

## Thief 221

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### Chapter 221: More Graves

"So, where are the rest of you guys?" Ace asked with a hint of fatigue in his voice.

The second skill of Dual Sword Mirage Art took too much strain on his body because of the huge amount of martial Qi necessity. He needed some time to recover now or if a second Puppet Golem materialized, he won't be able to retaliate.

Old Man Black finally remembered about the others and said gravely, "That monster cause too much commotion and because of that strange skill they all scattered in different directions."

"We should wait, someone might come back," said Ace, he required some time to recover, and it would be foolish to move further along.

After the old man, Black showed his worth, Ace knew he required a powerful backup, or he didn't stand a chance in finding the elemental orb alone. That's why he was willing to wait for others.

Old man Black also nodded in agreement, he had the same thought as Ace, this mysterious circle was just too dreadful to tend alone. Although he used little of his real prowess on Puppet Golem, the confrontation was enough to make him feel the danger to end his life.

Just as Ace said, after they wait for some time, someone found their way back. It was none other than Marc and his two sword maids. They were lucky to have that treasure compass, or they might not be able to come back without getting lost.

Marc wasn't feeling any good at this moment because he was the crown prince of an empire was constantly escaping for his life in this kind of place. He only wanted to capture Ace first, but after hearing about the soul inheritance, he changed his mind.

He wanted to use Ace to get the inheritance for himself and then also capture him thereafter in one fell swoop, but he never thought this forest would be so treacherous.

Now, he was trapped here, and he was even regretted coming here because of the temptation of soul inheritance!

However, Marc's eyes shimmer with sharp light as he saw Ace was now alone and the other person beside him was none other than the old man, Black. His sulky mood instantly lighten up as he contemplated this, a hard-to-miss chance.

'If I got the map of soul inheritance, I don't need this thief anymore. Now that we're alone, I can do whatever I want with him, I had enough of his snobbish attitude!' In that instant, Marc struck while he still had the chance.

They all followed Ace for days and after this recent ordeal, Marc deemed Ace as a weakling who was relying on their power to pave the way for himself. Even if Ace had some hidden life-saving measure, Marc didn't think Ace can harm him.

"Get ready." Marc's voice was only loud enough to hear by his two sword maids.

Rina and Leana instantly understood the hidden meaning behind Marc's words, and they also felt it was time to teach that complacent thief a painful lesson. They also had enough of his pomposity.

Marc with Rina and Leana heeling slowly moved toward old man Black since Ace was distant away from him. Marc requires the old man if he wanted to subdue Ace with no complication, and they had to do it quickly before Ace could respond.

It elated old man Black when he saw Marc was fine and even came back, but this elation turned into stupefaction when Marc quickly explain his plan of attacking and subduing Ace.

Truth to be told, old man Black also had the same thoughts as Marc, but he wasn't too sure after witnessing that powerful skill Ace used to defeat the Puppet Golem. He wasn't too sure if he could escape that skill without getting heavily injured.

But Marc's words also hold some credibility because they were here to capture the thief, not to help him, and they just need to do what they were supposed to. They can search for the soul inheritance themselves after snatching the map for Ace.

"What if he fled?" Old man Black told his biggest concern in a serene voice.

Marc was silent for a moment, he also knew if they let the thief escape they would be digging their own grave, literally.

"How about we use the formation barrier to lock the area," Rina suggested.

"Too risky, it would need a minute if he had a method to escape us, then he used it before the formation barrier formed completely." Leana refute.

"No, we can keep him for a minute or two." Marc finds Rina's suggestion feasible, "Rina used the formation barrier when you receive my signal. Let's see how that little thief runs!"

However, when they all turned around to act, they were startled because Ace had disappeared from his position!

"Where did he go?" Marc suddenly had a bad feeling about this.

"I-I don't know...he was here just a moment ago!" Leana's voice was filled with incredulity.

"M...may...maybe he heard us?" Leana spoke with uncertainty.

"That's impossible!" Marc instantly rejected this notion, "We were at least ten meters away from him, and we were secretly using a sound-proof barrier he can't hear us even if he wanted to!"

"Then where did he go?" Old man Black voice was filled with bitterness and terror. If that thief left them, they would be trapped in this place.

"Maybe he'll come back, just like he always does." Rina tried to appease everyone, or she was consoling herself.

"Use the compass!" Marc's voice was bitter, "I just had this bad feeling...he won't be coming back this time!"

Ace was already hundreds of meters away when Marc and his companions realized he was gone.

"Hmph... they think I can't hear them, naïve!" Ace sneered disdainfully.

He was already aware of Marc's arrival, but he just pretended to recover while sneakily using his heavenly sense when no they were busy planning how to attack him.

The moment they were about to act, he simply used his stealth and movement skills and escaped. He didn't want to face old man Black, especially that Qi river realm cultivator, who gave him the chills.

Ace sighed regretfully, he wanted to work together with them, but they just had to ruin everything, and he had to tend alone now.

'Well, I can always use the explosion to draw them toward me once I find the elemental orb position.' Ace mused and nodded, he thought this was the only way to work 'together' with those people.

Now that he was fully recovered, he again moved deeper, or that's why he thought where he was going.

The mysterious circle was with no trees or even grass, the dirt ground was flat, Ace would come across some pebbles now and then.

Albeit he found it very strange, he still kept moving, but after an hour or so he saw an arrow made with fragment Qi stones. He was the one who made it, so others would follow him, but it seemed he was just moving in circles.

'This is the last thing I need right now!' Ace was frustrated, but there wasn't anything he could do, so he calmed himself down and took out a small, exquisite flask.

He gulped a large mouthful before sighing in satisfaction, "This jade wine never gets old no matter how much I drink."

Although this flask was made to contain tones of water yet, Ace has filled it with stolen jade wine because he had three of them. Every time he would feel like it, he would simply drink jade wine like water. It didn't have any effect on him, but he enjoyed the intoxicating taste.

After drinking like an old drunkard, he moved again, but this time he chose a different direction.

He started to draw Qi stones arrows every mile, as for wasting fragment Qi stones, he had millions of them and all of them were useless to him, so it didn't pain him using them as markers in the slightest.

This time he didn't encounter any of his previous left markers, even after moving for a few hours. Which mean he was going somewhere at least.

However, his lightning-like footsteps come to an abrupt halt because fifty meters ahead of him were five graves neatly arranged in a line, just like the one he encountered early in the day!

Ace's expression sank as he used the soul barrier to its fullest with breathless stealth. He had no intention of bothering the dead. He took a detour and circle around the five graves.

To his relief, nothing happened, 'It seemed if I don't dig those graves I'll be fine!' Ace mused.

However, his previous elation didn't last for long because as he kept moving on the same path, he encountered more graves methodically arranged like they were in a cemetery.

Ace didn't even dare to breathe out loud because if those graves each had a puppet golem then he was doomed!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 222: Army Of Golems!**

Ace's movement speed became extremely slow, and the intervals of his soul Qi recovery became more frequent. Where he was required to recover his soul Qi every four hours now he needed to do the same thing every two hours.

It was all because he was using a soul Qi barrier and heavenly sense to the fullest, even while recuperating he still maintained the soul Qi barrier to protect his physique.

'Just how many people died in this damn place?' This question was plunging in his mind for a while now.

Because he had seen hundreds of graves from the moment he entered this cemetery-like zone, and they were still increasing. His heart was heavy as a mountain because if there was a trigger to awake those puppet golems, then he didn't know if he could elude them.

