

The Good 631

Chapter 631: City Construction (2)

Since they had enough workforce, the reconstruction of the Sun Never Sets could officially begin.

The Forsaken Land was a vast area with a sparse population. The abundant resources there were inexhaustible, so it was more efficient to use local materials than to transport materials from the Longxuan Empire.

They would need stones, bricks, and tiles to build a city. Shen Yanxiao assigned jobs to the three thousand slaves.

One thousand of the slaves were sent to the eastern region for mining and excavating stones.

Five hundred slaves would stay with Uncle Nine and the villagers to farm the uncultivated land and plant crops outside the Sun Never Sets.

Of the remaining 1500 slaves, 500 were females. Shen Yanxiao asked for those female slaves specifically to be in charge of logistics and prepare food for the other working slaves.

The remaining one thousand slaves were assigned to the construction of the Sun Never Sets.

Shen Yanxiao ordered them not to build houses for the moment and concentrate on the city wall first. The order almost made members of the Cave Wolves Mercenary Group cry.

After Shen Yanxiao gave her command, the mercenaries raised their head and shouted. How long would they have to continue to live in the slum?

The dilapidated building meant that they could be crushed to death at any minute!

However, Shen Yanxiao was determined to build the city wall first.

All the people... and demons in the Sun Never Sets sprang to work after she assigned the tasks.

While the demons could not devote themselves to the construction, they could move and transport materials.

Those who were in the mining team were divided into twenty smaller groups of 50 people. An advanced demon, five middle-level demons, and a hundred low-level demons would travel with each group so that the other demons in the field would not attack them.

Shen Yanxiao allocated an area outside the city for planting crops. She had brought a large amount of food with her, but her city's population had reached over three thousand. The food she had could sustain them for a while, but it was not a permanent solution.

Luckily, she was intelligent enough to buy many seeds before her journey to the Forsaken Lands.

Give them fish, and you feed them for a day; teach them how to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime. Sustainable development was the rule!

At the Sun Never Sets, the slaves were also paid for their work. Shen Yanxiao was not one who would oppress and exploit the slaves. She also offered them food and clothes.

She allowed them dignity.

Each day, after the slaves finished their job, Shen Yanxiao would give them five gold coins each. They could not spend it in the Sun Never Sets yet, but it would soon demonstrate its value.

The slaves were grateful for what Shen Yanxiao had done.

They were convinced that they would live out the rest of their lives in that slave market with a total absence of justice. Even if they were lucky enough to be bought, they would still have to continue their lives with no dignity nor human rights.

Shen Yanxiao had freed them of their identity as slaves. She had done more than that; she respected them and recognized their value as a person, just like everyone else. She gave them gold coins, and it was something that the slaves had never thought they would own.

Five gold coins for a day's work. They could earn ten gold coins after a two-day work; it was the same as the selling price of the slaves!

The slaves were incapable of feelings because they had no hope. However, Shen Yanxiao had given them hope to live like an average person. They could see a promising future ahead of them. Their depressed hearts would be awakened again.

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Du Lang witnessed how those slaves gradually transformed from hopeless and emotionless beings into characters with vigor and positive spirit. He looked at Shen Yanxiao in surprise, but there was only admiration and astonishment in his eyes.

He knew that Shen Yanxiao disagreed with the idea of slaves. However, she had no other choice.

Even though she bought back those slaves with her, she insisted on her ways to transform them from slaves without any rights to actual human beings.

She used her way to change any worldly views that she could not accept.

When a rabbit went to a wolf's den, it would become the wolf or turn the wolf into a rabbit.

She gave the slaves the thing that they had wanted the most. Shen Yanxiao might not have realized it, but her actions had gained her loyal followers who would do anything for her.

They thought of her as a goddess, and they would guard her with their life. Shen Yanxiao had given them hope in their most desperate moment and a chance to be an average human again.

"You knew that this would happen, didn't you?" Du Lang asked Shen Yanxiao. The girl had not reached adulthood yet, but she had surprised him too many times. He was curious about what kind of huge brain must be hidden in that little head of hers that she could manage situations that most adults could not handle.

Shen Yanxiao crouched on the ground as she checked a batch of mineral products that had just been delivered. She turned around and looked at him in confusion.

“Knew about what? I didn’t know where the mineral products are buried in the eastern region. I just told them to get me the mineral products that the other three forces have already mined.” She was not a geologist. No matter how powerful she was, she could not have solved a geological problem.

