

Versatile 1211

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1211: The Buried Eleven Years

The data collecting was carried out smoothly. The team soon had a map of the area within five kilometers.

Mo Fan glanced at Lingling's tablet and saw densely scattered purple dots on the verge of turning black behind the team. The number of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts had reached an unimaginable level!

"Hurry up, they are getting closer!" Ge Ming ordered, glancing at the cloud of Sandstorm Demon Locusts behind them.

The team quickly figured out the safe path with the help of the map.

Everyone picked up their pace. Even though the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were not necessarily heading in their direction, the calamity they brought would surely cover a wide area. If they failed to leave the area in time, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were going to devour them, and not leave a single bone behind!

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After traveling for three kilometers, a gust of hot wind blew at the team. The heat was unbearable.

When they looked behind, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts had overrun the area they were in previously. It turned out that the creatures had little interest in the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards. Their armor somehow served as a protection for the Leopards from the other species, which explained why the Aquamarine Armor Scorpion Leopards had such overwhelming numbers.

The temperature of the desert kept rising. Every sand particle was scorching hot. It felt like the team was standing in a furnace. It was torture!

The heat was just too intolerable, and the Ice and Water Mages had to constantly cast their Basic Spells to help the members cooled down. The Water Mages and Ice Mages were constantly expending energy, meaning that their energy would eventually deplete too!

"We should be very close to the relay station. There used to be some Hunters stationed there, but it has been over ten years since anyone last came here. The path is crawling with demon creatures and filled with danger. The relay station is basically non-existent," Ge Ming said.

"We should set up a flag there, still. If we don't leave our signs, doesn't that mean the whole world is under the reign of the demon creatures?"

"It should be just ahead," Tong Li told them. Tong Li was extremely familiar with exploring a desert, able to detect things that were buried under the sand.

The team continued along the safe path. They would be able to get some rest once they reached the relay station in the oasis. After all, a place chosen to build a relay station at was surely not as hot, and there would be plants and a water supply too.

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The relay station was built with rocks. Half of it was covered in sand when the team saw it from a distance. They also noticed some wooden structures outside. The roofs were less than half a meter above the surface.

Tong Li quickly explored the place as soon as he arrived. He seemed like he was looking for something in particular.

There was no sign of any demon creatures in the relay station. The oasis consisted of a little shrub of tenacious plants too, smaller than a little park in a city. As such, it did not help much with the heat.

“Mo Fan, the Burning Mountains aren’t too far from here. The temperature here is abnormal,” Lingling told him quietly.

Lingling had been taking readings along the journey. Using the Elemental Detector was not an option, but it using a normal thermometer was fine. The gusts of hot wind were blowing from the north of the relay station. It was likely that they were getting closer to the Burning Mountains that the old Hunter mentioned.

“Mm,” Mo Fan nodded. He called Zhang Xiaohou over and said, “Houzi, check if there’s anything in the north. Try to stay at a safe distance.”

“Alright, Brother Fan. Are we going separate ways?” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“They are likely to head west, since they are on an expedition. It only makes sense if they keep venturing deeper into the desert. This relay station was once an outpost for the Hunters and the military, so they haven’t really done any exploring,” Mo Fan said.

“I’m not too tired. I guess I’ll investigate the north now,” Zhang Xiaohou agreed.

“Alright, be careful,” Mo Fan told him.

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Zhang Xiaohou headed north while the others were resting at the relay station. He did not fly, since it was unwise to do so in a desert.

After moving a kilometer away from the relay station, Zhang Xiaohou discovered that the ground was no longer covered in sand, but deep-colored rocks. The rocks had cracks from being burned at a high temperature. He could see faint sprouts of flames bursting out from the cracks too.

Zhang Xiaohou was overjoyed when he saw the flames. It seemed like they had come to the right place!

The place was most likely a rare Fire Elemental Sacred Land if it was the reason the temperature of the desert was so high. A place like this was a natural workshop of Soul Seeds, and usually had quite a

number of them lying around. They were going to make a fortune if they had actually discovered an Elemental Sacred Land!