Ace suddenly felt powerful Qi fluctuations way ahead of him.

Since there wasn't any tree or any cave for him to hide, so, he hid behind a grave. He didn't touch anything and just use it to shield himself because something was coming in his way.

Right after a few minutes, Ace saw a group of hundreds of speed golems closely following behind a human-like golem whose size was much smaller.

Ace's eyes instantly narrowed as his brows knitted together because he could guess what that golem was, 'A full-fledged Speed Golem Leader, and it's at the peak of Qi river realm as well!'

Ace's heart palpitated seeing hundreds of golems and the golem leader, he didn't expect to see them here, but he was also excited about something, 'It looks like I'm getting closer to the elemental orb since I encountered a golem leader.'

Ace carefully keep his distance from the Speed Golem Leader, he didn't forget about the system's previous warning.

The speed golem leader's eyes twinkle in emerald light before it moved to the other side with its group of speed golem.

Ace sighed in relief when the golem leader moved on and didn't notice him, 'As long as I'm keeping a fifty-meter distance from it, I'm safe, just like the system said.'

After making sure, that group of golems have left the area, he took the same path where the speed golem came from.

However, Ace has just moved a few miles when he encountered another golems group with a golem leader. He only dodged them by the hair because of his late reaction.

Ace was feeling the anxiety and even felt relieved about being alone because if he was with that group they might've not reacted in time, and they would have already faced hundreds of speed golems or even puppet golems.

This time, Ace didn't move even five hundred meters when he felt incoming danger from behind. This unknown danger was directly coming in his way and at a fast speed.

He quickly used lightning steps to run in the opposite direction before changing his direction again. After making sure he was out of the range of the incoming enemy, he waits for them to leave the area.

Since Ace was hundreds of meters away from this group, he wasn't able to see that group because of his limited vision.

After he encountered many groups of golems with golem leaders, Ace suddenly come to an astonishing conclusion.

'These golems groups were moving in a pattern like they're patrolling just like soldiers. If they're patrolling, then who's controlling them and what are they protecting, the elemental orb?' Ace bemused.

He knew the elemental orbs possessed consciousness, and they all had unique ways of protecting themselves. Seemingly, this elemental orb protecting system depends on these golems and emerald mist.

'By the growing number of golems groups, I'm probably very close to the elemental orb, or close enough to stumble upon something related to it.'

Ace calm his excited heart and go toward the last golem group, which seemed to go back from where they came from.

'If I just had my normal heavenly sense and vision.' Ace cursed this fact extremely annoyed him, he can only see around fifty meters which was no way enough to observe a golem leader.

'Hmm? Where did they go?' Ace suddenly halted in bewilderment because the group of golems he has been following has suddenly vanished from his soul sense.

Although his senses were limited, the Qi fluctuations emitting from a Golem Leader were enough for Ace to followed them for hundreds of meters distance.

But this sudden disappearance of an entire group of hundreds of golems was too suspicious, no matter how much he thought about it.

However, to his shock, the very next moment after the group of golems vanished a new Qi fluctuation emerge from the very same area, and he could tell it was a new group of golems with a new golem leader leading them.

Ace quickly hide far to let that group of golems leave since they were coming in his direction. After confirming no golems were coming or going in his way, he slipped toward the same area where golems were vanished and appeared abruptly.

Ace cover a Five-hundred-meter distance in minutes and finally appeared close to the area where the group of golems vanished, and a new one appeared a few minutes ago.

No matter how much he probed with the heavenly sense, he saw or felt nothing but emerald mist.

Ace suddenly strengthen his resolve and move ahead toward the area where those golems vanished.

For a few hundred meters he felt nothing, but after trading for a mile he suddenly walked out of the emerald mist sea and enter a new world!

Yes, a new world!

Those were the thought that came to Ace's mind when he unexpectedly walked out of the emerald mist. He never imagined there was something like at the end of the emerald mist sea.

In front of his eyes was a spacious dome-like vacuity, there wasn't any emerald mist inside this enormous dome. For some mysterious reason, the emerald mist was like the wall and roof of this enormous dome.

This enormous dome was lit by some kind of gentle green light.

But Ace didn't have time to uncover this mystery because his eyes were widely opened and on the verge of popping out of their sockets as he looked right at the center of this dome.

Right in the center of this dome was a towering volcano that was releasing none other than emerald mist as thick as clouds from its enormous maw. The cloudy mist was mixing right into the enormous dome but none of it spread inside the dome as if it has been controlled by something.

But it wasn't the end of Ace's befuddlement because surrounding this huge volcano of emerald mist were armies of golems!

Yes, armies of golems, like in thousands!

Ace's heart palpitated as his face turn ashen, he wanted to turn back and run like hell because there were thousands of golems and there was even a fifteen-meter tall white stone golem that he never encountered outside before and all of them were emitting the dreadful aura of Qi river core realm!

All of these golems were tightly surrounding the volcano in neatly arranged rows.

This grand army was probably enough to trample upon entire high-level lands, nothing can stop it except Qi Soul realm old monsters!

Ace turned around to escape this place as soon as possible, when,

[System has detected [Nature's Earth Elemental Orb] in the area around the host!]

[Did the host want to mark the Earth Elemental Orb?]

[TP Required: 10,000 TP]

[Confirm?]

Ace clench his fists tightly and stopped himself from running after he heard the system's notification and saw the new option that hasn't appeared last time when he first time encounter the light elemental orb.

He took a deep breath and calm his never; he was at least two miles away from that volcano and a mile away from the golem army, there wasn't anything between them besides some large stones.

But he can't stay in this place for too long because he just saw a 'small' group of hundreds of golems led by a golem leader enter the dome and a new group of golem led by a golem leader exit the mist from five hundred meters away from his position.

The old group which just enter the dome quickly took the position which the old group left empty. It was like these groups took turns to patrol the mysterious circle. As for who gave them these orders, it was unknown.

Ace quickly hide behind a five-meter-wide stone, which was just a hundred meters away from his position.

After making sure there wasn't any new group coming in his way or exiting the mist sea, he felt a little better, but the pressure of surrounding by an enormous army of monsters wasn't something that can be lifted.

"Confirm." With a thought, Ace select confirm in the system's panel.

Ace would see the position and then decide if he should leave or try his luck while stealing the Earth Orb like he stole the light orb last time!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 223: Eradicating A Golem Group!**

[System has detected [Nature's Earth Elemental Orb] in the area around the host!]

[Did the host want to mark the Earth Elemental Orb?]

[TP Required: 10,000 TP]

[Confirm?]

"Confirm."

[Thief Point(s): 2,289,400]

The moment TP deducted, Ace, look around; searching for the system's marker.

Suddenly, a transparent dark arrow appeared on the corner of Ace's eye which was pointing out in a specific direction.

'It's like a compass needle?' The system's marker fascinated Ace, and he knew no one could see it except him.

But his expression fell the moment he saw the transparent arrow was pointing slightly upward, it was straight toward the towering volcano's maw!

'Sigh... I had the feeling it would be in that place.' Ace sighed helplessly.

It's not like he was afraid of the volcano, he was terrified of that immense army between him and the volcano.

If he dared to go too close to those golems, with so many golem leaders and those Qi river core white stone golems present, it would be over for him the moment even one of those golem leaders locked on him.

If Ace wanted to cross the army of golems, he needed to distract thousands of golems at once, then he'll get the gap in the golem army he required to cross.

