buzz buzz~

Su Xiao held the rod-like item in his hand, his mouth twitching. This thing looked incredibly suspicious.

As a single woman, it wasn't surprising that Mugino Shizuri possessed such an item. However, the fact that it became a healing wand made it particularly awkward. Su Xiao couldn't imagine a delicate healer using this in battle—the scene was too embarrassing and eye-searing.

Bob the dog curiously sniffed at it, his innocent eyes asking, "Master, what is this?"

"Just a multifunctional healing wand."

Bob nodded, accepting this explanation. To him, the wand seemed too short and oddly shaped.

Despite its shape and original use, Lady White had excellent attributes, significantly boosting a healer's performance.

Su Xiao then checked Mr. Black's attributes out of curiosity.

[Mr. Black]

Origin: Academy City · Love and Passion's Weiland Aphrodisiac Company

Quality: Light Gold

Type: Club (Entirely black, with protruding granules on the surface)

Durability: 150/150

Attack Power: 1–199

Equipment Requirements: Male, 75+ Strength, 50+ Agility, Club Mastery Lv. 25+.

Equipment Effect 1: Strong Attack (Passive) – Each attack will be judged. If the target is male, increases true damage by 17 points. If the target is female, has a 7% chance to stun.

Equipment Effect 2: Weak Point Strike (Passive) – If it hits the enemy's lower body, elemental damage is multiplied (2–5 times damage, random judgment).

Equipment Effect 3: Excitement (Passive) – Due to this weapon's special use, increases Charisma by 5.

Rating: 270

Description: Short and powerful, lethal to both genders.

Compared to Lady White, Mr. Black wasn't as impressive, relying heavily on luck for its effectiveness due to its unstable attack power.

Overall, Su Xiao made a significant profit from the light gold chest. As for the dark purple chest, he wasn't too hopeful but decided to open it anyway.

When he did, purple light shone from the chest, another rare find!

Seeing the purple light, Su Xiao felt uneasy. Consecutive rare finds might mean he was exhausting his luck.

Chapter 894: Frontal Assault

Some of the researchers had been hit by the metal fragments, their bodies grotesquely twisted from the impact. The researcher who managed to get up looked towards the source of the explosion, his eyes widening in fear and shock.

Through the hole blasted in the metal wall, a man stepped into the laboratory. His presence was imposing, and the long blade at his side gleamed menacingly in the dim light. This was Su Xiao, and he moved with the calm assurance of someone who knew he was unstoppable.

"Where is the central control room?" Su Xiao asked, his voice cold and detached.

The researchers hesitated, looking at each other nervously. One of them, a man in his fifties with a receding hairline and glasses, stepped forward. He was trembling, but he seemed to have enough presence of mind to understand the gravity of the situation.

"It's... it's down the hall, to the left," the man stammered. "But it's heavily guarded. You won't make it there easily."

Su Xiao nodded as if he had expected this answer. He turned to leave, but then paused, looking back at the researchers.

"Thank you," he said, and then, almost as an afterthought, "You should probably evacuate. This place won't be safe for long."

With that, he left the laboratory, the researchers still in shock from the sudden violence. They quickly gathered their wits and began to evacuate, knowing that staying would likely mean death.

Su Xiao moved down the hall with purpose, his senses alert for any signs of danger. He knew the layout of the facility from the electronic map he had been given, but that wouldn't account for all the security measures or the potential traps that might have been set.

As he approached the central control room, he encountered several automated defenses and a few more armed guards. The defenses were quickly dealt with using a combination of precision strikes and his formidable combat skills. The guards, while more challenging, were still no match for him. They fell one by one, unable to stop his advance.

Finally, he stood before the reinforced door to the central control room. It was a massive metal door, designed to withstand significant force. But Su Xiao had come prepared. He took out a small device, placing it against the door. The device emitted a high-pitched whine, and moments later, the door's locking mechanism disengaged with a loud clunk.

Pushing the door open, Su Xiao stepped into the central control room. The room was filled with monitors and control panels, displaying various data about the facility. At the center of the room stood an old man, his white hair disheveled, wearing a lab coat. This was Kihara Gensei, the man Su Xiao had been looking for.

"Kihara Gensei," Su Xiao said, his voice steady and calm.

The old man turned to face him, a look of surprise quickly replaced by one of recognition and then amusement.

"So, you're the one causing all this trouble," Kihara Gensei said, his voice raspy but filled with a strange energy. "I wondered when you'd show up."

Su Xiao didn't respond immediately. He studied the old man, noting the various devices and gadgets scattered around the room. It was clear that Kihara Gensei had been prepared for an intrusion, but perhaps not one as direct as this.

"Where is the Necronomicon?" Su Xiao asked, his tone leaving no room for evasion.

Kihara Gensei chuckled, shaking his head. "You think I'd just tell you? Even if you kill me, you'll never find it. You're wasting your time."

Su Xiao's eyes narrowed. He knew that getting the information from Kihara Gensei wouldn't be easy, but he also knew that he had no choice. He stepped forward, his blade ready.

"We'll see about that," Su Xiao said, his voice cold and determined.

The confrontation had only just begun, and Su Xiao knew that he would need every ounce of his skill and determination to get what he needed.

Chapter 895: The Obstacle

Su Xiao bent down and crawled into the lab through a hole in the wall.

"Finally found the researcher. Is this place a maze?"

As Su Xiao entered the lab, blood dripped from the edge of Dragon Flash. He had just encountered a squad of Hound Unit members, who were brainwashed and challenging to extract information from.

