

## Versatile 1001

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#### Chapter 1001: Rescue Operation in the Sahara

Mo Fan felt like bursting into tears when he heard the price. He subconsciously glanced at Mu Ningxue, who was playing with Little Flame Belle...

So it appeared that Mu Ningxue was born with eight hundred million naturally; how unfair was that? Why did it feel like his innate talent was so much worse than hers? Not only did it not save him any money, it actually placed him a worse position, since he had to spend money like water to not fall behind!

"If a single Soul-grade Seed with a Domain alone cost eight hundred million, how long do I have to wait until all my Elements have a Domain?" Mo Fan shuddered to himself wryly.

He was about to go bankrupt, and he was only trying to improve one Element. What could he possibly do if he tried to get a Soul-grade Seed for all six of his Elements...oh, five Elements, sp the Demon Element was not completely useless. It actually helped him save some money...

"Which Element are you planning to buy a Soul-grade Seed for? You should be able to get a decent non-Domain Soul-grade Seed with nice special effects... actually, it doesn't really need to have a Domain. First, the spells of the same Element as the Soul-grade Seed will multiply the power of your spells by two to three times. Second, their special effects aren't necessarily that much weaker than Domains," Zhao Manyan informed him.

"Of course it has to have a Domain. There's a big difference!" Mo Fan blurted out.

After the fight against the Executioner Philip, Mo Fan was well aware of how incredible a Domain was. It was not as simple as strengthening his spells. It was actually able to directly suppress one's enemy; it was absolutely insane!

"Then what Element are you looking for? I'll verify the price range for you."

"Lightning!" Mo Fan answered without hesitation.

He had Little Flame Belle for the Fire Element. When he was possessed by Little Flame Belle, the combination of Calamity Fire and Rose Flame was basically the same as having Soul-grade Fire. It just lacked the effects of a Domain. According to Little Flame Belle, once she grew stronger, she should be able to Awaken her Domain.

As such, Mo Fan only needed to feed Little Flame Belle her Soul Seeds until she Awakened her Calamity Fire Domain!

Considering that he could not rely solely on the Fire Element to conquer the world, especially with how useless the Fire Element when he was fighting underwater, he decided to focus on improving his Lightning Element instead, and try to get a Lightning Domain as soon as possible.

Little Flame Belle would eventually Awaken her Domain. As for the Shadow Element, the Nyx Regime was basically a Domain.

If he had a Lightning Domain too, it was likely that he could take on a Commander-level creature on his own!

“Lightning... I’m pretty sure a Soul-grade Lightning Seed is normally a lot more expensive than other Elements. Mo Fan, prepare to go bankrupt,” Zhao Manyan told him carefully.

“...”

“How about getting a Galaxy Vein to improve your Summoning Element to the Advanced Level instead?” Zhao Manyan asked softly.

“I think you’re right, I should be more flexible about it,” Mo Fan replied.

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As the two were talking, Jiang Yu, who was extremely bored, suddenly joined in and said mysteriously, “Do you know? The identity of the enormous skeleton at the beach of Tinuoaya City has been confirmed.”

“What is it?” Mo Fan asked immediately. He was actually very curious about the skeleton, since he had witnessed the same thing happening to the Black Sea Drake!

“It’s a Coastal Mammoth at its peak. It was only slightly inferior to a Ruler-level creature. I can’t imagine it, thinking that such a huge creature was left with nothing but bones,” Jiang Yu said.

Mo Fan’s heart skipped a beat!

Slightly inferior to a Ruler-level creature? That was nowhere close to a Commander-level creature!

In other words, there was a Coastal Mammoth that a maggot had turned into close to Tinuoaya, and nobody knew where it had swum off to!

That was pretty horrifying to think about; a tiny little maggot that was weaker than most demon creatures was able to devour a Coastal Mammoth and evolve into it!

Did that simply mean there were other maggots that had turned into creatures that were superior to a Coastal Mammoth?

“Speaking of which, there are rumors about a skeleton that died the same, strange death as the Coastal Mammoth on an island not far away from Tinuoaya City...” Jiang Yu said. He had been keeping an eye on reports of similar deaths, but he was still unsure of the exact cause.

“What creature was it?” Mo Fan subconsciously asked.

“It was nothing, just a human skeleton,” Jiang Yu said.

Mo Fan immediately felt goosebumps crawling all over him upon hearing this!

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Under the blue sky was a beautiful, golden land of sand. It was perfectly flat, and the sand would only ripple when a breeze swept past, like an artist drawing a stroke across it...

A few green tents were set up on the land, and there was even a Water Curtain nearby.

The blue Water Curtain was spraying down from the sky, protecting the green tents from the intrusion of the wind and sand, allowing the people inside to rest comfortably.

Suddenly, a loud rumble came from the edge of the sky. A woman with short camo pants walked out from one of the tents and stared at the sandstorm that was approaching like a tsunami. Her gray pupils filled with fear immediately!

“Get up, everyone, get up! It’s a disaster-level sandstorm!” the woman yelled at the tents.

A bunch of people quickly ran out of the tents. They also screamed in panic when they saw the sandstorm.

“No, we’re only going to be eaten up by that thing. Head south, I remember there’s a fairly sturdy fortress there. Perhaps it can provide us with some cover,” a man who seemed to be the captain said.

“South? Are you kidding me? That’s the scariest place in the world!”

“Stay here, and we’re going to be buried by the sandstorm. It’s our only choice, even if it’s dangerous!” The captain was already packing his stuff as he spoke.

Even though they had heard lots of terrifying rumors about the Sahara Desert, and the fact that many seniors had warned them to strictly stay away, it was obvious that the disaster-level sandstorm was more life-threatening in their current situation...

The group had no choice but to follow the captain into the Sahara Desert under the great pressure from the sandstorm.

The sandstorm howled as it proceeded to devour even the clouds. Its destructive power was greater than that of a tsunami, as even the mountains, ocean, or the vast land was going to be buried under it. A few days later, when the sandstorm disappeared, the place would turn into a new desert!

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### *The Magic Castle at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa...*

The Cape of Good Hope Magic Castle was Africa’s most powerful Magic Association. It was keeping watch like an ancient city standing still on a cliff at the edge of the world. The sky and ocean were blue and ageless, but the magic castle still retained its brilliance despite its age!

“How did this happen? Didn’t we warn them to avoid the Sahara Desert at all costs!?” an old man with a black mustache snapped furiously.

“They encountered a disaster-level sandstorm, forcing them to take shelter. They had no choice but to enter the Sahara,” a Mage wearing a white uniform replied with his head lowered.

“Idiots, those idiots! The Sahara Desert is way scarier than the sandstorm! Now what? We’ve totally lost contact with them! Why would the national team make such a dumb decision? We only sent them out for training, not to get themselves killed!” the old man with the black mustache cursed.

“Going on a tantrum isn’t going to help,” the Mage sniffed.

“Then what brilliant plan do you have in mind, tell me!” the old man said.

“Our rescue team is still going to take some time to reach the Sahara Desert. However, according to the information provided by the International Magic Association, it seems like the Chinese team happens to be passing by the area. Since we are having trouble contacting our national team, the best option we have is to contact China and request that they lend us a hand by searching for the missing team until our rescue team gets there. That way, they can try searching for any traces that the missing team has left in the area before they are erased by the next storm,” the Mage proposed.

“Do you seriously think there aren’t enough people going missing in the Sahara Desert?” the old man cursed.

“It’s the only choice we have. I have already contacted China, they said they will consider sending their national team to help us if we’re willing to hire them at the standard price of mercenaries...” the Mage said.

“Humph, mercenaries? They are utterly clueless about the desert. I just hope we don’t have to send even more people to search for them too!” the old man said.

“Shall we ask for their help or not? I’m just worried that our rescue team won’t be able to find any traces when they arrive, greatly reducing the chance of us finding them,” the Mage said.

“Yes, go contact China right now!” In the end, the old man did not want anything to happen to the missing team. After all, in a place like the Sahara, without any communication or trail, the team would never be able to find their way out on their own!

“Well, the person did ask for quite a shocking amount.”

“What choice do we have? Give them whatever they want, it’s more important to make sure those idiots are still alive! I wouldn’t want our national team getting wiped out during training when they haven’t even reached Venice!” the hot-tempered old man snapped.

“Affirmative!”

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After leaving Portugal, Mo Fan and the team were supposed to depart for Egypt and experience the Arabic culture.

To their surprise, when they were setting out for Egypt along the edge of the Sahara Desert by following the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, they were given an emergency job!

“Rescue?”

“Did the advisor really ask us to go on a rescue mission in the Sahara Desert?”

“F\*\*k me, they are asking us to go to the Sahara Desert? That’s a forbidden place two levels higher than the Amazon Jungle! There’s no f\*\*king way I’m going there!”

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#### **Chapter 1002: The Illusion in the Desert**

If the danger level of every demonic creature territory was listed on the same ranking, the Sahara Desert was very likely going to end up in the top three!

Most places where demon creatures resided were considered treasure lands to Hunters. Regardless of how dangerous, desolate, or far away the places were, many Hunters were willing to explore them, since the territories of demon creatures would usually have fascinating and valuable treasures waiting to be discovered.

However, not even Hunters would dare to enter a forbidden place like the Sahara Desert!

The outer area of the Sahara Desert was ranked deep red. The density of demon creatures was comparable to the deep ocean. There were packs, tribes, and even kingdoms of demon creatures across the place.

However, if people were to venture deeper into the Sahara Desert, the place would be totally purple, meaning that the density of demon creatures was three times the density of the red areas! They would surely experience the meaning of seeing parades of demon creatures wherever they went!

Having more demon creatures residing in the area meant that the resources would be scarce, too. The hordes of demon creatures had never stopped competing among themselves for the resources, let alone humans who dared trespassing into their territories!

Normally, such a dangerous place would have lots of terrifying rumors revolving around it. However, there were not many rumors about the Sahara Desert, since the rumors only existed when someone managed to come back alive and tell the others about their experiences. Even until now, not many Hunters dared to talk about the Sahara Desert, as it was simply a death zone. Apart from the purple areas in the inner areas of the Sahara Desert, the deepest part of it was a shocking black area!

Mo Fan would never forget the sight he saw within the Dark Abyss. It was a furnace of undead, with zombies and skeletons stacked up like mountains and oceans. Only a place like that would be classified as a black area!

It turned out there was a place like that in the Sahara Desert, a place that no Mage had ever visited, and was completely unknown to mankind...

As such, the team was startled when they were asked to go to such a dangerous place for a rescue mission!

What kind of joke was that? Instead of saving someone, they were only going to get themselves killed! The Sahara Desert was basically a no-man's land!

"The advisors have made it clear that we'll decide if we want to go ourselves. However, those who chose not to go will not receive any resources allocated to the national team," Nanyu said.

"I would rather give them up instead!" Zu Jiming was the first to express his thoughts.

"I don't want to go either, a place like that..."

"Captain, what do you think?"

Many people immediately looked at Ai Jiangtu, hoping that he could decide on behalf of the team.

"We are only asked to look for traces of the missing team in the outer part. We won't need to go deep into the Sahara Desert," Nanyu explained purposely. She had clearly decided to go, since the benefits that the advisors promised were too good to give up on.