But it also had a tremendous risk because the moment he creates some kind of disturbance he might startle the Earth Orb, and then he might have to face an orb guardian!

With his previous encounter with Light Orb Guardian, he nearly lost his life, and this left a deep fear of orb guardian in his heart. All orb guardians have their unique abilities, and earth orb's guardian would not be any different.

'What to do...' Ace was deeply frustrated, and he even felt a real headache just by thinking of how he can cross that army.

Just like that, hours passed, but Ace didn't move from his position. Although he didn't find any way to cross that army, he noticed the pattern of the golems group moving in and out.

In every thirty minutes, a group of golems would enter this dome, and then a new group would replace them. No matter how many times Ace counted, the time seemed to not change even for a second.

These golems groups move in a circle with the clockwise format, and they cover the allocated area of the mysterious circle.

Ace never saw two groups enter, or two groups leave at one time, and he knew the key to break their defensive line was moving two or more groups at the same time.

He even thought of a suicidal method to do this, but he first used a more of a less suicidal method.

"Hey system, give me some idea, I know you had a way. TP isn't a problem, just give me some kind of hint!" Ace tried to bribe the system to help him.

He considered the system omniscient and was hopeful it could help him this time around, but to his disappointment, no one was at home like always.

One day passed and Ace still didn't take any action because every time he wanted to do something his rationality screamed in his mind that it was too dangerous, what if he alert the orb guardian?

He even thought of going back and then coming back when he would become stronger, but after coming so close, he didn't want to give up either. He just hid there and watch those golems entering and going out, this routine didn't change no matter what happened.

Another week passed while doing nothing but watching in exasperation, Ace still do nothing he just didn't dare to take a step forward either he wanted to leave.

Today, however, Ace saw a group of golems starts to move in his direction and he instantly knew what this mean. He has been watching them for a week now and knew it was just a matter of time before the golems groups in his direction would interchange. And it seemed today was the day.



Ace has already selected the next position where he was going to hide. He hurriedly toward a large stone two hundred meters away.

Just as he predicted, a few minutes after, a group of speed golems led by a Speed Golem Leader entered the dome.

One thing Ace noticed was he can't seem to investigate the mist wall with his heavenly sense anymore for some reason. Simply put, he can't sense anyone coming out from the mist sea like it was some kind of barrier.

This time interchanging this speed golem's group was a stone golem group which was being led by a much smaller and human version of the earth golem leader.

'Should I do it?' Ace hesitate as he looked at the golem groups pass by each other. He had a much 'safe' and better plan after watching these groups of golems going in and out for a week.

Ace knew he had to decide at some point, he can't just keep standing here and do nothing while just watching these damn golems like an idiot.

Ace close his eyes and took a deep breath as he circulated Heavenly Darkness Qi to calm himself. The next moment he opened his eyes a dark current flashed past them, they were as cold as ice and completely tranquil.

After the stone golem group entered the emerald mist sea Ace sneakily followed them as he maintained a hundred-meter distance, he also made sure that the speed golems group was far away when he moved.

Just when the stone golem group crossed the mist wall, Ace instantly loses track of them, but this wasn't last long as he instantly tracked them down when he crossed the mist wall and enter the emerald mist sea again.

He heeled the stone golems group for a few miles, after making sure they were far enough two pitch-black swords appeared in Ace's hands. With stern eyes, he closed the distance between him and the stone golems group.

When he was just fifty meters away, he instantly activate his lightning steps and like a lightning bolt directly moved toward Stone Golem Leader which was in the very front of the stone golems group!

The moment Ace entered the fifty meters radius of stone golem leader, the Golem Leader instantly sense something coming in its way at a quick speed right ahead of him.

Stone Golems didn't have high speed like speed golems, and their leader was not any different from them as well. Stone Golems' prowess was in their defense.

The golem leader reacted the moment it sensed the incoming enemy, but its reaction was also slow, and before it could command the stone golems behind it or use any skill, a silhouette appeared like a phantom.

Two dark lights struck like black lightning at the very moment the phantom-like silhouette appeared and pierce through the Stone golem leader's chest!

Emerald liquid flowed from the pierced chest and the next moment the stone golem leader turned into a stone pile!

The group of stone golems didn't even know how their leader died, and their arranged formation instantly turned chaotic when there wasn't any stone golem leader to command them. They turned into their dumb self!

However, Ace didn't stop and started killing those golems, which were sitting ducks without a golem leader and free EXP. These golems can't see through Ace's breathless stealth, and he was too familiar with how they react because of his encounter with them in the inner circle.

In ten minutes, more than a hundred stone golems turned into a pile of stones! Even Ace was astonished at his killing speed. He even thought he was dreaming.

[Host killed a Complete Qi River Stage Stone-Golem Leader]

[Reward: 1,500,000 EXP]

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Stone Golem]

[Reward: 100,000 EXP]

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Stone Golem]

[Reward: 100,000 EXP]

[Host killed a Qi River Source Realm Stone Golem]

[Reward: 100,000 EXP]

[Host killed a Flowing Qi River Realm Stone Golem]

[Reward: 500,000 EXP]

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[EXP: 78.2 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb: 0/1]

But when he saw the extensive list of killing notifications, he finally believed he wasn't dreaming, and he killed more than a hundred golems.

For two days, Ace was planning to eradicate a golem group to see what kind of change the golem army would go through because of this. He chose stone golems because of their slow reaction and overall speed.

Ace knew if he stands a chance to eradicate any golem group, then it had to be a stone golems group, and it seemed he made the right choice.

Not only did he manage to kill a speed golem leader instantly, he even obliterated their entire group after they lose their leader.

With a huge grin on his face, he quickly went back inside the doom to observe any kind of change because of his recent action.

But to his surprise, nothing out of the blue happened as he imagined!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 224: A Chance!**

Ace quickly came back and expect a large movement from the golem army, but to his stupefaction, those golems were remained undisturbed.

Truth to be told, he expected those golems or whatever controlling them would send some kind of scouts to investigate the stone golem leader's death, but it appeared that golem leader was just irrelevant. He even bothered to destroy the evidence to hinder the enemy.

Frustrated, Ace quietly returned to his new hiding spot and waited for the cycle of one week to complete. Now his only hope was the proprietor of this golem army might react when the group did not come back when it supposed it.

But Ace didn't sit idly this week, he eliminated more stone golems groups to make the final disturbance much bigger and complete his remaining EXP while he's at it.

In this entire week, he only got the chance to eliminate five more stone golem groups, numbers exceeding 700. He didn't dare to go after speed golems, he knew they were out of his league with that speed golem leader present.

[EXP: 100 Million/100 Million]

[Elemental Orb:0/1]

Ace looked at the complete hundred million with elation, he managed to complete a hundred million on the fourth stone golems group.

But to his distress and disappointment, he won't get any more EXP after killing golems anymore after his initial target of 100M was complete nor the EXP accumulated like before in the Extra EXP bar.

After questioning about it from the system, he finally knows the Extra EXP wasn't available anymore after he opened the hidden part of the Heavenly Crystal Body Technique of Heaven Stealer Cultivation Technique!

Albeit his heart bleed after hearing this, he could do nothing but condemned the system for being black-hearted and evil.

Today, Ace was eagerly awaiting to see what going to happen because the time of the golem group interchange was drawing near.

As just he was becoming agitated, a group of speed golems move, led by the speed golem leader, toward the same position where the interchange happened last week.

