Righteous Ps 201

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Because of Salvatore's reminder, Annan didn't look at "Leer."

He just lowered his head, leaning on his side to watch her rough movement.

Facing Annan's frontal charge, "Leer" didn't evade in the slightest.

Under her constantly swaying robe, where the two empty sleeves were, two transparent white bones the size of half a door were launched. The bony hands grabbed toward Annan!

Annan didn't back down in the face of this obstruction.

He didn't even use spells.

Instead, he flipped a few silver coins, which melted in the air and plated on his sledgehammer.

Annan suddenly stopped. With the momentum of [Charge], the slightly rotating sledgehammer was launched horizontally!

Under the additional bonus effect coming from the drugs and curse vessel, Annan's "Barrier Destroyer's Right Arm" slammed into the Leer's right hand!

The offense was unstoppable, with the hammer summoning visible airwaves during the smash. The bony hands exploded into dust.

However, Leer didn't seem to feel any pain. She didn't respond at all but reached out her right hand and grabbed toward Annan.

The sharp finger bones were like five daggers. She seemed capable of beheading Annan with her grasp!

On the other hand, Annan took advantage of the momentum to throw his right hand out and block right in front of his head.

Five blood trails were slitted on his right arm. The blood gushed out in an instant and fell to the ground.

But the moment Leer grabbed Annan's right arm, Annan did a hand chop with his glittering left hand imbued with curse power.

In just a moment, he cut off her extended hand directly!

At that moment, Annan sensed that there seemed to be something emerging in his belly.

It felt like a thin piece of bone was transported into Annan's belly.

Is this the essence of my curse?

Annan had a better grasp of the better situation.

So, the curse could only be triggered after "attacking edible creatures."

Although his right arm was dripping with blood, Leer failed to sever Anna's tendon in that grasp.

Annan, who didn't feel the pain, didn't back down at all.

In the blink of an eye, Annan immediately took advantage of the Leer, having herself exposed at the expense of his injury. Of course, he wouldn't give her another chance to rebuild her defense.

His blood-soaked right arm exerted strength again and slammed the hammer that was shining with silver brilliance.

After a dull shattering sounded, as if the skull was crushed, Leer was cracked as it flew out!

Annan crouched his body lightly at this time, and his left hand reached into the bag.

While putting the bleeding bone knife back in, Annan took out four silver coins from the bag.

He put one of the silver coins on his right arm and rubbed it down his hand. The wound seemed to be wiped away by an eraser, and the right arm was immediately intact.

At the same time, Annan used his right arm as support. His left hand reached out straight forward, and his right arm slanted to the left slightly, intertwining into a cross.

In the next moment, three silver lights shot out from Annan's palm in the triangle arrangement, hitting Leer's head, chest, and abdomen, respectively. The attacks directly smashed on Leer, who hadn't yet landed in the air!

[You have dispelled the Silver Rank's summon "Leer" in the battle, gaining 500 points of Shared Experience.]

"...Um?" Annan's eyes widened.

What, how come I get so much experience?

No way, this rookie monster is actually from Silver Rank?

"Don Juan!" At this moment, Salvatore's anxious voice sounded from behind, "Behind you!"

Annan didn't hesitate. The moment he heard the sound, he rolled forward.

He felt a strong wind passing through the back of his head as if some hair had been cut off.

Annan quickly adjusted his posture on the ground, took out three silver coins from her bag, and sandwiched them between his fingers. They appeared like a brass knuckle for his fist.

He turned his head, but he was slightly startled with what behold in his sight.

Behind Annan was a hairless young girl. She didn't have regular clothes but was covered in yellow bandages, just like a mummy.

She held a dark green jade long dagger in each hand. After the attack failed, she vanished.

Salvatore was stopped by a hunk man holding a black barbed sledgehammer as if he came out of a Disney animation.

Salvatore took out two reagent bottles from the box in a sorry state and threw them at the hunk.

Huh, another two more monsters came out?

That being the case, what happens on the other side.

Annan finally knew that he and Salvatore had overlooked something.

In other words, Annan didn't know how much Rotten Man Church planned to do before seeing "Ritual: Roaring Heart."

It occurred that the Rotten Man Church was determined to prevent Michelangelo from resurrecting.

Then, they wouldn't just resort to summoning the most powerful "the Soul Eater" only!

There were at least nine of the summoned monsters.

Of course, since "Ritual: Roaring Heart" had been activated, they might only have eight left now.

In other words, they might be doing eight summoning rituals at the same time!

"Let me help you!" Annan shouted decisively.

The experience points belong to me. Wait, sorry, I mean this hunk man is too dangerous for you!

Annan didn't even hesitate and rushed toward the hunk man.

Annan's skin keenly felt the flow of air the next moment.

He stopped abruptly and raised the sledgehammer with his right hand.

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The "mummy" who had just become invisible in front of him didn't hide.

Instead, the mummy appeared in front of him dignified and slashed on the hammer's handle!

In this encounter, Annan realized that she didn't have much strength.

So, is the weapon poisonous?

"You don't want me to pass?" Annan looked at her.

He was a little surprised by the intelligence of this summoned creature.

Indeed, Annan wouldn't have any difficulty dealing with the hunk man.

But he hadn't released his Falteration spell yet.

How did this mummy guess it out?

Annan sneered and slowly raised the hammer to her. He was charging his attack, ready to go at any second.

"It's all the same. Since you want to fight me, I—"

Annan was halfway through talking to her, and a faint blue brilliance appeared in his eyes silently.

Under his feet, a frost aura burst out without warning!

The dead girl with bandages warping her up noticed something before Annan used Frost Nova.

She tried to leap back at a greater height.

But Annan Frost Nova spread faster than her movement.

After cold air expanded to its limit, it spread upward like wildfire under her foot.

In the end, she appeared like jumping into the cold air's onslaught!

At the moment when her movements became stiff, Annan put away the hammer and hit her with his left fist, shooting out all three silver coins sandwiched between his fingers!

[You have dispelled the Bronze Rank's summon "Infected Girl" in the battle, gaining 20 points of Shared Experience.]

"Heh...Madam, times have changed." Annan sneered and withdrew his left hand.

Since this "plagued girl" dared to stop him, Annan immediately judged that she shouldn't have the ability to predict.

Otherwise, she should know that working together to besiege Salvatore was the right choice.

But, she somehow knew Annan wanted to rescue Salvatore.

So, she should have some kind of fast and remote mind-reading ability.

But Annan's advantage was that he moved fast!

Even Annan didn't know what he might think the next moment.

He thought of the AOE spell all of a sudden and triggered it without any delay. Even she noticed it, she couldn't avoid it!

(TN: AOE stands for Area of Effect; more of a gaming term)

"Don, Don Juan! Help, help me...Help!" Salvatore yelled to Annan in a sorry state.

He felt very wronged.

This hunk man had been chasing him non-stop. Not to mention the chance of spell casting, he didn't even have the opportunity of utilizing the reagents.

"Don't panic. I'm here!"

Seeing Salvatore being chased and rushed to his side, Annan raised the hammer excitedly.

He felt that he could be promoted by at least two levels!

These summons are nutritious food!

On the other side at 12 Rusty Water Street...

Kafni rubbed her eyes sleepily and leaned against the wall.

She was still wearing light clothing that gave the onlookers a gloomy feeling.

More than ten tentacles were protruding from under her skirt. One of which formed a cushion on the wall while lifting the skirt.

The remaining tentacles tightly locked the joints of a faceless man dressed as a magician in red. The tentacles raised him up and then slapped him to the ground!

"Didn't he say to wait for me to wake up?"

She murmured in dissatisfaction.

The shadow suddenly became thicker as if sensing her feelings. They twisted the man in red directly into a ball.

Then, he burst directly into pieces with only a piece of red cloth remaining.

At the next moment, the air around her gradually became hot.

A knight wearing blood-stained crimson plate full body armor rode a tall horse with the same crimson armor. He held a blood pike and galloped from the other end of the street.

He faced the weak and helpless Kafni, but he treated her as if he was facing a dragon or a demon. He launched a standard knight charge to her seriously!

Kafni's expression changed slightly for a moment, a little more serious.

"The Red Knight's Chevaliers?" She muttered in a low volume and stood up straight.

Kafni turned on a tiny portable lamp that she carried around her waist and placed it behind her.

Then, she unbuttoned her coat slightly, expanding the area of her shadow.

Her clothes were unique. The front part was twice as one-fold thick than the back part. At her shoulder blades, there was another layer of cloth folded inward back. As a result, she had two layers of buttons inside and outside. Once she unbuttoned the first layer of buttons, it would spread out like butterfly wings.

Kafni faced the red chevalier galloping in the distance, and closed her eyes.

She condensed her mind power, gradually floated in the air, and her clothes fluttered.

If one were to look from behind, she looked like a black butterfly with its gorgeous wings spread.

Under the deep shadow cast in front of her, countless tentacles ran rampant like a deep ocean.

The knight who launched [Charge] in the face of this dark sea was unfazed.

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Kafni naturally knew what she was facing.

War deity's Three Hundred Chevaliers of the Red Knight with bloody armor.

The chevalier in blood-covered armor was one of them.

