

Versatile 1201

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Chapter 1201: It's Difficult to be a Pervert

Zhu Meng did not let Mo Fan down. He soon took care of the general that had been bribed by Lu Zhantian. The military was extremely strict when it came to bribery. It was quite obvious that if the general had not been bribed by Lu Zhantian and stuck to the protocols, the people of the Enforcement Union would not have been able to take Mo Jiaxin away so easily.

Things might have seemed normal on the surface, but if they were to investigate further, they could easily find enough evidence to track down the people that were tied to the matter...

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Mo Jiaxin was having a hard time living in the Magic City. He quickly returned to Bo City after things were settled, as he felt lost when living in a huge city. He had struggled to adapt to life there. Bo City was much smaller after it was rebuilt, but everyone was close and kind to one another, like a huge family.

Mo Fan sent his father back to Bo City. The commander at the fortress was infuriated after learning the truth. He immediately scolded the crap out of his men.

Family was everything for a soldier. If they could not protect their families, how could they possibly protect their country?

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The Clearsky Hunter Agency...

Mo Fan was sitting at the bar. He rarely had the mood to sit down and read some books.

He was reading notes about the Taklamakan Desert written by a Hunter Master. The man had written down some unusual parts about the place and the things that other people should place their attention on if they were planning to go there.

(Ed. Note: N-n-noooooo! Mo Fan is doing RESEARCH! Aieeeeeeee!...)

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“Mo Fan, the Enforcement Union found something interesting,” Lingling was holding a book in her hands too, but she was only pretending to read it. She spoke up as if she was not used to the silence in the room, “The Enforcement Union caught Yu Ang half a year ago and handed him to the Beiyu Enforcement Union. They initially planned to use him to catch the remaining members of the Black Vatican. However, the two suspects that Yu Ang pointed out were innocent. One of them was an important subordinate of Lu Zhantian’s political rival. In other words, Lu Zhantian has been using Yu Ang

for personal gain. The accusation alone is enough for him to be locked away in the Twin Guardian Towers for the rest of his life!”

“Yu Ang is just a little underling. He never had any contact with the authorities of the Black Vatican,” Mo Fan snorted in contempt.

“Speaking of which, he was on equal footing with you around three years ago, but you can easily kill him with a single slap to his face now,” Lingling smiled.

Mo Fan’s strength had improved at an insane rate. No one could have anticipated that Mo Fan had become so strong in such a short time that he could now defeat Enforcers with ease. He had obtained lots of benefits from the World College Tournament!

“I’m going back to rest, I’m a little worn out. I definitely need some rest. We’ll set out once the Golden Battle Hunters have finished their preparations.” Mo Fan put the book down and left the Clearsky Hunter Agency.

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Liu Ru and Bola were following Mo Fan. Mo Fan turned around and said with a smile, “Liu Ru, I’ve bought the place beside here. It’s your home now. You two are from the Blood Tribe, so your identities are a little sensitive. It’s better if you stay here with Old Bao.”

“Mm!” Liu Ru nodded with a smile.

She liked staying here. It was the area she had grown up in. Besides, Lingling, Old Bao, Leng Qing, and Old Bao’s disciples that occasionally showed up were all very friendly to her. Even though Mo Fan was not around all the time, it felt like home to her.

Bola was in a good mood after coming to a new environment, like he was about to start a new life.

Interestingly, Mo Fan was relieved that Bola insisted that Mo Fan draw his demon blood out for him. Bola was not used to drinking a man’s blood from his neck...

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Mo Fan totally agreed with the method. He did not mind Liu Ru kissing his neck, since Liu Ru had a nice scent and her body was soft, making it quite a pleasant experience. But if it was Bola doing it, Mo Fan would rather leave him to die instead!

Bola ended up staying close to the Clearsky Hunter Agency. He would be a great help to Liu Ru as she continued to extend her control over the gray areas of the Magic City.

Bola had been alive for a long time. He had no intention of pursuing fame or glory. When Mo Fan was not around, he was willing to be Liu Ru’s bodyguard, and would not hesitate to lend a hand if necessary...

Mo Fan was not worried about Bola’s loyalty. Since Bola needed his blood to live, if he had the slightest intention of betraying Mo Fan, the vengeful demon blood would turn him into a dried corpse. Mo Fan did not even need to do anything!

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Mo Fan took a hot shower to relax.

He laid down on the couch on the balcony, a dim light on. He was enjoying the nightscape of the bustling city. Lights of different colors intertwined and lit up the clouds. It was actually not that beautiful. Some would rather describe it as 'light pollution', as it had taken away the original beauty of the night sky. It was a relief to many if they could still see the outline of the moon, let alone the stars...

In Bo City, the night sky had always been filled with glowing stars, spread out like marbles. Some were crowded together, others were scattered across the place. Some felt like they were within the reach of your arms, while some were far apart, like the distance between two worlds...

Yu Ang's sudden appearance had reminded Mo Fan of his past in Bo City.

"Oh, you're back!?" a pleasant voice said. An alluring figure with elegant temperament approached under the dim light.

Mo Fan slowly lifted his gaze, and smiled when he saw Mu Nujiao in casual clothes.

Mo Fan enjoyed staying here, as he would occasionally see a pleasant sight like this whenever he was feeling down.

Mu Nujiao was wearing a singlet, since she was at home. She was most likely unaware that he was back, otherwise she would at least worn a thin cardigan instead.

Mo Fan squinted when he saw Mu Nujiao's tender shoulders. He shifted his gaze down. The pair of hills soon caught his attention. Mu Nujiao was pretty good at concealing them. If the girl was not wearing a singlet, or if he did not use his Shadow Element to take a peep on the girls when they were showering, he would never know she had such an impressive bust. He could easily grab her slim waist with a single hand, but it would take more than a hand to hold her bust. For a second, Mo Fan really wished he was a pervert, since there was no one around.

Mu Nujiao was feeling uncomfortable at how Mo Fan was staring at her. Her clothes were not that exposing. Many young women would wear the same thing when going to the gym. Besides, she was not so conservative that she was unwilling to show some of her skin.

She did not leave. She looked at Mo Fan and saw a dull look in his eyes.

After a moment of silence, Mu Nujiao asked, "Do you have any plans lately? My cultivation is currently in an awkward position. My family has given me lots of resources, but I just can't break through. I think I'm lacking practical experience..."

"Oh, right, I almost forgot about it. My mind is in a mess after those two assholes showed up out of nowhere." Mo Fan finally remembered he had something to discuss with Mu Nujiao. Somehow, she had mentioned it first instead. "I'm planning to go to the Taklamakan Desert. Something happened to the Little Flame Belle."

"Huh? What happened to her?" Mu Nujiao immediately panicked.

Little Flame Belle would refer to the girls around Mo Fan with numbers. Xinxia was the first mother, Mu Ningxue was the second mother, Mu Nujiao was the third mother, and Ai Tutu was the fourth mother.

Even though Little Flame Belle could not speak in the human tongue, Mo Fan knew the girls were ranked in this order in Little Flame Belle's heart.

Mu Nujiao was particularly fond of Little Flame Belle. Her expression shifted as soon as she heard that Little Flame Belle was in trouble.

"Nothing too serious, she just needs an Elemental Sacred Land so she can be reborn in its flames. I've done some research, and some burning mountains will occasionally show up in the Taklamakan Desert. I believe it's a suitable place for Little Flame Belle to be reborn," Mo Fan said.

"Are you sure that she's fine?" Mu Nujiao was still worried about Little Flame Belle.

"Don't worry, she's fine." Mo Fan was not planning to tell Mu Nujiao about the incident at the Parthenon Temple. It was better if fewer people knew the truth.

"Mmm, when are we setting out?" Mu Nujiao asked.

"It's very dangerous there. You don't have to choose a place like that for your training," Mo Fan was worried about putting Mu Nujiao in danger.

"Danger is necessary to trigger a breakthrough. Didn't you grow stronger in dangerous situations?" Mu Nujiao replied.

Mo Fan looked Mu Nujiao in the eyes. He could see a strong desire to grow stronger in the woman. The World College Tournament had been a great opportunity for her, and now her clan had placed their hopes in her. She needed to grow stronger!

"We'll be going with the Golden Battle Hunters. They are still making preparations. The place is full of danger, it's more like an expedition. If we happen to take the wrong path, we might be in danger..." Mo Fan said.

"Even so, you are there to protect us, right?" Mu Nujiao smiled. She was totally unaware that she was subconsciously relying on Mo Fan a lot.

Mo Fan's heart shuddered. His mind kept telling him that he was a pervert. If he pounced on the girl now, she would only resist slightly!

Mo Fan struggled mentally for some time before letting out a sigh.

It turned out that he was still a good man after all. He managed to be a hero that had risked his life to save the country, so why was he struggling so much to be a pervert?

It was most likely because he was lacking friends like Zhao Manyan. He was surrounded by Zhang Xiaohou, Xinxia, Zhan Kong, Tangyue, Mu Ningxue, Zhu Meng, and others with strong moral principles. It was the reason why he felt so much pressure when trying to cross the lines!

He was rather annoyed!

Spreading their seeds across the world? He couldn't even spread his seeds in his house!

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Speaking of which, Mo Fan was missing Zhao Manyan a little. He wondered if the man was still alive. He needed to know if the man was already dead, as he would constantly recall him...

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Chapter 1202: Vacation with Three Girls

The day the group set out for Taklamakan Desert was surprisingly sunny, even though it was autumn. The warm sunlight felt rather soothing.

Mo Fan arrived at the airport to meet up with the others, following Ge Ming's instructions.

Mo Fan was only bringing a few people with him. Zhang Xiaohou would be waiting for him at Xinjiang. Since they were taking a plane from Shanghai, they were basically flying across the whole country from east to west.

Those that took the flight would experience the vastness of their country. If it was Europe, they would be traveling across more than ten countries to cross the same distance!

Mo Fan saw someone approaching him when he arrived at the airport. He was actually quite surprised to see the person.

"HAHA, I heard Mu Ningxue mentioned that you guys are paying a visit to Taklamakan Desert. I have to say, Mo Fan, we're quite fateful with one another. I was planning to go there to look for something too..." Jiang Shaoxu, who always sounded like she was teasing every man she was talking to, smiled at him.

"Why do you want to go there?" Mo Fan asked, confused.

"Something very important; don't you worry, I won't be a burden to the group. Besides, won't you need a Psychic Mage for such a dangerous place?" Jiang Shaoxu did not reveal why she wanted to tag along.

Mo Fan was left with no choice. Jiang Shaoxu had come to the airport to intercept him. It seemed like he had to bring her along.

"Alright, fine, but I have to let Ge Ming know first," Mo Fan agreed.

He totally didn't mind Jiang Shaoxu tagging along. A Psychic Mage was useful at all times, be it a battle against Mages or when they were in the demon creatures' territory. A single Pacify might even avoid a bloodbath at times...

Mo Fan told Ge Ming about it. The man did not seem to be bothered at all.

However, when they boarded the plane, Ge Ming's men did double takes when they saw Mo Fan bringing three girls along, even though their destination was Taklamakan Desert. It was a great feast for their eyes, yet some among them sneered and mocked him instead.

Mo Fan had brought Lingling, Mu Nujiao, and Jiang Shaoxu with him.

