

Unfathomable 521

Chapter 521

‘They really are overdoing it with the women here... Is this a dual cultivation sect or something?’

Zhang Dong had arrived at the large pagoda tower that was much larger on the inside. There he could see various young and old cultivators running around. The number of female figures was overshadowing the male ones. It also seemed that most of the people in higher places were men of advanced ages.

‘Or are they just taking me to a place filled with women...’

Within a few moments of floating after the young man, he was led to a strange chamber. It was filled with comfy beds and the atmosphere was very flowery. He expected to see more women but besides one old lady and the young man that brought him there, it was empty.

“Is this the person?”

“Greeting great demon, I’m afraid that I’m not Elder Tong but he will be here soon, why don’t you relax and take in the glorious sights instead?”

“The, sights?”

He wasn’t sure what the old woman was talking about but the young man closed the door instead of entering the room. Was this finally the trap that they were planning to spring after getting him here? There were several illusory formations that were at a surprisingly high level but not something that he wouldn’t be able to figure out.

Even now he felt that he was in control of the situation. Without being sure that they were trying to attack him it wouldn’t be wise to lash out. For the time being everyone was bowing and being cordial. Even now the old lady was inviting him for some kind of show.

“Yes my lord, this is a very special chamber all of your deepest desires can be fulfilled here. Please don’t worry about damaging the spirit constructs.”

“Spirit constructs?”

Without elaborating further the old woman’s silhouette started becoming blurry. Her voice started to be distant and the whole place became a haze. At least that’s what a normal person would be able to distinguish if they only used their normal five senses. Zhang Dong could clearly see the old lady leaving the room even when being clouded within the illusions.

‘Hm... are they trying to stall me in an illusion or something?’

The area started turning into some kind of landscape, in a moment the entire place got bright. When looking up he could see the blue sky forming along with a few clouds and bright warm sun. This was quite the powerful illusion as all the sensations were there. The feeling of the hot sun on his face and the gentle wind blowing against his long white hair.

When looking down to the ground he spotted a sandy beach with a whole sea behind it. The palm trees were swishing around and even a few coconuts fell down as some kind of exotic island was formed.

'Is this image coming from my mind...'

After the formation was initiated he felt that some kind of spell took effect. It connected with his mind and took something out. The process wasn't dangerous and no critical information was stolen. It was as if the formation was trying to extract something from his mind but that's all it could do. It wasn't powerful enough to actually perform any mind control on someone of his caliber.

'Wait... was that a laugh?'

The longer the illusion lasted the more details were added, soon he started hearing some kind of cute chuckle. When he turned towards the noise his eyes were greeted by quite the spectacle. A large number of curvy ladies in swimsuits were slowly jogging toward him. Their shapely chests continued to bounce in various directions as they made their way toward him.

'Is this that kind of formation? Maybe I do need to examine it a bit further, I'm not in that much of a rush...'

There were ten women coming his way. Their swimsuits varied in shapes and sizes but each one was barely containing those curvaceous shapes. It was a miracle that nothing slipped out with all the gyrating and shaking action that the ladies were performing. Their faces contained pure joy and they were clearly waving towards him while boncing up and down.

'I certainly do have a type... or did being with Liena affect it...'

There were a few characteristics that these ladies shared with each other. All of them had a darker skin tone that varied slightly. Along with the caramel skin they also had a lighter hair color. It ranged from light pink all the way to pure white, their eye color was also most of the blue or green variety. Then there were of course the large bouncy chests that made it hard not to stare.

'So this is what that woman meant by spirit construct.'

While these ladies looked real, they were nothing more than figments of his imagination. He had never left the room that he entered. With his enhanced eyes he could clearly tell that these were just clumps of Qi that simulated real humans. The formation read his mind to create partners that would suit his tastes and they were quite life-like.

"These do feel like the real thing..."

Zhang Dong reached out with his hand after the women finally arrived. His hand didn't move to any of the bouncy parts, instead, he just lifted a big of those white locks. The texture was quite similar but it could not fool someone with enhanced senses like him.

"Spin around?"

An order was given and the girl started twirling around in one spot without getting dizzy. It seemed that they were able to perform simple commands but would not stop without another one. The clump of Qi that looked like beauty just continued to twirl and only stopped when he called out once again.

"That's enough, stop... Gramps would love this..."

It would have been nice to visit a place like this before he created a family. Even though these weren't real people it felt strange. Then there was also the situation he was in. This was a demonic sect and someone could be watching.

"A shame... they even started hula dancing and there is a tiki bar..."

Some new girls appeared, they were wearing leaf skirts and flower necklaces. They started dancing around to something that resembled Hawaiian music. The formation was trying to get to his memories and it was surprisingly able to pull out things from his original life.

'This formation is dangerous, it lowers the person's mind blocks by serving them erotic fantasies. Does this sect pull out information from people this way?'

He had to admit that this was one way to gather information from people. Most of what the formation pulled out was something he allowed to be taken. Nothing to his real identity had been unearthed yet. However the more he looked at the bouncy women and the more they tried hugging him, the harder this became. It was clear that this was the intended effect, lower the target's defenses and take from them.

'The longer I stay here, the harder it will be to keep my mind protected...'

The girls that were here were hard not to look at. It was the perfect harem of maidens that most men would not be able to resist. Yet he needed to see the bigger picture, they were keeping him here for a reason. Perhaps his cover was actually blown and Wang Long was speeding to this location to attack him. There was no time to indulge with the busty babes, he needed to cut this illusion down.

"Enough, I have not come for this! My patience is at an end..."

Thus he turned back into the fearsome cultivator uncle that people here should be afraid of. With a spike in his cultivation, he slashed out with his finger. A gash in this fake world appeared that started spreading in all directions. The women, the island and everything around it turned white before disappearing. In just a second he was back in the same room with no one there.

"Come out, I know you are there."

He looked towards the wall where normally no opening could be seen. It was another illusion, behind it was the old woman that greeted him. After the fake island appeared this person started meditating. She was probably responsible for keeping this place going. She might also have been forwarding information to the person in charge.

"S-senior, this..."

"Stop wasting my time, I have not come here to be entertained, why are you making me wait? Is there a reason for it? ... "

"P-please I was just following orders..."

"So, your Patriarch intends to go against me, is that it?"

"Lord, that's n-not..."

“Silence, I had enough of you, either bring out that Tong fellow or...”

His act had to continue, this was the last straw that usually broke the camel’s back. The person he was simulating would have been enraged. He had been withheld what he wanted for an hour now. Instead of being greeted by the Tong character he was given this world’s version of porn. There was something not right here, either they were really trying to pull a fast one on him or there was another problem.

‘Why are they making me jump through all these hoops, just give me the information and I’d be gone...’

Zhang Dong didn’t understand why the other side was risking a fight between two nascent soul masters. Did he masquerading as a middle-stage realm master give the other person enough reason to make an attack? Normally they would be skeptical, it wouldn’t be strange for someone to hide their full potential. Thus he was weary now, in his hand a black blade with an evil aura appeared.

“W-what?”

“Do you think I was born yesterday? You won’t be able to fool this... uh...”

The old woman staggered back while he raised his sword. He was still trying to intimidate his way out of everything but there was a problem. There was still no name to associate with his new persona as he had been interrupted during his deliberation. Lei Yinglo’s name was already well known as a demon hunter so he couldn’t use it.

“Fool this... this Hai Ding!”

He pointed his sword towards the shaking old woman while finally coming up with a new name on short notice. Only after blurting it out did he realize just how silly it was. From Lei Yinglo to Hai Ding. It was truly a masterpiece of stupidity that he had to go with now as more people started appearing and trying to appease his anger.

“Lord Hai Ding, please the Patriarch was just trying to ...”

‘I guess it’s fine...’

“Trying what? You can’t fool me, you were trying to affect my memories and squeeze information out of this Hai Ding, either get Tong here or receive this blade!”

His cultivation expanded causing the various protective formations to be activated. He was in enemy territory but he did not feel anyone that could threaten him in battle. Perhaps after some roughhousing, he would get the info that he desired...

Chapter 522

“What is the meaning of this?”

“That’s what I’d like to ask, Immolation Demon, what are you hiding? Is there a problem?”

“Problem? No there is none my friend, my people will take care of it, let us continue discussing our business.”

The man called the Immolation Demon spoke up while shooting an angry glance at a person that was hiding. The man was wearing a dark crimson robe, and most of his body was covered up along with his

face. If a person examined what was under that hood they would jolt in horror. The man's face was covered in bandages but they did a poor job at hiding the many burn marks.

Just a moment ago everyone in this secret room noticed that the entire tower was shaking. It didn't take long but it was clear that whoever performed this task wasn't simple. Immolation Demon was in the middle of making a deal with another master and getting allies in the demonic island was hard to come by.

He had been working to gain the trust of a certain group for quite some time but if another nascent soul master started going wild, it would seem that he lured the other party into a trap. Opposite him were two masters that even he would have trouble battling. They knew this and were taking a risk of coming here to his sect. The thin trust that was built over many years could crumble in a second.

'What is that Tong doing? ... did he make a mistake with the pleasure formation?'

"You have been acting strange since a while ago..."

"Stop joking Venom Demon, let's go back to discussing the event, you both know that we can't trust the Chaotic Demon."

"Aye, that's true. The bastard appeared out of nowhere and started trouble with the devil council, that he would be able to conquer them in such a short time is baffling..."