“Why is there a cave here? Is it occupied by some kind of demon creatures?” Zhang Xiaohou climbed up the rocks and saw a little cave opposite the direction of the relay station.

The cave was not deep. It did not seem like the den of some enormous demon creature. Zhang Xiaohou went inside and saw a beast hide spread across the ground with some overcooked food on it. There were also rusted tools like knives, flints, pots...

While Zhang Xiaohou was wondering if the tools were left behind from the relay station by the Hunters that were stationed there, he felt an outstanding heat approaching from behind.

-Danger!-

Zhang Xiaohou quickly dodged aside, and saw a fireball fly past and slam into the wall of the cave. It blasted a few rocks to pieces.

Zhang Xiaohou turned around and saw a tanned man wearing a pair of pants made of beast hide standing outside the cave. His body was covered in hair and he had a long beard. Only his eyes, which were like those of a beast, were visible as the man glared at Zhang Xiaohou.

The light of the fireball had lit up the cave. The man was stunned when he was able to take a clearer look at Zhang Xiaohou.

“A...a human?” the man was stuttering, as if he had forgotten how to speak.

“Who are you? Why are you living here!?” Zhang Xiaohou was shocked.

He immediately realized someone was living in the cave after he saw the tools scattered across the place.

“I...I...you...I...I’m a...soldier...I’ve...I’ve been living...” The man was struggling to speak, as if it had been a long time since he last said anything.

After some time, the man went into the cave and dug up a badge. He showed it to Zhang Xiaohou.

Zhang Xiaohou saluted when he saw the badge. “So you are a soldier!”

The man shuddered when he saw Zhang Xiaohou saluting. He raised his hand and returned the salute.

“How long have you been trapped here?” Zhang Xiaohou looked at the man curiously.

“I...I don’t know...” the man shook his head.

“This place has been off-limits for eleven years. Does that mean you have been living here for eleven years!?” Zhang Xiaohou asked in amazement.

The man suddenly burst out in tears!

Chapter 1212: The Burning Mountains

Zhang Xiaohou brought the man back to the team. The man seemed a little cautious when he saw so many people had gathered around him. His eyes were scanning the people like a wary beast.

“His name is Lin Feili, he seems to be a soldier who has failed to retreat in time around ten years ago. The return path was blocked off by the sand and the demon creatures, so he was stranded here for many years,” Zhang Xiaohou said, briefly explaining the situation to the team.

Everyone was astounded when they learned the man had been living in the desert for eleven years. How unyielding was this man? Loneliness was the hardest thing to overcome as a human being. Most people would suffer mental breakdowns if they were isolated for three months. Those that were isolated for a year would begin to have suicidal thoughts, yet the man had been living in the desert alone for eleven years. They were utterly impressed by his man’s tenacity, not to mention that he survived in the territory of the demon creatures too!

“Feili, you’re Lin Feili! Do you recognize me? I’m Tong Li, Qin Xiaoyu’s brother. Lin Feili, I’ve lost contact with my sister. Do you remember where my sister Qin Xiaoyu was evacuated to? Please tell me!” Tong Li burst into tears when he heard the man’s name. He grabbed Lin Feili’s arm, as if he was the only hope he had found after so many years!

Lin Feili shook his arm free with a hostile look. The man seemed to have lost some rationality as a human after living in the desert for so long. He was easily spooked by the slightest movement around him.

“Tong Li, don’t irritate him. He seems to be suffering from some mental instability. I can help him recover with the Psychic Element,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“Sorry, I’m sorry, I’m just too excited! My sister’s disappearance has been bothering me for so long, but I never had the chance to come to this place to search for her. I finally had the chance thanks to you all...” Tong Li said.

“So that’s why you were so eager to come with us, but eleven years have passed since then. It’s going to be difficult to find her,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“The third year after I joined the army, my sister and her squadron received the order to patrol the area. The desert was not as dangerous back then as it is now. They were transporting goods between the relay station and the military base too. However, they lost contact with the relay station, and my sister has been missing since then, too...” Tong Li sighed.

The team listened to Tong Li as he shared his past.