Lingling was an adorable little loli, so adorable that anyone could feel their nose running. Both men and women would find her too cute, and would have the urge to hug her in their arms. She was conspicuous.

Mu Nujiao was the same; the goddess of the Pearl Institute possessed outstanding temperament and gracefulness. She was delicate, pretty, came from a well-respected family, but was natural and unrestrained. Lots of people would turn around to look at her whenever she walked by!

Jiang Shaoxu was a natural beauty. Her glittering eyes and the seductive look on her face never failed to hook the souls of men who lacked self-control...

Any of the three girls that Mo Fan had brought along could easily weaken the knees of a man. Even though Mo Fan was dressed casually, they set off his incomparable charm. However, the people of the Golden Battle Hunters did not seem too happy about it...

Their destination was a desert that could be considered the gates of Hell. Their leader, Ge Ming, insisted on choosing the elites of their Hunter Group. Not only were they extremely experienced, they had spent years walking a knife's edge.

Even so, they were already feeling nervous while waiting for the plane. They had yet to set foot in the Taklamakan Desert, yet they felt like it was going to be a one-way journey.

They were treating it with utter seriousness, while Mo Fan was bringing three pretty ladies along, like he was going on a vacation!

The elites of the Golden Battle Hunters felt like it was humiliating their determination to put their lives at risk!

Lu Fang, a Hunter Master who was in charge of navigation, sneered, "Kid, do you think you are bringing them on a vacation?"

"I hope you understand what our goal is. If you are treating this trip as a summer holiday homework or using us to earn contribution points, you better find another team! We are all ready to die on this expedition!" a Hunter who was close to Mo Fan's age exclaimed.

The man's eyes were saying otherwise while he was speaking. Jiang Shaoxu easily read his emotions.

"Don't worry, I'm prepared just like you are," Mo Fan replied calmly.

Ge Ming stepped forward to mediate between the two sides. Ge Ming knew who Mo Fan was, and he also knew both Jiang Shaoxu and Mu Nujiao were members of the national team, so they would not have any problem taking care of themselves. Unfortunately, not every person had watched the World College Tournament. It was obvious that Lu Fang and Zheng Tong did not treat the World College Tournament too seriously. They had placed all their attention on the Hunter Competition.

It was the same for many arrogant Hunters. They always looked down on the Mages that had never experienced the cruelty of the outside world and were only putting up a show in tournaments held inside the cities. Even though they were told that Mo Fan and the others were strong Mages from their institutes, they still treated them like inexperienced kids.

It was not the Hunters being biased. As a matter of fact, many Mages with high positions in cities were extremely weak when they went up against real demon creatures. It was reasonable for the Hunters to despise prestigious Mages who only knew to hide in a city.

Most students ended up working for the government or the Magic Association. As such, the Hunters were looking down on students too, especially someone like Mo Fan, who was bringing three girls along. No matter how they looked at him, they still thought he was just here for show!

“That Zheng Tong is jealous of you,” Jiang Shaoxu whispered.

Mo Fan smiled.

Zheng Tong was the Hunter close to his age. He was a fighter, and kept looking at Mu Nujiao. Even though he was uttering disdainful comments at the girls, Mo Fan knew the man was setting his eyes on Mu Nujiao.

Mo Fan couldn't have cared less about their questions. They were totally clueless about what he had done and what he was capable of. It was meaningless to boast about his achievements, yet Mo Fan enjoyed the fact that someone was jealous of him!

Mo Fan had gotten used to being ganged up on by the eyes of the crowd when he was with Mu Ningxue. However, he had brought three girls along this time, and the effects were clearly even more effective than bringing just Mu Ningxue along!

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The group was not taking a civil flight. It was a military jet.

The military jet was guarded by Patrol Mages. They would be traversing unoccupied lands on the flight path the military jet was taking, meaning they would be flying across demon creatures' territories. Even flying at a great height would not guarantee their safety...

A military jet was necessary for its speed. They had to move fast. If they flew slowly across the territory of a Ruler-level creature, they would be dragged from the sky to the ground within seconds. As such, it was important to move quickly!

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In less than three hours, the plane landed at the military base that was the closest to Taklamakan Desert.

Zhang Xiaohou was already waiting at the base. He quickly went up to Mo Fan in joy as soon as he saw them arrive.

“He's going with us too?” Zheng Tong harrumphed coldly.

Zhang Xiaohou was not too tall, and he was quite skinny too. There was a reason why Mo Fan kept calling him Houzi (Monkey). Besides, he had a naive look to his face, giving people a first impression that he was unreliable.

Zhang Xiaohou could not help with his appearance. He was not that young anymore, yet he had looked the same since high school. It did not change much despite his hardships in the military. He normally had the look of a soldier that had spent lots of time at war, but he immediately revealed his true colors as soon as he saw Mo Fan.

Lu Fang could not stand it anymore. He was not particularly happy when their leader mentioned some outsiders would be joining them. The scariest thing when going to a dangerous place was not the powerful demon creatures, but useless and unreliable teammates!

The group was quite infuriated when they saw Mo Fan bringing three girls along, like he was going on a vacation, and now, a naive-looking man was joining the team too! How were they supposed to go on the expedition? How much money did their leader get from bringing them along!?

“Why? I can’t go with you?” Zhang Xiaohou was totally unaware of the conflict between the members of the group. He thought there was something wrong about him.

Zheng Tong grinned with a strong disdainful look in his eyes. “You must be at least a Hunter Master to come with us. Even if you’re not a Hunter, you need to have an equivalent identity still. An intern in the army like you is thinking of going with us? In your dreams. We are going on an expedition, not an excursion that you can write on your resume!”

Zhang Xiaohou was not wearing a uniform. He was short and skinny, and he looked inexperienced, too. He did look like an intern compared to the tall, bulky soldiers.

Ge Ming only told them there were four outsiders. Mo Fan had already brought three girls along. The others decided to let it be as their way of respecting their leader, but now another person had shown up to join the group. Zheng Tong had more than enough reason to stop the man from joining the group, and teach Mo Fan that he should treat the expedition more seriously.

“I...” Zhang Xiaohou was left speechless after receiving the disdainful comments.

A few soldiers that were delivering supplies happened to pass by. They immediately halted in their tracks when they saw Zhang Xiaohou and saluted, “Commander Zhang!”

“Commander Zhang, we are grateful that you and your men got rid of the flying demon creatures at Qinling Mountains. Otherwise, the flight path connecting this place and the coastline would not have been possible!” a soldier said with a hint of admiration.

“Oh, it’s just part of my duty, proceed with your work.” Zhang Xiaohou returned the salute.

Zheng Tong’s face was immediately rich with embarrassment upon seeing this!

-What’s going on here? This naive-looking kid is a Commander?-

The ranks in the army were a lot stricter than the Hunters. Even though a Commander was considered the same rank as a Hunter Master, a Commander in charge of a troop had to be a lot more capable than a Hunter Master, be it in strength, experience, or the ability to command their men...

An Advanced Mage did not necessarily qualify to be a Commander, but a Commander was surely one of the most talented Advanced Mages out there!

Most importantly, this kid was the one that wiped out the flying demon creatures from the Qinling Mountains?

Qinling Mountains was an infamous territory full of demon creatures. If he managed to wipe out an entire nest, he had to be extremely strong!

Zheng Tong had a very awkward face. He was the one more like an intern here, if he was to compare himself to the man. Hunters usually traveled alone in the wild, thus the danger they faced was nothing like a battle against the demon creatures!

Zhang Xiaohou had spent most of his time fighting battles!

“Brother Fan, why do I feel like I’m not welcome to join the group?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

“There’s no such thing like that. We just didn’t think you are a Commander, considering how young you are. It’s just a misunderstanding. The place we are heading to is very dangerous, so we needed to make sure that everyone in the group is strong enough to take care of themselves!” Ge Ming quickly stepped forward to mediate.

Ge Ming’s eyes glittered when he learned Zhang Xiaohou was a Commander. This young man would surely be a great help to their expedition!

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Chapter 1203: Setting Foot on the Yellow Sand

Only those that came to the west would experience the marvels of nature here. Mo Fan was born in the south., which mainly consisted of mountains with smooth crests. Even after he had traveled around the world, he was still impressed by the spectacular sights before him when he came to the west of his country. He could not help but feel minuscule.

Becoming a Forbidden Mage was the limit for a human, and currently, the strongest power that Mo Fan held was the Demon Element. However, even if he was to demonize, he still felt extremely tiny in this boundless basin in the west.

A force that could destroy mountains was nothing but a tiny little scratch, barely visible in this vast basin. It was not even enough to scratch the itch of the land.

The Taklamakan Desert was located in the middle of the basin. Although the desert was incomparable to the Sahara Desert, to humans, this sand-covered land was a new world full of unfamiliarities, unknowns, and dangers. The demon creatures residing in the desert were the only ones that could survive in the desert for long periods.

“The Taklamakan Desert has a powerful horde of demon creatures. Its population is most likely over a million. In addition to that, there are also seven medium-sized hordes and over thirty small hordes. The

total number of demon creatures is immeasurable. The whole desert is densely populated by demon creatures. Our mission is to clear a path to the lake of the desert. According to our information, the lake is a part of an oasis. The military once built a relay station there, but after the terrain of the desert shifted and the whole place was crawling with demon creatures, the original path is now occupied by demon creatures, and it's not just one or two hordes we are talking about..." Ge Ming reminded the group.

"The relay station and the path leading to it have been buried for eleven years. Apart from the starting point, we will have to explore the area again. We have already come up with a path through simulations developed according to the information gathered by older Hunters," Lu Fang, who was in charge of navigation, finished in a serious voice.

When the group was discussing the ideal path to take, the middle-aged man who seemed a little sloppy sounded surprisingly serious. His eyes were glittering, showing his confidence in his expertise!

"This device will detect the presence of demon creatures within five kilometers of us. We have to bury it into the ground when we reach that huge yellow mountain, and make sure we aren't surrounded by demon creatures for the next five kilometers," Wang Jiuming, the technical specialist, told everyone.

"Alright, let's make our way to the mountain. One step at a time," Mo Fan agreed.

Mo Fan did not have much experience with deserts. The only experience he had was the time he almost got lost in the Sahara Desert. As such, Mo Fan and Jiang Shaoxu were still a little intimidated by the thought of traversing a desert. Unfortunately, Mo Fan had a reason to be here, as did Jiang Shaoxu.

The group was walking on foot. They did not have another Summoner among them. The Summoners that Ge Ming knew were all Basic or Intermediate Mages. They could not let a Summoner come along to die just because they did not have a Summoned Beast to carry their belongings!

An Earth Mage was in charge of their belongings. In a place covered in sand like this, the man just needed to keep casting Earth Wave to move their supplies. He did not even need to walk.

Since they were in a desert, the biggest risk was getting lost. As such, they had brought a lot of supplies with them, especially food, medicine, and water.

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Lingling's stamina was not as good. Mo Fan had no choice but to carry her on his back. Luckily, she was not heavy at all. She was almost weightless when he was carrying her.

Lingling's eyes would occasionally flicker with excitement whenever they arrived at a new location. It seemed like there were many places she wanted to go, but the loss of her father had sealed her curiosity of the world away.

"Is their path reliable?" Mo Fan asked Lingling softly.