An old man in a green robe and mist surrounding his face replied while nodding. He and the master of this sect were sitting around a large round table with a third not far away.

"I agree, we need to watch our backs if we expect to survive. The strange creatures that have attacked the mainland are also suspicious, perhaps the Chaotic Demon knows something about this?"

The third person was just as old as all of the people here. His robe was pitch black and his old fingers were of the same color. Due to his skin having this obsidian coloring it was hard to make out the facial features.

"Shadow Demon brings up a good point, could this have been some kind of organized attack? Perhaps we are on the cusp of a great shift..."

"Perhaps but we still need to see if that's a bad thing or not..."

The old men nodded while the conversation continued. On the outside, a rather panic-stricken Elder Tong had rushed into the room where the strange large chinned cultivator had appeared. The plan was to let him enjoy a nice illusion while the Patriarch and the other esteemed guests exchanged pleasantries.

There were several reasons why he couldn't rush to this man when he was in the restaurant. At that very moment, he was helping the Patriarch generate a nice atmosphere. His specialty was spewing compliments and defusing the situation. He was a schemer as everyone else but he was in the minority that had survived.

Tong made a mistake, he underestimated the power of this person. After bringing him to the sect he expected the nascent soul master to show some respect and just wait a few hours. The world of illusions was a costly artifact that was quite popular with the old perverted demonic cultivators.

Due to side-effects from cultivating by dual cultivation or by blood crystals, they tended to be more 'active' than their orthodox counterparts. Now the formation was forcefully closed and even damaged, it was a complex structure that would take many weeks to repair.

...

"So, you are Tong? Why did you make me wait so long? Did you expect me to use that thing for pleasure?"

"I... I apologize my lord but uh..."

'This guy is really panicking, must be hard to talk with all that pressure too.'

Zhang Dong was forced to show a bit of his hand by forcing the people here down to their knees. After taking care of the perverted formation and the granny that was running it, this man quickly appeared. It was as if he was waiting outside just to try to stall some more time. It was clear that they really didn't want him to be here and after causing a small scene he knew why.

'There are three people at around the same level in the same room.'

After injecting some of his spiritual energy into the formation system he was finally able to scan the entire area. In a hidden room that was behind all sorts of illusory and barrier formations, there were three nascent soul masters. They were probably the reason why they made him wait.

'They are talking about some interesting things though, thanks Bob.'

'Connection with the formation established, transferring audio to the user.'

His Ai program was able to infest the formation like a virus and connect to the secret room. While the sound was quite bad he could hear what the three were talking about.

'There is some kind of gathering of the strongest demonic cultivators in about two weeks, this doesn't look good.'

The gist of it was that the three were trying to form an alliance of convenience. If this get-together turned out to be some elaborate trap they would try to escape together. With three nascent soul masters working together they could boost each other's speed and escape. Perhaps using teleportation treasures was also possible.

'Are they luring them into a trap or is this about something else, like the fishy invaders?'

One possibility was that it was Wang Long and he was attempting to gather spirit points by murdering all the strongest people at once. The Chaotic demon that he suspected Wang Long to be had only erased a few top masters before settling down in the middle of the island. Then word had died down before this decree was established.

The other possibility was that he was forming an army. Perhaps instead of murdering everyone to get points, he decided to use them in other ways. Was it possible to unite all the demonic cultivators under one flag? Normally it wouldn't be possible but knowing that this world was a game, there had to be a way for the hero of the story to do it.

While Zhang Dong had chosen to join the 'good' side there should be a possibility to join the 'evil' faction. If this was all a game, then the person could probably win it in various ways. The last part was probably getting into the immortal stage, there was nothing holding them back from getting there as a murdering maniac that was a demonic cultivator.

'I don't like this, will I have to go there and see it for myself?'

This wasn't how he thought Wang Long would do things. Normally he expected everyone that could be used as spirit points to be eradicated instantly. After turning the place into a desolate land Wang Long would continue harvesting points to get stronger but do it himself. Could he actually be forming a faction after seeing his sect's power and unity?

'He previously evaded the faction part of the system, he didn't really integrate it with his old sect or use it to make them stronger...'

"Silence, I will have no excuses, just answer my question and do it now."

While listening to the four old demon cultivators discuss things he was getting all the information that he wanted. Now the only piece missing was to get a confirmation of the looks. Perhaps his opponent would still be overconfident and use his old appearance.

Finally, he produced a representation of Wang Long as he remembered it. The projection had the young man placed in various robes so that this old fart had more angles and variations to look at.

"Is this the man that goes by Chaotic Demon or Demon of Chaos?"

"This... is truly the new master of the devil council but he looks slightly different..."

"Great, now just tell me if this Chaotic demon or devil is planning anything, where does he usually stay? Is it at the center of the island, what's the name of that city... ah right, Crimson Slaughter City..."

"Yes, that's the capital's name, the Chaotic Demon is presumed to reside there along with his concubines..."

After a quick back and forth exchange with the man he had the basic information that he required. Just as before the man was thinking about his lower area too much. After conquering the island he started demanding all the young beauties. Apparently, the switch to dual cultivation was something that he highly appreciated.

'I guess people can't change that fast... can you earn spirit points through dual cultivation though?'

'Negative.'

Bob answered the quarry quickly, it was just a method of regular cultivation. He could still get stronger but it wouldn't add to the spirit point pool. Yet there was a possibility of another section of the system opening up. He had gotten together with his wife quite fast and didn't even consider performing those acts to further his power. The method had a clear downside of draining one of the participants of their energy.

"Good, that's enough, show me to the exit I have heard enough."

“Enough, Senior Hai Ding?”

The man was clearly confused as what Zhang Dong had asked him were just the usual rumors that everyone knew. He couldn't complain though, if this was the end of the whole confrontation then he would keep his life. Tong had been panicking for the whole span of the conversation, either he would get killed by the sect leader or by this man if something happened.

‘For once my disguise worked. I bet if I tried impersonating a lesser elder I’d get forced to do some errands.’

It was time to leave, the other three were still prattling on but they weren't saying anything important. At this stage, they were just discussing how much they should pay each other if something comes up. The one that caused a scene would need to fork up some blood stones if the other two had to rescue them.

“Here is the exit, are you sure you don't wish to wait join some of our junior sisters for some tea?”

“No, it's fine...”

‘Whew, I'm out...’

“Immolation Demon, come out!”

‘What is it now...’

The moment he stepped out through the door he noticed that someone was speeding their way. They were of the nascent master variety and they also had some friends with them...

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“If you don't come out within a minute, don't blame me for what will happen!”

“Yeah, come out already, how dare you make us wait?”

‘Who are these people...’

Zhang Dong was right outside the giant pagoda and almost free from his reconnaissance mission. What he just needed to do now was to find a hidden spot and change his appearance again. Then he could start mapping out the island with his system to prepare the invasion plans. Perhaps even taking some time to look at the sea.

‘Doesn't matter, their fight seems to be with the sect leader and not with me.’

In the sky, there were multiple nascent soul masters and also a large group of core formation cultivators. There were five nascent soul demonic cultivators, with about twenty core formation experts for each of them. The weaker warriors were spreading out in all directions to prepare some kind of formation.

‘Are they trying to set up a trapping formation so that people won't leave?’

Before leaving Zhang Dong noticed something. All these people were wearing similar dark robes with a peculiar symbol on the back. It was not a Mandarin character as everyone else used, it was something that he remembered from his old life.

It looked like many arrows moving out from a circle in which a skull resided. This was something that he remembered seeing when playing video games before he appeared in this world. It was something that only someone from the same world would probably be aware of.

‘So they are Wang Long’s new lackeys? Did he perhaps know that I came here or is there another reason? Should I just leave or ...’

Zhang Dong didn’t feel that he was in danger yet. When he realized that people were approaching he hid his power even more. To the people floating in the sky, he wouldn’t appear as much more than a core formation expert. He was interested in the reason these people were here. If they were on orders from Wang Long then perhaps this would be a chance to see how he acted as a leader.

‘They do seem rather evil, what’s with all those cocky grins?’

Just as always the demonic cultivators were composed of mostly old men. The five looked like zombies that just crawled out of the grave with how pale their skin was. There was also some kind of strange poisonous aura floating around them.

“What’s the meaning of this? You dare?”

A rather angry-looking voice burst forth from the large pagoda he was under. The top blew the lid as a burst of flaming energy shot up into the sky. From within a single man emerged that was covered in bandages and a robe. With his enhanced senses he could tell that his frame was covered in third-degree burns.

‘Hm... due to some demonic arts an evil cultivator could lose part of their natural healing capabilities. Is this man unable to heal these burns without leaving behind scarring or is it perpetual damage received from the flames he is surrounding himself with?’

Huo Qiang’s flame arts were purer than what he was seeing here. The man that looked like a burn victim probably had a very shaky understanding of the Dao of flames. It wouldn’t be strange if he had forced himself into this realm while suffering through a lot of pain.

‘I guess power is more important than living in pain...’

“Immolation Demon, what’s with that look? Do you know who you are speaking to? Have you forgotten who rules these lands now”

“You...”

Zhang Dong could see the fire cultivator move his head down and begrudgingly clasp his hands together to greet this person. He only did the act after seeing the large logo on the other man’s robe. It seemed that the two had history together, their power levels were close to each other.