Every chevalier had fought to the death on the fiercest battlefield. They were sheltered by the war deity and regained their physical bodies after death, becoming a walking "war" symbol.

Of course, that was a more euphemized narration.

Simply put, they had become the war deity's mercenary.

"Chevalier" was the easiest upright deity's envoy to be summoned.

As long as they meet the ritual needs of the Red Knight, the chevalier would be available to enter the mortal world. The Red Knight's priests also spread the ritual of summoning "chevalier" to spread wars in any peaceful environment.

"...Tsk." Kafni pursed her lips, slightly annoyed.

I could have reminded Annan to summon a chevalier too.

There were two relatively rare materials to conduct "Ritual: Chevalier Summoning," which was "an upcoming Transcended war" and "Novice Influence: Breath of War." All the remaining materials were things that could be bought from the ordinary people's market:

For example, sword blades that were once stained with blood and rust, armor soaked with the air of the battlefield, the complete skull of a horse, and a tube of veteran's blood.

Novice influence was something that chaos spells would produce, and the war itself was the ritual area. There was almost no need to spend money on it. Even mortals could use curse vessels with "war" elements to replace them for the summoning.

The only limitation was that you could no longer summon the chevalier if the "opponent side of the war" had successfully summoned it.

This was the measure that Red Knight utilized to encourage the public to summon his chevalier.

The side that summoned the chevalier must start a war within one day. If they summoned the chevalier but only relied on it to make the opponent surrender for greater benefits, that would be deemed as a betrayal to the war deity.

If the summoning side chose to retreat and didn't initiate a war, then the chevalier would attack them in return. Therefore, the chevalier's overseeing role gave them another name, "Red Knight's Governor."

With that, it made sense for Annan not to summon a chevalier. After all, they were on the defensive side, unable to confirm if the opponents were Transcended.

"What a pity." Kafni opened her eyes slightly, clenching her hands subconsciously.

The red aura representing strength and courage flickered violently in her eyes. By harnessing the spiritual power, countless shadow tentacles emerged from the shadow pool projected in front of her.

Kafni knew the chevalier well. She naturally knew that the safest battle strategy was to restrict the direct charge attacks coming from the chevalier.

A chevalier who couldn't perform a direct charge attack was tantamount to an ordinary Silver Rank Swordsman without special abilities.

But for Kafni, utilizing this strategy also restricted her options.

Kafni's tentacles could only be summoned from the shadow cast by her.

It occurred that Kafni was utilizing her "last resort."

After she unfolded her clothes, every corner of the shadow projected from the light source manifested the tentacles as she willed, no matter if it was on the air or the ground!

At this time, the chevalier had already rushed to the middle of the shadow pool.

His armor screeched ferociously like a living thing.

Those tentacles seemed incapable of reacting to this attack at first glance.

The chevalier with bloody armor was like a scarlet torrent, galloping like a comet!

But at the next moment, countless tentacles shot out from the shadows, binding the chevalier in an instant!

All the tentacles came from behind him, firmly locking his neck, chest, arms, and the head and feet of the heavily armored horse under him!

There were more than forty tentacles, each of which was at the thickness of a finger.

The tentacles halted the chevalier's [Charge] and put him in place!

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The bloody armored knight was like a giant insect trying to break free from the spider web. It struggled fanatically.

But as Kafni's eyes were fully opened, the red shimmers in her eyes grew more rose!

In addition to the tentacles protruding from the ground behind the chevalier, tentacles also appeared from thin air, attacking in all directions.

Each of these tentacles had the thickness of an adult man's forearm. They slowly tightened the sturdy knight, producing squeaks at the armor. His limbs and head were all twisted to a deadlock.

"Ugh—" Even the deity's envoy, chevalier, couldn't help but groan in a low voice under the overwhelming force.

The crimson red light circulated fiercely on his body. The tentacles made a crunching sound. For a while, the two were in a stalemate. However, as the tentacle count slowly added up, Kafni gradually gained the upper hand in the brawl.

Soon enough, the chevalier was dragged off his horse.

He immediately reached out and grabbed onto the surrounding ground and walls, trying to break away from the tentacles. Unfortunately, the walls were fragile, as if they were tofu. As he held tightly onto the wall, pieces of walls were torn down. It didn't stop him from being dragged away by the tentacles.

Up until the knight was dragged to the center of the shadow...

Countless tentacles emerged from thin air in all directions, grabbing every space on the chevalier!

The tentacles lifted him high off the ground instantly, robbing away his chance to gain a footing on the ground.

Without support from the ground, the knight became helpless in the air.

He was about to be slowly torn apart by tentacles in the air.

Suddenly, there was a gunshot.

A bullet shattered the waist lamp behind Kafni!

At that moment, the shadow in front of Kafni disappeared instantly.

The dozens of tentacles tied to the chevalier's body disappeared like bubbles.

The chevalier exerted his strength and resisted the dragging forces from the remaining tentacles. In the end, he fell to the ground, albeit in a sorry state. He staggered as he climbed up the ground. Obviously, he had suffered a significant amount of injury.

Kafni immediately looked in the direction where the gunfire sounded.

It was a melancholy man with a weird helmet armed with thirteen lenses, which covered his eyes.

He was carrying a long and gray gun that was shaped like a sniper rifle.

"Oh, we have Greysmith's envoy too?" Kafni frowned.

Greysmith was a false deity, also known as the "deity of remembrance and despair." What faced Kafni at that moment was his envoy, Bane.

Their attacks were ineffective to the living, but they played the role of intercepting and harassing the opponent best.

Bane could attack all non-sentient things and could only be defeated by similar things with that property.

In other words, he would be immune to all close-contact attacks and almost all direct spells. He would be immune to slashes and bow attacks but vulnerable to guns and crossbows.

At this moment, two tentacles popped out of Kafni's skirt and hurled Kafni away gently.

With that, Kafni dodged away from the bloody light stream the chevalier sent over.

"...Tsk." Kafni couldn't help but smack her lips.

For her, the current situation was a bit troublesome.

Neither she nor Bane could hurt each other.

Worse still, Bane had shattered Kafni's lamp.

Without the shadow's aid, it would be challenging to face two Silver Ranks simultaneously.

All of a sudden...

"Your Royal Highness Kafni, we're here!" The Child's uplifting voice sounded.

—Players had come online.

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Annan's pupils flashed a dim light.

Signs of Slothful Eye passed away in a flash. The hunk man only paused a while before breaking free from it.

The hunk man swung the hammer at Annan, but Annan easily avoided it.

That's too slow.

In Annan's vision... no, even if not in Annan's vision, his actions were undoubtedly "slow motion."

His slow movement resembled the monsters appearing in the Ultraman show.

For the Alteration Wizard like Salvatore, who had to stand still and do his things, this had indeed lowered the threat level.

In the end, the hunk man couldn't reach Annan at all. Annan could easily avoid his attack by taking two steps back.

"What's the name of this dumb thing?" Annan even asked casually, "Is there anything I need to be careful of?"

"No, you can rest assured about this!"

Salvatore replied directly, "This creature is a commonly used summon focused on strength attribute. Its nickname is 'battering ram.' We usually call it Big Fat. Although it is a Bronze Rank summon, it works well, albeit being dumb. That's because of its thick skin, robust muscles, and great endurance.

"Just make sure not to go head-on with his hammer. Even if his strength isn't quite overwhelming, the spiky part of the hammer can magnify his strength by seven times! So, every time of his attack is equal to the impact of a battering ram."

"Oh, I got it." Annan got an understanding of his opponent.

This monster is a dummy target like those in the practice area or tutorial.

That's true. Alteration Wizard outputs excellent damage. At the standard of ordinary people, it is complicated to measure the damage. Anyone or anything will die instantly at that level.

On the other hand, Big Fat has a great endurance to sustain more damage.

He isn't much of a threat when there's a distraction to draw aggro.

I guess it's pretty hard to deal with it alone.

"Attract his attention!" Salvatore was confident, "I got it."

His words were full of excitement, as if a student realized that he had the same question before during a test.

Annan had initially planned to utilize [Frost Sword]. However, after seeing Salvatore being so proactive, he changed his role to the main tank and started drawing aggro.

That's great. I get to reserve my power.

At this moment, Salvatore threw a reagent on his shoulder.

It exploded in the air and turned into a cluster of embers.

Then, the embers instantly solidified into crystals and shattered after falling to the ground.

But what exploded out when it hit the ground wasn't the red crystal fragments but countless dense metal needles.

The first round of "Alteration" was completed in about three seconds. Then, Salvatore proceeded to have 130 steel needles hovering around him.

Subsequently, these steel needles flew out in batches and nailed into the Big Fat's body. This process took about 20 seconds.

But beyond Big Fat's robust muscles, there was a thicker layer of fat.

These steel needles were only halfway in, and they failed to pierce the fat layer. Hence, not even one drop of blood was shed.

Consequently, Big Fat completely ignored the steel needles. The steel needles were squeezed out for his body when he was running towards Annan.

However, some of the steel needles were submerged into the fat body.

Salvatore began to chant in a low volume, "Walking on iron, flowing on steel. Sparks splash, storm surges—"

At the beginning of Salvatore's chanting, a strong magnetic force burst out between every two steel needles—attracting them closer. Big Fat felt intense pain as he pursued his enemy.