"I want to go too; I need money!" Mo Fan was pretty straightforward.

After talking with Zhao Manyan about the price of a Soul-grade Lightning Seed, Mo Fan had almost gone crazy thinking how to earn more money. Africa's Magic Association had promised quite a handsome reward, and Mo Fan desperately needed it!

"I'm sorry, we've got other plans instead. Let's split up here, feel free to go if you want. As for the money, we won't even bother taking a cent, since money is completely useless if you're dead," Guan Yu deferred.

The Sahara Desert was not a part of their initial itinerary. After arriving at the Mediterranean Sea, Guan Yu had his own sources to acquire the resources he needed. He had no intention of risking his life by going to the Sahara.

"We'll do it the old way then. Nanyu will lead those who's interested, and I'll look after those who decide not to go," Ai Jiangtu said.

Members of the team had long had conflicts with one another. It was not the first time the team had split up. Whenever the members were free to make their own decisions, the team usually split up into two.

As the captain, Ai Jiangtu was obliged to look after the others. He would normally stay with Guan Yu and the others.

As everyone expected, Jiang Shaoxu, Jiang Yu, Zhao Manyan, Mu Ningxue, and Nanyu decided to go to Sahara, while the others were led by Ai Jiangtu to find other ways of earning resources.

Everyone on the team wanted to improve, thus they needed all kinds of resources to remain competent on the team. Most importantly, they wanted to shine brightly when they reached Venice, so the world would notice them and the factions behind them!

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“Say, Mo Fan, can you go easier on yourself? You can’t be serious about going to the Sahara, no matter how desperate you want money!” Zhao Manyan was actually a person that was very scared of dying.

Making friends with Mo Fan was truly the worst decision he had ever made in his life, since he would most likely die at a very young age!

As a matter of fact, when he saw the rewards that Africa had offered, he could easily guess how difficult the job was going to be!

“Didn’t Nanyu already say? We are only going to investigate the outer part of the desert,” Mo Fan said.

“Even so, I heard that it’s pretty common to stumble into Ruler-level creatures in the Sahara,” Zhao Manyan winced.

“I doubt these Ruler-level creatures are so free that they wander around in the outer part. It’s only going to be some weaklings patrolling the outer area, don’t worry too much.”

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Upon reaching the desert, they immediately saw golden sands extending all the way to the horizon ahead of them. If anyone stood on a slightly tall dune and looked down, they would be able to see the whole spectacular, golden scene, urging them to reflect on how tiny humans were, and how marvelous the work of nature was!

The area was very still. There was no wind, and no dust lingering in the air.

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The group continued to journey over one sand dune after another, heading to the place Africa’s International Magic Association had pinpointed.

As a matter of fact, they had not actually entered the Sahara Desert yet. They were currently on the outer ring, and were still fairly close to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Sahara Desert was not just infamous for the strong demon creatures residing in it, but an eerie illusion that existed there.

Anyone that entered the Sahara Desert would basically lose their sense of direction. Not only would they fail to find their way out, they would continue to venture deeper into it without even realizing it.

It was harder to identify the directions in a desert than a jungle, since the whole place was covered in sand and sand dunes. The scorching sun above their heads was unable to provide them with any assistance, either. Any markings that were left behind would be easily covered by the sand!

It was obvious that the team that went missing had carelessly entered the illusion.

If someone from the outside was able to help them with the directions, or send a team to rescue them, they would still have some hope of leaving the illusion. However, the longer they spent in there, the more likely it was for them to spend the rest of their lives in the Sahara Desert. Even Super Mages had lost their way in the Sahara Desert!

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“This is roughly the place where the missing team last contacted the Magic Association. It’s around three kilometers away from the boundaries of the illusion in the Sahara Desert. The advisors mentioned that the team had encountered a strong sandstorm. They were forced to enter the illusion in order to find shelter. The sandstorm was heading south, so I believe they must have gone south from here, too. Let’s just hope they didn’t go too deep into the desert...” Nanyu said.

“What do we do now? We can’t possibly go in there to look for them?” Jiang Yu asked.

“We’ll need to stay in a line as we proceed from here. Everyone must be less than a kilometer away from the next person, to ensure that we can still get out of the illusion, even if someone accidentally goes into it,” Nanyu said.

The concept was fairly simple. If everyone had to maintain a distance of a kilometer from the next person, the six of them were enough to make a line formation five kilometers long. The person at the very back would stay outside of the boundary while the other four went inside to search for the missing team. Everyone was told to signal one another with magic every five minutes, to make sure that the line was still intact.

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The illusion actually had very clear boundaries. The golden sand suddenly turned into a kind of red sand after crossing the boundary, implying that the person had entered the illusion.

The group followed Nanyu’s simple instructions. Nanyu stayed at the back of the line outside the boundary while the rest of the group slowly entered the desert.

The group tried their best to use the sand dunes nearby as references. It was hard to maintain a perfect distance between the members, but the sand dunes allowed the others to see them more clearly.

“I’ll be standing here, you’ll continue walking further ahead,” Mu Ningxue said to Mo Fan.

The person behind Mu Ningxue was Jiang Shaoxu. She was already holding her position on a sand dune.

Mo Fan was the last person to go deeper into the illusion, since he was the boldest in the group. Both Zhao Manyan and Jiang Yu were too scared to go that far into the illusion.

“Is this place really that scary?” Mo Fan wondered as he went deeper.

The sand obviously had a hint of red to it. After walking five hundred meters forward, Mo Fan turned around to look back.

Mo Fan immediately felt cold sweat covering his forehead. Where was Mu Ningxue?

He didn’t even go that far, why did she vanish all of a sudden?

A moment later, Mo Fan discovered a spiraling airflow on his left sweeping dark-golden sand into the air, circling a sand dune like an enormous mantle.

Mo Fan was shocked to see Mu Ningxue after looking in that direction. He was completely unaware that Mu Ningxue had suddenly moved to his left!



That didn't sound right, it seemed like Mu Ningxue had not moved at all. She was still standing on the same sand dune, meaning that it was him who started straying away from a straight line?

Mo Fan was shocked when the thought crossed his mind.

He had only walked five hundred meters, but he was already forty-five degrees away from a straight line. Wasn't this illusion a bit too terrifying?

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#### **Chapter 1003: The Vanished Nanyu**

Continuing forward, Mo Fan purposely turned around to confirm Mu Ningxue's position every time he walked a hundred meters forward, just so he did not stray too much from the initial path.

He had to admit that the illusion was rather spooky. Every time he turned around, he would notice that he was no longer walking in a straight line. Even when he strongly believed that Mu Ningxue was right behind him, he still ended up straying away from the line. It felt like Mu Ningxue was actually moving as he walked!

However, Mu Ningxue had been standing still atop the sand dune all along. After a certain time, Mu Ningxue would cast a tornado resembling a cloak above her to tell everyone where she was. As Mo Fan moved further away, he could no longer see her. Only the tornado in the air showed she was still standing in the same spot.

Without Mo Fan realizing it, he had walked a kilometer away. He felt lost somehow when he looked at the unending sand with a hint of redness.

Apart from the blue sky, it was fairly impossible to differentiate their surroundings, to the extent that Mo Fan thought he was walking back toward the sand dune that Mu Ningxue was standing on, as it just looked too similar. If it wasn't for the tornado signaling him that she was still at the same spot, Mo Fan would simply think that he had been walking in circles.

No wonder so many people had gotten lost in the desert. Without using flags, pinpoints, or references, it was like walking in complete darkness!

The yellow sand, unending land, and sand dunes kept on repeating. When the scenery around a person always remained the same, it was no different than walking in complete darkness where the person could not even see their own fingers when reaching their hands forward. Everyone would surely get lost without knowing if they were still walking in a straight line, or in circles.

Most terrifyingly, their com links had strong interference, too. They had stopped working when Mo Fan was only five hundred meters away. If the group had not decided to cast spells as signals in advance, they would most likely have lost sight of one another.

Mo Fan estimated the distance and started searching around while staying within a kilometer of Mu Ningxue.

After more than half an hour, he finally discovered something other than yellow sand.

It was a sand fox, passing by timidly. Mo Fan immediately searched the direction it came from, and found a faint, green object buried under the sand.

Mo Fan went closer and swept the sand away from the object. He ended up dragging a pale green tent from the sand.

The tent was severely damaged. It seemed like the wind had torn it into pieces. There were also water packs and dried food scattered across the place. It seemed like someone had stayed here recently.

That being said, there was also a chance that the powerful sandstorm had swept these things here when the missing team's camp was actually a long distance away.

Either way, they had at least confirmed that the African team was somewhere in the area. They had lost contact for around a day and a half, so if the missing team still had any brains, they would not travel too far away.

"It seems like the tent is the only clue here, there isn't anything else. (Sigh), hopefully it's enough to turn in the job. Otherwise, the rescue team won't even find the tent when they arrive," Mo Fan picked up the tent and raised it up with sticks to turn it into a green flag.

After Mo Fan was done setting it up, he started making his way back. To Mo Fan's great astonishment, he initially thought Mu Ningxue was on his six, but the tornado surprisingly appeared in his twelve. The difference was a hundred and eighty degrees! That was simply too ridiculous. If he simply followed his instincts, he would be walking in the completely opposite direction!

After regrouping with Mu Ningxue, the girl looked at Mo Fan and said, "Something's strange about this illusion."

"It's not only strange, it's about to drive me mad. I couldn't tell the right direction even once, even though I usually have a strong sense of direction!" Mo Fan swore.

"Let's head back to Jiang Shaoxu is," Mu Ningxue said.

Jiang Shaoxu had not stopped releasing the signal. They were able to see Jiang Shaoxu's Light Spell around a kilometer away from Mu Ningxue's position.

After they regrouped with Jiang Shaoxu, they were able to see Jiang Yu's signal.

As a matter of fact, to Mo Fan's eyes, their positions were like chess pieces zigzagging across the board, but they were actually maintaining a straight line since they came in.

"Come, when we reach where Zhao Manyan we should be able to see Nanyu. To be honest, I don't even want to stay a second more in this strange place. I keep feeling like Zhao Manyan's position never stops shifting," Jiang Yu said.

"I have the same feeling too, even though we are all standing at the same spots," Jiang Shaoxu agreed with a nod.

“Why isn’t Nanyu sending a signal yet? Didn’t we agree to send out a signal every five minutes?” Jiang Yu wondered.

The group had regrouped with Zhao Manyan for more than five minutes. Normally, they should be seeing a signal from Nanyu by now, yet they still did not see anything from the person who should still be staying outside of the boundaries.

“Speaking of which, it had actually been ten minutes...” Zhao Manyan murmured.

He was speaking indifferently, since they were at most a kilometer away from the boundaries of the desert. Even without Nanyu’s signal, he assumed they would be able to walk out of the desert on their own. That being said, it was still worrying that Nanyu did not stick to the plan!

Everyone waited at Zhao Manyan’s position... yet even after fifteen minutes, there was still nothing coming from Nanyu!

“Maybe she fell asleep?”

“Nanyu would never commit such a rookie mistake; something must have happened to her!” Mo Fan said confidently.