‘Old rivals perhaps? Did the other guy grow a spine after joining Wang Long’s side?’

This wasn’t anything new, whenever someone received a strong backer in this world they would see themselves as a superior being. They could shield themselves behind the person or faction that was now protecting them. If someone badmouthed them it would be as if they are badmouthing the backers instead.

"I see that you understand your place, good."

"Why are you here? Have you come to gloat?"

"You know me well, but watch that tongue of yours! I'm on direct orders from the Demon King!"

"Demon King?"

"Yes, the magnificent Chaos Demon has decided to become the king, the official announcement will come in a few weeks so don't babble it out but I have come for a different reason, the lord demands an offering."

"An offering?"

"Yes, gather all of your finest women, they will be presented for the lord as his concubines!"

"Concubines?"

'I see that guy is up to no good as always...'

Wang Long's overblown libido was known before he even became a demonic cultivator. Yet he was more restrained in the past, most of the time he visited places and picked out a few women to come along with him. It was the same when he appeared in Spirit Spring City to get Liena.

"I will prepare the women, you can leave now..."

"Not so fast, did you think that this is the only reason I came here?"

"What do you mean?"

"Come out, we know you are there, Venom Demon, Shadow Demon!"

'Oh? Are they in for it?'

This didn't seem to be only about the women, there were far too many cultivators here for a simple errand. Almost everyone from the nascent soul masters was around the middle stage, they were each other's equals. However, there was one man that was above them all, a late stage demonic cultivator and he was on Wang Long's side.

'Will those two just come out in peace or try to flee instead?'

He wasn't sure what this was all about, perhaps the other side was seeing this as a chance to take out old rivals. The secret get-together was suspicious but it didn't have to mean anything. Old masters constantly made deals with each other and the three were just making a haphazard truce to help each other.

'They might even think that that burned guy ratted them out... this could turn into a big brawl...'

It didn't look that well for the three demons but also the whole sect wasn't safe. The advantage was seemingly on the side of the new group but this was still the territory of the Onyx Moon Sect. There were various protective formations everywhere that could equal out the playing field against the higher realm cultivator.

“Hey, you there, how dare you! Lower your head this instant!”

‘Uh?’

There arose a small problem, as he was still in his overbearing evil cultivator persona he just stayed there with his face pointed towards the sky. This was not something a junior member of the sect would be allowed to do. Everyone else from the sect had their head lowered and just listened as the elders talked.

“Are you deaf? How dare a lowly...”

‘Oh boy...’

He kind of tuned out what this person was saying while weighing his options. It didn’t look like anyone posed a threat to him so using valuable spirit points to teleport back wasn’t necessary. By the laws that governed this place, he was in the right to teach these people a lesson. Even though they were part of a powerful upstart sect, their leader was not here to punish him.

‘Would Wang Long appear if I defeated some of his people? Weakening his side before the invasion wouldn’t be such a bad idea...’

There were five nascent soul masters, one of them was a bit stronger than the rest but not really a problem. If no other reinforcements came then he could easily deal with them.

“Impertinent insect.”

“Wha...”

The core formation member of this group groaned as he felt a massive amount of pressure collapsing on him. Instantly he was pushed down to the floor, his body began giving out crunching sounds as his bones began to snap. Zhang Dong showed no remorse for this act as he was clearly a murderous individual. There was an aura of death around him, some residual energy from the souls of people he killed was still lingering. They had died with indignation and only worsened this man’s karma in the process.

“What are you doing?”

“What does it look like to you? I’m squishing a bug.”

He looked towards the man that was floating in the sky while performing his attack. Even though the nascent soul master above attempted to suppress it with his own aura, he was unable to. The other two that were hiding in the pagoda were on their way out and also noticed this display of power. His aura was still suppressed making him seem as an early stage practitioner.

“You dare? Immolation Demon, is this one part of your sect? Are you actually gathering forces to go against the Demon King?”

“What are you talking about? This was never about this and you know it, I don’t know that person, he just showed up here...”

“You really think I’d believe that?”

The loudmouth started arguing with the Immolation Demon while the real toughest member remained silent. This was the usual tactic of hidden experts, letting someone take the attention off them to test potential threats. This would put them in a safe position to react if an opponent turned out to be strong.

Of course, Zhang Dong was aware of this as his attention wasn't on the shouting match. Instead, he focused on the formation that the core formation experts were trying to create. It wouldn't last long against an assault but it would probably be enough to stop a nascent soul master for a moment and give the other ones time to chase.

"Hey, where do you think you are going?"

To everyone's surprise, the unknown demonic cultivator that Zhang Dong was masquerading as started walking. He ignored any callouts while making his way toward one of the core formation cultivators that was setting up the formation. It seemed that he was trying to make a run for it so one of the nascent soul masters with the poisonous air around them bolted towards him.

"You shall not escape?"

"Escape? I think you misunderstand..."

The core formation cultivator was quickly knocked out on the spot by a fling of his finger. The same finger was used to interact with a focal point of this formation not to dissolve it, but to make it a lot stronger.

"I'm not the one stuck here with you, you are the ones stuck here with me!"

He shouted while jamming his palm into the unsuspecting nascent soul elder's chest that was flying towards him with ill intent. The man's ribs shattered in an instant as he flew back only to collide with the improved formation. One of the enemies was down but there were at least four more that he had to contend with...

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The old nascent soul demon could feel life leaving his body just after receiving one hit. His ribcage was dented inwardly with a palmprint burned over his chest. He instantly could feel strange energy invading his body and it was something that he was familiar with. Yet it was too late for him to call out and warn his allies as his body was siphoned towards his attacker without him being able to resist.

"What are you doing! Stop, do you intend to go against the Demon King?"

"The Demon King? Why would I submit to someone I have never met? Only the strong survive and this king of yours has not proven himself to be stronger than me."

Zhang Dong replied while his fingers clung to one of the demonic cultivator's necks. While exposing his divine energies into the surroundings would give his identity away, he still could use it without being found out. If he directly injected them into his opponent's body they would be unable to tell what was happening.

Both the evil energies that these demonic cultivators used and the holy Qi Zhang Dong produced countered each other. If this was a game then both of them would do double the usual damage to each other. In a clash of these powers, the person with the more concentrated Qi would win. The clash would

produce a chaotic reaction inside one's body and cause immense amounts of damage if not quickly taken care of.

"W-what is happening to him?"

"Be careful, that person isn't simple!"

The four men that worked for the new Demon King stopped in their tracks as one of their allies started to act strange. His body started to contort in strange ways as if there was something crushing it from the outside. In a matter of moments, it crumbled revealing his nascent divinity that was unable to flee. The person that was holding him by the neck instantly absorbed this soul without leaving anything behind.

'Oh... so I even get a list?'

Dao:

Percentage gained

Poison

8%

Shadow

5%

Wind

1%

After receiving the tip from Bob he decided to absorb the evil cultivator's nascent divinity. He was not very versed in Poison or the Dao of Darkness so the gain was obviously higher. When it came to wind he had a higher amount of understanding and probably why he received the least.

'I wonder if I can infinitely absorb nascent souls to receive Dao boosts? It would make more sense if the person needed to have an understanding of it that I'm not already clued in...'

The Dao was in short the origin of all things. It was a path that the Daoists followed and tried to understand to its fullest. The Daos could be divided into major and minor ones and go even beyond that. Only after understanding these underlying principles of the universe could the cultivator progress further.

At least that was how it was supposed to be. After visiting the old secret ground where his predecessor lived he was made aware of another truth. Normally he would already be able to progress into a higher realm above the nascent soul level. This realm only required the mastery of one Dao, even a lesser one should be enough. He on the other hand already knew three great ones, Holy, Lightning, and now Gravity.

'It seems that the immortal realm requires people to comprehend multiple Dao's at once but how many do I need to perfect?'

While he was absorbing the man's nascent soul he could see his life flash through his eyes. It was as if he relieved some of his most vivid memories in a fraction of a second before the man perished. It was as if some of his techniques had been imprinted into his own soul now.

The Dao of the Shadow was one of the great ones that went directly up against his Holy Dao. Both of those below the Dao of Light and Dao of Darkness were origin-grade paths. Perhaps what he needed to do was to complete several greater paths to gain an understanding of one of the grander origins of this world, then the way towards the next realm would be unlocked.

'But before I worry about that I need to take care of these chuckleheads...'

"It won't open!"

"Immolation Demon, are you really going against the Demon King? Do you think you can get away with this!"

"I've told you that I don't know that man! How about you shut up before he kills us all?"

It was funny to see the group of nascent soul masters arguing with each other. This might have not seemed much different than an argument between regular sects but it was. Even now he could see all of these demonic cultivators spreading to the sides, no one from them trusted each other.

Even the ones that were presumably from one faction were already thinking about the most probable way to survive. After seeing how easily he reduced one of them to nothing they were wary. Normally they would attack him with the number advantage yet due to the other three masters here they were unsure of what to do.

'They think that the mummy guy is with me, so it would be four against four in their eyes... I just need to give them a little push.'

He smiled as he didn't have a problem taking out these mass murderers. All of them had gained their power by walking on the corpses of others. This whole island would probably be better off if they were gone and then taken under the wing of his own faction. Zhang Dong had the resources for it and was willing to take responsibility for affecting the lives of the people here.