Ace was standing just a few meters away from the mist wall, ready to escape at any given moment if anything goes awry.

The new Speed Golems group naturally move until they were five hundred meters away from the mist wall. The speed golem leader abruptly stopped, and those golems followed him as well.

They keep standing there like statues when Speed Golem Leader emerald eyes twinkle mysteriously.

Ace scrutinized this reaction.

However, nothing like what Ace imagine happened because the speed golem leader simply turned around to lead back the speed golem group back to its former position. It didn't leave for patrol!

'Damn it all!' Ace cursed after seeing this unexpected reaction and sulked.

But he didn't give up, 'I don't believe you won't do anything after more golem groups gone missing!' He waited patiently.

Two-day later, the same thing happened again when the stone golem group won't show up and the speed golem group had to return.

This week, this same thing happened a total of five times when a golem group didn't show up and the golems didn't leave for the patrol because of this phenomenon.

Again, the day come when Ace first slaughter the first group two weeks ago and Ace was eagerly waiting to see what going to happen now. He was deeply looking at those golems standing there like sculptures.

They just won't break the army formation around the volcano no matter what!

The moment of truth finally arrived, this time no golem group moved toward the mist wall. Ace was extremely vexed seeing this, and he was at the limit of his patient. He was on the verge of giving up and returning if nothing happened today.

Ace thought he might as well complete his mission first and then find another elemental orb to break through in the Qi river realm before coming back with stronger skills.

Since he now knows where the earth orb was, he can always retrieve it back later. But the feeling of coming so close to the elemental orb and then didn't able to retrieve it was nasty.

It was another wake-up call for Ace; just how weak and insignificant his prowess was in front of these mysterious beings.

"Gawwwrrrrr..."

Suddenly, Ace heard a howled that almost shake his soul core!

'A soul cultivator being?!' Ace quickly looked in the direction from where this howl came from, and he was shocked because it was none other than one of the white stone golem leaders, who never made a move before!

He never would have thought those white stone golems were soul cultivation beings and their leaders were all in the Soul river core realm.

One can easily tell just how powerful these soul river core golems were, just now this howl was some kind of command, not a soul attack. But Ace still got affected by it, despite standing a mile away from the Soul Golem.

He didn't dare to imagine what might've happened if that soul golem attacked him.

'This is not my cup of tea.' Ace thought bitterly.

That soul golems' army changed everything now, he can't afford to tangle with Soul River Core beings no matter how daring he was.

Even a peak Qi river golem leader can detect him easily if he was close enough, much less that soul golems' army. The weakest of them possess peak Soul river stage cultivation!

Ace knew the reaction he was eagerly waiting for was finally here. He was planning to leave early before it was too late.

But he still stood there to observe for a moment what was going to happen before leaving. He waited for this for two weeks, he will not leave just like that.

Ace's eyes constricted while his brows knitted tightly, he saw after the soul golem leader howl; hundreds of stone golem leaders and hundreds of speed golems leader followed by thousands of golems moved toward that soul golem leader!

This opened a sizeable gap in their seal-tight formation!

'A chance!' His heart raced as his blood pumped like crazy in his veins. He knew this was one in a million chance he was waiting for all this time.

He might not get this chance again easily, after clenching his teeth, Ace moved!

Not outside the mist wall, Ace moved toward the gap while using his lightning step and breathless stealth at full capacity!

The soul golems regiment was just three hundred meters away right from the gap, the closest stone golem leader was five hundred meters away toward the left of the gap.

Ace moved with extreme perception and kept as much distance as he could from soul golems. After half a minute, Ace finally enters the gap right between thousands of golems!

With a wildly beating heart, his bloodshot eyes were right at the end of the golem army. Nothing was between him and the volcano anymore.

To his ecstasy, those golems seemed too busy while moving that they didn't notice him taking the advantage of the sudden gap. He knew he was close to achieving his goal and no one could stop him.

He was even prepared to use the invisible bead if anything goes wrong, he won't hesitate to use it.

But nothing happened, and he easily crossed the golem army!

Ace didn't dare to stop and look behind, he continued to climb toward the maw of the steaming volcano.

But his heart palpitated when he was not even halfway toward the volcano mouth, and he quickly changed the direction. The volcano was thousands of meters tall and wide, so Ace has quite a big surface to move around.

Ace looked in the direction where he was moving and was shocked by the sight.

Thousands of golems appeared from the steaming maw of the volcano and, followed by golem leaders, they descended the volcano right toward the opened gap.

The new batch of golems quickly close the gap left by the old golems. As for those golems who made that gap; followed a soul golem leader and his group of soul golems closely and leave the dome wall!

They were going to hunt down the person who killed their brothers.

All this ordeal happened within a few minutes.

Ace was sweating profoundly as he looked at the large army leaving the dome and then look at the army facing the other side with no gap to escape from.

He was now really like a rat in a cage, He can't go back now even if he wanted to, those golems would tear him into pieces if they found out an intruder stepping into their sacred land.

All he can do now was to move forward. But after witnessing the appearance of thousands of golems, he was even more fearful of going up.

What if the entire volcano was filled with golems? There would be no place left for him to cry then.

'There might be some kind of limit this volcano could produce the golems, right? Or why they took two weeks to send reinforcements, right?'

Ace cheered himself just to calm down and with shaking breath and flickering determined moved toward the steaming volcano mouth!

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 225: Inside The Volcano!**

The new batch of golems quickly close the gap left by the old golems. As for those golems who made that gap; followed a soul golem leader and his group of soul golems closely and leave the dome wall!

Ace was sweating profoundly while looking at the large army leaving the sphere dome and then looked at the army facing the other side with no gap to escape from anymore.

He was now really like a rat in a cage, He can't go back now even if he wanted to, those golems would tear him into pieces if they found out an intruder stepping into their sacred land without them noticing it.

Now, Ace's only option was to move forward without looking back. But after witnessing the appearance of thousands of golems, he was even more fearful of climbing toward the volcano crater.

What if the entire volcano was filled with golems? There would be no place left for him to cry then, and all of his escape routes were also blocked now.

'There might be some kind of limit this volcano could produce the golems, right? Or why they took two weeks to send reinforcements, right?'

Ace cheered himself just to calm down and with shaking breath and flickering determined moved toward the steaming volcano mouth!

On top of the vaporous volcano, on the very edge of the volcano's crater, Ace's leery eyes were trying to pierce through the emerald smoke which was as thick as the clouds. He sensed nothing with his soul sense nor with his heavenly sense.

But one thing that Ace noticed was that he doesn't feel heat despite standing hundreds of meters away from an active volcano like it was supposed to. Furthermore, the emerald smoke also doesn't emit any kind of heat and just like the emerald mist sea in the earthen mist forest, it felt completely harmless.

However, Ace would be a fool to move or touch that steam with no worry whatsoever because just moments ago, thousands of golems march right through this volcano's throat!

Aces glance at the black marker on the corner of his left eye and just as he thought it was pointing right down, which mean right inside the freaking volcano!

One last time, Ace looked behind him; the large golem army seemed like ants from this height, and he could view the spacious spherical dome completely.

Suddenly, his lips rose in a faint devious grin, 'The view is fantastic.'

With no further ado, Ace stepped toward the steaming maw while activating his heavenly sense to the fullest.

At the very edge of the volcano's mouth, Ace's hand moves right toward the emerald steam. He wanted to make sure his defensive Qi was enough to handle the source of emerald mist or not.