Both Nanyu and Ai Jiangtu were from the military. They were very strict when it came to discipline. If they agreed to send out a signal every five minutes, they would send out the signal right on time, not even a second late!

However, she had not sent a signal for more than fifteen minutes, meaning that she must be in some kind of trouble!

“Let’s hurry up and leave. Even though we’re only at the outer part of Sahara Desert, there is still some terrifying existence around here!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

The group nodded and immediately headed in the direction Nanyu was supposed to be.

After they went around four hundred meters forward, Mo Fan discovered that Jiang Shaoxu was standing still in her spot. He was utterly confused by it. He turned his head to Jiang Shaoxu and yelled, “What are you doing there? Let’s go!”

“Look ahead, did you see yellow sand or sand with a hint of redness?” Jiang Shaoxu whispered into everyone’s ears with Psychic Voice.

The others only noticed the color of the sand after Jiang Shaoxu’s reminder.

Mo Fan glanced ahead and discovered a flat land like a calm lake being shone upon by the golden, orange-red sun. As he glanced further into the distance, he saw a sand dune, one that he clearly remembered he had passed by when they were moving toward Zhao Manyan from Jiang Yu’s position!

“Yellow sand... damn it, we went in the wrong direction!” Jiang Yu exclaimed.

“It can’t be, I clearly remember this is the right way to where Nanyu was. I specifically took note of it when she last sent out the signal,” Zhao Manyan said confidently.

“Try flying into the sky and take a look,” Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan summoned his magic wings and flew into the sky. However, when he glanced down from the height, he immediately felt an icy chill running down his spine!

He was able to see a few kilometers into the distance at his height, yet there was no sign of Nanyu anywhere!

Not only did he fail to see Nanyu, he was utterly terrified when he discovered that all the sand within a few kilometers had a hint of redness to it!

He had never moved away from his spot. He was at most a kilometer away from Nanyu, thus it totally made sense that they could easily leave the desert by going in the right direction. However, such a direction no longer existed!

Zhao Manyan had a pale face as he came back to the group.

“Nanyu is missing...” Zhao Manyan said.

Before everyone started to panic, Zhao Manyan added, “When I was looking down from the sky, the sand within a few kilometers from us has the same redness. We are completely stuck in the middle of the illusion!”

Everyone’s heart sank when they heard Zhao Manyan’s words. Jiang Yu immediately summoned Night Rakshasa as he was finding it hard to believe. The Night Rakshasa was fairly good at identifying the right direction. She should be able to lend them a hand.

In the end, even the Night Rakshasa failed to discern the right way!

“So...where the heck are we?”

“We are lost. Once we lost contact with the person outside the boundaries, there’s no way we can find the way out. It’s not about picking the right direction that will bring us out. We’ll still lose our way without something to guide us,” Mu Ningxue said.

“Can this place be any more spooky?”

“Stop it, my skin is already crawling with goosebumps.”

Mo Fan turned around and glanced at where Jiang Shaoxu was.

Jiang Shaoxu did not move. She had purposely stayed behind where Zhao Manyan was when the others went to look for Nanyu. In other words, where Jiang Shaoxu was standing should be the closest to the exit. If they could go to where she was, it would prevent them from venturing deeper into the desert.

The scariest thing about getting lost was, even when you picked a direction, you could not tell if you were heading in the right direction. However, if the direction you took was wrong, it was impossible for you to return to the previous spot, thus getting more lost than you already were...

Everyone hurried over to where Jiang Shaoxu was. Everyone had a worried and uneasy look from being unable to understand what was going on.

First, they had no idea where Nanyu went. Why didn't she stay outside to guide them with the signal? They had agreed to maintain a straight line. If the person at the very back went missing, it simply meant the whole group would be lost in the illusion.

Second, what were they supposed to do now? Should they pick a direction and try their luck, or just stay where they were?

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#### **Chapter 1004: The Wild Sandstorm!**

Zhao Manyan was unwilling to give up, and ascended directly into the sky again from where he was standing. He was trying to use the height to find the exit of the maze by searching for the golden-yellow sand.

However, the sand he saw still had the same hint of redness no matter how far he looked. Even when he came down from the sky, where he landed was actually quite far away from where he took off from. If Jiang Shaoxu had not been releasing a signal still, Zhao Manyan might have lost his way.

"Damn it, even the sky is like a maze, I was clearly flying straight up, but I was more than three hundred meters away when I landed!" Zhao Manyan cursed.

"Why don't you go higher?" Jiang Yu suggested.

"I suggest not, it's going to be the same in the sky. If Zhao Manyan went too high up, he might lose his way too. If flying into the sky worked, may Super Mages wouldn't get stuck here forever too after not believing how dangerous this place is," Jiang Shaoxu said.

The higher Zhao Manyan flew, the further away he was from where he took off. If Zhao Manyan had to reach a height where he could observe over ten kilometers away, he would no longer return to the same area.

"Let's set up the tents and wait for rescue," Mo Fan suggested.

"Mm, we shouldn't be too far away from the exit. If they use the same way we did to search for us, they should be able to find us pretty quickly," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Speaking of which, can't we use the same way to probe our surroundings? We'll treat this spot as our center and form a straight line. If we are really not far away from the exit, we should be able to find it that way," Jiang Yu suggested.

"Let's try it then, we can set up the tents first..." Mo Fan said.

The group followed Jiang Yu's suggestion and formed a straight line.

Unfortunately, they failed to locate the exit of the maze still. Mo Fan even found the green flag he had set up previously, yet there was still no sign of Nanyu and the exit. In other words, once they entered

the maze, it was impossible for them to leave it by using the same approach unless someone was tagging the exit from the outside.

“I’m afraid this maze has something to do with the Chaos Element. Give me some time, I’ll see if I can crack it,” Jiang Yu said.

Jiang Yu’s main Element was Summoning, and his supporting Element was Chaos. It was an incredibly rare Element, just like the Space Element. Only Advanced Mages had a certain chance of Awakening it. It had not been too long ago since Mo Fan had reached the Advanced Level, thus he had not really seen the Chaos Element at work yet.

The terrifying maze in the desert had to be somehow related to the Chaos Element. Otherwise, they would have found the exit by using the same approach.

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After setting up the tents, the group no longer dared to leave their positions after knowing how eerie the desert maze was. Even when they tried to probe around, they strictly maintained the line formation.

At night, the desert was extremely cold. Going out was their biggest problem, but they were very concerned about the missing Nanyu. They could not tell if she was safe or not.

The wind grew stronger at night, sweeping the sand into the air. The small tents could no longer withstand the force of the sand. Zhao Manyan had no choice but to lay out a Water Curtain to protect the tents.

The night was bright, the beautiful outline of the desert was clearly visible, they could even see a few sand foxes moving around and disappearing within the blink of an eye.

The group of five took turns guarding at night. Mo Fan sat outside the tents and started meditating. With so many Stars to work on, if he did not practice diligently, he would not be able to cast the spells of his different Elements adeptly. Mo Fan was very hard-working when it came to his cultivation!

Mo Fan was practicing the Nyx Regime. The Shadow Element was incredibly useful in battles, and Mo Fan had grown quite fond of the Shadow Element recently too...

As Mo Fan was about to focus, he immediately heard a loud rumble, like a group of trucks approaching from the distance.

Mo Fan opened his eyes and looked into the distance. He immediately saw a cloud of sand connecting the ground and the sky.

The cloudy sand spread across the horizon. It felt like rows of soldiers on galloping horses. The rumble gradually grew louder too.

“A sandstorm?”

“A sandstorm this big!?”

Mo Fan was shocked. He did not think much of it, until he saw the sandstorm was covering the entire horizon, and was approaching like a tsunami big enough to devour a whole city.

“Are you serious, does this place have a sandstorm every day?” Mo Fan cursed.

The sandstorm was clearly massive and destructive. Mo Fan immediately woke the others.

“I remember the team that went missing was forced to hide in the maze after encountering a sandstorm. What do we do now? Do we need to find shelter?” Jiang Yu asked.

“Hold your ground, we must stay where we are, if we try hiding from the sandstorm, we’ll end up just like the missing team!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

They could not afford to leave their location. The maze was simply too terrifying. The only way to guarantee their safety was to hold their position at a tagged location unyieldingly. The more they moved around, the easier it was for them to get lost, making it difficult for them to be rescued!

Nanyu was still outside of the maze. She must have left because she had encountered a tricky situation, but she would never abandon the team. If she could return to her spot and send a signal to the group, they would be able to leave the maze.

As such, leaving was not an option. They had to hold their ground no matter how strong the sandstorm was!

“I can still defend us from a sandstorm of this level!” Zhao Manyan patted his chest confidently.

“That’s good to hear! Anyway, we can’t leave this place, or else we’ll be in great trouble,” Mo Fan nodded.

—

The sandstorm gradually got closer, but surprisingly, the sand was not as unendurable as they thought. The sand that was thrown into the sky was actually more threatening.

A sandstorm was formed when a powerful wind was blowing lots of sand into the sky. However, when the sand started falling from the sky after losing the support of the wind, it would start pouring down like a giant waterfall!

Water was soft and light, but sand was several times heavier than water. When sand was pouring down like a waterfall, it would either kill a person directly, or bury them alive after breaking every bone in them!

“My Ice Element isn’t ideal in this environment.” Mu Ningxue wanted to help with the defense, but in this dry, scorching desert, the Ice and Water Elements were affected to a certain degree.

“I should be able to handle it myself!” Zhao Manyan said.

Even if Zhao Manyan’s Water Element was not as effective, he still had the sturdy Light and Earth Elements, both known for their outstanding defensive abilities!

“A sand tornado is approaching us from our nine, we have to stop it!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

Mo Fan looked to their nine and saw a powerful, yellow dragon approaching them amid the cloudy sandstorm. It was as strong as an Advanced Spell!

“I’ll do it!” Mu Ningxue said.

The tornado mainly consisted of the Wind Element. Mu Ningxue immediately unleashed her will to control the presence of Wind Magic nearby.

Soon, a tornado with a similar size appeared in front of Mu Ningxue and headed for the sand tornado. The two tornadoes collided and immediately shattered into powerful gusts sweeping in all directions.

“Sandfall! Sandfall!” someone yelled amid the sandstorm.

Zhao Manyan raised his head and saw a huge chunk of sand pouring down at them like the giant splash of a waterfall.

If they were allowed to move from their spot, they could easily withdraw temporarily to hide from the sandfall. However, if they moved now, they would most likely get lost in the desert. Zhao Manyan clenched his teeth and cast a Rock Barrier to protect the group beneath it.

The Rock Barrier was not as sturdy as everyone had imagined. It was soon destroyed by the terrifying sandfall. Zhao Manyan quickly established a barrier of Plummeting Rays around the group.

The sand landed heavily on the golden light barrier, producing loud screeches.

The force of the sand was utterly shocking. Even when the group was hiding within the barrier, they could feel the whole place sinking.

The sand started falling along the arc-shaped barrier, but soon started to stack up around it.

Mo Fan raised his head and watched the sand surrounding the group. It was simply too thick for them to see outside...

“Aren’t we pretty much buried alive?” Jiang Yu said worriedly.