If he just killed the leader and left nothing would really change, just another bloody battle for the leader position would take place and more people would die. The only way to stop this spiral of avarice was to take charge. It would probably take many years to change how these people thought but with time he could see them moving on.

"Now Immolation Demon, Venom Demon, Shadow Demon. All of you strike them down with me, I'll take care of their strongest!"

"You... I knew you were planning something, don't think you'll be able to leave this place alive!"

"What?"

The three old men that had previously spent some time talking out a pact of non-aggression were stunned. They looked as the strange square-chinned man charged toward one of the people that belonged to the new Demon King faction, the Chaos Sect. The speed was astonishing, his strength was on another level as they realized that he was hiding it.

The collision between him and the late stage demonic cultivator caused a massive explosion and was the beginning of the end for them. They all found themselves being attacked by the other group of nascent soul masters. Even the core formation experts were pelting them with long-ranged techniques with a lot of poison.

Zhang Dong was not in a hurry, after confronting the late stage cultivator he allowed his opponent some time. If he was going to go against high-level demonic beings on this island then getting some hands-on experience was paramount. The ones that he faced as his demon hunter persona were mostly at the core formation level of power.

The man shrouded himself in some kind of veil of toxicity. Poison techniques and ones containing venom were very widespread among these demonic beings. For more orthodox cultivators this would have already been a tough barrier to get through. All the poison was one of the biggest reasons why demonic cultivators were victorious against their orthodox counterparts. Even if they lost their opponent could still succumb to the slow-working poison and die later.

“H-how!”

“Hmph!”

He swatted away a mass of poisonous needles that gave out a pungent smell. They could not get through his Qi barrier and thanks to his holy Dao even if he inhaled the fumes they would not be lethal. It was the usual way of the evil cultivator, if a person didn't directly get infected by the poison then make them ingest it in another way.

Then if those methods failed he also noticed that his shield of spiritual energy was getting corrupted. It seemed that the dao of poison was quite strong, it would even corrode through shields made of pure spiritual energy. Only if he added something like holy energy that could repel them, it would quickly disperse and open him up for an attack.

‘We might have to create some divine treasures to reinforce everyone's spiritual energy or use the fortress as a veil against it.’

While he exchanged various blows he continued to ponder countermeasures against these people. There was even enough time to look at the others, the Immolation Demon was quite interesting. His techniques produced a somewhat different flame, he could feel that some kind of demonic energy was mixed in that would probably corrode anything that it touched.

‘Corrosion... poison... venom... curses... this won't be that fun for the others...’

These attacks wouldn't be hard for him to counter but there weren't that many people able to use divine arts in his sect. Perhaps it was time to bring in some outside help for the next attack. He recalled a certain sect that he had previously helped and they still owed him big time.

‘Divine Fist Sect, was it? They should have enough people to act as backup against these guys.’

It was the sect that he helped before being blasted off to the other world. His sacrifice cost him five years of his family life. From what he knew they had managed to survive the demi-human menace and were one of the small number of sects that didn't suffer any losses yet. They would be the perfect

soldiers to aid him in the coming battle. He didn't want to involve others but the more time Wang Long was given the worse the situation would become.

"Okay, I've seen enough..."

"Huh?"

The man he was fighting with was pressing forward and delivered a devastating hit that seemingly destroyed his spirit barrier. Yet instead of being able to sink the mass of poisonous needles into Zhang Dong's flesh, his vision began splitting. It took a moment for him to realize that a black longsword appeared to slash him in two equal halves. Quickly he tried activating his escape measure yet before he could his soul started being siphoned away.

Everyone else watched in horror as the strongest member of their group had been taken out in one hit. The difference in power between Zhang Dong and a late stage nascent soul master was just that big. He could easily take them out with a single sword strike and the ones that were left here wouldn't be different.

"Well then, let us finish this encounter, shall we?"

Chapter 525

Dao:

Percentage gained

Poison

0.4%

Devouring

4%

Curse

2%

"And then there were three..."

Zhang Dong looked at the list of Daos that he received after absorbing the last opponent. They didn't put up much of a battle as he was just too fast for them to react to. All of them fall to his blade and quickly had their nascent divinities absorbed into his seed.

It wasn't a feeling he was very comfortable with, even though the people he was devouring were evil their lives still flashed before his eyes as their souls dissipated and turned into his cultivation. In reality, it was somewhat taxing on his psyche and he didn't really want to continue absorbing the souls of these three anymore.

"I'll give you two choices, you can live as slaves or die here."

They were still evil beings with no remorse. If he let them be they would probably stand against his people or bring disaster to the less fortunate. It wasn't hard for demonic cultivators to hide in some cave

for a couple of years until everything was over. Then they would just go back to their murderous ways and all the damage they caused would be on his conscience. He had the option to act now and felt that it was his duty to take care of such people.

“Slave?”

“Yes, I’m sure you heard of soul contracts? Submit your souls to me, that’s the only way for me to trust you.”

As always the souls were the key to everything. If he managed to get them to submit willingly then they would be unable to against his will. After the contract of submissiveness was completed he would be able to erase their life with just a thought. However, it didn’t look that most of the participants were willing. The barrier that he hijacked was also running out of juice so two of them began to flee.

“Screw you Immolation Demon, you’re responsible for this! Don’t think you’ll be able to get away.”

There was a misunderstanding between the two masters and the Onyx Moon sect owner. They were convinced that this was some kind of plan and that Zhang Dong was part of it. They would rather take the chance and attempt an escape than to be turned into soul slaves.

One of the people shrouded himself in a bunch of dark clouds that looked like shadows while the other one produced a poisonous fog. Both of them turned around and headed in different directions. It wasn’t a bad tactic, one of them had a better chance of getting away while the other was being chased.

However, the difference between them was just far too large. Zhang Dong could clearly tell that the smoke screens that they produced were just a distraction. Inside were puppets with a tiny soul fragment to keep them similar to the main body. The real masters on the other hand were trying to shroud themselves in various ways while slowly moving toward different locations.

“It won’t work...”

He called out while pointing out with both hands. His fingers aimed for each nascent soul master and soon a ray of light shot out. This time he added his heavenly lightning energy for additional power and speed. The two rays collided with their targets which revealed their hiding spots. The moment they were injured the fakes started to fade away.

“I gave you a way out, you can only blame yourselves...”

His body blurred and the first shadowy figure’s head flew up into the air. One strike was enough for him to defeat a middle stage nascent soul master. The other one attempted to escape but as his friend, he lost his head soon after. Now only the Patriarch of the presiding sect remained. He didn’t move as he saw the bigger picture, there was no way of his surviving if he didn’t surrender.

“I... I surrender...”

Zhang Dong nodded while also siphoning away the next two nascent soul divinities. As long as he was this close there was no chance of a soul getting away. While he didn’t absorb their power instantly he stored them away for later use. Devouring souls was still something he needed to get used to.

“Good, you made a wise choice.”

Without waiting for long he flew towards the man wrapped in bandages. For the technique to work the man would need to lower his defenses yet there was something fishy. Zhang Dong wasn't a fool and quickly noticed that an attack was coming. Suddenly from various directions, core formation experts appeared. They started chanting loudly while their leader backed away while performing some strange hand signs.

"You fool, do you really think I would just surrender my life to you!"

"Well, no not really..."

In the spot where Zhang Dong was floating a giant orb of flames appeared. It expanded to something that looked like a miniature black sun. Everything in the vicinity started to turn to ashes. The place had been abandoned by the regular citizens so only the buildings suffered.

"That's what you get for... huh?"

"Why are you surprised? You've already seen what I could do, did you think I wouldn't notice such an obvious trap formation under me?"

"But you were inside..."

"Oh, was I?"

All of them saw Zhang Dong burning up inside the mass of flames. This was just a simple replacement technique. The thing that went up in flames was just a temporary clump of Qi energy that had the outline of his body. He just quickly brought himself into a safe location while the others were focusing on the dummy.

"Your friends could fashion such puppets, so can I."

This was one of the new uses of his absorbed Daos. The demonic cultivators were extremely good at escaping from a life-and-death situation. They could produce clones that resembled them and were somewhat intelligent. With a little blood and occult magic that was somewhat similar to the magic from the other world, it was all possible.

"No... I am the Demon of Immolation, you shall burn!"

"So you've going to resist until the end... I thought you demonic cultivators were supposed to be cowardly..."

This was a surprise to him. Perhaps the evil cultivators on the island were braver than the ones with whom he interacted on the mainland. Those people would certainly quickly try to backpedal and run whenever there was any trouble. These on the other hand were more combative.

'Perhaps at this level, their minds can't fathom being suppressed this much?'

He had also not revealed all of his trump cards. What he was using now was mostly his body refining prowess. It was just a combination of force and speed without using his Qi. It wasn't very flashy and perhaps gave these people the idea that they had a chance.

"You? Who are yo..."

The man found himself with a sword going for his head. Even though his entire body was surrounded by a wall of flames it was of no use. He had clearly realized that there was something wrong with Zhang Dong's actions but he would not be able to disclose the secret to anyone. Everyone below the nascent soul level was easily knocked out just by his overbearing aura, it was as if they were all waiting to be judged.

'This isn't good, I hoped to at least get one of these guys on my side, they could act as a spy and report to me...'

The three nascent divinities were still intact. The three demonic cultivators weren't quite dead, they just lacked bodies to occupy. Even though he couldn't bring them under his control earlier this didn't mean that some information couldn't be extracted. The nascent soul would slowly dissipate but there still was some time left.

