

Thief 211

Eternal Thief

Chapter 211: The Inner Circle

This time after the explosion, the cultivators in the Qi river core realm were the fastest ones to reach the location.

Lan, Alvin, Ridge were the first ones and when they were about to examine the place, they sense something out of ordinary.

"Hmph, sneaky rats, come out!" Lan snorted and a powerful pressure descend in a fifty-meter area.

However, before the pressure reached its limit, those hiding in the cover of mist dashed out and escape successfully!

"Damn Ghosts!" Lan cursed in contempt because he knew only nightmare ghosts' Qi river core cultivators had this kind of abilities. If he wasn't using a treasure to increase his martial sense, even he might've not sensed them.

"They reached here much earlier than we expected!" said Ridge with a frown.

"Someone must have leaked the news from inside!" Alvin pulled an ugly face.

Lan also scowled before saying, "It doesn't matter anymore. We just need to prepare for confrontation, we can't afford to lose this time. They have three Qi river core cultivators, meaning black-level assassins. Just watch out for a sneak attack and those sneaky rats lose their advantages!"

Alvin and Ridge both nodded in agreement.

More and more people began to show and after seeing the trio empty-handed they knew that bastard has escaped again.

Some unlucky low-level assassins drew here like the last group, but they didn't have the skills to escape Lan and others. In the end, Alvin killed mercilessly all five of them.

A few miles away from Alvin's group, the nightmare ghosts' trio of Qi river core cultivators emerged.

"We lose three blue and two purple assassins!" Black Reaper's angry voice sounded.

"What can we do then? If we fight, it would only benefit them, don't forget they had one more Qi river core cultivator, Damien King, on their side!" An aged voice rang from one of three figures.

"But we have Crown Prince!" The woman in the trio retorted.

"No, we can't let them know about Crown Prince, not if it's necessary." Black Reaper's rebuke.

"Black Reaper is right." The old man also had the same thoughts as Black Reaper's, "What do you think, the Crown Prince wasn't there? He was actually there, but he didn't show himself, and Lan of Pill Flame also didn't find him. If not for the prince signal, even I couldn't find him!"

"Just keep searching for that thief and order our remaining men to be more careful, we can't afford to lose more!" Black Reaper's stiff voice sounded.

A few miles deeper inside the outer circle, Marc's group also appeared wearing black capes.

"We nearly exposed ourselves. This is annoying!" One of the sword maids complained.

Marc chuckles, "Don't worry, they can't sense us with these capes if they weren't in the middle stages of the Qi river core realm. But that thief is something each time he escaped, and there is something wrong with these explosions as well."

He wasn't a fool, and after he first examines the area of the explosion; he didn't find any trace of Qi, and that was what aroused his suspicion. But after the second explosion, his suspicion becomes more substantial.

But what Marc didn't understand was how could someone cause this kind of racket without using Qi.

"Is your majesty saying, he's deliberately luring us here?" The sword maid with a big chest guessed what Marc was trying to imply.

"Just as sharp as ever, Rina." Marc praise Rina as he nodded, "Yes, don't you find it strange even after knowing this many people came here that thief still didn't escape, and even you could tell now, he has the ability.

"But not only he didn't escape, he even caused those strange explosions like he was declaring his position to all of us. My guess is he's luring us deeper inside the forest for some reason."

"I think he's trying to weaken us with this mist!" Rina quickly stated.

"Yes, this mist is really dangerous even for me and if we go deeper, it will affect us." Marc pulled a grave face since he also had some thought as Rina, "But that thief also in the same situation as us. Let's play along, for now, it's not easy to scheme against me!"

A malicious smile appeared on Marc's handsome face!

While Marc has somewhat seen through Ace's plot, Ace was on the end of the outer circle and just a few miles away from the inner circle!

After he caused the last explosion, he used no more explosives because this would stimulate too much suspicion and the hunting group might give up and leave the earthen mist forest.

Especially, if he wanted all of them to enter the inner circle of the earthen mist forest because this area was even dangerous for peak Qi river cultivators.

So, he will use one bigger explosive to lure everyone into the inner circle and then use some other method to lure them further inside.

At this moment, Ace abruptly stopped right outside the inner circle's boundary.

'This feeling!' Ace suddenly felt dread from the mist of the inner circle.

Ace slowly extended his hand toward the thick emerald mist to test if it was harmful to him. Just as he touched the mist, he felt a sudden tingle of pain on his skin!

Ace quickly put a membrane of HD-Qi and the painful sensation stopped. He frowned and mused, 'It didn't affect me mentally but physically, is it because my soul cultivation is much higher than my martial cultivation?'

This was the only likely explanation he could think of because the soul represented cognitive strength and Ace knew his strength too well.

But this was also bad news for him even if this mist only affected him physically this meant if this mist becomes more potent; it can also affect him mentally.

This also means he had to use more martial Qi or soul Qi with martial Qi to protect his mind and body. He can also use only one type of Qi, but it would cause a massive amount of Qi consumption, whether it's the soul Qi or martial Qi.

At this juncture, he was using an inconsiderable amount of HD-Qi which implies this mist was not strong enough, yet.

'I thought, it would be easy since this mist didn't influence me, but I never thought the mist outside just wasn't strong enough. Heh, it's also meant I'm not completely immune to poisons, or it's just my body that isn't strong enough yet.' Ace thought in self-mockery.

But it was also a good thing since he now knows he wasn't completely invulnerable!

'Sigh... I can also come back after reaching higher realms, but I have no idea where I would find another elemental orb. Even if I found one, this doesn't mean I would be not as dangerous or even worse than this place.'

After mulling over it for a while, Ace's shone with decisiveness, 'Let's just confirm first if there is an orb here or not!'

After putting a membrane of HD-Qi around his body, he entered the inner circle with no delay.

However, before moving too far inside, he took two dark-yellow bombs and just like before throw them toward the sky after lit them up. He never threw them on the group because doing so would leave evidence behind.

After ten seconds, two resounding explosions rang on the boundary between outer and inner circles. These explosions were loud enough to draw everyone's attention, and it would probably give Ace half an hour before Qi river core cultivators reached this place.

Ace was now ten miles inside the inner circle. He was constantly using his HD-Qi to protect himself from the emerald mist, which was quite thick. He could only see ten meters around him with his eyes.

The only satisfying thing was, this mist didn't seem to affect his Qi recovery nor did it hinder his soul sense. Just these two things were enough to render the poisonous effect on his physique nugatory!

He continued to move deeper toward the mysterious circle where the elemental orb should be if it was here.

Abruptly, just when Ace's passed a tree, his fine hairs stand, and he felt goosebumps all over his body because something very powerful has locked on to him, and it was already attacking!

In an instant, Black Blade Swords appeared in his hands as his HD-Qi surged. He crossed the sword before him and used his full power to form a dark barrier with his manifest Qi!

'BANG...'

Something directly charged in his barrier, and its impact was enough to send Ace flying like a broken kite!

Ace quickly used his full power to reduce the impact and stabilize himself. He glanced at the enemy and his eyes narrowed because it wasn't a human nor did it seem a demonic beast.

It was 3-meter tall, green color being and its body was humanoid, and it seemed like it was made of the mire.. It had two emerald gemstones in the place of its eyes. Moreover, it was emitting the aura of Empty River Realm!

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Chapter 212: Speed-Golem

It was 3-meter tall, green color being and its body was humanoid, and it seemed like it was made of the mire. It had two emerald gemstones in the place of its eyes. Moreover, it was emitting the aura of Empty River Realm!

What made Ace dreadful of this being was it can see through his breathless stealth somehow because he was attacked despite utilizing it to full power just now.

Yet, this wasn't the only bizarre thing because Ace didn't sense this being with his soul sense at all even if it was standing right in front of him. He quickly used his Heavenly Sense and could finally feel this strange being's existence.

But his expression turned instantly ugly because this being was giving off the same feeling as emerald mist like it was a part of it, if not for the strange force coursing through it even Heavenly Sense might've rendered useless.

Ace didn't have time to mull over it because with the heavenly sense he could feel there were three more humanoid beings in a 100-meter zone and not less powerful than this one in front of him.

Without hesitation, he used the lightning steps and dash further away from these humanoid beings, however, Ace was flabbergasted the very next moment because that thing was keeping up with him!

One had to know, Ace's lightning step's speed was on par with a peak-Qi river cultivator and this thing was only had empty river cultivation, but it can still keep up with him and the difference seemed very minimum!

'Why the hell is this thing keep chasing me!' Ace's heart palpitated as this was his first time encountering something that can see through all his sneaky skills.

What truly infuriated Ace as he was in the middle of luring everyone here, and he even sent the 'signal' he can't afford to experiment with this thing, and he needed to get rid of it as soon as possible.

'Fuck it!' Ace cursed as he stopped running and turn around.

