

Versatile 1051

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1051: First Match, Victory!

“Guan Yu of the Chinese team has been disqualified!”

Following the announcement, the others in the storm saw a poisoned man leaning against the barrier at the boundary of the stage. He was being carried down the stage by the officials so he could be treated by the medical team.

Guan Yu’s body was dark brown, and his muscles were twitching strangely. Even though he was still conscious, he was extremely dissatisfied with the result. He had totally underestimated his opponent’s Poison Element, and fallen carelessly for his trap!

“HAHAHA, that’s for trying to pick on me; serves you right!” Yosuke of the Japanese team burst out laughing.

He was moving slowly in the snow to regroup with the other members. However, the condition of his leg worsened, and he could no longer feel it.

An icy, sharp wind swept at Yosuke’s face. It felt like his skin was going to be sliced open.

Yosuke raised his eyes and stared at the woman standing in the air amid the storm, a pair of brilliant Wind Wings on her back. The wind carrying the snow set off her elegance!

Yosuke squinted, his eyes fixed on the woman. However, he did not seem to be panicking.

He appeared to be very calm. He did not look like someone that had lost feeling in his leg. He did not even bother setting up his defense, as if he was challenging the woman to attack him freely.

Mu Ningxue waved her hand, turning the frost surrounding her into spikes. The spikes immediately sprang at Yosuke, who was having trouble moving.

Yosuke grinned coldly. He summoned a magic shield to protect his vital parts, leaving his limbs exposed!

The spikes stabbed Yosuke’s limbs, as expected. They were basically nailing the man to the ground, but Yosuke burst out laughing like a mad man, instead of showing any pain on his face!

“You’ve lost, HAHAHAHA, you shouldn’t have picked on me!” Yosuke laughed.

Poisonous, dark gray Vengeful Flies flew out of his wounds, beating their buzzing wings rapidly.

The number of Vengeful Flies was even greater than before. They were directly proportional to the damage that the Poison Mage had received. The slightest touch to the person’s skin would start festering immediately.

Guan Yu was disqualified when was unable to escape the Vengeful Flies!

Yosuke was laughing wildly. He believed he could take out two members of the opponent team on his own.

Even though he basically was no longer fit for battle, he was able to cover the mistake that Akira Matsuki had made. He could easily secure the victory for their team!

“Trying to hurt me is simply going to bring shame upon yourself, enjoy the treatment of my poisonous flies!” Yosuke chuckled. He was desperately trying to take Mu Ningxue out, even if it meant he would be disqualified too!

When Mu Ningxue saw the poisonous flies approaching, she tried to freeze them with the Ice Element. However, she quickly discovered that the Vengeful Flies were even scarier than she had imagined. The little bugs did not seem to be scared of an Elemental Spell!

“Immune to elemental attacks?” Mu Ningxue murmured.

The poisonous flies were getting closer. Mu Ningxue realized that these little bugs were fairly tricky to deal with, so she beat her Wind Wings and flew higher.

The Vengeful Flies immediately chased after her. A huge bunch of them was right on her trail. Despite the storm surging across the stage, they were totally unaffected!

Mu Ningxue continued to speed up. She was able to control the wind, and the Wind Wings on her back were still beating. She was as nimble as a fairy in the snow-filled air. Even though the Vengeful Flies were unstoppable, they were unable to catch up to Mu Ningxue for a short period.

Mu Ningxue was well aware of how deadly the poisonous flies were. She gave up on trying to fight them directly and continued to fly in circles in the air.

The poisonous flies were relentless, as if they did not know when to give up, but Mu Ningxue was extremely patient, too. As she was flying around, the frost continued to stack up. The snow on the ground was already three meters high!

Yosuke was nailed to the ground in the snow, still in a frenzy, yet he started to look grim when he saw the woman was not bothering to fight the poisonous flies head-on.

The frost had penetrated his entire body through his wounds and had basically frozen all his blood vessels.

He had lost any feeling of his limbs. His body temperature was falling as a strong hint of drowsiness struck him. He had stopped laughing, and was starting to panic instead!

He could die if his body temperature fell below a certain point. The frost continued to penetrate his body as he was losing blood. Even though the frost was not as deadly as his Poison Element, it would still kill him eventually!

Yosuke wanted to hold on until his Vengeful Flies had taken Mu Ningxue out, just to give his team a glimpse of hope. However, he realized that he could no longer hold on for any longer!

“No, I have to bear it a little longer. She must have used up a lot of her energy. She is slowing down!” Yosuke bit his tongue, trying to keep himself awake.

He was so close to winning. He could not afford to give up now!

“Japanese team’s Yosuke has been disqualified!” a voice suddenly announced.

Before Yosuke realized what was happening, he saw a white figure entering the stage quickly, dragging him out of the snow.

“Let go... let go of me, I can still fight!” Yosuke screamed.

“Humph, you should know better. She has already gone easy on you, yet you still think you can hold on for much longer?” the assistant official replied sternly.

Yosuke glanced at the stage and saw a massive icicle dangling over the spot he was previously laying at. He had not seen it, as the storm was too thick. If it had fallen on him, it would have impaled him straightaway...

No matter how unwilling Yosuke was, he had been disqualified. The truth was, the Vengeful Flies had a time limit, too. Soon, they would turn into puffs of black smoke and dissipate.

Even though the Vengeful Flies were immune to elemental attacks, meaning that any destructive or controlling spells were ineffective against them, they were unable to last for a long time, either!

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“Another member has been taken out!”

“The Japanese team is about to lose the match!”

“The snow is already three meters thick. Everyone is basically suffering from it, and they will only be more passive as the match goes on. There is no chance for them to win!”

The scary thing about the Ice Element was when a match went on for a long time, the cold would be strong enough to suppress the opponents. When Mu Ningxue’s Ice Magic was strong enough to apply the pressure of an Intermediate Ice Spell on the opponents every second, how could the Japanese team possibly stand a chance?

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“We...we’ve lost!” Shou Watani had a grim face. He felt terrible, his eyes filled with snow.

The battle between him and Ai Jiangtu had not ended, but he knew it was meaningless for them to fight any longer. The frost was already as strong as an Intermediate Spell. If it was only a single Intermediate Spell, they could easily disregard it, but the frost was continuously hurting them!. It was the same as a team of Ice Mages constantly blasting them with Intermediate Spells.

The main judge soon declared the result. “The winner is... the Chinese team!”

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As soon as the match came to an end, Mu Ningxue withdrew her Nirvana Ice Domain. The wind and snow immediately came to a stop.

Initially, the spectator seats were around three meters higher than the stage, but now, due to the snow that had stacked up, the stage was the same height as the spectator seats. The crowd was dazzled when they took a closer look at the stage as the storm cleared up!

A huge uproar rose in the stadium. It was always exhilarating to watch such an awesome magic battle!

No one could possibly forget the young woman that had totally crushed her opponents in the opening match. The charm of her icy imperial aura were unforgettable!

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“We’ve won!”

“Well done, I didn’t think we could beat the crap out of the Japanese team so easily!”

The other members immediately went to congratulate their teammates. Some of the medical staff started treating the injured members, too.

It felt good watching the one-sided victory. Even Pang Lai, Han Ji, and a few other old Mages did not expect they could defeat the Japanese team so easily.

“Well done! You were once disqualified from the team, but now, you’ve fought your way back, and shone the brightest in the opening match. You’ve been literally reborn !” Feng Li did not hesitate to compliment Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue’s performance was absolutely shocking, turning the match that they were feeling anxious about into a one-sided victory. It was likely that the Japanese team had tried their best to collect information about the Chinese team, yet they never expected Mu Ningxue, who had kept a low-profile, to be so powerful. She even took all the attention away from Ai Jiangtu!

“Once disqualified?” Pang Lai was startled, before putting on an amused smile.

The others would have forgotten about it if Feng Li had not mentioned it. Mu Ningxue had been disqualified after the East Maritime Fortress, as she was unable to achieve the Advanced Level in time.

Now, after returning to the national team, not only was her cultivation level on par with the others, it turned out that she had totally surpassed them in strength. Even Shou Watani of the Japanese team would not find himself in an advantageous position if he fought Mu Ningxue in her Ice Domain!

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“It must be those pieces she took!” Mu Tingying almost broke her teeth from clenching them too hard!

“She refined all the pieces, and her cultivation improved dramatically,” Nanrong Ni agreed grimly.

Mu Ningxue had taken away the remaining pieces of the Ice Crystal Bow and refined them all when she disappeared from the team. It was the reason why she had improved so much, and why her Domain had become so powerful!

The two women simply had the urge to slap themselves in the face. They had tried to crush Mu Ningxue by taking away her Ice Crystal Bow, but now, she had been totally reborn, and her Ice Magic was stronger than ever!

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Chapter 1052: Hitting on Someone Maliciously

“The higher-ups of the Mu Clan are going to regret this for the rest of their lives. I remember they purposely clarified not long ago that Mu Ningxue is no longer related to their clan in any way. I guess the glory won’t be theirs, either!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed. He added, “Mo Fan, I’m pretty sure she... huh, where did he go?”

Zhao Manyan was just about to describe how Mu Ningxue had made a huge comeback when he realized the man he was talking to had already rushed up to Mu Ningxue like a little eunuch under the command of an empress, volunteering to give the empress a good massage on her shoulders.

Zhao Manyan was utterly speechless. When Mo Fan was displaying the strength of his character, he was usually as stubborn as the rock in a pit latrine, hard and stinky. However, when he was being shameless, he was willing to take on any role as required!

Mo Fan was complimenting Mu Ningxue non-stop like a machine gun.

Mu Ningxue was seriously scared of Mo Fan. The man finally stopped uttering the shameless words when she glared at him.

“We’re done here, let’s go celebrate by eating something nice, it’s on me!”

The opening match ended perfectly. During the following half a month, there would be more exciting matches between the national teams, and by then, the names of extraordinary talents would spread to the public, too. However, with such an impressive start to the tournament, the team was starting to have a higher hope of achieving a better ranking!

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Mo Fan ran away, dragging Mu Ningxue along behind him. It was supposed to be a celebration, but somehow, it had turned into a forced date once again.

“What’s with the grimace? You should be happy since you’ve won the match? Weren’t you waiting a long time to impress the world with your skills? Didn’t you just do it?” Mo Fan asked.

“It’s far from enough!” Mu Ningxue answered.

“You have to take it slowly, you’ve done a great job so far...” Mo Fan stopped being playful, his voice serious.

It seemed like the match today had allowed Mu Ningxue to vent some of the frustrations she had built up lately. She did not ignore Mo Fan completely, as she had a few days ago. Mo Fan was quite relieved about it; their relationship did not actually go back to square one!

Mo Fan asked Mu Ningxue how she had improved so much all of a sudden, and she fell silent.

It was shocking how strong Mu Ningxue had grown. Even though she was cultivating in seclusion when he left the team for Mount Tyrant, he simply could not believe that it was enough to let her grow so much stronger!

Mu Ningxue kept quiet. She was looking at the water flowing calmly not far away.