“Once the light barrier reaches its limit, we’ll actually be buried alive. The Sahara Desert is indeed the most dangerous place in the world. This environment alone isn’t something that normal people could handle, let alone the demon creatures residing here!” Zhao Manyan said.

“What do we do now?” Jiang Shaoxu asked.

“I think we’re trapped.”

“As long as we didn’t move from our spot.”

They had no idea how long the sandstorm was going to last. The only relief was that the sand stacking on top of the barrier actually served as an extra layer of defense, protecting the group beneath it.

The group was having trouble finding peace of mind when they were stuck in such a confined space while hearing the unending rumbles from the outside.

“Jiang Yu, can you help me take something out from my bag, the pocket at the very bottom,” Mo Fan said when everyone else was feeling hopeless.

“Oh, ok, sure!” Jiang Yu found Mo Fan’s bag and took out a little box wrapped inside a paper bag.



Jiang Yu handed Mo Fan the box. Mu Ningxue, Jiang Shaoxu, and Jiang Yu all glanced at the extremely calm Mo Fan. They were eager to know what brilliant plan he had in mind.

Mo Fan tore the paper wrapping around the box, revealing a very common pattern on the box that everyone was extremely familiar with.

“Come, luckily I was smart enough to bring two packs of playing cards along. Otherwise, we’re simply going to die of boredom here. We have five of us here, that’s enough for us to play Golden Flower!” Mo Fan quickly shuffled the cards and started dealing them into five hands.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1005: Sandfear Fox!**

The group could still hear the howl of the sandstorm, like the sound of someone crying through the thick sand barrier. No one could tell how long it was going to last.

“Mo Fan, are you out of your mind, to actually bring playing cards along? We have lost our way in the desert, and Nanyu is missing too. We are now trapped under the sand, and you still have the mood to play?” Jiang Yu said seriously to Mo Fan.

“So you’re sure you aren’t going to follow further?” Mo Fan asked.

“Yes,” Jiang Yu nodded seriously, “I’m not following, your hand is surely bigger than mine.”

Jiang Yu folded his hand. Although his heart was aching for throwing a high-quality Soul Seed Piece away, Mo Fan had actually raised the bet by half a Soul-grade Seed. If Jiang Yu followed, he would lose even more.

As soon as Jiang Yu folded, Mo Fan won the round. He quickly dragged the Soul Seed Pieces in, worth around eight million in total. It was half a tin of milk powder for his Little Flame Belle!

“Hey, don’t take the money yet, show us your cards.”

“K is the biggest card that I have!” Mo Fan replied with a grin.

“F\*\*k me!”

“Damn it, I folded when I had a pair. Mo Fan, you asshole!”

“By the way, I think the sandstorm is getting weaker.”

“Don’t you dare run away after you’ve won! Deal the cards, I’m going to win it back!”

The sandstorm was indeed weakening. Considering that Nanyu might have returned to her position, the group did not play another round.

—

It took the group quite some time to clear away the sand stacked on top of them. They were surprised to see that the area they were at had stacked up into a tall sand dune.

“That’s insane, the altitude here is suddenly over ten meters high.” Zhao Manyan observed the area. He could no longer recognize the place.

Looking at the terrain that had changed beyond recognition, if they did not insist on staying in the same spot, they would have thought the sandstorm had blown them to a different desert!

The place had turned from a flat area of sand to rolling terrain with sand dunes; it was unbelievable!

—

The yellow, sandy dust was still lingering in the air. It took a few hours before it finally cleared up. The group was hoping that Nanyu would be standing around a kilometer away sending out a signal, but the area was completely empty, with no sign of Nanyu.

“We can’t possibly be thinking of waiting here?” Jiang Yu was shaken. He glanced at the sand dunes nearby and said, “You know how strong the sandstorm was. It completely altered the terrain. This place is totally different to how it looked before. Maybe we are not just a kilometer away from the exit, and perhaps Nanyu has never left her spot, we’re just not standing at where we were supposed to be.”

“That’s possible too, otherwise, why couldn’t we see her if she’s only a kilometer away. I couldn’t even see her within five kilometers away!” Zhao Manyan said.

“Let me assure you that many teams that went missing in the desert had the same thoughts, too. They started to think it was meaningless to wait at the same place because of people like you. In the end, they ended up getting even more lost. I’ve heard rumors about the Sahara Desert, and the only way the others can find you is if you stay at the same spot. As long as you don’t move, you will still be at the same spot, but once you start to move away, the desert will eventually lead you to the Desert of Death. At that time, even Super Mages would not dare to save you. You will be buried forever under the sand,” Jiang Shaoxu stated in a very serious voice.

They must not move, not even a single step, unless they knew they were going in the right direction. Otherwise, they would only venture deeper into the desert. Jiang Shaoxu could not afford to let their words influence the group. It was no joke, since it was unlikely that anyone that got lost in the desert would survive!

“Let’s just wait here, we must not move even if it’s raining, hailing, or if a thunderstorm is taking place. We would just lose our chance of being rescued,” Mo Fan said.

Jiang Shaoxu sounded extremely serious, and the rest in the group did not really have any brilliant idea to find the way out, including Jiang Yu, who possessed the Chaos Element.

It was just a boring, stubborn wait. As Jiang Shaoxu had mentioned, if they started having doubts, they would have fallen to the desert maze!

—

From day to night, the group waited for two days straight.

Bored, worried, helpless, bad thoughts, the two days felt extremely long and torturous. Whenever someone suggested the group leave, Jiang Shaoxu immediately advised against it.

As the supply of food and water started to deplete, waiting aimlessly was incredibly frustrating, making it harder for them to keep their calm.

As such, the desert maze was no longer just a maze, but a test of the travelers' mental strength. If a team was not unified, the members would most likely suffer mental breakdowns pretty easily!

Luckily, the five people had great trust in one another. Apart from some occasional grumbling, they were willing to wait patiently.

"Say, are we seriously going to wait longer?" Zhao Manyan said with a twisted face.

"Wait! Of course we're going to wait, didn't you hear what Jiang Shaoxu just said?" Mo Fan answered firmly.

"Can you take a look at the top of the sand dune over there before answering my question?" Zhao Manyan pointed at a sand dune, where a faint gray figure had slowly appeared.

Mo Fan glanced into the direction and saw a long troop of demon creatures appearing on the sand dune after crossing it from the other side. They started moving toward the group.

If it was just an ordinary sand fox, the group would be able to stay calm. The problem was, the troop of sand foxes was a lot bigger than ordinary sand foxes. They were almost as big as mature bulls!

Their tails were extremely long. Some were dragged along the ground as they moved, while others had their tails upright and swaying like furry serpents.

Their fangs and claws of the foxes were extremely sharp. One could tell they were not friendly at first sight. The green flicker in their eyes clearly displayed their hunger and savagery!

"Sandfear Fox!" Jiang Yu, the demon creature expert, instantly recognized the species. His heart skipped a beat.

Normally, these Sandfear Foxes were loners, as these strong creatures preferred to have their own territories. However, these Sandfear Foxes were moving in a pack, as if they were migrating to a new habitat. It was quite an unbelievable sight!

These Sandfear Foxes were usually the imperious kind that infiltrated other species' territories, demanding they give up on their homes, yet in the Sahara Desert, they were forced to stick together and migrate to somewhere else...

"Are these creatures tricky to deal with?" Mo Fan asked.

The Sandfear Foxes were heading right toward them. From their starving looks, the fight was clearly inevitable. Most importantly, they had to stay right where they were!

"They are very tricky to deal with," Jiang Yu said with a twisted expression.

"Should we avoid them?" Zhao Manyan suggested.

“Avoid my ass, we can easily wipe out these little creatures, and prepare some dried fox meat to fill up our supplies!” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan was a warlike maniac. He felt like he was about to die of boredom in the desert, thus he was fairly keen to fight the demon creatures to occupy himself. Not only could he familiarize himself with his spells, he could also collect the Soul Remnants, and even loot some rare bones, claws, or skin for some extra money. Why wouldn't he do it?

“Prepare to fight, we can't afford to leave this place!” Jiang Shaoxu ordered decisively.

Mo Fan, Jiang Yu, Mu Ningxue, and Zhao Manyan prepared themselves, waiting for the Sandfear Foxes to arrive.

If the demon creatures were smart, they would avoid the group instead. If they were up for a fight, it was no longer necessary for the pack of demon creatures to migrate, since this place was going to be their burial ground!

“Err... aren't their numbers a bit too crazy? Why do I feel like they aren't really migrating?” Jiang Yu said softly after some time.

More Sandfear Foxes kept on appearing on the sand dune. It went from a long troop, to an incredibly long troop!

On top of that, these Sandfear Foxes were not approaching them in a straight line. They were slowly splitting up into different squads as they scattered across the sand dune, like an army of soldiers moving into their positions right before a war.

“Why do I feel like they are trying to surround us?” Zhao Manyan said.

The troop of Sandfear Foxes was slowly spreading across the sand dunes around the group. Their eyes were staring at Mo Fan and the others, but somehow, they felt like the demon creatures were not targeting them specifically.

On top of that, the Sandfear Foxes were not in a rush to attack. They were holding their positions instead. The group was even more confused. Normally these demon creatures would pounce at them when they saw how they outnumbered the humans. It was unlikely they would hold their positions, as if they were in a stalemate!

“By the way... didn't any of you turn around?” Mu Ningxue suddenly asked softly.

“Turn around? Why should we turn... f\*\*k me!” Before Mo Fan could finish, he was shocked to see countless crimson-red figures scattered across the sand dunes behind them!

Wild Scorpions!

Crimson Wild Scorpions!

The group was so focused on the overwhelming numbers of the Sandfear Foxes that they were totally unaware of the crimson-red poisonous scorpions behind them...

These poisonous scorpions did not march in from the distance. They were crawling out from the sands, and their numbers kept increasing. They had turned into an army of crimson soldiers, the spectacular sight horrifying to look upon!

Chapter 1006: The Tribes That Wage War Against One Another Because of the Slightest Conflict!

The sand dunes were basically fully stacked with the crimson poisonous scorpions. These scorpions were emitting flames, yet the flames were actually making the surrounding temperature fall. It was obvious that they were not an easy-going bunch!

“Poison Fire Scorpions; these things aren’t the friendliest creatures either!” Jiang Yu blurted out.

Both the Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions had shocking numbers, and judging from their auras, they were obviously not just some weak, Servant-class creatures. Even the Warrior-level creatures that the group had seen in the wild were not as savage as the two tribes of demon creatures in the desert!

“What the heck is going on here?” Zhao Manyan immediately had a bad feeling. He kept turning his head back and forth between the two tribes of demon creatures.

“Don’t tell me they are going to flank us from both directions?” Jiang Yu said.

Jiang Shaoxu shook her head and said, “The Sandfear Foxes aren’t targeting us at all, and neither are the Poison Fire Scorpions!”

Mo Fan took a closer look and realized that the Sandfear Foxes were actually having a standoff with the Poison Fire Scorpions. In other words, the Sandfear Foxes were here to take on the Poison Fire Scorpions right from the start!

“The Sahara Desert is indeed the scariest place in the world. Even demon creatures bring their whole tribe to wage war against one another to settle a dispute.”

“It’s obvious that they are totally ignoring our existence!”