"So far so good," Lingling replied.

"What happened to the relay station?" Mo Fan asked.

"I don't really know. How old do you think I was eleven years ago?" Lingling answered.

“...” Mo Fan rolled his eyes. The knowledge inside Lingling’s little head could easily drown most old professors...

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The sand started to get thicker as the group ventured further into the desert. The sand was soft at the start, but it started to feel like a strong force was dragging at their legs as their feet sank into the sand. It was extremely difficult to walk on the sand, as it would just wear them out quicker. Together with the heat and the dryness, an ordinary human would be overwhelmed by fatigue in just half an hour.

“Old Tong, it’s fine escorting us here, we’ll continue on ourselves!” Zhang Xiaohou patted the shoulder of the Officer that was escorting them.

“Can...can I go with you all too?” Tong Li said with a troubled face.

“You want to go too?” Zhang Xiaohou was quite surprised.

Tong Li was an Advanced Mage, but his rank was not that high. He was only a Lieutenant, much lower than Zhang Xiaohou. He had grown up in the west, so he was quite familiar with the Tarim Basin and the Taklamakan Desert. When Zhang Xiaohou mentioned he was going to the Taklamakan Desert, Tong Li took the initiative to escort them to the entrance area.

The terrain of a desert would shift gradually. There was a chance that the standard entrance of the desert might have been covered in sand a few months ago. It was one of the reasons why it was extremely difficult to make a safe path across the desert.

“It’s awesome if Lieutenant Tong is willing to come with us!” Ge Ming blurted out, his arms wide open.

The others in the group were not fussy about it, either. Tong Li was a local, and no one was more familiar with the desert than him. They had come well-prepared, but having Tong Li in the group would still save them some trouble.

Mo Fan looked at Tong Li carefully. He could tell that something was bothering Tong Li, yet he did not ask, since the man had no intention of saying anything.

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When they arrived at the entrance, it was filled up with sand, unlike they were expecting.

If the start of the path already had discrepancies, how could they possibly rely on the information they had? Everyone was grim when they did not find the oasis that was meant to be there!

Not a great start!

“The sand is thinner here, but thicker there. It means there was once an oasis here. Judging from the wind and the rate the sand is stacking up, the entrance is roughly a kilometer ahead,” Tong Li said confidently.

“I’ll go take a look!” Zhang Xiaohou immediately summoned a faint, blue wind and shot into the distance.

Not long afterwards, he reached the place that Tong Li mentioned. He placed his hand on the sand and used his Earth Element to explore the ground beneath.

“Tong Li is right! There are plants under the sand, but they have started to rot,” Zhang Xiaohou said to the group as they caught up with him.

“Being able to tell where the oasis was from the thickness of the sand and the wind... Tong Li, you’re a professional. It’s like we are teaching our grandmother to suck eggs!” Ge Ming complimented him.

The others were impressed too. Tong Li was surely going to save them a lot of trouble!.

“Come, it isn’t safe here. We should be able to see the Big Yellow Mountain if we head this way,” Tong Li said.

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The Big Yellow Mountain was once a grand and hilly mountain. Sand eventually stacked up around it. Once, someone tried digging through the sand to see the mountain’s true appearance. In the end, they discovered that the sand covering the mountain was at least fifty meters thick. It was shocking, as they could not tell what terrifying creatures would be hiding in sand that was fifty meters thick!

The group arrived successfully at the Big Yellow Mountain. They could not help but feel extremely tiny after seeing the huge mound lying right before them.

The mountain served as the boundary of the Taklamakan Desert. Once they crossed the mountain, they would find themselves in the realm of demon creatures. It had been years since anyone last saw what was behind the Big Yellow Mountain.

The Big Yellow Mountain was occupied by a pack of Sandrock Golems. The group was expecting a battle when they arrived and planned to cross the mountain, but not a single Sandrock Golem had shown up even after they reached the mountain’s waist.

“I didn’t know she was a Psychic Mage. Mo Fan, your friend is pretty impressive,” Ge Ming remarked, looking at Jiang Shaoxu.

“I told you I wasn’t here for a vacation,” Mo Fan shrugged.

Jiang Shaoxu was a professional Psychic Mage. With just a single Spirit Ripple, the Elemental Creatures within a kilometer of the group didn’t bother them.

It was necessary to avoid as many battles as they could when they were wandering in the wild. Unfortunately, Psychic Mages were mostly on two extremes; either they were so weak that the teams would refer to them as psychologists instead of Psychic Mages, or they were so powerful that they would cost more to hire than a Healer, since if there was no fighting, no one would be injured!

Jiang Shaoxu’s Psychic Element was astonishingly powerful. It allowed the team to cross the Big Yellow Mountain and enter the Taklamakan Desert without a single demon creature harassing them.

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After going down the Big Yellow Mountain, the golden-yellow sand of the desert completely filled their view. Its uniformity was a great contrast to the beautiful blue sky, but it was still a spectacular sight to the group!

The endless sand, the vast sky; they would be stuck in this world for the next fifteen days...

The place was separated from the rest of the world. It was mysterious and terrifying!

"We have to be extremely careful with every step we take from here on. Wang Jiuming, go find a suitable spot to set up the detector," Ge Ming said.

"Got it!" Wang Jiuming answered.

"Wait, how long will it take for the detector to scan the area?" Lingling asked.

"Around an hour," Wang Jiuming said.

"Can you give me a more specific time?"

"An hour and ten minutes," Wang Jiuming was startled. He did not think the little girl would be so serious with the question.

"Help me connect this; I will do a scatter plot," Lingling handed Wang Jiuming a tablet computer.

"Alright, pull yourself together, and prepare for a possible fight!" Ge Ming said.

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Chapter 1204: Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demon

Both the Elemental Sensors and Demon Creatures Distribution Scanners were useful inventions, but they both shared the same shortcoming; their energy ripples would attract the demon creatures nearby when they were functioning. The range was not far, but it was still troublesome.

Jiang Shaoxu's Pacify was not effective against demon creatures agitated by the energy ripples. It was similar to putting a loudspeaker close to a residential area occupied by the demon creatures. There was no way the hot-tempered demon creatures would not come to take a look...

"Any movement?" Zheng Tong looked around. He seemed calm, but the look in his eyes had betrayed him. He was feeling uneasy, as it was his first time in a desert.

"Not yet, only ten minutes have passed," Wang Jiuming said.

"Shouldn't we be happy about that? If we are safe for the whole hour, won't that mean we'll be perfectly safe for the next five kilometers?" Jiang Shaoxu said.

"The device is just a reference, a data point. Even if there are no demon nests within five kilometers, it doesn't mean we are safe," Lingling corrected him.

“The little girl is right, the device is only a support tool. We still have to verify the safety of the path by exploring it on foot...” Wang Jiuming smiled. He seemed quite friendly.

“Speaking of which, where’s your Commander friend? Why is he running around for no reason? Isn’t he worried that he will be surrounded by the demon creatures?” Lu Fang asked Mo Fan when he realized Zhang Xiaohou was missing.

Normally, people would stick close together in a place like the desert to avoid losing their way. The chance of finding a missing person in a desert was less than ten percent. No one would dare to take the risk.

“Brother Lu Fang, don’t you worry about Commander Zhang. He was once a Scout; even if he accidentally stumbles into a horde of demon creatures, he has no problem escaping unscathed. He always managed to lead the demon creatures in the opposite direction of the team, too. As for losing his way, it is quite unlikely either. He left some turbulence in the air along the way. He can easily find his way back to us.” Tong Li was quite familiar with Zhang Xiaohou’s capabilities.

“Oh, that’s great,” Lu Fang nodded.

Mo Fan was not worried about Zhang Xiaohou. The man was too reliable, if Mo Fan was to compare him to Guan Yu and Li Kaifeng, who were in charge of reconnaissance on the national team. The two were incomparable to Zhang Xiaohou in terms of experience. He was the least likely to be surrounded by demon creatures on this whole team. He was too fast for them!

“Strange, why didn’t a single demon creature show up yet? Don’t tell me there isn’t a single creature in this area? That’s not possible. According to the information we have, there should be a bunch of Deathsand Carapace Insects below the Big Yellow Mountain. Were they really so slow that they haven’t noticed the energy ripples of the device, or Wang Jiuming’s device isn’t functioning properly?” Zheng Tong asked.

“It’s already collecting data,” Lingling said.

“That’s strange... something is coming!” Zheng Tong looked ahead and saw a gust of wind without any sand approaching them.

Zheng Tong quickly focused. He began to channel a Star Pattern under his feet.

“Calm down, it’s Zhang Xiaohou,” Mo Fan smiled.

It was a faint-blue wind, the color of Zhang Xiaohou’s Soul-grade Seed. The army had given Zhang Xiaohou lots of resources, since he was their brightest star. With the contributions he had made, the resources he received might even surpass those given to the national team. After all, the national team was only taking part in a tournament. They were incomparable to Zhang Xiaohou’s military contributions!

“Brother Fan, I saw a bunch of demon insects ahead. They seem to be heading our way. After they left their nests, I stole their eggs and lured them south. They won’t bother us for some time,” Zhang Xiaohou came back and reported.

“You...you lured the demon insects away? There are a few nests of them!” Ge Ming exclaimed, his eyes wide.

“They seemed particularly worried about their eggs. I only stole the eggs from a single nest, but the demon insects from the other nests came to flank me, too,” Zhang Xiaohou shrugged.

“And you managed to come back unscathed still?” Wang Jiuming was struggling to believe it too.

The rest of the team was relieved. They never thought their journey to the desert would be so smooth. They had managed to avoid a few battles that they thought were inevitable because of the outstanding capabilities of these outsiders.

These people had always been walking on a knife-edge since they became Hunters. They were glad to see how reliable these outsiders were. It was comforting to have people like them as their teammates!

“It turns out that we have overcome the threat here too,” Ge Ming smiled. He awkwardly rolled the paper that contained the strategies he had come up with beforehand and tossed it aside.

He had done a lot of preparations prior to the expedition, including analyzing the habits of the demon creatures and finding their weaknesses. His men even practiced certain formations just to handle the demon creatures, yet they had yet to use even a single spell until now.

Many teams of Hunter Masters would be covered in wounds and bruises after making it this far, yet when it came to them... it was like they had come for a vacation instead. The danger was resolved while all they did was have a casual chat.

—

“The scan has finished. Old Lu, come analyze the data,” Wang Jiuming retrieved the device and handed it to Lu Fang.

Lu Fang took the device and inserted the data into his own device. However, before the transmission was even done, Lingling spoke up.

“We have to leave now so we can reach the other side of this mountain here. We’ll be safe once we reach this place in the basin before the sun goes down,” Lingling had already printed out the map. She gave Ge Ming a copy casually.

Lu Fang’s lips twisted. He was about to rebuke the little girl when he took a glimpse on the map and the scatter plot of the demon creatures. His expression shifted instantly.

“What is it, Old Lu?” Ge Ming asked when he noticed Lu Fang’s reaction. Ge Ming was having difficulty believing the map that a little girl came up with.

Lu Fang glanced at the sun before looking back at the map. He said in a grim voice, “We have to go now. We’ll be in great trouble if we don’t leave this place before night comes!”

The group immediately packed their stuff and proceeded along the journey.