A few girls that looked like students walked past. They recognized Mu Ningxue who had such an outstanding performance in the opening match. They seemed very excited to see her, yet they did not dare to disturb the two. They only watched them from a distance.

"I am only worried about you. I hope the thing that helped you improve won't have any side effects," Mo Fan added.

Mu Ningxue shook her head. She briefly explained the Ice Crystal Bow and its pieces to Mo Fan.

"F**k me, are those scum of the Mu Clan from a cult or something? How did they even come up with such a scary way to refine a magic weapon?" Mo Fan cursed immediately after hearing her explanation. "So does that mean you can use the Ice Crystal Bow after combining all the pieces?"

"Mmm, but it's very easy to harm my own soul," Mu Ningxue confirmed.

When it was only a fragmented bow, Mu Ningxue's cultivation was slowly able to control the Ice Crystal Bow. Using it once or twice occasionally would not be a huge problem for her. But now, the Ice Crystal Bow had been completed, and it would be drawing more energy from her soul. If she was too careless, a single arrow might draw too much energy from her soul and crush it!

Mu Ningxue did not want to say too much to Mo Fan. She suggested they head back.

Mo Fan could easily tell that Mu Ningxue's mind was preoccupied with the thought of growing stronger. The energy she had obtained from the pieces was quite a lot, so she needed more time to refine them all before she could really control the Ice Crystal Bow.

In the end, the Ice Crystal Bow was just a magic weapon. It was unwise to rely too much on it. It was better if she could improve her own strength, and utilize her Ice Element potential to the max, so that she would no longer need to worry that the Mu Clan would try to get their revenge!

Mo Fan was a lot more relieved knowing that Mu Ningxue was fine.

"So..." Mo Fan was just about to discuss what Mu Ningxue's next step was when two men with huge builds suddenly stood between him and her.

Mu Ningxue knew Mo Fan would find all sorts of excuses to take advantage of her. As such, she was used to keeping a certain distance away from the pervert. Thus, someone was able to stand directly between them.

Mo Fan initially thought it was just two impolite pedestrians, so he waited for them to pass. To his surprise, the two Westerners just stood there without moving.

Mo Fan was not in the mood to pick a fight with some random pedestrians. He simply stepped forward, trying to move around the two blokes and regroup with Mu Ningxue to continue their conversation. To

his surprise, a tall man with curly brown-blond hair in a luxurious outfit embroidered with golden silks was standing in front of Mu Ningxue.

"It is my pleasure to stumble into you here. Do you know, I almost fell asleep when I was watching the boring opening speech through the window of my booth, until you showed up. There is no word that I can use to describe your beauty..." the handsome man with brown-blond hair began. He directly expressed his affection in a polite way. "I'm sorry, I was just too excited to see you in person, so excited that I totally forgot to introduce myself. I am Beny Gustin from Spain."

Mu Ningxue was rather stunned. She was still talking to Mo Fan just a moment ago when this man suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

She had yet to react when she heard the students who were previously watching her from the distance screamed out in excitement.

"Beny, he's from the royal family of Spain. It's Prince Beny!" a white girl with a ponytail blushed. She was so excited, as if she had just seen a celebrity she admired the most.

"Oh my, it's really him! He's so handsome, even more handsome than how he looks in the photos!" another girl screamed.

The European girls were extremely excited. It was like they were about to rush toward Prince Beny in the next second, but they lost their courage when they saw the huge bodyguards standing beside Prince Beny.

Beny turned to the girls, smiling gently and politely. He was glad that the girls had helped to reveal his identity.

"Prince?" Mu Ningxue was rather surprised.

However, she was not as ignorant as Mo Fan. Even though many European countries had implemented new governing structures, some still retained the royal families that had lasted for a long time. They were usually quite powerful, and once had the strength to rule a country. They were normally well-respected and loved by the people of their country, unlike the magic clans in China.

Based on the conversation between the two girls, the man was actually from the royal family of Spain, and he was a European prince!

That being said, why did a prince show up all of a sudden? Mu Ningxue was utterly confused.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the wall of guards, Mo Fan's face was as dark as it could possibly be.

Mo Fan tried to move past the two European blokes to reach Mu Ningxue, but to his surprise, the two blokes kept trying to stop him. They were using their bodies as a screen between him and Mu Ningxue, just so that Spanish guy trying to roleplay a Prince could have some intimate time with Mu Ningxue!

The truth was, there was only one sentence that could describe what Mo Fan was currently feeling: Who the hell does this asshole think he is, trying to take away my lover by treating me like a puff of air?!

Mo Fan was utterly speechless when he saw the guy called Beny still having an enjoyable conversation on his own. Would there be anyone even more amusing to him than asking his bodyguards to screen away a man while picking up on the fellow's girlfriend?

Arrogant, this guy is simply too arrogant!

Mo Fan had always been hot-tempered. There was no way he could bear it!

"You two should get out of my sight right away. Otherwise, even calling the guards in Venice won't stop me from turning you both into cripples!" Mo Fan demanded with a dark expression!

"Stop wasting your time, we'll let you pass once the prince is done with his conversation..."

The bloke on the left was still in the middle of his speech when an invisible force clenched his throat, preventing him from saying another word.

The bloke on the right realized that something was not right. He immediately cast a spell, but Mo Fan was even faster than him. He simply shoved the bloke into the canals like he was waving at a fly.

"You asked for it!" Mo Fan waved his hand indifferently and tossed the bloke on the left into the canals, too.

After dealing with the two annoying underlings, Mo Fan walked up to Beny and pressed down hard on his shoulder.

"Friend, don't be so rough," Beny smiled calmly.

"Rough your grandma, go enjoy your cold shower!" Mo Fan lifted Beny up and tossed him into the canals without mercy.

Beny totally did not expect that. He was plunged into the water and was drenched. His handsome hairstyle had collapsed, and the makeup he put on his face was ruined. He looked utterly miserable.

The young women students immediately screamed out and rushed to the side of the canal. They actually jumped into the water, like love-struck fools trying to save their prince.

"He dares touch my, Mo Fan's woman? Is he tired of living? Was he seriously pretending to be some royal prince? Is he a retard? What year is this, yet someone is still referring to himself as a prince... I bet he watched too many dramas!" Mo Fan was totally infuriated. He snapped at the idiot still in the water, "Get out of my sight right now, or else I'll beat you up every time I see you!"

Mo Fan felt better after teaching the man a lesson and scolding him. One could find all kinds of birds in a big jungle!

"There are seriously lots of retards lately, right, Xuexue?" Mo Fan swore to Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue did not know what to say when she saw how Mo Fan had taken out the men in an instant.

However, Mu Ningxue had not felt comfortable talking to the strange man. Since Mo Fan had already taken care of him, she would rather go back and cultivate.

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On the way back, Mo Fan was still complaining about him. Mu Ningxue felt it was necessary to remind Mo Fan of something. She told Mo Fan in a soft voice as they were parting ways, "Some European countries do have royal families and princes still."

Mo Fan's jaw dropped. "Really? Why have I never heard about it?"

"You should read more books," Mu Ningxue replied calmly, and left.

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Chapter 1053: The Candidate for the Goddess

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A rose-colored boat slowly drove past the riverbank under a bridge and the blue moon. The miserable Prince Beny tried to cover his face with his hands. He was utterly furious.

"That asshole, I will not forgive him!" Beny snapped angrily.

The two bodyguards were drenched too. They stood beside the prince in silence.

A bigger crowd had gathered, and some of them eventually recognized Prince Beny. The man had a fair reputation in society, so someone still managed to recognize him in his current state. People eventually took out their phones and started recording.

Beny realized the situation he was in. He quickly used his long wet hair to cover his face.

With his identity, he would easily make headlines after someone had tossed him into the canals off the streets of Venice, just so he could enjoy himself a little bath. He did not want something so embarrassing to spread to the public.

"Are you Prince Beny?" a pleasant voice came from the boat. "Come on in."

Beny did not hesitate, and quickly hopped onto the boat. The voice of the woman in the boat sounded familiar, but he was having trouble recalling who it belonged to. Either way, he would worry about it after escaping from the crowd.

The two bodyguards were extremely slow in their reactions. They did not board the boat in time, thus they could only watch it drifting into the distance along the canals.

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"Miss Conti, thanks for lending me a hand there. Otherwise, I was to end up as a laughing stock to the people for quite some time," Beny said gratefully in the boat.

The space in the boat was bigger than he had imagined, and inside was a woman in luxurious attire, brewing tea. She placed a cup of tea with a pleasant scent in front of Prince Beny and said in a gentle voice, "Here, warm yourself."

"Thanks, I appreciate it," Beny emptied the cup, but he was still feeling uncomfortable, as his clothes were soaked through.

"Who's reckless enough to treat Prince Beny in such manner?" Conti asked.

"A condescending representative of the Chinese team! I will not forgive him!" Prince Beny snapped angrily.

"I bet it's the usual quarrel between young men like you. Prince Beny is supposed to behave like a member of the royal family," Conti said.

"It has nothing to do with my behavior. He was disrespectful toward the royal family, there's no way I can ignore what he did!" Beny answered stiffly.

"So what are you going to do then?" Conti asked.

"I...I haven't decided yet," Beny suddenly felt awkward.

"Instead of doing it yourself, why don't you let the national team settle the debt for you instead? After all, he's a member of the Chinese team. It's better to defeat him officially in a match," Conti said.

"You're right! I remember that if our team wins the next match, our next opponent is likely going to be the Chinese team. I'll let the team know, so they can make the imbecile pay on my behalf. Miss Conti is intelligent as always; the others won't be able to criticize it," Beny agreed happily.

"Prince, I wasn't asking you to take your revenge. I was hoping you would be tolerant, and even if violence is unavoidable, you should only do it in an official match. I hope you're not thinking of doing something that will bring shame to the royal family's name," Conti said seriously.

"Miss Conti, why would I do anything like that? Don't you worry," Beny replied, yet he had already made up his mind. In order to prevent Conti from reading his mind, he quickly switched the topic, "Miss Conti, did you come to Venice to watch the tournament?"

"It's only one of the reasons. Apparently, the Mediterranean Sea hasn't been peaceful lately. There are signs of something that shouldn't be here. As a member of the Shoreline Alliance, I have an obligation to patrol the area," Conti said.

"Oh, I see. Could it be a misbehaving sea monster?" Beny said.

Spain was also a maritime country. It had long been harassed by sea monsters, and its people were very sensitive about them!

"I would rather it be a sea monster, but I'm afraid it's something that has existed for a longer time," Conti said.

"It sounds like Miss Conti is going to be quite busy soon. Speaking of which, I haven't seen Sister Asha'ruiya lately, how is she doing?" Beny asked with glittering eyes, suddenly felt restless when he thought of Asha'ruiya's glamorous face and alluring physique.

Both she and the ice beauty on the national team were priceless, worthy to be included in his collection.

“That girl? She must be training diligently now. I am actually on my way to see her; does the prince want to come along?” Conti asked.

“Sure, Miss Conti... oh, actually, I’ll pass this time. I’ll find some other day to drink afternoon tea with Sister Asha’ruiya.” Beny was initially looking forward to it, but when he remembered his current appearance, he totally lost his mood to meet the gorgeous beauty.