The black wristband with silver runes shimmered with silver light, and a transparent silver barrier formed around Ace. This was the same sixth-star runic treasure called Silver Shield given to him by Lan as a congratulation gift when he was posing as Finn. It can block three full attacks of a flowing river cultivator.

The humanoid being didn't stop and throw a decisive punch at Ace's silver shield.

'Bang...'

The silver barrier flicker, but it didn't break, not even a scratch was formed. Ace felt elated when he saw this silver shield working fine or if this being's power was as absurd as its speed he didn't know what to do.

Ace didn't wait and used the first move of the 'Dual Swords Mirage Art' 'Hundred Shadows Mirage!'

'Swoosh...swoosh...woosh...'

A Hundred shadow swords instantly appeared and directly landed on the humanoid being.

Ace instantly become thrilled when he saw the hundreds of deep gushes on the monster. He never fought with a Qi river cultivator before, much less with this monster-like being, if he wasn't forced he wasn't planning to do it either.

But the result was very satisfactory because he could gravely wound an empty river cultivation being. Although it took the attack head-on and didn't dodge, Ace still warbled.

However, the very next moment Ace's eyes constricted as the elated expression was nowhere to be seen because he felt this being was somehow absorbing the emerald mist and as a result, its grave wounds healed at a tremendous pace!

Ace suddenly felt the terror of this mysterious forest for the first time. These beings in the inner circle were too dreadful. He suddenly had a second thought about turning back.

At this moment, Ace felt a deadly threat approaching from below, and with no indecision, he leaped back at full speed.

The very next moment thereafter, a five-meter earthen spike appeared where Ace was standing. The humanoid monster's gemstone eyes twinkle mysteriously, it was clearly his doing.

Ace also suddenly notice those gemstone eyes, and the emerald mist also seemed to resonate with those gemstones. His eyes turn sharp and used the Misperception Steps.

It seemed he was going straight toward the humanoid monster, but it was far from true. Even this monster can't see through this mysterious movement skill!

The monster's eyes glisten again as he punched Ace's incoming figure however the moment the punch hit 'Ace', like smoke he evaporated!

'Boom...'

Abruptly, two pitch-black blades pass through the humanoid monster's eyes sockets from behind and the gemstone also breaks!

The moment the gemstones were destroyed, the humanoid being wiggled and like wax turned into a puddle of green mud.

Ace sigh in relief, 'So these gemstones were its weakness!' He was truly ecstatic because he just killed a Qi river realm, being even though it was stupid, he still killed it!

At this moment, the system's emotionless voice rang,

[Host killed an Empty Qi River Realm Speed-Golem. You have earned 10,000 EXP.]

[EXP: 10.96 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

'Speed Golem?!' Ace was astonished because it was the very first-time system took the incentive to name something. Or all the time it would just call demonic beast or human, not even bother to recite their names at all.

'If even you know what this thing is, that this means it was worth it to come here. Now I'm 95% sure there is an elemental orb here!' Ace mused, 'Should I keep going deeper?'

After encountering Speed Golem and killing it and then the system's sudden reveal, he somewhat regained his confidence.

In the end, Ace gritted his teeth and stayed. Besides, this was also an excellent opportunity to farm experience because these Speed Golem had a weakness that Ace can exploit.

However, first, he had to find a way to escape these Speed Golem's detection. His guess was that golem could find him because of the emerald mist.

Since it seemed deeply connected with the mist and even able to heal itself with the emerald mist, this was the only plausible explanation.

'Since this mist can detect my martial Qi, what about soul Qi?'

Ace quickly creates the soul Qi membrane like the HD-Qi around himself. His eyes immediately lit up because the emerald mist started to ignore him, it didn't touch his soul Qi barrier like martial Qi!

'Hahaha, so I just needed to soul Qi barrier.'

Ace was filled with satisfaction since he could find the solution to his problem so quickly. If this method wouldn't work, he was even planning to test the light soul Qi, but it appeared he didn't need to anymore.

Since this concern was out of the way, he used breathless stealth again and blend in surroundings. He was using the heavenly sense this time to find those Speed Golems since soul sense was useless.

Although, using Heavenly Sense and Heavenly Soul Qi also put an immense strain on his physique since his body was still of Heavenly Foundation Cultivator. But it was still bearable because his recovery speed was still fast enough to outmatch the expenditure.

Ace quickly spotted another Speed Golem ten meters away, and this time it really didn't seem to be aware of him. With no hesitation, he sneaked an attack on the back of his head like because and killed it after destroying the gemstone eyes!

[You killed an Empty Qi River Realm Speed-Golem. You have earned 10,000 EXP.]

[EXP: 10.97 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

'Continue!' Ace quickly moved to the next target, which was only a hundred meters away.

He was moving deeper while collecting the EXP, and he wasn't afraid of anyone catching up with him because of these Speed Golems.

Those pursuers will have a much harder time since they didn't know the weakness nor do they have the skills to avoid emerald mist. However, there was also a big chance they would give up after experiencing this dreadful Inner circle.

Besides, Ace was even counting on it because he wanted only the most powerful to pursue him. Only those who can truly 'help' him snatched the Elemental Orb from the guardian if there was any.

After moving ten miles inside the inner circle, he killed twenty-three more Speed Golems of Empty Qi River Stage, and he was now like a professional Speed Golem killer.

[EXP: 11.2 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace was still far away from the 100 million. However, the deeper he goes, the number of Speed Golems increased and this gave him hope.

Suddenly, Ace's eyes constricted when he reached his next target because it was not like Speed Golem.

This new Golem was 5-meter tall and much bulkier than Speed Golem, Its color was also stony, and its body was also humanoid, this one seemed like it was made of solid rocks.

It also didn't have two emerald gemstones in the place of its eyes like Speed Golem and both of its eyes were vacant, there wasn't any visible gem at all.

Furthermore, it was emitting the aura of the Qi River Depth stage of the Qi river realm!

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Chapter 213: Stone Golem

Ace didn't think there would be different kinds of Golems besides Speed Golem, and this one didn't have apparent weakness like Speed Golem.

But there was indefinitely a weakness because with his heavenly sense he can feel the same peculiar Qi as Speed Golem coursing through this Golem as well.

With some more observance, Ace finally found a focal point where this Qi was resonating. It was right at the center of this Golem's chest.

After making sure there wasn't any loophole remains, he dashed toward the Golem. He leaped toward the Golem's chest and stabled his long sword right at the area which was probably the weak spot!

The Black Blade Long Sword pass through the Golem's chest like butter, and Ace suddenly felt something crashing. But he still quickly retracted the long sword and quickly put some distance between Golem.

If this Golem didn't die, it would also prove it has no weakness like Speed Golem and Ace would escape the very next moment.

Suddenly, the sound of stone shattering rang in the area and the five meters tall Golem turn into a pile of rocks the very next moment.

[Host killed a Qi River Depth Realm Stone-Golem]

[Reward: 50,000 EXP]

[EXP: 11.25 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

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'So, this one was a Stone Golem. I have to admit; these golems are too easy to kill once you know their weakness.' Ace thought with a huge grin on his face.

He didn't expect it would be this easy to kill a Qi river depth stage being.

It's just that Ace didn't know he has over powerful Grade-1 weapons like Black Blade Swords or this Stone Golem's body was on par with a 7-star shield and that gemstone inside his chest was like an 8-star ore!

As for the empty river speed golem, its skull was like a 6-star shield, while those two gems were like 7-star ore. Even those peak Qi river cultivators can't deal with it easily because of its speed.

But Ace has absurd skills and treasures he could easily kill these hard-to-deal-with golems, and he even dares to call them weak. If all those people died in those golem hands heard this, they would probably die again out of anger.

Ace move on toward the next golem since he could deal with even powerful Golems easily, he became more fearless. This was a golem opportunity to farm a hundred million EXP, and he won't be missing it.

While Ace was hunting down the golem in the depth of the inner circle, the thief hunting group also reached the boundary of the inner circle.

But these Kings and Queens didn't just charge right inside because everyone knows the inner circle can affect peak Qi river cultivators like them if they made even a tiny mistake.

Hesitance was all over everyone's face. Even though they wanted to end this thief, it didn't mean they were willing to pay with their lives.

"I think we should leave since that thief dares to enter the inner circle he'll die." The Earth King suggests at this moment.

"I'm with Earth King on this. All those seniors in the Qi river core realm probably entered the inner circle already. If they need us, they would've waited for us, right?" The Warren King nodded in agreement.

"But we can't just leave, right?" The Blue Queen frowned. She also has the same thoughts as both Kings.

"You cowards!" The Leap King yell at this moment, "Just stay here if you want, but I'm going!"

"Heh, it's your grudge, there is no need to be angry with us." The Golden King sneered at this moment, "If anyone wants to go they can go, but those staying here can also not leave. We should encampment, what if that thievish bastard came out?"

"Golden King is right. We should encampment here and guard this region." The Luminous King also agreed.

In the end, out of 9 reaming rules, only the Leap King was hellbent on, going, and no one, stop him either. The reaming eight stay to guard the place.