He intended to control the muscles to get these steel needles out of the body.

But, after Salvatore finished chanting, a burst of strong electricity ran rampant in his body!

The harsh electric light ran wildly in Big Fat's body. Soon, his body was as if shone by X-rays with fierce electric light splashing out continuously.

The sparks and the lightning flashes that spurted out of his body forced Annan to retreat.

The high temperature ignited Big Fat's hair. As a result, he was paralyzed and rendered immobile.

The crackling electric light lasted for 20 seconds before the Big Fat finally burst into a pile of flesh and blood.

There was a strong burnt smell permeating the air.

Annan couldn't help but exclaim.

Wow, aren't his fat and muscle too thick?

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Annan was convinced that if Salvatore set an electric attack on him, he would be put into a shock swiftly.

He looked around and noticed that there was no new enemy at the moment. He leaned to Salvatore's side, raised his head, and asked curiously, "Are you familiar with this, senior?"

"Ha, I encountered this in my graduation exam." Salvatore chuckled, "If I can't defeat Big Fat alone, I can't embark on the Transcended path. So, I have a deep memory of defeating it."

"Then, why are you chased all over by him at the start?" Annan chuckled.

"Big Fat was fifty meters away from me when I took the exam! I get to kite him as I fight, giving me maneuverability."

Salvatore was aggrieved, "When I turned around and noticed the Big Fat, he was already by my side."

Is it an illusion?

Why does the senior seem so unreliable?

Annan hesitated to speak up.

Next to this battlefield is the residential house. You can just stop the Big Fat with your reagents, then use your magic to open the door lock to enter the house.

Aren't those big guys usually weak against doors in games?

Maybe, senior is more talented in the research field. Annan couldn't help but fill in an explanation on his own.

But, Salvatore's actual combat capability is like an amateur.

If he can pass the exam at this level, there should be some issue with Swamp's Black Tower's graduation exam.

"Feudal lord!" Lin Yiyi's panicked voice sounded, "Are we late?!"

She and Delicious Wind Goose hurried over from the other side of the street.

When she just went online, she was shocked when she saw the sky was red.

She thought the boss battle had already begun, and they were late.

Lin Yiyi's first reaction was like, "Will an invisible barrier outside the battlefield stop me since I'm not here when the Boss Monster appears?"

She immediately uploaded a post in the forum.

Fortunately, there were still some frontier players who stayed up all night to adventure on the unexplored part of the "game." They only go online at night, adventuring until the sun rises at 6 a.m. They were waiting for the next batch of players to go online and watch the streams before heading to their real-life bed.

When they saw Lin Yiyi's post, they quickly assigned someone to go offline and gave Delicious Wind Goose a warning call. At any rate, they forced Delicious Wind Goose, who was chilling and playing cards, go online immediately.

After all, when they logged into Mist Continent, their bodies in "real life" were equivalent to sleeping— This world could be considered a nightmare in another sense for them. Funny enough, the players didn't go offline to sleep but got up from the bed.

When Delicious Wind Goose went online urgently, he was also taken aback.

The two immediately rushed to 44 Clear Water Street. Then, they saw the two battle-ready fellows chatting here.

When the two saw the hammer in Annan's hand, they shivered habitually.

The players had resurrected many times because of this hammer killing them.

"It's fine, not too late." Annan glanced at the players.

Hmph, you all go online so timely. So I have defeated those sidekick mobs, and then you come here to fight the boss?

(TN: It's a complaint whereby in RPG games, you need to defeat small monsters before reaching the Boss stage. The players kind of skip the effort in doing so.)

Those who know realize that you're not online. Otherwise, they will think you're AFK and report your account.

But...

Annan's gaze grew sharper.

Someone else took the last hit reward on the Big Fat, so I must grab the last hit on the Soul Eater!

(TN: As literal as it means, the last hit means delivering the final blow that kills the monster, usually associated with gaining rewards.)

The most elite dual profession summon of the Silver Rank. Just looking at this difficulty, Annan felt that his status would soar to the sky as a reward of being the person killing it.

Looking at Annan with a resolute expression, the cowardly Salvatore couldn't help but praise in his heart.

Don Juan... No, Annan is very reliable.

Even in the face of the terrifying Soul Eater, he has no fear at all, as if he is unaware why this enemy is terrifying.

Salvatore suddenly realized that the surrounding temperature seemed to have dropped for some time.

When he breathed, he vaguely saw his breath.

But Annan didn't activate Frost Nova.

Salvatore was surprised.

He raised his voice and shouted, "Be careful. The Soul Eater is here!"

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"When you see the breath you exhale all of a sudden, be warned that it's the Silent Lady's ritual, 'Summoning the Soul Eater."

Annan noticed that Lin Yiyi and Delicious Wind Goose were streaming, so he played a perfect role as an NPC in charge of narration.

With a solemn expression, Annan said solemnly to the camera, "The Soul Eater's ability is equivalent to a 'soul-hunter' at the peak of Silver Rank without a curse vessel. It also has the ability usually possessed by Silver Rank's Hunters and Lurkers. In addition, it can freely use many of the Silver Rank Energy Falteration School's wizard spells."

"Don Juan!" Salvatore was probably concerned that they were wide open on the street, so he shouted out Annan's pseudonym. "Watch out for your blindspot. The Soul Eater is proficient in sneaking."

Unfortunately, this warning wasn't much of a help.

Before Salvatore finished speaking, the thick white fog permeated the entire street.

The damp and cold breath made it difficult for movement. Some had a layer of frost on their hair. The overflowing stench in the fog was enough to confuse those with sensitive olfactory functionality.

Salvatore's expression grew a little strange.

This smell...

It's like the repulsive frozen fish smell that has been stored for a long time.

After Annan completed his role as a dungeon instance NPC, he immediately stood still and shut his eyes. With that, he activated the "creator's perspective."

That was one of Annan's backend interface's abilities.

Unfortunately, Annan hadn't faced an opponent proficient in sneaking. He was inexperienced in putting this ability to good use.

Annan's vision soared to the sky, giving him a bird's eye view immediately. His awareness of what happened on the ground was unobstructed.

Immediately after, Annan noticed that the coverage of this "Ritual: Roaring Heart" wasn't too broad. It only covered the entire Roseburg and plunged the place into absolute silence.

That is to say.

The Rotten Man Church would be concerned with civilians' casualties and the exposure of the Transcended to the mortal world.

Annan found this setting a little ridiculous for a moment.

Did they already treat the Noah Kingdom as their home base?

The Rotten Man Church is even considerate of the king. Everything is well prepared in advance to eliminate the potential negative influence.

However, their arrangement had also benefited Annan.

At least Annan didn't have to worry about accidentally hurting civilians spectating the event.

He couldn't control the civilians from joining in out of excitement.

Also, Annan was convinced that if the civilians weren't held in the dream, there would inevitably be someone coming over to watch.

As Annan zoomed in on the "creator's perspective," he finally found a monster moving forward slowly.

The monster looked a bit like a lizard, about half a human's height tall, and his body surface was shiny black that seemed metallic.

It was just that its head was a sharp triangular head, and the snout was sharp and hard, like a drill. At a glance, one could identify that this monster had a solid armor-piercing capability.

It also had a long, sharp, flat tail shaped like a bladed spine. Looking down from directly above, the monster occurred to be dragging a powder-coated machete.

Amidst the white mist, the silent and murderous machete lurked.

Aren't you just a duplicate of Zabuza Momochi [1]?

The monster was wrapped in an intense frost air. It silently and gradually approached Lin Yiyi, who appeared to be the weakest.

Annan probably knew what rules it used to select its prey.

The "Soul Eater" was quite intelligent who preferred to bully the weak and fear the strong.

It possessed the peak strength of the Silver Rank.

Although the four people present were all Bronze Rank Transcended, the gap between Transcended was put into consideration.

Annan and Salvatore were fully armed, and they looked battle-ready. Delicious Wind Goose wasn't young with an intimidating bald head, making him appear robust. Furthermore, Old Goose had his weapons out of the sheath and was equipped in his hands.

Among all the people present, only Yiyi was a female.

Although she was a youth, booming with vitality. Unfortunately, she left the sword at her waist unsheathed, with only a wooden staff held in her hand.

In other words, the Soul Eater believed that she was the best choice in his plan to reduce the enemy count before starting the battle.

Of course, that seemed like an undeniable fact to the monster.

This was why the less tanky party member was usually surrounded by his group members in a game's adventure or dungeon run.

The only problem was that Yiyi wasn't the least tanky one among the group. On the contrary, she was the only tank among the four.

Annan thought for a moment and decided to stay silent.

He wanted to test out the players' offensive capability.

Annan could probably guess that if he reminded Yiyi out loud, the Soul Eater would prioritize him next.

I'm just an innocent NPC who wanders into a dungeon instance. Players, you have to protect me first. Only then can I put my mind into considering how to kill the boss in this part of the plot.

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Annan didn't want to yell "Why are you running?" at the players and drew the Soul Eater's aggro.

He silently sent an immediate mission to the four players and enabled the permission for them to resurrect.

