

## Versatile 1071

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### Chapter 1071: Scramble over the Treasure

“You should go and buy a Galaxy Vein and improve your Summoning Element to the Advanced Level. With your current cultivation, one Galaxy Vein should be enough,” Pang Lai said.

“Oh, sure!” Mo Fan just needed to follow the instructions of the master.

“Once your Summoning Element reaches the next level, remember to feed all its energy to the Swift Star Wolf. The energy that is produced when the Nebula expands into a Galaxy is the purest and strongest. The energy will be very useful when the Swift Star Wolf is attempting to evolve,” Pang Lai added.

Pang Lai taught Mo Fan the procedures patiently, and was even more serious when he explained the process of selecting the right soul for the Summoned Beast.

It was the most important part of the process. When Jiang Yu noticed Mo Fan’s blank face when some unfamiliar terms were mentioned, he said to Pang Lai, “Master, why don’t you just go with Mo Fan to the marketplace? No one has eyes as sharp as yours. Even if you told us what to do, it’s very likely that we would make a mistake. Please help him, he has been taking care of me during our training...”

Pang Lai was the Royal Guard’s chief, meaning that it was a great honor for anyone to listen to his teaching. However, even a Councilman would have trouble asking Pang Lai to go to a marketplace and let him choose a suitable soul on their behalf.

Pang Lai hesitated for a while. It was obvious that he cared a lot for Jiang Yu, as if Jiang Yu was his own son. After hearing Jiang Yu’s plea, Pang Lai could not help but let out a sigh and say, “You seriously know how to order me about! Fine, Mo Fan, come with me, I’ll pick the Soul for you.”

Mo Fan was overjoyed. He knew how much of a blessing this was. He immediately expressed his gratitude to Pang Lai and Jiang Yu.

“Don’t worry about it. The World College Tournament means a lot to our country’s pride, and it also decides the distribution of some rare materials between the countries. As long as you try your best in the tournament, it’s reasonable for me to lend you a hand, too,” Pang Lai said.

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Mo Fan followed Pang Lai to the marketplace. He could not help but ask in confusion, “Chief, why aren’t we going to the auction? Aren’t their things better there?”

The marketplace was quite big, with lots of things on the shelves. As long as you had the time, you could basically buy anything you needed.

However, the sources of the goods were too unorganized. It was quite common for the sellers to put up low-quality goods and sell them at a higher price. Even though the average price was lower at a marketplace than at an auction, those unable to tell the quality of the goods would suffer!.

“Are you rich?” Pang Lai turned around and asked in return.

“Ugh... I’m very poor,” Mo Fan answered honestly.

“Exactly. The items being sold at an auction are nice, but there are many rich people bidding for them too, and usually, the items will be sold at some unreasonable price. The marketplace also has a lot of good stuff, but it depends on how sharp your eyes are.” Pang Lai walked in front of Mo Fan and Jiang Yu, his hands behind him while he explained the truth of the marketplace.

Pang Lai seemed to be very experienced when shopping at a marketplace. He snorted disdainfully at seeing some of the seemingly high-quality goods.

Jiang Yu whispered to Mo Fan, “My master spent lots of time at the marketplace when he’s young, and even earned a fortune there. Everyone used to call him the Golden Eyes!”

“I see!” Mo Fan exclaimed in delight.

Mo Fan rarely came to the marketplace. As a matter of fact, if he was experienced enough, it would surely have saved him a fair amount of money. Unfortunately, Mo Fan was basically blind when evaluating the goods being sold at the marketplace!

“This one, pay the money,” Pang Lai pointed at something floating on a table and said to Mo Fan.

“Is this a Galaxy Vein?” Mo Fan looked at the thing on the table with astonishment.

Normally, for something like a Galaxy Vein, Mo Fan seriously did not dare to buy one from the marketplace. Good things did not come at a cheap price. When he was actually improving his Element to the Advanced Level, he would find it incredibly infuriating if he bought a fake Galaxy Vein.

“Yes, buy it, it’s only seventy million, it isn’t expensive,” Pang Lai said.

Mo Fan was stunned. Jiang Yu quickly nudged Mo Fan, signaling him to pay the money.

Mo Fan was a complete amateur, so there was nothing he could say. He immediately handed his card over.

The seller did not waste any time, either. He was so quiet that he did not bother greeting them as he proceeded to withdraw a huge sum from Mo Fan’s card.

After receiving the money, the seller handed the Galaxy Vein to Mo Fan. He did not even bother thanking him; he simply continued doing the task he was busy with before.

Putting the Galaxy Vein away, Mo Fan followed Pang Lai to the area where Soul Essences, magic equipment, and battle souls were being sold.

After walking around the place, Pang Lai seemed to have trouble finding a Soul that could satisfy him. Even when the vendors were boasting how valuable their goods were, Pang Lai did not even bother casting an extra glance at them, and kept moving.

“The quality of the Souls in Venice is less than impressive; it can’t even compete with the quality of the Souls in our capital’s marketplace. I guess we have no choice but to buy a lower-quality Soul if we really can’t find a suitable one,” Pang Lai remarked.

“Sorry about that,” Mo Fan said helplessly.

“Mmm? That thing...” Pang Lai suddenly noticed something. He came to a stop in front of an ordinary-looking shop and glanced into it through the entrance.

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At the entrance of the marketplace, a man with long orange-yellow hair was quickening his pace. He even bumped into a few people, yet he did not show any intention of apologizing to them.

“Advisor, I wasn’t able to make the call, which is why I’ve asked you to inspect it for me. The price isn’t low either, so I didn’t dare buy it right away,” the man said.

“Judging from your description, that thing shouldn’t be too bad. Actually, you shouldn’t hesitate in the first place. There are people with sharp eyes in the marketplace too, and they are most likely going to buy it,” an old woman beside the man replied.

The woman’s hair had grayed, but her face still looked like someone in their forties. She had done a great job preserving the condition of her skin. Her appearance clearly hinted at her noble background, but she seemed pretty disdainful, like it was very hard for anyone to get along well with her.

“Don’t worry, the shop is pretty deep in the marketplace, and it’s unlikely that anyone will notice it. Besides, I wasn’t away for long,” the man with orange-yellow hair said.

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They finally arrived at the shop after some time. However, as soon as the man entered the shop and was about to greet the owner, he was shocked to see three Asians inside it.

Seeing someone in the shop was not a big deal, but Jack’s expression sank when he realized that the three people seemed to be interested in the thing he had come back for!

“Pay the money, we’ll take it,” Pang Lai said confidently.

“Sure... but, I don’t have that much on me right now, can you pay the rest for me first?” Mo Fan did not hesitate to make up his mind, but the price of the item did exceed his budget.

The thing that caught Pang Lai’s attention was the soul of a Commander-level creature, and it had a price of three hundred million!

Mo Fan had spent around eighty million on the bone dust and the lineage, and he had also spent seventy million on the Galaxy Vein not long ago. He only had one hundred and fifty million left.

“See how poor you are? You should really learn how to distinguish between good and bad goods!” Pang Lai said.

After learning that Mo Fan had basically bought everything from the auction, Pang Lai had been criticizing Mo Fan a lot. He kept telling Mo Fan that if he knew how to distinguish the goods himself, everything that he had bought from the auctions would be twenty percent cheaper.

Mo Fan could only smile wryly. He did not even understand the basics, so he might even lose his pants after being scammed by the vendors in the marketplace!

“If you don’t have the money, we’ll be taking it! Here, three hundred million, I’ll pay the money right away!” Jack immediately walked up and placed a resplendent, golden card in front of the owner of the shop.

“It’s you again,” the owner smiled.

“Yeah, it’s me, and we already had our eyes on it first. I only went to get the money from my elder, I’m sorry about that,” Jack replied in inspiration, apologizing in advance.

The owner was stunned after hearing Jack’s statement.

However, Pang Lai had spent lots of time making a living in the marketplace too when he was young. He immediately knew the young man did not reserve the item when he saw the owner’s reaction.

“Who told you that we didn’t have the money? How could I possibly let the young man pay for it? We already decided to take it when you came, you should mind your manners!” Pang Lai took out his card, too.

The shop owner, Hubert was lost in thoughts when he saw the two cards in front of him. However, he still chose Pang Lai’s card in the end.

After all, they had already reached a deal. The young man said he did not have enough money, but he never said he was going to buy it!

“Mister, my student has already settled on it first. Isn’t it inappropriate for you to take that man’s card? My student will be participating in the treasure hunt in a few days, the soul is very important to him... oh, here is my name card.” The old woman beside Jack handed over a crystalline card.

The shop owner took the card and gasped.

“So you’re Gisele, the vice elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty. Pleased to meet you!” Hubert quickly handed the card back. He did not dare accept it.

“Hold on to it, just let me know if you need any help. The thing is, my student did come to your shop and show his interest in the item. Can you please explain the situation to your customers?” Gisele said in a demanding tone.

As Gisele was speaking, she cast a glance at the item. It was indeed very valuable, and was definitely worth more than three hundred million.

It was most likely the treasure of the shop. She did hear from Jack that the owner had inherited the shop from his father, and had no choice but to sell this treasure, as business had been bad recently. The man was not willing to pay the fees for selling it at an auction, so he gave it a price he had roughly estimated.

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#### **Chapter 1072: Breaking Through the Barricade of the Summoning Element**

At first, the shop owner was planning to sell the soul for five hundred million. However, many experts told him that the thing was not worth that much money. Lately, there had been many customers since many people had come to Venice, but to his surprise, many people had left after taking a few glances at it. None of them showed the slightest interest in it. Therefore, he was forced to lower the price further, and it was now at three hundred million.

Even so, no one was interested in it still, until the American came in the afternoon. He initially thought he finally had a chance of selling it, but to his surprise, the American left saying that he had to discuss it with his advisor. Hubert thought the man would not

return.

Not long after, the three Asians came and agreed to buy it right away. The two groups of people ended up crashing into one another.

The shop owner struggled to make a decision. It was true that the three Asians had agreed to buy it, and were already planning to pay for it, but he could not afford to offend the Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty either!

The Mages of the Sacred Hall of Liberty were highly respected throughout the world. Any city would quake vigorously if they were to stomp their foot on the ground, let alone someone with the rank of Vice Elder.

"If you say so, I will..." Hubert reached out his hand, having decided to take Jack's card.

"Humph!" Pang Lai harrumphed heavily, interrupting Hubert's action. He said with a hint of disdain in his eyes, "Who would have thought, a Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty would be using her identity to threaten a shop owner. You're a disgrace to the name of the Sacred Hall of Liberty!"