— —

Zhang Xiaohou and another member of the group were scouting ahead. The others started to use magic to quicken their pace.

Zheng Tong and Wang Jiuming did not understand why Lu Fang would believe Lingling's map all of a sudden, but it was Ge Ming that voiced his concern in the end, "Lu Fang, what's wrong? Why do you look so pale?"

"The information we have isn't accurate. The Deathsand Carapace Insects aren't the only species under the Big Yellow Mountain. The Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons are there too! They are living around forty meters down from the surface and have scattered across this area and the areas within four kilometers of where we are.

"The sun is going down soon. Once the sunlight disappears, these Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons will drag every living creature above the surface into the sand. They are too many of them. We won't stand a chance!" Lu Fang said grimly.

"What... screw that information vendor, he told us there wasn't any danger under the Big Yellow Mountain! I swear I'll kill him once we made it back!" Zheng Tong snapped furiously.

Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons were the last thing that the travelers in a desert wanted to see!

"Didn't we encounter a Pseudomorphing Demon in Jinlin City? Are the Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons similar to it?" Mu Nujiao whispered to Mo Fan when the name crossed her mind.

"Yeah, they are the same species residing in different habitats. The Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons usually live in dry places, and they only appear at night, as they aren't fans of the sunlight. According to the information on Lingling's tablet, there are at least five hundred Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons in this area. They will all come when their roots sense movement above the sand. You can imagine how scary that would be," Mo Fan had actually done his homework before coming here!.

Mu Nujiao fell silent immediately. Their whole team was almost wiped out when they stumbled into a single Pseudomorphing Demon back in Jinlin City, and now there were at least five hundred of them in this area... they were basically walking through a living cemetery!

"Little girl, how did you know they are Pseudomorphing Demons?" Lu Fang asked while picking up his pace.

"My name is Lingling!" Lingling said in displeasure.

"Oh, Lingling!" Lu Fang was panicking, but he was relieved too.

If the team waited he finished analyzing the data, it would be dark by now. All his efforts would be in vain, since as soon as the sun went down, the roots of the Pseudomorphing Demons would spread across the place.

On the other hand, Lu Fang was quite surprised too. How quickly was Lingling able to analyze the data? The girl had managed to analyze the data quicker than him!

The information they had stated that the area was occupied only by the Deathsand Carapace Insects. However, it was obvious that the person had only come during the day. If it was at night, even an entire army would be eaten alive by the Pseudomorphing Demons!

“There aren’t many life forms under the surface, yet they were covering a huge area. That alone caught my attention. Besides, there are only two kinds of life forms within five kilometers from us. One is hidden underground, and the other is the Deathsand Carapace Insects. These Deathsand Carapace Insects are something that flesh-eating demon plants hate the most, as they are unable to digest the thick carapaces of the insects. It proves that the life forms under the surface are the Pseudomorphing Demons, as they ate every species other than the Deathsand Carapace Insects!” Lingling stated.

“Hehe, luckily you learned what they were!” Lu Fang exclaimed.

“You forgot about day and night; it’s a deadly mistake,” Lingling chided him like she was an instructor.

Lu Fang had an awkward face. Luckily, they did manage to avoid the grave danger...

The desert was absolutely terrifying. If they stuck to their initial plan, the team would have been trapped by the Pseudomorphing Demons when night arrived. It was difficult to tell if they could even clear a path through the demon creatures. The more Lu Fang thought about it, the scarier it was!

“Quick, let’s go! I can see the curtain of night extending toward us!” Zhang Xiaohou said.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1205: Danger Below the Sand

The team clearly felt the sand moving under them.

The sand was not as thick as they initially thought. Below the layer of sand was a layer of soil. If the sand was moving, it meant something was digging its way up out of the soil.

Zhang Xiaohou led the way. He went to the higher ground to observe their surroundings. The curtain of night was approaching rapidly. Certain places were no longer covered by the sun. He could see roots wriggling like black centipedes and snakes in the shadows there. They spread rapidly toward the areas that were no longer covered by sunlight. He saw a huge creature accidentally step into an area without sunlight, and it was dragged into the sand by the roots in the blink of an eye!

He knew the creature would soon be reduced into a pile of bones, while its blood, flesh, and organs were turned into nutrients for the Pseudomorphing Demons!

“Quick, hurry up!” Zhang Xiaohou urged the rest of the team.

The sun had gone down quicker than they thought. They would be in grave danger if they did not leave the territory of the Pseudomorphing Demons in time!

“Houzi, go harden the soil ahead so they won’t be able to dig out of the ground so easily,” Mo Fan said to Zhang Xiaohou.

“Alright! Is anyone else an Earth Mage?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

Two other Hunters soon stepped forward from the group. Zhang Xiaohou summoned his Wind Wings and grabbed the two Hunters before flying forward rapidly, preparing themselves for the Pseudomorphing Demons.

—

The team was running as quickly as they could, but they still failed to outrun the curtain of night. As soon as the darkness fell across them, the temperature dropped significantly all of a sudden. The atmosphere changed as the team felt a strong aura of darkness surging at them.

“Over here!” Zhang Xiaohou yelled at the team.

The team regrouped with Zhang Xiaohou and the two Hunters. The ground nearby had been compressed and hardened. It was as sturdy as rocks.

Black roots sprang out of the areas no longer under sunlight. The sand splashed wildly, like the surface of an ocean, as if they were stirred by countless schools of fish. The roots were like the tentacles of a starving demon, surrounding the travelers from all directions.

When the tentacles were less than three hundred meters away, the team could easily tell that the speed of the roots was hindered. The hardened sand was providing some resistance to them!

“Quick, it’s only a matter of time until they catch up to us!” Lu Fang urged everyone.

The team did not dare wait any further, and hurried toward their destination.

“I’ll lead the way!” A Hunter whose primary Element was the Wind Element said. Ge Ming and the others usually referred to him as Feishu.

Feishu was quite nimble, and his steps were light. He did not leave a single footstep on the sand with the help of his Wind Magic.

“It’s safe here, this way...”

The sand below the man’s feet suddenly exploded up into the sky before pouring down like a rain.

A demon tree that looked like a terrifying beast sprang up amid the rain of sand. The demon tree could use its branches and intertwined roots under the sand to attack.

The roots and branches soon formed a cage trapping Feishu in all directions. Feishu turned around in disbelief, and realized he was already separated from the team by the cage. An overwhelming sense of death lunged at him!

“Feishu!” Lu Fang shouted.

Ge Ming reacted quickly. He cast a Light Spell in an instant. The Plummeting Rays turned into swords slashing at the roots and the branches.

However, the roots and the branches were just too thick. A single spell was nowhere enough to cut through the branches and roots that were trapping Feishu!

“Leader, behind us!” Zheng Tong said.

Ge Ming knew what was behind them without even turning around. He could imagine the deadly branches and roots without any gaps between them coming at them from behind!

“Keep going forward, I’ll save Feishu!” Ge Ming said.

Feishu was too impatient. The path he took was not the right path. He was too insensitive to the creatures under the surface.

“Come, quick, or we’ll all be stuck here!” Lu Fang shouted.

“Follow me, don’t go anywhere else, these things are good at setting up traps. We won’t be able to escape if we are caught in them,” Zhang Xiaohou sighed, and led the way.

Zhang Xiaohou gave up on flying. He was walking on the ground. He was risking his own life to detect the traps...

“These Pseudomorphing Demons have a limited area of movement!” Mo Fan called out.

The Pseudomorphing Demons were extremely slow at moving around. They usually disguised themselves and waited for their prey to stumble into their reach. The roots and branches of a Pseudomorphing Demon could only extend about three hundred meters away. The closer they were to a Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demon, the harder it would be to break free from the roots and branches. Feishu was trapped in an instant because he was too close to a Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demon!

Zhang Xiaohou was around five hundred meters ahead of the team. He kept laying down faint-blue Wind Tracks along the way to guarantee that he could instantly move in any direction at the highest speed.

Another loud blast took place. A Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demon in the direction that Zhang Xiaohou was heading into simply forfeited its disguise and came out of the ground to trap Zhang Xiaohou.

Countless roots dug out of the ground as flexible branches like tentacles dashed forward to surround its prey. They would bind the target and drag it into the sand to slowly devour it!

“Go the other way!” Zhang Xiaohou quickly turned around and yelled at the team.

If the path was not safe, they would have to find another path while maintaining a distance of three hundred meters from the Pseudomorphing Demon.

The team immediately headed in a different direction. They could still see a faint-blue figure dodging the roots and the branches. The Pseudomorphing Demon was having a hard time trapping Zhang Xiaohou, who was able to outrun the branches and roots before they formed a cage.

“He can handle it himself, let’s go. These Pseudomorphing Demons might be slow, but we are done for once they surround us!” Mo Fan warned.

“Well...who’s going to lead the way now?” Zheng Tong said.

They needed someone to lead the way. The Pseudomorphing Demons were extremely cunning. They would not show up the instant their prey was within their reach. They would only make their moves when their prey was close enough to have no chance of running away!

As such, someone had to lead the way to detect where the 'mines' were, or else the whole team would be in danger.

"I'll go," Mu Nujiao said.

"No way..." Zheng Tong was about to speak, but Mu Nujiao had already turned into a gust of wind and gone ahead.

"Follow her!" Mo Fan ordered.

The team quickly followed Mu Nujiao while maintaining a safe distance from her, just so the whole team would not fall into the traps of the Pseudomorphing Demons.

"Zheng Tong, you're quite a disappointment," Lu Fang glanced at the woman that went ahead alone and sighed.

Zheng Tong was actually looking at Mo Fan when he asked the question. The guy had been an eyesore to him. He had been giving orders without doing anything, and the girls were still willing to stick with him!

To his surprise, Mu Nujiao had volunteered instead, placing Zheng Tong in an awkward position. They had let a woman put her life at risk for their sake, not to mention that she was such a beautiful lady...

"You are responsible if anything happens to her!" Zheng Tong anxiously put the blame on Mo Fan instead when he was questioned by Lu Fang.

"I'm already responsible for her... so don't you worry," Mo Fan smiled in reply.

Zheng Tong was even more annoyed that Mo Fan still had the mood to joke around.

"It's safe here!" Mu Nujiao's voice came from ahead.

Lu Fang quickly led the others toward where Mu Nujiao was.

After Mu Nujiao moved another five hundred meters ahead, she notified the team that the area was safe.

"Is the girl reliable?" an aged Hunter in his fifties began to doubt.

"You can lead the way instead if you don't trust her!" Jiang Shaoxu snapped instantly.

The person leading the way was putting their life at risk. Mu Nujiao was already risking her life for the team, yet the aged Hunter dared to question her capabilities?

"I'm just asking for the sake of the team. She asked us to catch up before she was sure that the area was safe. I bet she wants us to stay closer to her in case she was in danger," the aged Hunter claimed.

"Yeah, I also think she's being too careless," someone agreed with the aged Hunter.

"I think it's better to go this way. Ask her to regroup with us, it's a matter of life and death. Dajian, you lead the way," the aged Hunter said.

"Oh... sure thing!" Dajian nodded. He seemed quite daring. He immediately went forward without hesitation. The direction he was heading to was closer to their destination.

After Dajian moved around a hundred meters forward, Mu Nujiao immediately frowned. She had no idea what was happening among the members. She immediately yelled, "Don't go that way!"