The relay station at the oasis was once called the Taklamakan Relay Station. It used to be at the scale of a little town. The black rocks that were burned at a high temperature contained Black Rock Pistil, an important material for construction. Many cities in the west were built with rocks containing the Black Rock Pistil. It allowed Mages to construct buildings easily, as Black Rock Pistil contained an abundant supply of the Earth Element.

The Black Rock Pistil was the main reason why the Taklamakan Relay Station was extremely important in the past. The place would be garrisoned by soldiers, and Hunters would come to the relay station before entering the mysterious desert full of treasure waiting to be discovered.

However, on a certain day, a huge sandstorm took place in the Taklamakan Desert. The wind was strong enough to move sand dunes. The relay station was buried by the sand in a single night. The safe area ended up becoming a part of the demon creatures' territory!

The soldiers and the Hunters at the Taklamakan Relay Station all went missing, and Tong Li's sister, Qin Xiaoyu, was one of the victims. Tong Li could not get over it even after so many years. He finally gathered his courage and volunteered to join the team when he heard Ge Ming and his team were planning an expedition in the desert.

He knew it was unlikely that he would find his sister, but at least he had tried!

"I've calmed him down and helped to restore his memories. He should recover soon," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"He's very familiar with the area. Perhaps he can bring us to the Burning Mountains?" Zhang Xiaohou asked.

The Burning Mountains were still a certain distance away from the relay station. It was impossible to tell how long it would take them to find the right place, since they only had the temperature as a guide. Spending an extra day in the desert meant placing themselves at a greater risk.

"How...how did you all come in here?" Lin Feili was more fluent after Jiang Shaoxu's help.

"How else could we possibly come in here? We just forced our way in, but it was a hell of a journey. We almost died on our way here. I really can't believe this area was once safe ten years ago!" Lu Fang answered.

"Lin Feili, you aren't weak, why didn't you try and leave this place?" Mo Fan asked curiously.

"I...I don't know either, maybe... maybe I've already gotten used to it, or maybe... I don't know, I can't remember," Lin Feili said.

Mo Fan looked at Jiang Shaoxu. She quickly explained, "He must have suffered a serious shock before. It's the best I can do to restore his memories, but I can't help him remember the things that he forgot in order to protect himself."

"Lin Feili, do you remember my sister?" Tong Li asked.

"A little, but...but I think she's dead," Lin Feili said.

"Did she escape from the relay station with the others?" Tong Li's voice was aggravated.

"I...I don't really remember." Lin Feili shook his head.

"Tong Li, give him some time. I know you just want some answers, since you already know there's no chance your sister is still alive," Ge Ming said.

Tong Li let out a sigh. He did not ask any further questions.

“A Senior Hunter who passed by here years ago mentioned that there were some Burning Mountains in this desert. Do you know where they are?” Mo Fan asked impatiently. The information was extremely important to resurrect Little Flame Belle!

It was extremely rare to find a Fire Element Sacred Ground, which meant it was extremely difficult to fulfill the conditions in order to resurrect Little Flame Belle. Mo Fan would have to search for other places if the Burning Mountains were not the right place, which would mean he had no idea when he would be able to resurrect Little Flame Belle!

“The mountains are in that direction. They are blazing red at night.” Lin Feili pointed to the north.

“Can you bring us there? I’ve briefly investigated the terrain. It feels like a natural maze, the kind that is difficult to pass through even if we keep heading in one direction,” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

“Sure,” Lin Feili said. However, he shuddered and put on a strange look all of a sudden.

Zhang Xiaohou thought the man had just remembered something. However, the man remained silent and pointed ahead. “Come with me.”

“I’m actually quite interested in the Burning Mountains that you mentioned. Since we are just wandering around aimlessly, we might as well check out the Burning Mountains too, perhaps we can find something interesting there!” Tong Zhuang said.

The others nodded. If they were able to find the Burning Mountains, it meant there might be some impressive loot of the Fire Element there. They had come so far, they would not want to go back empty-handed.

“Should we stick together then? We can help each other out too,” Ge Ming said.

“Sure, I won’t need to worry much with you around,” Mo Fan agreed.