[Immediate Mission: Immortal Protector]

[Mission requirements: Before the end of the "Limited-time Main Mission: Protector," there is no penalty for resurrection, and the daily resurrection count limit is ignored.]

[Special requirement: The final reward is based on "Annan-Austere-Winter's" satisfaction.]

Having suddenly received the main mission prompt, the four players were slightly surprised.

But, as they became excited, Lin Yiyi was distracted after seeing the main mission.

From the creator's perspective, Annan saw that in the Soul Eater's dark gray vertical pupils, one layer among the triple eyelids closed.

Then, the monster turned around and bit its tail.

Like a rotating and flying wheel, it slashed past Lin Yiyi and fell back into the gray mists in a flash.

Lin Yiyi only had time to let out a scream.

She was cut in half by this unpredictable backstab!

In her severed corpse, the crimson red flesh quickly turned dark red as if becoming a rotting fish. Before the upper half of the flying corpse fell to the ground, all signs of vigor had dissipated.

Then, she turned into black dust and respawned.

The lower half of her body stood up intact.

Even the clothes were undamaged.

The Soul Eater: ?

The ruthless hunter—black matte lizard, obviously had never encountered something like this before.

It tilted its head blankly, shrinking into the shadows and thinking about the situation in front of it.

"Are you okay?!"

At this moment, Annan immediately shouted anxiously, "Are you injured?"

Hearing this, the other three players were taken aback.

Only Salvatore's shadow reacted at the first moment, "Idiot Salvatore, he is trying to deceive the Soul Eater to make it think that this resurrection is accidental.

"As you saw before... As long as Annan is not dead, all of his entourage can be resurrected at will.

"Listen to me, Salvatore. You start preparing the spell first and immediately attack her when you hear her voice!"

The shadow's deep and hoarse voice rang in Salvatore's heart.

"How could I?" Salvatore hesitated to speak but stopped.

How can I attack my ally?!

He still wasn't sure whether this resurrection had any price to pay!

Worse still, he couldn't control his firepower at all.

"Idiot!" The shadow denounced Salvatore's hesitation, "This is the most efficient way to fight!

"What if it turns to attack Annan? He doesn't have the ability to resurrect himself! Or do you think Annan can stop the Soul Eater's attack?"

"But I don't have the ability to resurrect someone either?" Salvatore thought hesitantly.

"I admit that this is a gamble," the shadow whispered. "But even if you didn't kill it, Annan can save you.

"But what if Annan made a move but didn't kill it? Can you save Annan?

"This is all because you're weak, Salvatore! You're weaker than Annan, so you have to make a move before him!"

What you said makes sense. Salvatore hesitated.

His hand subconsciously touched the Sage's Stone behind his shoulder.

But I can stop being weak!

Salvatore quickly stopped hesitating, took the brass bottle containing Sage's Stone, and held it in his hand. He triggered the mechanism to protrude the needle and put it near his chest.

He didn't intend to stimulate the Soul Eater with the smell of blood and make the monster hide. After all, Salvatore wasn't sure if he could find the startled Soul Eater within a few minutes after using Sage's Stone.

At the moment the Soul Eater launched its second attack, Salvatore struck Sage's Stone directly into his heart!

"Miss Yiyi!" Salvatore made up his mind, cooperating with Annan's strategy, and shouted, "Please be careful! Be sure to hold the enemy, but be careful not to get hurt again!

"Your curse's power is limited!"

Hearing this, Annan was taken aback.

Senior, when did you become smart?

The Righteous Player(s) Chapter 205

The Soul Eater stared at the fully intact Yiyi and pondered for a long time.

Strange, what I felt is clearly right.

Judging from the quality of her flesh, she should be an ordinary Bronze Rank swordsman.

However, after hearing the shouts of Annan and Salvatore, the intelligent monster immediately realized something:

Yes, the curse comes with a price.

This is especially true for the youth of Bronze Rank.

I understand. She may have used some curse with strict conditions to reverse her own time.

But that's all futile.

In the dark gray vertical pupils of the Soul Eater, it closed the innermost layer of its three eyelids again.

It turned its head, bit its tail again, and straightened the tension.

I just need to kill you again.

After all, it's a piece of cake.

At the same time, Annan realized that Salvatore was about to use the Sage's stone whilst the Soul Eater was making another attempt to assault Yiyi while watching through his Creator's perspective.

He was a little surprised at Salvatore's decisiveness.

In Annan's memory, Salvatore wasn't someone who was great at execution.

Annan's original prediction was that Salvatore would hesitate for a while. Then, by the time Yiyi died for the second or third time, he should realize that he could attack both the Soul Eater and Yiyi was being focused.

But, his attack should be ineffective.

While Salvatore's combo managed to kill Big Fat in seconds, the needle summoning and spell chanting took nearly half a minute.

The attacks directed at the Soul Eater could only be effective if it was swift.

However, Annan was already prepared for this.

The moment the Soul Eater turns its head to change focus from Lin Yiyi to Salvatore, he would inject the Sage's Stone and launch [Frost Sword] at it.

Due to his curse, Annan's sense of pain was severely weakened. Thus, even after the effects of the Sage's Stone disappeared, Annan could retain a certain degree of combat prowess.

This was the reason that Annan had two copies of the stone with him, but the craftsman — Salvatore only had one.

However, if Salvatore is already planning to use the Sage's Stone now, I have to adjust my plan slightly.

After all, Annan couldn't just shout to Salvatore, "Hey, pretend to chant a spell. I'll use my ultimate ability."

The Soul Eater was a high-ranking summon in the Silent Realm, so it could understand human words.

As the event unfolded, Annan's role was to create opportunities for Salvatore!

I should trust the senior for the time being.

As long as he uses the Sage's Stone to gain the combat power of a Gold Rank temporarily and displays combat power comparable to 70% of the Silver Rank Great Wizard Benjamin, it is enough!

If Salvatore was inting [1], Annan would have to use the Sage's Stone himself to stand in immediately. He would only have one remaining use of the stone left for any later unforeseen events, and would also have to protect the incapacitated Salvatore.

If Salvatore did succeed, however, then Annan could hide his true strength. It would become cost-free for him to continue to act as an NPC until the end of the dungeon instance.

"Yiyi, on your left!"

Immediately before the Soul Eater launched its attack, Annan shouted, "Protect me, Old Goose!"

Perhaps due to the cooperation during the last dungeon instance, Delicious Wind Goose and Yiyi didn't hesitate to follow Annan's command.

Lin Yiyi immediately turned slightly to the left, and caught a black, barbed wheel flying towards her.

She raised her wooden staff subconsciously, gripping it tightly.

—На.

The Soul Eater was disdainful toward the resistance.

Are you trying to stop me with that wooden stick?

I don't need to attack deliberately. By just passing it, I can shred it into pieces!

But what the Soul Eater didn't know was that...

When Lin Yiyi saw it and held the wooden staff with both hands, she activated her curse.

[When holding the weapon with both hands, you can see all the attack trajectories that will hit "you" in the next three seconds. If the parry attempt fails, you will not lose your balance nor be grounded.]

[Do not move when using this ability. The attacker must be within sight.]

The curse [Frontal Parry] granted Lin Yiyi robust strength and the ability to predict the short-term future.

In Lin Yiyi's vision, her surroundings seemed to slow down, turning gray and white.

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In front of her, there was a red phantom image.

Countless black wheels spiralled towards her from the front in unpredictable trajectories, diagonally slicing through her head and heart, tossing her entire left arm and half her ribs from the body.

At this moment, the red images were graying out rapidly.

Lin Yiyi could only make one last decision in this slow world.

I don't think I can stop it.

But I should be able to survive it.

Lin Yiyi's legs couldn't move.

She used all her strength and tried her best to bend her upper body to the right.

In this bullet time-like state, her actions were extremely difficult and slow.

But if the whole process was viewed in real time, it was undoubtedly much faster because she had put her body to the limit in dodging this attack!

Normally it is impossible for a person to dodge instantly and unreservedly in battle!

As the gray tone that represented real time was about to catch up with the red paths, indicating that it almost hit her, Lin Yiyi felt exhaustion assault her mind and she was ejected out of that strange state.

Thankfully, her upper body had already deviated enough from the attacking trajectory.

The attack, which should have split her head and heart into pieces simultaneously, could only shred her wooden staff and the forelimb of her left arm.

According to Annan's settings, the intense pain would disappear instantly after reaching the maximum pain threshold. So after the limb was severed, Lin Yiyi was surprised to realize that she wasn't dead!

Indeed, although her left arm flew out, her health was still at 35%!

Does this mean that if it doesn't sever my limb, I can survive its attacks with more than half of my health points left.

Although she would be instantly killed head-on, Lin Yiyi now had a strong feeling of confidence in her heart.

I can do it!

I can tank it!

"I need a sturdier weapon!"

Lin Yiyi dragged her severed arm and backed up quickly, shouting to Annan and Salvatore at the first opportunity.

Although she didn't know if it would work, she still wanted to try calling out to them.

The Soul Eater was taken aback when it noticed Lin Yiyi dodged its supposedly unavoidable attack, and then it was enraged.

It hesitated for a moment, unsure whether to turn around and kill the most dangerous human who can see through its stealth, or to execute the weakest human who had already lost her arm.