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Greece, a citadel in Athens...

The Sacred Mountain of Parthenon was surrounded by purple orchids. Their brilliance was visible in every corner in the citadel.

The people living in the Citadel of Athens rarely fell sick, since it had the Parthenon Temple, the place with the strongest Healing Magic in the world. It was like the citadel was forever bathed in the Goddess’ light of protection.

At the top of the sacred mountain stood the noble Hall of the Goddess. It was constructed from purple crystals, and despite existing for millennia, it was still in perfectly good condition. The night had just fallen, and the moon was bright and round, setting off the elegance and solemn presence of the Hall of the Goddess!

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Within the central hall of the Hall of the Goddess, rhomboids of purple crystals dangled from the ceiling, and produced a pleasant melody when a breeze swept past, soothing and calm.

The floor was made of darker crystals. The artisan’s skill was so exceptional that there were no gaps anywhere. It was lustrous, yet solemn.

Reflections of alluring silhouettes on the floor were fairly common, as the members of the Hall of the Goddess were all required to wear white dresses with girdles. Xinxia would always giggle when she saw the reflections on the floor, as when she described the situation of the Hall of the Goddess to Mo Fan, the fool strongly believed he would be able to peek at the legs and underwear of the women via the reflections. The truth was, even if the women were not wearing girdles, the dark floor that resembled the night sky would not easily expose anyone.

Most importantly, no man was allowed in the Hall of the Goddess. Even the leader of the knights could only wait outside, not permitted to set his feet into the hall.

“Forget the courtesy, it’s inconvenient for you too. I heard that you saved the lives of many soldiers in Puccini, Egypt, earning the love and esteem of the locals. You even went to war with the army, and came up with a brilliant idea to help the army, helping them to get rid of the mirage,” Hall Mother Felin said.

“Yes, Hall Mother,” Xinxia slightly lowered her head. She actually did not look very natural.

She was not good at lying. After all, it was Mo Fan that came up with the idea and defeated the Dark Swordmaster, but Mo Fan asked Xinxia to take all the credit, despite her objection.

It was necessary for the servants of the Parthenon Temple to earn the love and esteem of the world, so they could be promoted to a Muse and be granted access to the real Healing Magic of the Parthenon Temple. It was all Mo Fan's contributions instead of hers, yet Mo Fan had forced her to take all the credit, and she was quite troubled by it.

"Mmm, you were able to secure the victory for the army in the battle against the undead with your profound knowledge. It is very impressive. Initially, you were to be promoted to an official Servant after your training, making you an official member of the Parthenon Temple. However, you've done well bringing honor to the name of the Parthenon Temple, so I will make an exception and put your name down as a candidate. You have been outstanding as an exchange student, but since you aren't an actual student of the Parthenon Temple, just think of it as a chance to learn. Courtesy, management, sacred arts; feel free to learn any of them, it might come in handy when you support the Goddess in the future," the Hall Mother smiled. The gaze she leveled on Xinxia was brimming with satisfaction.

Not only was Xinxia shocked by her words, a few other women who were just promoted as official servants were astounded too!

Many of the Servants and Muses that had served in the Hall of the Goddess for many years put their attention on Xinxia. Their eyes were filled with disbelief, but that was soon replaced with envy and dissatisfaction!

"Hall Mother, isn't that inappropriate? Ye Xinxia is only an exchange student to the Parthenon Temple. She's fortunate enough to enroll in the Parthenon Temple, how can she be listed as a candidate? There are three criteria a candidate has to fulfill! Leaving her bloodline aside, her nationality isn't even appropriate! Second, she hasn't been recommended by more than seven Muses! Last, her cultivation isn't strong enough to meet the requirements..." the Great Muse Mellaura immediately objected.

"The Great Muse is right; people will be criticizing us if we suddenly list a probationary servant as a candidate," the other Muses quickly spoke up in support.

The Servants had no right to speak, but their expressions alone were enough to convey their thoughts. They strongly disagreed with this! They had spent years in the Parthenon Temple, yet they could not even get a promotion. Meanwhile, Ye Xinxia was just a newbie! The old servants were already thinking about how they could abuse the girl. To their surprise, the Hall Mother suddenly promoted her to a candidate. Wouldn't that mean the Servants would have to serve her, and even the Muses have to respect her, too?

How could they allow the sparrow to suddenly transform into a phoenix?

It was true that she had contributed greatly in Puccini and brought glory to the name of the Parthenon Temple. However, wasn't the reward too good to be true?

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Chapter 1054: Trouble from the Great Muse!

“Have you forgotten, as the Hall Mother, I can recommend a person as a Candidate? I haven’t done so in a long time, but it doesn’t mean I no longer have the power. Aren’t you girls worrying too much? The reason I’m doing this is just so she can learn more, so she can be of great assistance to the Goddess in the future. It wasn’t like I am really letting her compete with the others for the role of the Goddess. Alright, I’ve already made up my mind, it’s unnecessary to discuss it further. From next month onward, Ye Xinxia, you will attend lessons together with the other Candidates,” the Hall Mother said.

The meeting in the hall was dismissed. The Servants and Muses placed their attention on Xinxia. The sound of their discussions echoed through the central hall.

“Humph, she’s still pretending to be calm and collected after getting such a great benefit. Don’t tell me she isn’t really excited about being selected as a Candidate?” a dull voice scoffed. It was from an old servant called Gulan, who managed the probationary servants.

When Xinxia first joined the Hall of the Goddess, Gulan had treated Xinxia harshly, explaining why she was in such a bad mood.

“Ye Xinxia, have you heard what the Hall Mother said?” The Great Muse Mellaura came forward. She raised her chin and looked down at Xinxia proudly.

Xinxia was about to salute to pay respect to Mellaura when the woman made a strange nasal sound and continued, “Forget about it; otherwise, people might say I don’t have compassion for the disabled. Since you will only be treated as a Candidate starting next month, you are still a Servant for the rest of this month. A plague has erupted in Croatia. Go investigate it, and you can also earn some reputation before you become a Candidate, just so people won’t criticize you later.”

Mellaura had yet to finish her speech, but a few of the Servants and Muses were already gloating.

Fiona, who joined the Hall of the Goddess as a Servant around the same time as Xinxia, was displeased. She said with a slight temper, “Great Muse, the plague in Croatia is classified as A-rank. It’s only reasonable to send a Muse there. Isn’t it a bit unfair to send Xinxia...”

“Didn’t the Hall Mother already mention how knowledgeable Xinxia is? She even knew the secret of the Dark Swordmaster. The A-rank plague in Croatia won’t be any problem to her. She will be sent on her journey tomorrow morning. If you fail to resolve the plague, you will be punished!” Great Muse Mellaura stated.

The old servants, including Gulan, felt an urge to give the Great Muse a thumbs-up for how clever she was.

As expected of the Great Muse, forcing Ye Xinxia to pay with a simple little trick!

“But...but aren’t you being too harsh on...” Xinxia was fairly naive due to her young age. She was straightforward at saying something she thought. She did not expect the Great Muse Mellaura would go so far. It was obvious that they wanted something bad to happen to her.

The plague in Croatia had been going on for some days, and had stirred up great chaos recently. A servant who was stationed in Croatia had reported how dangerous the plague was, and an experienced, knowledgeable Muse was necessary to resolve it. Apparently, the servant had also fallen ill from the plague.

It would take a Muse quite some time to resolve a plague of this level, let alone a mere, experienced old Servant. Most importantly, if someone was assigned to resolve the plague, the person would be highly exposed, as she would have to stay close to the patients. As such, she would have a high risk of contracting the disease, too!

Fiona was outraged by how Xinxia was being treated unfairly, yet Xinxia knew it was unwise to provoke the Great Muse further. She pulled Fiona's sleeve softly and replied, "I will surely try my best."

"Mmm, I'm actually trying to help you. You're still too inexperienced as a Candidate. If you're able to resolve the plague and earn some reputation, together with your contribution in Puccini, the people would think that you're actually capable of being selected as a Candidate!" Great Muse Mellaura told her. Her eyes had an utterly sincere glitter, like an elder who was very concerned about a junior.

—

The wheelchair slowly moved across the lustrous purple-crystal floor. Fiona never stopped complaining along the way.

"Damn it, I initially thought the Great Muse was a righteous and fair person, but look at how narrow-minded she is! The Hall Mother already said that it's a chance for you to learn, and you won't be competing with the others as an actual Candidate, yet she still has to pick on you like that... oh, it's no longer picking on you, she's simply trying to get you killed! We should tell the Hall Mother about it!" Fiona said.

"It's fine to be picked on like this after receiving such a shocking promotion all of a sudden, but there's something I don't understand. Why is the Hall Mother willing to make me a Candidate if she only wants me to learn?" The question had been bothering Xinxia.

In terms of experience, background, and cultivation, lots of people in the Hall of the Goddess would be a better option than her. It was unconvincing that the Hall of the Goddess was doing it because of her recent contribution.

A Candidate who could be selected as the Goddess! Even though she knew she was not official, it was still an utmost glory to anyone.

Xinxia never thought she would come so far in just a short period after she came to the Parthenon Temple. In Xinxia's eyes, her current situation had nothing to do with the work she had put in.

"Didn't the Hall Mother say it? She's hoping that you can be a good assistant to the future Goddess. Clearly, the Hall Mother has high hopes for you. She wants you to take on a great role in the Hall of the Goddess and support the Goddess, meaning that you will at least be promoted as a Muse. Well, why are you still thinking about it? We're going to Croatia tomorrow. To be honest, I didn't really feel like going. You have no idea how terrifying the plague is. I felt terrified just looking at the photos," Fiona said.

"Let's try our best; let's hope we can do something to help the people," Xinxia said.

"No way, don't tell me you're serious about going there!?"

"Mmm, I've had my eyes on the plague for quite a while," Xinxia said.

"Are you out of your mind? Everyone tries their best to stay away, but you want to go instead!?"

“Anything is better than allowing the plague to spread further.”

— —

The South Courtyard of the Hall of the Goddess...

The place was by a cliff, with an observatory tower at the edge. Not only could someone observe the spectacular, starry sky, they could also appreciate the brightly lit citadel of Athens!

Up on the observatory tower, Great Muse Mellaura was leaning against some white, stone rails. Her eyes flickered anxiously.

“Damn it, the Hall Mother is seriously not allowing the wind to blow in your favor. She even sent a random Servant to upset the apple cart!” Great Muse Mellaura snapped furiously.

“Great Muse, why are you so angry? The competition between the Candidates has long been expected to be fierce and unpredictable. This new Candidate, Xinxia, is only a little stone in the lake. Even if she is obedient to the Candidate that the Hall Mother is supporting, it won’t make any difference in the situation. Besides, didn’t Great Muse already handle it perfectly by sending her to Croatia?” Candidate Andi replied.

“The Hall Mother is trying to keep us at bay. Consider that new Servant lucky, but it’s just so annoying, knowing that everyone is talking about it now,” the old servant Gulan sniffed.