Mo Fan could still take on Commander-level creatures, but he was worried that they might stumble into Ruler-level creatures. His Demon Element was still on cooldown; if they happened to stumble into a Ruler-level creature, the whole team was going to die without the help of a Super Mage.

The team was well-rested. They had honed their strength for the upcoming danger. It was time for them to proceed on their journey!

The journey ahead consisted of black rocks and sand dunes. The team did find some magic ores that they could sell for some money. The members picked the magic ores up along the way. Only a place with a high temperature like this, where even the demon creatures did not dare to roam around, would have magic ores or Soul Seed Pieces lying scattered across the ground.

The temperature had risen significantly. Every member of the team was drenched in sweat. It was already midnight, yet the heat showed no sign of dropping.

Mo Fan lifted his gaze and discovered the place ahead was covered in darkness. The ground was dark, and the sky was pitch-black without a single star.

When Mo Fan took a closer look, he finally realized that he was not looking at the night sky, but a mountain so big that it completely blocked the sky. He immediately felt a great pressure!

“Such a ridiculous mountain!” Zhang Xiaohou gasped.

“Strange, we should be able to see the mountain from the relay station considering how big it is, but why did we only see it when we are so close to it?” Mu Nujiao asked.

“It’s most likely because of the maze. It’s messing with our senses.”

For some reason, the heat was not as unbearable when they reached the mountain.

Lin Feili raised his head and looked into the sky. He then looked at the mountain top and said, “It’s coming.”

“What is?” Mo Fan asked. As soon as he spoke, a sprout of flame brighter than the stars in the sky suddenly lit up at the peak of the magnificent mountain. It spread rapidly across the outline of the mountain and soon covered an area of ten kilometers. It was basically highlighting the outline of the mountain with flames!

The fire had appeared so suddenly that before the team could react, an ocean of flames filled their vision. Their eyes hurt from the bright flames even after they shifted their gazes away.

The team was struggling to see the mountain, as it was pitch-black previously. However, as the flames lit up the mountain, the team was able to see its true appearance. Its imperiousness and scorching heat left the whole team greatly astonished.

When the flames lit up the sky, the team was surprised to hear the noise of wings beating at high frequency from all directions.

“Look, it’s the Sandstorm Demon Locusts!” Zhang Xiaohou suddenly pointed to the other side of the sky.

The Sandstorm Demon Locusts showed up like a cloud of dust. To their astonishment, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were diving right at the Burning Mountains!

Chapter 1213: The Buried Relay Station?

“What are they doing? Are they just trying to kill themselves?” Zhang Xiaohou asked in confusion.

“It must be some kind of a ritual. The flames always summon the Sandstorm Magic Locusts here. It’s as if they are trying to be reborn in the flames,” Lin Feili told them.

“The hell?”

While they were speaking, the team saw the Sandstorm Demon Locusts diving into the flames. Their bodies and wings were soon set aflame by the scorching heat.

As the Sandstorm Demon Locusts ventured deeper, more of them were devoured by the flames.

The flames continued to spread among the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Those with their wings burned to ashes started pouring down on the mountain like rain.

Soon after, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were lighting up the sky like fireworks as the rain of flames poured down. It lit up the sky in the desert like magic.

The only difference was, these fireworks actually consisted of thousands of Sandstorm Demon Locusts that had just shown up not long ago. The thought of it sent shivers down the spines of the team.

“So this is their ritual? Jumping into a burning pit?” Jiang Shaoxu wondered.

The abnormal scene lasted for around an hour. The team could not help but be amazed by the number of Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Despite the overwhelming flames burning across the mountain, it still took such a long time to burn all the Sandstorm Demon Locusts to ashes.

The ashes of the insects scattered across the sky. The flames on the mountain eventually died down, too.

The team only dared to go closer after the flames disappeared. Lin Feili led the team toward the mountain’s top along a meandering path.

“I’m not sure when it all started, but every night, these Sandstorm Demon Locusts will come and set themselves on fire. They are fearless and reckless, as if diving into the flames is actually enjoyable for them. I have never seen a single Sandstorm Demon Locust flee because it’s scared to die,” Lin Feili told them.