Yet without a body to live in, they would die in the span of a few years. Their memories would deteriorate and most likely they would become a vengeful spirit. While information could be extracted now, their bodies were gone, and replacing them would be hard.

'Now what should I do with them?'

After the fight, he had managed to keep the Chaos Sect's core formation experts here. They would surely babble out what had happened here if they returned to their base. Yet he wasn't sure if that was a problem, no one really knew who he was, and there were always strong hidden monsters on the loose.

'Could Wang Long decide to hunt me down if they report?'

They would probably place him at the great circle level of power and thus he made a good target for spirit points. He did not know how many resources Wang Long needed, perhaps he would be unable to ignore a gift-wrapped bundle of points like him.

Fighting him one on one was something that he wanted. The more people he could exclude from this confrontation the better. Zhang Dong didn't feel that he could lose but needed to include his sect in the plan as he was going against another faction.

His constant increase in power gave him the confidence in being able to win even against someone with a working system. This didn't mean that he would be able to successfully lure the man out here. It was more likely that some of his goons would show up instead.

'That wouldn't be bad though... the more of his faction members I can take out the better...'

"Hey you there, Tong was it?"

"M-me?"

Zhang Dong looked towards the shaking cultivators and singled one out. It was the man that the grandfather and granddaughter pointed him towards. The pair was now long gone, even before he got into the pagoda tower he could feel them sneaking out of the city.

"Yes you, as you can see, your leader is no more, thus I'll be taking over for him."

"Taking over?"

“Yes, guide me to the treasure room.”

“Treasure room?”

“Can you only echo what I am saying?”

“E-excuse me, great senior...”

“Does anyone have anything against me becoming the new sect leader? You can go ahead and speak out now if you wish?”

As expected, anyone that was left conscious didn’t dare say anything. All of them were convinced that if they even opened their mouths they would be dead and then devoured. While it didn’t happen often, sometimes the heads of the sect were killed. This either caused the sect to be destroyed or absorbed into the faction that killed the leader.

“Long live the new Patriarch!”

“Glad that you understand. Now, capture these Chaos Sect members, I’ll decide on what to do with them later.”

“Yes, Patriarch.”

Soon the core formation experts were being carried off into the dungeon while he was going towards the treasure room. To be on the safe side he needed to prepare various countermeasures, if Wang Long really appeared to avenge his people then he needed to be ready.

Chapter 526

“What do you mean they vanished? How could that many grand demons just disappear? Clear this issue out before the Demon King notices, we don’t know what he might do if he finds out...”

“I understand...”

Two nascent soul masters were whispering between each other while making sure that no one could hear them. Just a day ago some of their capable masters had vanished without a trace. There was a possibility that they had fled but it wasn’t very probable. After the new leader appeared he did something to all of them, even the thought of angering them brought immeasurable fear and pain.

“We will keep this a secret, nothing can go wrong before the inauguration celebration is over, now go...”

One of the men left after clasping his hands together while this old man slowly moved towards an area of this castle that he despised. Not so long ago an upstart appeared in these lands. He could not be stopped and old monsters continued to either be killed or recruited into the new faction he created. His name Demon on Chaos was created due to the incoherent way he acted, it was as if the man had totally lost his marbles due to some kind of failed cultivation attempt.

His might was very true and in just a month he had managed to conquer this island that belonged to the most ruthless people in the empire. In the middle of the island, there was a huge active volcano. Around it, the largest settlement that housed many grandmasters had survived for many millennia. Once divided now they all stood under one banner and the recruitment drive was moving forward.

The man had chosen a strange title for himself and was ordering everyone to show up for his coronation. This old man here that had lived for almost a thousand years knew the real reason behind it. Everyone that arrived would be forcefully integrated into the new sect. The reason wasn't fully known to him but their new young leader had a certain disgust for the main empire. There was a large possibility that they would all be attacking the lands of the orthodox sects and the days of carnage were upon them.

'In a way it's exhilarating...'

This old monster wasn't even against participating in wanton slaughter. In his eyes, it would be a grand endeavor if they were able to conquer the whole empire. The biggest reason why no one had attempted it was due to hubris. The demonic grandmasters just couldn't work with each other.

After attaining the nascent soul level most of them fractured off to create their own factions and rule their own cities. No one was willing to submit and even if they did, the other party just had a potential assassination threat under their roof now. Only when the patriarch attained a level that could be not denied did larger clans and sects arise and this was one of them.

"Old fart Ling, I reckon that everything is moving according to the schedule?"

"Yes, Pat... I mean, Demon King"

"Good, I really wouldn't want to have to disciple and ugly bastard like you..."

"I see..."

The old man looked at the handsome man with jet black hair. He was sitting on a throne made from obsidian skulls. They all belonged to people that he had killed, the technique that he used somehow turned their bones pitch black. In his lap, there was a very beautiful woman that had her chest revealed and pressing into the young lord.

She was not the only one here, all the beauties from the cities were forcefully brought over. On a daily basis, he would go through them one by one. From time to time he would pick out permanent harem members while the others were discarded like half-eaten food that he was bored with.

The women were never the same after, they seem to lose part of their soul and become unresponsive even to their family members. It was some kind of dual cultivation method that drained them to the point of becoming lifeless husks. The ones that he fancied remained somewhat able but it was clear that they wouldn't live long lives either.

"Don't disappoint me, you know what happened to your predecessor."

"I won't my lord, your wish is my command."

"Hah, look at your fear points go up, that's how it's supposed to be, I should have ditched that old sect a long time ago!"

This old cultivator didn't know what the young demon was talking about. From time to time he would mention things like involving numbers, stats, and achievement points. The old monsters that were subservient to him had no idea what to make of it so they just assumed he was crazy.

“What are you still doing here? Are you the type that likes to watch?”

His face remained unchained but he wanted to go over there and give the demon lord a smack. Yet when he did there was a strange feeling of dread washing over his body. It was as if any thoughts that went against the new demon king would be identified by something. This old man even tested it out and he got goosebumps or migraines each time.

“N-no... I’ll excuse myself...”

After seeing the blank expression on the woman’s face he turned around to walk away. He could only sigh at the fact that an old man like him had been turned into an errand boy in the twilight years of his life. If he didn’t think there was a chance of the young man actually being able to conquer the empire he would have probably taken his own life already. The only thing keeping him together was the chance of seeing the death of the Long Clan before his life was over. If there was even a small chance of that happening, he was willing to sell his soul to this devil.

‘We can’t let anything happen or I’ll be dead before I see this Empire fall, this Wang Long is crazy but he might be crazy enough to kill that blasted Emperor.’

The old man smiled while leaving the large gaudy castle. As long as no word reached his ears Wang Long would not act. After conquering the demonic island he had become a lot lazier. What he needed to worry about was the deadline that was in a few weeks. A few deserters weren’t that much of a problem but they still had vanished. This needed to be checked and if they were found they would be offered to the new king.

...

“Is this all that you have?”

“Yes, Patriarch.”

“Stop calling me that, I’m not your leader.”

Zhang Dong, who was disguising himself under a new persona, gave out a sigh. At this moment he was going through the Immolation Demon’s library. He used the time he had to absorb all of the knowledge here, faction names, political deals, and secret undercover organizations became known to him.

‘These demonic cultivators should be stronger than the ones in the Empire if they put their problems aside...’

The old Patriarch was a cautious man and he had gathered a lot of information before his demise. There was a comprehensive list of all potential threats right here. All of the known weaknesses that could aid in defeating the various clan and sect masters were listed down. If he didn’t know better it would look that this demonic cultivator was trying to take over the demonic island.

‘Perhaps he was running an information guild, there were some strange letters mixed in that he didn’t dispose of yet.’

There was some insider information from the capital city. This city was built around an active volcano that actually produced some spiritual energy. There was probably a smaller spirit vein there that these

evil cultivators were battling for. They could not come to an agreement so it was a huge area divided into something like city-states.

'That is before Wang Long arrived... It's as if this had been created for someone with the system to conquer it all. An everlasting stalemate and only a system holder would be able to tip the balance to one side...'

He didn't really need to do anything besides touching the books with a finger to absorb all the knowledge. Yet this wasn't even that useful as by absorbing the old sect master's nascent soul he had already learned most of the important techniques by progressing his Dao.

'If I had the time, it would probably be better to create a coup. Power gained through pure force is always built on a shaky foundation... I wouldn't be surprised if all of them start running after he goes down...'

Without needing to think much he realized that even though Wang Long had gained a faction for himself, he was still alone. More help would have been offered to him from his old sect where he had a protective grandfather. Here, on the other hand, the other demonic cultivators would take the first chance to betray him.

'If he is still alive then he must have bought something from the store against poison and curses, I won't believe that they wouldn't try to at least kill him a few times.'

From what he knew about the new demon king, not many people really liked him. He was a blank slate, a person with no background or backing. Would the old masters of this land just roll over and die? Would the people that invested in them not be angered by the new upstart?

'It wouldn't be strange if they offered him women with poison inside of their bodies. Using people as sacrifices and containers with curses isn't that strange around these parts...'

There were many ways for a person to die in this world and the bedchamber wasn't anything different. The new king was known to be a huge pervert, he had an unsatiated taste for the flesh of young women. Yet he was still alive so they had to have not been successful. Either Wang Long anticipated all the traps or used the system to take care of this problem.