Just as he touched the cloudy smoke, Ace felt a warm sensation like a summer breeze, he doesn't feel this kind of sensation from emerald mist while traveling all that time.

But what mattered for Ace was it still didn't harm him, which was a good starting sign. Although this smoke was deemed harmless to him, the real challenge was to climb down the volcano's throat!

Even if Ace's heavenly sense was not enough to help him see the bottom of the volcano's throat, he could still see it was completely flat, and he can't just jump down from this height when he didn't even know what was at the bottom.

'Wait? How did those golems climb up?'

Ace quickly moved toward the position where those golems appeared and when he reached there, he was astonished because he 'saw' a three-meter wide slide footing like spiral stairs going right down in the volcano's throat!

Ace took a deep breath and carefully stepped on the slide footing. His figure was completely submerged in the emerald smoke.

As he imagined before, the volcano's throat wasn't filled with golems as he goes deeper down, all there was the thick emerald smoke.

Ace was shocked because the spiral slide was much deeper than he thought because he estimated that he had to climb down a kilometer and still extend, but the bottom was still nowhere to be seen.

This made Ace even more nervous, his soul Qi was limited, and he knew if he found nothing in three hours his soul Qi would be depleted completely and at that time, his presence would be out in the open.

Once that happen, he would be assaulted by the golem army at the very moment or even more dangerous the Orb Guardian which was probably somewhere inside the volcano!

'I would leave in one and a half hours if I found nothing!' Ace mused, it was the matter of his life and death after all.

Ace used the lightning steps since he didn't sense any danger, and it will save him more time.

With lightning steps, it still took him almost twenty meters to reach something noteworthy. He was probably three or four kilometers deep inside the volcano at this moment!

At the very end of the spiral slid, the bottom of the volcano was filled with emerald liquid, and it was just like the liquid from which the puppet golem was created!

But Ace didn't even glance at the emerald liquid because his eyes were glued in the very center of this steaming emerald pool.

In the very center was a two-meter green crystallize altar, there was a transparent octagon crystal layer covering it like some glass case. And hovering peacefully right above the altar was a fist-size crystalloid emerald orb!

Ace's breath was ragged as he looked at the emerald orb behind the octagon crystal layer with intense and naked desire in his eyes. His heart was threatening to jump out from his chest because of sheer ecstasy while darting at the crystal altar!

The system's marker was also pointing right on top of that emerald orb and flashing intensely as if it found its designated target, and the system's emotionless voice just confirmed it the very next moment thereafter.

[Congratulation host on finding the Nature's Earth Elemental Orb!]

[Eternal Thief](#)

### **Chapter 226: Earth Elemental Orb**

[Congratulation host on finding the Nature's Earth Elemental Orb!]

Ace was jolted awake from his stupor after hearing the system's static voice.

'Hahaha... I finally found the damn thing!' Ace wanted to laugh out loud but control himself since he won't be able to handle the consequences.



Truth to be told, Ace thought the elemental orb would be in some kind of protective place like the light orb, not like the earth orb which was hovering right in the open. There wasn't any Orb Guardian protecting it at all.

Furthermore, it also didn't seem to sense his presence like the light orb did the moment he stepped into its territory.

'Is it because of my soul Qi?' Ace reckoned. He was right and wrong at the same time.

Right about; it was all because of his Heavenly Soul Qi, he could escape the emerald mist detection all this time and even be able to reach this point. But he was thoroughly wrong about; just any soul cultivator could do the same as him.

Because Ace soul Qi wasn't worldly soul Qi. The last time Ace was only screwed because he didn't think of using the soul Qi and his control on his soul Qi was also insufficient because of the limitation of his martial cultivation at that time!

As for in Earthen Mist Forest, any other soul cultivator might be able to escape the inner circle's mist but the moment s/he stepped inside the mysterious circle's mist, their advantage will be over the very moment.

If and I mean an enormous 'IF' somehow managed to fight those patrolling golem groups and then the soul golem leader coming after them and after fighting all the golem army... however the moment someone killed the soul golem this action will instantly startle the earth orb and then the actual nightmare will begin!

Ace could only pull this off because his Heavenly Soul Qi was much more powerful than he thought and if he still had the yellow soul core, his journey would end the moment he touched the volcano's emerald steam!

As for the reason why he could get so close to the earth orb, it was all because the elemental orbs didn't have actual power or any kind of senses of their own. They might awake consciousness and exist for eons, but an elemental orb can never power itself up.

Simply put, the moment someone could deal with all the unique obstacles created by the elemental orb, the orb itself was as harmless as a child. This was the rule of heaven, everything has its pros and cons and nothing was perfect.

Even if you're a darling of nature like the Elemental Orbs, in the eyes of unbiased heaven, you're just like a speck of dust!

'That transparent barrier.' Now that Ace was calm, he didn't take any kind of action immediately, afraid, he might regret it after coming this far.

Ace closely observed the green crystallize altar, especially the transparent octagon crystal layer covering it like some formation barrier. He knew that layer was the last defense he had to go through to get the earth orb.

'Even if my soul threads able to pass thought that crystal barrier the moment I took the elemental orb the guardian was going instantly awake, and that golem army might... not the army will go on a rampage!'

Ace's expression was stiff when he thought about the consequences of stealing the earth orb when there was an enormous army of powerful golems just standing a couple of miles away from him and there was still an unawakened orb guardian!

The orb guardian's life was closely related to the elemental orb, and if won't going to just sit tight while someone takes it away.

No matter what Ace does, even if he used the last invisible bead he can only escape for a minute and the moment his invisibility effect ended, his life would also be forfeited!

Just thinking about a berserk orb guardian fighting for its life and hundreds of golem leaders, especially those soul golem leaders pouncing on him like hungry wolves, gave Ace the chills.

Just reaching the volcano's surface will probably take fifteen minutes at full speed and this much time was enough for the orb guardian to deal with Ace a hundred times over or whatever going to appear from the bottom of the volcano, he doesn't forget about the sudden appearance of thousands of golems!

'I can only use that method now!' A wry smile appeared on Ace's face when thought about this 'method' of his.

'Well, I have to do this eventually, might as well do it sooner than later.' An assertive glint flash past his eyes as he made his final decision!

Ace inhale deeply before his impassive voice transmitted in his mind, "System how long it's going to take to absorb the earth orb?"

Yes, he was going to trigger his Heavenly Punishment!

This was the only method he could think of to successfully leave this place in one piece. He wanted to take advantage of heavenly punishment to kill those golems and orb guardians, just like last time!

The only difference was he wasn't on the verge of death this time around and his soul wasn't damaged either.

It's not like he could just leave with that enormous army blocking his way, right? While activating the heavenly punishment he at least had a fighting chance, and he was also prepared this time, well, probably.

"[After the Earth Elemental Orb enter the thief's space, the system needs three minutes to complete the absorption process.]"

'Too long!' Ace's expression sank because three minutes was enough to screw him over!

But right at this moment, a playful voice sounded right after the system's emotionless voice,

"[But if the host wants to create a 'Martial Qi Sea' instead of a 'Martial Qi River' the Heavenly Turbulence can instantly be activated. However, the host has to complete some conditions first!]"