It finally decided to finish off the human who was arrogantly taunting it even after her limb was severed!

It no longer used the same wheel attack this time.

That was an AoE attack specialized in dealing with large numbers of unarmored units.

The Soul Eater shut two layers of eyelids, straightened its body and lifted its sharp triangular head. Like a speeding javelin, it swiftly launched toward Lin Yiyi!

The Soul Eater's [Charge] attack was undetectable, unavoidable and without warning.

By the time Lin Yiyi heard the sound, her chest and abdomen were already penetrated.

She was severed into two halves. A large spurt of blood burst out into the air behind her out of momentum.

Fortunately, her back was facing the road and not someone's house. Even then, the Soul Eater's attack left a big hole at the T-shaped intersection more than 80 meters behind her!

Then, Lin Yiyi respawned immediately at the same place again.

She called out again, "I need a weapon!"

"Take this!"

Salvatore didn't hesitate to throw a sturdy alloy steel staff crafted through his alteration techniques toward Lin Yiyi.

The steel staff made a hissing sound in the air. But fortunately, Salvatore was weak in strength, so Lin Yiyi caught it easily from the air.

The moment she caught the staff with both hands, her face froze.

She leaned backwards without hesitation as the Soul Eater darted toward her chest and abdomen again.

The attack failed, and the monster skidded onto the ground, leaving long marks.

Then, the monster closed its three layers of eyelids, and suddenly disappeared, reappearing above Lin Yiyi in an instant.

Its straightened tail slammed directly at her, who was lying on the ground, trying to cut her in half vertically!

Seeing this, Annan breathed a sigh of relief instead.

Yes, the monster finally lost its cool.

What a great MT (main tank)! She really delayed the monster there!

The Righteous Player(s) Chapter 206

Salvatore realized that the time has come.

After creating a sturdy steel staff for Lin Yiyi as fast as possible, he took out a brass syringe containing the Sage's Stone from his clothes, put the tip on his shoulder, and pushed the plunger in slowly.

"Ugh..." The sharp pain of the needle penetrating the deltoid muscle made Salvatore's face go pale instantly, and he couldn't help but let out a low cry.

Rather than using a thin medical needle, the container used a flat-pointed embalming one instead. In typical standards, such a needle was only needed for powerful healing agents. Otherwise, it was forbidden to use these syringes to inject something into a living body directly.

The thickness of this needle couldn't allow for intravenous injection. Instead, it was used for intramuscular injection or intracardiac injection during combat. Ordinary healthy people would go for the former option. The field physicians would utilize the latter option to inject potent healing potion as first aid for the dying and wounded.

At first, Salvatore wanted to inject Sage's Stone directly into the heart. But, his cowardice made him inject the needle into his shoulder instead.

"Ugh..." Through Salvatore's painful grimaces, the scarlet Sage's Stone instantly poured into his body as if it had been given life. It dissolved and sank into the muscle as soon as it came in touch.

Salvatore immediately felt that his entire left arm was burning, and it soon became entirely numb.

This scorching sensation spread to his heart rapidly. His palpitation doubled and his blood vessels bulged with the same fiery heat that assaulted his body, which then pumped throughout his limbs in great speed.

Then, this fiery hot feeling suddenly disappeared and was replaced by a strong, refreshing, and cooling sensation.

It was like smearing the skin with alcohol and then letting the wind blow past it.

Salvatore felt his mind become remarkably clear in an instant.

All of his curses were activated autonomously. Black runes proliferated rapidly, spreading throughout the body in the blink of an eye with mystical patterns

Salvatore couldn't help but close his eyes, and when he reopened them, his pupils were different.

His eyeballs were completely silver-gray with black circles spiraling down from the center. It faintly resembled a Black Tower.

But, Salvatore was a little flustered for a moment.

Because at the moment he opened his eyes, the shadow that constantly nagged him from the back of his mind became silent.

It was as if the shadow was dead or had completely left him..

What should I do now?

"Stop freezing up on the spot, Salvatore."

Salvatore heard the voice of the shadow in his ear.

That didn't come from my heart.

It came from my ears.

Salvatore suddenly realized something was different.

He immediately lowered his head and noticed there was no shadow under his feet.

Instead, a liquid-like shadow seeped out from the back of his shoulders, extending out like a living thing in the air and manifested into a fierce and sharp claw.

It seems to be a left hand.

The palm was pointed skyward, with a cyan flame flickering on top.

"The lion swallows the eagle, kills itself, and is then reborn—" A low and hoarse voice rang in Salvatore's ears.

He turned around sharply.

Only then did he realize that the shadow also had a head – it appeared feminine and closely resembled a demon's.

"What are you blanking out at, Sal!?"

(TN: From here onwards, the Author tends to refer to Salvatore as Sal and the shadow as Vatore.)

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A stern, hoarse voice rang in Salvatore's ears.

The demon's head turned and shouted into his ears, "Recite with me, you idiot!"

Salvatore then finally understood the situation and what spell the shadow was using.

"Isn't this a bit too much..." He timidly asked.

The shadow's head continued chanting while a smaller head grew out of Salvatore's other shoulder, roaring at him, "Chant your part!"

Meanwhile the other head was still chanting swiftly, "Sköll (the Sun eating wolf) was entwined with the Lily, The Lion comes from the tundra with a royal crown"

Salvatore pursed his lips, still not saying anything.

He reached out his right hand with the palm facing down. Another cyan flame appeared and the two flames intertwined together.

He skipped the last three lines and chanted from back to front in the opposite way in which the shadow chanted.

"Now, all the twelve keys are complete. Its color is like sulfur. Its shape is like grains of salt."

As the pair's long sermon ended simultaneously, the mist surrounding them quickly disappeared.

However, it wasn't simply dispelled – the mist appeared as if it had evaporated.

Annan watched this entire process even without the Creator's perspective.

Salvatore's pupils gleamed with a pure white light and his skin became ivory white like a sculpture, yet it was also covered with dense black runes that emitted black smoke.

From his right shoulder extended a demon's head, dripping a black, tar-like liquid. Its pupils absorbed all light; disregarding the skin and twisted horns, the visage resembles a headstrong and stubborn young girl..

A similar twisted, powerful left hand protruded out of his other shoulder too. They held together a cyan pillar of fire.

In the middle of the pillar, a golden sphere was emerging, surrounded by a sacred halo.

At this time, the Soul Eater had just blinked above Lin Yiyi and split her in half with its sharp tail!

It then noticed that the mist had faded and raised its head.

It opened its eyelids by two layers, looked around, and locked onto Salvatore.

Then, it immediately closed all three layers of its eyelids.

It approached Salvatore from behind silently. Then, it raised its claws and slashed at him!

But at this moment, behind Salvatore stretched out the right hand of a demon.

She pointed her sharp nails to the ground and lifted them upwards. Consequently, a solid steel wall nearly half a meter thick rose instantly from the ground.

It certainly couldn't stop the Soul Eater's cutting.

In the blink of an eye, the Soul Eater cut open the steel wall. A rough and jagged cut appeared on it. The shape matched the monster's spiny, saw-like tail!

However, with the help of the steel wall, the [Red Crystal Shield] that emerged from the demonic right hand was enough to block the remaining power of the attack!

The red crystal then transformed into steel needles in the blink of an eye and quickly stabbed into the cut steel wall.

From the wall, multiple spouts of lance-shaped flames emerged, forcing the Soul Eater back.

The flames then crystallized in a flash and turned into steel, swiftly following the Soul Eater as it crawled away on the ground at high speeds.

Good job!

Salvatore secretly cheered the shadow on.

Salvatore knew that he was trash. His reaction speed was slow and he wasn't adaptive enough. Thus, he simply closed his eyes and continued chanting.

As for my safety, I leave it to you all!

The Righteous Player(s) Chapter 207

What's going on?

This human alchemist was weaker than the young Frostborn. How did he suddenly become so strong?

Realizing that this human with an ominous aura was conjuring something dangerous, the Soul Eater shifted its attention away from the taunting female towards Salvatore.

It shut all of its eyelids, abandoning its vision in order to enter the Silent Realm. It only needed its perception to focus on its enemies.

I need to interrupt whatever he is conjuring.

This is a Taboo Alchemy that only "sages" can complete.

But isn't he just an "apprentice?" Not even at "master" level...

The Soul Eater: ??? [Nick Young Meme.jpg]

It hadn't been summoned by anyone for hundreds of years, and all of a sudden it realized it no longer understood how the world works...

In the Soul Eaters' understanding, there was no such behavior as "doping."

However, it recognized the alchemy technique.

Taboo Alchemy—[Sun Corona Refinement].

Use an existing material to exchange for a small part of the Sun—or to send the target straight into the star if failed.

It didn't want to receive the devastating attack.

As a summon, it wouldn't die. This body was simply an avatar, like a statue.

But it would still hurt.

If I'm banished to the Sun...

The Soul Eater shook his drill-like head uncomfortably. It disappeared instantly, avoiding the steel lances that were flying towards him, and moved farther away—at least out of the flames' range.

As a matter of fact, it wanted to flee already; it wasn't even summoned by Silent Lady's believers.