"Little girl, are you trying to set us up? My secondary Element is the Earth Element. I can sense a strong movement under the ground where you're standing. It's obvious that there's something down there..." the aged Hunter said.

Mu Nujiao was startled. She quickly collected her thoughts and said, "It's true that there's a Pseudomorphing Demon here, but..."

"Humph, you all heard it. She's leading us right into a Pseudomorphing Demon. Let's follow Dajian. Young woman, you should regroup with the team. You won't be able to do so if you keep going forward! We are grateful that you're willing to risk your life, but you should know your limits too!" the aged Hunter, Xu Pingdong said.

"Don't go that way!" Mu Nujiao's face turned pale when she saw the direction that Dajian was moving into. She immediately yelled at the top of her lungs.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1206: The First Night in the Desert

Three blasts occurred simultaneously, throwing sand into the air. The rain of sand pouring down was dangerous too!

As soon as the Mage called Dajian was two hundred meters away from the team, three enormous Night Terror Pseudomorphing Demons suddenly burst out of the ground and surrounded him. The sand that they were using as a disguise vanished completely, revealing the countless roots around Dajian, wriggling under his feet like starving worms!

Dajian was standing in the middle and completely dumbfounded. He had never seen anything so terrifying!

The trap that Feishu stumbled into still had gaps and room to breathe. Ge Ming was still able to save him, even if he was dragged into the ground. However, in Dajian's situation, he had basically set his foot into the gates of Hell. Even Ge Ming had no chance of saving him!

"Blin... sigh..." A silver light glowed on Mo Fan, but he called it off while he was still channeling his magic.

The area that Dajian was in was crawling with roots and branches. There was no longer any opening for Mo Fan to blink into and save the man. Mo Fan did not feel good when he caught the final glimpse of disbelief and fear on Dajian's face.

Prejudice would seriously get a man killed. Mo Fan had tried to avoid conflict with the members of the Golden Battle Hunters from the start, yet something like this had still happened in the end.

“Come over here, quick!” Mu Nujiao yelled. The team quickly focused.

“There’s a Pseudomorphing Demon there too!” Xu Pingdong protested in fear.

Dajian was dead for sure. The trap consisted of three Pseudomorphing Demons. An Advanced Mage had no chance of surviving it. Xu Pingdong was overwhelmed by guilt, but he still could not accept it. He immediately directed his hatred toward Mu Nujiao.

Mu Nujiao did not seem too bothered by it.

“Let’s go.”

“But...”

“He’s dead! There’s nothing we can do!”

The others crossed over to Mu Nujiao’s position. Mu Nujiao was still unharmed, meaning that her position was still safe for the time being.

When the team regrouped with Mu Nujiao, the sand below them was restless. The team was startled, but as their hearts filled with fear, Mu Nujiao began to emit a dark green light.

The roots of the Pseudomorphing Demon burst out of the sand. Its branches were swinging wildly, trying to drag the team into the ground.

However, a dark green Demon Tree appeared. Its branches tangled up with the branches and roots of the Pseudomorphing Demon, preventing the creature from attacking the team. The Demon Tree’s branches were outnumbered by the roots and branches of the Pseudomorphing Demon, but its branches were incredibly strong. The team had no trouble moving forward. They just needed to be cautious.

“It’s safe ahead!” Mu Nujiao remained still. She was controlling the Demon Tree, keeping the Pseudomorphing Demon at bay, staying stern and expressionless. The others could easily tell she was furious, yet she did not lose her calm!

The team continued forward. The path had been safe so far!

—

The team reached the destination not long after.

Most of the people were unharmed, yet they were all wearing a defeated and uneasy look.

Mu Nujiao and Zhang Xiaohou regrouped with the team. They were both fine too. They just needed some treatment for the minor wounds they had.

—

Some time later, Ge Ming forcibly cleared a path through the countless roots intercepting him, carrying a man covered in blood on his shoulder. As a Super Mage, he was the only person that could force his way through the Pseudomorphing Demons.

He seemed a little worn out, but there was a hint of relief in his eyes. Feishu was not dead, and had been saved from the jaws of death.

“What a relief, I managed to save him,” Ge Ming placed Feishu on the ground, allowing the Healer on the team to treat his wounds.

Feishu had mostly suffered physical injuries. His life was not in danger. With a Healer around, he could easily recover within an hour.

Ge Ming looked around and said smilingly, “Why do you all look so down? Didn’t I manage to save Feishu? That was indeed a close call, but we are all fine, aren’t we? It’s still a long journey ahead, we can’t afford to give up so easily.”

“Lea...leader, Dajian...” Lu Fang said in a trembling voice.

“Leader, it’s that girl’s fault. She led us into a Pseudomorphing Demon, and she was well aware of its existence. I was suspicious of her decision, so I asked Dajian to choose a different direction, but...” Xu Pingdong rose to his feet and glared at Mu Nujiao.

Ge Ming immediately pulled a long face.

Dajian had a strong sense of responsibility. Ge Ming had high hopes for him. The man might not be a leader, but he was the right-arm man that any leader would appreciate.

Ge Ming never thought another man would die while he was trying his best to save a man who was in danger.

Ge Ming was not mad at anyone. He was just sad for the loss!

“You knew there was a Pseudomorphing Demon there, right?” Ge Ming looked at Mu Nujiao.

Mu Nujiao nodded. She despised Xu Pingdong’s attempt to put the blame on the others. She said calmly, “The path we took was surrounded by the Pseudomorphing Demons. We would stumble into a trap no matter which direction we took, but there was only a single Pseudomorphing Demon on the path I chose, while the other directions had more than one. If I used my Demon Tree to keep the Pseudomorphing Demon at bay, I could guarantee the team’s safety...”

Xu Pingdong was utterly dumbfounded!

He stared at Mu Nujiao. His face was covered in cold sweat. He blurted out in a panic, “Why...why didn’t you say it earlier!?”

“Did I have the time to explain myself? You shouldn’t be so full of yourself. It doesn’t matter if you’re a Hunter Master, we are all rookies in this desert!” Mu Nujiao retorted coldly.

“Old Xu, you shouldn’t have made the decision for the team on your own...” Lu Fang sighed.

The rest of the team could easily tell whose fault it was. They were well aware that Mu Nujiao had made the right choice. She had chosen the safest path for the team. Xu Pingdong was the one who should be held responsible for Dajian's death. The man had died because of his prejudice toward Mu Nujiao!

Ge Ming's face darkened after learning the truth.

He did not say a word, nor did he rebuke the team, but the silence served as a greater torture to the members.

"Let's take some rest and prepare ourselves for the journey ahead," Ge Ming said a while later.

"Leader, Dajian's family, I'll take care of them..." Xu Pingdong's eyes were rolling with tears. They eventually ran down his cheeks. He was filled with guilt and remorse!

"It's not your fault, you didn't push him to death. He chose the path himself," Ge Ming said.

"But, leader..."

"Just be more careful and rational. Everyone is risking their life coming here. No one wants to die, don't look down on the others. You didn't even dare to leave the safe zone when you were their age, but they are brave enough to come to one of the most dangerous places in our country! You have no right to underestimate them just because of their age!" Ge Ming stated.

"I...I understand, I'm sorry!"

—

The team had already lost someone on the first night in the desert. They could not even retrieve Dajian's remains. They had no choice but to leave him behind under the sand.

The desert was extremely cold at night, a great contrast with the heat of the day.

The clear sky was full of stars. Mo Fan went up to Jiang Shaoxu. The girl was staring at the night sky, immersed in her thoughts.

"Why are you here? You already saw how dangerous this place is. Even I won't be able to guarantee your safety," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had wanted to save the Hunter called Dajian. Unlike the others, he did not think highly of himself. Unfortunately, the Pseudomorphing Demons were too quick for him. He did not even have any chance to save the man.

"Just here to experience the desert," Jiang Shaoxu replied.

"Experience the desert? You think your life is a joke?" Mo Fan snorted.

The national team had taken the relatively safe path when they were traveling around the world to train themselves, but this Taklamakan Desert was a lot more dangerous. Even a Hunter Master would die within the blink of an eye!

"I had a brother who liked to go on adventures. He was oddly passionate about ancient ruins. I still don't understand why the thrill of walking on the knife's edge is better than living a calm life with your family in the city!" Jiang Shaoxu sighed.

"So you came to experience the thrill too? That's pretty naive of you... everyone is different. Some people think that living on the edge is as exciting as falling in love for the first time. The thrill they get is more pleasant than making love. It's quite obvious that your brother is that kind of a person, but you aren't," Mo Fan said.

Jiang Shaoxu giggled and nudged Mo Fan, "Can't you mind your words? I'm talking about something sad here."

"Being sad doesn't mean you have to look miserable, you can still make jokes and laugh," Mo Fan said.

"Speaking of which, you do remind me of my brother at times." Jiang Shaoxu felt a lot better.

"No wonder you're so fond of me..."

"I'm referring to your stubbornness in getting yourself in danger and living on the edge, it's the same as my brother was."

"I actually treat my life preciously."

"But you can sacrifice it for something more important, right?" Jiang Shaoxu laughed.

"Perhaps."

"Life is precious indeed..."

"Where did your brother successfully seek death?"

"I'm still looking, it should be somewhere in the desert, or it might be some other place. The last time I saw him, he mentioned something about how he had found ruins related to the strongest Totem Beast," Jiang Shaoxu told him.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1207: Man-Eating Sand

The desert was icy cold at midnight. It felt like they were walking in a world of ice and snow. Their faces hurt when the wind was blowing on their faces, which had stiffened due to the cold.

The team moved out before daybreak. When the sunlight first appeared, the warmth it brought was extremely comfortable. However, in less than an hour, their bodies were soon complaining about the scorching heat.

It was just how a desert was. They were pleasant places to visit. It was the reason why most Hunters avoided going to deserts!

Lu Fang took out the map. "If we keep heading this direction, we should find a meandering river of sand. We should be close to the relay station once we follow the river to its lower reaches."

It was called a river, but all that was left was a deep ravine. Not a single drop of water was left. In addition to it, the sticky sand was extremely difficult to walk on.

The meandering river of sand was an important landmark for their journey. It took the team quite some time to find it. They almost thought they had lost their direction.

They just needed to follow the river from here on without worrying about if they were heading in the right direction. Unfortunately, the river was not as peaceful as it seemed.

“Did anyone notice that the sand is soft and sticky here? If we were walking slower, our bodies would slowly sink into the sand... it won’t be a problem here, but once we reach the lower reaches, the sand there is going to feel like mud in a swamp. We have to move at a certain speed to stop from sinking into the sand,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had collected some information about the place, particularly about the meandering sand river.

“Can’t we harden the sand?” Wang Jiuming asked, glancing at the Earth Mages on the team.

The Earth Mages shook their heads, “It’s very difficult to control the sand here. We can’t even use Earth Waves here.”

“That’s going to be a problem.”

“I’m already trotting here, but it still feels like I’m sinking into the sand.”

“Let’s pick up the pace then.”

The team of more than ten people left deep footprints along the river bed. Their legs were soon covered in sand, and the more sand their legs were covered in, the heavier their steps were. It was not much of a hassle for a short period, but the team was running along the river bed for half a day...