“Actually, it isn’t totally unexpected,” Andi smiled. She seemed fairly collected.

“It’s not?” Great Muse Mellaura was astounded.

“Currently, in the Hall of the Goddess, most Servants have already sided with the Candidates, be it me, Panijia, or the other Candidates. As such, if the Hall Mother is to support anyone, it’s only going to upset the balance. The Hall Mother is trying to maintain the order of the Hall of the Goddess, so the last thing she wants is to see us dividing into factions. Therefore, she decided to raise a total newbie, a person that is not related to any of the current factions, and recommend her as a Candidate. In other words, the Hall Mother is only treating the Servant as a chess piece that she can use as she wishes, and at the same time, she’s trying to make the other Candidates panic. She is trying to prevent the situation from turning one-sided since some Servants and Muses will simply assume that the Hall Mother is eager to fully support Xinxia. These people will then join her side. In addition, those that prefer to remain neutral will have a side to join, too,” Andi patiently explained to them.

“You’re so intelligent, to be able to discern the Hall Mother’s intentions so easily,” Gulan sighed.

Great Muse Mellaura also understood as soon as she heard the explanation.

She initially thought a little sparrow had really transformed into a phoenix, just like that, yet it turned out that it was only an approach that the Hall Mother was taking to handle the current situation. The girl called Xinxia was really in luck, since she happened to be chosen as a Candidate.

“If she’s only the Hall Mother’s pawn, should I withdraw the order sending her to Croatia?” Great Muse Mellaura said.

“That won’t be necessary. Even though she won’t really do any harm to us, she’s pretty much a wart, so it’s fine getting rid of her too,” Andy replied calmly.

“But if the Hall Mother knows what we did, won’t she put the blame on us? After all, we were supposed to send a Muse to handle the plague. If the plague worsens, it’s going to harm our reputation,” Gulan said.

“Don’t worry, it’s already within my calculations. If the Hall Mother asks, we’ll tell her that we’ve sent Xinxia to investigate the plague, to collect information for the Muse we are going to send there. It is still her responsibility as a Servant. Ye Xinxia won’t last for long in Croatia with her capabilities. We’ll wait until she asks us for help, and once it happens, we’ll accuse her of incompetence, and then we’ll send a Muse to deal with the plague. Not only will we be able to disqualify her as a Candidate, we can still keep the plague under control,” Great Muse Mellaura reasoned.

“Mmm, let’s do it your way. It’s just that the people of Croatia will have to suffer a few more days,” Andi had a pitying look, yet she did not change her mind.

“It’s fine, we’ll just compensate them for their loss, and they will even be extremely grateful to us. They will still go crazy in supporting you, Goddess Andi!” Gulan immediately took hold of the opportunity to fawn upon Andi.

“Don’t call me that yet, I don’t want anyone to be talking behind my back!” Andi seemed to be rather cautious.

However, Great Muse Mellaura did not seem to be bothered. She actually felt that Gulan was very wise!

Everyone in the Hall of the Goddess had been fighting and scheming against each other for many years. Weren’t they just waiting for the day the Goddess was elected?

Chapter 1055: Surprises Everywhere

“Huh, Croatia?” Mo Fan was stunned at the other end of the call. For some reason, the place sounded extremely familiar to him.

A moment later, Mo Fan finally recalled that when he and the crazy woman, Asha’ruiya went to pay the Black Dragon Emperor a visit, they ended up teleporting to Croatia’s boundary when they were running for their lives.

It was not too far away from Venice, and Mo Fan vaguely remembered that there was indeed a plague breaking out when he was on his way back.

After coming back to Venice, Mo Fan had seen lots of news about how terrifying the plague in Croatia was. It actually seemed slightly more serious than the plague that had broken out in Hangzhou. To Mo Fan’s surprise, the Parthenon Temple was sending Xinxia right into the center of the plague after she had just come back from a war!

-What on Earth, are the people of the Parthenon Temple insane? Couldn't they tell Xinxia is impaired? Why do they have to keep sending her out to some dangerous place?-

"Hell no, let's just quit, who cares about being a servant in the Parthenon Temple? It's like they are trying to work you to death when you've just started working there! That's totally unacceptable, just resign now, we can go back to our country after I'm done with the competition, and you can give birth to little Xinxia and little Mo Fan, and live a comfortable life. Who cares about what they want!" Mo Fan said imperiously, as if the Parthenon Temple was nothing in his eyes.

Mo Fan was feeling sorry for Xinxia. The girl was just too easy-going, allowing others to take advantage of her. Mo Fan could not believe that the Parthenon Temple could not send someone else to handle the deadly plague!

"Brother Mo Fan, the plague is really quite serious. I want to try my best to help the sick," Xinxia explained.

After going through the Calamity of Bo City, Xinxia had found her ambition. She did not want to witness such a hellish scene again, or feel how useless she was when something like it happened again. She was now able to contribute, and regardless of how difficult it was, adding on the fact that it was part of her responsibilities, she just wanted to help the people, to save them from being tortured by the sickness.

"Why do you always... the plague isn't something you can resolve on your own," Mo Fan sighed.

There was certainly more to the plague than what had met the eye, if it was A-rank. Mo Fan clearly remembered how the plague in Hangzhou was linked to a Councilman. Based on Mo Fan's experience, rather than thinking that an uncontrollable plague of this scale was a natural disaster, it was more likely someone's doing, whether someone was trying to hide the truth, or someone was abusing it for personal gains. As such, how could a naive girl like Xinxia possibly resolve it?

"I know, but I'm trying to do what I can. Healing a person is better than doing nothing," Xinxia said.

"Fine, I'm missing you too. I'll go with you, I just happen to be hiding from some trouble too," Mo Fan declared.

"Aren't you in the middle of a tournament? That's a lot more important," Xinxia had only called Mo Fan to tell him her plan. She did not want Mo Fan to leave the World College Tournament because of her.

"We're quite lucky that the next match, and the match after that, are just some weak teams. I bet that stubborn Feng Li wouldn't even let me take part in the matches. Besides, with Mu Ningxue around, I probably won't have a chance either," Mo Fan said.

"Ningxue has been quite outstanding!" Xinxia exclaimed. Even though she was not in Venice, she did watch the replay.

"She can handle it all as long as our team isn't up against a strong opponent. The next, and the match after the next, are none of my business. They have already decided who's going to take part in the matches. I'll go with you, probably for four or five days. If we really can't resolve it, we'll leave right away. There are things you can't force," Mo Fan said gently.

“Mm, mm,” Xinxia nodded. She was fairly obedient. As Mo Fan had mentioned, it was enough as long as they tried their best. There was no need to force themselves. “By the way, you said you were hiding from some trouble, has Brother Mo Fan stirred up some trouble again?”

“Ah, it’s nothing serious. I just took care of an annoying jerk, and the guy is trying to get his revenge,” Mo Fan yawned.

“Oh, alright.” Xinxia would not believe it was just a random jerk. If Mo Fan had to hide from someone, the person was surely not ordinary!

Xinxia was just about to tell Mo Fan about her being promoted to a Candidate when some disturbance came from the other end.

“Huh, such a coincidence, someone is calling me... it’s Zhang Xiaohou, I thought he had gone missing!” Mo Fan remarked when he saw the notification of the incoming call.

“Then you should take the call first, we’ll talk again in Croatia.” Xinxia assumed Zhang Xiaohou had some important matters to discuss with Mo Fan, so she decided to tell Mo Fan the matter that was bothering her next time.

“Brother Fan!’ Zhang Xiaohou yelled energetically from the other end.

Mo Fan was sitting by the window while clipping his toenails. He was using his knee to hold the phone in place as he talked indifferently into it, “You finally know how to give your big brother a call? Have you almost forgotten your big brother after making a name for yourself in the Ancient Capital? I remember your last call was when you were promoted to a captain. How long ago was that?”

“Brother Fan, you sound so harsh!. You never had any signal when you went for training, so it’s always out of signal whenever I call you. Besides, wasn’t I busy dealing with the demon creatures in Qinling Mountains lately? Do you think I’m having the time of my life?” Zhang Xiaohou replied.

“Fine, what are you up to this time? Just tell me quickly, stop disturbing me when I’m flirting with your sister-in-law,” Mo Fan said.

“Ah, so Brother Fan and Ningxue have already progressed so far, at this time at night... hehehe.”

“It’s Xinxia.”

“Oh, so it’s the younger sister-in-law, have you taken down the elder sister-in-law?”

“What do you think?”

“I bet not.”

“I’m hanging up if you don’t have anything important!” Mo Fan was starting to get impatient.

“It’s nothing important, indeed, I just want to tell you that the military has decided to give me a long holiday, so I’m thinking of visiting Europe and watching you fight in the tournament. HAHAHA, I told my comrades you were my brother growing up together, and they are so jealous of me!” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Ah, so you do have leave!”

“Isn’t that right? I almost turn into a savage when I’m dealing with the demon creatures in Qinling Mountains. I finally have a chance to rest, so I immediately thought of my Brother Fan; aren’t I a good brother!?” Zhang Xiaohou laughed.

“Indeed, how about this? I’m heading off to Croatia for a few days, so you can just fly to Croatia and I’ll bring you around, and then we’ll go back to Venice, how’s that?” Mo Fan’s voice remained calm despite suddenly coming up with the brilliant idea.

“Yeah, sure! It’s going to be fun if Brother Fan is bringing me around. I’ll just buy the ticket for an overnight flight, and I’ll be there tomorrow morning!” Zhang Xiaohou said excitedly.

“Sure, see you in Croatia!”

“See you in Croatia!”

After hanging up the call, Mo Fan tossed the toenails outside the window, so the canals in Venice could have a taste of his sacred self. He murmured as he was committing the shameless act, “Things would be much simpler if everyone was like Zhang Xiaohou.”

Croatia International Airport...

Zhang Xiaohou carrying a backpack was applying for his visa on arrival.

Zhang Xiaohou was doubtful when he saw how empty the place was.

“What’s going on? Didn’t they always say there are many travelers in Europe? Not only is the flight empty, even the number of people arriving at the airport is surprisingly low.”

Despite the low numbers, the inspection was fairly strict. Zhang Xiaohou was still confused when he walked out of the airport. Why was the officer staring at him as if he was a criminal when he told the man he had come here for his holiday?

“Why is everyone wearing a mask? Is it part of the culture here? That does make sense, the ladies in the Arab nation are all tightly covered with only their eyes exposed,” Zhang Xiaohou murmured as he was looking for Mo Fan.

Not long after, Zhang Xiaohou saw Mo Fan in the underground car park.

To Zhang Xiaohou’s surprise, Xinxia was there too!

It had been quite a while since he last met Xinxia. Zhang Xiaohou almost had trouble recognizing her. It felt like Xinxia was a different person now; prettier, more elegant, and more outstanding than before!

As expected of someone from the Parthenon Temple, even Xinxia, who used to be weak and feeble now had a sacred, noble temperament.

“Brother Fan, where are we visiting first?” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“To the temporary relay station set up for the plague,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan did not want to waste any time. He was more familiar with how terrifying a plague could be once it started spreading.