"Old man, what did you say?" the furious Jake immediately rebuked.

Pang Lai's gaze sharpened. His eyes immediately turned into a ferocious, pitch-black demon leopard lunging at the young Mage, even though it was a mere illusion.

Jack was taken by surprise. He subconsciously took a few steps back. His face turned pale as cold sweat started pouring down on it!

"Kid, watch your tone," Pang Lai snapped coldly.

Jack was struggling to breathe. His eyes were filled with disbelief.

Vice Elder Gisele was startled when she noticed something. She observed Pang Lai carefully.

"May I know who you are? The little kid might be insensible, but was that really necessary?" The Vice Elder, Gisele sounded cautious, yet she had no intention of backing off.

"I'm not the kind of person that will threaten someone with my identity. We have already decided to buy the item, so please don't intervene further!" Pang Lai declared.

"How are we intervening? We saw it first!"

“But have you paid for it? Did the shop owner say that the thing is yours? You said that you had reached a deal with the owner, yet he was trying to sell it to us. It’s obvious that your student is only interested in it, yet he didn’t say he was going to buy it! Mister, don’t you change your mind now just because she is a Vice Elder. If you aren’t doing business the way you should, I won’t go easy on you, either!” Pang Lai said.

Both Gisele and Hubert were stunned by Pang Lai’s words. First of all, Gisele was utterly dumbfounded, as she had always gotten her way whenever she revealed her identity as the Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty. It was rare to stumble into anyone that dared to challenge her, and she had gotten used to it, yet the old man totally disregarded her status!

Hubert was even more lost in thoughts. The old man’s reaction implied that his status was no lower than the Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty. Why would two people with formidable backgrounds come to his shop at the same time? What was he supposed to do?

“Mister, I’ll let you decide,” Gisele harrumphed coldly.

Hubert looked back and forth between the two. He finally decided to do business fairly and accepted Pang Lai’s card.

Since he could not afford to offend either side, he was obliged to do it the normal way. The Asians did express their willingness to buy the item, and the Americans had interrupted halfway...

“Aren’t you going to tell us your name?” Gisele asked in an unfriendly voice.

The item was quite a valuable find, yet someone else had taken it away from them. It clearly had put Gisele in a bad mood. She did not believe that the old man was actually an authoritative figure!

“Pang Lai,” Pang Lai responded, displeased.

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Pang Lai made the payment and received the goods. He immediately left with Mo Fan and Jiang Yu without paying any further attention to Gisele and Jack.

Gisele was stunned for a moment. It took her awhile just to collect her thoughts.

Some time after Pang Lai left, Jack recovered from his fear and blurted out, “Advisor, why did you let them leave just like that? Who do they think they are, acting so arrogantly in Venice? How dare they not show any respect to the Sacred Hall of Liberty!”

“You better watch yourself around that old man. It’s not like you have to respect him or anything, but his status is rather special. You’re full of youthful vigor, yet you have to be careful not to step on his tail,” Gisele said.

“Who is he?”

“The Chief of the Chinese Royal Guards, someone ranked on the Tian Ranking; one of the top three Summoners in the world!” Gisele informed him.

Jack gaped. He was starting to feel a wave of terror rising when he was distracted by some noise behind him.

Jack and Gisele turned around and realized the shop owner had smashed some rare magic ores on the table in a panic.

Hubert quickly tidied up the mess, just so other people would not see how dispirited he was. After he was done, he drew a cross on his chest.

Oh Lord, luckily he had made a wise decision. Otherwise, he would have found himself in great trouble!

After leaving the marketplace, Jiang Yu caught up to Pang Lai and smiled, “Teacher, you were so cool there! You managed to overwhelm them without using your identity, and you only told them your name right at the end! You didn’t even bother abusing your reputation!”

“The people of the Sacred Hall of Liberty have always been full of themselves. I always find them annoying, and I happened to stumble into one today. The fact that I didn’t teach that Vice Elder a lesson is because my temper has improved a lot due to my age!” Pang Lai seemed like a righteous Taoist, yet he also had a wild temper.

Mo Fan enjoyed watching it too. The old woman had really walked right into the line of fire, thinking that she could secure the item because of her position...

Who was Pang Lai? Even though the Royal Guards of China was not as reputable as the Parthenon Temple, those who were familiar with it knew it consisted of a bunch of extremely powerful Mages who had devoted their whole lives to becoming stronger, and who rarely pursued fame or gain. If the Royal Guards and the Sacred Hall of Liberty ended up in a fight, the odds were fairly even!

On the other hand, Gisele was just a Vice Elder, but Pang Lai was the Chief of the Royal Guards. Even the President of the Sacred Hall of Liberty would have to receive Pang Lai personally whenever he went to America. Their ranks were three levels apart!

It was even worse in terms of strength. Pang Lai could easily defeat Gisele with his tertiary or quaternary Elements!

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“Advisor Pang Lai, thank you for your help and generosity,” Mo Fan was sweet whenever he needed to be. It was necessary to be slick and sly at times. After all, Pang Lai did had done him a huge favor!

“It has nothing to do with generosity, I only said that I was paying for it just to make that old woman mad. You clearly owe me the money, since I don’t make a living from robbing, either. You can transfer all the money you have. As for the remaining amount... you can settle the debt by giving me some of the rare finds you get from the treasure hunt!” Pang Lai did not follow the script at all. His image of a righteous Taoist totally crumbled in just a few sentences!

Mo Fan sighed. Didn't the powerful old men in dramas and novels always give huge gifts to the main protagonist when they were totally impressed by the protagonist's talents? Why was it totally different in his case? The old man was so fussy about it, even when it was only three hundred million!

Mo Fan did not dare say that he was not going to pay the money. He transferred the one hundred and fifty million he had to Pang Lai, and promised that he would pay the rest after the treasure hunt.

"You now have everything you need. Just follow my instructions, and it should work. Speaking of which, the soul I stole for you is insanely good, I would have bought it for Jiang Yu if it was useful for him... consider yourself lucky!" Pang Lai said.

"Teacher, we bought it, we didn't steal it!" Jiang Yu said speechlessly.

"Right, they were trying to steal it from us!" Pang Lai nodded, quickly reassuming his demeanor of a righteous Taoist.

Following Pang Lai's instructions, Mo Fan first improved his Summoning Element.

Holding the Galaxy Vein he had bought for seventy million, Mo Fan could feel his heart pounding heavily.

He was really worried that the Galaxy Vein would deflate like a balloon just as he was at the crucial step of breaking through the barrier, and he would waste the attempt. He would then have to waste a huge sum buying another Galaxy Vein.

It did not help to be nervous. Mo Fan focused and began to meditate, as he needed to accumulate the energy needed to break through the walls surrounding the Nebula.

The Galaxy Vein continued to support Mo Fan in his attempt. Mo Fan could feel himself riding a fierce tide, aiming to break through the dam in front of him!

Taking a deep breath, Mo Fan clearly remembered the great pressure he was under in his past attempts breaking through to the Advanced Level. However, even though he could feel the same resistance this time, the energy he had accumulated was quite unstoppable. It had directly broken through the barricade, allowing the Nebula to expand into a Galaxy with abundant energy instantly!

The lunar-white Galaxy looked mysterious yet elegant, with two Star Orbits connected to his two Summoned Creatures like umbilical cords.

Both the Swift Star Wolf and Little Flame Belle cried out to congratulate Mo Fan. They could tell that their master had successfully broken through the barrier, and the world of the Summoning Element had further expanded, which meant they would be able to receive more energy in the future...

"Here, Swift Star Wolf, the first mouthful of milk is for you!" Mo Fan followed Pang Lai's instructions and gave the Swift Star Wolf all the energy the Galaxy had.

Following that, Mo Fan immediately plopped down the ground to stabilize his cultivation.

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When the Galaxy reached a stable state, Mo Fan's eyes sprang open, his eyes shining with a brilliant, lunar-white light.

"Jiang Yu's teacher is very impressive!" Mo Fan could not help but exclaim.

Mo Fan initially thought the Galaxy Vein he had bought with only seventy million was defective with insufficient energy, since most Galaxy Veins were sold for one hundred million, and some even had a price of one hundred and twenty million! It was difficult to tell the quality of a Galaxy Vein being sold at such a low price, but to his surprise, not only was the Galaxy Vein not a defective product, the energy it contained was more abundant, and better than the Galaxy Veins he had acquired from the auctions!

Old Pang Lai was sure impressive with his sharp eyes, able to pick out a great Galaxy Vein with lightning speed!

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 1073: Soul of the Highest Quality**

The process of improving his Summoning Element to the Advanced Level was an utter success, and so smooth that it totally took Mo Fan by surprise. Mo Fan was hesitant to improve his Elements to the Advanced Level, even though he had the money, because he was afraid of failing the attempts. He felt that the Nebula of his Summoning Element was not full enough, and even if it was ready, there was still a chance that he would fail to improve it. He could not imagine losing a hundred million if he failed the attempt!

Mo Fan had completed strengthening the bones and changing the bloodline of the Swift Star Wolf. The creature was feeling pain everywhere, like a patient who had just gone through surgery. Mo Fan could see him clenching his teeth...

Evolving was an utterly painful process. After all, the creature was basically forfeiting their original body! Just the first two steps were equivalent to having all their bones broken and their blood sucked dry, but the last step of forging the soul was even worse. It involved shattering the soul and reforging it again! The pain inflicted on the soul was unbearable. It required the Summoned Beast to have a strong will!

Mo Fan believed that the Swift Star Wolf had always had a strong will to improve. The fact that he was from the Summoned Beast Plane was a clear indication that he was no weakling waiting to be dominated by some other creature. Not long after he was born, he had to do his best to survive in the wilderness through endless fights. Compared to Little Flame Belle, who had her own Contracted Space, the Swift Star Wolf's life was a lot tougher.

But there was nothing Mo Fan could do. If Mo Fan had a way to raise the Swift Star Wolf in a space where the Swift Star Wolf could have his own home, there was no reason he would have the Swift Star Wolf continue to stay in the wilds in the Summoned Beast Plane. However, the Summoning Element had its own rules, strictly forbidding a Summoned Beast from Dimensional Summoning from entering the Contracted Space... unless the Mage was strong enough to provide energy for the Summoned Beast to

stay forever in their current dimension. Otherwise, once the energy ran out, the Swift Star Wolf would be called back to the wilds of the Summoned Beast Plane.