Du Lang burst into laughter. Shen Yanxiao had no idea what she had done.

Du Lang could not stop his laughter as he fixed his gaze on the girl who got her hands dirty as she crouched by a pile of mineral products. She was truly a hands-on leader. She was not arrogant, even though she was the city master.

“Argh!” Suddenly, they heard a shrill cry.

A delicate and pretty figure ran toward them like a breeze. That person hurried toward Shen Yanxiao, who paid no attention to her appearance, and dragged her up.

“Lady... Shen, why are you doing this filthy work again? We can take care of these for you. Please... don’t get your hands dirty!” The bright girl furrowed her eyebrows. Her light green dress added some life to the glum Sun Never Sets.

Shen Yanxiao looked at Yin Jiuchen, who had taken on a bright, new look, and let her carefully wipe the dirt from her hands with a handkerchief.

Maybe it was because of the similarity of their age. Shen Yanxiao did not ask Yin Jiuchen to handle the logistics, but instead, she kept the skinny girl by her side.

But...

If she had known that she had kept a little nanny by her side, she would have told that bossy little housekeeper to husk some corn with the logistics team!

Yin Jiuchen was grateful for Shen Yanxiao. So, she had followed the city master around like her little tail. Shen Yanxiao had stated that she did not need her attention like that, but Yin Jiuchen would not listen to her. She still followed Shen Yanxiao like a little shadow. Every time Yin Jiuchen saw Shen Yanxiao lifted a finger to do some work, she would rush toward her as if she was a hen protecting her chicks.

“Xiao Jiu, don’t be like this, okay? This is not a big deal. I was just taking a look.”

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Shen Yanxiao was speechless. She had always been surrounded by men who were neglectful of minor points of conduct. However, Yin Jiuchen, an affectionately sweet girl, was accompanying her. Shen Yanxiao was not used to that.

Girls were thoughtful and considerate, especially when they were with people that they cared about. However, Shen Yanxiao had become accustomed to her ways. She was not a delicate flower in a greenhouse, but a pine that could survive harsh winters.

Yin Jiuchen exercised great care as she tidied Shen Yanxiao's clothes and lowered her head. "Lady Shen, you have saved us. We should repay your kindness. Those are our jobs. If you go on like this, what does that make us?"

Yin Jiuchen, Su He, and the three thousand slaves were all from the Scar of Oblivion. They were familiar with each other. Yin Jiuchen knew that the slaves appreciated what Shen Yanxiao had done for them. They had no other way to repay her kindness other than to work hard to accomplish the tasks that Shen Yanxiao had assigned to them. It was only then they would feel as if they deserved the gold coins, clothes, and food they received.

Yin Jiuchen was determined. Shen Yanxiao looked at her and then turned to Du Lang who stood at the side.

Du Lang chuckled. "Just let Xiao Jiu have some peace of mind. You are quite mysterious regarding your whereabouts. You don't know this, but that scared the girl. She would sleep by your side in case you disappear into the night again."

Shen Yanxiao sighed. They were about the same age, and yet, somehow, compared to the gentle and mind Yin Jiuchen, Shen Yanxiao felt as if she was as casual and mighty as a man.

Was she secretly an iron lady?

"I will try." Shen Yanxiao had no other choice. She could yell and scold men like Du Lang, but she did not have the heart to throw vicious remarks at the girl.

Another team of miners was back. Su He, who carried a hoe on his shoulder, saw how Shen Yanxiao stood speechlessly and Yin Jiuchen, who rushed to and fro around Shen Yanxiao just as he stepped into the city. He laughed at the scene that had been repeating itself during the last couple of days.

"City master, is Xiao Jiu bugging you again?" Su He was a direct man.

Shen Yanxiao forced a smile. With Yin Jiuchen there, she could no longer fumble through the mineral products with her hands. She could only stand there and look at the dark stones with her eyes.

She had planned to use obsidians to build the city wall. She could stay calm even if someone were to blast the city wall with bombs.

It was a remarkable decision. If someone wanted to use obsidians to build a city wall in any other place in the world, others would call that person a madman.

However, Shen Yanxiao was standing on land that had the most abundant reserves of obsidians. She could do what others would not even dare to consider.