“I think we should withdraw from this place and give them some space for the war. It’s not just a pack of demon creatures on each side. It’s almost a war between two hordes!” Zhao Manyan said.

There were more than a thousand Sandfear Foxes. Jiang Yu had mentioned that these Sandfear Foxes were one of the strongest Warrior-level creatures, meaning that even ten thousand Servant-class creatures were nothing before them. The pack of Sandfear Foxes was a powerful tribe!

Similarly, the Poison Fire Scorpions were part of a powerful tribe too. Both their auras and numbers were on par with the Sandfear Foxes. The five humans standing between the two tribes of demon creatures could basically feel two auras, red and dark gray respectively, crashing into one another!

The wind startled blowing sand into the sky. The color of the sky changed gradually, with roars echoing across the place. The five humans stuck between the two tribes of demon creatures seemed utterly helpless and agitated.

Normally, the third party that was standing between two clashing forces was usually there to mediate the quarrel. Unfortunately, Mo Fan and his crew were like little worms in front of the two armies of demon creatures. They were basically going to be trampled to death once the two sides started charging at one another!

“We are caught in the middle of a tribes war. We are in a pretty bad spot, since outsiders were usually targeted by both sides in a war like this. We should move to somewhere else before the war starts. If we hesitate further, we are only going to die in vain when the two armies crash into one another!” Zhao Manyan said.

“I do agree that we are in deep trouble if we stay,” Mu Ningxue was starting to lose confidence too.

“No, not by any chance, we must not leave! I’ll distract them with the Psychic Element, so they will ignore us and just fight their enemy,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

Jiang Shaoxu stayed true to her words. They must not move inside the desert maze!

The group did not say anything further seeing how determined Jiang Shaoxu was.

Jiang Shaoxu closed her eyes and started releasing Spirit Ripple. If the Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions only had eyes for their enemies, she could easily trick the demon creatures into avoiding them!

Jiang Shaoxu was just about to use her Psychic Element when her Spirit Ripple was shattered by the overwhelming murderous intent and hatred from both sides.

Jiang Shaoxu’s face turned pale. She glanced back and forth at the two sides in shock!

“What happened?” asked Mu Ningxue.

“There are too many of them. Their combined hatred is simply too strong. My Psychic Magic is being directly shattered by their strong wills!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“What are we supposed to do then? Let’s just leave, or we’re surely going to die. It’s a war between two tribes of demon creatures; we are only going to die a horrible death if we’re stuck in between.”

“I say we hold our ground and kill both the Sandfear Foxes and Poison Fire Scorpions that dare to come to us. We’ll kill them all!” Mo Fan declared imperiously.

Knowing that a tough battle was about to take place, Mo Fan summoned the Swift Star Wolf.

As a matter of fact, with the Swift Star Wolf’s current strength, he could only take on four or five Sandfear Foxes or Poison Fire Scorpions, since he was also in the Warrior-level...

“How the heck did we even end up in this mess!? A tribe war...(sigh)!”

“I have to say, it’s my first time witnessing a war between two tribes of demon creatures. I can’t imagine how epic this is going to be. As expected of the Sahara Desert, we have already been caught in a tribe

war before going deeper into the desert. Any team with members below the Advanced Level is basically going to get wiped out as soon as they step into the area!” Jiang Yu murmured.

“I feel like even Advanced Mages would have trouble staying alive.”

As they were talking, the standoff between the Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions had reached its limit. The Poison Fire Scorpions were the first to launch their attacks. Poisonous red scorpions the size of sedans leapt into the air and landed heavily on the sand dunes crawling with the Sandfear Foxes, launching huge chunks of sand into the air!

“Don’t come to where we are, don’t come to where we are... damn it, I already told you not to come to us, yet you still came! Piss off!” Mo Fan raised his head and saw two Poison Fire Scorpions landing on them.

The Poison Fire Scorpions had remarkable strength, with outstanding jumping ability. It was obvious that a few of them would land on Mo Fan and his crew’s position when so many of them leapt into the air at the same time.

“Telekinesis!” Mo Fan’s eyes changed color. The sharp silver with the power to control everything hurled the two Poison Fire Scorpions that were leaping in their direction at the Sandfear Foxes.

After they landed headfirst in the sand, the two Poison Fire Scorpions rose to their feet while shaking their heads, and glared at Mo Fan.

Initially, the two Poison Fire Scorpions only regarded the humans as little creatures. They would simply roll over the insignificant little creatures, but to their surprise, these little pests were actually quite aggressive!

The Poison Fire Scorpions screeched, as if they were signaling their comrades that there were a few pests meddling in their business.

Soon, a squad of Poison Fire Scorpions started moving in their direction. It was obvious that the Poison Fire Scorpions were planning to take them out.

The squad had around eighteen Poison Fire Scorpions. Their legs were extremely powerful, plunging into the sand like machines. When they moved rapidly, they would fling the sand up into the air. Their sharp legs skittered across the place at high speed, leaving deep holes along the ground.

The sound of their rapid movement was quite intimidating. When they reached the top of the sand dune, they raised their fiery-red scorpion tails and started stabbing at the group!

The red stingers lunged forward like dark red meteors. When more than ten Poison Fire Scorpions attacked simultaneously, the Swift Star Wolf that was initially planning to show off his strength immediately hid behind Mo Fan.

The attacks were not something that the Swift Star Wolf could take head-on. After all, there were a dozen Poison Fire Scorpions around his level!

“My turn!” Zhao Manyan stepped forward. He was an expert when it came to using the Light Protection.

Four Ramparts appeared and surrounded the team. The runes from Zhao Manyan's Light Seed and the effects of the wooden clapper further enhanced the defense of Zhao Manyan's Intermediate Spell. The dark red meteors landed on the ramparts. Even though the stingers were stuck to the surface, they failed to penetrate the thick defense!

The attacks from the Poison Fire Scorpions were not that simple. They opened their mouths and started breathing out poisonous flames.

The flames set the top of the sand dune on fire. The flames surprisingly had no heat; they were not scorching, but had a bone-chilling iciness instead!

"What kind of fire is this? It's so cold!"

"It seems like Water Spells aren't really effective against them!"

"How is water going to help against fire with no heat? Use light instead!"

"What light? I'll go and take them out. Stay in your formation, try not to move from your positions!" Mo Fan was as hot-tempered as usual.

He did not care if they were spitting out flames with no heat. Couldn't he just take them all out instead?

Mo Fan leapt into the air. When he reached the highest point, a bolt of purple-black lightning surged through his body. Mo Fan dove fiercely from the sky, together with the lightning. He landed with a stomp, creating a huge electric field with lightning arcs surging around two of the Poison Fire Scorpions.

The lightning paralyzed the creatures, before following up with a puncturing bolt. The lightning arcs swept past the two Poison Fire Scorpions under Mo Fan's control, penetrating their crimson shells!

The two Poison Fire Scorpions fell to the ground with black smoke rising into the air. Mo Fan did not cast an extra glance at them. He was about to proceed and take out the rest of the Poison Fire Scorpions, but he was surprised when he discovered that the two 'dead' Poison Fire Scorpions had disappeared, leaving two holes behind them!

"Not dead yet?" Mo Fan was dazzled. The vitality of these Poison Fire Scorpions had exceeded his imagination. Normally, he did not need to rely on Advanced Spells when fighting against Warrior-level creatures. A four-tier Lightning Strike and some other Lightning Spells were more than enough to kill a Warrior-level creature instantly!

"Mo Fan, look out below you!" Mu Ningxue screamed at him.

Mo Fan lowered his head and saw the sand below his feet vibrating. He glanced around himself and saw an area of quicksand over ten meters wide forming around him. The moving sand was pushing him to the center of the pit, where the two scorched Poison Fire Scorpions were opening their mouths wide, waiting for Mo Fan like a giant spider waiting for its prey on a spiderweb!

Mo Fan frowned. He had not expected the Poison Fire Scorpions to be able to counterattack after receiving his attack directly!

If just two of the Poison Fire Scorpions were so tricky to deal with, their group might actually have a problem staying alive in the middle of such a chaotic battle between two tribes of demon creatures!



## Versatile Mage

### **Chapter 1007: Sixth-tier Fleeing Shadow, Shadow Bird**

“Trying to eat me alive? So be it!” Mo Fan did not struggle, allowing the flowing sand to drag him toward the two Poison Fire Scorpions.

As Mo Fan was almost close enough for the Poison Fire Scorpions to reach him, his eyes glittering like burning torches.

At the center of the quicksand, a brilliant fire pillar rose into the sky. The scorching blast tossed the two Poison Fire Scorpions into the sky as they were set on fire by the fierce flames.

Perhaps because the Poison Fire Scorpions were Fire-type creatures, the fire pillar did not kill them instantly. Mo Fan reached out his right hand and grabbed in the direction of the Poison Fire Scorpions!

A silver rhomboid started compressing the Poison Fire Scorpions. The overwhelming force immediately crushed them into minced meat. Their shells, gallbladder juice, and blood fell from the sky.

After Mo Fan finally took out the two Poison Fire Scorpions, he had to reevaluate the strength of the demon creatures in the Sahara Desert.

Each tribe of demon creatures consisted of over a thousand soldiers each. Luckily, the Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions had already crashed into one another. If they were actually targeting the tiny group of humans, they would be forced to flee for their lives in just a few minutes!

“Mo Fan, come back now!” Jiang Shaoxu’s voice came from above him.

Mo Fan lifted his gaze and saw three Sandfear Foxes and five Poison Fire Scorpions fighting on the sand dune where Jiang Shaoxu was. However, for some reason, these creatures suddenly fixed their eyes on Jiang Shaoxu!

“Don’t move, I’ll take care of them!” Mo Fan said.

Holding their positions was their only hope of leaving the desert maze, so Mo Fan would not allow the demon creatures to force Jiang Shaoxu from her position.

He turned into a black shadow. Due to the effects of the Dark Noble Mantle, his shadow was incredibly unpredictable and fast, like a nimble shadow bird flying by without catching any attention.

While they were trapped under the sand, Mo Fan had used all the Soul Essences in Little Loach Pendant to strengthen Fleeing Shadow.

In other words, Mo Fan’s Fleeing Shadow was now fifth-tier!

After receiving the Dark Noble Mantle, Mo Fan discovered that it was able to strengthen his Fleeing Shadow.

The strengthening effects worked even when he was not wearing the Dark Noble Mantle. It was like a passive ability of the Magic Equipment.

As such, Mo Fan's Fleeing Shadow was basically a sixth-tier spell!

The sixth-tier Fleeing Shadow was also called the Shadow Bird, as his form and speed greatly differed from the normal Fleeing Shadow. As a matter of fact, even if the area ahead was fully stacked with enemies, Mo Fan could easily turn himself into a Shadow Bird to swiftly weave through the enemy's line. If he combined it with Time Stasis, he was confident of dodging a rain of bullets as easy as taking a stroll in the park!

That being said, if Mo Fan cast Nyx Regime and summoned the Dark Noble Mantle, it would strengthen the Fleeing Shadow by another two levels, turning it into an eighth-tier Basic Spell!