The Ancient Desolate Continent! Mo Fan had heard the name from Pang Lai. It was said that the Summoned Beast Plane consisted of nine continents, each with different species of creatures residing on them. These creatures were basically no different than demon creatures, the only difference being that they were able to establish spiritual connections with humans, allowing Summoners to summon them, and to fight at their side!

The Swift Star Wolf was from the Ancient Desolate Continent, where beast-type creatures were from. It was a barbarous land that obeyed the law of the jungle, and apparently, battles between species and their hordes were fairly common there, as if the creatures were always at war.

Mo Fan remembered, back when he first cast the Dimensional Summoning, that the Swift Star Wolf was still a Spirit Wolf. As Mo Fan's spirit was traveling over the Ancient Desolate Continent of the Summoned Beast Plane, he recalled seeing the whole place covered in the remains of creatures. Now that he thought about it, the Swift Star Wolf was most likely an orphan of some tribe, and it might be one of the main reasons why he was so eager to become stronger amid the never-ending battles in the Ancient Desolated Continent.

"Hey wolf, are you ready for it?" Mo Fan patted the Swift Star Wolf's head.

"Awooo~" The Swift Star Wolf raised his head and uttered a typical howl of a wolf, displaying his firm and unyielding spirit!

"Hahhoo-Hahhoo-" Little Flame Belle was trying her best to mimic the howl too.

"What are you up to now?" Mo Fan asked Little Flame Belle.

Little Flame Belle no longer had short limbs like she used to. She now had a waist, a pair of slim legs, and the two sprouts of flames on her head were like two little pigtails of a young teenaged girl. Mo Fan had the urge to put some clothes on her and walk down the street while holding her hand. He strongly believed that she would catch everyone's attention easily!

"HAHHOO!" Little Flame Belle was already holding two fiery pom-poms in her hands, wiggling her little waist and dancing around sincerely, as if she wanted to lend a hand to her Uncle Wolf!

"Alright, I guess you can be the cheerleader," Mo Fan placed Little Flame Belle to the side, allowing the little creature to enjoy herself.

Little Flame was doing her very best, as if her Uncle Wolf would surely going to succeed the harder she danced! The only thing she lacked was a banner displaying, I will be waiting for you at the Commander-level!

"Wolf, let's begin. Are you ready for the unbearable pain? If you really can't endure it, don't force yourself. We will have lots of chances still in the future. Once I become rich, I'll buy many Souls for you for your snacks!" Mo Fan said.

The Swift Star Wolf nodded. His energetic eyes began to focus, a stern look in them.

“Alright, here we go!” Mo Fan’s thoughts were synchronized with the Swift Star Wolf’s. He slowly directed the Soul he had bought toward the Swift Star Wolf.

A body could only hold one soul. When another soul entered a body, the original soul of the body would start to repel it, and the two souls would break out in a fight when the new soul was trying to take over the body!

In terms of the levels of the souls, the Swift Star Wolf’s soul was only at the Warrior-level, but the soul being placed inside his body was Commander-level. It was obvious which Soul was stronger. If Mo Fan was unable to assert control over the Soul, the Swift Star Wolf’s soul would be torn into pieces at any second!

The process of the soul forging was as follows: Think of the Swift Star Wolf as a little puppy, and the only way for it to grow is to beat a fierce hound. In a fair fight, the outcome is very obvious, the little puppy is going to be torn into pieces by the hound. Currently, the role that Mo Fan was playing is the person keeping the hound under control with a chain. He needed to know how tight he had to hold the chain. If he loosens it by too much, the hound would simply lunge forward, and the little puppy was dead for sure. However, if he grabbed the chain too tightly, the little puppy wouldn’t learn as much from the fight!

As such, the process was also a test of the Mage’s cultivation and control, since his ability to control the process would directly determine the outcome!. Failing to do so would endanger the life of his Summoned Beast...

Luckily, Mo Fan’s cultivation was fairly outstanding, not because of how vast the Galaxy of his Summoning Element was, but because his Spiritual World now had six Elements! Leaving the Demon Element aside, he still had five Elements; normally, only a Forbidden Mage would have the same number!

The number of Elements Mo Fan possessed meant his mental state was much stronger than ordinary people, and the strength of his mental state was proportional to his will and his control over those Elements. If a Mage with only a single Element in the Advanced Level was doing this, they would never be able to keep the fierce hound under control, resulting in a terrible loss.

Mo Fan had basically bought the best materials he could possibly find, and he was also an experienced Summoner. It solely depended on the Swift Star Wolf’s resilience!

“Speaking of which, what exactly is this Soul I got, that even the Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty was so eager to get her hands on it? Why am I struggling to tell how outstanding it is?” Mo Fan was curious as he asserted his control over the Soul.

The Soul did not seem too different from any other Commander-level creature. On top of that, it was not even the Soul of a creature of the wolf species, meaning that the two souls might have trouble merging later in the process. However, if Pang Lai told him that the Soul was something remarkable, and was willing to pay three hundred million in advance to secure it, it must be something incredible!

The Swift Star Wolf suddenly let out a cry, and was filled with fear and the urge to give up.

Mo Fan was startled. Why did the Swift Star Wolf want to surrender so quickly? He was quite confident that he had controlled the Soul well.

Not long after, Mo Fan realized the Soul was the reason. He took a closer look at the silhouette of the creature inside it.

After a glance, even Mo Fan subconsciously took a deep breath. The Soul was nothing like one that had died. It was a vivid and enormous beast, with tails flying wildly and eyes erupting in ghastly flames. It even had white bones covering it like armor, and a pair of slightly curved horns. Even its feet would leave a ghastly trail of flame...

Mo Fan had no idea what the beast was, yet it was totally different than its harmless appearance at the start. It had turned into a ferocious beast out of nowhere!

It made a lot of sense why the Swift Star Wolf was utterly terrified of the creature, since it was clearly not an ordinary Commander-level creature. Quite the opposite; Mo Fan somehow felt that the creature had a stronger aura than the pseudo-dragon he had once fought against!

“How did Pang Lai even notice such a high-quality soul!?” Mo Fan exclaimed.

Mo Fan finally understood why the Vice Elder and Jack were so eager to get their hands on the soul. It was nothing like the ordinary souls they could find in the market!

If the Swift Star Wolf could refine it and reforge his soul, he would surely evolve into an imperious Commander-level creature!

“Swift Star Wolf, don’t panic, it’s the perfect Soul to help you achieve the Commander-level, and even give you the potential to improve further! It’s already dead, but you’re still alive! You won’t just stop at the Commander-level, you’ll even achieve the Ruler-level in the future, so don’t let this dead creature stop you from growing stronger! Fight it, and beat the crap out of it! I’m here protecting you, you can surely use it as a stepping stone to evolve into a Commander-level wolf!” Mo Fan was excited

now.

The creature’s presence was fairly intimidating, but the scarier it was, the better the outcome would be if the Swift Star Wolf managed to overcome it!

It was a great challenge for the Swift Star Wolf. If he could overcome it, he would no longer have to live a tough life in the Ancient Desolate Continent, as he would be able to claim his own territory.

A Commander-level creature was worthy enough to claim a territory, and the Swift Star Wolf was eager to grow stronger mainly because he wanted to have his own territory in the wilderness. Once he overcame this challenge, he would be able to establish his own horde!

“Awooo-” The Swift Star Wolf’s fear was natural due to the difference between their levels. The presence of a Commander-level creature could easily shatter the fighting spirit of a Warrior-level creature.

However, the Swift Star Wolf was very experienced in taking on strong foes. Mo Fan was very strong, and so was Little Flame Belle, yet the Wolf was still stuck at the Warrior-level. In order to survive in the Ancient Desolate Continent, he had to grow stronger!

He let out a defiant roar, trying to overcome the fear toward a higher-level creature he was experiencing from his lineage and his soul!

“Go! Just do it! So what if it’s a Commander-level creature; go and tear it into pieces!” Mo Fan encouraged him.

“Hahhoo-hahhoo!-” Little Flame Belle danced even more vigorously, her face serious, as if she was fighting the battle herself!

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#### **Chapter 1074: Flying Creek Snow Wolf!**

Venice, the Yun Lan Chinese Mage Clubhouse...

Jiang Yu still did not understand what the Soul that his teacher was interested in was; even the Vice Elder of the Sacred Hall of Liberty was willing to intervene just to get her hands on it. He could not help but ask, “Master, the Soul that you bought for Mo Fan, what exactly is it? Is it really that impressive?”

“To be honest with you, I was quite surprised to see something like that in the marketplace in Venice, too. There’s nothing special about that Soul, and even people with sharp eyes normally don’t pay three hundred million for it. Even if it’s auctioned, it will most likely be sold around the price of two hundred million...” Pang Lai tried taking a sip of the Italian coffee, yet as soon as he took a sip, he spat it out.

“Master, I think tea suits you better.” Jiang Yu immediately went to brew a pot of tea and served it to Pang Lai, before asking, “So why did you spend three hundred million on it? Were you seriously just trying to squabble with the old lady?”

“Squabble with her?” Pang Lai raised his brows and harrumphed, “Let me tell you, if I didn’t promise to get a Soul for Mo Fan and the fact that he has helped our country plenty of times, I would have bought it for myself, and given it to you as your graduation gift. Unfortunately, your first Summoned Beast is of the Earth Element, and the other is a demon spirit, so the soul of a beast isn’t of any use to you...”

“Was it really that impressive? But didn’t you mention that it was only an ordinary Commander-level creature?” Jiang Yu asked.

“It’s only ordinary in the eyes of the others, but it’s totally different in the eyes of someone as knowledgeable as your master. If I hadn’t been to the Extreme South Ice Realm, I might have missed it, too.” Pang Lai took a sip of the tea to cleanse his tongue of the strong coffee aroma, before drinking it. Chinese tea was still the best, and the drinks in foreign countries all tasted like mud!

{TL Note: But I like to drink coffee... =( }

“The Extreme South Ice Realm, at the South Pole?” Jiang Yu was astounded.

“Yeah, it’s truly a forbidden place for humans. The land is vast, and extremely cold, and the demon creatures there...” He sighed heavily. “The word strong is far from enough to describe them. We only went around a hundred kilometers meters deep into the place, yet our group was almost wiped out. Everyone in the group was a Super Mage, and even though I wasn’t as strong as I am now, there’s no chance I’m going back to the South Pole again!” As Pang Lai recalled the situation, he suddenly could not feel the cup of hot tea in his hand, as if he was lost in the land of the snow, where he could feel no heat.

“There are places where even master doesn’t dare to go?” Jiang Yu was even more shocked.