"Su He, how is it going today?" Shen Yanxiao asked. It had been more than half a month since she assigned people for mining. Half of the city walls had been constructed during that time. That rapid speed was attributable to the slaves. To show their thanks for Shen Yanxiao's kindness, the slaves worked their tails off night and day. On many occasions, Shen Yanxiao had to go around the city in the middle of the night to tell the men to rest.

Su He replied, "The mine that we are in charge of is quite small. So, the output of the mineral products is rather meager too. I plan to bring some people with me and go check out the other mines."

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Shen Yanxiao was intrigued.

“You can tell the location of the mineral veins?”

Su He smiled and said, “Before I was at the Scar of Oblivion, I was a miner.”

It was such a remarkable coincidence!

“Great. I will leave that matter to you.” Shen Yanxiao rejoiced over the fact that she did the right thing in the Scar of Oblivion. Su He was a rare and valuable talent for her and her city.

Very few slaves had skills. The Sun Never Sets needed talents, and that problem had bugged Shen Yanxiao.

At the initial stage of the city’s construction, that problem had not been that prominent. However, it would become a significant issue in the later development stage after the built was completed.

Shen Yanxiao had no intention of giving a comprehensive report to the emperor of the Longxuan Empire. Her identity as a warlock was a sensitive issue, and it could bring her unnecessary troubles. It was highly likely that the emperor would try to sabotage her instead of offering her assistance.

After she checked the mineral products, Shen Yanxiao sent them to the construction team.

Shen Yanxiao was thrilled to track the completion of the city wall.

Was there anything else more satisfactory than that?

That city would only belong to her. Neither the Longxuan Empire nor the Vermilion Bird family could lay claim on it. It was hers and hers alone!

During that time, members from the Cave Wolf Mercenary Group had become used to living with demons. They had not taken part in constructing the city wall, but their interaction with the demons had become quite common.

The mercenaries’ world views had been entirely twisted.

Shen Yanxiao asked the two Phoenixes and Vermilion Bird to stay in the city. They used their strong powers to destroy the shabby houses in the city, but they left a few standing so that everyone could live there for the time being. All the other buildings were destroyed to make it easier for any future construction in the city.

The three mythical beasts could inflict destruction with high proficiency. They enjoyed themselves as if it was a game.

Lan Fengli followed Shen Yanxiao around like her little tail. However, he became quiet in the presence of other people like Yin Jiuchen, though he would never take his eyes off Shen Yanxiao.

The Sun Never Sets headed toward a new future, and the scouts sent over by the other three countries did not miss a single thing.

The Sun Never Sets’ prosperity made the other three forces’ leaders restless with anxiety.

Inside the Fantasy Devil City, Geng Di sat on his chair as he listened to reports from the scouts; he was in a gloomy mood.

“Are you telling me that the Sun Never Sets suddenly has more people and they have already started to rebuild the city? The city wall is almost complete? Is that right?” Geng Di could not believe what he had heard. How did Shen Yanxiao achieve so much when she had only arrived at the Forsaken Land less than a month ago?

That sounded so ridiculous!

When he built the Fantasy Land, Geng Di had to mobilize more than ten thousand mercenaries and spent almost half a year before they eliminated all the demons in the Fantasy Devil City.

It seemed like Shen Yanxiao had managed to skip that part and went on to build the city directly. That was beyond anyone’s belief.

“Are all the demons in the Sun Never Sets dead? How can they let a kid start rebuilding the city so easily?” Geng Di curled his lips. The Sun Never Sets was one of the five major cities, and there were more than ten thousand demons there, not to mention the appalling number of advanced demons.

It took Geng Di almost half a year to kill thousands of demons in Fantasy Devil City. It was impossible to start building a city without one to two years’ preparation!

Chapter 635: City Construction (6)

The scout, who was on his knees in the hall, gulped in fear. Geng Di found his words hard to believe. Even he, who had witnessed the Sun Never Sets’ situation with his own eyes, found everything surreal.

Yet, no matter how unlikely it had seemed, that was the fact.

“City master, the demons in the Sun Never Sets... they are still there.”

“Still there?” Geng Di frowned as he went on, “If they have not eliminated the demons, how are they building the city?”

The scout replied, “They are building the city... with.. the demons.”

Geng Di jumped from his chair when he heard that. He was dumbstruck, and he almost grabbed the scout toward him.