“Give me a hand, give me a hand, I’m sinking!” a Hunter in charge of logistics suddenly yelled at the back of the team.

The others looked behind and saw half of the man’s legs had already disappeared into the sand. It was as if he had stepped into a pit...

“Laosi (the fourth eldest), what are you doing? Pick up your pace, we’ll all sink if we don’t maintain our speed!” Ge Ming said.

“I...I...AH! Something is grabbing onto my legs!” Li Sichong suddenly yelled like a drowning man screaming for help.

Li Sichong had sunk into the sand because he was not moving quickly enough. If the others were to slow down, they would sink into the sand too! The sand in the area turned out to be deadly. It would wrap around anything that had sunk into it and hold them in place firmly to stop them from breaking free. The force was comparable to the strength of a Warrior-level creature’s jaws. It was the scariest part about the sand river!

“Nothing is grabbing you, you have sunk too much into the sand. Hang in there, I’ll pull you out!” Ge Ming maintained his speed and made a u-turn to help the man.

“I’ll do it,” Mo Fan said.

If they waited until Ge Ming made a u-turn while trying to maintain his speed, Li Sichong’s head would be under the sand by then.

“Telekinesis: Invisible Claws!” Mo Fan gathered his focus. The silver energy turned into a huge claw grabbing at Li Sichong’s upper body.

“Rise!” Mo Fan dragged the man out of the sand with his will. However, he immediately felt some resistance, preventing him from dragging Li Sichong out with his first attempt. It was a huge shock!

Li Sichong had only sunk halfway into the sand, but the force of the sand grabbing onto him was equivalent to the combined strength of a hundred demon creatures grabbing onto him firmly. Mo Fan initially thought he could easily drag the man out of the sand with his Telekinesis, but it failed!

Mo Fan immediately focused and strengthened his will.

“AHHHH! It hurts!” Li Sichong suddenly screamed out in pain. The expression on his face showed that he was serious.

“Houzi, find a way to scatter the sand!” Mo Fan quickly yelled at Zhang Xiaohou with a grim look.

Zhang Xiaohou immediately realized how serious the situation was. He summoned a gust of wind, blowing him into the air. He then cast the Eyes of the Rock Demon to resist the force of the sand.

Zhang Xiaohou was only aware of how terrifying the sand was after casting the Advanced Earth Spell. He finally understood why the sand was referred to as Man-Eating Sand. It was like each sand particle was alive. They rapidly gathered around anything that had sunk into the sand like starving beasts and held onto it with remarkable strength!

The Man-Eating Sand was pulling Li Sichong down while Mo Fan was trying to drag him out. Mo Fan did not dare apply a stronger force, as it might simply tear Li Sichong in half. The Man-Eating Sand was trickier to deal with than he first thought!

When Zhang Xiaohou drove the Man-Eating Sand away with the Eyes of the Rock Demon, Mo Fan immediately took hold of the opportunity and dragged Li Sichong out from the sand.

Crack!

Everyone heard the sound of bones breaking the moment Li Sichong was dragged out of the sand. The man fainted instantly...

“This...”

The team was dumbfounded. No one had expected the ordinary-looking sand to be so deadly. If Mo Fan had not happened to possess the Space Element, they had no idea how they could have dragged Li Sichong out!

“It’s only some dislocations, he’s fine. The strength of the Man-Eating Sand is over five tons, and the force increases exponentially the further you sink. Make sure you’re above the surface at all times. If the

force is greater than ten tons, even if I try to drag you out, it will tear your body in half!" Mo Fan told the others.

Everyone had witnessed what happened just then, so none of them dared to doubt Mo Fan's words. They immediately quickened their pace to prevent themselves from sinking into the sand!

"Why aren't we there yet? Why do I feel like my legs weigh around five hundred kilograms?" Zheng Tong gasped.

Even maintaining the speed to prevent them from sinking into the sand was costing a lot more stamina than usual. The team would eventually be worn out if they never stopped running. Some were already struggling to keep up.

"Same here, I can't move anymore!" Feishu who had yet to fully recover from his injuries spoke up.

"Aren't we there yet? Leader?"

Ge Ming had a grim face. According to the map, there were still five hours worth of journey left in the river. The team would be in great trouble if someone was already at their limits!

The river was not particularly wide. They only needed to travel around two kilometers to reach the edge. The only problem was... both sides of the sand river were occupied by Sandstorm Demon Locusts, a kind of catastrophic demon creature. They always showed up in tens of thousands, and they did not feed on crops or plants, but living creatures!

These Sandstorm Demon Locusts were a pain to deal with. Once they found their prey, they would pursue it relentlessly. Even if there was another Super Mage on the team, they would still struggle to guarantee the safety of their members. As such, leaving the river bed was not an option. They would just deliver themselves to the Sandstorm Demon Locusts as their lunch!

As a matter of fact, the military had established its base in the Tarim Basin mainly to keep an eye on the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Every invasion from the Sandstorm Demon Locusts would end up as an S-rank calamity. Many cities in the west had been wiped out by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts over the past few decades. It was basically Hell on Earth, as not a single human, livestock, plant, or even building remained when the Sandstorm Demon Locusts swept past like a gust of wind!

The horde of Sandstorm Demon Locusts had occupied a huge area. The meandering sand river was the only way through it, but it turned out that the team had underestimated the difficulty of traversing it!

"We are all going to die if we keep going. We have to go ashore now," Lu Fang said.

Not everyone had outstanding stamina, like Mo Fan and Zhang Xiaohou. Jiang Shaoxu and Mu Nujiao were struggling to keep up too!

Mo Fan was carrying Lingling in his arms while taking turns carrying Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu on his back. He was as strong as an ox, mainly because of the passive abilities of his Demon Element. However, some of the aged Hunters were already at their limits!

"Should we just go ashore? I feel like we will be feeding ourselves to the sand if we keep going," Wang Jiuming said.

“Going ashore is even worse. As soon as we set our foot on the shore, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts will immediately notice our presence...”

“Then what are we supposed to do? Are we seriously going to wait for our deaths here!?” someone cried out impatiently.

“We can’t afford to provoke the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Let’s take turns laying down a path. It’s no use preserving our energy any further. Our first priority is to make it out alive. I’ll use my Ice Element and Plant Element to lay down a path, and the Wind Element to speed everyone up...” Mu Nujiao said.

The others looked at Ge Ming.

If they were to use their magic here, it meant they were putting their lives at risk. No one knew if there was a huge battle waiting for them at their destination. How were they supposed to fight if they already used up all their energy?

“It’s the only choice we have. Those with the Ice, Earth, and Plant Elements will lay down a path, and those with the Wind Element will speed us up. Quick, don’t slow down now. Pick up your pace!” Ge Ming said.

Mu Nujiao began to emit frost. The little ice crystals sprang forward and laid down an icy bridge ahead. Ge Ming led the way and sprinted along the bridge.

“Let’s go!” The Hunters sighed, but they had no other choice but to continue on their journey.

Chapter 1208: Sandstorm Demon Locusts

Building a path along the sand in the river bed would require a huge amount of energy, since the team was still a long journey away from reaching the end.

After the team traveled ten kilometers, Mu Nujiao was running low on energy. She switched to her Plant Element instead, as the energy consumption using the Plant Element was lower compared to the Ice Element. If she kept using the same plants to build a path in front of her, she would not need to Summon new plants.

However, she only lasted for another twenty kilometers before the energy in Mu Nujiao’s Plant Element was depleted too.

It was Xu Pingdong’s turn to lay down the path. He had the Earth Element and the Ice Element. He did not have as much energy as Mu Nujiao. He only lasted for twenty kilometers...

Both Mu Nujiao and Xu Pingdong had used up all their energy to help the team travel another fifty kilometers, but it felt like they were still in the same spot in the meandering sand river.

The others took turns constructing the path, but when everyone used up all their energy of the Earth Element, Ice Element, and Plant Element, they realized they had at least another seventy kilometers left!

“Let’s convert the energy of other Elements. It’s the only option we have. I have an Energy Conversion Bracelet here. It’s not as effective, but it’s better than nothing,” Ge Ming said.

“If we convert our energy to the energy of their Wind Element, Earth Element, and Plant Element, the conversion rate is only around thirty percent. How are we going to protect ourselves when we reach the end later? Leader, that’s too risky!” Lu Fang strongly disagreed with the suggestion.

“We have to overcome the situation before us first. Otherwise, we won’t even make it to the end,” Ge Ming replied.

The others began to convert their energy with Ge Ming’s bracelet and transferred the energy to Mu Nujiao, Xu Pingdong, Zhang Xiaohou, and the others with the suitable Elements to construct the path ahead.

The conversion rate was only thirty percent, meaning that the rate of consumption of the team’s energy had tripled. Most people on the team soon ran out of energy for two of their Elements.

Losing the energy for two Elements was basically the same as losing their arms. They completely lost any sense of security in this desert that was full of danger. Even though they could see the end of the sand river now, none of them seemed relieved.

The rate of recovery of a Mage’s energy was incredibly slow. Hunters usually treated their energy as their life, but they had already paid such a huge price just to follow the sand river!

“We should be able to rest up once we reach the relay station. Cheer up, everyone, the sand river is indeed a lot scarier than we expected,” Ge Ming comforted the members of the team.

Mo Fan was a fighter on the team, thus he did not transfer his energy to the others. There were only four people with full energy on the team: Mo Fan, Zheng Tong, Ge Ming, and a man called Tong Zhuang.

“There are still Sandstorm Demon Locusts in the area still. Let’s leave this place quickly,” Ge Ming told them.

“We’ll have to use the device after another kilometer. Otherwise, we might accidentally stumble into a horde. There are three hordes in this area,” Wang Jiuming said.

“Are you kidding me? Using the device now is suicide! It’s going to attract the demon creatures nearby. We can’t possibly hold them off!” Tong Zhuang was the first to disagree.

“Going forward blindly or staying here is going to get us killed too! We have to take the risks and stand our ground for an hour and ten minutes, at least it will allow us to keep going!” Wang Jiuming snapped back.

“Captain, the whole team is worn out just making it out of the sand river. Setting up the device is suicide now!” Tong Zhuang said.

Ge Ming frowned. He was struggling to make up his mind.

It was extremely dangerous if a battle broke out now. Only a few people on the team had energy. If they ended up aggravating Commander-level creatures or a horde of demon creatures, they would be done for.

They heard a distant howling, and the wind suddenly grew stronger. Mo Fan glanced in the direction of the wind and saw the clear, blue sky was shrouded by a yellow cloud of dust. He thought the cloud of dust was still at first glance, but he eventually realized it was slowly moving toward them.

“A sandstorm?” Jiang Shaoxu felt uneasy after witnessing the cloud of dust. She subconsciously recalled the Sandstorm Vengeful Spirit that the team encountered before, the ghastly figure that stood imperiously at the top of the sandstorm!

“No, something worse!” Lingling shook her head.

Ge Ming’s eyes widened. His face was gradually filled with fear.

“It’s the Sandstorm Demon Locusts!”

“My Heavens, didn’t we already leave their territory?”

“The Sandstorm Demon Locusts are highly invasive. They will occasionally invade the areas nearby. Even though they aren’t heading right toward us, we’re going to die if we stay here!” Mo Fan said.