There was not much information about the lands at the South Pole. It was not like not many powerful Mages had visited it, but it was nothing but a black zone.

Other kingdoms of demon creatures were usually crawling with demon creatures, but at the South Pole, it was pretty hard to find one, the whole place was deadly quiet...

However, if you ended up stumbling into one or two when your luck ran out, it was very likely that you would not be able to come back alive!

Pang Lai was once full of youthful vigor, back when he used to be a bright talent among the Super Mages. He was bold enough to follow a bunch of ambitious Mages on an expedition to the South Pole. After that time, Pang Lai had decided to join the Royal Guards and spent most of his time cultivating, or training his disciples. He no longer dared to go on adventures.

Even with his current strength, his face always turned pale at the mention of the Extreme South Ice Realm.

“Let’s not talk about the past. Don’t you want to know why I’m so fascinated by the Soul?” Pang Lai went back to the topic.

“Could it be that the Soul is from the Extreme South Ice Realm?”

“Exactly! I could immediately tell that the creature was from the Extreme South Ice Realm when I felt the strong presence of the Ice Element while holding it. Only the creatures there could possess a Soul with such a strong presence of the Ice Element. If I’m not mistaken, it’s most likely the soul of a Flying Creek Snow Beast. Its strength is similar to that of an ordinary Commander-level creature, but its Ice Soul is going to grant it immeasurable strength when fighting in an Ice Domain!” Pang Lai explained.

“So it’s basically gained the power of the Ice Element?”

Pang Lai sighed. “It’s hard to explain it to you with words. Once Mo Fan’s wolf evolves successfully, you’ll realize how strong the Ice Soul is during the treasure hunt!”

“I guess so. It’s surely something special if it comes from that place!”

—

In a private training ground...

The whole place shook, following a blasting roar. Even the boats in the nearby canals were shaking hard.

The people nearby stared at the training ground with terrified looks when they heard the roar.

Luckily, the roar had come from the training ground. If it was from any other building, the city guards of Venice would have immediately surrounded the place!

“HAHAHA, it worked! Old man Pang Lai is really impressive!” Mo Fan’s laughter echoed throughout the training ground.

Mo Fan had managed to help the Swift Star Wolf evolve just by following Pang Lai’s instructions!

Mo Fan had withdrawn his control. He was staring at the Swift Star Wolf, watching its remarkable transformation!

The Swift Star Wolf had fully extended his limbs, as if his bones and bodies were being pulled apart forcibly. His previously elegant muscles had expanded too, making him more muscular, and granting him a more savage appearance!

His fur was drifting in the wind, and the color had started to change too, from dark blue to white. It looked rather chilly, with an icy blue gleam to it!

Mo Fan initially thought he would feel an icy aura bursting out from the creature, yet all he felt was the cold, yet restrained savagery of the Swift Star Wolf. However, he could sense a suffocating sense of danger just looking at the icy flames in the creature’s eyes!

Mo Fan knew the thing burning inside the creature’s eyes was not fire, but a kind of frost that was swaying like a flame. The same frost was swaying on the wolf’s shoulders, elbows, and tail!

In addition to that, his fur was covering him from his shoulder to his hip, then to his rear legs, and on top of that was a layer of glittering, icy armor attached to the Swift Star Wolf’s sturdy muscles, showing off the inviolable nobility of a Commander-level creature!

“Is...is he now an Ice-type creature?” Mo Fan was astounded after witnessing the Swift Star Wolf’s transformation.

The change to the wolf’s Element was a piece of good news. After all, the Wind Element that the Swift Star Wolf had before was fairly weak. He mainly relied on his physical strength in fights.

However, even though the Swift Star Wolf had turned into an Ice-type creature, the icy aura from the icy armor covering him did not feel that strong, and the temperature nearby did not even drop by much.

Even a Basic Ice Spread was similar to turning on an air-conditioner, yet the aura of the Swift Star Wolf was nowhere close to that.

“Don’t tell me he has only inherited the appearance of the Soul, but he did not inherit its power. Such a pity,” Mo Fan murmured.

“Ning-” Little Flame Belle was naive. She immediately lifted her fiery pom-poms when she saw that the Swift Star Wolf had successfully evolved. She leapt up and danced joyfully.

“Forget it, it doesn’t really matter, it’s cool enough that you’ve evolved into a Commander-level creature. HAHHAHA, wolf, I’ll have to call you White Wolf from now onward!” Mo Fan was the optimistic kind.

He had only spent around four hundred and fifty million to help the Swift Star Wolf evolve into a Commander-level creature. It was quite a bargain! After all, the strength of a Commander-level creature was comparable to the combined strength of about seven Advanced Mages, and it took more than a hundred million to train an Advanced Mage!

Either way, the Swift Star Wolf’s transformation was not as impressive as Mo Fan anticipated, yet it did not let Mo Fan down, either. The Swift Star Wolf had officially achieved the Commander-level, meaning that he could easily eliminate a national team with just his Summoning Element alone!

“That being said, he looks really cool, like a king of the wolves. You can finally claim your own territory in the Summoned Beast Plane!” Mo Fan patted the Swift Star Wolf’s head and smiled.

“Awooo!~” The Swift Star Wolf was incredibly excited, too. He let go a few howls, and the boats and people in the canals nearby suffered greatly.

“We can finally enjoy ourselves during the treasure hunt. We’ll have to earn all the money we’ve spent lately back!” Mo Fan said ambitiously.

“Awoo!”

“Hahhoo!”

The White Wolf retained his savagery as a wolf. He was a great fan of plundering, and since he had just achieved the Commander-level, it was finally his turn to show off his remarkable prowess.

Little Flame Belle cried out in excitement too, her voice was as pleasant as the chime of a bell. She could finally follow her daddy and Uncle Wolf on their evil deeds of plundering and setting places on fire. She was radiating great joy!

—

Mo Fan told Jiang Yu about his success. Jiang Yu also mentioned the origin of the Soul to Mo Fan briefly. However, Jiang Yu was not able to understand the whole story from his teacher. He had no idea how strong the Ice Soul was, he only told Mo Fan what he had heard.

“Flying Creek Snow Beast... alright, I guess I’ll call you Flying Creek Snow Wolf then!” Mo Fan gave the Swift Star Wolf a new name!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf... it sounded like a handsome wolf leaping and running along the walls and jumping between the cliffs of a snowy creek. It did suit his current appearance!

“Have you tried out his strength yet? My master said the creature is very strong,” Jiang Yu asked.

“Not yet. I let him go back to the Summoned Beast Plane to claim his territory. I think he’s the same as other Commander-level creatures,” Mo Fan said.



“Oh, I’ll leave it to you to explore, then. My master wouldn’t lie to you; if he said it’s strong, he must have some outstanding ability,” Jiang Yu said.

“It’s fine, I’m satisfied that he’s now a Commander-level creature!”

“True, your Summoning Element isn’t any weaker than mine, and it’s supposed to be your tertiary Element...” Jiang Yu sighed.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1075: Huge Teleporting Portal**

Mo Fan purposely paid Pang Lai a visit to express his gratitude.

Jiang Yu knocked on the door to explain their purpose of visit, yet Pang Lai told Jiang Yu to leave in a demanding tone.

“Forget it, master is probably dealing with something urgent. Let’s wait in the garden; I can tell you more about the treasure hunt, too.” Jiang Yu asked someone to get them some drinks.

Mo Fan glanced at the door that was tightly shut. He was intrigued by Pang Lai’s tone. Even if he was busy with something, it did not explain why he sounded so serious.

Mo Fan did not overthink it. He proceeded to discuss the treasure hunt with Jiang Yu. It was very important to Mo Fan, and it was also an opportunity for the members of the national team to grow stronger, too. There were times when an ordinary student turned into the brightest stars in the tournament with the loot they found during the treasure hunt. No one could possibly tell what was going to happen during the treasure hunt!

In the locked room, Pang Lai sat on a cushion and looked at the old man with a scarred face sitting opposite to him with a stern expression.

“Old friend, please help me. I’m only here because I’m left with no choice,” the old man with a scar pleaded.

“How do you expect me to help? Look at the things you did, and the solid proof that the Holy Judgment Court has found... you’re seriously out of your mind. You already had a great reputation, and your power and fame were unmatched... why would you do such a thing? You’ve really let your old friends down!” Pang Lai snapped coldly.

“They have yet to deliver the evidence to the Holy Judgment Court. You have to help me...” the old man said.

“Are you insane!? Essendale, how did you end up like this? You didn’t even show the slightest hint of remorse! Do you know how remorseful Yingcan was for the rest of his life after the stupid decision he made? Look at the consequences of his mistake! The Calamity of Bo City, the Calamity of the Ancient Capital... there’s no way Salan will forgive you. Just surrender yourself, for the sake of your clan and your

descendants, it's the only favor that the rest of us can do for you! Save some dignity for yourself, and think about your descendants! There's no escape for you!" Pang Lai said to Essendale sternly.

"It's a matter of viewpoint! It's not like I've done anything wrong! I admitted that I picked the wrong candidate, and I've done inhumane things on her behalf, but wasn't that how it always is? The election might look sacred and noble on the surface, but it's as filthy as a river of blood!" Essendale protested.

"Do you really think the things you did are just 'inhumane'? Old friend, you've really crossed the line, I can't stand watching you any longer! If you aren't willing to surrender yourself, I guess I'll have to deliver you to the Holy Judgment Court myself!" Pang Lai's eyes flickered sharply.

Essendale immediately rose to his feet. A dark aura immediately burst out of his body and filled the room!

Pang Lai did not think that Essendale was already on guard. It was impossible to detain the man once he got the upper hand. "Do you really just think about only yourself?"

"I don't want to die, and I don't want to be locked in the Underworld Prison like Wen Tai..." The dark aura emitted by Essendale grew stronger.

Pang Lai was unable to move. The dark aura was locking him down like countless chains of black dragons. Pang Lai was suppressed before he could cast a single spell.

Pang Lai let out a sigh, looking at Essendale.

"There must be a way, there must be... I don't want you to continue down the wrong path."

Out in the garden, Mo Fan who was chatting with Jiang Yu when he suddenly sensed an overwhelming presence of darkness coming from the room. For an instant, Mo Fan thought the Ruler of the Dark had descended upon the place! He could feel his skin crawling!

Mo Fan turned around and stared at the room.

At the same time, the door was shoved open. An old man with a scarred face walked out. He glanced at Mo Fan and Jiang Yu briefly before leaving the place.