“Building the city with the demons? Do you take me for a fool?”

“No, I would not dare lie to you; I am telling the truth. None of us understood what was going on, but we noticed that the demons in the Sun Never Sets never attempted to attack the humans there. They are even helping them with the construction. We observed them for a while, and every day, dozens of teams would set off to different areas in the eastern region for mining. Each of those teams has more than a hundred of low-level demons and some middle-level demons with them. Those demons would even help them transport the minerals on the way back, and none of them were aggressive toward the humans.” The scout was about to break into tears, but he was honest with his words. He was also surprised by what he had witnessed.

The scouts observed the situation for several days. They even began to wonder if anything had happened to their sights. Since when did the ferocious demons start to help the humans instead of eating them?

“How is that even possible?” Even though it was a weird situation, Geng Di believed that the scout would not dare to talk nonsense.

“Demons are helping them to rebuild the city? Even with the Demon Confuser, they could only stop the demons from picking up their smell. Why would they help the humans?” Geng Di was baffled; the whole situation was very mysterious.

The rivalry between demons and humans had lasted for over a thousand years, and it was not something that would change overnight.

Why was the situation in the Sun Never Sets so absurd?

“Keep an eye on them and let me know immediately if you have any news.” Geng Di sat down with worry.

He had never expected Shen Yanxiao to achieve progress so quickly. He thought it would take her at least a year or two before she could begin to rebuild the city. Geng Di was so convinced that he did not tell his men to take any actions toward Shen Yanxiao. He had wanted to wait and see.

However, the Sun Never Sets’ progress had developed at an unimaginable speed, and it worried him. He was concerned that the Sun Never Sets, a city that he had no control, would achieve overnight success.

“City master?” Qu Rui, who had completely recovered from his injury, stood aside in the hall. He looked at the temperamental Geng Di with extreme caution.

Geng Di’s eyebrows furrowed. Then, he asked Qu Rui, “When you met that girl the other day, was there anything about her that stood out?”

Qu Rui gulped in fear before he answered, “The girl was pretty, and she had two mythical beasts with her. Other than that, there was nothing suspicious about her.” He thought it was weird when he heard the report as well. He believed that Geng Di would avenge him and teach Shen Yanxiao a lesson. However, it seemed like everything he had heard that day was crazy.

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“Are you telling the truth?” Geng Di did not believe him. Two mythical beasts represented great power. That said, there were more than a hundred advanced demons in the Sun Never Sets. Those advanced demons, together with low and middle-level demons, could easily defeat those two mythical beasts. They would not have surrendered so easily.

Over the years, the Brilliance Continent had sent out many mighty warriors and mythical beasts to the Forsaken land, but no demon had ever caved.

Surrender meant death; demons and humans could not exist together.

“Yes, I am.” Qu Rui nodded. He had to be honest with Geng Di. When Qu Rui met Shen Yanxiao, he was too busy drooling over Shen Yanxiao’s beauty, so he did not pay much attention to anything else. Then,

he was frightened out of his wits by the two Phoenixes. Of course, he was not in the mood to notice if anything was suspicious with Shen Yanxiao.

Geng Di squinted his eyes but said nothing else.

The news greatly shook him. His original plan was to wait before he retaliated against Shen Yanxiao. However, given her progress, she might be able to finish the construction of the Sun Never Sets before he could stop her.

Most of the other delegates from the Longxuan Empire had failed to exterminate the demons. Very few of them could even reach the city-building stage.

However, Shen Yanxiao was not one of them.

If the Sun Never Sets' construction was allowed to finish, none of the other three forces could continue to plunder the eastern region's resources.

The only thing they could do was to nip her progress in the bud!

A malicious glint flashed in Geng Di's eyes. He immediately gathered his trusted subordinates.

Qu Rui was excited as he looked at Geng Di.

Geng Di was about to do something. That damn bitch would suffer the consequences soon!

"City Master, should we contact the other two cities?" Qu Rui could not wait to see Shen Yanxiao die a tragic death. He had always lived high on the hogs. Nobody could ever hurt him. Every time he touched the soft spot where his ear should have been, he would grind his teeth in hatred.

Geng Di said, "Not right now. They must have received the same report as I did. They would know what to do. The eastern region is not a place the Longxuan Empire could enjoy."

"Of course." Qu Rui laughed discreetly.