To many people, having a fourth-tier spell was already extravagant. Although the spells of the Shadow Element were able to stack their effects on top of one another naturally, it was pretty rare to stack up the effects into an eighth-tier Basic Spell like Mo Fan could do!

The truth was, Mo Fan actually considered strengthening the Intermediate Spell, Giant Shadow Spike, but the Dark Noble Mantle's special effects were more obvious when he was casting Fleeing Shadow. The Giant Shadow Spike might be weaker than this Basic Spell now!

Mo Fan's shadow in the form of a shadow bird actually had four layers. In other words, if Mo Fan desired, he could split the shadow into three other shadow birds to confuse an enemy!

However, it was not necessary for the time being. Mo Fan appeared in front of Jiang Shaoxu at his quickest speed. A strong presence of the Shadow Element immediately loomed over the area.

Mo Fan flung out his arm; a black energy like smoke accumulated in front of him and quickly turned into several Giant Shadow Spikes with strong, chilly auras.

The Giant Shadow Spikes sprang forward and nailed the three Poison Fire Scorpions to the ground, immobilizing them.

The Sandfear Foxes were known for their speed, agility, and cruelty. These creatures were not as strong as the Poison Fire Scorpions overall, but they were extremely cunning. They would not attack recklessly like the Poison Fire Scorpions, as they preferred to strike and ambush their enemy at the perfect time.

They would move around rapidly in the area and confuse the enemy with their blurred shadows. Once they managed to move into a blind spot, they would then reach out their claws and aim for the enemy's weakness like a sharp, dark gray lightning strike!

The three Sandfear Foxes were trying to tear Jiang Shaoxu's throat out. Luckily, she also had the Light Element, thus she did not have any trouble holding the demon creatures off temporarily. However, the vicious and cunning demon creatures had given her quite a fright.

She was already intimidated by three Sandfear Foxes. Imagine how she would feel when facing the thousands of demon creatures fighting in the desert, each of them a deadly Sandfear Fox!

"Giant Shadow Spike!"

“Wild Thunderbolt!”

Mo Fan gave each of the targets sealed by the Giant Shadow Spikes a killing blow.

He was well aware that if he did not kill these Warrior-level creatures in a single breath, they would immediately counterattack ferociously. Mo Fan had perfectly combined the spells of the Shadow and Lightning Elements, allowing him to kill the demon creatures instantly!

Unfortunately, his lightning was still slightly weaker than what he needed to kill the demon creatures instantly. If only they had a Poison Mage on their team; the poisonous wasps could corrode the armor of the demon creatures, and he could easily follow up and kill each creature with a single Lightning Strike!

That being said, he would prefer it if he had a Soul-grade Lightning Seed!

A Soul-grade Lightning Seed would multiply the strength of his Lightning Spells by two to three times. Mo Fan’s Thunderbolt was now in the fourth-tier. The space-trembling effect of Qianjun was no longer useful to him.

It took Mo Fan some time to finally take care of the eight demon creatures surrounding Jiang Shaoxu. Little Loach Pendant loved it when Mo Fan was on a massacre, as it could finally have a feast by taking in the Soul Remnants. Not only could it further expand the world inside it, it could also provide Mo Fan with more Soul Essences.

“Mo Fan, what tier is your Fleeing Shadow? How are you able to move around like that?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“Fifth-tier, the Dark Noble Mantle is also able to strengthen the Fleeing Shadow, so it’s basically in the sixth-tier now,” Mo Fan replied after catching his breath.

“Holy crap, are you trying to be a show-off? Strengthening a Basic Spell to the fifth-tier costs more than a hundred million!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

Little did Zhao Manyan know, Mo Fan had an insane treasure on his neck.

Not only was Little Loach Pendant able to refine Servant-class Soul Remnants into valuable Soul Essences, it could also refine Soul Remnants of Warrior-level creatures into Soul Essences that would cost around twenty million each.

Warrior-level Soul Essences were needed if anyone was planning to strengthen their spell from the fourth-tier to the fifth-tier.

When Mo Fan was improving Fleeing Shadow to the fourth-tier, he had refined the seven Stars with Servant-class Soul Essences, and not long ago, he had refined them again with the Warrior-level Soul Essences, thus improving the spell to the fifth-tier.

But still, no rational Mage would spend seven Warrior-level Soul Essences that would cost more than a hundred million on strengthening a Basic Spell!

Mo Fan was speechless when he heard Zhao Manyan’s complaint. *-Do you seriously think I want to use them on strengthening a Basic Spell?-*

He was the only one who could use the Soul Essences refined by Little Loach Pendant, thus at this rate, it was only a matter of time until he had a fifth-tier Intermediate Spell, let alone a fifth-tier Basic Spell!

Little Flame Belle was looking after the Fire Element, and she was already quite powerful. However, Mo Fan also realized that it was not wise to only focus on improving the Fire Element. As such, Mo Fan desperately wanted to improve his Lightning Element, too!

From now on, Mo Fan would use all the Soul Essences refined by the Little Loach Pendant to strengthen the Lightning Stars, so he could improve the Lightning Strike to the fifth-tier as soon as possible. He would also improve the Thunderbolt to the fifth-tier as well! Once he finally got his hands on the Soul-grade Lightning Seed that he desperately needed, how terrifying would his Lightning Spells be?

When Mo Fan remembered there were so many Stars waiting to be refined and saw the Warrior-level creatures surrounding him, he immediately felt a strong lust for battle.

It was obvious that the demon creatures in the Sahara Desert were stronger than those in other places. That also meant the quality of their Soul Remnants was significantly better too! The Little Loach Pendant could refine a Soul Essence with around fifty Soul Remnants. When he remembered that he needed a whopping forty-nine Warrior-level Soul Essences worth a total sum of a billion to improve his Thunderbolt to the fifth-tier, he immediately went all out to kill as many demon creatures as he could!

“My spells aren’t strong enough, but the Fiery Fist is going to attract too much attention because of its area coverage. It will only make a whole bunch of the creatures focus on me,” Mo Fan murmured.

Eight Lightning Strikes landing on a Sandfear Fox consecutively was only enough to leave the creature on its last breath. On top of that, these Sandfear Foxes were incredibly cunning. It was tricky to immobilize them, let alone using Lightning Disaster to wipe them all out. Despite their numbers, they were fairly good at moving around as a whole.

“They seem to have realized how much of a nuisance we are, they are starting to flank us!” Jiang Shaouxu called out.

While the two tribes of demon creatures were fighting one another, both tribes also sent out a huge squad to the sand dune where the team was. It was obvious that the demon creatures were planning to take care of the annoying humans first.

Initially, the team was reluctant to cast Advanced Spells, as that would only infuriate the demon creatures nearby. However, after seeing how many Warrior-level creatures were approaching them, they had no choice but to start using Advanced Spells!

“Hold your ground, I’m still young, I don’t want to die in this shitty desert!” Mo Fan said grimly.

“We have to hold them off!”

“There are so many of them, at least a hundred Poison Fire Scorpions and a hundred Sandfear Foxes too! I think we’ve really made both the tribes mad. Aren’t we supposed to focus on just a tribe right at the start, so the other tribe might actually decide to not attack us?” Zhao Manyan said.

“That sounds reasonable...”

The atmosphere in the team suddenly changed. Everyone agreed they should have done what Zhao Manyan had said right at the start after thinking about it.

“Enough with the nonsense, kill them all!”

“Oh, charge!”

“I’ll take care of this side!”

The members immediately focused on the battle with the demon creatures. No one was in the mood to discuss anything else.

Chapter 1008: Summon Silver Rhino Herd!

The evil moon was hanging high up in the sky, its light shining upon the desert. The howls of the foxes blended with the strong wind, while the cold flames of the Poison Fire Scorpions mixed with the brilliance of the moon...

It went from a hundred demon creatures flanking the humans to the two tribes of demon creatures glaring at the humans with great hatred. Somehow, the tribe war had slowly turned into a fight to take the humans out. Both the Poison Fire Scorpions and Sandfear Foxes were focusing their attention on Mo Fan and the others.

The presence of the Advanced Spells was simply too strong. The deadly spells posed a great threat to the demon creatures, so any demon creature with the slightest intelligence knew they could not allow the humans to cast spells freely!

“Jiang Shaoxu, can’t you use your Psychic Magic to ask them to take their fight somewhere else, and promise them we won’t interfere? They can fight as they wish, since we’re only trying to hold our ground here?” Zhao Manyan asked.

Jiang Shaoxu looked at Zhao Manyan as if he was a retard.

How could Psychic Magic possibly resolve the situation now? Even using the Spirit Ripple at the start to distract the demon creatures had failed, not to mention that they had already killed around two hundred Sandfear Foxes and Poison Fire Scorpions! How could the two tribes of demon creatures let them go?

“Enough talking! I’m heading down, it’s too restricting to fight up here!” Mo Fan said to Zhao Manyan.

He purposely told Zhao Manyan, as he needed the man to provide him with some strong protection.

Before Zhao Manyan could refuse, Mo Fan summoned a pair of fiery wings on his back. The flames surged across the yellow sand.

A strong force burst out from the wings, thrusting Mo Fan forward like a giant missile!

The missile rammed into the Sandfear Foxes moving along the slope of the sand dune. A few of the Sandfear Foxes nearby melted instantly from the overwhelming heat. The Sandfear Foxes were forced to flee from the flames.

When these cunning creatures sensed the powerful aura from Mo Fan slowly weakening, they proceeded to reveal their claws, slicing and scratching at him. These Sandfear Foxes were incredibly fast, like flashes of lightning when they were moving at their top speed.

Sharp claws swiped ferociously at Mo Fan. Luckily, Zhao Manyan's defense came right on time. The scales constructed by Plummeting Rays protected Mo Fan from the claws.

"Die, you all!" Mo Fan yelled. The feathers scattering across the place suddenly combined into an imperious phoenix in midair and charged at the Sandfear Foxes!

A dozen Sandfear Foxes ran for their lives when the fiery phoenix lunged forward, but the Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix still managed to catch up to them.

A huge, brilliant fiery cloud rose into the sky as flames rolled to the edge of the sky. Not a single one of the Sandfear Foxes that were targeted survived. They all burned into ashes in the scorching heat.

"Mo Fan, behind you!..." Jiang Shaoxu warned.

Mo Fan was still catching his breath when two enormous Poison Fire Scorpions appeared only a few meters behind him as he turned around. The two creatures were already lunging with their thick pincers at him!

"Meow!" A petite black figure swept past. Mo Fan only felt a sharp breeze, and the two Poison Fire Scorpions trying to ambush him were shredded into pieces!

"That was quick! Thanks, little black cat!" Mo Fan glanced at the Night Rakshasa that had landed on the ground beside him and chuckled.

The Night Rakshasa was staring at Mo Fan with glittering eyes. She seemed to be looking at the flames engulfing Mo Fan's figure.

"What is it? You're trying to have a competition with my Little Flame Belle?" Mo Fan asked when he saw the Night Rakshasa's intention.

"Meow!" The Night Rakshasa lifted her head proudly.

"Fine, my other Elements are improving too slowly, because I keep relying on Little Flame Belle's ability to possess me. Since there are so many enemies, I guess it's better to split up. Little Flame Belle, come out here!" Mo Fan said.