Jiang Yu was stunned for a moment. He immediately rose to his feet when he saw the room was filled with an overwhelming dark energy and quickly hurried over.

Mo Fan glanced into the room too. He saw Pang Lai sitting in the darkness like a statue, unable to move.

Mo Fan turned after the old man, but he had already disappeared. He did not just disappear because he had turned a corner, but he had already vanished a fair distance away!

It was the Fleeing Shadow, but the man's Fleeing Shadow was crazier than Blink! Mo Fan could not detect a single trace of him.

"Master, master, are you alright?" Jiang Yu hurriedly went up to Pang Lai.

The energy restraining Pang Lai soon dissipated. The old man covered in the dark energy started coughing with a helpless face.

Mo Fan glanced at Pang Lai. It was obvious that Pang Lai had lost in the short confrontation with the old man. Mo Fan was utterly shaken. Who was that old man, that even Pang Lai was not his worthy opponent?

Pang Lai let out a long sigh. He simply ignored Jiang Yu's question and sat there, thinking.

Mo Fan had no clue what had happened, and it was obvious that Pang Lai was not in the mood to talk.

On the day of the treasure hunt, the whole world was shaken by a piece of news.

A world-famous Shadow Mage named Essendale was pronounced guilty, and the Holy Judgment Court had placed a bounty on his head, dead or alive!

Mo Fan heard everyone discussing it when he arrived at the venue. Everyone was left in awe by the news!

Essendale, a Mage that was ranked higher than Pang Lai; the true Master of the Shadow Element!

To Mo Fan's great surprise, it was Essendale that had generously donated the Dark Noble Mantle as a reward to be given to the national teams!

Mo Fan had heard his name a couple of times. A Mage of his level was on par with the leaders of his country; it was hard to imagine that such a person had suddenly become a serious criminal!

"It's said that the Holy Judgment Court has conclusive evidence; they won't allow Essendale to rebut the accusation," Jiang Yu

said.

"No wonder your master looked so down; he had already guessed the outcome!" Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had only learned that the person able to trap Pang Lai the other day was the Master of the Shadow Element, Essendale, when the news broke out. However, he had no clue what they were talking about.

"Speaking of which, considering how strong Essendale is, and if even your master was no match for him, will the Holy Judgment Court really be able to catch him if he's serious about running away? The master of the Shadow Element... I doubt if anyone in this world can really catch him," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan also possessed the Shadow Element, so he clearly knew how outstanding the Element was when it was used to run away. There was no chance that they could catch someone like Essendale without the help of Forbidden Mages!

"Who knows, but it's hard to imagine that someone like him would do something so unforgiving. I heard that it has something to do with a Candidate, I wonder who it could be..."

"Will the treasure hunt be postponed because of it?"

"It's hard to say, it's just too great a bit of news for now."

The incident was expected to affect the World College Tournament to a certain degree. The treasure hunt was postponed for two days, just so it did not take place on the same day that Essendale was pronounced guilty.

People would soon be distracted by other news, and would forget about something that happened before.

However, Essendale's influence was greater than everyone thought. The news remained a headline across the world even after two days, and apparently, the Candidate that was related to the incident had gone missing, too.

Mo Fan did not really care much about the things that happened in the rest of the world. He only cared about the treasure hunt for now.

The treasure hunt took place as scheduled. Sixteen countries were disqualified in the first round, so only the sixteen countries that were left would participate in the treasure hunt.

The participants were told to gather at the same stadium where the opening ceremony was held, but unlike before, it was filled with magic ores, all with a silver gleam to them.

The silver ores were arranged in a formation. Mo Fan could clearly sense the energy of the Space Element lingering in the air.

"A Space Magic Formation; it seems like they are going to teleport us to the actual venue!" Ai Jiangtu observed professionally.

"Such a huge Space Magic Formation, I wonder where it's going to teleport us to! Don't tell me it's the edge of the world?" Zhao Manyan's eyes were wide.

The magic formation was insanely huge. None of them knew where it was going to teleport them.

There were two kinds of Space Magic Formations. The first kind would teleport anyone that stepped into it to a random place. When Mo Fan and Asha'ruiya went to pay the Black Dragon Emperor a visit, Asha'ruiya was forced to set up such a space portal without a precise destination.

The other kind was a designated space portal that would teleport anyone that stepped through it to a certain place...

Many Space Mages had suggested setting up teleportation portals in the main cities across the world, just so the people could travel back and forth in a matter of seconds. However, realistically, it was not practical at all, as a portal with the ability to teleport someone across a long distance needed a vast amount of energy. In this world where humans and demon creatures never stopped competing for the scarce energy that was available, the energy it took to teleport a traveler was enough to train an outstanding Battlemage!

As such, only a grand occasion like the World College Tournament would be allowed to teleport students to the actual venue with a Space Magic Formation.

"I'll now explain the rules!" the main judged stepped forward and announced in English. "Sixteen countries, one hundred and sixty students will be teleported to random spots in the space set up for the treasure hunt. You will each end up in a different place, and as usual, you'll encounter all kinds of

dangers and demon creatures, so you should be extremely careful while searching for the treasure! Even though we have assistant judges watching you inside, and will try our best to guarantee your safety with the help of the Eagle Eyes scattered across the place, there are chances that accidents will happen, so I hope you can stay calm and ask for help immediately. Don't lose your life because of your greed!"

"Finally, this here is a Scroll of Space. When you realize that your life is danger, fill the scroll with energy! It will activate in around four seconds, and teleport you back here with a space vortex. Again, safety first; don't do anything stupid!"

Creator's Thought

so, transporting them via this thing one way is enough to train 160 outstanding battlemages, given ten people on the team. Out, and back, plus the observers...

Nope, no waste in these games, nope nope.

Oh, and new magic item... crush the Scrolls to trigger a spell!

[Versatile Mage](#)

### **Chapter 1076: Essence Crystal of the Black Tree**

"Space scrolls, tsk tsk, the tournament is pretty generous huh? I bet not many students have such life-preserving stuff," Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

"Are they like, really, really expensive?" Mo Fan had to ask.

"It's not a problem of how much they cost, but how many of them are produced! There aren't many Space Mages that can produce them, and even fewer are under the command of private organizations," Zhao Manyan said.

"Since everyone is forced to split up, let's try our best to regroup once we are in there. Otherwise, we won't even have a chance even if we find something precious," Jiang Yu spoke up.

Every member of the national team was taking part in the treasure hunt, since each team was allowed to have ten representatives. Thus, there were one hundred and sixty participants in total, representing sixteen countries.

After the rules were clarified, the students made their way into the Space Magic Formation.

Since the members of every team were going to split up, they were asked to enter the formation at different times, too. Interestingly, Mo Fan was somehow drawn out very early among the students, and he was the first member of the Chinese team to enter the formation.

Mo Fan was fairly curious about where the formation would bring him. Was it a confined space, or was it a special place that Italy had prepared for the tournament? However, since the Hunter Union was in charge of the second round, they would be putting the participants' ability to survive in the wild to the test!

It was important for a Mage to learn how to survive in the wild, since demon creatures were the biggest enemy of mankind. The competition between students did not really matter much. Only those who won against demon creatures, and survived under terrible conditions in the wild, would truly emerge as the true experts of the world!

—

As soon as Mo Fan stepped into the formation, he immediately sensed the space around him spinning and twisting.

Fortunately, it was not Mo Fan's first time traveling through space. He calmly closed his eyes, just so he would not get sick from the turbulence of the flow.

With a shudder, Mo Fan vanished from right in front of everyone between some space ripples within the blink of an eye.

The chaotic flow of space struck him. However, since Mo Fan was a Space Mage himself, he knew how to handle the situation, and could stop himself from losing too much of his energy.

The process did not last long. When Mo Fan opened his eyes, the stadium had already disappeared. He could no longer see Venice's sky, or the crowd of spectators...

The muddy, gray sky was twisting in a weird way, like a giant painting looming over his head. It felt surreal.

The ground was uneven, with jagged rocks and steep mountains. He also saw a black forest, a river with its water flowing in the wrong direction, and a valley with some eerie cries...

Mo Fan looked around him and had an indescribably strange feeling.

Even though he could see mountains, water, and the sky in his surroundings, it felt like something that an illogical painter had put together indifferently. It felt nothing like nature!

"It must be some kind of a unique space!" Mo Fan was not unfamiliar with strange spaces.

The world he had ended up in under the Dark Abyss was oddly uncomfortable, too. To his relief, there was only a slight disharmony in the sky; it was not made of corpses like the one in the Dark Abyss!

Curtains of corpses in the sky... whenever Mo Fan recalled the sight in the Dark Abyss, he still had lingering fears.

Every confined space would have its boundary. If he could find a tall spot, he might be able to see the end of the space. It was unlikely that the organizer would pick a vast, boundless space as the venue, since not only would they have to struggle to look after every participant, they would have trouble controlling what was happening inside the space, too!

Mo Fan heard the cries of eagles above him. He lifted his gaze and saw an eagle circling around a hundred meters up in the sky.

"So those are the unmanned drones with surveillance cameras?" Mo Fan gave the eagle a wide smile.

The Observer Eagles were a kind of tool that the military often used. Similar to the Wicked Eye Copper Mirror, these Observer Eagles were able to transmit everything they saw to a device via Light Magic.

Since the whole world was watching the tournament, it did not make sense if the treasure hunt only involved the students running around in a confined space. The Observer Eagles were the best tools to broadcast what was happening in the space, allowing the people outside to watch the splendid performances of the students!

The Observer Eagles had been waiting in their positions for a long time. They were tailing every student to capture everything that happened, while looking after their safety.

When Mo Fan saw a number of Observer Eagles flying in the sky, he could not help but have a thought: Shouldn't the treasure hunt be given a name, like, Running Mage?

{TL Note: A reference to a popular variety show from Korea, Running Man, NOT the Schwarzenegger movie.}

However, it was a tournament after all, and even though the environment did resemble wilderness, it went without saying that the organizer had basically set up everything artificially. The only question was how many demon creatures were residing in the space, since they were most likely the only threat to the participants!

Mo Fan looked around him, but he could not tell where he was supposed to go.

The advisors specifically told them to regroup with the others as soon as possible, to increase their odds of finding and securing treasure. It did not make sense for the organizer to drop the loot right in the middle of nowhere...

Unfortunately, Mo Fan had no idea where his teammates were. He had no choice but to roam aimlessly.

"Little Roach, it's your showtime! Help daddy see if there's anything good around here!" Mo Fan murmured to the pendant on his chest.