“Plague?” Zhang Xiaohou was dumbfounded.

Xinxia rolled her eyes at Mo Fan when she saw Zhang Xiaohou’s reaction. As she thought, Zhang Xiaohou was tricked into coming here!

“How ignorant are you? How could you not know about such a serious plague? This whole place is a plague zone, yet look at you, not even a single piece of protective clothing, carrying a backpack still. Customs only let you enter only because you look rather harmless!” Fiona, who had come with Xinxia said in displeasure.

“Brother Fan, didn’t you say you were bringing me around to have some fun?” Zhang Xiaohou smiled wryly.

“The plague, the whole city is in chaos because of it, could anything be funnier than this?”

“But isn’t this a bit overboard? I just got my vacation...”

“Stop blabbering!”

Zhang Xiaohou felt miserable.

The truth was, only Zhang Xiaohou would be fooled by Mo Fan. He had just returned from a skirmish, thus he had not updated himself with the latest news. Unfortunately, he had not caught his breath after the huge operation, and he had already been dragged to this scary place by Mo Fan!

His life was definitely full of surprises after he acknowledged Mo Fan as his big brother!

“I’m already here, it’s too late to turn back now. Let’s go,” Zhang Xiaohou said helplessly.

“We’ll wait a bit longer.”

“Still waiting for someone else? Let’s hope it’s not a clueless idiot again,” Fiona remarked harshly.

Zhang Xiaohou was just about to ask who they were waiting for when the door of the escalator slowly opened. An innocent-looking loli, adorable and elegant, with huge glittering eyes sparkling with intelligence, came out of it. However, if anyone took a closer look, they would discover that the glitter in her eyes did not originate from the innocence of a little girl at her age.

“Everyone’s here,” Mo Fan waved at Lingling.

Meanwhile, Fiona smacked her own head and yelled, “Oh my God!”

Chapter 1056: The Demon Orb Lights Up

The group arrived at the camp and walked past the sick people that were placed in quarantine.

The patients seemed fairly normal after a rough glance, but their noses would not stop running. It was similar to common influenza across the world, and before knowing that it was some deadly disease, no

one treated it seriously. The people did not even feel it was strange when many were showing the same symptoms.

The local authority and the experts in the medical field did not realize there was a plague in because its symptom was just too similar to common flu. As a result, many Croatians had fallen victim to it.

No one knew how the disease spread, so the medical team had to wear hazmat suits when in direct contact with the patients. As many patients were diagnosed and quarantined, all of Kakka City, which had the highest number of victims, was immersed in terror.

Unfortunately, the authorities of Kakka City did not treat the plague seriously enough and seal the city decisively. As a result, the nearby cities were struck by the disease, too. The people were even more terrified knowing that more cities had fallen victim to the plague.

The local authorities were utterly clueless about what to do with the plague. Even the Magic Association was helpless, so they could only ask the Parthenon Temple for help. However, a Servant that had been sent here had contracted the disease, too. The seriousness of the plague immediately escalated.

The whole city was troubled by the plague, and the local government was tied up with the media. Other countries were keen to help, too, but before they knew how the disease spread, no one would come here just to die!

Therefore, it was quite scary considering how Xinxia was assigned to resolve the plague. If she contracted the disease when there was no viable treatment to it, she would end up waiting for her death, just like the others that were quarantined.

Fortunately, even when someone contracted the disease, it did not kill them within a short period, except those that were already suffering from other diseases. Most people that contracted the disease were still alive.

“Even though we have yet to see a whole lot of people dying to the plague, it’s only a matter of time judging from how weak these people seem. If a huge bunch of them die, the situation is only going to worsen, and even the quarantine zone is going to be affected!” Lingling observed.

Once people started to die to the plague before the government found a cure for it, the people would start to lose hope and would choose to flee for their lives. They would even oppose the government that tried to quarantine them. Once that happened, sick people could do anything. They would flee in large numbers to random places and spread the disease to more people. Croatia was not a big country, and a few cities had already fallen to the plague. Soon, everybody in the country would contract the disease!

“I don’t understand, the situation is already this bad, yet the Parthenon Temple didn’t seem to care too much about it. Are they seriously just going to stand and watch these people die?” Mo Fan snapped furiously.

“That’s not it, but they want to investigate the source of the plague before sending more people here. Otherwise, they would only join the sick,” Xinxia explained.

“In the past, graverobbers would bring a duck with them and put the duck into the tombs to check if there was oxygen or poison inside them. You are like the duck that was used to test for poison!” Mo Fan tapped Xinxia on her nose. He was utterly speechless by how naive she was.

However, since they were already here, they had no choice but to resolve the matter!

Mo Fan glanced at Lingling, trying to see if the girl had found any useful traces.

"I've done some homework before coming here, and I've asked someone in the Hunter Union to collect any related information for me. I've briefly organized the findings on the flight here. Since the symptoms are too similar to common flu, it's going to be tricky to find the first victim of the disease. That being said, I assume everyone that has the flu will buy some medicine if their noses kept running, so I've asked the Magic Association to list the names that have bought flu medicine recently. It's quite fortunate that the people in this country are required to present their medical card when buying medicine!" Lingling remarked.

"How are you going to find the first batch of people that contracted the disease within such a huge pile of data?" Mo Fan said.

"We know that Kakka City is the source of the plague for sure, and there aren't many chemists in the city. If we shrink the area further according to the symptoms...there aren't really that many people that bought the medicine," Lingling said.

"What's the point of gathering data like this!? We can't afford to waste any time further on it," Fiona said crossly.

"Fiona, be patient. Our healing only works if we could learn more about the disease. The Pistil Drops we brought to Croatia are working; at least they can slow down the pace of worsening of the patients," Xinxia explained to Fiona.

Lingling simply ignored the blunt young woman. She glanced at a figure that was approaching them rapidly.

"Zhang Xiaohou is back," Mo Fan followed her gaze and realized Zhang Xiaohou had disappeared for a while after they came out from the camp.

Zhang Xiaohou's cultivation had significantly improved. He was a few thousand meters away a few seconds ago, but he was already right in front of them. He said with a hint of joy, "Lingling, I've checked the places that you told me to!"

"What did you find?" Lingling asked.

"It's really as you said, one of the places has a prison!" Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Why are you so happy when you've only found a prison? Couldn't you easily find it on a map?" Fiona said.

"The problem is, we aren't just trying to find a prison. Lingling only told me to check a few places, and there really was a prison among them," Zhang Xiaohou replied.

"If we want to find a cure to the plague, we need to find those that contracted the disease first. Only then we'll be able to find its source. However, even the local government has failed to find the people after so long, do you really think we can find it with just the few of us? I suggest that we report the situation to the Parthenon Temple now, so they can send more people here!" Fiona exclaimed.

“We’ve found it,” Lingling said.

“Found it?” Xinxia was utterly surprised. She felt like Lingling had not done anything, so why did she say she had already found the source?

Mo Fan was looking at Lingling too. He had never doubted Lingling; if the girl said she had found it, she meant it. The problem was, didn’t she simply crack the case a bit too quickly? Did the name of the Clearsky Hunter Agency really grant its Hunters the capabilities of Justice Bao?

{TL Note: The first two words of the Clearsky Hunter Agency in raw is ‘Qingtian’, which is the name of Justice Bao, a Chinese politician famous for his ability to help peasants overcome injustice and corruption.}

“The reason I asked Brother Xiaohou to look for a prison among the places is because I’ve discovered a prison guard among the people that first went to buy the medicine. I believe the local government failed to find the first batch of patients and the source of the disease because the people that bought the medicine aren’t really the first patients. They are the prisoners in the prison. Since the prisoners are locked in the prison, they are basically quarantined, thus were simply left out by the people investigating the source. They would at most investigate the prison guard, but with so many things going on, who would bother placing much attention on him?” Lingling said.

“So you asked Zhang Xiaohou to see if there was a prison? Why don’t we tell the government our findings so they can send someone over to investigate, since it might be too much for us to handle?” Mo Fan asked.

“It’s not necessary, the government tried to find the source by tracking down the first batch of patients, so they were pretty loose with the criteria, meaning they had to send out more people to investigate every suspicious person. They would eventually track the source to the prison, but since we’ve already found the prison, it will be a lot easier for us to find the source. The activity range of the prisoners in a prison is fairly limited. Besides, it’s only my speculation so far, so it’s meaningless to ask the government to send someone over without any solid proof,” Lingling said.

“Then what are we waiting for? Let’s go to the prison,” Mo Fan said.

“If we can find the source, I am confident enough to come up with the cure! Brother Mo Fan, both you and Lingling are so impressive!” Xinxia’s face was filled with joy.

“Of course, the two of us even managed to solve the mystery of the Drowning Curse!” Mo Fan agreed promptly.

The prison was located by a cliff, tall and steep. Since the prisoners were mainly normal people, it did not have a magic formation protecting it. Besides, the prisoners would simply be hopeless if they tried to escape over the cliff. Below it was only reefs, and the seawater had no chance of receiving them if they jumped off the cliff!

A prison was definitely not the most pleasant place to visit. Considering that the group might contract the disease, Xinxia purposely cast a Blessing Spell on everyone before they entered the prison. It was

imprinted on their skin like a seal, and would immediately form a defensive barrier when the Poison Element, Shadow Element, or any evil magic tried to harm them.

The prison was completely sealed off. Even the prison guards were trapped inside. The prison clearly had a sufficient supply of food and water, but the government was so busy that it did not have time to care about the prison.

“Strange, why did it light up?” Mo Fan suddenly mumbled to himself.

Mo Fan was surprised to see the Essence Orb lighting up when he took it out. Its brilliance was pulsating slightly, as if it was being summoned!

Mo Fan recalled that he had found the Evil Essence Orb in a prison of Mages filled with the presence of evil.

The Orb had lit up, but Mo Fan could not tell if the orb was trying to alert him that there was something it could absorb nearby.

Mo Fan had traveled halfway across the world and visited many places, but the only place he found an energy to fill up the Essence Orb was the ancient Time Liquid. As such, when he realized the Essence Orb had lit up, he was immediately excited!

Once the Essence Orb was filled up, he could finally use the power of the Demon Element without losing his cultivation. How could Mo Fan not be excited about it?

He never thought he would find something he needed when he was only keeping Xinxia company as she came to do a kind deed.

He had to search the prison closely, to see if there was anything in it that could fill up his Essence Orb!

Chapter 1057: Little Red Demon!

“Have you made a mistake? The prisoners here look completely normal. They don’t seem to have contracted any kind of disease. You made it sound so reasonable, yet it turns out that you were actually wrong!” Fiona could not help but say.

They had checked the prison under the guidance of the prison guards, yet not only did none of the prisoners show any symptoms of the disease, they seemed to be more energetic than the people outside. When the prisoners saw the elegant beauty, Xinxia, and the adorable, little loli, Lingling, they had the urge to force their way out of the cells.

“Something isn’t right about them,” Xinxia said.

“What do you mean?” Mo Fan asked.