Inside the inner circle,

Three caped figures appeared in front of a puddle of mud, this was the first speed-golem Ace killed.

There was a strange white compass in one of these figures' hands.

"There was a fight here." Marc's calm voice rang at this moment.

"Yes, Sister Leana's myriad rhythm compass is also trembling, which means one fighter was a human." Rina nodded.

"Hmph, it seemed that scoundrel thief finally met misfortune." Leana was thrilled after hearing this because she was very frustrated after not finding that thief even after putting in so much effort.

"Heh, it won't be long before that would fall in our h..."

Before Marc could finish his words, he suddenly felt grave danger from behind.

"You're courting death!"

A gloomy gray barrier instantly formed around the three of them.

'Bang...'

The attacker was naturally a Speed Golem and the very moment it touched the barrier it instantly turned into ashes!

"Your majesty!"

The two sword maids finally come to their senses and instantly cry in alarm.

Marc's face was pale, it seemed he had to use a large amount of Qi to form that barrier.

"I'm fine. What was that thing?" Marc gravely looked at the ashes, "It was only an Empty Qi River stage, but its speed was on par with a peak Qi river cultivator. If I didn't use my art in time, one of us would be gravely injured."

"I think these things are unique demonic beasts of this forest." Rina reckoned with a gloomy face.

"This damn forest is too bizarre!" Leana grumbled.

"Ready for battle there are more coming and call those old men after this battle it would be wise to travel with them in this part!" Marc yelled abruptly.

He had a special method to sense danger, and right now he could tell there were over ten same kinds of beings rushing toward them.

Marc never would've thought he would force in this kind of situation, in this barren place!

While Marc's team was facing a group of speed golem, those in the Qi river core realm were already deep in the inner circle.

These golems didn't pose any threat to them at all, and now and then they would find a puddle of mud or a pile of rocks. They were hundreds of them!

They knew this was the doing of that thief, and they all thought they were very close to capturing him. But they didn't know all these remnants were half a day old, and they were left there on purpose.

The more they would follow these clues, the closer they would be to the Mysterious circle. But all they wanted was to capture him, even if they had their doubts they would simply suppress them and keep following the trails.

Ace was miles away from the group of pursuers, he had killed 110 Speed Golems and 112 Stone Golems while moving toward the mysterious circle.

However, as he was moving deeper in the inner circle, the speed golems were becoming scarcer. Only the Stone Golems were still plenty, and Ace was elated about it nonetheless.

[Host killed a Qi River Depth Realm Stone-Golem]

[Reward: 50,000 EXP]

[EXP: 17.75 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace had just killed a Stone Golem when his heart palpitated, and he sensed a deadly threat approaching. He quickly used the breathless stealth and leap on a tree ten meters away.

A six-meter tall Speed Golem suddenly stopped right beside the pile of stones and looked around with its gemstone eyes.

Ace's heart sank because this was a Qi River Source Stage Speed Golem and its speed was with no doubt faster than his.

Furthermore, this speed golem also seemed to be drawn here because of the commotion Stone Golem made while breaking.

'This is a chance!' Ace's eyes turn cold while he looked at the new Speed Golem.

It can't sense him, and it was still looking around like an idiot, and he would not miss this chance.

With both long and short swords in his hand, Ace flashed toward the Speed Golem like an arrow.

The speed golem also sensed something as it twisted around and looked upward. But alas, it was too late and the moment it turned its head upward, two pointy black edges directly pierce through its eye's sockets.

It didn't even resist and turned into a puddle of mud.

Ace's eyes shone with ecstasy when he killed the Qi river source speed golem in one move.

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Speed-Golem]

[Reward: 100,000 EXP]

[EXP: 17.85 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace nodded in satisfaction when he got 100k all at once. The higher level the being he killed from his cultivation, the more EXP he'll get.

'I'm probably halfway inside the inner circle, I wonder just how many people are following my traces.'
Ace smiled slyly as he moved toward his next target!

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Chapter 214: Regret It Very Soon!

At this moment, in the middle of the inner circle, sounds of fighting were echoing in the area.

"Just where the hell do these things keep coming from?" The Damien King's frustrated voice rang as he killed a Stone Golem with a white long sword.

"Something is wrong with these damn monsters, they're as hard as seven-star treasures." Alvin was also quite frustrated, five Stone golems surrounded him.

"Die!" The red spear in his hand left afterimages, and presently it pierced through five stone golems chests.

After encountering these golems so many times, they also notice they have some weaknesses, and they just have to find and exploit them afterward.

"Stop complaining like girls, quickly clear these things, so we could catch that burglar. He won't be too far now!" Lan scoffed.

At this moment, Ridge has just killed two Stone golems with his broad sword when suddenly sense incoming danger with Martial sense.

"Hmph!" He harrumphed coldly and twisted around while his broad sword shone with a metallic sheen, a powerful aura of a Qi river core cultivator released.

Ridge, swing his broad sword ruthlessly at this moment and the phantom-like Speed golem was instantly cut in half. The four of them finally saw just what this thing was because its speed was as fast as the newly advanced Qi river core cultivator.

"It's the green monster, and it's just at the Qi river source stage!" exclaimed Damien King with shock.

"It seemed more surprises are waiting for us." Ridge's eyes constricted when the half-Green monsters healed since he didn't break those two gemstones.

"Stay down!" Ridge sneered, and two sharp metallic streaks released from his fingers and hit the emerald gemstones in Speed golem's eyes.

To everyone's shock, they didn't break instantly and only left a deep mark!

Ridge's face fell when he saw his metal element Qi didn't manage to break mere gemstones, and outsiders even saw it. His eyes turn cold and looked at the almost healed Speed golem.

Before, he only used twenty percent of his actual power. He again released two rays from his fingers, and this time they had a silver sheen.

The gems instantly turn to dust, and the Speed golem becomes a puddle of mud.

"Let's go!" said Lan and they move further inside the Inner circle.

The three Qi river core cultivators of Nightmare Ghosts and Marc's group that joined them a few hours ago were now moving together.

They were facing the same difficulties as Lan's party, but they were much better since they had three peak stage Qi river cultivators and not normal ones at that!

Yet, their pace was the same as Lan's group because Marc and his two sword maids needed to rest after a while because the Qi replenishing effect inside the inner circle was too slow, and they had to use Qi stones.

Either way, both parties were determined to capture that hateful thief who keep leading them by finger.

While everyone was resenting Ace, he was almost at the edge of the inner circle's other side and was very close to the deadly Mysterious circle.

On his way, he didn't spot new powerful Golems and only encounter more speed golems of the Qi river source stage as he was closing into the mysterious circle.

But Ace wasn't afraid of this at all, and he was elated about it since these Speed Golems were equal to 100k EXP for him.

He killed almost 400 Qi river source Speed Golems, and he no longer hunts stone golems and only hunts Speed golems now.

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Speed-Golem]

[Reward: 100,000 EXP]

[EXP: 58 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace looked at the accumulated EXP with shining eyes, and he managed to collect all these in a single day!

"This was four-hundredth one." Ace mutter with ecstasy.

'If I were alone, I would've hunted down every single Speed golem, but alas, I have to leave some for my 'helpers'.' Ace grinned widely.

If Lan and Marc's group know Ace has deliberately left some Speed golems alive to hinder their pace, they would probably spit blood in anger.

Abruptly, Ace's heart palpitated, and he quickly escaped far away from the spot where he just killed the last speed golem.

The very next moment thereafter, a group of fifty Qi river source speed golems appeared beside the puddle of mud.

Ace silently observed this group with his heavenly sense from twenty meters away.

In the very front of this group was a Speed golem, but its size was only 1.5 meters, and it was much refined not like those other golems look like made of mud. It almost seemed like a human.

Its emerald gemstones were also not just round anymore they were like actual eyes.

'A new golem?' Ace mused, 'But it was like Speed golem and its cultivation was also at river source realm. But why does it appear so different?'

At this moment something astonished happened.

The new Speed golem utters some sharp sounds and those speed golems standing crudely suddenly surround him and form a wall around him. The new Speed Golem vigilantly looked around first before he moved right in the middle of the recently dead speed golem and the puddle of mud slowly absorbed in it!

'This?' Ace was startled, 'This golem can command those speed golems, and he's even absorbing that dead golem for some reason. Just what is this golem?'

Ace suddenly felt the rising aura from that Golem, which was immense in absorbing the remains of speed golem.

'Is this some kind of Golem cultivation method?' this fresh development intrigued Ace.

At this moment, a playful voice buzz in his mind,

"[If the Host didn't kill that Golem while the Host still has the chance, the host will regret it very soon.]"

Ace's brow raised and questioned back, "What do you mean?"

But no one was at home like always.

Ace's brows tightly frowned together, even though he didn't get an explanation, he can't just ignore the warning coming from the system.