'He didn't seem that smart, so using spirit points is more likely...'

This lessened the ways of taking care of his problem but didn't change much. He had learned some Dao concerning poison but it was not something he was willing to use. His holy Dao would probably be the best way to counter any evil techniques. It was also probably the reason for Wang Long's choice of changing cultivation methods. The evil energies were the bane of his holy Dao but it also went both ways.

'That about does it...'

After getting all the information from the stacks of records and books he was ready to leave. He felt slightly bad about killing the leader of this sect but they were still his enemies. War was coming and there was one less nascent soul master to kill his people. These people had no love for their old leader though and would probably just be absorbed into another faction soon enough.

‘Maybe I should see that capital city, the diagrams that are here are fairly old...’

Yet as he was about to go towards the next destination he stopped, there was something strong coming here and it was coming from the sea...

Chapter 527

‘This is...’

Zhang Dong looked at his map, there he could see a reddish tint that looked like fog. It was an indicator that something that didn’t belong to this Empire was coming. They were coming from the dead sea filled with monsters that he had to pass to get here. The water elements were out of order and when floating out to get a better look he could see a massive tidal wave coming.

‘Of all the times...’

There was a problem here, the master of this area was now dead. His nascent divinity made its way into his seed and was already nourishing it. The protective formation that he overloaded to keep the other masters here had also been damaged. These people didn’t have the know-how or resources to establish it again.

‘Can these fish people even come on land... those sea creatures didn’t seem to like the sun too much.’

He felt a bit responsible for what was awaiting the city residents that didn’t have anything to do with the Onyx Moon Sect. If the deep sea creatures were able to climb on land they would certainly destroy the coastline. The demonic sect members would probably abandon the people living here and prioritize themselves. They would surely give up their land if it meant survival.

‘This might also be a good chance to see what these fish people can really do...’

While floating in the air he looked at the terrified citizens. The tsunami wave was foreshadowed by a large dark storm that blocked out the sun. Some of the cultivators were already starting to flee while others were waiting for his move. Zhang Dong in their eyes was the new Patriarch, they didn’t know what he would do if they just fled without receiving an order.

For the time being, he decided to stay, he could just not let these many people die while he was here. Even though the people living here were brought up with a certain lack of morals that wasn’t their fault. They were mostly victims of their environment and were trying to survive. The young kids that were still not corrupted by this demonic island still deserved a chance.

“Look out, the wave is coming, run!”

“It’s too close, we won’t make it in time!”

“W-wait, what is that?”

People that were closest to the scene were panicking. Their boats that their life depended on were getting capsized. The whole pier would be instantly destroyed after the huge wave collided with it. However, a strange purple haze appeared out of nowhere. The massive wave of water collided with it but couldn’t get through.

This wave of energy started spreading to all sides while quickly halting the water from moving forward. While from the outside it looked miraculous the person performing this act was straining himself. Even though he was a pinnacle grade nascent soul master, contending with this much water wasn't easy even for him

His Dao that concerned water was high but it was not at the level of these sea dwellers. He needed to use his newfound Dao of gravity to lessen the strain on his spiritual energy. Then slowly the force that created this wave would balance itself out. In the end, only a smaller part of the city was partially flooded with the wave not hitting as hard as it normally would.

Everyone gathered here knew who was responsible for this task. It was a very strange sight to behold as these people were not used to being saved. Already they were wondering what the cause for this act of bravery was. Did their new leader just want to show off and garner sympathy before he betrayed them? They just couldn't see him doing it out of generosity, he probably needed the city for something and was just defending it for his own selfish reasons.

'They really look confused...'

To Zhang Dong, this was a strange sight to behold. Normally people that he saved would have already dropped down to their knees to worship his good deed. These people on the other hand seemed to be waiting for some kind of punchline. He could only imagine the life they could have led to this point that would produce such a reaction.

"Just go back inside of your houses, there is nothing you can do here."

His voice spread through the entire city which confused the residents even more. The way this new Patriarch acted was strange, to say the least. They all saw him floating toward the pier and he was even helping some of the people that were hit by the smaller wave. All the rubble that h

Chapter 528

"W-we won?"

"How could these many monsters fall in such a short amount of time..."

"It's all thanks to the new Patriarch!"

The people from the Onyx Moon Sect looked with awe at the massacre that took place. Even a single one of those huge monsters would have been a catastrophe but all of them were now dead. The whole shoreline was riddled with sea creature corpses that were filled with spiritual energy. To these demonic cultivators that could use the beast cores to cultivate this was a bounty worth dying for.

They couldn't make a move though, even though they had contributed to the fight it came late. The man that almost single-handedly killed them all was still floating up in the air. His figure was engraved into the people's minds, he just stood there like a pillar with his chin raised high.

'Hm, are these people summoner types or something?'

Zhang Dong was the senior that everyone was looking at now. The storm clouds were used up and finally dispersed after the vast majority of the enemy forces were now gone. What he could feel now

was a small bunch of them still hiding inside the water. They were protecting what seemed to be the leader.

They were really biding their time and only using the mindless sea monsters as a fighting force. After he cleared out most of them they just started to back away. It was clear that they would probably retreat back into the sea, that is if he didn't stop them.

'I should probably not lose more time here...'

His reason for coming here was not to battle these monsters. Even if he was victorious he still felt that battling them under the sea would be disadvantageous to him. As long as they remained there, he didn't feel that they were much of a threat. After this defeat, they would probably think twice about going to shore.

'At least now I know their tactics and weaknesses, they really don't do well out of water.'

The tidal wave that caused parts of the city to flood was already retreating. Water elements that previously swarmed from all sides were slowly dissipating. Without the sea creatures to intensify these water elements their plan wouldn't work. They needed to cover the lands with seawater that boosted their might and also allowed the many sea monsters to survive. Without it, they didn't pose that much of a threat.

'I guess they aren't sure what to do yet, I'll have to give them a reason to leave...'

In his palm, a blob of purple energy appeared and it was combined with an orb of lightning. The construct started expanding but didn't go above the size of a basketball. The core was constantly getting squished to contain more energy and this was made a lot easier with his gravitational Dao.

After a moment the attack was sent flying towards the location of the enemy leaders. Zhang Dong figured that they didn't think that he was able to sense them. This was probably the reason why they didn't leave yet. Now, on the other hand, a massive wave of energy was coming their way.

Three of the giant sea monsters that he previously demolished were sent out to block it. The first one suffered an instant defeat as the energy balls just shot past through its chest. Then when it collided with the other two it finally exploded.

He could not hear what the merpeople were saying but he could feel that they were retreating. Even though they were deeply submerged under water, the explosion produced a massive pillar of water to shoot up. The cultivators that were with him were quick to retreat as this also produced a massive wave that crashed into the pier once more.

'Huh? Is there someone really prideful with them?'

Even after the warning shot was sent and three of the huge nascent soul sea creatures were dead, the merpeople didn't retreat. Instead, he could feel that he had only aggravated the leader into a frenzy. They seemed to be calling for more sea creatures by sending some kind of signal through the sea, if he didn't stop them then another wave would be approaching them.

'Are they perhaps very easily irritable?... If so then couldn't I just use them?'

His mind started to spin as he realized something. For all intents and purposes, he was a demonic cultivator now. These sea dwellers weren't attacking the Empire or any lands that he owned. Their aim was the island where Wang Long resided. If he managed to point them in his direction then perhaps they could actually aid him in his next endeavor.

While he didn't want to send any spirit points toward his enemy, it wouldn't matter in the grand scheme of things. With another force attacking his new base Wang Long would be forced to send out his people to protect the lands. Even if the merpeople lost they would probably weaken the demonic armies.

'Okay let's try this...'

"You dare go against a proud demonic being like me? Do you think you can just enter the demonic island without dying? Come out!"

With a grand shout and show of power, he flew towards the spot that the last of the merpeople were in. While his enemies would be stronger underwater it didn't mean that he would lose to them. The leader this time around was at the upper levels of the nascent soul level. Just like before they were holding a trident and didn't look much different than the old man that he apprehended. He wasn't the only one with that weapon, there were two others that were closer to the middle stage.

"You conceited air breather!"

"I'm the one being conceited? What about you? How can you hope to defeat a demon like me? You inferior sea creatures need to learn who your betters are!"

"You dare insult our noble race?"

"Noble race? You are nothing more than seafood to us and our lord Wang Long! He will soon set out to eradicate your inferior race of beings. But at least you have your uses, the meat from that other one did taste delicious... I'm sure elixirs made from you stinky fish mongrels will be worth a lot of blood crystals!"

"Y-you, what do you mean by that... "

Zhang Dong started talking while exchanging some blows with the three trident holders. The sea creatures that were with them attempted to fight him as well but he was just too slippery. Then whenever they closed in he just needed to release a burst of electric energy to stun them for a moment.

His little performance was working and he continued to kill off the mindless sea monsters that were being controlled by these people. By taking his time he was giving them some hope in resisting. If he just wiped the floor with them his plan wouldn't work too well. They needed to at least think that they would have a good chance of winning a war with the demonic cultivators.

Soon enough he started exchanging blows with the mermen. To his surprise, they could use some strange underwater martial arts. They lacked legs and had to use their fish tails which were actually an advantage here. Their speed was tremendous and if Zhang Dong's cultivation level wasn't vastly above them he would probably struggle.