An infidel who stole the spell and imposed multiple strange restrictions upon summoning the Soul Eater... All in all, it was unwilling to be here.

It would willingly accept it if it were its boss telling it to work overtime.

But it was more accurate to say that it was working for another boss that knew its boss. It was alright with helping out, but it would never work overtime for him.

Unlike its hunter-like appearance, the Soul Eater was a relatively well-tempered summon. Surprisingly, it was much more cowardly than it looked. When it wasn't the Silent Lady's believers summoning it, it might flee in the face of a strong enemy.

The reason was simple – this creature lived in groups.

It was the natural enemy of all Transcended that used mana. They fed on the souls that possessed mana pools.

Soul Eaters could see souls and sense the locations of spellcasters easily, as well as the power and characteristics of any magic being cast nearby. It also had a strong, resistant body that was proficient at charging and thus was commonly nicknamed as the "Silent Spear" in ritual.

At the same time, it could swap between the Silent Realm and the material world at will, which appeared as if it could teleport.

As such, among the high-ranking summons, they were quite popular.

Let's not forget the fact that an alchemist was a physically weak and slow Transcended. Only those reaching the level of "Sage" could intimidate the Soul Eater even a little.

Still, it had become hesitant.

It was crawling further and further away from the group. It hid into the mist generated from its body in the blink of an eye. It looked like a marshmallow lizard in action.

Annan also noticed the Soul Eater's fear, and quickly realized that the Taboo Alchemy posed a huge deterrence.

For spells of such level, the user would chant at a high frequency for each chorus of the alteration process and direct it at a specific route. This would enable the user to cast typically impossible spells by borrowing "Truths" from other people or "deities" and apply it through an unequal exchange contract.

It's essentially using loopholes in "Truths" to steal the authority of their owners. If the stolen party noticed it, they could confront the user by following the evidence.

That was why it was called "Taboo Alchemy." Ancient Gold Rank alchemists, also known as the "Sage" profession, were nicknamed "The Thieves of Fire".

(TN: I think "fire thief" is related to Prometheus stealing fire for man in Greek Mythology.)

However, if the user stole these "Truths" without being noticed and attained Gold Rank, they would be able to reliably utilize the power of that "Truth" without consequences.

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Although the spellcaster would have to pay a painful price to existing owners afterward if the crime was noticed. It would normally be used only in an emergency.

The power of those at the "Truth" rank was potent. Even if the user only stole a little, it could still overwhelm anyone Gold Rank or below, just like how those below Silver Rank couldn't nullify elemental power entirely.

This senior's got something here.

Salvatore did explain the concepts of Taboo Alchemy to Annan before.

But he didn't tell Annan that he had already mastered at least one of these taboo spells.

For him, Annan wasn't a Gold Rank yet, so it was too early for Annan to know about it.

What the heck is that sticky thing crawling out of the senior's body?

How can it cuss at others during spellcasting? It seems to be better than the senior in spell casting too.

Isn't that Venom [1]?

If not, what is that evil creature with a malicious aura?

In the end, the Soul Eater didn't retreat. Apparently, it had some doubts about the power Salvatore had mustered.

Although the Soul Eater didn't know what drug Salvatore used, it didn't believe that Salvatore's power boost could last forever.

Otherwise, if the "Sage" wanted to eliminate it, there was no need for Taboo Alchemy techniques. "Sages" could eliminate it as easily as flicking a finger.

Aside from that, the Soul Eater was a little hungry as well.

It wasn't old, by the Soul Eater standards.

It smelled that there was indeed a substantial, delicious soul nearby. It couldn't pinpoint the exact location yet, so it decided to stay around to look for it.

Hmm, that Frostborn's soul seems so delicious and fragrant. I want to eat it.

Those two human souls seem dry. I don't want to eat them.

That strange alchemist's soul who suddenly became a "Sage" seems to have a foul stench.

Conflicting smells assaulted its olfactory function.

In the end, it couldn't hold its appetite.

It moved left and right, escaped into the Silent Realm the moment it rounded the corner of a building, and instantly reappeared behind Annan and the rest.

There was no warning. It struck like a cannonball, attempting to pierce through Salvatore directly!

At this moment, an invisible wall of air rose behind Salvatore.

Annan had already anticipated its attack.

It habitually liked to ambush from behind.

When the Soul Eater was hesitating, Annan had taken out a bottle of frost air. He placed the hammer next to his feet and clasped his hands together like he was praying.

Then, Annan used Salvatore as bait while being wary of his back. With that, it granted him the opportunity to intercept the most threatening "Silent Spear" at the first moment!

The Soul Eater, who came quickly, had its speed reduced tremendously as soon as it reached the wall. Although the wall was not too effective as the creature was solid, Annan immediately cancelled the spell once the Soul Eater hit it, and raised another wall right after!

Four consecutive, precise wall spells were activated. That slowed down the Soul Eater's Charge to a snail's pace.

Those walls were all Annan's guided spells, Impeding Wall!

While Annan quickly erected and canceled the Impeding Wall, a stream of chilling air spread rapidly on the ground and covered the Soul Eater's body entirely, freezing it in place.

For the first time, the [Elven Skin Gloves] fulfilled its purpose, allowing Annan to use two guided spells simultaneously to hinder the Soul Eater's actions in time!

At this moment, dozens of electrified steel lances descended from the sky.

The shadow had anticipated Annan's actions and believed that he would hinder the Soul Eater in time. So, it readied many spears in the air to launch at any time.

The steel lance barraged downwards, pinning the Soul Eater to the ground while severely injuring it. On impact, they released pillars of flame, which then also crystallized and hardened into steel.

With Annan and the shadow's cooperation, the Soul Eater was sealed inside a sturdy steel column with a radius of about five meters!

The Righteous Player(s) C208- Abolish The Soul Eater

Chapter 208: Abolish The Soul Eater

The sky-reaching steel tree rose from the ground.

The Soul Eater's body was sealed within the solidified steel. The weight of the heavy steel column had pressed on the Soul Eater at the bottom.

"It's over, senior." Annan reached out and held Salvatore's headless shoulder, motioning him to end the terrifying taboo refinement technique immediately.

Annan didn't know what spell it was.

But just by looking at this special effect after chanting the spell, he understood it was a destructive skill that cost a heavy price.

After all, they came here to defend, not to demolish the place.

But Salvatore still hesitated. He was still chanting the spell in a low volume, not daring to move.

The demon-like shadow immediately realized what Annan meant.

"Let what lay atop return to the ground and put its weight beneath the earth."

She chanted a short cancellation spell, causing the sphere of shining golden brilliance to collapse and extinguish quickly.

After that, she directly retracted the oily arm back into Salvatore's body.

Because the ritual was canceled halfway through, there was no need for Salvatore to continue chanting.

"Wait, why cancel it?" Salvatore immediately asked Annan, "I only have three minutes left. After that, I don't have enough time to do it again!"

"We have won, senior." Annan said softly, looking at the steel tower.

Salvatore followed his gaze and hesitated, "But the Soul Eater seems to know teleportation."

"That's not spatial teleportation, but it dives into the immaterial world, you idiot. Your memory is getting worse." Deep, hoarse, and rumbling echo sounded from the head on Salvatore's other shoulder, "Think about it, if it's teleportation, why does it close the third eyelid?"

Salvatore opened his mouth but didn't speak out anything.

The head turned around and explained to Annan, "The Soul Eater's first eyelid is used to adjust the focus. It is used at a close distance so that it won't lose sight of the enemy. The Soul Eater's usual hunting method is to use the "Silent Spear" to penetrate the enemy from 800 meters to 1000 meters. This also makes them unable to see the enemy when approaching the target within 30 meters. Therefore, they must rely on the focus adjustment function of the eyelid for close combat.

"The second eyelid is used to protect itself against wind and pressure. They sprint faster than the sound. A harder eyelid is a must to protect the delicate and important first eyelid."

"What about the third eyelid?" Annan asked curiously.

"Great that you asked." The shadow's deep and hoarse voice praised, "You don't understand the Soul Eater's abilities, but you can guess its weakness.

"The existence of the third eyelid is to isolate the light completely. If you can't isolate the light, it will inevitably produce strong dizziness when you travel through the world. This is called 'vertigo.' This is also one of the reasons why one must be asleep to enter the nightmare world."

Immediately after, the shadow asked, "How did you guess that my attack could seal it?"

"Because I guessed that the Soul Eater's teleportation has a trajectory."

Annan smiled, "I noticed that the Soul Eater tends to attack from the back. But in the previous few instant movements, it didn't move directly to the back but moved close to the previous position, not far from the blind spot.

"After I realized this, I observed several unnatural momentary movements and landing points after you put pressure on the monster. Those weren't the best attack position, let alone its habitual position. It's more like the 'recent safety point.'

"So I speculate that there are only two possibilities. Either the total distance of its teleportation is limited, so it should be used sparingly. Otherwise, this isn't complete teleportation but a special ability that grants gigspeed mobility and stealth.

"Finally, I observed that every time the Soul Eater uses this mobility ability, it doesn't observe the surrounding environment at the point of landing but immediately launches an attack. But what convinced me is that after I stopped it and it saw your attack, it tried to continue walking forward instead of instantaneous movement."