“You’re telling me that the same thing actually happens every night? Wouldn’t the Sandstorm Demon Locusts be wiped out if so many of them died every single day?” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“The Burning Mountains don’t really burn all the time. I don’t know where the flames come from, but every time the mountains are set aflame, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts come here,” Lin Feili said.

“How strange!”

“Humph, what does it matter? These Sandstorm Demon Locusts have been a huge problem in the west. The lands they attacked are still barren now because of their overwhelming numbers. Shouldn’t we be glad that they are killing themselves here?” Zheng Tong said.

“You’re right! The more that die to the fire, the fewer there are to bother us!”

“I’m afraid it’s not that simple.”

The team could still feel the heat from the ground as they set foot on the mountain. It was like they were walking on a boiling pan. Soon people were struggling to keep up.

The temperature gradually increased the further they went up the mountain. Eventually, only those with the Fire Element were able to keep going.

“Brother Fan, I’m afraid we can’t go any further. It’s too hot for us,” Zhang Xiaohou said. His sweat was pouring down like rain.

Mu Nujiao, Jiang Shaoxu, and Lingling were unable to go any further. They could not withstand the heat. If they went any further, it was only a matter of time until they passed out from dehydration.

“You guys should head back to the relay station then. I’ll go ahead myself,” Mo Fan did not force the others to go with him.

Lin Feili was a Fire Mage. He told Mo Fan he should reach the top of the mountain if he stuck to the path. He might be able to find the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground there.

After Mo Fan left the team, the others had no choice but to take the same path back.

Tong Li was still preoccupied with the thoughts of his sister. He could not help but ask, “Feili, my sister mentioned in her last letter that her squadron had discovered an ore vein. She was told to guard the place. Do you know anything about the ore vein? I’m thinking of going there, perhaps I can find some clues about her whereabouts there.”

Lin Feili was obviously hesitating to answer the man’s question, especially when he mentioned the ore vein.

“I haven’t been able to sleep well these years. I just want an answer. Feili, if you know where my sister is, please tell me, even if she’s only a pile of bones now. I would like to bring her remains back to my hometown,” Tong Li said.

“Lin Feili, do you seriously not remember his sister?” Jiang Shaoxu asked.

Lin Feili remained silent for some time. He finally said, “I’ll bring you there, but just you.”

“Sure, thank you, thank you so much. My parents will feel relieved too if I can find my sister’s remains!” Tong Li blurted out in excitement.

“You...you, come with me,” Lin Feili suddenly pointed at Zhang Xiaohou.

“Me? He’s going to get his sister’s remains, why do I have to come too?...” Zhang Xiaohou was confused.

“You’re the only one I trust,” Lin Feili said.

“It’s not like Tong Li is going to do you any harm,” Zhang Xiaohou said helplessly.

“Zhang Xiaohou, just go with them, Lin Feili has been living here for too long. You can’t blame him for being overly sensitive,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“Fine.”

The others had returned to the relay station to plan their next path deeper into the desert. Meanwhile, Zhang Xiaohou, Lin Feili, and Tong Li went to the mountain of black rocks. It was where Zhang Xiaohou had first met Lin Feili.

The three picked up their pace and soon arrived at the cave where Lin Feili was living.

“Why are we here?” Zhang Xiaohou was utterly confused.

Lin Feili went to a corner in the cave and pushed aside a huge rock blocking the path.

Zhang Xiaohou only realized the path was there after the rock was pushed aside. He could not even see the end of the tunnel.

The three ventured deeper into the darkness. Lin Feili seemed extremely familiar with the place. He clearly knew the directions even though the place was pitch-black.

After walking for half an hour, the path started heading upward. The three left the cave and found themselves in a basin surrounded by black mountains.

The place was enclosed by the cliffs of the black mountains. The mountains were preventing the wind from blowing the sand in. The basin felt like a secluded place, separated from the desert.

“She was buried here...” Lin Feili pointed at a pile of rocks and sand.