The Little Loach Pendant did not glow, implying that there was nothing that had caught its attention nearby.

Ever since Little Loach had devoured the Eternal Wicked Lotus, it had yet to react to anything that Mo Fan stumbled into.

Mo Fan realized he was expecting too much from Little Loach. He had no choice but to search for the loot himself.

Before Mo Fan knew it, he had entered a forest with distorted black trees. Glancing at the ghastly trees, Mo Fan asked Little Flame Belle again, "Are you sure that your little mummy is inside?"

"Ling!-" Little Flame Belle nodded.

Little Flame Belle had acknowledged Xinxia as her mummy first, meaning that Mu Ningxue had somehow become the little mummy.

However, Little Flame Belle was not really fond of Mu Ningxue's icy aura, so she rarely went close to Mu Ningxue. That being said, she was still extremely sensitive to it, and was able to sense it from far away.

If Little Flame Belle said that Mu Ningxue was inside the forest, she was most likely right!

Once Mo Fan found Mu Ningxue, he would be more relaxed wandering around!

—

—

"Strange, the forest doesn't seem to be huge, but why do I feel like I won't be able to leave it after coming in here..." Mo Fan had been moving forward for some time, yet he realized that he was still in the black forest.

He was surrounded by the wilted, twisting trees with empty branches. There was a strong evil presence, too.

Aas (

Mo Fan was confident that he was not trapped in some kind of a maze, as he could easily tell such a thing with his Shadow Element.

If the forest was not a maze, the only possibility left was the black forest was a compressed zone. It did not seem to cover a great area from the distance, but it was actually quite huge once he stepped into it. It was unlikely that he would reach the end in a short period...

—

A cold wind with some frost came from the distance. Even without Little Flame Belle's help, Mo Fan could easily recognize Mu Ningxue's aura. She was right ahead!

Mo Fan turned into a shadow and wove through the trees rapidly. He finally saw Mu Ningxue, who was wearing a long robe, at a place where the trees seemed much thicker.

"Xuexue... mmm, why are you trapped between the trees?" Mo Fan stood on an old trunk and asked with a confused look.

Mu Ningxue was surrounded by frozen trees circling her like a prison, entrapping her in the middle.

"Look out, the trees can move!" Mu Ningxue warned him sharply.

Before Mo Fan realized what was happening, he saw two sharp branches stabbing at him; it turned out that the tree he was standing on was attacking him!

Mo Fan immediately jumped into the air, but before he could adjust his stance, he saw a huge branch swiping at him, knocking him

flying.

Mo Fan rolled a few times on the ground. His bones were hurting from the impact.

Luckily, his body was rather sturdy. Any other Mage would have a few broken bones by now!



“Damn it!” Mo Fan turned around and saw the trees that had attacked him had already uprooted themselves from the ground. They moved with their wriggling roots, their branches were their weapons. Some were thin and long, like claws, while some were as sharp as spears!

“I’ll burn them all with fire!” Mo Fan snapped furiously.

“They are just too many of them. Don’t panic, you’re only going to attract more of these Black Tree Spirits!” Mu Ningxue advised hm.

“What shall I do then? I can’t just let them smack me around like table tennis,” Mo Fan protested.

“There’s a Commander-level Black Tree Spirit, and it’s carrying an Essence Crystal in its tree hole. The organizer must have placed it there,” Mu Ningxue said.

{TL Note: Used to be Fundamental Crystal, but I think Essence Crystal sounds better.}

“Essence Crystal! That’s some good stuff!” Mo Fan’s eyes glittered.

Mo Fan happened to find an Essence Crystal in the canyon filled with the Forbidden Moon Rock Demons. It was worth two to three hundred million!

Mo Fan did not expect that Mu Ningxue had already found such valuable loot when he came looking for her.

“Do you need my help? Or you can deal with it yourself?” Mo Fan asked.

“Let’s do it together and get it done; the others might have found other treasures, too,” Mu Ningxue replied.

“Your Ice is better at dealing with the underlings, I’ll handle the boss...” Mo Fan split the tasks with Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue’s Ice Element had wide coverage, so she could handle the enormous number of Black Tree Spirits better. Besides, if they did not get rid of the army of Black Tree Spirits, they had no hope of reaching their Commander!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1078: The Worm and Tree Symbiosis**

Mu Ningxue continued to unleash her frost. It was very effective against Plant-type demon creatures.

The Ice Element was effective against the Plant Element was basic knowledge that every student had to learn in their nine years of study about magic. That being said, the Fire Element was even more effective against the Plant Element. After passing through the Black Tree Spirits that Mu Ningxue had frozen, Mo Fan saw the Commander-level Black Tree Spirit that Mu Ningxue had mentioned.

The Tree Spirit Commander was rather strange. It was residing in the lake, and the whole black lake had huge bubbles on its surface. It looked rather disgusting!

The mid-trunk of the Tree Spirit Commander had a strange mouth like a human, but it was a lot wider. Its eerie branches were like the arms and claws of a mountain monster. When Mo Fan walked forward, he realized that the tree was grabbing an enormous, gray bear...

The bear was around six meters tall, with gray flames covering its body. One could tell that the bear was no ordinary Servant-class beast, but the Tree Spirit Commander had stabbed the bear countless times, leaving bloody holes all over it with blood pouring out like a fountain into the lake!

The blood immediately turned black after falling into the lake. Mo Fan subconsciously took a deep breath.

The lake was not made of water, but decaying blood! How many creatures had the Tree Spirit Commander killed to form such a huge lake of blood?

The Tree Spirit Commander was on alert. It soon noticed Mo Fan's presence, even though he was hiding at the lakeside. It let out a furious cry as it faced him.

Even though the tree had no eyes or face, Mo Fan could clearly sense its hunger and cruelty, as if anything alive was considered its food. The fresh and tender meat, the cries of agony from its prey, and the blood that flowed into the pool...

"Are you trying to summon your men?" Mo Fan grinned when he saw the Tree Spirit Commander continuing to shriek.

The Tree Spirit Commander was unable to see, as he thought. It had no clue that all its underlings had been turned into ice statues by Mu Ningxue.

The Tree Spirit Commander had no choice but to get rid of the intruder itself, since none of its underlings had responded to its summons. It extended its branches and snapped them at Mo Fan like whips!

"As a mere tree, you have butchered so many creatures that their blood has formed such a huge lake, aren't you a disappointment to your mum and dad?" Mo Fan agilely dodged the branches.

Mo Fan suddenly vanished into thin air, leaving a shadow behind that the Tree Spirit Commander focused on with its branches!

He sneakily moved in another direction. Mo Fan stomped the ground, and a huge shadow loomed over the place. The dim sky immediately turned pitch-black, and darkness crawled across the place!

It had been a while since Mo Fan last cast the Nyx Regime. The strong presence of dark energy in the space significantly strengthened Mo Fan's Shadow Spells.

The Tree Spirit Commander did not have eyes, meaning that it did not rely on sight to sense where its enemy was. However, in the Domain of the Nyx Regime, Mo Fan's movements were as unpredictable as a phantom. Even though the Tree Spirit Commander knew where Mo Fan was, its branches were having a hard time tracking him down!

"Giant Shadow... hang on, there's no need for that!" Mo Fan was just about to cast the spell, but he immediately slapped himself on the head.

The Tree Spirit Commander was unable to move, after all, so it was unnecessary to suppress its movement!

“Sky Lightning Claw!” Mo Fan did not waste further time with the Tree Spirit Commander. He immediately cast his strongest Lightning Spell.

Dark lightning struck down from the pitch-black sky, shocking and brilliant. The fierce lightning split into several arcs and formed the claw of a demon swiping at the Tree Spirit Commander’s upper branches!

The lightning surged wildly, cracking all over the place.

To Mo Fan’s surprise, the strong attack only left a little hole in the Tree Spirit Commander. It did not seem to have inflicted any serious damage on the Tree Spirit Commander.

“It looks like I still need to use fire!” After realizing that the Lightning Spells were not so effective against the Tree Spirit Commander, Mo Fan immediately turned to his Fire Element. “Rain of Burning Fists!”

Mo Fan drew a Fire Constellation, but he forcibly turned the raindrop-sized flames into burning fists.

He had learned the move from the Spanish fire-tosser. However, it seemed like he needed a lot of time to master it. If the Rain of Burning Fists of the Spanish representative used was a storm, Mo Fan’s Rain of Burning Fists was only a drizzle!

Burning fists poured down from the sky, yet the fists were sparse, and the damage of the spell was not that much higher than the Sky-Flame Funeral. However, with enough practice, Mo Fan would certainly be able to master the advanced version of the Sky-Flame Funeral!

Flames were indeed more effective against the Tree Spirit Commander. The lake of blood was set on fire, and the burning fists landed on the Tree Spirit Commander continuously, leaving huge holes on its trunk!

The Tree Spirit Commander was infuriated. The water of the lake turned restless. When Mo Fan was wondering what kind of attack the creature would dish out, he saw huge, thick roots rising out of the water like eels.

The roots basically filled up the entire lake! They continued to grow and wiggle, and looked eerie and terrifying!

“Holy crap, what the hell are these things? Aren’t they afraid of fire?” Mo Fan burst out screaming

The giant eel-like roots crawled over the flames, but the fire failed to burn any of them. They reached the land and chased after Mo Fan.

Mo Fan sprinted across the place with the Blood Tabi. To his surprise, the roots seemed to have infinite range, as they continued to stack up and chase after him.

The whole lake was filled up with the roots. Mo Fan had never seen a plant with so many roots!

It was like a thousand eels were chasing after him. Mo Fan could feel that they were gradually getting closer, so he kept throwing Fiery Fists at the roots while running.

The fiery dragons lunged at the roots, but they were simply too weak, and were soon devoured by roots covered in thick blood.

One of the roots was way ahead of the others. It was only inches away from reaching Mo Fan's ankle. Mo Fan was about to alter his direction with the Fleeing Shadow, yet before he could disappear into the shadow, the root was smart enough to wrap around Mo Fan's right foot and drag him out!

The rest of the roots pounced at Mo Fan as soon as he was dragged out of the shadow. Mo Fan could already imagine his horrible death after he was covered by the roots.

"Little Flame Belle, save your daddy!" Mo Fan yelled.

Little Flame Belle appeared in the nick of time. She quickly set Mo Fan aflame with the Calamity Fire.

A great explosion took place, followed by a little mushroom cloud rising in the air. The shockwave blew the roots into pieces, but even when the roots were separated, they were still wiggling on the ground, as if each of the roots was a different organism...