The Sandstorm Demon Locusts were the scariest existence in the Taklamakan Desert that people were aware of. They would sweep across an area like a sandstorm, yet in comparison, a sandstorm would actually be considered a kind-hearted spirit. The photographs taken after a place was attacked by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were utterly terrifying. The whole place would be barren, with skeletons scattered for five hundred kilometers!

“We have to move forward!” Ge Ming did not even need to make a choice. He immediately gave the order.

The members stopped arguing instantly and started moving forward. The demon creatures approaching them like a cloud of dust were not something their magic could possibly handle!

“It’s going to take them at least two hours to reach here,” Zhang Xiaohou looked into the sky and roughly estimated the speed of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts.

“Which means we still have enough time to scan the area,” Wang Jiuming said.

“Damn it, I’ve never visited a place like this. If I manage to make it back alive, I can boast about it for the rest of my life!” Lu Fang cursed. He was trying to embolden himself.

“Yeah, it feels like only one in ten is going to make it out alive...I’m starting to regret my decision coming here.”

The desert full of unknown dangers was a lot scarier than the team had thought. They had encountered so many different kinds of problems when they had just set foot into the desert. It felt like the whole team was going to be wiped out if they were being too careless.

“What do we do now? Either way, I’m already out of energy,” Xu Pingdong had a grim look.

“Yeah, so did we!”

“Say, if the Sandstorm Demon Locusts is approaching, does that mean the demon creatures nearby will not bother us?” someone on the team asked in a soft voice.

The eyes of the rest of the team flickered. It did make sense. Wouldn't the Sandstorm Demon Locusts drive the other demon creatures away?

"Basically..." Mo Fan immediately interrupted, pouring a bucket of cold water on the team, "The demon creatures residing close to the territories of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts is because either the Sandstorm Demon Locusts aren't interested in them, because they were picky eaters, or the demon creatures aren't really afraid of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts! So, I'm afraid we aren't safe either."

"Humph, you sound like it's none of your concern. You haven't done anything since we came into the desert. You weren't even willing to share your energy," Zheng Tong snapped.

"Xiao Zheng, don't say that. If it wasn't for his Space Element, Li Sichong would have died in the sand river," Lu Fang intervened.

"I know someone who was lucky enough to Awaken the Space Element, but it turns out to be a useless Element. It's only a supportive Element in a battle," Zheng Tong said.

A skinny man on the team had an awkward face when Zheng Tong was speaking.

"It's because I haven't really mastered it. I learned that I have to improve my mental strength if I want to improve the Space Element. I thought I just needed to familiarize myself with it..." the man said in a soft voice.

"I seriously don't understand; why did a person like you end up Awakening the Space Element?" Zheng Tong sighed.

"Well, I have no idea either. I'm actually regretting it a little," the man replied.

The man had awakened the Space Element as his tertiary Element. The Space Element would normally only be Awakened after a person had reached the Advanced Level. It was rare and mysterious. When Yang Bao first Awakened the Space Element, he thought he was going to rise and surpass his comrades. The Golden Battle Hunters had high hopes in him, too. To his surprise, the Space Element was extremely hard to master, not to mention that it was a lot weaker than the other Elements, be it Telekinesis or Space Rhythm...

Yang Bao was still looking forward to achieving the Advanced Level of the Space Element, since he believed Blink would come in handy for sure!

"It turns out that this Zheng Tong isn't just jealous of you, but everyone else too..." Jiang Shaoxu whispered into Mo Fan's ear.

"Indeed, it's like he doesn't want anything good to happen to others," Mo Fan agreed.

"Why haven't you taught him a lesson? I've never seen you so forgiving on the national team," Jiang Shaoxu asked in confusion.

It was not Zheng Tong's first time uttering scornful comments at Mo Fan, yet Mo Fan did not seem bothered at all. Jiang Shaoxu was actually quite surprised.

"It's not the same this time. We're like grasshoppers on the same boat. Infighting isn't ideal right now," Mo Fan said. He had only come to resurrect Little Flame Belle. He was fully focused at the moment, and

too lazy to waste his time elsewhere. Besides, Ge Ming had informed Mo Fan of Zheng Tong's personality before he joined the team.

"It should be grasshoppers tied to the same rope!" Jiang Shaoxu corrected him. "Ah, damn it, now is definitely not the time to mention grasshoppers!"

Jiang Shaoxu immediately glanced at the yellow cloud of dust in the distance and shuddered.

Wang Jiuming had planted the device into the sand. The team was currently in a valley surrounded by three hills. Any demon creatures were most likely going to come from the entrance to the valley. If they came down the hills, it would take them some time to cross, which would buy the team more time to handle them.

"I'm starting the device!" Wang Jiuming warned everyone.

The team immediately prepared themselves for battle. The demon creatures would show up soon after the device started working!

Chapter 1209: Instant Kill with Lightning

The endless howls of the sand filled the ears of the team, with occasional beastly cries that made their hearts skip a beat. They subconsciously tensed.

Not only were they up against the agitated demon creatures that were attracted by the device, there was a chance that they would have to face the Sandstorm Demon Locusts too! They were struggling to breathe properly under the overwhelming pressure.

"They are coming, at least two hundred of them. They are coming through the opening!" Zhang Xiaohou warned.

"What are they?" Mu Nujiao asked.

"Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards! There must be a den nearby. The whole den of the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards is coming!" Zhang Xiaohou exclaimed.

"Those creatures are quite tricky to deal with. Their bodies are covered in aquamarine armor, and their tails are deadlier and more powerful than normal snakes and scorpions. They are of the Earth Element, too. They can control sand and rocks, and their strength surpasses most creatures!" Ge Ming said.

The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards were an all-rounder species. They had no clear weaknesses. Demon creatures of this kind would usually pose a great threat to Mages. Once they broke the team's formation, everyone on the team would be in danger!

"Leader, it's not looking good!" another Hunter with the Wind Element returned with a grim look.

"There are demon creatures coming from your direction too?" Ge Ming asked.

“Not at the moment, but I discovered a huge den nearby. I believe once the energy ripples extend further away, the entire den is going to show up. We won’t stand a chance against them!” the Hunter swore.

“How many?” Ge Ming asked.

“At least a thousand, Captain...”

“They haven’t moved yet, right?” Ge Ming asked.

“Yeah, but they are starting to get restless.”

“Lu Fang, I’m placing you in charge here. I’ll find a way to stop the demon creatures of the bigger den! A thousand Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards will likely overrun us. We can’t afford to attract them here!” Ge Ming said.

“Captain, how are we supposed to hold our ground if you aren’t with us? We don’t have much energy left!” Li Sichong protested.

Ge Ming did not waste any more time. The whole team had no chance of living if the demon creatures of the other den showed up too. He had to stop them at all costs!

Ge Ming was a Super Mage. He would not have any problem luring the den of demon creatures away. However, the team immediately felt uneasy after Ge Ming left. It was going to be difficult to fend off the creatures of the first den!

Preceded by a few yowls and cries, a few creatures whose bodies glittered with aquamarine light showed up in the opening between the hills. They were not sprinting toward the team, but approaching slowly instead.

The creatures let out a few roars after they discovered the humans. They were summoning their comrades, telling them that they had found some delicious food!

Not long after, more creatures resembling leopards covered in aquamarine armor showed up at the opening, and atop the hills too. They were fully covered in armor, with spikes like sharp fangs on their backs. The starving creatures set their eyes on their prey greedily!

Their tails were long, like whips made of steel rings connected together. The tips of their tails were a half-meter long stinger, poised like a sharp blade!

“Aren’t there a bit too many of them?” Wang Jiuming blurted out when he saw more demon creatures showing up in the distance.

“Those without energy, move to the back and protect yourselves now,” Lu Fang ordered.

“Zheng Tong, it’s all you now,” Xu Pingdong said.

The only people with full energy on the team were Mo Fan, Zheng Tong, Tong Zhuang, and Yang Bao. They stood in front of the team.

They had to defend the entrance of the valley. They could not afford to let the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards get too close to the team. Most of their members were running low on energy. Once they lost their formation, there would be lots of casualties!

“Yang Bao, take care of those on the hills. Tong Zhuang and I will watch the entrance. As for you, you better stay at the back of the team. I don’t want Leader to blame us for not taking care of you,” Zheng Tong said.

Zheng Tong and Tong Zhuang took a few steps forward before Mo Fan could say a word.

Zheng Tong’s primary Element was Fire. Normally, a fighter would have either the Fire Element or the Lightning Element as their primary Element.

He crossed his arms in front of his chest. A green fire slowly rose and gradually split into huge fireballs.

It was like the green fireballs were able to lock onto their enemies. They autonomously targeted the nearby Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards without needing Zheng Tong’s direction!

Tong Zhuang was a Curse Mage. He was already setting up traps using the Curse Element in their surroundings. The crimson red spiderwebs soon covered the entrance of the valley. A few Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards leading the way stumbled into the traps and died in an instant!

The souls of the demon creatures that the traps retrieved were converted into some energy collected by a necklace in Tong Zhuang’s hand that resembled prayer beads. After Tong Zhuang let out a furious cry, the energy spread across the place, implanting fear into the hearts of the demon creatures. They fled as the mist fell across them!

Mo Fan glanced at the Curse Mage in astonishment. It turned out that the man was the strongest Mage on the team, apart from the leader, Ge Ming. The man had been rather quiet along the journey, which once again proved that the hounds that bit rarely barked... ugh, the analogy was not really appropriate under the circumstances...

Zheng Tong’s fireballs soon made some contributions. The flames burned two Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards to death, while forming a wall of fire to stop the demon creatures from coming closer.

The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards sent out as vanguards realized the humans were not easy prey. They roared into the sky.

The roars of the demon creatures echoed across the hills. The team heard more cries coming from the distance as the ground began to shake vigorously.

“Another den is coming!” Zhang Xiaohou, who was scouting from the air, warned the team.

“We’ll kill every single one of them! Humph, that’s all these Scorpion Leopards have!” Zheng Tong declared.

Zheng Tong had managed to kill the demon creatures before he even cast an Advanced Spell, implying that the creatures were not as strong as they initially thought. It was likely that the information they had was not accurate!

More Scorpion Leopards soon showed up in front of the team. Mo Fan immediately noticed that these demon creatures were different than the ones that showed up previously. Not only was their armor more reflective, each of them had three tails too!

One of the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards with three tails set its eyes on Zheng Tong. The cunning creature attacked while Zheng Tong was focused on attacking a bunch of Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards. The man was taken by surprise when a sharp, green light slashed in his direction.

Luckily, Zheng Tong was an experienced Hunter. He immediately used his secondary Element to summon a Water Barrier in front of him.

The defense of the Water Barrier was not too impressive. Zheng Tong still ended up being knocked flying for ten meters!

He quickly rose to his feet and glared at the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard with three tails.

“Son of a b**ch, I’ll kill you!” Zheng Tong yelled. He lifted two spouts of flames in his hands and sent them into the sky.

The flames turned into a rain of fire pouring down rapidly across the place. It immediately turned the area into an ocean of fire.

The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard with three tails had nowhere to run to. Its armor began to crack open in the flames.

“Humph, how weak!” Zheng Tong sneered.

The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard with three tails soon turned into a scorched corpse on the ground. Zheng Tong turned around to the team and said, “I’ve taken out their leader, we shouldn’t have any problem cleaning up the rest.”