Before he was planning to just leave that thing alone after watching it for some time since it can easily control those golems which also means it has some intelligence, and it was not like those mindless golems.

However, now it was impossible for him to just leave.

His eyes turn cold as he looked at that sitting golem surrounded by speed golems wall. 'I will regret it very soon, huh? Well, I might put some more effort into this then.'

Ace looked at the gloomy tree five meters away from those speed golems and like a monkey. No sound was made because there were no leaves on those gloomy trees. This forest was filled with these trees.

Now Ace was only ten meters away from the sitting golem, but he still didn't take any chance and leaped inside the golem wall and making no sound he landed like an agile cat.

Ace was now surrounded by the terrifying aura of these fifty Qi river source speed golems, and it was hard to breathe. Wasting no more time, he sprang toward the sitting Speed golem from behind.

The sitting Speed golem abruptly open its emerald eyes as he sensed life-ending danger from behind.

'Gr...'

Before it could even make a sound, two pitch-black blades were already penetrated its eyes. Emerald liquid was dripping from the black blades' edges.

Those fifty Speed golems instantly sense their leader's death, and they quickly turn around as all their gemstones' eyes shimmered with dangerous lights.

But to their confusion, there was only a larger puddle of green mud with some emerald liquid mix within, nothing else,

No one was there because Ace has already escaped after doing the deed, and he was already five hundred meters away from the group of those berserk Speed golems.

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Speed-Golem's Quasi-Leader]

[Reward: 500,000 EXP]

[EXP: 58.5 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace's eyebrow raised after reading the name and getting half a million of EXP.

'A golem leader, huh? Sighs...' Ace sighed, this was just the inner circle and there were already many dreadful beings here, he wondered what would be inside the mysterious circle and shrugged for a moment.

But he still didn't understand why the system said he would have regretted it very soon if he hasn't taken the chance to kill the Golem leader.

"Hey, I already killed the Quasi-Leader, now can you tell me why it was so important to kill it there and then?" Ace tried his luck again.

This time, however, he got the answer but in the icy voice of the system.

"[When a Golem successfully evolved into a real Golem Leader, it can awaken a special trait that can help it see through anything within fifty meters area around it. Even the host's extremely weak heavenly sense.]

"[The Quasi Leader host just killed was about it evolved, and the host was already in fifty meters area around it and the moment it locked on host it was almost impossible for Host to escape a catastrophe!]"

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Chapter 215: Everyone Out Of Shadows!

"[When a Golem successfully evolved into a real Golem Leader, it can awaken a special trait that can help it see through anything within fifty meters area around it. Even the host's extremely weak heavenly sense.]

"[The Quasi Leader host just killed was about it evolved, and the host was already in fifty meters area around it and the moment it locked on host it was almost impossible for Host to escape a catastrophe!]"

Ace started to sweat profoundly when the system revealed the reason behind the previous warning. He could guess if that golem locked on him, and with fifty powerful golems under its control, it was impossible to escape without using his trump card.

The corner of his lip spasmed when the system called his Heavenly Sense extremely weak, but he didn't retort, since it was true.

Ace vowed to be more careful of unknown things like this in the future and keep a long distance, so he could escape at a moment's notice.

Now that he had killed a Quasi-leader-level Speed Golem, he was only less than ten miles away from the mysterious circle.

To Ace's surprise, he found no more golems in ten miles radius, and he was disappointed about it somewhat, but he didn't forget his actual target and those after him.

After an unknown time, an area shrouded in emerald clouds came into Ace's view.

'Clouds like mist, is that the mysterious circle?' Ace mused.

The cloudy mist was not leaking inside the inner circle and this create an obvious line between the two circles, it was phenomenal just how it was even possible.

It also reminded Ace of the first elemental orb's location, there was also a boundary of mist created by the light orb. But this emerald mist was on a whole other realm than that mist, it was the difference between earth and sky.

Furthermore, this cloudy emerald mist seemed to hinder his soul sense and even his heavenly sense, he can only sense and see around fifty meters in that cloudy mist.

'Well, if even my soul senses were hindered by this mist, I wonder if it would affect those Qi river core cultivators senses.' Ace mused with an ambiguous smile, 'I need them all to enter this mysterious circle, and only a proper motivation can make them!'

Ace took light steps toward the mysterious circle and when his half body was inside, he felt an extremely dangerous feeling from this mist. Only after he used ten times more Soul Qi did he keep himself unharmed.

'Sighs...' Ace sighed heavenly and took back his step and removed his body from the cloudy mist.

'I can keep this soul barrier if I give up on using heavenly sense, but without it, I have to rely on my soul sense, which can't detect those golems. If I used both of them together, I can only maintain them for six hours before I have to stop using one of them and replenish my soul Qi again.'

Ace carefully calculated for a while, since it concerned his absolute safety. Using only soul Qi was a big problem for Ace right now because it put too much strain on his body.

If he was a Heavenly River cultivator, it would be no issue for him to keep up this kind of soul Qi depletion easily, but he wasn't at this moment and this makes things much more complicated.

Furthermore, if the concern was just this cloudy mist, he can easily maintain a balance between recovery and depletion, but sadly I wasn't.

There was probably much more danger there than inner circle and Ace might need to use his soul abilities at that time his estimated six hours might reduce to 5, 3, or even 1 hour.

As for using the martial Qi, he didn't dare to since it can be easily detected by inner circle-level mist, much less this cloudy mist which was over ten times more powerful.

"Hahahaha... I finally found you, thievish bastard!" A peal of hysterical laughter that was filled with vengeance, resentment, abhorrence, and madness rang in the silent inner circle.

Ace turned around nonchalantly since he already knew who this person was, if he wanted to escape he could've done it a few moments ago when he sensed this person's soul signature entering his soul sense range, yet he didn't do so.

Standing twenty meters away from Ace was non-other than the Leap King, who looked like a bagger with tatter clothes and disheveled hair. His aura was extremely weak as if he has been through an enormous battle.

But the hatred in his eyes burn deep and vagarious when he looked at the hooded figure.

"And who might this gentleman with a vile tongue will be?" Ace teased the pitiful Leap King.

Leap King's pale face twisted with intense fury as he might explode at any moment after hearing that question. He wanted to chop this bastard into a million pieces, but he didn't dare to attack.

Although he hated Ace to the core and was enraged at this moment, he still knows about his weak condition. Just reaching this point took all of his efforts, and he was still using the last remaining Qi to keep himself from being affected by the mist here.

If he dared to attack it would be over for him and no one could save him, he didn't want to dig his own grave and then buried himself in it afterward.

Besides, he had a backup!

A vicious glint flash past the Leap King's eyes as he roared, "I'm the one who you robbed everything from!"

"I robbed many people, I'm afraid I don't remember all of them."

Ace was telling the truth, though. But he was also telling a lie since he remembered powerful ones and Leap King was one of them.

"Oh, are you the Cuckold King... I mean his highness, Leap King?" Ace mocked again, he even held back his laughter.

Leap King's eyes instantly turned bloodred as if someone had just stepped on his tail and without even caring about his injuries and 'plan', he sprang toward and as blue water, Qi turned into ten sharp spikes.

'Hmph...'" Ace snored, seeing the incoming mad Leap King with ten water spikes and a sword in his hand.

He used the misperception step.

Leap King saw the thief didn't even move to dodge, and it infuriated him even more, he thought he has been looked down upon.

"Perish!" With ten water spikes and a sword in his hand, he attacked at full force.

But alas, those peak level Qi river realm's attacks only injured emerald mist, and the hooded thief turned into smoke the very next moment.

Since Ace was only a few inches away from the cloudy mist before, Leap King instantly enter the cloudy mist since there was nothing between him and the cloudy mist.

But before Leap King could even fathom what has happened and completely enter the mysterious circle, a dark light flashed past from the back of his neck.

Ace's finger appeared two-meter left from his previous position like nothing has happened.

[Host killed a Complete Qi River Stage Human]

[Reward: 1,500,000 EXP]

[EXP: 60 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

However, this kill notification was proved that everything that happened was as real as day and night.

Ace grinned seeing the notification and snorted coldly thereafter while looking deeply at the inner circle, "Well gentlemen, how about you all come out... your companion seemed to be in a hurry, so I don't think he will join you guys anytime soon."

'Clap, clap, clap...'

The resounding voice of loud clapping rang the silent area.

"I had to admit it, I'm impressed..." Lan's voice full of praise rang at his moment, but there was a hint of mockery in it, "I never thought in my life I would say it to a thief, nevertheless."

Ace saw Lan, Alvin, Ridge, and Damien King walking at the same place where Leap King was standing just a few moments ago. He was very familiar with Pill Flame Organization due but not with these two newcomers.

"If it isn't his highness Craft Elder Lan, it's a real honor to be praised by such a grand figure." Ace patented to be humble.

He has probed many memories of nobles in these past few days, and he can easily mimic anyone he wanted to with his experience in acting and continuously improving his mimicking skills.