Mo Fan took a closer look and was astounded.

These were no roots; they were some vampiric, blood-drinking worms!

No wonder the roots were able to chase after him like they had eyes, even when Mo Fan was able to conceal his presence easily with the Nyx Regime.

"Damn it, what the hell is this thing! It looks like a tree above the water, but its roots are all worms!" Mo Fan had never heard of anything like it. If he knew how tricky it was to fight, he would rather have dealt with the little Black

Tree Spirits, and let Mu Ningxue deal with the monster.

"Take this!" Mo Fan was infuriated too. He immediately summoned the Flame Sword!

Mo Fan did not attack with the Flame Sword immediately. He held the sword in his hand with the outstanding control that Little Flame Belle had granted him!

With a forward slash, waves of flames surged forward and sliced the worms into several sections.

After waving the Flame Sword wildly for some time, the roots were severed into little pieces. Little Flame Belle's Calamity Fire was indeed a lot stronger. Mo Fan stood no chance against a Commander-level creature with only his Rose Flame!

Blurb blurb blurb... some movement was visible under the lake of blood again.

The roots of the Tree Spirit Commander rose up again, their number no fewer than the roots that had appeared before, as if there was no end to them...

Mo Fan immediately realized that slicing the worms was utterly meaningless. He had to find a way to defeat the Tree Spirit!

"Rocket Wings!" Mo Fan turned the flames around him into feathers, quickly forming two spectacular wings on his back!

The feathers exploded, propelling Mo Fan forward. Mo Fan was now able to control his movement freely despite the overwhelming propulsion. He raised the Flame Sword and slashed at the Tree Spirit Commander as he left a bright aftertrail of burning flames across the lake of blood!

“Die!” The Flame Sword enlarged, growing to a length of sixteen meters. Mo Fan raised it above his head before swinging it down ferociously!

The Calamity Fire was deadly against the strange tree. The flames instantly penetrated the Tree Spirit’s thick trunk, and sliced it in half from the treetop to its roots. The imperious Calamity Fire spread wildly and devoured the entire tree!

The brown flames rose fiercely, and even the lake of blood was dyed red by the flames.

The worms that served as the roots of the tree surfaced on the lake. There were so many of them that they began to stack up on the surface of the lake.

The vampiric worms rolled over like detached windpipes when their host died, and also died in a matter of seconds!

Their remains filled up the entire lake of blood. Mu Ningxue happened to arrive to witness the scene. She was disgusted at the sight. If such a terrifying creature existed in the outside world, wouldn’t it pose a great threat to mankind?

The lake of blood was its source of nutrients, while the worms were living in symbiosis with the tree. They helped transfer the energy to the rest of the Black Tree Spirits, forming the huge forest of Black Tree Spirits!

Creator’s Thought

Okay, I admit this is a very cool monster combo.

[Versatile Mage](#)

**Chapter 1079: Robbed!**

The world was so big that there were all kinds of strange things waiting to be discovered. The biology of the Tree Spirit Commander was quite spooky. If Hunters who often roamed in the wild stumbled into a forest like this, they would barely have any chance of survival.

Many people with strong ideas of humanism always criticized the dangerous situations that the participants were placed in during the treasure hunt of the World College Tournament. They believed that the lives of the participants should not be endangered if it was only a tournament, and it was even inappropriate for the world to witness the death of participants caught in mishaps. However, the Hunter Union forcibly rejected the suggestion.

Hunters had always been walking on the tip of blades, and the number of Hunters that died each year was uncountable. If Mages were not prepared to die to demon creatures, they would end up wasting lots of resources, as they would only be training a bunch of freeloaders.

The threat that the demon creatures posed to mankind always existed. The Hunter Union did not want people to think that the world was peaceful and calm, thinking that they could live a comfortable life as long as they stayed within the cities. The cruel deaths they witnessed during the tournament were showing the reality of most Hunters in the wild. There was no such thing as perfect safety for Mages, so the bigger the scale of a tournament, the more important it was for the tournament to stick to reality!

The space the participants were in was the territory of demon creatures, and populated by all kinds of terrifying demon creatures. These man-eating creatures were presented to the world through the broadcasts of the Observer Eagles...

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When Mo Fan went into the black forest, the Observer Eagles were struggling to keep up with his speed. An Observer Eagle finally made it in time when Mo Fan gave the Tree Spirit Commander the finishing blow. The worms soon filled up the lake of blood, but knowing that many ordinary people would have a hard time digesting such a gory scene, the organizer immediately switched the broadcast to other Observer Eagles.

Mo Fan did not like being watched, either. After all, he possessed more Elements than other participants, and had no intention of exposing his true strength.

“Have you got the Fundamental Crystal?” Mu Ningxue asked.

“Yeah, it’s yours, since you gave me all your rewards when we resolved the Drowning Curse,” Mo Fan handed the Fundamental Crystal to Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue did not hesitate to take the Fundamental Crystal. Similar to Mo Fan, she desperately needed resources to keep her going. She could trade for a Fundamental Crystal of the Ice Element with the Fundamental Crystal she had just received.

The energy provided by an Ice Element Fundamental Crystal was able to sustain the Ice Crystal Bow. Since her cultivation was still not strong enough, she had to endure unbearable pain from the Ice Crystal Bow if she failed to find an external supply of energy.

She was unable to fully control the Ice Crystal Bow, as she had yet to achieve the Super Level. The energy of a Fundamental Crystal was able to replenish the energy of the pieces of the Ice Crystal Bow she had collected, and by filling the pieces with energy, her cultivation would improve, too. Therefore, Fundamental Crystals of the Ice Element were extremely important to her!

“Aren’t you two leaving too soon?” a sneering voice came from the side.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue turned around at the same time and saw a man with brown-yellow hair approaching them, along with four other teammates, from between the black trees.

Mu Ningxue glanced at their outfits and saw the symbols of the American and Canadian teams.

“So it’s you; what a coincidence!” Mo Fan smiled when he saw the man and greeted him like he was an old friend.

“Can’t believe you can still be so cheerful, I haven’t had the chance to settle the dispute we had at the marketplace, and now you’ve stolen something that we set our eyes on again. Since the two of you worked so hard for it, give us half of the Fundamental Crystal, and we’ll let you go!” Jack demanded.

Last time, Pang Lai was there to support this guy, but they were now in a confined space, and he had four other people on his side. Jack believed it was the perfect chance for him to teach Mo Fan a lesson for taking the valuable soul away from him!

“Xuexue, did they really set their eyes on the loot first?” Mo Fan asked.

“They just arrived,” Mu Ningxue replied.

“Say, Jack, why do you bother becoming a Mage? I think you’re better at being a bandit!” Mo Fan said.

Jack’s lips twisted upon hearing Mo Fan’s comment. He said coldly, “I’ve changed my mind. We’ll be taking the whole Fundamental Crystal, I suggest you two run as far as you can!”

Mu Ningxue began to gather her frost, preparing for the battle. The treasure hunt did not just involve the participants searching for treasure, but the participants were meant to be fighting one another over the loot, too. The rules did not state that the participants were not allowed to target the loot that other people had found!

“Be patient,” Mo Fan whispered into Mu Ningxue’s ear. He then turned to Jack and glanced at the four students behind him.

“Yo, isn’t that Mu Ningxue? Everyone has been talking about her lately, but why do I feel like she isn’t as bright as they described?” a bitchy woman said mockingly.

Mu Ningxue’s performance in the first round had won her a great reputation, exceeding the rest of the female students in the tournament. As such, many were incredibly jealous of her.

“Since you have the advantage of numbers, we’ll give it to you. It’s just a Fundamental Crystal, there’s no need to fight until the fish dies or the net breaks for it,” Mo Fan stepped forward with the Fundamental Crystal in his hand.

“Aren’t you too full of yourself? Fight until the fish dies or the net breaks? You think you’re good just because you defeated that trashy Spanish team? I can wipe out their whole team on my own!” Jack said disdainfully.

“Yeah, sure, you’re the best. Let’s not waste our time, take the thing, and don’t come trouble my girlfriend and I,” Mo Fan reached out his arm.

Jack looked at Mo Fan with a grin, “So you’re just a coward. Honestly, I suddenly think it’s no longer necessary to pick a fight with you.”

“It’s actually very simple...” Mo Fan grinned too.

A dark curtain suddenly loomed over the place, with shadowy swords falling to the ground. Each sword was carrying a black seal, and the swords rapidly combined into a Dark Confining Sword Formation!

Mo Fan had already established the Nyx Regime during the previous battle, and before its duration ran out, he secretly set up the trap. Jack and three of the people behind him were caught in it, but the American representative that had mocked Mu Ningxue had yet to step into the trap!

“Mu Ningxue, withdraw your ice!” Mo Fan said.

Mu Ningxue had frozen the Black Tree Spirits in the woods, and it was time for them to come in handy. As she withdrew the ice, rows of Black Tree Spirits immediately surrounded the place. It felt like the entire jungle was moving!

As more Black Tree Spirits gathered, the place was crawling with black figures. When they realized that their queen had been slain, they let out furious cries, filled with a strong urge to tear the humans to pieces!

“Time to go, my formation won’t last for long,” Mo Fan put the Fundamental Crystal away and started running, dragging Mu Ningxue with him.

Mu Ningxue had the Wind Element. She had long prepared her Wind Wings.

She nimbly stepped on the trees and flew into the sky with a little boost from the breeze.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan put on the Dark Noble Mantle and dissolved into the pitch-black woods, going invisible without a trace.

Stuck in the formation, Jack let out a furious cry, yet as soon as they broke free from it, the Black Tree Spirits immediately surrounded them.

The Black Tree Spirits had remarkable defense and overwhelming numbers. Even Mu Ningxue struggled to kill them all, and was forced to freeze them with her Ice Element. It would surely take Jack and his crew some time to deal with the Black Spirit Trees.

On top of that, it was impossible to tell how many Black Tree Spirits were inside the forest. They only knew that the whole forest had turned restless when the news of the death of the Tree Spirit Commander was spread among the Black Tree Spirits!

“Don’t you dare run!”

Hannah was the only person that was not trapped by the formation. She anxiously summoned her Wing Magical Equipment when she saw Mu Ningxue soaring into the sky.

Beating her blue wings, Hannah quickly chased into the sky after Mu Ningxue. She was around two hundred meters behind.

Higher up in the sky, an Observer Eagle was circling as its camera eyes were capturing the scene. Hannah was delighted when she caught a glimpse of the Observer Eagle.