Unbeknown to Ace, the dark void slightly trembled for a microsecond for some unknown reason after he heard this new term, 'Martial Qi Sea'!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 227: Martial Qi Sea**

"[But if the host wants to create a 'Martial Qi Sea' instead of a 'Martial Qi River' the Heavenly Turbulence can instantly be activated. However, the host has to complete some conditions first!]"

"What Martial Qi Sea and Martial Qi River?" Ace was gobsmacked since he never heard about these terms.

"[1000TP]"

"Fine!" Ace was vexed.

[Thief Point(s): 2,288,400]

"[The Martial Qi River refers to the river, one formed in Qi River Realm. Everyone had a different size of river exclusively depending on the foundation slates one create in Qi Foundation Building Realm.]

"[Just like the different type of foundation slates, name [Ruin (5-Slates), Cracked (6-Slates), Flawed (7-Slates), Incomplete (8-Slates), Complete (9-Slates)]. The martial river also had different classifications name, [Small (Formed with 5-Slates), Medium (Formed with 6-Slates), Large (Formed with 7-Slates), Ordinary (Formed with 8-Slates), Extraordinary (Formed with 9-Slates)].]

"[However, host path is completely different because of Heaven Stealer Technique. Host foundation slates are Darkness Foundation Slates, and the host has also unlocked the hidden part of Heavenly Crystal Body in the very start.]

"[Because of all these variables host can now choose to form a Martial Qi Sea which means if host successfully able to cross this Heavenly Turbulence the next realm will not be Heavenly River Realm anymore, it will be Heavenly Sea Realm!]

"[But if the host chose to form the Martial Qi Sea, then the next Heavenly Turbulence's danger will also increase tremendously. Furthermore, this just won't end with one stronger heavenly turbulence, but all the upcoming turbulence will become extremely perilous as well.]

"[But the benefits of forming martial Qi sea are also worth the danger that came with it.]"

Ace's eyes shimmer with ambiguity, this new information he received from the system truly broadened his horizons. He never thought all the knowledge he learned all this time has this many flaws and loopholes.

Like the new and different types of foundation slates and the new information about the martial Qi river, which probably no one knows about even in high-level lands.

But what truly shocked Ace naturally was the information about Heavenly Sea Realm and the Martial Qi Sea.

"Why didn't you tell me about this before?" questioned Ace.

"[Because this information was worthless if the host hasn't unlocked the complete Heavenly Crystal Body Manual because, without it, it's impossible to create a Heavenly Sea and enter the Heavenly Sea Realm. But now that the host has found the second elemental orb, the host became eligible to access this information, which was locked before.]"

"Tsk tsk, you and your damn conditions." Ace was displeased because this was just too sudden and shocking.

He was standing right in the middle of a freaking volcano and the system has suddenly dropped a huge bombshell, how could he not be pissed?

This choice was too hard for Ace to make in this short time because just like the system said, once he decided to trend on this path there was no going back, period.

"Tell me the advantages of forming Qi Sea?" Ace asked, despite being aggravated, no matter what, he can't just ignore this prospect.

He can't just ignore the fact that this was only happened because of his previous luck, and this Heavenly Sea Realm won't be just for show.

"[System can only reveal three of the benefits of forming the Martial Qi Sea.]

"[First, the host will be ten times stronger than any 'Extraordinary Martial Qi River' cultivator once he entered the Heavenly Sea Realm.]

"[Second, the host will unlock a special and one of kind Element which is impossible without a Martial Qi Sea.]

"[Third, Level-1 Authority of the System!]"

Ace inhaled sharply when he heard the last part, "Are you serious?"

"[Yes.]"

He didn't dare to believe about the third benefit because he always wanted to know how he could upgrade his System Authority which was currently Level-0 but no matter how many times he asked the system never revealed it.

But now all of a sudden it revealed it, he didn't care about the first two advantages of forming martial Qi sea, just this last one make it worth it. Because the system as a whole was far more useful than anything to Ace!

'This is an opportunity, I can always find more lighting protective treasure for heavenly punishment, but the system authority won't come every day. Who knows, if I rejected it, when will I get another chance. Besides, my survival chances will increase drastically with martial Qi sea, and it's not like I can fend off for three minutes once I took the earth orb. I simply had no freaking option!'

Ace thought bitterly with a hint of excitement, truth to be told, even if he can escape now with the earth orb he will still choose to create the martial Qi sea without any hint of hesitation.

He knew his path was filled with thorns and danger, without the appropriate power he will perish. He wasn't afraid of heavenly punishment; he was afraid of getting cold feet and giving up on this path!

Right now, it would be a lie to say Ace didn't love the path of a thief, but he always thought just how long he will be able to tread on it. Will he become a coward and give up thievery once he becomes strong enough and live peacefully with Eva afterward?

He always had these thoughts, but when he remembered about the mysterious system within him, all those fantasies started to crumble because he knew his life will never be peaceful or mundane as long as he had this thing.

So, he can only become more powerful with every chance he gets, so he might live a life of his preference.

"Tell me the conditions of forming the martial Qi sea?" Ace sternly asked without any hint of hesitation. He was ready to take this step without any more anxiousness.

As for the consequences of his actions? Heh...he'll see when it comes.

Right now, it was time to face the second heavenly turbulent!

### Eternal Thief

#### **Chapter 228: 2nd Heavenly Punishment! 1**

"Tell me the conditions of forming the martial Qi sea?"

[Conditions for creating Martial Qi Sea]

[Elemental Orb's Altar]

[Thief Points: 1,000,000]

Ace's eyes narrowed when he saw the requirements that the system just disclosed.

"I can understand about Elemental Orb, but what are the other two things? Where can I find them?" questioned Ace sternly. He didn't grumble about the 1M TP though, since he knew the system did nothing for free, it was pointless to burn his blood over it!

"[Everything is in front of the host. The earth orb is currently hovering over an Earthen Elemental Altar and the boiling emerald liquid is the Earth Orb's Essence which was created after thousands of years.]

"[The Orb's Essence was also the reason for the emerald mist, and it also created all those elemental golems. This orb's essence will be the catalyst in the upcoming process of creating the Martial Qi Sea.]

"[Host just needed to stand or sit on the earthen altar after stealing the Earth Orb because the protective barrier will also crumble the moment earth orb were removed. After that, the system just needs the confirmation of the host to start the sea forming process.]

"[But beware the moment the host start the sea forming process, the heavenly punishment will descend after three seconds.]"

"So that what that platform is an Earthen Elemental Altar and this emerald liquid...." Ace looked at the emerald liquid with apprehension. This seemingly harmless liquid was the creator of all those golems and emerald mist, this was just too startling.

Ace quickly calm himself as his eyes shifted to the elemental orb again. The system just confirmed he could steal the earth orb. He just had to be fast enough to reach that altar and trigger the heavenly punishment before the earth orb guardian awakening.

'Let's get this over with!' Ace take a deep breath and a serious expression surface on his calm face.

An orange soul thread, as fine as a hair, exuded from his finger. The soul thread meticulously moved toward the altar and just when it was a centimeter away from the crystal barrier it halted.

Ace braced himself before his eyes turned sharp as a hawk and controlled the soul thread with utmost speed!

The soul thread instantly pass through the crystal barrier with no hindrance and without stopping, it instantly touched the earth orb!

The earth orb had a consciousness after existing for thousands of years, and it was far more intelligent than the light orb, which had intelligence compared with a seven-year-old.

However, even the consciousness of the earth orb never had imagined that someone would be skilled enough to arrive so near to it, without even it noticing it. If it even sensed the slightest change in the emerald steam emitting from the emerald liquid, it would have awoken its guardian the very moment.