“Something is weird about their minds. I should be able to easily read their minds and understand their emotions, since their mental strength isn’t as strong as Mages, but when I try to peek into their minds, it feels like they are shrouded by a mist,” Xinxia explained carefully.

Xinxia was a Psychic Element Mage. Not only was the Parthenon Temple known for its outstanding Healing Magic, it was reputable because of its excellence in other Elements too, especially White Magic. Instead of calling it a Temple of Healing, it was more fitting to call it the Sacred Hall of White Magic!

With Xinxia's current strength, it was too easy for her to read the minds of the prisoners, even when she knew their minds must be filled with lewd thoughts. However, when Xinxia trying to feel their emotions and understand their thoughts, it felt like something was blocking her off.

"That does sound strange. I think we should really ask the government to send someone here, I'll go make a call," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"There...there's no signal here," the middle-aged prison guard said with a weird expression.

"Then I'll make the call outside," Zhang Xiaohou headed for the exit.

The way out of a prison consisted of many doors. Zhang Xiaohou asked another prison guard to lead the way. There was a foul odor in the prison, so he wanted to get some fresh air too.

"Let's head deeper," Lingling said.

The group followed the guard and passed the place where the normal prisoners were kept. They arrived at the cells where the serious criminals were kept.

After crossing a bridge, they arrived in front of a thick door made of metal. Mo Fan glanced at it and said to the middle-aged prison guard, Morgano, "That's a pretty solid door, I bet even Mages have a hard time breaking through it."

"Yeah, we are worried that some Mages would come stir trouble in the prison, so we have to make sure that even Mages will have a hard time breaking through it."

Morgano continued to lead the way as he explained the situation of the prison to them.

As soon as they walked past the door, it immediately shut behind them. The place was pitch-black, and the light only came on after a brief delay. The whole prison was made of icy iron, thus the place was cold as a fridge...

-Brother Mo Fan ...-

Mo Fan was figuring what kind of prisoners would be kept here when he heard Xinxia's voice inside his mind.

Mo Fan turned around slightly and looked at Xinxia with her lips close together. He was puzzled, as he did not understand why Xinxia was using the Psychic Voice to talk to him. Did she have something that she could not say to the others?

-I tried reading the guard's mind too, but it's the same situation as the prisoners. I think... - Xinxia said to Mo Fan in a cautious tone.

Mo Fan immediately straightened his face. "Hey, guard, can you please open the door, I would like to speak to my friend," Mo Fan said to Morgano.

Morgano slowly turned around. His pitch-black eyes flickered slightly as he looked back and forth between Mo Fan and Xinxia.

Morgano suddenly smiled. It looked oddly strange under the dim glow of the prison light.

“You’re my prisoners as soon as you came in here!” Morgano burst into laughter. His voice was stacked with another ghastly, piercing voice!

“What do you mean by that? Are you trying to trap us in here? You’re just a little prison guard... do you have any idea who we are!” Fiona immediately snapped, pointing at Morgano.

A crimson-red aura started to rise from Morgano’s body, as if dozens of dark red spirits were circling him. His pupils had turned eerily red, as he stared at Fiona with a hint of greed. His grin grew wider, and his drool was coming out too!

He was not trying to abuse Fiona sexually, but it was obvious that he was thinking of killing the tender young woman!

“I should have known that if something was wrong about this place, these prison guards would surely be involved too! Tell us, what exactly are you? Why did you bring the plague to the people?” Lingling was utterly fearless. She even started to interrogate the thing righteously.

“Little girl, you will learn it all once I’ve eaten you!” The evil presence of Morgano grew stronger.

His skin began to crack open, as if something was trying to come out underneath it. Long, wriggling tentacles burst out of his head like a centipede, eerie hair densely covering his body.

His legs had turned into black roots of an old tree, and were spreading rapidly across the ground.

The dim light threw the prison guard’s shadow on the smooth wall, yet it was no longer the silhouette of a man. It was clearly a monster, with tentacles covering its back!

“What...what the hell is this thing?” Fiona completely lost her nerve and hid behind the group.

Xinxia’s face turned pale when she saw the enormous changes occur to the prison guard who had looked completely normal just a moment ago. Could this monster be the source of the plague?

Mo Fan noticed the Essence Orb emitting a brilliant glow when the monster revealed its true appearance, implying that the creature was the source of energy he desperately needed.

Mo Fan was curious. Why would the Essence Orb react to a monster?...

Mmm, now was not the time to be worried about that, he should be focusing on why the prison guard had suddenly transformed into the monster, as if he was possessed by some devil!

Speaking of which, Mo Fan felt like he had seen something similar before.

“I know what you are,” Mo Fan suddenly said calmly.

The prison guard was twice his size, and his face had changed beyond recognition. The eyes fully covering his forehead had all locked onto Mo Fan as he burst into weird laughter.

“You seem to have something nice. Hand it to me, and I’ll give you a quick death!” The monster spoke in human tongue, yet its tone sounded very odd!

“I bet you have a master. I wonder if he’s here?” Mo Fan asked.

“Oh, it seems like you do know something, but how could our master come to a little prison like this...” the monster said.

“Why are you acting so smug when he’s not even here, die!” As soon as Mo Fan raised his head, a bolt of Tyrant Lightning struck the monster fiercely.

The monster was sent flying. It rolled down the stairs and fell heavily into the spacious area below.

The monster did not die yet. It slowly rose to its feet, with eyes emitting an enraged, blood-colored glow. It raised its head and let out a blasting roar!

(BANG!)

Meanwhile, the cells down the stairs slammed open, as prisoners rushed out and tore the clothes and chains on them with incredible might...

Even though they did not transform into monsters like the prison guard, they also had tentacles on their backs and a ghastly appearance!

“Mo Fan, do you know what they are?” Lingling was shocked when she saw many prisoners turning into monsters.

“Mmm, I stumbled into something similar in Japan. These prisoners have lost control of their minds. Don’t kill them, but half of the prison guard’s body is already corrupted. He’s the source, he must be eliminated!” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had experienced something similar before. Not long after he and Mochizuki Chihaya stole the Evil Essence Orb from the East Guardian Tower, Mochizuki Chihaya had almost turned into a demon on the street!

Mo Fan finally understood why the Essence Orb was glowing, and why the prison guard appeared to be interested in the Essence Orb. They both originated from the same source, the evil power that was accumulated from the endless hatred, anger, and pain over time, a power that could immediately control the mind of a person after making contact with them!

The Red Demon!

The East Guardian Tower had given birth to the first Red Demon!

The embryo of the second Red Demon was in Mo Fan’s hand, the Essence Orb. Old Bao had managed to erase its evil presence, turning it into an orb that could store energy!

The master that Mo Fan addressed when talking to the prison guard was the first Red Demon!

The prisoners were brimming with evil, their minds were being controlled. The city was troubled by the plague, bringing suffering and pain to the people. However, Mo Fan had never thought it was all the Red Demon’s doing!

Luckily, the Red Demon, the old friend that Mochizuki Ken had mentioned, did not decide to stay around in this little prison. It had only raised a little Red Demon. Otherwise, they would be in great trouble just barging in and investigating the matter so mindlessly. According to Mochizuki Ken, the first Red Demon was as strong as a Great Ruler-level demon creature!

If the little Red Demon was the culprit behind the plague, it was not as difficult to resolve as Mo Fan initially thought. Once he dealt with the little Red Demon, and cleared away the evil presence scattered across the city, the plague would soon be gone!

Chapter 1058: The Undying Monster

“Are you kidding me? Now that the people in the quarantine zone are rioting, and we’re already short on numbers. Where the hell are we going to find more people and ask them to investigate a little, run-down prison?” the officer snapped impatiently at the other end of the call.

“Riot? Weren’t they fine not long ago? Why are they rioting all of a sudden? Did many people suddenly die to the plague?” Zhang Xiaohou asked curiously.

“We have no idea either, the patients all have bloodshot eyes as if they had gone mad, and they kept attacking other people nearby! We are done for, the entire Kakka City is in great trouble!” the officer said.

“We did find...”

“That’s enough, we won’t be able to send people there, and I don’t have time to talk to you, either!”

“But...”

Zhang Xiaohou was about to say something when the officer directly hung up the call. Zhang Xiaohou did hear a loud noise coming from the other end, and he could faintly recognize the sound of an alarm. It was obvious that the officer was not lying to him, but why would the patients suddenly behave so weirdly when they had only fallen sick to the disease?

Zhang Xiaohou believed it was necessary to tell Mo Fan and the others. The situation had suddenly escalated, as the people were rioting against the local government. If they escaped from the quarantine zone and more people were infected, it would be extremely difficult to resolve the plague!

“Why is the door closed? Mo Fan, Xinxia, are you in there?” Zhang Xiaohou slammed the thick door, yet there was no response from the other side.

He turned around and heard loud noises coming from the cells where the normal prisoners were kept in. The prisoners rammed their way out of the cells and glared at him!

“What is going on here? A riot in the prison too?” Zhang Xiaohou looked at the prisoners with bloodshot eyes, but he did not panic at all.

After all, he was a captain who had led his troop against an army of demon creatures, and had experienced something as epic as the Calamity of the Ancient Capital. In comparison, these prisoners with mere muscle were not so tricky to deal with.

Inside the door, the little Red Demon stood among the serious criminals that were now covered in tentacles. It had no intention to fight them, but it kept giving commands to the criminals, ordering them to charge at the enemy.

“Their evil presence is stronger, most likely because of the evil residing in their hearts,” Xinxia said.

The ordinary prisoners in the cells looked fairly normal before. The most they did was stare wickedly at the three women. However, the serious criminals were much worse. They were not only driven by greed, but the urge to eat humans alive!

“They are still people, so try not to kill them,” Lingling reminded them.

These serious offenders were only being controlled. The evil presence had granted them strength, but they were still humans.

“Brother Mo Fan, Fiona and I will handle these criminals, you can focus on taking out the main culprit,” Xinxia said to Mo Fan.

Xinxia slowly closed her eyes. When they sprang open again, her eyes, normally as serene as a lake, suddenly emitted a ray as sharp as a sword.

Mind Puncture!

Xinxia clearly knew they could not afford to harm the serious criminals, as none of them were sentenced to death. They were also victims of the plague, thus the best approach she could take was attacking their minds!

Spiritual Force was formless, but it was driven into the minds of the criminals at Xinxia’s will. The criminals immediately cried out in pain after receiving the attack, as if their heads were about to burst.

They crumpled to the ground simultaneously. The area of Xinxia’s Mind Puncture was fairly huge. She had managed to take more than a hundred men down within an instant!

“Brother Mo Fan, hurry up, I won’t be able to last for long,” Xinxia said.

“Got it!” Mo Fan did not dare to waste any time. He immediately cast Fleeing Shadow and approached the little Red Demon.

“Come and play with me at the back!” Mo Fan gathered the power of the Space Element between his hands. He forcibly lifted the little Red Demon and tossed it into the cage at the back.

Mo Fan had done so to prevent himself from injuring the serious criminals. Fiona, who was still standing beside Xinxia, was immediately aware of his intention. She immediately set up a water barrier around the criminals, to protect them from his spells, and also buy some extra time if Xinxia could no longer hold them down.