Little Flame Belle quickly split away from Mo Fan. She was surrounded by the brown Calamity Fire, her flames rapidly spreading a few hundred meters in all directions. Her Commander-level presence immediately intimidated the Sandfear Foxes!

Normally, Little Flame Belle would still appear in the form of a little baby-like a porcelain doll, just so she could stay on Mo Fan's shoulder and ask for a hug whenever she wished.

However, when she was in a fight, she would gradually turn into a Flame Belle Sailor Moon!

Teenage Flame Belle's height was basically the same as Lingling's, even her physique resembled that of Lingling. She had a slender figure and the slight curves of a young teenage girl.

Teenage Flame Belle's aura was obviously a lot stronger than the Night Rakshasa's. When the two rare species stood side by side, Teenage Flame Belle's Commander-level aura completely overwhelmed the Night Rakshasa's.

The Night Rakshasa was pretty strong, as she even dared take on a Commander-level creature. However, she was still some distance away from a real Commander-level creature. If the Night Rakshasa was able to break through, she would become a real Commander-level creature!

The Night Rakshasa's strength was only slightly inferior to a Commander-level creature. She was able to defeat any Warrior-level creature, yet she was still not strong enough to take on a real Commander-level creature.

Teenage Little Flame Belle was different. She was a real Commander-level creature. Her aura immediately startled the Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions. The demon creatures finally regained their courage after the commanders of their tribes gave their orders!

A fire lotus appeared on the sand where Teenage Flame Belle pointed her finger, burning ferociously. When it came into contact with any of the Sandfear Foxes, the flames of the fire lotus immediately split into several fire tongues and devoured the Sandfear Fox instantly!

Mo Fan was on his own, displaying strength that no Advanced Mage could ever possess in the chaotic fight, since he was able to alter between many Elements.

Zhao Manyan, Jiang Yu, and Jiang Shaoxu had to set up the boundaries and hold their positions against the demon creatures passively. They were scared of the demon creatures getting too close to them.

Mo Fan was different. He could simply charge into the demon creatures and clear a path with brute force since he was fairly experienced with handling demon creatures while being surrounded, and taking advantage of the fact that he could abuse the number of Elements he had.

Meanwhile, Mu Ningxue could easily massacre the demon creatures with her Domain, but unfortunately, her Ice Magic was affected to a certain degree by the dry, scorching environment. Even her Ice Domain was not as superior as it usually was.

As such, Mu Ningxue did not force herself to fight on her own. She decided to stay with the others instead, holding their positions firmly. The group was fine letting Mo Fan do his thing, since he was tougher than a cockroach. He would still be fine even if the others on the team were taken out!

Mo Fan stood at the front of the sand dune, and proceeded to intercept the Sandfear Foxes and butcher them.

The Poison Fire Scorpions were Fire-type creatures, and Mo Fan's strongest Element was Fire, thus it was obviously trickier to take them out.

Little Flame Belle Sailor Moon and the Night Rakshasa were holding their respective positions. Similar to Mo Fan, they were also being surrounded by the demon creatures.

“Mo Fan, please step aside, I’m about to open the Summoning Gate!” Jiang Yu yelled at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan did not react at the start. However, when he suddenly recalled the Advanced Summoning Spell he saw at the Training Hall, he immediately turned around in panic.

As he thought, a large herd of giant rhinoceros in silver armor dashed out from the gate. Each rhinoceros was over twenty meters tall, like a moving building, fully covered in thick, heavy armor. When they charged out of the gate like a dam bursting, the sand dune was immediately flattened.

Mo Fan’s face paled. He immediately turned into a Shadow Bird and fled.

Luckily, Jiang Yu was humane enough to warn Mo Fan earlier. If he was any slower, the Silver-armored Giant Rhinoceros would surely have trampled Mo Fan to death!

The Advanced Summoning Spell was fairly unreasonable, able to Summon a herd of fairly high-ranked wild beasts to trample across the area. The army of Sandfear Foxes immediately suffered great casualties. The power of their tribe immediately weakened significantly.

Mo Fan was jealous when he saw the herd of silver rhino bullying the Sandfear Foxes.

The Advanced Summoning Spell was even more imperious than he had imagined. It basically Summoned a group of muscular beasts, ramming and trampling everything in their way. Mo Fan had witnessed the spell once on the stage of a Training Hall, but it seemed like these Silver-armored Giant Rhinoceros were even stronger than the Blood Beasts from before. The Sandfear Foxes no longer dared to approach the team after the tide of silver armor swept past!

“It feels like their morale has dropped, I’ll try spreading fear among them,” Jiang Shaoxu immediately poured oil onto a fire when she saw Jiang Shaoxu’s Summoning Spell working like a charm.

“Hurry up, my spell won’t last any longer!” Jiang Yu said.

The Summoning of the Silver-armored Giant Rhinoceros was cast at the cost of a great supply of the Summoner’s energy. The energy of Jiang Yu’s Galaxy was being consumed at a shocking rate.

Jiang Shaoxu started amplifying the fear among the Sandfear Foxes with her Psychic Spell. Once the fear spread to the rest of the demon creatures, they would likely retreat!

It was a never-ending battle, since Warrior-level creatures were harder to kill than Servant-class creatures. They had only killed around four hundred creatures in total by now. If the Poison Fire Scorpions and the Sandfear Foxes were determined to fight them until their deaths, the humans would surely lose in the end!

“I think it’s working! Jiang Yu, just a little longer!” Jiang Shaoxu was overjoyed when she realized that her Spirit Ripple did not dissipate instantly

[Versatile Mage](#)

**Chapter 1009: Exiting the Maze**



At the boundaries of the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert, a man sitting on the back of a flying beast fixed his eyes on the gradually approaching line of the desert with confusion.

“Mr. Devon, didn’t you hear what I say?” a Maga in her thirties asked.

“Oh, what did you say?” Devon finally collected his thoughts.

“According to the information we received, strange sandstorms have been happening quite often lately around the boundaries of the Sahara Desert. Our people have concluded that they aren’t works of nature,” the bespectacled Maga said.

“There’s no proof to back it up yet; the Sahara Desert is known for its unexplainable phenomena, so it’s unlikely that we can find the reason behind it. We’ll just head inside and rescue the missing people,” a Mage with a white cloth cap spoke up.

“To be honest, if Mr. Devon wasn’t leading us, I would never set my foot into that desert maze. After all, Mr. Devon has managed to walk out of the desert maze once!”

The man called Devon sat without saying a single word.

The truth was, he did not want to come back to this place at all!

—

“Look, there’s someone down there,” someone on the team said. Everyone immediately glanced in the direction.

They did discover an unconscious person lying on the sand. Judging from the figure, it seemed to be a woman.

Devon whispered to the flying beast he was riding. The beast withdrew its wings and slowly landed on the sand.

The Maga with spectacles walked up to the unconscious person and helped her up. She took a closer look at her.

“She’s still alive, she...she looks Asian, perhaps she’s from the Chinese team that the Magic Association sent here to look for the missing national team?” Sijia said.

Sijia took some water and fed it to the unconscious woman.

After drinking the water, Nanyu gradually woke up.

She immediately observed her surroundings. When she realized she was no longer at the same spot, her face turned pale.

She was obviously worried about Mo Fan and the others.

She was supposed to be sending out signals to the team outside the desert maze, yet she had somehow fainted here, meaning that the team was still stuck in the desert!

“I have to go!” Nanyu rose to her feet and hurriedly went forward. However, her body was still too weak. She started to stagger after taking a few steps.

“Calm down, and tell us what happened. How did you faint here?” Sijia asked.

“It was a monster roaming close to the desert maze, it attacked me... anyway, can you please bring me there? My teammates are still in there, and I’m no match for the monster,” Nanyu pleaded.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Davey here is a Super Mage. He’s more familiar with the desert maze than anyone else. With his help, your friends won’t be in danger for long,” the man with white cloth cap said.

The Super Mage called Devon remained silent. From the grim look on his face, it was easy to tell that he was not as confident as the others had described.

— —

Jiang Shaoxu’s Spirit Ripple immediately came into effect following the bellowing roars of the giant rhinoceroses brought in by Jiang Yu’s Advanced Summoning Spell. It amplified the fear of the Sandfear Foxes, and since they had already lost more than two hundred of their comrades, they started having the urge to retreat.

The Poison Fire Scorpions were affected by Jiang Shaoxu’s Psychic Spell, too. They backed off to the sand dunes under their control and faced the Sandfear Foxes in a standstill.

“What now? Is it half-time?” Mo Fan mumbled when he saw the two tribes of demon creatures ceasing fire, yet showing no intention of retreating.

“Maybe their Commanders think it’s meaningless to fight any further.”

The demon creatures stopped fighting one another, but they insisted on staying. Their deep calls kept on coming, making Mo Fan and his crew feel awkward.

As the group was feeling incredibly lost, they suddenly heard the chime of a zither. They raised their heads and saw the magic signal they had long awaited pointing in a clear direction.

Zhao Manyan and Jiang Yu almost burst into tears when they saw the signal!

They were saved, Nanyu had finally showed up!

“Come, let’s hurry up, the two tribes are about to fight one another soon,” Jiang Shaoxu blurted out when she sensed the atmosphere shifting.

The five no longer needed to hold their positions now that they had a clear direction to head in. They would no longer intervene with the war between the two tribes of demon creatures.

The group of five quickly left the place filled with nothing but troubles, but they had only run a few hundred meters when they realized the sand was trembling as countless Poison Fire Scorpions crawled out from the ground nearby.

Dark gray lightning flickered continuously as the Sandfear Foxes were making their moves. They seemed to be launching a full assault!

“Holy crap, Jiang Shaoxu, are you sure you were trying to calm them down just then? Why do I feel like both sides have reached an agreement to take us out first?” Zhao Manyan shrieked.

The Sandfear Foxes and Poison Fire Scorpions had all come chasing after them. It was definitely something they did not want to see!

"I...I have no idea why they are so united all of a sudden, let's just run!" Jiang Shaoxu shouted.

Mo Fan watched the group's rear. He used Lightning to paralyze the Sandfear Foxes that were catching up, before using the Dark Noble Mantle to weave through the demon creatures to quickly catch up with the rest.

Luckily, his Shadow Spell had leveled up recently. Otherwise, he would not be able to move freely between the demon creatures!

"We're almost there!"

"Back off!" Mo Fan's eyes glittered, and immediately summoned a force from the surrounding space, striking four Sandfear Foxes nearby and sending them flying!

"I think I saw Nanyu!"

"Thank the heavens! Mo Fan, stop trying to fight the creatures, it's time to retreat!" Zhao Manyan called.

The Sandfear Foxes and the Poison Fire Scorpions were trying to surround the group completely. If they did not reach the boundaries of the desert maze soon, they would be trapped between the demon creatures. The members of the group had been injured in the battle, so they needed to retreat at once!

—

The sand's color was pure, golden-yellow, implying that they had successfully left the desert maze.

The group saw Nanyu and a few other Mages standing beside her. The Mages were watching Mo Fan and the others as they approached. However, their faces immediately turned pale when they saw the two tribes of demon creatures following behind the group of young Mages!