It was related to his survival, so he can't slack off in this department even if he wanted to.

The quad silently looked at the infamous Sky Stealer, they can't see through his cultivation since Ace wasn't disguising his Heavenly cultivation base at this moment.

Before anyone in Lan's group make their move, Ace nonchalantly stated with a sarcastic voice.

"Hehe, six gentlemen from Nightmare Ghosts, how about give me some face and introduce yourselves?" Ace's head turned slightly to his right with an amusing smile.

Lan's party face turned ugly when they heard the Nightmare Ghost's name, and they also looked in the direction where Ace's head was.

At this moment, six black-cloaked fingers appeared thirty meters away from Ace!

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Chapter 216: I Need Your Help!

Both groups remain silent after coming out of the shadows. But the tension in the air reached its peak. Everyone wanted to capture the Sky Stealer, who was just standing a few inches away from the mysterious circle.

However, each group will not just watch while the other group took away the thief, he was too valuable to give up upon. Besides, they still didn't know why Ace was just standing there and not escaping.

After chasing him for so long, they knew this thief was very crafty, and he was always one step ahead of them. But now he was just standing right at the corner of a mysterious circle doing nothing but chatting with them, they would be idiots if they didn't find this suspicious.

Lan and Alvin were most vigilant in both groups since they saw John's dreadful end.

That's also when they first found Leap King surrounded by stone golems, they save him, so they could use him to test the waters.

Before, they thought that the thief was plotting something by luring them deeper into the earthen mist forest, and they even guess that he wanted to lead them inside the mysterious circle to get rid of them.

In the end, they decided, if they found the thief in the inner circle, they will use the Leap King to test his strength. But if that thief somehow entered the mysterious circle, they would give up this time because the mysterious circle wasn't a place where anyone could come out alive.

However, to their surprise, when they were about to give up their martial sense pick up a strange Qi, they didn't know what it was, but they could tell it was from a human.

When they pursued it, they abruptly spotted Ace, who was just standing inches away from the mysterious circle. Everyone became elated, and Leap King showed thick killing intent.

Ridge and Damien King wanted to charge like Leap King to quickly capture Ace before he could enter the mysterious circle, but stopped by Alvin and Lan because they still didn't know the real power of that thief since they can't sense his cultivation.

Although many skills can hide one's cultivation, if you're strong enough you can see through them with ease. But no matter how much they probed they can't sense Ace's cultivation, this gave them more reason to test him.

Leap King happily volunteered, they all tell him to lure Ace away from that cloudy mist because when they were using their martial sense they felt a tingle of pain because of the mist behind Ace.

They were afraid he might escape there if they startled him. But in the end, they fail miserably. The Leap King couldn't keep his emotions in check and charge into his death. Even though they didn't see Ace beheading the Leap King, they saw him entering the mysterious circle, which was equal to death.

But they also manage to see Ace's move, even for a brief moment. They concluded he was only at the peak Qi river realm or an early Qi river core; he wasn't stronger than this.

Yet they were given another surprise when Ace called them out before they could make their move and this make them evaluate this thief more treacherous. One had to know they were using powerful treasures to conceal themselves, but this guy was still right through them.

Even the nightmare ghosts weren't able to hide from him. They were also very causation and wanted to fish in trouble water, but now it seemed it was impossible.

Ace looked at everyone with a faint smile on his calm face, this was naturally his doing. He wanted them to find him, and he used the heavenly sense to achieve this.

He knew his heavenly sense was still weak at this moment because of his seal soul cultivation and Qi river core cultivators can easily sense it if he made it too oblivious, and he was right in the end.

They only consider heavenly sense martial energy because they can't properly analyze it because of the emerald mist, or they would be shocked if they could sense this Qi was non-other the soul Qi!

Ace just took the advantage of emerald mist to hide his heavenly sense nature and also stay extremely closed to escape if they didn't play by his rules and things go almost as he wanted.

Well, excluding Leap King he was just an extra, who became his EXP in the end.

Although everyone felt Ace's heavenly sense and come running here, they were also exposed to Ace, as the day. Hiding was impossible in Ace's heavenly sense presence if they didn't have Qi river soul-level concealment treasure!

That's why he could easily counter Lan and Alvin's strategy and easily fish out the nightmare ghosts' group.

He also sensed the same dreadful soul signature that make him change his plan of flame city that day. Surprisingly, it was with the nightmare ghost not with Alvin and Lan, this makes him more inquisitive.

However, Ace didn't have time to mull over these little details. Since everyone was here now, he just had to give them some motivation to enter the mysterious circle.

"So, gentlemen, what this little nobody can do for you?" Ace didn't show his motives right from the start.

Everyone deeply looked at Ace. They wanted to see Ace's face, but it was shrouded in the darkness behind that long hood. Even with their excellent eyesight, they can make nothing out of it and their martial sense was deeply affected by that cloudy mist since Ace was too close to it.

"A nobody?" Black Reaper's sneering voice rang at this moment, "You're quite something for a nobody, don't you think?"

Ace knew this voice since he encountered Black Reaper in the Regal Kingdom.

"I'm merely but a thief, who only know how to steal from people like your highnesses." Ace chuckles.

His eyes scan through the ten people's hands, and they weren't wearing any storage rings. 'Oh, they're quite afraid of me, well it's not like I can blame them.' He smiled bitterly.

Everyone knows how good Ace was in stealing people's storage rings with no one knowing, the Institute test before was the actual proof. They didn't dare to wear storage rings while confronting him, or they might leave with an Owl tattoo.

This was also a kind of silent acknowledgment of Ace's thieving skills and showed just how afraid they were of him.

"Stop that bullshit humble act, surrender, and we won't kill you!" Alvin couldn't take it any more of this and threatened sternly. He was somewhat agitated since there were six Nightmare Ghosts, and they couldn't see through the three of them.

"Hehe, do those gentlemen agree with you?" Ace was sowing discord.

"Like hell we are!" Black Reaper replied in a dominating tone, "You're coming with us, Nightmare Ghosts!"

"Don't push your luck here, Black Reaper, we still have a score to settle!" Alvin said with killing intent.

Black Reaper was astonished because last time he only intercepted Alvin for a while and didn't make things difficult for him. But now Alvin was showing killing intent, 'Did he offend just because of that minor incident?'

But he wasn't someone who'll take threat sitting and also emit strong killing intent before retort, "You want to settle the score with me? With just you? Do you forget the last time you run away, tucking your tail between your legs?"

Alvin was infuriated by Black Reaper's taunt, if it wasn't for Finn, he would never show weakness at that time.

"There is not the time to fight right now." The old man in the Nightmare Ghosts group speaks at this moment, "How about this, we capture him first before deciding who'll take him away?"

"That brat is very cunning, and he's just standing there like a spectator and watching monkey fight. As long as we start fighting he can easily escape and did you all want that?"

"I agreed with Old Man Black." Lan also nodded, he also wanted to take Finn back, but it wasn't the time for it, yet. It also seemed he knew this Old man Black.

"Hahaha, old is wiser. It seemed there is some truth to it." Ace suddenly laughs, "Since you guys decided to capture me first, I'm afraid I can't let you do that."

"Heh, it's either us or the mysterious circle, I don't think it's that hard of a choice, now, is it?" Old man Black sneered mockingly.

He simply thought Ace didn't have the guts to enter the mysterious circle, or he won't be trying to sow discord and then find a chance to escape.

In everyone's eyes, Ace was now a cornered rat.

"Hah, don't give yourselves too much credit, I only waited for you guys here because I need your help," said Ace mysteriously.

"And what makes you think we'll help the likes of you?" Ridge snorted.

"You have a point, but what if..." Ace's voice was laced with temptation, "There was a Soul Inheritance inside the mysterious circle!"

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Chapter 217: I Chose...

"There was a Soul Inheritance inside the mysterious circle!"

Everyone's heart skip a beat when the name of Soul Inheritance sounded.

Dead cultivators left behind inheritances, and they were extremely rare.

Typically, a real inheritance was based on cultivation technique, skills, arts, weapons, and different wealth that the dead cultivator accommodates throughout his entire life cycle.

When a cultivator didn't find someone suitable to pass on their heritage or was injured by someone to the point of death, they create an inheritance ground to pass on their legacies. Inheritance grounds have also a second name, Cultivation Tombs!

However, these inheritance grounds weren't just walk-in-the-park, they were extremely dangerous most of the time and if you by any chance enter an evil cultivator's tomb, there were more traps than treasures.

Inheritance was also had two types, Martial Inheritance, in which one only found techniques and skills related to martial cultivation.

The second one was naturally Soul Inheritance, and it was quite rare whenever one appeared there was always a war followed if the news leaked out.

One could say the rate of soul inheritance appearance was 1 in 1000 compared with martial inheritances.

Below royal-level lands, there weren't many inheritances and throughout history, only five known martial inheritances were found all of them were in the hands of three giants, and all of them have appeared in high-level lands.