No matter what the principle was, the Soul Eater's instant movement must rely on "walking" to trigger it.

"You don't delve into the principle, but summarize what you saw."

Shadow smiled and whispered a malicious tone, "Okay, that's also a way of thinking, but it doesn't suit me.

"Let me introduce myself. You can call me "Vatore." Or, you can also call me shadow."

(TN: From here onwards, the Author tends to refer to Salvatore as Sal.)

As the shadow spoke, a demon's hand with oily sticky protruding joints reached out from Salvatore's abdomen toward Annan, "I have been paying close attention to you for a long time, Annan."

Salvatore, who was stunned by listening, realized something.

He couldn't help but scold, "Go back! Don't stir up trouble!"

But facing the shadow of his body, he could not resist for some reason and had no control over the other party's behavior.

He could only reach out and grab the demon's forearm protruding from the abdomen, trying to pull it back.

But his strength was so weak compared to the demon.

He tried his best to push away the reached-out arm.

"Ah, wait a minute." Annan didn't care much.

He just tore the pair of Elven's Skin Glove from his hands like peeling off the adhesive tape that had been pasted for a long time. Even Annan's hands seemed to be much whiter because of this.

Salvatore vaguely saw that the inner layer of the glove seemed to have a layer of fluffy, pink, and creeping granulation, which gradually retracted inward.

Annan put his gloves into the bamboo tube around his waist. He then generously shook hands with the shadow.

"Annan Austere-Winter, hello."

Feeling the cautious force, Annan couldn't help but raise his mouth, "We're not seeing each other for the first time, skip the pleasantries. I have roughly guessed your relationship, so you don't need to explain anything to me for the time being."

This thing would appear after Salvatore becomes a Gold Rank.

It meant that she belonged to Salvatore's core ability.

Coupled with Salvatore's fluctuations in performance, unfounded inferiority complex, and the way he made Sage's Stone that he didn't explain clearly, Annan probably already guessed the truth.

He had a cheat-like thinking pattern.

The "entity" can probably be regarded as a portable hard drive. That's why the senior's memory is poor.

However, if the shadow's talent and strength are so overwhelming, why does the senior control the body?

How did the senior control her?

What is the senior's talent?

Many questions flashed through Annan's mind.

But, of course, he understood the priorities.

"You are running out of time." Annan replied, "If you have nothing else to say, I will send the Soul Eater back to its world first."

Otherwise, something terrible might happen later and even allow the Soul Eater to flee.

Annan had no hatred against the Soul Eater, but he wanted the experience points.

He walked forward without hesitation, took out the knife, and cast Frost Sword.

Elemental attacks were considered true damage to enemies with no elemental power below the Gold Rank.

Frost Sword with frost element naturally followed that rule.

Facing the immobilized Soul Eater, who was powerless and unable to evade, Annan adopted a relatively gentle attack pattern. He slashed the Soul Eater twice and rested for a while to ensure that his health wouldn't drop too much from over-exerting his ability.

After he hacked the monster for the eighth time, the system prompt finally appeared in front of him.

[You have abolished the Silver Rank summon "the Soul Eater" in the battle and granted 1500 Shared Experience points.]

That's a lot of experience, which is enough to upgrade myself for one level!

Annan's eyes lit up suddenly.

At that moment, there was an evil thought in his mind.

Can I summon the Soul Eater myself and kill it myself?

But he quickly controlled his greed.

If he did that, he would catch Silent Lady's attention.

It's better to have others do the summoning.

I have decided. When I encounter false deity believers in the future, I will pressure them to summon entities for me to kill if the situation isn't urgent.

Three minutes soon arrived. The shadow retracted into Salvatore's body again. A black curse mark appeared on his body and retracted into the vessel again.

Salvatore curled up on the ground, shaking his knees.

It seems that a considerable part of this pain is chill?

"Are you cold?" Annan walked over, squatted down, and asked with some concern.

"I'm still fine." Salvatore insisted and replied, "But afterward, I may not have much combat power left."

"But, I think it should be over." Annan looked at Yiyi, who had resurrected five times under three minutes, and Delicious Wind Goose, who hadn't even lost a single health point next to him. Then, he asked, "How is the situation over there?"

"They're almost done. It's all going well, my lord." Lin Yiyi died and respawned without any psychological trauma.

When she stood up from the ground, she held the new solid steel pipe happily, glanced at the forum, and replied casually.

She intended to paint the steel pipe after the mission. With that, it could be considered as a luxury weapon with skins. (TN: Referring to in-game premium skins.)

Should I apply red paint in the middle and gold paint on both ends?

At this time, Annan suddenly heard a loud and clear baby cry, resounding from all directions.

The child was born.

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It was the cry of a baby.

Strangely enough, it didn't come from a particular direction, nor was it a single cry.

Instead, it echoed from all directions, overlapping in the air.

It was as if there were thousands of babies hanging in the sky, crying simultaneously. The identical crying could be divided into several parts [1], forming a symphony. Immediately, there was a strange sense of sacredness in the scene.

The moment Lin Yiyi heard the baby's cries, she felt an intense buzz in her brain, followed by a cooling sensation that went from her head down to her spine.

A few prompts suddenly flashed before her eyes.

[You heard the Sacred Voice, resetting the erosion rate to 0.]

[You got the new mark "Novice Influence: Infinitely Overlapping Echoes."]

[If the mark isn't resolved in time, the host will fall into a random nightmare with the keyword "mirror" (difficulty: hard) after seven days.]

This prompt flashed in front of Annan's eyes at the same time.

Even Child and Jiu Er at the other end heard this strange echo that resounded throughout the city. The sacred crying was like an announcement to something.

All those who heard this strange echo in a waking state were affected.

"-What is this?"

"—This should be a reward granting dungeon. I'm envious of it."

- "—Why do I feel like it's a punishment?"
- "—Even if it's a dungeon administering punishment, I want to participate too! I have been grinding this gallery nightmare till I feel like vomiting."
- "—Then, stop farming the first three levels. Be the frontier group for the 5th level."
- "-No, no, that hurts my health."
- "—By the way, I didn't expect this Salvatore to be guite handsome."
- "—Aren't you trying to say that Venom looks cool? Isn't Salvatore just standing there throughout the battle?"
- "—There is no need for positioning concerns. Standing still and chanting is the best taunt to the enemy."

Resetting the erosion rate?

Unlike the spectating players actively participating in the live broadcast discussion, Lin Yiyi paid more attention to this prompt.

She wasn't concerned about the importance of the erosion rate.

But what kind of power would it be for her erosion rate to reset by just listening to it?

Lin Yiyi murmured, "That baby..."

Is it something divine?

It wasn't until then that she realized the players didn't even know the real purpose of this main mission and the boss they were going to encounter.

Judging from Salvatore's preparation, he and Annan obviously knew what was coming.

Oh no, we didn't purchase any intelligence before this! Lin Yiyi felt a little regretful.

We shouldn't be conservative with affection ratings.

Of course, everything Annan sells is useful.

At the very least, I have to persuade the other players to empty the shop together.

"Did we succeed?" Salvatore murmured.

Annan squinted his eyes slightly, "Not really..."

For some reason, his heart was throbbing without warning, as if he was short of breath. In response, Annan took a deep breath to keep his head clear.

Based on his intuition and experience, Annan guessed that the physiological reactions could be the result of intense "fear."

Annan was confident with his intuition due to his keen Perception attribute.

But what exactly did Annan sense?

Obviously, Michelangelo had successfully born.

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The Soul Eater, the most dangerous enemy, was also abolished.

What else could a group of mortals achieve further?

"Oh." Suddenly, Annan heard a chuckling voice, "It seems you can detect me. You have grown a lot, Annan."

It was a gentle voice with the host's gender indiscernible. The tone was gentle and patient, like a kindergarten teacher coaxing children.

But Annan sensed immense arrogance from the tone.

Moreover, his body began to tremble more intensely.

Suddenly, Annan realized it wasn't his fear.

Instead, this body manifested fear on its own.

Following sudden enlightenment, Annan slowly cast his gaze over.

In the space where there was no one previously, a silhouette appeared.

His height wasn't too tall, only about 1.7 meters.

He was wearing a pure white robe that looked like funeral attire, complemented with a white ivory crown with five sharp horns on his head. There was a white veil more than one meter long on both sides of the crown, hanging down from the side like ears and fluttering behind him.

He was bald, with the upper half of his face entirely hidden by the silver mask. The nose and the eyes were hidden with the mask. Under an observant gaze, one could see dark green runes engraved on the mask as if sealing something within.

The lower half of his face was exposed outside the mask, showing a mysterious smile. His skin was fair and healthy. His feet were bare as he stepped on the ground. There was a strange incense smell exuding from his body.

Except for this white silk robe, he didn't seem to have any clothing. He wasn't stained with dust nor any body hair.

Moreover, silver-white brilliance reflected from his body, like a moonlight engraved on the ground.

Annan's shudder shuddered involuntarily.

But fortunately, he had felt a more intense pressure from the Venerated Skeleton before. Hence, he didn't make a fool of himself at this moment.

However, whether the two players or Salvatore, they were all forced to bow their heads under intense fear. None of them dared to look directly at this figure, even though this was the first encounter.