But alas, it was already too late because before it could even fathom what happened something abruptly teleported it to an unknown dark place. It can't resonate with nature anymore in this unknown dark place nor can it even reach its guardian, and the element essence was also nowhere to be found.

It was completely flummoxed as well as dreadful while keep trying to use everything it had, so it could contact its guardian for help or at least make sense of this pitch black.

Alas, everything appeared useless, and how could it not be? This place was none other than the system's thief's space!

At the bottom of the volcano,

Ace didn't have time to celebrate because the moment the earth orb was extracted from the earthen altar, the crystal barrier also crumbled, and on the calm surface of the emerald lake, ripple started to form, and the whole volcano started to shock.

He knew the orb guardian was going to awake at any moment, and he didn't waste any more time and jumped toward the earthen altar, which was also quivering.

Ace quickly shouted in urgency and hysteria, "Start the process, hurry!"

[System has detected Earth Elemental Orb in host thief's space]

[All requirements have been fulfilled]

[1,000,000 TP has been deducted successfully]

[Thief Point(s): 2,288,400]

[Process of absorbing the Nature's Earth Elemental Orb has begun!]

[Warning: The Heavenly Thunder Punishment will descend during the process of absorption. If the host faints or loses his consciousness during the process, it will immediately stop.]

[As a result of the backlash, the host will die!]

'It finally starting!' Ace didn't have time to mull over what he just heard because the earthquake was becoming more and more violent with each passing second.

He could feel something big was coming from the bottom of this volcano and whatever it was, it was extremely outrage!

This wasn't the end, he could hear large movement from outside even after standing deep in this volcano, the golem army was also coming at full speed!

However, suddenly, Ace felt another pressure and not just any random pressure, a supreme pressure he once felt before.

Ace's eyes turned cold as he deeply looked toward the volcano's mouth as if he could pierce through everything and gaze directly at the sky.

'Heh, so it's finally going to start, and I'm ready this time for you. Let's see who wins this time around!' Ace smirked at the sky with scornful eyes.

Ace knew his status as the 'Eternal Enemy of Heaven' because of the path of Heaven's Stealer, and Heaven will stop at nothing until it kills him. So, he has long since decided to never show any weakness and fight for his life with everything he had!

At this moment, the system's icy voice rang in his mind,

[The Second Heavenly Thunder Punishment of Body and Soul; 'Silver Despair Thunder' will descend in two seconds!]

[System recommends finding an isolated place, or the Heavenly Thunder Punishment will annihilate all the living in a one-kilometer radius around the host!]

### [Eternal Thief](#)

#### **Chapter 229: 2nd Heavenly Punishment! 2**

Somewhere in the mysterious circle of earthen mist forest.

Deafening sounds of fighting were booming in the misty area. The ground was filled with cuts, thick emerald liquid, and small craters.

Three huge monsters were made of emerald liquid and three silhouettes, holding different weapons, were trying their best just defend against those monsters' deadly attacks.

"Just how many of these monsters are there, damn it!" Lan's frustrated voice with a hint of weariness and dread sounded as he dodged a huge, sharp emerald spike with the Golden Mark Cauldron.

"Stop complaining and destroyed that damn corpse!" roared Black Reaper with an equally vexed tone. He was holding a black dagger and dodging the golem's punch like an agile cat at a fast speed.

"These are even more resilient than the last one!" Ridge thrust the long silver spear in his hand and a projection of a spearhead made of metal Qi shot toward the puppet golem's leg which was covering the grave.

But alas, the metal Qi just made a one-meter deep cut before the emerald liquid filled the gap again!

These three escaped in the same direction when the first puppet golem showed up that day, without stopping until they were completely lost. They tried to go back after they realized the danger was somehow dealt with, but in this thick mist; they were completely clueless about which direction they should go.

They end up wandering like lost souls, and now this was their fifth week of searching for the others. But to their anguish, they encountered more of those graves as they unknowingly wander deeper in the mysterious circle.

The moment they came fifty meters close to those graves, they instantly burst open and formed a puppet golem. These grave monsters weren't like the ones they encounter that day because they didn't need to dig their grave as they were like traps that can be triggered if you step on it!

Although they eventually found how to kill one, it was extremely taxing even for a Qi river core cultivator like them. Furthermore, they were using a huge amount of high-Qi stones for recovery, and to keep the Qi barrier active, they knew sooner or later they will be going to run out of those Qi stones, and it will be over for them at that point.

Now, all they wanted was to find a way out of this cursed land and never stepped here again. The thought about soul inheritance and capturing the thief were long forgotten by them. But after weeks of searching, they found nothing, and slowly, but surely they were losing their mind because of terror and exasperation.

The other wasn't in any better condition either, as they were in the same dilemma.

Alvin was alone just a few miles away from Lan's trio while Damien King and the woman of Nightmare Ghosts' group, Margaret, were in deeper than Lan's trio escaping from a speed golem leader's group for their life!

As for, Old Man Black, Marc, and his sword maids, surrounded by a group of stone golems.

Everyone was fighting for their dear life, and they finally understand just why no one ever came back from this forest alive beside a fortunate madman!



They were all regretting it while cursing and blaming Ace because if it wasn't for him, they would never step in this damn horrifying place, while they knew it was their fault for being too greedy. But alas, there was no medicine for regret in this world now, is there?

However, at this moment, something happen that left everyone completely gobsmacked.

The golems they were fighting, so desperately a moment ago, turned around and sprint toward a specific direction without caring about the attack coming toward them!

The puppet golem who can't seem to move from its place also move, the skeleton in the grave mysteriously moved in the center of their chest and everyone finally saw a foot-long emerald worm with white strips, encompassing the skeleton's skull. This worm was the real marionette who was pulling the strings all this time and controlling the almost unkillable puppet golem, despite being extremely fragile itself!

It would never show itself if it was a normal circumstance, but something seemed to had happened that made every golem in existence crazy as they all charged straight toward the depth of the mysterious circle without caring about their life or left open wide for attacks!

This new out-of-the-blue development completely befuddled those nine humans. However, it didn't last long because a few seconds later the cloudy emerald mist moved!

Yes, it moved, it was very obvious since this never happened before because they were no trace of wind in his place not even now!

The cloudy emerald mist was moving toward the same direction where all those golems ran so bizarrely a few moments ago. It was as if something like a suction force was pulling the emerald mist towards it.

Everyone found this very peculiar, and they all knew something was happening in that direction.

Humans were born inquisitive and when they all saw this strange phenomenon that never happened before they only hesitate for a moment before everyone followed the mist to check if some kind of treasure was born!

Some of them wanted to take this chance and leave this place, after all, all they had to do was to just run in the opposite direction, and they would leave the mysterious circle which was shrinking for some mysterious reason.

But none of them leave as the thought of soul inheritance and their missing companions surface in their minds. They all thought someone has got the inheritance that made all those monsters and this deadly mist wild.

Just this thought was enough to arouse their greed again and suppress the urge to leave this forest and follow the mist. They wanted to see if they could fish in troubled waters. If they find it too dangerous, they would simply escape, as long as they would keep their distance.

However, one thought that was common in everyone's mind; there was only one person who had the biggest chance of reaching the soul inheritance between all of them, and that was the thief who drag them all here, Sky Stealer!