Nanyu was startled, too. *-Did you really have to bring such a huge pack of demon creatures with you, not to mention that each of them was a Warrior-level creature?-*

"What the heck is going on? Didn't they say the demon creatures would never leave their territories? Why are they still chasing after us when we have already left the desert maze?"

"Run, quick!"

No one was willing to fight the meaningless battle. They immediately turned around and left.

The Super Mage Devon cast a Wind Spell when he realized the situation. A dark blue wind blew in from the surroundings and took the shape of a raft, carrying everyone aboard it. Without using any spells, the people aboard the raft were able to flee rapidly.

—

The Poison Fire Scorpions and the Sandfear Foxes finally stopped chasing as they were eventually left a great distance behind with the help of the wind raft.

“What happened? Did you stir up trouble in the maze again? Getting into the way of a tribe of demon creatures was bad enough, yet you had to infuriate two tribes of demon creatures?” Nanyu snapped.

“It’s not like we wanted to, we were caught in the middle of a war between the two tribes of demon creatures just so we could hold our position. If you had sent the signal any later, we might actually have died there,” Jiang Yu said with a wronged look.

“You never left?” Nanyu was shocked.

“Yeah, we did not move even though we were caught in a sandstorm or the tribe war. Luckily, you didn’t let us down.”

Devon, who had remained silent along the journey, finally spoke as he heard the conversation, “You made the right choice by not moving. The only way to stay at the right spot is by standing still in the desert maze. Otherwise, you won’t be able to see the signal from the outside of the desert maze.”

The group immediately glanced at Jiang Shaoxu. Luckily, Jiang Shaoxu insisted that the group listen to her. They were relieved that they were willing to trust one another after hearing the Super Mage’s explanation. Otherwise, they might actually have died!

“Have you seen the others?” The Maga Sijia asked.

“I only saw some broken pieces of their tents. It’s around six kilometers from here. I don’t recall seeing anything else.”

“There must be somewhere close. We’ll handle it from here onward. You should rest up, but stay close to us, we might need your help,” Sijia said.

It was fine as long as they had some kind of a clue. Without one, searching for anyone in the desert maze was like trying to scoop up a needle from the ocean deep.

“I only hope they held their positions like you did,” Super Mage Devon said.

“Speaking of which, did you mention you’ve gone through a sandstorm too?” Sijia adjusted her glasses and asked as a sudden thought crossed her mind.

“Yeah, a sandstorm that appeared out of nowhere...”

“The sandstorm isn’t anything too special. After all, the weather here is always quite extreme. But I’m curious what the monster that Nanyu mentioned was? Why did she say she saw a pair of eyes in the sandstorm?” the Mage with white cloth cap inquired.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1010: The Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit, a Supremely Powerful Creature!**

Mo Fan and his team had basically completed their mission. To avoid being dragged into a sandstorm again, they purposely went extremely far away from the maze and set up their tents again to rest up and treat their wounds.

When they asked Nanyu why she left her position, Nanyu told the team about the ambush.

“I saw a monster, it was covered in sand like a sand demon, but it was able to speak in a language similar to ours. Its eyes looked human too, but they were full of hatred and evil, like a vengeful spirit. It was followed by a powerful sandstorm. It chased me a great distance away, but for some reason, it wasn’t trying to kill me. It just kept chasing me until I was worn out,” Nanyu recalled the situation. She was still terrified by what had happened.

The monster had a strong presence. Nanyu believed that it could easily kill her with its sandstorm by just raising its hand. However, it did not do anything. It was only driving her away hatefully.

“Is there really such a strange creature in this world?” Zhao Manyan wondered.

“Are you sure it was speaking like a human?” Jiang Yu asked seriously.

“Yeah, but I couldn’t tell what language it is,” Nanyu replied.

“Could it be an Elemental Evil Spirit?” Jiang Yu mused.

“What’s an Elemental Evil Spirit?”

“Do you remember the monk at Yanming Temple? The Vessel Demon Spirit in your wooden clapper?”

“How could I possibly forget? It was a demon spirit full of hatred!”

“When the monk died, his spirit lived inside the powerful magic vessel, turning him into a demon spirit that was like a demon creature. If someone dies and their spirit resides in a place with abundant elemental energy, there’s a chance the spirit will turn into an Elemental Evil Spirit. I believe the thing that Nanyu saw was most likely an Elemental Evil Spirit. It’s a Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit, which explains why both us and the missing team encountered the sandstorm, because the spirit is active in that area!” Jiang Yu said.

Jiang Yu specifically researched demon spirits and evil spirits after stumbling into the Vessel Demon Spirit at Yanming Temple.

After hearing Jiang Yu’s explanation, Nanyu glanced at Mo Fan and whispered, “Speaking of which, Little Flame Belle’s Mother, the Fiery Sorceress, Jiang Feng, was she a kind of Elemental Evil Spirit?”

Despite having the body of a demon creature and powerful demonic moves, they still retained the behavior of a human. As Jiang Yu had mentioned, the Elemental Evil Spirits were once human Mages, but their souls had found a new place to reside after their deaths, and were able to reborn at certain places in some other way!

Nevertheless, someone else had taken over the rescue operation, meaning that there was no need for them to worry too much. With the Super Mage that was familiar with the desert maze leading the team, they should be able to handle the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit.

—

Mo Fan laid down inside his tent and started counting his loot.

After killing so many Warrior-level demon creatures, the Little Loach Pendant had refined five Warrior-level Soul Essences. Mo Fan immediately spent them on strengthening his Lightning Stars without hesitation.

If he was able to get two more Soul Essences, his Lightning Strike would finally reach the fifth-tier. It would likely improve the strength of the spell significantly.

Mo Fan was just about to meditate when he heard a strong wind howling outside the tent, and an unusual presence lingering in the air.

Mo Fan and the others immediately left the tents and were shocked to discover a veil of yellow sand rolling into the sky like a stream in the direction of the desert maze!

“Such a powerful sandstorm, and it seems to be coming toward us,” Jiang Yu said with an astounded face.

“Let’s get out of here, quick!”

The group immediately fled toward the Mediterranean Sea when they realized their current place would be caught in the sandstorm too.

The group ran at least thirty kilometers from the place. To their surprise, the sandstorm seemed to be getting closer to them!

The sandstorm was at least a few times stronger than its previous version. It felt like it was about to devour the sky and the ground.

“Look, over there!”

Currently, the sky toward the Mediterranean Sea was blue, but the sky toward the Sahara Desert was covered in rolling tides of sand.

Above the sand tides was a ghastly and imperious figure!

It was exactly as Nanyu had described previously. The figure was completely surrounded by sand particles, with two eyes full of hatred poking out from it. The rolling sandstorm was obviously its doing, as it looked like the commander of an army of a thousand galloping cavalry. One could also say that the sandstorm connecting the sky and the land was actually a part of it!

Nanyu looked at the figure standing above the sandstorm in great astonishment.

It was even scarier than the Sandstorm Evil Spirit she had seen before. Its presence clearly resembled a Ruler-level creature, and even ordinary Ruler-level creatures were unable to destroy everything within a few kilometers within an instant like the Sandstorm Evil Spirit was!

The group kept on running until they could finally see the ocean.

The sandstorm did not stop chasing after them. It did not weaken in the slightest even when it was crashing into the ocean. Soon, the sea was covered by the sand!

The long shoreline was initially a beautiful beach, yet because of the sandstorm, the shoreline was pushed further into the ocean. It felt like the Sahara Desert had extended further because of the sandstorm!

“Holy crap, what kind of monster is that? How terrifying!”

Mo Fan and the others were utterly dumbfounded. They were sitting on a Water-type creature that Jiang Yu had summoned from the Mediterranean Sea.

The ocean was being filled up by the sand. The desert had extended further out due to the sandstorm, and it was all because of the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit!

Looking at the cloudy, yellow sky, they could still remember the eyes that were filled with hatred and disdain...

“I...I’m afraid there’s no chance they can walk out of there alive?” Jiang Shaoxu said solemnly, looking at the desert that was extending toward the ocean.

“I agree, we’re lucky that we chose to leave.”

“That’s too scary! I swear I will never come to the Sahara Desert again. I bet that Super Mage died an instant death.”

Either they were extremely lucky, or the team that went into the desert was extremely unlucky. The giant sandstorm that the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit had produced simply devoured everything, including the area that Mo Fan and his crew thought was safe, and the Mediterranean Sea a certain distance away.

After seeing the furious roars and anger of the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit, they felt the people in the desert basically had no chance of surviving.

The team had personally experienced how deadly the Sahara Desert was. They would never set their foot into the desert again no matter how high the reward offered to them was!

Both the tribe war and the powerful Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit had been devastating for them.

—

Following the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea, the group of six headed for Egypt to regroup with the others.

After arriving in Egypt, the advisors gave the group the rewards as promised. On the other hand, Africa’s Magic Association also sent a few groups of people to interrogate them about what actually happened in the Sahara Desert in detail.

Judging from how nervous the representatives of Africa’s Magic Association was, it was fairly obvious that both the national team and the team led by the Super Mage were still missing in the desert.

Speaking of which, it felt like the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit had been waiting for Devon and his team, as the sandstorm suddenly came and attacked them not long after they arrived...

"It seems like that Super Mage called Devon might somehow be related to the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit's past life," Nanyu said.

It had been a few days since they left the Sahara Desert, yet the group was still having trouble forgetting the terrifying sandstorm.

"They were thinking of sending backup, yet the situation became worse instead," Jiang Shaoxu sighed.

"Say, what do you think the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit's strength was? I think it was close to being the strongest creature in the world!" Zhao Manyan wondered.

"I guess it's above average among Ruler-level creatures," Mo Fan replied.

"Why is that?" Zhao Manyan asked.

The others subconsciously looked at Mo Fan too. They totally agreed with Zhao Manyan after witnessing how formidable the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit of the Sahara Desert was. The fact that it was able to destroy everything within ten kilometers and fill up by ten kilometers of the sea... if it was not still the strongest creature, what would the strongest demon creature be?

"I've seen creatures that are nearly the strongest among Ruler-level creatures, and I think the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit is still a level lower compared to them," Mo Fan answered.

"Don't try to fool us, we're very serious about this! I think there's no creature in this world that's stronger than the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit."

"You are so wrong to think that. I can assure you, there are two creatures that can defeat the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit in our country!" Mo Fan said.

"Which two?"

Mo Fan had a mysterious smile. However, when he realized that Mu Ningxue was looking at him curiously too, with eyes signaling him that she also wanted to learn the answer, he was struggling to keep it a secret.

"I can only tell you that one of them is in Hangzhou, and the other is in the Ancient Capital."

"Hangzhou? Don't tell me you're referring to the Skyscraping Snake that once appeared in the middle of the city? I heard that it was able to take on the Silver Skyrunder from the West Ridge like it was just a primary schooler. I do believe that the Guardian Beast in Hangzhou is stronger than the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit. As for the other creature in the Ancient Capital... are you referring to the strongest Zombie Ruler that almost uprooted the city, the Mountain Zombie?" Jiang Yu seemed incredibly excited about the topic.

"Are they really stronger than the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit?"

"Absolutely!"

Mo Fan was confident. After all, he had come into direct contact with the two powerful creatures personally!