“What leader?” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“Zheng Tong, watch out!” Lu Fang yelled.

Zheng Tong was startled. He quickly turned around and saw more than ten Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards with three tails making their way toward him. Their tails swung wildly and produced sharp clanks as they collided with one another!

They all had three tails!

These Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards seemed a lot stronger than the ones before, especially with how the creatures could swing their tails as they pleased. The tails would follow up every attack that the creatures executed by stabbing at their enemy quickly. The tails were so fast that it was extremely difficult to see them clearly, let alone dodge them!

Zheng Tong had a blank face. Could it be that these creatures were the real Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards?

The ones that he killed with such ease previously were only their children!?

Zheng Tong had to use an Advanced Spell just to kill a single Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard with three tails. How was he supposed to handle fifteen of them on his own?

Yang Bao, who was at the higher ground, suddenly screamed, "Help, help me!"

Zheng Tong was already in a pinch himself. He did not have time to look after Yang Bao.

Tong Zhuang frowned when he saw Yang Bao fending off thirty Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards on his own. He quickly moved toward Yang Bao to lend him a hand.

A black lightning bolt suddenly descended from the sky and struck an Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard trying to ambush Tong Zhuang. The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard with three tails died instantly. Its armor and flesh were shredded beyond recognition!

Tong Zhuang halted in his tracks. He was so eager to lend Yang Bao a hand that he had been totally unaware of the cunning creature hidden in the sand dune behind him.

However, he was actually surprised that the lightning bolt had managed to kill the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard instantly! Zheng Tong had to use an Advanced Spell to kill the same creature just then!

"Thanks!" Tong Zhuang said to Mo Fan.

"You and Yang Bao will defend the hills, leave the entrance to me," Mo Fan said.

"Not a problem," Tong Zhuang nodded. His thoughts were still occupied by the lightning bolt...

Wasn't that Thunderbolt a little too strong to be true? Why did he feel like it was almost as strong as an Advanced Spell?

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1210: The Man with the Firepower of a Team

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Mo Fan walked up to the entrance and saw more than forty Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards on the move and moving rapidly. Some were flanking Zheng Tong, and some were charging at the team behind.

"Zheng Tong is being overrun!" Lu Fang said.

"We have to back off now. We have to maintain our formation," Li Sichong said.

"Don't worry, just hold your ground and focus on setting up your defense. Leave the rest to Mo Fan," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Are you kidding me? There are at least fifty Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards coming at us! Even Zheng Tong and Tong Zhuang didn't manage to stop them. How could he possibly hold the demon creatures off by himself?" Lu Fang half-screamed.

Just as Lu Fang finished his sentence, he saw a stormy cloud loom over the sand dune with a deep rumble. A shocking lightning claw swept down, disintegrating more than ten Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards in an instant. Their blood splattered in the air.

The eyes of Lu Fang, Li Sichong, Xu Pingdong, and the others widened, their faces filled with astonishment!

The dark lightning claw was made up of extremely powerful lightning bolts. It had killed the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards in an instant!

A burned smell lingered in the air. Zheng Tong subconsciously turned around and stared at Mo Fan in astonishment...

-Was he the one that summoned the lightning claw?

1

-Did he seriously kill so many Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards with just a single move?-

“Holy crap, is he even human!?” Li Sichong exclaimed.

It took Zheng Tong and Tong Zhuang significant effort just to kill a single Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopard, but Mo Fan had simply killed a bunch of them with a single spell. Those struck by his lightning stood no chance at all. Words were not needed to describe the difference in their strength.

“Lightning Tyrant Domain!”

Mo Fan did not waste any more time. He immediately established his Domain when he saw the rest of the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards surrounding him.

Lightning Magic was plentiful within his Domain, allowing Mo Fan to cast his Lightning Spells even faster. When the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards gathered around him boldly, Mo Fan raised his head and looked up at the sky. Countless lightning strikes came down and surged across the area!

1

The lightning danced wildly. Every time a lightning strike struck the ground, it would further split into different lightning arcs. The lightning chains stacked on top of one another, forming a powerful lightning web spreading rapidly across the sand and the dunes...

The fifth-tier Thunderbolt worked perfectly in a situation like this. Mo Fan forcibly impeded the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards with his Lightning. The lightning arcs surged back and forth between the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards like whips!

With a huge blast, hundreds of yellow lightning bolts descended rapidly from the sky above Mo Fan, landing on the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards that had been tagged with marks. The Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards were severely injured after the first wave of lightning strikes, and were turned into scattering ashes, not a single corpse being left behind!

The people of the Golden Battle Hunters opened their eyes and mouths wide. Their team was in danger of being surrounded by demon creatures just a moment ago, but not a single demon creature remained after the spectacular lightning display.

Zheng Tong, Tong Zhuang, and Yang Bao were struggling to handle thirty Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards on their own, yet this young man had killed more than fifty Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards with his lightning alone. Was he a monster!?

—

Zheng Tong, Tong Zhuang, and Yang Bao stood on the hills, preventing the demon creatures from slipping through their perimeter. Meanwhile, the others were trying their best to recover their energy. However, their eyes were still glued to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan stood at the entrance. He had yet to use his other Elements, and he rarely used the Advanced Lightning Spell, either. The lightning surging around wildly was just too much for the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards, even when they were fully covered in armor. They stood no chance against Mo Fan's Lightning Tyrant, which was twelve times stronger than an ordinary Lightning Spell!

Soon, Mo Fan had basically wiped out an entire leap of Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards. Zheng Tong was still in the middle of a battle, yet the number of demon creatures he had killed was nothing compared to Mo Fan!

"Why do I feel like he can easily take on them all by himself? So this is how strong the champion of the World College Tournament is? He's an alien!" Li Sichong was amazed.

2

This young man was around ten, twenty years younger than them! He was just too strong! He had butchered the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards like they were mere cattle.

The others finally realized why Zhang Xiaohou, Mu Nujiao, Jiang Shaoxu, and the others were sticking close to him. The man's firepower was equivalent to an entire team!

"Come back here, I'll treat your injuries," Li Sichong said.

"I'm fine, check on the others. The venom on the stingers is quite deadly. It's necessary to treat their wounds now," Mo Fan said.

The team had wiped out both dens of the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards. Mo Fan had killed most of them, since he was able to kill every demon creature caught by his Lightning. If the team had not seen how much Zheng Tong and the others were struggling, they would have assumed that the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards were just Servant-class creatures!

"How impressive, you don't even have a single scratch on you... I saw that you used mostly Intermediate Spells too, so I bet you didn't even expend much energy, right?" Lu Fang had a whole new level of respect for Mo Fan. He was utterly impressed.

The man was so strong at such a young age! It suddenly felt embarrassing how highly the older Hunters had thought of themselves.

Lu Fang was not feeling too bad, but Zheng Tong's expression was as gloomy as could be. They might have resolved the danger, but somehow, he felt even worse than when he was surrounded by the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards!

He had been mocking Mo Fan for not contributing constantly along the journey.

It was obvious why Mo Fan had not contributed along the journey. He was a fighter. He had a poor sense of direction, so he could not really help with navigation. Ge Ming was commanding the team, Zhang Xiaohou was in charge of reconnaissance. There was basically nothing for him to do.

However, the aged Hunters were utterly dumbfounded as soon as he started contributing. Somehow, they felt like even their leader Ge Ming would not be able to kill the demon creatures so quickly!

"Brother Mo Fan, we actually didn't agree with the leader taking you guys on the team, but it turns out that each one of you is an expert in your field. Please forgive our ignorance," Lu Fang said with a smile.

"It's true that most students from institutes didn't have much practical experience. It's reasonable for you to reject us in the first place," Mo Fan smiled back. He was in a good mood after seeing how the attitude of the team had shifted all of a sudden.

Didn't he keep quiet for so long just so he could give them such a huge surprise, after all?

As a matter of fact, Mo Fan was a Hunter Master himself. His rank was even higher than some of the Hunters on the team. Lingling, whom the Hunters thought was just a little girl, might even have the highest rank on the team!

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Another group of demon creatures showed up after the team managed to get some rest. However, these demon creatures were weaker than the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards, and they were even fewer in number. Mo Fan gladly claimed their Soul Remnants.

This time, Yang Bao and Tong Zhuang did not bother helping considering how slow they were at killing the demon creatures. They simply stayed with the team to rest up, to preparing themselves for the Commander-level creatures they might stumble into.

Zheng Tong was unwilling to accept his defeat. He even used his Advanced Spells a few times, yet they were still less efficient than Mo Fan's fifth-tier Thunderbolt: Lightning Chain, and the following-up Tyrant Call. It was a great blow to Zheng Tong's dignity!

The spells of each level were around ten times stronger than the spells of the previous level, and might be bigger, depending on the Elements. However, Zheng Tong was devastated when he learned that the Intermediate Spells of the man he looked down on turned out to be equivalent to his Advanced Spell. He had the urge to forfeit his cultivation!

Zheng Tong was completely worn out from the fight, yet Mo Fan looked as if he had just taken a stroll in the park. He had resolved the danger with his destructive Lightning, and did not even need to use his other Elements.

"Is everyone alright?" The team heard Ge Ming's voice behind them.

Ge Ming regrouped with the team. He was actually feeling uneasy when he saw the strange looks on his members' faces. Could it be that they had lost someone again?

"Leader, where did you meet this young man? He single-handedly annihilated the demon creatures! We didn't even need to do anything. We thought it was going to be a tough battle, but we ended up sitting here and enjoying a sunbath," Tong Zhuang spoke up.

Ge Ming was utterly relieved when he realized that there were no casualties. He looked at Mo Fan, who was taking out the remaining demon creatures.

Ge Ming had never seen Mo Fan in action. He did not watch the World College Tournament either, but judging from the remains of the demon creatures destroyed by the young man's Lightning, he could easily tell how outstanding his strength was!

"We almost fell into the Black Vatican's trap last time. It was Brother Mo Fan that saved us," Ge Ming said.

"I remember now! Didn't the President of the Clock Tower Magic Association announce some news recently? Don't tell me he was referring to this young man?" Lu Fang blurted out as he recalled something.

"Yeah, that's him," Ge Ming nodded.

"Heavens, why didn't you tell us earlier?!"

"I thought you already knew..."

"Why would we? We never cared about those things. We were too occupied with killing demon creatures!"

"No wonder he's so strong! With him on the team, our journey is going to be a lot safer... but I never thought he was this young, I'm starting to feel ashamed of myself!"

Most people were struggling against the demon creatures, as their energy had depleted, yet Mo Fan's team-equivalent firepower was just too unbelievable. They had seen many Advanced Mages with Domains too, yet none of them were as strong as Mo Fan!

"Mu Nujiao, do you feel like Mo Fan is a lot stronger than he was during the tournament?" Jiang Shaoxu asked.

Mu Nujiao nodded back. They were both familiar with Mo Fan's strength, yet the strength that he had displayed had exceeded their expectations once again...

"I bet the base damage of his Lightning has increased a lot after the Blessing of the God's Seal... somehow, I feel like his Lightning is already beyond the potency of a Soul-grade Seed," Jiang Shaoxu murmured.

"Indeed!"