Upon entering the lab, a Hound Unit member raised his rifle, aiming at Su Xiao. A counterattack shield beside Su Xiao flew out, shooting towards the Hound Unit member. The shield rapidly split into dozens of sharp fragments mid-flight.

Splat, splat...

The Hound Unit member holding the rifle was turned into a sieve. This was Su Xiao's newly developed use for the counterattack shield, which was not very practical in combat but effective against small fry.

"You... you're the intruder?"

A researcher sat on the ground, legs flailing, pushing himself back until he hit the wall.

Su Xiao lightly stepped on the ground, disappearing from the researcher's sight and reappearing before him.

"The map of this place..."

Mid-sentence, Su Xiao realised he didn't need a map. Understanding the layout was his habit, but now, directly asking for Mokuhara Maboroshi's location was more practical.

"Where is Mokuhara Maboroshi?"

When Su Xiao finished speaking, the researcher raised his hands and quickly said, "I know the map here very well. Mokuhara Maboroshi must be in the central control room. It has a level-four defence system. I can take you there."

This young researcher had a strong will to survive. He provided the information Su Xiao wanted and details about Mokuhara's preferences, age, and height. He would have revealed that if he knew the colour of Mokuhara's underwear.

Most of Su Xiao's enemies were tough. Such a soft target was rare.

"Take me to him, and I'll spare your life."

"Okay, I'll cooperate fully, sir."

The researcher forced a smile. He was young with a bright future and didn't want to die for Mokuhara.

He stood up, trembling as he walked towards the lab door, pausing to grab an ID card from his superior's corpse. This card functioned as both a key and identification; the higher one's status, the more freedom in the lab.

As Su Xiao passed a glass pillar in the lab, he paused, noticing a clone of Mikoto Misaka. The researcher quickly began to explain.

"This is a Level 5 esper Mikoto Misaka clone, part of the 'Absolute Ability Evolution Program.' There are 20,000 clones. According to the plan, if the top-ranked Accelerator kills the third-ranked Mikoto Misaka 128 times in different battles, he can evolve to Level 6. Since there can't be 128 Misakas, the clones are used instead. I can explain further if you want more details on the 'Absolute Ability Evolution Program.'"

The researcher was eager to betray. Su Xiao hadn't even asked, and he spilt everything.

"Not interested. Lead the way."

"This way."

With the researcher leading, Su Xiao's progress through the lab increased significantly. After bypassing many defence mechanisms, he quickly reached the third floor, where the central control room was.

Su Xiao easily sliced through a half-meter-thick metal door, revealing an empty metal room ahead. Clang, clang...

The sound of metal clashing came from the room as over sixty robots stood inside, each over five meters tall.

Seeing the towering robots, the researcher hesitated, considering switching sides back to Mokuhara.

...

Researchers watched the giant screen showing Su Xiao's area in the central control room on the third floor.

"This should be enough. The DX-794M combat mechs are unbeatable by humans. Even a Level 5 physical enhancement esper would be torn apart."

One researcher, holding a cup of coffee, took a leisurely sip. He was the developer of the mechs.

"Randy, your combat mechs are impressive."

An old man with a wrinkled face spoke. He was Mokuhara Maboroshi.

"Of course. Despite the losses in this incident, it proves that combat mechs are the future, not espers. Developing espers is too slow, while mechs can be mass-produced."

"Short-sighted."

Mokuhara sneered, ignoring the researcher's dark expression.

"I was going to use the final defence plan, but it seems unnecessary now. This has delayed my research by 12 minutes and 35 seconds."

Mokuhara glanced at the silver suitcase, hesitating whether to abandon it. His relationship with Aleister had worsened over this.

"He... he..."

A researcher pointed at the screen, trembling.

"What's the panic..."

Crash! The mech developer's coffee cup fell. On the screen, shattered mechs lay scattered, and a man with a long knife stood among the wreckage, shaking bullet casings from his collar.

The man with the knife looked up, his sharp gaze causing all researchers in the control room to step back.

With a crackle, the screen went black; the camera was destroyed.

Boom! Boom!

Explosions echoed from the third floor like someone was tearing down the lab.

Boom!

The explosions neared the control room, and Mokuvara's expression darkened.

"We have to use it. Though it's unruly, its power is formidable."

Mokuvara spoke to a nearby researcher, who visibly resisted.

"Do we have to use that experimental subject? He..."

"Hurry, or do you want to die?"

"Yes."

The researcher ran from the control room to a nearby lounge.

...

Bullets from several machine guns strafed Su Xiao, but his long knife deflected them effortlessly.

A light blue sword beam cut through the machine guns, silencing them.

Su Xiao walked down a corridor littered with bullets, puzzled. The defences weren't strong enough to stop a Level 4 esper, but not him.

The difficulty of this third-tier promotion mission was Level 23. The defences here didn't match that level. Was the difficulty in finding the Muling Codex's clues?

Possibly. Su Xiao had gone through much to get those clues, nearly being killed by Kanzaki Kaori's Flash Strike.

Now, the control room was closed. Once he found Mokuvara, the Codex was practically his.

Su Xiao approached the control room, but the high-strength glass door had no obstacle.

"Hey, you're the test subject? You don't look impressive."

A white-haired, red-eyed, skinny boy emerged from a side passage, smirking at Su Xiao.

"I see. That makes the mission's difficulty more reasonable."

Su Xiao stretched, releasing his aura. A pale red energy spread around him.

Crack.

The metal walls around him cracked. Seeing this, the white-haired boy stomped the ground, causing the metal floor to shatter.