Little Red Demon was infuriated. It thought Mo Fan and his crew were only normal Mages, considering how young they were. It only attacked them to prevent itself from being exposed. To its surprise, the Mages were incredibly strong, well beyond its expectation!

Mo Fan slammed the prison guard monster hard onto the metal wall with a shove.

The little Red Demon had remarkable strength too. It was trying to oppose Mo Fan's Telekinesis with brute force. It slowly stepped forward and raised its claw.

Mo Fan realized his Space Element was not as formidable as Ai Jiangtu's. He immediately gave up and utilized his strongest Element instead!

"Lightning Tyrant!" Mo Fan flipped his palm. Lightning arcs immediately gathered like soldiers, and as Mo Fan flung his arm, they whipped fiercely out at the little Red Demon.

The little Red Demon's defense was rather outstanding, and the lightning whips did not leave any marks on it. Mo Fan did not dare to cast stronger spells before the defensive barrier was fully set up. He could only try and keep the monster at bay with his weaker abilities!

"Brother Mo Fan, we're done here, finish it!" Xinxia yelled to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan nodded. The lightning in his hand grew stronger. The cracking Lightning Tyrant seemed to be impatient too, as if it had a strong urge to test out its strength.

"Sky Lightning Claw!"

Mo Fan clenched his hands into claws and swung them forward. The dark lightning covering his body turned into dragon claws tearing open the chest of the little Red Demon with destructive force.

The little Red Demon was about as strong as a Commander-level creature. Mo Fan might struggle to handle a Commander-level creature in the past, but the damage of his Lightning Spells had now tripled, and with both the Lightning Tyrant Domain and the Dark Lightning Claw that was basically an Advanced Spell, he would not have any trouble killing this thing.

The lightning pierced through the little Red Demon's defense and tore its chest apart, and its neck and head were separated too.

Strangely, the little Red Demon did not seem to be dying. Its face continued to wear the eerie grin!

"Your magic might be strong, but you will never kill me!" An evil presence burst out of the little Red Demon's incomplete body, and it soon fixed its missing body parts, as if it was an undying spirit!

Even the evil spirits of the undead were unable to recover from such serious injuries within an instant, as lightning was fairly effective against them, too!

Mo Fan did not cast the Tyrant Call. He immediately cast a powerful Fire Spell instead by utilizing Little Flame Belle's strength!

The giant fireball surged forward and left a huge hole in the thick wall of the indestructible prison, allowing the sunlight to pour in...

Mo Fan initially thought the little Red Demon was dead for sure, yet it slowly reclaimed its appearance under the effects of its evil power.

Even the creature with the fastest rejuvenating ability would be unable to recover so quickly after it was burned into ashes. Mo Fan strongly believed it had nothing to do with the creature's ability to self-heal, but the fact that his magic was unable to deal the critical blow to it!

"I'm not your opponent, but you can't destroy me either. The city will soon turn into my kingdom!" the little Red Demon screamed in a piercing voice.

Mo Fan's heart sank.

If the plague spread further, the little Red Demon would grow stronger, too. A few cities had already been infected, and the negative emotions that the victims provided were like nutrients to it. If more people died to the plague, the hatred would reach its peak, and by then, Mo Fan would no longer be able to take the little Red Demon on!

"Mo Fan, this thing is most likely an energy body with its own consciousness. You can't think of it as an ordinary demon creature, as magic alone isn't enough to kill it!" Lingling said.

The little Red Demon was indeed one of the most terrifying creatures in the world. Due to the way it was formed, it was invulnerable to most Elements, and Mo Fan had basically tried all his Elements.

Fiona was a Light Mage, and she had tried using her Light Spells, yet the Light Element that was able to drive away any kind of evil presence was useless against the little Red Demon!

It was Mo Fan's first time going up against such a tricky existence.

Mo Fan was agitated when he saw the little Red Demon that had been smashed into pieces recovering again. He never thought he would encounter something he could not kill with his magic... as he lowered his head and was about to cast some Fire again, he caught a glimpse of the brilliant Essence Orb!

That's right, the orb is able to absorb energy. Strictly speaking, the orb was able to contain the little Red Demon's ancestor; the orb might be able to absorb it, too!, Mo Fan thought.

So the little Red Demon could not control the Essence Orb, Mo Fan broke the little Red Demon into tinier pieces and took out the Essence Orb. He then touched one of the pieces with the Essence Orb...

The light of the Essence Orb grew stronger as it absorbed a piece of the little Red Demon. The little Red Demon's true appearance was revealed once the piece was absorbed into the Essence Orb. It was a puff of cloudy energy, similar to the Soul Remnants that the Little Loach Pendant normally absorbed.

"It worked!" Mo Fan was overjoyed. He was only giving it a try, yet to his surprise, the Essence Orb was able to absorb the evil energy. No wonder the Essence Orb kept emitting a brilliant glow.

"I'll smash you into pieces and absorb them one by one. I would like to see how smug you are now!" Mo Fan attacked even more violently after discovering the solution to the problem!

Chapter 1059: The Riot of the Plague

The little Red Demon's body did not stop regenerating, but whenever Mo Fan's Essence Orb took a piece away, its aura would weaken slightly. Meanwhile, the little Red Demon started to panic when it realized the Essence Orb was what not it supposed to be. It started fleeing through the hole that Mo Fan had blasted.

Clearly, Mo Fan would not let it escape. He set up the Nyx Regime and trapped the pieces of energy with Giant Shadow Spikes.

Even though he could only absorb the pieces slowly, he was relieved that he had found the solution to the problem.

After breaking the little Red Demon into pieces and absorbing them with the Essence Orb continuously, Mo Fan finally absorbed the final piece of the little Red Demon.

Mo Fan checked the energy inside the Essence Orb and learned it had indeed risen by a significant amount. It was definitely a piece of good news for Mo Fan!

"Brother Fan, what happened?" Zhang Xiaohou finally returned after running a whole circle to regroup with Mo Fan and the others. He was utterly clueless about the situation.

"We've dealt with the source of the plague. It turned out to be some evil energy body with its own consciousness. It's a long story; how did it go at your end?" Mo Fan asked.

"The people at the camp are rioting. It turns out that the patients are losing control of themselves," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"That's not good to hear, were they able to keep the situation under control?"

"I doubt so, there were too many infected."

Mo Fan's heart sank. They had found the source of the plague, and eliminated it, yet the disease had already spread rapidly. The harmful substances were still inside the bodies of the patients, and the reason they were losing their minds was because the disease was not just destroying the cells in their body, but enhancing their negative emotions too. It was why the Red Demon was such a terrifying existence!

"Lingling, have you found anything that can cure the disease?" Mo Fan asked.

In the past, they had resolved the Drowning Curse by obtaining the antibody from the Drowning Curse Maggot and created vaccines to be distributed to the cities along the shoreline, so the people would not fall victim to the Drowning Curse again.

Therefore, they should be able to find the antibody from the source of the plague, too. Mo Fan was hoping that Lingling was able to discover something.

"The maggot is a living organism, so it's reasonable to find an antibody to it. You realize that magic wasn't able to inflict any damage to the monster. It was an energy body, there was no way it would have an antibody for the disease," Lingling said.

“If the source of the disease isn’t a living organism, but an energy body, how could it turn into a plague?” Fiona was a probationary servant of the Hall of the Goddess. She would know some basics about a plague.

“I was curious before too. Why aren’t the normal methods of stopping a disease useful against this one? Not only that, the disease actually spreads a lot faster than it did at the start. I believe the disease doesn’t come from their bodies, but from their hearts. Strictly speaking, it’s like an infection conducted by the Psychic Element. Every person will have negative emotions just like the prisoners here, and these negative emotions will surface and be enhanced by the monster’s power. It explains why the symptoms that the patients first showed resembled common flu, but it has now turned into a huge riot... it was a kind of mental disorder, one that spread through emotions shared between people instead of the air, or food!” Lingling said.

“Is there really a disease like that in this world?” Zhang Xiaohou dropped his jaw in disbelief.

“An existence like that shouldn’t be invulnerable to magic. It could be grouped into the Psychic Element, but once the evil presence grows to a certain degree, even the power of the Psychic Element would be useless, since the Psychic Element doesn’t really have any strong offensive spells naturally,” Lingling said.

“Enough talk, there’s a riot happening in the quarantine zone, we’ve basically failed our mission. The Great Muse is surely going to scold the crap out of us,” Fiona said.

“Humph, if the situation escalates further, even they would have to take responsibility for it, since they didn’t send someone that was higher-ranked in the first place, and purposely sent you two here to set you up!” Mo Fan harrumphed coldly. The Parthenon Temple was far from being as sacred and holy as everyone thought!

“If it’s related to the Psychic Element, I can try pacifying the people,” Xinxia said.

Lingling shook her head and said, “The negative energy has been spread to too many people. Even if you’re a Super Psychic Mage, with such strong negative energy surging in, your mind will simply crumble, too. The best option isn’t pacifying them, but transferring the energy to somewhere else. We’ll need a reasonable place to store the energy, or else, the little Red Demon will be resurrected soon, and it will surely turn into something even more terrifying!”

Saying this, Lingling glanced at the Essence Orb on Mo Fan’s hand. She seemed to have noticed something from it, but since they were currently in an emergency, she simply put her doubts aside and said to Mo Fan, “It seems like your orb can store the energy.”

“Mm, I think it can, but I can feel the evil growing inside the orb,” Mo Fan said.

The Essence Orb had turned into an energy container after Old Bao’s modification. It was no longer able to seduce or attack the mind of its carrier. However, after it absorbed the little Red Demon, the Essence Orb started to emit an icy aura. The Essence Orb had purified the little Red Demon and transformed it into usable energy, but in the meantime, it also slightly corrupted its own energy.

“Sister Xinxia, you might not be able to confront the enormous negative energy, but you can guide them into Mo Fan’s orb and trap the energy inside. That way, the plague will be resolved, too,” Lingling suggested.

Once Xinxia transferred the energy into the orb, she would not be picked on by the evil energy. It was the best option they had.

“Sure, time is of the essence. Let’s head to the quarantine zone right away,” Xinxia said.

Along the journey, Mo Fan secretly called Old Bao. There was a chance that the Essence Orb would give birth to another Red Demon after absorbing so much negative energy. It was necessary to let Old Bao cleanse the evil energy inside the Essence Orb again. Otherwise, there was a chance that a scarier Red Demon would be born, since half the city had contracted the disease!

The quarantine zone was in complete chaos. The medical equipment used to treat the patients was smashed to pieces. The temporary quarantine wards were torn down, too. If it weren’t for a few powerful Mages stationed in Kakka City that had set up a formation to trap the rioters, it was hard to imagine the situation that the city would have ended up in.

Battlemages stood in lines, awaiting their orders. In the meantime, they felt rather hopeless, since the enemy they were facing was just patients, instead of demon creatures. It was fairly tricky deciding what spells they could use to keep the people at bay!