As for soul inheritance, they were never one until now, of course.

"Hahaha... do you even know what you're talking about?" Black Reaper jeering voice sounded, he didn't believe Ace like everyone.

They simply thought he was spouting nonsense to find a way out.

"Heh, at least lie about something more believable." Lan chuckles coldly.

"Sighs...I know you all are thinking, why didn't I just take all of it for myself and why I announced it in front of my enemies." Sighed Ace, "There is a valid reason for this, of course, I wonder if you are all willing to listen."

Ace stopped and wait for everyone's answer, he was telling a lie to lure everyone inside the mysterious circle, and soul inheritance was the only motivation strong enough to do this.

He got this idea from an old book from Leap King's treasury, and he also learned about inheritances from it. He just had to show enough proof, so everyone could believe him, even if it was only fifty percent.

Although those people showed no facial reaction, their soul waves become a little chaotic after they heard soul inheritance and this was enough for him to keep going.

Just as he thought, no one spoke, as they were waiting for him to tell them his valid reason.

Ace's lips rose upward, "I'm telling you this because a powerful guardian is protecting the soul inheritance and I can't take it out on my own, and that's why I 'invite' you all here. Only the strongest can reach this place and beyond, and if we help each other we can go beyond. I only need one thing from the soul inheritance, and everything else will be your reward for helping me." Ace started with a voice full of temptation and conviction.

There was silence before Old man Black spoke meaningfully, "This isn't enough for us to believe you."

No one spoke as if they were agreeing with Old man Black. They were all old foxes, and it wasn't easy to trick them.

Ace needed to show them something which can convince them he was telling the truth, and he had something like this as well!

Ace took out an old map and showed it to everyone and said, "This is the map of soul inheritance and I gained it from where I gained my skills and techniques!"

He was showing off the make he stole from Jason when he was in beast calling auction. It was ancient and perfectly matched with his explanation.

As for telling everyone, he got it with his inheritance; it was to stimulate everyone's greed even more because they were after his secrets, and they probably think of it as a powerful inheritance as well.

And just as he expected, everyone's soul waves jumble after seeing the map.

'It's enough!' Ace eye shimmer with ambiguity.

Ace abruptly put the map inside the thief's space again and said, "I don't need to say anymore, see you all. Even if you don't follow me, it just as the old man said 'it either you or the mysterious circle and I chose, heh... mysterious circle.'"

Ace's scornful voice faded with him inside the mysterious circle, he finally entered it!

"W... what?!" Black Reaper exclaimed in a daze.

Everyone was shocked, they were examining the map that they didn't have the time to react, and the thief with the map was gone in the mysterious circle.

This made Ace's claim even more solid since he entered without hesitation. Now everyone had the same thought, 'Is there soul inheritance there?' Just this possibility was enough to make their blood boil.

Even though they were martial cultivators, they were all, powerful and wealthy figures. They can soar through the sky if they even got their hands on one of the soul techniques or soul cultivation art or skill. Or they can even practice it themselves if they can rebuild their foundation.

The thousands of possibilities and every one of them led to glory.

"Old man Black, what's your opinion on the map?" Lan suddenly turned around and looked at the five-foot cloaked figure. He knew this wasn't the time for a fight among themselves, and they had to decide soon.

"It wasn't forged recently, I can at least see that much. But I can't see through that thief's actual motives." Old man Black reply with a hint of uncertainty.

"What do you think, Ridge?" Lan's looked at Beastmaster Ridge.

Beastmaster's had developed a powerful sense after cultivating techniques related to beasts, they can easily discriminate between true and lies, but it wasn't as accurate as Ace's soul senses.

"I can only tell, he was telling the truth about wanting only one specific treasure. His other words were neither lies nor true." Ridge shook his head after saying this.

How could he see past Ace's lies so easily? He can now lie like it was the most natural thing in this world for him, he has unknowingly become too good in it.

However, Ridge's words were enough to stir everyone's emotions again, because if this was the case, then that meant there was soul inheritance there.

"Let's go after him!" Marc's voice filled with desire sounded at this moment.

But it was only heard by three Qi river core cultivators of nightmare ghosts.

"How about we work together for the time being and go after him?" Old man Black spoke with Lan at this moment.

The mysterious circle was just too dangerous and the more people they had the better if the inheritance was guarded by a powerful being they can always use Lan's party as a distraction and sneak inside the inheritance ground quietly.

Lan nodded without hesitation because he had the same thought as Old man Black and said, "Fine, but I still want Sky Stealer in the end and the person you took from the Flame city as well!"

"What person?" Old man, Black, was lost at this moment. They never took anyone from the flame city, they didn't have a man of that caliber here that can infiltrate and escape the flame city defenses, to begin with.

"Don't play ignorant!" Alvin sneered at this moment as he took the note and throw it toward Old man Black.

It was the same note Ace left to slender Nightmare Ghost.

Old man Black confusingly looked at the note and his old face under the cloak turned solemn, "It Wasn't Us, we never left behind these notes. All the black rank assassin is here including me. We never took the mission to abduct anyone, we're assassins, not kidnappers!" He gravely stated.

He could now guess someone wanted to slander them so Pill Flame and Nightmare Ghosts would fight will each other. But who could it be? NO! More importantly, who has this kind of skills to kidnap someone right from the flame city?

Lan frowned, it's not like he never thought it before himself, but there wasn't anyone who could do this kind of thing.

"If you help us find the missing person, I'll consider us even." Said Lan, he knew Old man Black was telling the truth, after all, he knew him for years.

"Fine." Old man Black agreed with no hesitation since he also wanted to find just who was so bold enough to slander their, Nightmare Ghosts Organization reputation.

Just like that temporary alliance between two groups formed. Now they were seven Qi river core cultivators and three peak Qi river cultivators. They all had their motives, but all of them wanted to get their hands on that soul inheritance.

Even if they will face unknown danger in the mysterious circle, they were willing to face that much just for the sake of soul inheritance.

The group of ten people finally stepped inside the mysterious circle, and their world changed instantly!

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Chapter 218: The Mysterious Circle

When Ace entered the cloudy mist, he used a thick Soul Qi barrier just to protect himself from the emerald mist. He only moved ten meters before stopping because he was waiting for the group outside, and he didn't have to wait for long.

Just in five minutes, ten people enter the mysterious circle.

The seven Qi river core cultivators were still looking fine as they were using element Qi to protect themselves, while Marc and his two sword-maids were also using some kind of treasure barrier with element Qi.

"Now what?" the woman in Nightmare Ghosts questioned, her name was Margaret, a black assassin.

"Follow my Qi closely and don't come closer than ten meters, or I'll leave you guys in this mist. Only I can pave the way for you from here." Ace's nonchalant voice sounded at this moment.

He was using the map to control this group even though he didn't know the way at all, but he can easily detect danger, which was much better than them. He needed these guys if he found the elemental orb, or he can always escape from them.

In this mist even, his soul senses were affected much less martial sense without heavenly Qi's support. He was sure they won't backstab him until he served his purpose.

"What are you saying we're comrades now aren't we?" Black Reaper's friendly voice sounded.

Ace sneered, "Just do as I say, or this comrade will leave you here." He would believe a devil than these guys.

Ace started to move while spreading his heavenly sense, so these people with martial sense could easily follow behind.

All of them do as he said, and they keep a ten-meter distance between Ace and them, they could tell this thick emerald mist was dangerous. Because after they walk for half an hour, they no longer could tell where they were going and which way was back.

Ace was their only beacon in this sea of mist, if he left them now they would surely die because after their Qi exhausted and they left with no Qi stones to supply themselves with Qi.

Everyone's vision was only narrowed down to ten meters, including Ace, without heavenly sense even he would lose in this sea of mist. But he can't maintain this kind of soul Qi usage for long before he predicted six hours but now that he doing it he found out he might not even last five hours!

He was on high alert because those golems were like fish in the water here, they can be anywhere and launched an attack. The most problematic was naturally speed golems.

"Boy, we heard you're from low-level lands, is that true?" Lan spoke at this moment since they were now traveling together, he was trying to probe some information out of Ace.

After all, Ace's history was a vast mystery and his path to fame was just as astonishing.

Everyone's ears perked when they heard this question, they all wanted to know this as well. After all, how could someone from that shitty place have this kind of skills?

"Yes, I'm from lands of cities." Ace replied. It wasn't a secret.

"Is that also true, you escaped from the sky-changing border's formation?" The old man, Black, asked which he was interested in the most.

"I was just lucky." Ace said no more about this.

Those who know the actual terror of sky-changing border formation snorted after hearing Ace's answer. They knew just how powerful that formation was, and no one can escape it.

But they didn't probe further since they might piss him off, now wasn't the time to fall out with him, yet.

"For a petty thief, you sure have a lot of attitudes." Leana's unhappy voice sounded, Ace's way of treating everyone, especially Marc, annoyed her.