Tong Li was startled. His eyes soon reddened. It had been so many years. Despite the sorrow, the man was utterly relieved that he had managed to find his sister’s remains.

“Can I take her?” Tong Li asked.

“Sure.”

Tong Li moved the stones away and discovered the remains of a person with a smaller bone structure underneath them. He carefully retrieved the bones and placed them in a bag.

“Tong Li, where are you from? It seems like your hometown has the tradition of burying the dead in the place they were born. You risked your life to come here for the sake of it. You are a good man,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“My parents strongly believe that my sister’s soul isn’t going to find peace, since she died in the wild. Commander Zhang, our family will be remembering the dead in a few days. I was hoping to find my sister’s remains before that, so she wouldn’t become a lost soul. I guess I will have to leave soon,” Tong Li said.

“That quick?” Zhang Xiaohou was startled.

“Yeah, our family holds the ritual once every four years. Those that died away from home must return before the ritual, or they will have to wait another four years. I’m not sure if I can make it in time either, but I can’t just leave my sister’s remains here,” Tong Li said.

“But the others aren’t planning to go back yet.”

“We already put some markers down along the way back, so I can just follow the markers. The only problem is the sand river, but luckily, my secondary Element is the Wind Element. I should be able to look after myself. I wasn’t expecting much at the start, but you were able to find Lin Feili. Brother Lin Feili, thank you so much!” Tong Li said.

“I have been talking to her over the years. It’s good that you’re bringing her back. I believe she prefers to go back to her hometown,” Lin Feili said.

Zhang Xiaohou was startled, but he soon realized something.

Lin Feili must have come here quite often to talk to the graves. However, Zhang Xiaohou was still confused about one thing. Why was Lin Feili still living here on his own, instead of trying to leave the desert? Did he have some other reasons?

Tong Li left by himself. Zhang Xiaohou felt a surge of emotions watching the man leave. The man had put his life at risk just so he could bury his sister back in his hometown.

“Commander Zhang, where are you from?” Lin Feili asked. He was becoming more fluent.

“From the south, I’m from Bo City,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Why are you here in the west?” Lin Feili asked.

“To gain some knowledge and experience. How about you? Why did you choose to stay?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

“I was told to guard this place,” Lin Feili said.

“An order?” Zhang Xiaohou was startled.

Lin Feili nodded.

“You almost forgot who you are. Why would you still care about the order? The person that gave you the order might even be dead by now,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“He’s already dead, and I should have died here too, but...” Lin Feili paused in the middle of the sentence. He was glancing around the spacious basin.

“Is there something else here? I feel like you’re quite mindful of it,” Zhang Xiaohou asked indifferently.

“Mm, I’m only alive because I didn’t want the truth to be hidden...”

“The truth?” Zhang Xiaohou asked confusedly.

“Do you really think that the relay station was gone because of a sandstorm?” Lin Feili asked.

“Wasn’t it?”

Lin Feili had a wry smile, but his eyes gradually filled with hatred.

“What happened?” Zhang Xiaohou knew something was not right. His voice was serious.

Lin Feili shook his head, and did not answer the question.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1214: Little Flame Belle’s Resurrection

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If the heat was strong enough for Mo Fan to feel it, it indicated that the temperature on the mountain was incredibly high.

Mo Fan slowly made his way up toward the top of the mountain along the meandering path. He had yet to reach the tallest peak, but he had made it to the mountain top.

The sand of the desert was nowhere to be seen at this height, as it was impossible for the wind to blow the sand so high up. The mountain's top consisted of solid rocks burned continuously by the fire. Soul Seed Pieces were scattered across the place too. Mo Fan did not hesitate to pick them up. He could definitely feed them to Little Flame Belle!

The quality of the Soul Seed Pieces here was rather impressive. He believed Little Flame Belle would enjoy them.

"Do I just wait for the fire here?" Mo Fan sat down on a stone and started to wonder.

Mo Fan would have to stay to see if the fire was able to help Little Flame Belle to be reborn. He could not tell if his demon flesh would be able to withstand the heat of the fire.

"I'll just wait. It's not easy coming up here. Besides, the others should be fine at the relay station," Mo Fan murmured.