Annan immediately realized his true identity.

"Your Excellency Rotten Man." Annan was silent for a while but decided to greet him.

Rotten Man just smiled slightly at the same spot, putting his right hand on the chest to return the greetings.

"Your Royal Highness Annan." He whispered, "You and I have been separated for many years, but I didn't expect to meet you here today.

"Does your father know you are here?" The Rotten Man somehow referred to a mortal with the honorific title.

But Annan didn't feel the slightest respect in his tone. On the contrary, Annan found the whisper a little creepy.

He couldn't see Rotten Man in the eyes, nor could he see Rotten Man's expression.

A kind smile was revealed at the corner of his mouth, but it somehow resembled a pulled bow.

Facing the silent Annan, the friendly smile on Rotten Man's face remained unchanged.

"Your Royal Highness Annan." Rotten Man whispered Annan's name again and slowly approached Annan, "I thought you were already thrown into the sea.

"But, how did you survive the Black Sea?" He moved closer and closer to Annan.

Annan could only stare at him blankly, unable to reply, unable to act, and unable to think.

He wanted to retreat, but his body didn't listen. Later, even the "thinking" itself became blurred and slow.

There was a pungent smell of tulips in Rotten Man's breath.

Under that floral fragrance, Annan felt his consciousness gradually dissipate, and the world in front of him became blurred.

Just like doing aromatherapy when the customer was drowsy, a soothing and relaxing warm feeling emerged from the bottom of the heart.

But the next moment, frost flowed out from the bottom of his heart.

Annan trembled and woke up instantly.

He opened his eyes wide.

His gaze averted Rotten Man and looked behind Rotten Man.

A giant duke nearly 3 meters tall with a golden crying mask on his head appeared behind the Rotten Man.

"We haven't seen each other for a long time, [Atabanus]." An old, low, and reverberant voice sounded.

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It was a giant with a white mink cloak with black spots on it. He wore a platinum crown and heavy platinum boots. Thick white leather gloves covered his hands, and his entire body was shrouded within his clothing.

The Venerated Skeleton.

Annan had met him before.

The aura of despair exuding from the Venerated Skeleton made Lin Yiyi and Delicious Wind Goose tremble intensely and almost vomit.

But for Annan, it was a life-saving chilly wind.

If it weren't for the Venerated Skeleton to appear in time, the Rotten Man could have eroded Annan's consciousness completely.

But before Annan could feel glad about the twists and turns of the events, an intense itch crept upon the skin of the four people present who heard the name [Atabanus].

Annan was still alright, and the two players were only slightly uncomfortable.

But, Salvatore had the most adverse reaction.

He didn't seem to feel the sharp pain in his body, and he couldn't help scratching his skin intensely.

Annan knew Salvatore had great perseverance.

If Salvatore couldn't stand it, it should be an unbearable intense itching.

But after Salvatore scratched his skin, he didn't bleed. There was no blood dripping out.

Under the skin, there was another new layer of skin.

For the skin that he didn't scratch yet, it burst open on itself, exposing a new skin layer with no hair underneath it.

Salvatore was startled when he noticed the dry skin on his hands.

He grabbed a handful of his hair and pulled it slightly.

Looking at the hair in the palm of his hand, Salvatore's pupils trembled violently—apparently taken aback.

No, don't panic.

It's fine. I just need to craft some hair-growing agents.

Wait?

Salvatore was startled yet again.

He realized that the ever-present and unrelievable pain in his body had disappeared.

On the other hand, new prompts appeared for Annan, Lin Yiyi, and Delicious Wind Goose.

[You have acquired mysterious knowledge: Deity of Immortality and Heirless, Rotten Man's real name.]

[This mysterious knowledge can be used as "Ritual: Summoning Rotten Man," "Golden Incantation (Idol School): Molting Rebirth," and "High-level Material: Snake Molting."]

[This mysterious knowledge will be forgotten after using it for "1" time. After that, you can't reacquire this knowledge.]

This was the first time the players encountered these entities, even though they had repeatedly heard about the voice owners.

Lin Yiyi quickly took a photo of the two deities and saved the screenshot.

Hearing the voice of the Venerated Skeleton behind him, Rotten Man only chuckled.

He didn't panic at all, didn't even turn his head, but just raised his head slightly. He giggled like a little girl, "It's been a long time, senior. I just came to take a look. How did that startle you?

"I thought you had already taken root in the Freezing Water Port. Is it because of poor sleep after being so old? You can't help waking up to urinate?"

"I... already knew... you would come." The Venerated Skeleton's low, erratic, echoing voice sounded, "I have waited for a long time."

Rotten Man turned around when he heard the words and took a closer look at the Venerated Skeleton.

Then, he overlapped his hands gracefully like a court lady, exclaiming in a low voice, and gave a long sigh, "Wow."

Unlike Lin Yiyi, who felt the oppression coming from the two deities, the players who watched the live broadcast at Freezing Water Port laughed aloud at Rotten Man's mannerism.

"—What a talent. His eccentric tone is unique."

"—He just sounds disgusting."

"—The title 'Rotten Man' means eunuch. So isn't it expected that his yin and yang is unbalanced, resulting in an eccentric tone?"

[TN: Yin represents feminine energy, and Yang represents masculine energy. In Yin & Yang's interpretation, the eunuch's effeminate nature is due to the imbalance of the energies.]

"—By your logic, doesn't his weird yin and yang indicate that he knows Onmyoji?"

"—Maybe he has the skill [Yin & Yang Eyes]."

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[TN: Here, Yin represents death while Yang represents alive. The interpretation here would be the ability to see the ghosts. Those are wordplays for the players to mock on the effeminate nature with Yin and Yang concepts.]

"—Sister Hyphen, do you see it? Learn from him. This is the proper way of roasting. A direct insult doesn't mean much."

On the other side, the Venerated Skeleton didn't respond at all to Rotten Man's provocation.

He just stood silently and looked at Rotten Man motionlessly.

At this moment, Annan had already taken the opportunity to escape from Rotten Man's perimeter.

But he didn't flee too far. Instead, he stood in front of Gate 44 on Clear Water Street, watching the confrontation between the two false deities from a distance.

They just stared at each other and did nothing, and the surrounding air became turbid.

The cold and warm air intertwined fiercely with a trembling whirlwind manifested.

Annan saw a series of dozens of buffs above the players' head icons constantly emerging, disappearing, and canceling each other:

[Desperate Aura], [Death Air], [Soul-snatching Fragrance], [Bone-burrowing Chills], [Rejuvenation], [Shuddering Air], [Visceral Proliferation], [Chilling Flesh].

To add on to that, the two false deities didn't intentionally impose these states on the players.

It all happened just because of the turbid air as their hostility against each other clashed.

After a long time, Rotten Man broke the silence, "What do you want?

"What good is this for you?"

"My gain is to stop you from getting the benefits."

The low and reverberant hollow sound of the Venerated Skeleton answered.

Hearing this, Rotten Man stopped speaking.

At the next moment, Salvatore seemed to realize something. He staggered up from the ground and ran away.

Yiyi and Delicious Wind Goose still didn't know why.

But they also subconsciously fled after Salvatore.

But they were too late in the end.

Their bodies suddenly became dry and pale, as if their flesh had lost its color. The life within them perished in the blink of an eye.

At the next moment, the two resurrected directly from a distance.

Their corpses left in place became pure white, then collapsed like ashes and spread evenly on the ground. Finally, those ashes turned into a milky pool.

Then, countless people wearing white robes, silver masks, and hairless like Rotten Man walked out of the pool one by one.

Each of them had a level of oppression close to the Soul Eater.

But the next moment, a layer of black ice formed on the white pool. Before the people in white could walk out of the pool completely, the turbid black ice completely froze their bodies.

Then, they shattered into pieces.

Throughout the process, the Venerated Skeleton didn't make any moves.

It just kept that posture quietly, looking at Rotten Man calmly.

"Are you serious?" Rotten Man's voice was a little low, "Are you going to declare war?"

"Be patient. Rotten Man." The Venerated Skeleton said slowly, "I merely stopped you, and I didn't attack you."

"I testify that the Venerated Skeleton didn't attack you, Rotten Man!" At this moment, a cheerful and loud voice sounded.

It was different from the two false deities who preferred to appear silently.

As a brilliant and dazzling silver beam of light that could be easily seen from miles away landed, the crimson halo in the sky and the false black-red sun were instantly torn apart as if they were fakes.

In the blink of an eye, the scene in the sky returned to the early morning. Three runes entwined the nascent sun. It appeared that the new sun rose from the sea by the east side.

From the beam of light, a young man in a short white trench coat walked out quickly.

He wore a monocle, and his smile was bright and sunny. His face is long and thin, his chin was slightly pointed, and his skin reflected a healthy color. He had moderate brown curly hair, looking like a young business person in his twenties or a scholar who had just graduated from school, full of hope and vigor. In those onlookers' squinted eyes, there was a brilliance of wisdom and little cunning that was just right and not disliked.

Annan recognized him almost immediately—or rather, his identity.

His face was the same as the face on the silver coin.

He was the guardian deity of the Noah Kingdom, Trade Deity!

Silver Sire!