Everyone's heart sank, hearing Lean's disrespectful words. Even if they were also unhappy with Ace's attitude, they didn't dare to point it out because right now he was the only one who 'know' the way.

"Shut up!" Marc sternly reprimanded Leana. He also wanted to inquire about the treasury but held himself back because there were too many people, and he also didn't want to expose his real identity.

"Old man Black, don't you teach manners to your slaves?" Lan stiffly berated them. He didn't want to risk their lives.

Marc's eyes turn icy with killing intent when he heard Lan's malicious words. But he endured for the sake of greater good and also tightly held two-swords maids' hands which were trembling with rage.

"We apologized, she didn't mean what she said." Old man Black's heart turns cold, he didn't dare to offend this young prince, but since Marc didn't take any action he also won't say anything.

"Heh, don't worry, I don't mind." Ace chuckles softly, "After all, just as she said, I'm only a petty thief."

Everyone sighed in relief hearing Ace's words.

But Lan was also astonishing because he never thought old man Black would apologize so quickly on behalf of a peak Qi river realm girl.

'Just who are these three?' Lan finally noted three Qi river realm juniors. He knew old man Black for years, and he understood old man Black would never apologize just for anyone.

But this wasn't his business and keep his curiosity in check.

After this little talk, no one spoke anymore and silently followed Ace. Even if they were curious, they didn't want a falling out with Ace for some idiotic reason.

After moving for four hours, no one know just how much deep they were in the mysterious circle, but they could not tell right from left anymore.

"I need to rest, you guys can also replenish your Qi." Ace finally stopped as his face was a little pale. He didn't find any danger, but he also didn't find any clue on the elemental orb, he was just moving aimlessly.

Everyone didn't object to this since they were also using a substantial amount of Qi all this time, it wasn't good to completely exhaust it in this kind of place.

But they were all hesitating for some reason.

Ace turn around when he felt their soul Qi waves and was confused, "Why aren't you guys recovering?"

No one answered as if they were embarrassed and finally Damien King spoke on behalf of these big figures, "Umm...it-it's like... this our storage rings...and y-you won't steal them, do you?" He was ashamed of himself.

Ace finally understand, as his lip spasmed, he wanted to laugh out loud.

"So, you guys are afraid of wearing your storage rings because of me?" Ace said in a playful tone, "Don't worry, I won't steal them since you guys going to need them. We're comrades, aren't we, where's the mutual trust between companions?"

Everyone's faces were covered with capes and other treasures, but everyone's eyes twitch, hearing Ace's shameless words. They hide their storage rings because they knew just how thievish he was, but now they required them.

Now they could only trust his words since both parties required one another.

One after another, they took their storage rings from different places of their bodies. But none of them were as creative as Shadow Leader, though.

Lan was hiding his storage ring in a secret pocket in his sleeve, while Damien King took it out from underneath his belt.

Ace saw all their hidden places and couldn't help but chuckles in amusement. He now knows more 'hidden' places where one could hide their storage rings.

Just as Ace promised, he didn't steal anyone's storage ring and focused on his recovery. They all sigh in relief, but they still didn't let their guard down and quickly hide their storage rings after taking what they needed from storage rings.

However, Ace didn't stay too close to them, though he vanished in mist fifty meters away from them, so they could not attack him while he was recovering.

Everyone gives a start, and they thought Ace has escaped, but Ace merely told them his reason for not trusting them and wanted to recover alone, and he'll be back in two hours. They all had no choice since Ace has already vanished, he wasn't asking for their permission, to begin with.

In uneasiness, they all recover while waiting for his return, they finally understood just how helpless they were without the 'guide'.

But Ace kept his promise and came back after recovering his soul Qi, and everyone's clenched hearts were finally at ease.

They all continued their journey, with Ace leading them to who knows where. But they didn't dare offend him and silently followed since it was too late to turn around now.

In Ace's 'guidance' they all travel for who knows how long because they weren't any concept of day and night, but Ace was closely calculating the time because of every four hours' rest.

'Five days pass, but we still didn't encounter a single golem or another living being, are we lost?!' Ace's heart sank to rock bottom!

[Eternal Thief](#)

Chapter 219: A Grave?!

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'Five days pass, but we still didn't encounter a single golem or another living being, are we lost?!' Ace's heart sank to rock bottom because this wasn't a good sign for him.

While Ace was getting desperate, the others were also pessimistic about the situation. Although only five days passed in this gloomy and poisonous environment, it was like five months has passed.

They all showed signs of agitation and even doubt Ace's actual intention as well as the authenticity of the 'treasure map' in Ace's possession. But they still did not take any action because they were still blind in this misty sea and Ace was their only compass.

Every time, when Ace leave to replenish his Qi, they would debate what they should do next; if they still need to keep tailing him or just attacked him and take the map in one fell swoop.

But the elders in the group, Lan and Old man Black, pacifist the youngsters every time they talk about assailing Ace.

These old men have a very different perspective than others in their point of view, Ace was probably testing them and deliberately taking the long way toward the inheritance place.

If they try to snatch the map, they might fail because in these five days they still weren't able to see through Ace's cultivation, and they also didn't discriminate the element Qi he was using or that strange Qi they were following all this time.

Even a blind person would be wary of a person who possesses this many mysteries, this type of person always had one or two methods to preserve their life.

That's why both old men just silently followed and observed for now, if they found even the slightest bit of liability from Ace they would take advantage of that very moment and struck him down!

Ace was well aware of these 'secret discussions' about him and how those two old men supported him. But he wasn't the one who'll be thankful to them, since their motives were also not pure.

So, Ace planned to leave them silently in two days, if he still wasn't able to locate any kind of activity or any beings.

Because from his experience, he knew the elemental orb had a very powerful natural protective system around it, and it wasn't easy to find a loophole in it.

The last time was pure luck since his Soul Qi threads could locate the Light elemental orb's location, but this time it wasn't working because he already tried.

Now he could only speculate two possibilities.

One, there wasn't any elemental orb and there was some other completely different reason for this mist. As for the second, they were trapped in this seemingly infant emerald mist sea, like the gray tree forest. He mostly believed in the latter.

One more day pass in walking haphazardly.

Everyone was going crazy seeing the emerald mist every instant, it was mentally challenging to see only one shade all the time while keeping concentrating on their Qi to protect themselves.

Ace wasn't any better than them, he was the one walking in the most front, and even he was hating the emerald color.

Suddenly, Ace felt something wasn't right because he felt he didn't just step on the flat ground at this moment, he abruptly halted and glanced down.

His heart palpitated the moment, he saw the slope where his foot was, "What the..."

Ace abruptly jump in shock and blemish to his right and landed five meters away.

Everyone following him was bewildered by Ace's sudden action, and they also took their respective fighting stances because they thought it was some kind of enemy attack.

"What happened?" Lan gravely asked as he looked around vigilantly.

"Why don't you guys come and see for yourselves." Ace said with a hint of shock in his voice.

They all slowly walk where Ace just jumped and when they were five-meter close, they finally saw what was there and a chill run down everyone's spine. Because there was a two-square-meter slope in front of them.

"I-I...is that a...grave?" Margaret's stuttering voice sounded as she guessed. She was living in middle-level lands for twenty years now and knew the horrible legends about this forest.

Truth be told, no one believes that someone could dig their own grave and then buried themselves.

But after seeing this slop in the mysterious circle, they all thought of the same legend and started to sweat profoundly.

Even Ace was flabbergasted by this, if he wasn't feeling any kind of danger from the slope he would have run a long time ago.

"I think we should leave this place as soon as possible!" The Damien King's resolve shook as he gravely looked at the slope while thinking about the legend.

"Let's dig this place, it might not be a grave." Suggested old man Black, he wanted to know if the legends were true or this was just a false alarm.

Damien King looked at old man Black in incredulity, his suggestion was denied without any discussion.

'This old man is probably thinking about the treasures if they dig out a fallen expert's grave.' Damien King easily saw through old man Black's hidden connotations.

"So, who wants to dig? Count me out." Ace also see through old man, Black's double meaning suggestion, and he also wanted to confirm if this was the grave of a fallen expert or just a sham of a legend.

But he won't be digging himself no matter what, there might be a hidden danger in that grave or trap, so he back down with no hesitation.

No one show any disapproval since Ace was their 'guide' and if anything happened to him, they all might be the next ones to dig their graves next.

So, now the question was who's going to 'explore'.

In the end, the unlucky one was none other than Damien King because he was lowest in ranks here and even those three Qi river realm juniors had higher status than him.

Damien King gritted his teeth and, with resentment, he took small steps toward the slope. Everyone else distances themselves from 'grave' and 'gravedigger'.

Ace was the furthest away, ready to run at any given moment.

Damien King felt even more unsportsmanlike when he saw everyone leaving him alone and even encouraging him from a distance to dig.

'Bunch of bullies!' Damien King's heart was filled with resentment and bitterness.