Mo Fan had already told the others that he was most likely going to wait for the fire on the mountain. Only then would Mo Fan be able to find the Sacred Ground of the Fire Element to resurrect Little Flame Belle. Mo Fan was willing to stay here for a year if need be, let alone a single day.

Mo Fan closed his eyes and started meditating. The place had an abundant supply of pure Fire Magic. The environment was significantly better than even the Three Step Tower. He could make use of the opportunity to consolidate his Fire Element!

Mo Fan threw himself into the process. He gradually forgot about time and how drenched in sweat he was.

Mo Fan opened his eyes once. The sun was still hanging high in the sky. However, the next time he opened his eyes, the sun was setting on the horizon. To his surprise, the temperature of the mountain was rising, the opposite of the setting sun.

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Time went by quickly. It was night again soon. Lin Feili told him that the whole mountain would be set ablaze at night, and the Sandstorm Demon Locusts would show up again to burn themselves to ashes.

The whole mountain turned into a sea of flames as soon as the fire showed up. Mo Fan found himself surrounded by flames that were hotter than he had expected. His demon flesh was already being blistered by the overwhelming heat!

"Are you serious? It's this strong!?" Mo Fan clenched his teeth. He suddenly felt like a little monkey that had been tossed into a furnace.

He was completely surrounded by fire. He was even struggling to open his eyes. How was he supposed to look for the source of the fire?

Mo Fan slowly moved forward. He was merely following his instincts...

"It must be here... damn it, I can't even see anything. It's nothing but fire!" Mo Fan ran through the fire. As a matter of fact, the fire had already burned his clothes to ashes, meaning that he was running naked across the mountain top!

The bunch of Sandstorm Demon Locusts suffering from 'depression' had gathered around the mountain. However, they were soon burned to ashes as their resistance to fire was nowhere close to Mo Fan's.

Mo Fan suddenly discovered an interesting phenomenon. "Mmm? The Sandstorm Demon Locusts are all flying in that direction. Are they heading toward the Elemental Sacred Ground?"

It was a living creature's nature to seek advantages. There must be something that the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were so obsessed with that they kept diving toward it recklessly.

Mo Fan followed the Sandstorm Demon Locusts and arrived at a place surrounded by enormous boulders. The fire here was pure and fierce! Mo Fan almost felt like he was going to be burned to ashes!

"This is it!" Mo Fan was overjoyed. He suddenly felt that the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were actually a bunch of cute little creatures. Otherwise, he had no idea how long it would have taken him to find the right place!

"Is there a Soul-grade Seed here?" Mo Fan was intrigued. What exactly was the source that set the mountain on fire every night? It would no doubt be treated as a spectacular attraction, if it was not so hidden away in the desert.

Mo Fan tried using his senses, but he did not detect the presence of a Soul-grade Seed.

It was very likely that the mountain had a Soul-grade Seed somewhere, but it seemed like it would be quite difficult to find where it was.

"Little Flame Belle, do you like this place?" Mo Fan held the Fire Calamity Fruit that Little Flame Belle turned into in his hands. His smile was a little twisted, as he was still being tortured by the heat.

Little Flame Belle seemed extremely fond of the place, but Mo Fan did not dare to stay any further. He quickly tossed the Fire Calamity Fruit into the Elemental Sacred Ground so Little Flame Belle could draw in as much energy as she needed for her resurrection!

Little Flame Belle was indeed a creature blessed by nature and born in fire. The Fire Calamity Fruit floated in the middle of the fire, yet the flames did not leave a single scratch on it. The tongues of fire were rapidly gathering toward Little Flame Belle!

Mo Fan could not afford to stay any longer, and quickly backed away. When he was possessed by Little Flame Belle, he had a remarkable Fire Resistance, but the cultivation of his Fire Element alone was still not enough to withstand the heat.

"Enjoy a nice bath in the hot spring, daddy can't stand the heat any longer. I'll wait outside and come pick you up when the fire is gone!" Mo Fan called out.

Mo Fan quickly left the area. He would seriously turn into a pile of ashes if he stayed any longer.