"R-retreat, we must retreat and inform the Queen..."

“You want to retreat? But I won’t be able to eat you if you do that, your fate is to become our food, even if you flee the demons will come for you, our King will eradicate you all!”

He continued to belittle them while knocking out the two weaker mermen. They quickly made their way into his spatial treasure but for the man that was left to watch it seemed as if they were getting devoured by a demonic being. Soon he was escaping while trying to use the sea monsters as shields.

‘Finally... I hope this works...’

The enemy leader had decided to turn back. The speed that he was running was truly astonishing. Zhang Dong felt that he would have trouble chasing after him when being in all this water. His flight technique wasn’t created to work that well under the sea.

‘Will this guy report it to this Queen? If it works out they will attack this place again and probably force the demonic leaders to act then that leaves this leaderless city...’

This was a conundrum that he wouldn’t be here for. There was only so much that he could do by himself. These people that lived in the city always had an option to leave now that their leader was gone. This was also something that he needed to make them aware of. He was not going to stay here to protect them, his place was with his own sect and not this city.

“Listen well because I’m not going to repeat myself.”

After the battle was over he turned around to look over the whole city. Quickly the cultivators and regular citizens trembled in fear. They all quickly went down to their knees, they all knew that there was no way of going against such a powerful old monster that they thought Zhang Dong was.

“I am not your Patriarch or part of the city, I don’t know if those creatures will return or not but you will have to take care of them by yourselves. Use these corpses if you wish, they matter not to me in the slightest.”

The message was short and clear, he would be leaving now and they were free to do what they wished. He could not stop any pillaging attempts or in-fighting to get into their old leaders’ private chambers. All of them were aware that without a nascent soul master to back them, there was no way for this sect to survive. The only option would be to join another power while offering some gifts or to give up cultivating altogether.

“But remember this, those sea monsters might return here, some of them have survived...”

He would leave them with a warning. The message was clear, they had a limited time of getting out of the city that could potentially be invaded soon. The sea monsters that were killed were a source of food that would probably last for quite some time. What these people needed to do was to pack up and retreat to the mainland.

‘I hope this goes well...’

Even though the enemy of his enemy was his friend he wasn’t sure if he was making the right decision. What the merpeople would do was still a mystery but he did point them in Wang Long’s direction and could only hope that they would point their tridents towards his throat.

‘I need to find a safe spot for the teleportation array...’

Soon enough he took off while leaving everyone in the city stupefied. While speeding away he could sense some people rushing towards the dead monsters while others quickly abandoned the city their lives were now up to their choices.

Chapter 529

“This place is really a shithole...”

Zhang Dong gave out a sigh while looking at a giant sandworm attacking a bunch of traveling merchants. The monster in itself wasn't that strong as it was on the lower spectrum of foundation establishment but there was more than one. The people it was attacking were fighting back and actually winning but this didn't take away from the fact that this was a place not meant to live in.

He had ventured out of the coastal city and began his main infiltration mission. First, he needed to find a good spot to bring his troops in and then scout the main city layout. Wang Long's whereabouts were known to him but he could always flee. With the system in his grasp, there was always an option to teleport out. However, there was a way to block the escape and this was thanks to his hacked system and Bob.

This was one reason why he was willing to move in with his whole army. They needed to surround the entire area and bring it under his control. Only then could he use a faction option that would prevent his enemy from escaping. Only then would he be able to have a proper one-on-one battle to end it all.

In theory, he would be successful but there was no way of knowing if Wang Long hadn't advanced passed him already. This was a possibility with his new demonic techniques that ignored human suffering while giving the user imaginable power. Normally even demonic cultivators didn't go overboard, there was a certain limit of how much a human soul could handle.

If too many evil acts were done in a short amount of time, the user could suffer a blow to their psyche. It wasn't strange for such a person to go on a rampage before becoming fully mad before a quick death. Yet Wang Long possessed the system and its store, it wouldn't be hard to find techniques in there that could prevent the user from being taken over by heart demons.

But it didn't seem that everyone on this island was a being filled with murderous intent. The people he was looking at didn't seem much different from the ones back home. Their Qi was demonic in nature but that was just the side effect of their cultivation method. They mostly used demonic beasts to nourish their power.

It was quite the cycle, the beasts would eat smaller creatures and also humans to gain their own cultivation. Then cultivators would hunt them for the same reason, sometimes they would come out victorious but sometimes the beasts caused widespread massacres. Both sides were eating each other just so they could survive for a bit longer.

‘I won't need to help them at least, good. The Qi in the air is faint but it is slightly tainted with demonic energies.’

One thing was for certain, while there were fewer cultivators and people living in these lands. On average, they were stronger than the people from the mainland. Stealing Qi from the defeated enemies was a lot faster than absorbing it from pills or air.

‘Didn’t expect to meet those two though, they really made a run for it...’

One of the reasons that the demonic sandworms were being slain was due to two certain bodyguards. They were the grandfather and granddaughter pair that he had run into at open sea. Just as they claimed they made a run for it the moment he went to the restaurant. Now they were acting as caravan guards while going towards the next big settlement.

‘That old fart could use a flying sword... is he perhaps scared to reveal his true cultivation level?’

The man was just one core formation elder. Without a proper backing, he would be seen as an easy target to steal Qi from. If both of them pretended that they were weaker then the enemies that would appear would also be weaker.

‘They will probably try to lay low in a region owned by a different demon or sect... but that’s not something I should worry about, this place will go through a big change after I’m through with it...’

While Zhang Dong felt bad for turning these people’s world upside down, it was a necessary evil. He didn’t fool himself into believing that everything could be taken care of without any bloodshed. This he could only minimize by putting himself in more danger. If he did things half-heartedly then perhaps more casualties would arise. Thus while camouflaging himself up in the clouds he ventured into the huge desert.

‘This Island really doesn’t have much going for itself, does it?’

He had examined a few maps that he got from the port city. This vast desert area covered almost half of the island’s surface. There were a few large settlements near pockets of underground water that were spread out between each other. The merchants that he saw earned their money by traveling between these huge cities.

One of them he could even see from here. Its walls were truly massive as they went for around two hundred meters up and were slung around the city like a giant snake. All around it, he could also see many monster carcasses that belonged to sand worms or huge beast variants that looked like scorpions.

‘No wonder they only have one nascent soul master per location, there aren’t that many to go around...’

For the time being, he decided to gain altitude while ignoring this city. With little to no resources, there wasn’t much to go around even for the leader of such a city-state. It was probably more useful for a nascent soul master to create their own cities for funneling resources towards them instead.

‘I wonder if the citizens would migrate to the mainland if they could?’

It wasn’t that easy to travel from this island to the lands of the orthodox sects. There were many deadly barriers that prevented anyone from leaving. The most deadly one was the barrier of poisonous mist that also affected souls. Only powerful cultivators could resist it and enter the lands rich with Qi.

“Hm... I don’t think that I’m even powerful enough to affect these natural phenomena... I would probably need to go a step beyond.”

The fabled immortal stage felt like it was around the corner and yet also really far away. If he divided known cultivation into stages then the immortal realm would be at stage three. For now, he was only stuck at stage one while stage two had been locked by the people that created the rules.

‘I wonder what will happen when I finally get there...’

Zhnag Dong stopped in mid-air and looked in all directions. He could see a good chunk of the island that was probably bigger than the planet that he originally came from. When glancing from here he started to worry. Not about if he could defeat Wang Dong but what would happen after that victory.

After beating the Demi-human Emperor he felt that this war wouldn't pose much of a problem. His true enemy was still Wang Long and not the setting that was created to achieve a breakthrough. The true meaning behind this would only be revealed after he ascends just as the person in the secret ground mentioned it.

‘What will happen to them?’

He asked himself this question several times but he didn't know the answer. What would happen to his family if he was forcefully rejected from this world. Would they be able to continue their lives without a worry or would another system holder arrive that could potentially destroy them. Would this world perhaps be reset by an administrator and destroyed?

All of these unanswered questions were slowly getting to him as he didn't want to end it. Yet unless he cleared up things here then the whole place would be destroyed anyway. If he waited for too long Wang Long would quickly amass so much power that it wouldn't be possible to win. This was his best chance at victory and he needed to take it.

Thus he sped into the distance while consulting his own man for directions. He had marked a few spots that were close enough to the capital city where the Chaos Demon was supposed to be. The meeting with all the demonic leaders would be taking place in less than two weeks and he needed to prepare. That event could be a dead end but he could not ignore it. Wang Long was said to appear and if he actually managed to attack before he organized his people then he would have a leg to stand on.

‘Wish my dear brother could step in to cover my ass but I'm not sure I can trust him.’

The work on the walls to keep out the demi-humans was still an ongoing project. He wanted to let his people build up defenses before coming over here in full force. If he abandoned the project then there was a possibility of demi-human remnants causing some trouble. Yet this could be a risk that he needed to take.

‘This looks like a good spot...’

He finally stopped after spotting something interesting. While the outside looked like a scorching desert there was something underground. Quickly he turned into a glowing drill that plunged itself into the ground. There after going through a layer of about a hundred meters of sand and hard rock he burst forth to a large open cavern.

There wasn't that much air in here and he couldn't feel any wind but it was something that he could work with. After gathering a bit of Qi onto his finger he produced a large glowing sphere of light. It was flung up to illuminate the whole place but as a side effect, it awoke the original inhabitants of this place.