“What the hell were you two up to? Look at the mess here, and you still dared to leave your post? I will report this back to the Hall Mother, just so she could deliver the punishment!” the old Servant Gulan snapped as soon as she saw Xinxia and Fiona.

Gulan had only come to investigate the plague so the Parthenon Temple would not be accused of not trying their best to help. However, she did not expect the situation would suddenly escalate into a chaotic riot. The whole city was immersed in terror, and some officials were forced to use inhumane approaches just to stop the plague from spreading to other places.

“So the Parthenon Temple has only sent a bunch of young, inexperienced girls here to resolve the plague? Very well, stop pretending you’re trying to help if you didn’t mean to. Us Croatians don’t need your pity, despite how much trust we actually had in Saintess Andi!” the commander snapped furiously.

“This...this has nothing to do with Saintess Andi, we’ve already sent... her, she’s a Candidate, it was all her fault!” Gulan’s expression sank. She quickly placed the blame on Xinxia!

“Candidate? Her?” The commander glanced at Xinxia, who seemed extremely young.

Even though there were no age restrictions on the Candidates of the Hall of the Goddess, the woman was simply too young, she looked like the student of a Magic Institution.

“The Hall Mother has recently promoted her as a Candidate. The Great Muse didn’t neglect how serious the plague is, she did send a Candidate here to handle it!” Gulan continued to pour oil onto the flames.

If the situation escalated any further, Great Muse Mellaura would surely be held responsible, and even the candidate Saintess Andi would be involved in the mess! Since the situation was getting out of

control, she had no choice but to put the blame on someone else as much as she could. The world must realize that it was not the Great Muse's fault, but because of how useless the new Candidate was!

"Brother Fan, Xinxia, do you see the general with an icy face and a long nose standing beside the commander?" Zhang Xiaohou said, his face hard as he spoke in a soft voice.

"What about it?" asked Mo Fan with a confused look.

"He was not wearing any badges, but he is wearing the outfit of a general. If I'm not mistaken, a soldier like him is usually entrusted with inhumane operations," Zhang Xiaohou told them.

Mo Fan glanced in the direction of Commander Darrel, who was in charge of the camp and immediately saw the general that Zhang Xiaohou had pointed out.

"You mean if the situation continues to go out of control, they might even..." Mo Fan could not speak further.

A plague, a contagious disease, was a lot scarier than demon creatures. The local government of Kakka City would not allow the plague to spread any further. Currently, the patients had totally lost their minds, and would soon force their way out of the quarantine zone. When the time came, the general that was not wearing any badge would be the one controlling the situation!

Xinxia was incredibly smart. She immediately realized what Zhang Xiaohou was implying.

Chapter 1060: The Demon Orb is Filled

"Brother Mo Fan, take me somewhere higher," Xinxia said.

"Aye!" Mo Fan lifted Xinxia, together with her wheelchair and headed to the top of a signal tower constructed recently.

"What I said before was pure speculation; if it doesn't work, we'll have to leave right away," Lingling reminded Mo Fan and Xinxia.

Mo Fan nodded without saying a word.

Up on the signal tower, they could easily see how the quarantine zone had turned into a landfill where people were gathering at the boundary of the magic barrier and slamming into it violently.

It was unclear where the people had gotten their strength from. Usually, the magic formation could easily hold out against normal people, regardless of their numbers. However, these patients seemed to possess some kind of evil power that granted them greater strength!

Xinxia bit her lips upon seeing this.

"Let's begin, I'll be holding the orb," Mo Fan said.

Xinxia nodded. She crossed her hands in front of her chest, as if she were trying to unleash the power deep within her soul.

The Spirit Ripple was untraceable. Mo Fan only felt a pleasant tone ringing inside his mind like a flute, yet he could not detect anything when he focused.

Mo Fan knew Xinxia's Spirit Ripple was spreading across the city, and was patting the minds of the patients like a pair of gentle hands.

Xinxia frowned. As she was pacifying the patients, she too was influenced by their negative emotions. Xinxia could clearly sense the anger and hatred deep within their hearts.

They were being tortured by the disease, and yet the government was helpless, and the world organization was reluctant to lend them a hand. It was as if they had been abandoned by the world, waiting for their deaths in the quarantine zone!

As she listened to the thoughts of the patients, she began to recall some faint memories in her mind.

Abandoned...

Her mother had abandoned her, just like the people who abandoned her in Bo City amid the calamity...

A strange sadness and anger rose inside Xinxia's heart. How could people be so merciless? She had always treated them sincerely and with utter kindness, and yet, why did Gulan try to place the blame on her? It was her that was bold enough to come to save the people!

Xinxia wanted to open her eyes, but she realized that she was unable to wake up, surrounded by darkness, and an icy aura... it felt like... a fridge, the fridge in the supermarket that she hid inside in order to stay alive...

"Xinxia!"

She heard a voice all of a sudden. It sounded so familiar.

"Xinxia, Xinxia!"

Mo Fan shook Xinxia softly. For some reason, Mo Fan could feel Xinxia being infected by the evil presence, it was trying to remind her of her painful, infuriating past!

"Quick, transfer the energy to me, stop letting the evil energy influence you, do you understand!?" Mo Fan held her trembling hands tightly as he spoke in a serious voice.

Xinxia could not wake up, yet she saw someone shoving the door of the fridge open and carrying her out of it. She could feel Mo Fan warm hands on her hands and shoulders...

"Did I let the thing influence me, too?" Xinxia slowly calmed down. She recalled how Mo Fan had always protected her, not allowing her to suffer even the slightest. Her heart that was initially like a rolling black tide immediately calmed down, and the black water started to clear up too.

Xinxia finally opened her eyes. They were pure and clean, and were so pretty that Mo Fan could not move his eyes away from them.

She looked at Mo Fan with a hint of relief.

Once she gathered her thoughts, the evil power could no longer influence her!

Her faltering expression was replaced by a firm look. Her thoughts transformed into a greater tide, driving the evil presence into the Essence Orb on Mo Fan's hand!

The chime of the Spiritual Bonsho echoed throughout the quarantine zone. The people could not hear it, but their hearts reacted to it. Holy chants in Sanskrit echoed in their minds, pacifying them.

{TL Note: A bonsho is a large bell found in Buddhist temples.}

The patients fell to the ground, starting with those that had gathered at the boundary of the magic barrier. As the spiritual disease was cleansed, they all fell into a deep sleep. The evil driving them was actually overdrawing their energy, so they were immediately overwhelmed by fatigue as soon as it vanished!

"What's going on? Is she hypnotizing the people?" The commander raised his head and glanced at the Candidate on the signal tower.

"That's not hypnotizing, it's extremely difficult to hypnotize someone with strong emotions, she's healing them, with her heart..." the general without a badge deduced.

An official hurriedly came up and said to Commander Darrel, "Commander, the patients that fainted no longer have the marks on them. It seems like they have been cured!".

"Are you sure!?" Commander Darrel's composure cracked. He stared at the woman sitting on a wheelchair up on the signal tower in disbelief.

"How...how did she do it?" Gulan was dumbfounded too. Even a Muse would struggle to resolve the plague, how did a mere Servant who had just been promoted do it?

"It seems like there's a reason why she's selected as a Candidate," the general without a badge observed.

More patients fell to the ground. Some Healers had entered the magic barrier boldly. After a brief inspection, they determined that the patients' lives were no longer endangered. They were just weak and feeble physically.

The marks on them had vanished. It was easily the best finding for everyone, as it implied that the woman from the Parthenon Temple standing on the signal tower had actually found a cure to resolve the disastrous plague!

The patients were lying still across the spacious camp, filling up the space.

The plague was eventually cleansed. The patients were wearing calm, relaxed expressions. They had all fallen asleep under the cleansing melody Xinxia had performed for them!

"Are you sure they are all fine?"

"Yeah, they only fell asleep, meaning that they will wake up eventually. Commander, the plague is gone; this is unbelievable!"

“We’ve conducted experiments on the disease for many days, yet we could not find any cure to it. As expected of the Parthenon Temple, it’s indeed the Sacred Hall of the Healing Magic!” the old Healers exclaimed.

Zhang Xiaohou looked at Lingling excitedly and said, “Awesome, you’re so impressive, you really found a cure to the plague!”

“Sister Xinxia has been communicating with me using Psychic Voice. I simply organized the information and come up with the idea. I believe if any other Healer took her place, we wouldn’t be able to resolve the plague,” Lingling replied.

It was quite fortunate that Xinxia was also a Psychic Mage, and her mental strength had greatly surpassed Lingling’s imagination!

Not every Psychic Mage could transfer someone’s hatred to somewhere else, as the hatred would easily penetrate the caster. Only those with a firm, pure heart were able to use the method!

“HAHA, as I thought, there’s nothing the few of us can’t resolve!” Zhang Xiaohou burst out laughing.

However, Zhang Xiaohou soon realized that something did not feel right. A while later, he finally recalled that he was supposed to come here on vacation!

Up on the signal tower, Mo Fan could easily tell how worn out Xinxia was. She was so weak that she could not speak properly. She could only look at him with her beautiful eyes.

Mo Fan felt extremely sorry for her. Due to the number of patients, it was a huge operation just to transfer the evil energy in them to somewhere else. Xinxia had basically expended all her energy.

“Brother Mo Fan, the...the orb...” Xinxia said in a weak voice.

“Don’t worry, it’s not my first time dealing with the orb. The evil presence is even stronger when I first discovered it, but it still can’t do any harm to me,” Mo Fan wrapped the Evil Essence Orb with a piece of silver paper. Mo Fan had asked Zhang Xiaohou to prepare some, as it was able to prevent the energy inside the orb from leaking out.

“That...that’s a relief,” Xinxia leaned back against the wheelchair. She could no longer hold herself upright.

Mo Fan carried her away, and let the local commander handle the rest. Xinxia desperately needed some rest.

Any Healing Spell was useless for people that had overdrawn their energy. The patients would surely be asleep for quite some time, and Xinxia, who had saved their lives, would be asleep even longer.

After finding Xinxia a place to rest, Mo Fan was deeply moved as he studied her pale face.

Mo Fan had only now realized that Xinxia was just like him, Zhang Xiaohou, and the others. She had dug out something deep within her heart during the Calamity of Bo City, something that she would try her best to fulfill!

“Mm? The evil presence is weakening?” Mo Fan inspected the Essence Orb as he was taking care of Xinxia. He was surprised to see the evil aura growing weaker.

Mo Fan was utterly confused. He observed it carefully and discovered that the energy inside the Essence Orb had suddenly expanded. It had almost filled up the entire orb!

Mo Fan was overjoyed. Once the Essence Orb was filled up, it meant he could use the power of the Demon Element!

“Could it be that Old Bao has also inserted a filter in the orb when he modified it, so it’s able to filter any harmful energy, and transform it into energy to fill up the orb?” Mo Fan exclaimed excitedly.

The evil presence was still weakening. Mo Fan believed he could no longer call it the Essence Orb, but the strongest trump card he was currently holding, the Demon Orb!

He did not expect he would obtain such incredible benefits when he first offered to come with Xinxia to help the people!