Then Geng Di said to his close subordinates, "Send the teams that were responsible for mining in the eastern region. Also, get some advanced-level experts to tag along with them. Shen Yanxiao would have to build a city and mine at the same time. Let's see if those two mythical beasts could take care of so many teams at one time."

"Yes!"

At Geng Di's command, all the troops in the Fantasy Devil City were mobilized.

Far away in the Sun Never Sets, Shen Yanxiao had no idea that her city had become a needle that poked the other three forces' hearts.

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In the Sun Never Sets, Shen Yanxiao sat on the stairs. The city wall would finish soon, and she was thrilled. She checked the project's progress, and she realized that she could put three plants in the plaza.

The dark elements produced by the three plants were infinite, and it was more than enough to satisfy the needs of tens of thousands of demons. Xiu would use his power to spread the dark elements; everything was going well.

“The city wall will be finished in two more days,” Xiu said. Since she arrived at the Sun Never Sets, Shen Yanxiao had been busy daily. Xiu knew that so he would use his power to relieve her fatigue when she was asleep. However, Shen Yanxiao was unaware of his action.

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“Yes. It gives me such a sense of accomplishment to see the city wall coming together. When the wall is completed, I will get started on the buildings in the city.”

“A city wall built with obsidians is strong. But, if you go to the central tower of the city, you will find something interesting,” Xiu suggested casually.

Shen Yanxiao raised her eyebrows. Xiu seemed to know a lot about the Sun Never Sets. She did not ask more questions but headed toward the city’s central tower, as Xiu had suggested.

The tower stood in the very center of the city. It had endured many years of hardship, but the building still retained its original appearance even though it was a bit worn out.

Inside the tower, the dark steps were scorched black. Shen Yanxiao tried to find access to the underground. Finally, she noticed a hidden passage under a broken statue of a demon god.

Shen Yanxiao used a light crystal as she headed toward the pathway to light it up. The narrow path allowed only one person at a time. The wet walls made her feel chilly.

It seemed like the narrow path had no end, and the spiral staircase meandered downward as if it had no stop.

Shen Yanxiao did not know how long it had been, but she was tired when she reached the end of the staircase.

She saw an old stone gate. On both sides of the gate were some exquisite carved patterns. It must have been hundreds or even thousands of years, but the designs were still there to unfold before the visitors’ eyes. It was proof of the craftsman’s excellent skills.

“Push it open,” Xiu said.

Shen Yanxiao stepped forward. She took a deep breath and reached out to push the stone gate open.

However, the stone gate, which was not that big, was incredibly heavy. Shen Yanxiao exerted all her strength, but it did not budge.

“This must be a joke! What is the door made of? Why is it so heavy?” Shen Yanxiao rubbed her sore wrist. She concentrated all her strength on her hands, but the door remained closed. She could usually crush a stone wall with only one punch.

“Put your hands on the door. Let me do it,” Xiu said in his clear and refreshing voice.

Shen Yanxiao did as he instructed and put her hands on the door.

Then, she felt as if someone had put their cold hands on hers. A hint of coolness spread from her palms, but she could see nothing.

Squeak.

The stone gate was pushed open. Shen Yanxiao opened her eyes in surprise.

The coldness disappeared from her hands; Xiu had relinquished his power.

Shen Yanxiao walked into the stone gate with the light crystal in her hand.

The inside must have been sealed off for tens of millions of years, but there were still lighted torches there.

Behind the gate was a vast, round-shaped basement, and there were blue-flamed torches on the wall.

There was no air nor fuel, and yet the flames had continued to burn.

“This is the Sun Never Sets’ underground resource. Do you see the black crystal in the center of the room?”

Shen Yanxiao looked at the said black crystal in the center of the room. It was the size of a human head and was dim and dull, like a dusty pearl. Even as the flames flickered, no light bounced off the black crystal. It was as if pure darkness had absorbed all the light.

“What is that?” Shen Yanxiao walked over there and picked up the dark crystal.

While the crystal was of a considerable size, it was surprisingly light. Shen Yanxiao could pick it up with ease.

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“This is a dark crystal that the Devil clan had buried underground when they constructed the city, and it is only available in their world. It contains many dark elements, and when positioned here, it can activate the array in this room. The walls of the whole city would be reinforced, and no current siege weapons would be able to damage it even if they were to attack it continuously for ten years.”