“Good morning I guess?”

This place was partially dug up by sandworms, it looked to be a resting place for their kind. There were large tunnels going in many directions as well as eggs. It was a breeding ground for the monsters that plagued the desert.

“You’ll have to excuse me, but I need this place for my teleportation array, would you be so kind to leave?”

“GUOOOH!”

One of the larger variants opened up its huge mouth and instantly dived for the glowing human. Zhang Dong didn’t dodge but instead just surrounded himself with a thick layer of radiant Qi. The moment the teeth collided with it the worm’s whole head exploded along with part of its body. It was still an evil monster and not able to stomach the holy energy that he radiated.

“I guess that’s a no?”

Some beats gained some intelligence with age but these monsters were certainly not one of them. Before he got to work on the array he needed to get rid of the inconvenience. The parts from these sandworms could also be used for various elixirs, pills, and even weapons.

“Well then, it’s time for some worm extermination!”

He shouted while pointing out with his finger towards the wiggling beasts. On its tip, a radiant glow appeared once more. Soon a beam of light erupted that split apart into many smaller ones that gave chase. In a matter of seconds, the entire area turned into a graveyard filled with worm entrails.

“Hm... I think I’ll need to purify the air ... those worms stink...”

Zhang Dong shielded his nose with his spiritual energy after the massacre was done. Some cleaning would be in order first and soon after it was time to get some of his people over and take the fight to Wang Long.

Chapter 530

“Team Alpha reporting in, Patriarch!”

“Good, as you can see this place needs a lot of work, I managed to plug up most of the holes but those darn worms keep wandering back in...”

Zhang Dong had spent half a day clearing out the worm nesting space. The cavern was really huge and able to even hold large-scale ships inside of it. This seemed to have been a naturally formed underground cave that the sandworms just expanded even further.

He underestimated the characteristics of these territorial beasts. Even after all of them were gone along with their eggs, more continued to appear. It wouldn’t be strange if this was the main habitat of those monsters and they always found their way back here. It looked like they were dead set on living in this large area even if they continued to die.

For this very reason, Zhang Dong had to bring out Bahamut for some help and also place protective formations in the main tunnels. Normally it might have been a good idea to just find another place but

there were reasons that he decided to stay. One of them was due to time constrictions, flying around these unknown lands would be quite tiresome.

Then there was the real reason why he wanted to stay here, it was the tunnels. They were quite huge, large enough to allow even an Argonaut class ship to go through. These tunnels went through the entire desert and he had already sent out a few probes with Bob's Ai on them to map everything out.

These probes were able to hide their presence from the beasts roaming the tunnels. As long as they didn't bump into one of them directly they would not be discovered. His system map was quickly becoming filled out with the underground structure and his Ai program could even point out the quickest path towards his destination.

"Leave it to us, Patriarch!"

"Quick, bring in the teleportation base, we will begin assembly now!"

A group of around twenty cultivators arrived through the small teleportation gate that he created. They brought along larger parts of a similar one and through it most of his army would be going through. For the time being all of the resources would be moved towards this area so that this war could come to a close. When the island of demons is finally captured then it would probably be all over.

'They sure work fast... I should leave it to them.'

Another nascent soul master arrived that he wasn't that familiar with. Huo Qiang didn't want to be stuck in a cave if there wasn't much fighting to be had. Zhang Zhi was also busy with other things and both of them would only move when the time was right. For the time being they needed to remain to clear out the Demi-human remnants.

Zhang Dong on the other hand needed to continue to map out these tunnels. After throwing a few more orbs forward he sped into one of the tunnels. When passing into the passage he felt the protective barrier around him that would block out even nascent soul worm beasts.

'There are other large caves like this one, maybe I should look into those too.'

Thus for the time being he turned into a sandworm hunter. He spent a few days going through the tunnels and clearing out the large open spaces. There he would establish more bases where his people could start preparing. Even if the tunnels proved too small to travel through it didn't matter. They could always just burst through the rocky underground and approach the main city directly. This would of course give their positions away which was something that he wanted to avoid.

"Bahamut, remain here and help clear out any of the monsters you come across."

Finally, a week had passed since he arrived here and only a bit of time remained for this assembly to commence. Zhang Dong found himself at the edge of the desert and at the beginning of a poisonous forest. The trees looked to be alive and carnivorous, many demonic beasts that fed on the flesh of people resided here and were a natural barrier between the main demon city.

"GAO!"

His golden dragon returned to the underground while his people continued to transport resources. Within a week all of them would be here and then his battle plan could start. The only troublesome

thing was his golden fortress. It could not fit through the gate, the only way of getting it here was through direct teleportation that spent spirit points.

It was quite a large number which would lower his escape chances later on. It would be able to get here but moving it back to a safe location would be impossible. Unless he found a large spirit stone mine there would be no way of running. With how this place was a barren wasteland that lacked almost any spiritual energy, that would probably not happen.

‘Could a nucleus be here somewhere? There might have been someone that started out as a demonic faction member in the past.’

There was only one chance of getting an injection of spiritual energy. If he managed to find a spawning point of a system holder then it was possible. Yet scanning the entire landmass as he did in the old days wasn’t feasible. For now, he needed to focus on the mission at hand.

‘This looks quite ominous...’

He looked at the mass of malicious energy and gave it a prod with his finger. Thanks to the various Dao’s that he absorbed he was somewhat able to keep the poison from entering his body. It was only a temporary measure as he could feel the miasma slowly working its way in. If he didn’t cleanse it with his holy energy then it would slowly fester and create problems later down the line.

“Let’s get this over with... first is this gloomy forest... then I think there is some kind of lava lake and something similar to the shadowlands I encountered before...”

Normally someone that attempted to traverse through this way would consult some travel guides. There were certain spots that were safer than others. Some strong demonic monsters were territorial and only stayed in certain specific parts. However he wasn’t here just to get to the other side, he was trying to figure out the layout while also finding a flight path for his army. Even though this was a dangerous place he didn’t believe that it could block his entire force from advancing.

“It’s better to be safe than sorry, if some capricious immortal created this place then it could prove troublesome...”

Thus finally he flung himself into the deadly mist while also wearing a different disguise. His old face was already known as people came asking about him. Before leaving the port city he had altered the protective formation. It was possible to integrate something similar to a listening device. Through this, he was informed when a few nascent soul masters paid a visit after he left. The elders there were quick to give up all the information that they desired, it seemed that they were looking for him.

Yet from the conversation that he overheard it didn’t seem that Wang Long had ordered this chase. It was more probable that some sect members were trying to investigate the disappearance of their powerful members that just vanished. Now his face would probably be plastered all over the assassination guilds with rewards.

‘Just as I expected, they fear him enough to leak the information, if I’m lucky he’ll be stuck snorting some pill dust off a girl’s behind while we attack.’

While delving through the poisonous fog he noted down the monsters in the vicinity and had Bob instantly inform his people of the topography. His system map could also work in both ways, he could

relay information onto a holographic representation and send information directly. There was a slight lag but it would be enough to inform anyone that followed after him.

The monsters here were mostly up to the core formation level with some 'beast kings' existing occasionally. They sectioned off these forests into zones that could be avoided. After he was done with the preliminary scouting then some of his sect brothers would move in. They would draw up the safest path for the coming armada and if it was necessary then create a battle plan in which the flying ships could take out the largest monsters.

'This miasma doesn't go up that far so we should be safe but some of those monsters might possess ranged capabilities.'

On his way to the end, he took out some lesser creatures without them even realizing that he was there. If he wanted he could probably lay waste to the entire region by himself but then his location would become obvious. Thus he finally arrived at an area covered by shadowy night, even from here he could feel the screams of decrepit souls.

'Wish I could just absorb them like before...'

After giving out a sigh he dived right in. Thanks to the knowledge of his soul Dao he could remain hidden even to these immaterial ghost beings. Even though he could not take in their energy directly anymore they would not be able to harm him. The strength of these specters came from their numbers and the fact that not many people understood this type of difficult Dao.

Without them being able to form into something substantial they could only slowly drain their victims of energy. This area wouldn't prove very difficult to venture through as long as everyone remains in the vicinity of the protective formation. But he also made sure to extinguish some of the larger specters that were on the cusp of becoming something stronger. With that out of the way, he finally arrived at the cusp of the next area that was covered in magma.

It was a truly gigantic active volcano that was spewing up deadly ash into the air. But there was some kind of veil created in the gigantic city around this massive mountain that kept it at bay. The outline of the dome shape protective formation was easy to make out as the ash continued to swirl around it but was unable to pierce through.

"So that's it... the city of demons..."

It was hard to make out due to the swirling ash and hot air but the whole inhabitable area was composed of several cities. It was said to contain around three hundred million people within itself and all of them were cruel in nature.

"This won't be as easy as I hoped it to be..."

Even without going in, he knew that there were layers upon layers of protective spells everywhere. If he ventured another hundred meters forward he would be walking into several deadly traps. Up in the air, he could also spot a bunch of grumpy-looking Chaos Sect members that were probably clued in about the man that saved the coastal city.

'Luckily they can't see me yet, here goes nothing...'

While hiding his presence he slowly approached the volcanic area after scouting out the area it would finally be time to take the offensive and finish this meaningless conflict once and for all.