It was a great chance for her to make a name, by abusing Mu Ningxue's reputation. The woman had been a hot topic across the world, and if she managed to defeat her, everyone would surely remember her name!

"Silent Deadly Bolt!"

Hannah used her Lightning Spell, and a deadly bolt of lightning ran through the space above the black forest, aimed at Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue sensed the tremendous Lightning energy approaching from behind. She quickly dove and dodged the deadly lightning bolt!

"Lightning Explosion!"

Hannah's attack did not end there. At her command, the Silent Deadly Bolt exploded close to Mu Ningxue, spreading wildly out into shocking lightning arcs that upon the area. The lightning arcs almost reached the clouds!

Mu Ningxue reacted swiftly. She withdrew her Wind Wings and wrapped herself inside them, protecting her like a pair of angelic wings.

It was the effect of the second-tier Wind Wings: Shelter, the ability to turn the Wind Wings into a shield to protect the Mage from powerful attacks.

With the Wind Wings protecting Mu Ningxue, she glided along the ground and glanced at Hannah, who was pursuing her relentlessly...

"Don't run, fight me!" Hannah screamed furiously.

Mo Fan had regrouped with Mu Ningxue on the ground. He clearly did not have a good impression of the madwoman. He simply cursed, "Hey, bootches, we don't really have the time for it. Enjoy the hospitality from these Black Tree Spirits!"

Mo Fan activated the Dark Noble Mantle once again. This time, Mo Fan dragged Mu Ningxue into the shadows with him. Hannah was no longer able to tell where they went.

Hannah almost fell from the sky from anger.

It was true that she had a bad complexion, and she hated people mentioning it the most. She almost lost her calm after receiving the critical blow from Mo Fan. She raised her head, screaming into the sky. Several lightning strikes descended fiercely and danced wildly around her!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1080: First Crime**

The American team was incredibly strong. The madwoman with the Lightning Element would obviously be a tough opponent to fight.

The reason they fled was not because they did not dare to fight Jack and his crew, but because there were still lots of treasures waiting to be discovered. Only idiots would waste their time on some meaningless battles!

Both Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue were in need of resources. Despite their urge to fight other participants, their current priority was to pillage as many resources as they could!

"I guess there's no need to look for the others. It's fine if we find Jiang Shaoxu or Jiang Yu, but the thought of finding Mu Tingying, Li Kaifeng, Nanrong Ni, and the others disgusts me," Mo Fan told Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue nodded. It was true that the two of them would have an easier time searching the place on their own, as they could easily engage or flee from a battle as they pleased.

"I saw a number of people gathering at that mountain when I was flying in the air just then," Mu Ningxue pointed at a tall mountain, half-shrouded by black clouds.

"More people means there must be something fascinating there!" Mo Fan's eyes glittered instantly.

"So we're going there? I already saw more than four groups of people moving toward it," Mu Ningxue said.

"Don't worry, speaking of which, what Jack tried to do gave me an idea," Mo Fan said.

"What idea?" Mu Ningxue was confused. The man was trying to rob them. What idea could he possibly give Mo Fan?

"The two of us are currently in deep trouble. Once the World College Tournament comes to an end, Lu Yilin's clan will be hunting me, and you will have to fight the Mu Clan, too. If we aren't able to improve significantly in the World College Tournament, we are surely going to have a hard time later. Besides, you need lots of resources, and so do I... if we keep searching around like headless flies, and wasting our time with the people trying to rob us, we won't be able to secure enough resources to achieve our goals," Mo Fan said.

"What are you trying to say?" Mu Ningxue could see a cunning look in Mo Fan's eyes, yet she was struggling to read Mo Fan's mind.

Wasn't the situation obvious enough? The participants were searching for the resources scattered across the space. The treasure hunt was held to test the students' ability to observe, and survive in the wild, while provoking the students to compete for the resources. Was there any other way that could possibly get them lots of resources?

Mo Fan looked at Mu Ningxue and said with a serious face, "Robbing is faster than finding."

Mu Ningxue opened her mouth wide. She was lost for words all of a sudden.

"Think about it. If we try searching for the loot, most of them are being guarded by demon creatures. It's obvious that the organizer has placed the treasure inside the nests or caves of demon creatures. It's tricky enough to deal with the demon creatures, and even when we finally get our hands on the treasure, someone else might be waiting for us just so they can rob us when we have done most of the hard work. If we're unlucky enough to get robbed, we're only going to lose all our loot! Instead of

wasting our time, it's better if we focus on robbing the others. It's a lot easier too; we just need to find the right target, take away their loot, and run away. If we're lucky enough, we can steal their loot without fighting them!" Mo Fan said with glittering eyes.

Mu Ningxue was stunned for a while. It took her some time to collect her thoughts, "But...but that doesn't sound right!"

"But do you agree that it's a better idea?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mmm..." Mu Ningxue hesitated.

To be honest, she did not expect Mo Fan to come up with such a wicked idea. On second thought, he was seriously crossing the line. It was surely going to offend lots of people!

"I assume that you've agreed if you kept quiet!" Mo Fan dragged Mu Ningxue over to his side without giving her time to think about it.

It was unlikely that Mo Fan could do it on his own. The sixteen teams that were left in the tournament were all worthy opponents, and each member would possess remarkable strength. It was unwise for Mo Fan to try robbing others by himself.

However, it was different with Mu Ningxue on his team. Mu Ningxue was now strong enough to take on an entire team, and with his multiple Elements, he could take on four to five people at once. Besides, they were not going to fight the others to death. They would flee as soon as they got their hands on the loot, and even if they failed their attempt, they could still run away!

"We can wear masks or change our outfits too. Although it doesn't really guarantee that the others won't know who we are, at least they won't realize our identities so easily," Mu Ningxue proposed.

It was Mo Fan's turn to be left speechless. He looked at Mu Ningxue with a blank face.

Mu Ningxue was slightly embarrassed when she noticed Mo Fan's gaze. She said softly, "Did I say something wrong?"

"No, I just didn't expect you to come up with such a brilliant plan. Xuexue, you really are talented at this!" Mo Fan exclaimed with a smile.

Mu Ningxue simply ignored the comment.

If Mu Ningxue was not in her current situation, she really did not feel like doing something that would damage her reputation. However, when she recalled her situation, bearing the shame of a close relative being a member of the Black Vatican, and how the Mu Clan was picking on her, she felt like she had no choice but to follow Mo Fan in doing evil deeds!

At the foothill of the Gray Python Mountain, a few students activated their Boots Equipment and were running rapidly toward the mountain ridge in the distance.

The students were incredibly fast. They were able to travel more hundreds of meters in the blink of an eye. Moments later, they were already a kilometer away.

“Let’s split up, we’ll regroup again once we escape from those French!” an Italian contestant named Angelo said.

The others nodded. They immediately left while providing cover for Angelo.

The five split up and ran in different directions. Shortly afterwards, a few other groups showed up. They looked in the directions of the five students, and were clueless about who they were supposed to go after.

“Damn it, we don’t know who took the Heart of Stone. That’s the most valuable loot we have found. It took almost twenty people just to defeat the Rock Golem on the mountain, and our French team obviously contributed the most! How dare they take away the Heart of Stone!” a French student snapped furiously.

“Chase after them, they won’t be too far away. We can’t let them get away!” a Japanese contestant said angrily. The Japanese team had contributed a lot too, and one of their members was severely injured because of it. If they could not find their Healer soon, the student would be disqualified from the treasure hunt!

“You guys, take that way; we’ll go this way, and the few of you, go after that woman!” Lyon, a French Mage, directed them.

Not long after they arrived in the space, they had discovered a rare Rock Demon on the top of the mountain. The Rock Demon was incredibly valuable, as its heart was like an energy core of the Earth Element, enough to support a small city. The Constructors desperately needed them for their work.

Since the demon creature was quite an obvious target, more teams started to make their way toward it. In addition, the Rock Golem was fairly strong, so the teams had to work together to defeat it. However, even though they had reached a deal on how to distribute the resources, the Italian team simply took the Heart of Stone and fled. The others realized that there was no such thing as allies in the treasure hunt, since the team with the most resources was most likely going to win in the upcoming matches!

“HAHAHA, what a bunch of idiots, they seriously think they could lead the team and split the loot evenly like a group of Hunters. We’re no Hunters, we’re meant to be competitors!” Angelo burst out laughing when he saw that he had shaken off his pursuers.

They had surely earned a fortune. A Heart of Stone was usually sold for four hundred million, and if its quality was higher than average, he could even sell it for five hundred million. There were so many people that had fought against the Rock Demon. If they were to split the profit among twenty people, each of them would only receive a small portion of the profit.

But everything was fine now, since the Heart of Stone now belonged to him!

He was almost at the mountain ridge. Angelo no longer had to worry about the French and the Japanese. He could easily play a whole searching team like a fiddle in the ridge!

“Strange, why is the sky so dark all of a sudden?” Angelo lifted his gaze and saw a pitch-black curtain looming over him. It looked rather spooky.

Crap! Angelo was stunned for a moment, then realized that he had stepped into a trap.

However, as he was about to run away, he was suddenly surrounded by sharp ice cylinders that sealed off his escape routes.

“Who’s there?!” Angelo demanded furiously.

The darkness with Giant Shadow Spikes fell down, constructing the powerful confining formation and forcibly entrapped Angelo within it.

It did not matter how quick Angelo reacted. It was extremely difficult for anyone to break free once they stepped into a trap set up with the Shadow Element. They could only stand and watch the shadowy swords penetrating their body, which further sealed off their mind, making it impossible for them to move or use their thoughts.

“We kindly accept your generous offering...” a masked man appeared and said in a hoarse voice that was obviously fake.

“Asshole, you shameless prick dares to rob the Italian team, you’re going to pay for it!” Angelo cursed furiously.

“So you can still talk, it turns out that your cultivation is quite impressive. You accuse us of being shameless, yet your team isn’t any good, either! You’re trying to keep the loot to yourself when you agreed to split the profit evenly in the first place. We’re only serving justice on behalf of the Heavens,” Mo Fan said piously.

Mo Fan walked up to Angelo and calmly took the expensive Heart of Stone from him.

“Let’s go!” Mu Ningxue urged Mo Fan. She did not want to waste time.

Mo Fan was too lazy to fool around with the Italia. He purposely said to Mu Ningxue, “How smart was Jack, he knew the guy was going to come this way, so he asked us to intercept him here...”

Angelo almost lost his mind when he saw Mo Fan leaving with the valuable loot, yet there was nothing he could do when he was restrained both physically and mentally. He could only keep the name Jack in mind!