“It’s that powerful?” Shen Yanxiao’s eyes nearly popped out of their socket. The Devil clan was wise indeed.

“However, there were already cracks on the existing walls. Did someone bombard the city for hundreds of years?”

“Those marks were caused by the God race’s besieging weapons.”

“Oh, so it’s the god race’s weapons...” Shen Yanxiao was somewhat fascinated by the story. The god race had fallen for many years, so it was practically impossible for humans to possess any of their besieging weapons. As long as she activated the array, then the city would become a real city where the sun never set!

Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath and asked, “Can the dark crystal still activate the array?”

“No, the dark elements in it have been depleted.”

Shen Yanxiao instantly wilted...

Was he playing with her!?

As she looked on helplessly at the strongest protective shield in the world, her heart almost broke into pieces when she realized she could not activate it.

However, Xiu's following words allowed Shen Yanxiao to recover her excitement once again.

"The three plants in your hands could activate it."

"For real?" Shen Yanxiao excitedly asked again.

"Yes. Otherwise, why would I bring you here?" Xiu's voice had a trace of indiscernible joy.

"But if we were to plant it here, what would the demons eat?" Shen Yanxiao hesitated as she was still unsure as to where she would plant the three plants.

"No worries. If you plant it here, the array will allow them to grow. Furthermore, the dark elements it produced would also be spread throughout the entire city. Not only could it reinforce the city gates, but it could also provide for those demons."

"Wow, that's so convenient! Then we'll go with that!" Shen Yanxiao no longer hesitated; she took out the three plants from her spatial ring. The underground basement was too hidden, and she would not have discovered the place if it were not for Xiu's help. Therefore, it was the safest place to plant the three plants.

Those three stalks of plants were of extreme importance to Shen Yanxiao. Not only was it related to her survival in the Forsaken Land, but it also concerned the unsealing of her subsequent seals.

"After starting the array, the dark elements here would be completely activated, and it would help the demons to evolve. The unique characteristics within their bodies would also stimulate a change in the dark elements, and at that time, I would be able to recover my strength at a faster speed," Xiu explained.

However, there was a single point that Xiu did not cover.

The dark elements would spread rapidly around the city once they activated the array. Soon, all the demons around the Sun Never Sets would notice that, and they would enter the city in large batches.

After they resolved the problem with the plants, Shen Yanxiao looked at the dark crystal and asked, "What should we do with this?"

"Place it here. The dark elements will replenish the dark crystal's depleted elements. At that time, you can use it to reinforce other cities."

Reinforce... other cities!

Shen Yanxiao blinked in surprise. Indeed, as long as she completed the construction of Sun Never Sets, she could then expand toward the surrounding cities.

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She could eventually conquer the entire eastern area of the Forsaken Land!

She wanted to leave her mark in every single city around there!

With the entire eastern area of the Forsaken Land in her hands, who would dare to go against her?

After they covertly activated the underground array, the humans in the city did not notice any difference. However, the demons sensed a dark force that spread from underneath their legs. The tempting scent made them feel as if they were in heaven.

“What’s going on?” Yao Ji sensed the dense dark element diffused in the air, and he continued to take large gulps of air.

“Oh! It must be the work of the great city lord. I will never leave Sun Never Sets!” Jia Lan and Jia He frantically devoured the dark elements as the surging fragrant scent made them float in happiness!

The demons in the Sun Never Sets would no longer lack food. Since they had the dark element, the demons there would not need to attack humans.

On the other hand, Jiu Shu and the villages had kept up with the land’s reclamation and cultivation. A large area of the wasteland had been reclaimed, and they only lacked a water source. With the three mythical beasts’ joint efforts, they had managed to build a well that was about a hundred meter deep.

Those developments might not have yielded any results in the starting phase. However, it would determine the prosperity of the city in the future.

Su He continued to search for new mines in the eastern area, and after several days of effort, he had successfully excavated five new mines.

The next morning, Su He reported the five locations to Shen Yanxiao.

“Two of the mines might have extremely rare metals in it. Once these metals are extracted, they can be used to craft weapons that are comparatively sharper than other weapons,” Su He reported in detail.

Shen Yanxiao cocked her head. That was good news as they would need the weapons for their armed forces.

“Su He, assemble two teams to go to the mines that you’ve discovered, and they can get a head start on that. The city walls are almost completed, and we should have all the obsidians we need. You can allocate more people to mine those rare metals. After we are done with the walls, we would move to build our city’s interior next.”