## Eternal Thief

### **Chapter 230: 2nd Heavenly Punishment! 3**

[The Second Heavenly Thunder Punishment of Body and Soul; 'Silver Despair Thunder' will descend in two seconds!]

[System recommends finding an isolated place, or the Heavenly Thunder Punishment will annihilate all the living in a one-kilometer radius around the host!]

'Deactivate the Hundred-Face Deception Mask.' Ace commanded impassively.

The system immediately obliged, and Ryan's face twisted into a faceless mask.

Ace put the mask inside the thief's space and so does his Thief Trainee's Hood because he didn't want his treasures to be destroyed by the Heavenly Punishment. Despite his doubts about; they might be impossible to destroy because they were from the system, he still didn't want to take any chances.

After a long time, Ace's real handsome face appeared when he put the thief trainee's hood inside the thief's space. His long black hair fluttered as the volcano was trembling. His dark-blue eyes like starry night were exempt from any emotions as he was coldly looking toward the sky.

He didn't put all those incoming golems and enraged orb guardian in his eyes anymore because he knew now that the heavenly punishment was about to start, anyone and anything that came between him and high-heaven will instantly obliterate.

Suddenly, Ace noticed mysterious energy starting to enter his dark void, 'So, this is the Earthen Element Essential.' He easily guessed the system has started the process of absorption after his last experience.

However, something peculiarly new happen the very next moment thereafter, a huge amount of foreign energy started to penetrate his body from the earthen altar where he was standing at an astonishing speed!

This new development flabbergasted Ace as he looked at the earthen altar with befuddlement and deemed, 'So, this altar was needed for this exact reason. I'm absorbing that deeply hidden strange Qi emitting from this emerald liquid and the emerald mist!'

The foreign energy was directly pulled inside the dark void, and it absorbed this energy with no sign of stopping like a bottomless chasm.

'Brrrrrrggggg...'

Ace quickly snapped out his stupor when an ear-piercing shrieking roar rang inside the volcano. His pupils contracted when he saw a ten-meter hand rising from the emerald fluid, and without stopping, it was going to squelch Ace like a bug.

However, Ace didn't take any action because he didn't feel the slightest danger at this moment at all and remained static while coldly staring at the incoming large hand.

Just as the hand was a few inches away from squelching Ace, the vague supreme pressure instantly escalated, and the hand made of emerald liquid burst apart in small raindrops!

Ace's lip curled into a mocking smile when he saw this and mumbled, "It's pointless now."

Whatever just attack wasn't convinced and oblivious to what just happened. The emerald liquid started to rise again, but this time it takes a humanoid shape.

A three-meter-tall green figure came into Ace's view, it was exactly like a giant slender human being. It has one large emerald-eyes-ball which covered half of its face, and with a knife-like nose, and two large canines coming out of its mouth, it looked completely hideous with no ears!

This was the Earth Orb Guardian!

The guardian didn't just keep hovering in its place and dash toward Ace, so it could retrieve the earth orb. It has lost its connection with it, and just a moment ago a strange feeling of being drained weighed down on it.

The guardian knew this thief was doing something to the elemental orb that will indefinitely end up in his death. And this wasn't the end of it; this despicable thief was somehow absorbing the accommodated Earth Orb's Essence that created the entire emerald mist and golems!

Without this earth essence, the golem and mist production will be stopped permanently. If the guardian knows Ace wasn't just absorbing the earth essence here but from all over the earthen mist forest, no one knows what it'll do.

Because the earthen altar was like a medium that can easily control the earth essence that was inside this volcano. However, this limit only applied to the earth orb, not on the system!

The system was using the same earthen altar at much higher standards than earth orb. It was drawing the earth essence from the entire earthen mist forest and absorbing it inside Ace's body, or more accurately inside the dark void.

The creation of Martial Qi Sea can't be achieved with just heavenly Qi, the elemental essence was a must!

This means if this essence wasn't available right now, Ace had to find another elemental orb if he wanted to form a Qi Sea. As for the elemental altar, every elemental orb had one because without it an elemental orb cannot be born. The elemental altar will always be formed before the elemental orb!

It was another story if someone else had taken the elemental orb and left the elemental altar behind, though.

Ace still didn't move or more accurately he cannot move any longer, a part of it being because of the supreme pressure, while the system's process of absorption also had a hand in it.

But he wasn't worried because the orb guardian was also struggling to move, and its movement was extremely slow until it was completely halted when it was ten meters away from Ace.

"I told you it's meaningless now." Ace sneered as he looked at the orb guardian, which was emitting a thick killing aura.

Ace felt the cultivation of this orb guardian was too scary, Peak of the Qi River Core Realm!

The only relief was it wasn't a soul path being like the light orb guardian, or it wasn't in the Qi soul realm because he would be in big trouble at that time!

The guardian coldly stared at this thief with its big eyeball. It didn't know just where this dreadful pressure was coming from, it felt threatened from it. However, it didn't care as he was using its full power to move forward because he was feeling his life slowly slipping away!

The guardian will do anything and everything to take the elemental orb back even if it was feeling danger to its life because it knew it was dead either way!

Ace completely ignore the orb guard while was shaking while trying to move, and he looked upward.

The roof of the dome right about the volcano started to crack like eggshells!

Thereafter, the entire roof was torn apart like thin paper and this wasn't the end, the spacious dome entirely crumbled as a terrifying heavy force descend in a nine-mile radius.

Even the slowly shrinking emerald mist press down to the group because of this supreme pressure. One could finally see the sky at this moment!

However, the sky wasn't golden at this moment because huge pitch-black thunderclouds were gathering while covering the entire mysterious circle.

Nine people saw this scene while also being the victims of this supreme pressure, they were all locked in their places like statues. Their eyes were filled with deep horror and befuddlement. They never saw anything like this before, nor had they heard any legends about it.

"W-w-what is...happening? I can't... move!" Rina's stuttering voice filled with deep terror rang.

"Tell me about it!" Marc gloomily scoffed as he looked at the pitch-black sky with trepidation. He was also jammed in his place no matter what he does his legs refused to move.

"I-isn't that looked like a...volcano? OH MY GOD...that...that...!" Leana suddenly shouted in panic while her voice stuck in her throat as if she saw something terrified!

Old man Black, Marc, and Lean shifted their eyeball toward the direction and their pupils also contracted, they saw a towering volcano. However, what send chills down to their spines was not the volcano, but the swarming golem army which was covering the entire volcano, like ants. But they were also seemed to jam in their place.

However, those thousands of golems were enough to scare the shit out of everyone who just saw them.

Beads of sweat were all over Marc's forehead as he gruffly said, "I-it...an...army. Take us away from here this instant, I don't care what method you used, I want out of here. You'll be rewarded with anything you desire, just take me out of this damn place!"

Marc face twisted as he commanded old man Black while looking at the golem army with aghast

Old Man Black's face was also ashen as he replied with a hoarse voice, "I-I'm...I'm afraid even...even with my cultivation of second-level bronze stage...I-I'm also...helpless!"

'thhh...ccrrrr....'

Just as everyone was trying to leave this aghast place, a huge rumbling of thunder sounded from above. Everyone looked upward with ashen faces and was dumbfounded by what they saw.

The inky clouds were condensing into a huge vortex which was still expanding at a fast pace, right above the towering volcano, as silver lightning flashed all over the condensing vortex.

"Bang...!"

Abruptly, a thick silver-lighting bolt descend from the condensing vortex at this moment and its destination was none other than the towering volcano!