He was the glorious king of number one Kingdom of middle-level lands was forced to dig a grave by others if the news got out about it, he would become the laughingstock of entire middle-level lands!

"We're waiting!" Ace's impatient yet encouraging voice rang from afar.

'Even a mere thief dares to order me, now!' Damien King pursed his lips and finally used his element Qi to 'dig'.

The slope instantly blasted away and become flat again, but there wasn't any pit.

Damien King was standing five meters away at this moment, he was escaped after 'digging'.

"Attack again." Lan wasn't satisfied with just this and ordered.

Damien King's face fell, but he merely nodded, since he can't just ignore Lan's order.

'Bang...'

Another loud explosion rang in the area, and this time Damien King used almost full power to blast the earth.

However, this time something appeared, a deep hole in the place where Damien King attacked!

"It was a grave!" Rena's astonished yet fearful voice sounded. Even she didn't expect to witness this kind of cynical thing in this place.

"What are you waiting for? See what's inside!" Black Reaper impatiently ordered Damien King like he was his underling.

"Why me again?" Damien King pursed his lips, he was somehow standing ten meters away from the grave now.

However, someone else was standing right at the mouth of the hole and to everyone's astonishment, this person was none other than the hooded thief, Sky Stealer!

'Did he find something?'

Everyone had this same question ringing in their minds right now.

On the other hand, Ace's heart was pounding wildly as his calm eyes were now filled with ecstasy while looking at the dark hole.

The reason for Ace's sudden excitement and rushing here was the moment Damien King open the 'grave' he felt the dark void quiver for the slightest moment before returning to its dormant state as if nothing has happened.

But Ace knew what this steep moment meant, and it wasn't just his illusion either, it was just like at that time; before he first encountered the light elemental orb!

This was a sign, the sign of an elemental orb confirmed existence in the mysterious circle of earthen mist forest!

Eternal Thief

Chapter 220: Thousand Shadow Mirage

Albeit the pit was pitch black, Ace could see what was inside.

"A skeleton." Lan was already standing on the opposite side of the pit. Since Ace was already standing there unharmed, this gave courage to others.

This pit was five-meter-deep, and it was a grave because inside was an old skeleton and its cloth was also seemed to decay completely. There wasn't any storage ring or any other thing that can be identified.

Ace didn't mind these old men standing too close to him now, they won't dare to act against him anymore especially after seeing this grave and deteriorating skeleton inside.

He was carefully scanning the pit and skeleton inside because the dark void's sudden reaction happened right after the pit was opened.

'There must be something that can lead us to the real core of this forest.' Ace mulled while spreading his heavenly sense deeper inside the pit.

However, at this moment, an unimaginable scene played in front of everyone's terrified eyes.

An emerald liquid started to surface from the pit bottom, and it covered the skeleton like it has a mind of its own. The liquid slowly filled the pit until it was completely level with the ground.

Ace and others were already distanced away from the pit and silently observing the strange phenomena.

"Just what in the world..." Before Black Reaper could complete his sentence, his word instantly stuck between his throat as his eyes stuck wide open.

Everyone has the same reaction because they saw a large hand arising from the pit and the ground also shook violently.

It wasn't the end though, the human size hand grew, and before anyone could react it was already five meters large.

The group was cracking as if something massive wanted to come out.

"Everyone, scatter!" Alvin's desperately roared, but he didn't need to, since any with a brain could tell something was wrong with this grave, and it wasn't a good idea to stay close to it.

Ace was already fifty meters away from the pit and everyone heeled him because if they separate from Ace they would be lost and dead since they can't travel without Ace.

Ace didn't mind them because all his attention was on the being that was emerging from the ground like lava.

The two-meter pit slowly become larger and larger until a forty-meter crater, but the crater wasn't the prime focus of the group at this moment because they were all looking at the huge thirty-meter humanoid giant that has emerged from it!

'A golem?!' Ace was astonished because this thirty-meter giant was exactly like golems, but it didn't have eye sockets, and it was completely made out of emerald liquid.

At this moment the enormous golem released a powerful pressure and everyone's heart sank when they felt this breathtaking pressure.

"It's almost releasing Qi river core realm cultivation pressure despite being a peak Qi river realm monster!" Old man Black gloomily remarked.

"Just what is that thing? Is it made out of that skeleton?" Damien King's face was pale with horror.

"Heh, at least now we know how those monsters in the inner circle came in being." Ridge smile wryly.

No one thought those strange monsters were made out of human remains, and this sent chills in their bodies. This forest was just too damn dangerous and ghastly.

"We don't have time for this." Ace's voice instantly forewarn everyone, "I think that monster is looking at us?"

Everyone looked at the empty face of that giant monster which was rippling with emerald liquid, and it was strangely in their direction.

Ace suddenly felt goosebumps, "From underground!" He yelled as he used his lightning steps to escape the place. He didn't have time for others.

Those with martial sense also felt something wrong, but they were still slower than Ace heavenly sense. But they react in time because of his warning and used their unique escaping method to scatter!

The very next moment thereafter, hundreds of emerald spikes pop up where everyone was just standing. However, this wasn't the end of it, the spikes started to fall from above like rain.

"Kill that thing fast!" Ace cried in alarm because he could feel the spike rain wasn't over and the whole cloudy mist started to react because of something and spike were forming all over the place.

It was impossible to escape because it seemed the entire mysterious circle was being controlled by something and the rain of spikes will start at any moment.

'Just great!' Ace's expression was ugly when he saw no one heed his warning, and they were all busy escaping from the danger that was in front of their eyes, no one seemed to sense the real hidden danger.

Ace quickly turned around while clenching his swords tightly, he knew this golem was the one that controlled this mist or something completely different that was controlling the golem to do its bidding.

But he has to quickly get rid of this golem or there won't be any place to hide from those forming spikes.

He already found the weakness of this golem, it was the pit they found the skeleton!

Although the pit has turned into a crater, for Ace it wasn't impossible to find it because the strange Qi was coming from the exact spot, and it was probably its weakness.

The golem seemed to sense Ace coming towards its weak spot, and a large ripple passed through its face.

Ace instantly felt impending danger from below and above, his stealth didn't seem to work on this golem as well. Just like when he first encountered a golem.

'If this attack landed on me, it would be impossible to escape without grave injuries.' Ace's face sank, but he didn't have any choice because if he didn't stop that large-scale skill it won't be just grave injuries he would receive.

"Sky shield!" Old man Black's hoarse voice rang in the area. It seemed he had come back after hearing Ace's warning cry.

Ace suddenly felt a huge Qi ripple above him and a silver-green shield appeared. 'Is that a skill?'

He didn't have time to mull over it because even if he was safe from above, he wasn't safe from below. There was still a twenty-meter distance from the weak spot and him.

Ace quickly used Camouflage Steps and left afterimages behind.

Thereafter, many spikes began to emerge, but they only penetrate Ace's afterimages, real Ace was nowhere to be found.

This action seemed to enrage the golem as he formed an enormous punch and swing it close to its weak spot.

"No, you don't, Sky shield!" Old man Black roared again and used his skill to block the huge punch quickly.

'Thousand Shadow Mirage!' Ace quickly used the second skill of his cultivation art, Dual Sword Mirage!

Thousands of sword shadows appeared and the torrent of black slashes landed on the large foot of the golem which was covering the pit at this moment.

The emerald liquid instantly cut apart, and a skeleton appeared, it was the same skeleton they found. Hundreds of sword slashes instantly tore apart the skeleton.

There was a very fine thread that was connected with the skeleton skull, and it was also cropped, and the fine-thread instantly escape in-ground the moment it was cut from the skeleton.

Ace didn't see this since his focus was on the giant and the thread was too thin.

In Ace's eyes, the moment he destroyed the skeleton, the huge golem instantly turned into a liquid with nothing to support it. Ace quickly escapes the crater. The liquid splashed onto the group; it filled the crater, forming a small pond.

Ace still bathed in the emerald liquid in the end, it was like water with no odor, but he didn't let it touch his skin with the Qi barrier around him. He sighed in relief because the forming of spikes had stopped the moment he killed the golem.

[Host killed a Complete Qi River Stage Puppet-Golem]

[Reward: 1,500,000 EXP]

[EXP: 61.5 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

'A puppet golem?' Ace was astonished, 'Something was controlling this golem?'

He didn't have time to think about it because old man Black was coming in his way. He had to admit without old man Black, Sky Shield, he might not be able to intercept the Puppet Golem, much less kill it.

"Thank you." He nodded at old man Black.

"Heh, I just save my old skin, no need to thank me." Old Man, Black, chuckles with a hint of lingering fear in his voice.

Old man Black, was an assassin and his danger sense was quite powerful, that's why when he sensed the life-threatening danger looming over him no matter how much distance he creates between him and that monster he knew without killing the monster it was impossible to escape.

That's why he came back and help Ace who was closest to the Golem, and he even witnessed something astonishing like Dual Sword Mirage Art second form!