“I understand.” Su He had become the mining team leader, and Shen Yanxiao believed that he would not betray her.

“Brother Su, please take care while you’re there.” Yin Jiuchen held her hands together as if she was in a portrait. There was also a gentle smile on her face.

“Always.” Su He smiled. He was at ease because Yin Jiuchen was with Shen Yanxiao.

After Su He and his subordinates ate their breakfast, they set off once again.

They had left the city as per norm, and no one expected that their day would be anything different than usual.

When the mining team did not return in the afternoon, Shen Yanxiao started to feel uneasy. She kept looking at the city gates.

"They have not returned yet?" Du Lang had finished with his work, and he had gone to Shen Yanxiao's side. The mining team would usually return to the city in the afternoon to transport the excavated ores. However, none of them had returned.

Devil? Shen Yanxiao frowned.

"Not yet." Shen Yanxiao furrowed her brows.

"Calm down. Didn't Su He mention that he would dispatch several teams to mine a new vein? Perhaps they have all been transferred." Du Lang tried to keep her.

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He had seen the new mining area's location, and it was a little far from the city. Therefore, it was normal if they could not return in the afternoon.

"I hope so." Shen Yanxiao nodded. She tasked the workers constructing the walls to pay attention to any movements while she went to the outskirts to take a look.

Lan Fengli and Yin Jiuchen, her usual two tails, followed her. While they were there, they saw the Vermilion Bird busy with the new water source. As a fire-elemental magical beast, the Vermilion Bird disliked water, and therefore, he was exceptionally rough with his actions.

He violently shot more than a dozen of fireballs at the same spot on the ground; that was how he created the well.

The little phoenix crouched on the head of the Vermilion Bird as it lazily squinted its eyes.

"I thought you're prepared to have me live on my own." The Vermilion hovered in the air as he looked at his heartless master. He pouted as he muttered those words.

He did not know why Lan Fengli could stay by Shen Yanxiao's side all day long while he, as the real contracted beast, had been dispatched to work.

"How could I bear to do so?" Shen Yanxiao chuckled. She did not want to torture the Vermilion Bird, but the job could only be accomplished by the three magical beasts.

As for Lan Fengli, she had no other choice. She did not know when his memories would suddenly resurface. What if he started a massacre after he recovered his memories?

She did not wish to fight her little brother, so she could only have him by her side to take care of him.

"Hmph!" The Vermilion Bird cockily turned his head and snorted.

Jiu Shu and the others were already accustomed to the relationship between the master and her beast. Therefore it was no surprise to them.

“Alright, it’s been hard on you. You can rest well in another two days.” Shen Yanxiao laughed. The three magical beasts had indeed done a lot of manual labor during that period. First, they had to demolish the construction within the city, and after that, they had to build the water source. They did not complain about what they had to do, and all of them followed Shen Yanxiao’s instructions.

The Vermilion Bird snorted again, but he continued with his work.

He knew that it was a crucial period for Shen Yanxiao, and therefore, he knew he had to continue with his work.

Just as Shen Yanxiao patrolled the outskirts, a Cave Wolves Mercenary Group member went to her on a horse.

“City master! Something had happened to Su He’s team!”

The smile on Shen Yanxiao’s face instantly froze, and her expression turned into a frown.

“What happened?!”

“They were ambushed in the mines, and their injuries are rather severe. Su He is currently still unconscious, and the leader sent me to get you back to the city,” the mercenary said in a hurry.

Shen Yanxiao took a deep breath and said, “Vermilion Bird!”

He had already understood his master’s intentions and immediately transformed into his bird form. With Shen Yanxiao on his back, he flew back toward the city at great speed.

As for Yin Jiuchen, she had completely blanked out.

“Brother Su... What happened to Brother Su?” Yin Jiuchen anxiously looked at Shen Yanxiao as she flew on the Vermilion Bird. Her small hands trembled.

Jiu Shu could not bear to see her so worried, so he went to comfort her. “Don’t panic. Let’s go back and take a look.” He ordered everyone to stop with their tasks so that they could rush back to the city.

While Shen Yanxiao and the Vermilion Bird neared the city, she saw a group of people had gathered at the gates. She jumped down, and her dexterous body flipped in the air before she landed steadily on the ground.