Mo Fan ran a kilometer away from the Elemental Sacred Ground. The temperature finally fell to within his acceptable range.

He took hold of the opportunity to cultivate. He didn't believe many people could meditate in fire like he did. The Demon Element had indeed granted him lots of advantages!

Mo Fan heard wings flapping just when he was just about to close his eyes.

He turned around and saw a blue-red Sandstorm Demon Locust flapping its wings on a rock nearby. It was surrounded by flames around five meters high. However, the Sandstorm Demon Locust was not burned into ashes like the rest. It seemed to have a certain resistance to fire, just like Mo Fan!

The little creature was moving clumsily. Its body was a lot smaller than a normal Sandstorm Demon Locust. It was like a little locust that was born not long ago.

"It seems to be a little mutated demon locust. Come over here, you can keep me company," Mo Fan was amused.

The Sandstorm Demon Locusts were able to withstand the outstanding heat, but they were extremely vulnerable to the flames that could easily set them all on fire in an instant and burn them to nothing. Mo Fan was surprised to find the mutated demon locust among the army of Sandstorm Demon Locusts, a mutated demon locust that was not afraid of fire!

The little locust did not seem to be afraid of humans either. It flew into the air and landed beside Mo Fan, staring at him with its big compound eyes. It was difficult to tell if it was wondering if Mo Fan could be food.

"Here, have some jerky," Mo Fan took out a piece of jerky from the storage of his Space Element and gave it to the little demon locust.

The demon locust ate the jerky instantly. If it was any slower, the jerky would be overcooked in no time.

The demon locust was not hostile to Mo Fan. Mo Fan was not interested in killing a young demon locust either. He closed his eyes to meditate, while the mutated demon locust jumped around nearby. It seemed to be learning how to fly.

1

Its wings were extremely weak. It needed to stretch its wings and recover a few times in order to fly properly.

—

The fire eventually died down, Mo Fan immediately headed over to where Little Flame Belle was, but the Fire Calamity Fruit was perfectly intact, as if she had yet to absorb enough energy from the fire.

Mo Fan had no choice. He would have to stay for another night. The only relief was, he was slowly getting used to the heat after staying in the fire for the entire night. His blistered skin fell off and was replaced by a new skin that was more resistant toward fire!

1

The mutated demon locust was following Mo Fan closely. Its eyes were flickering greedily, as if it was looking forward to eating more roast jerky...

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Mo Fan waited until it was night again patiently. He sat on a rock and waited until the mountain was devoured by the fire. The Sandstorm Demon Locusts appeared right on time, diving at the sacred ground of fire.

The little locust stood beside him. It was watching the breathtaking sight, just like Mo Fan. Perhaps the little creature was quite confused about what its people were doing. Why was it that its uncles and aunties were so weak that they all died in an instant after they were caught on fire? Didn't they feel extremely comfortable in the fire?

Mo Fan threw Little Flame Belle into the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground again. He proceeded to throw the mutated demon locust into the fire, too! However, it turned out that the mutated demon locust was unable to withstand the scorching heat.

"It seems like Little Flame Belle's level is higher!" Mo Fan burst out laughing when he saw the little demon locust fleeing for its life.

He initially thought the demon locust was immune to the fire, yet it turned out the flames would still burn it into ashes.

Mo Fan heard the sound of the Fire Calamity Fruit cracking. His heart immediately skipped a beat.

In the past, the Fiery Sorceress Jiang Feng had to pour her life into the Fire Calamity Fruit just so Little Flame Belle could be born. Mo Fan was overwhelmed with joy when he sensed the presence of Little Flame Belle gradually rising from the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground.

"Please resurrect!"

Little Flame Belle was a blessed creature born of heavenly flames. She was the only one of her kind in the world, and she could only reproduce under strict conditions. Her kind had always struggled to survive past the youth phase.

However, it was also the reason why her kind possessed overwhelming power after they reached their adult phase. Mo Fan was very much looking forward to seeing Little Flame Belle's changes after she was reborn.

Mo Fan heard a familiar cry when the Fire Calamity Fruit cracked open. A petite figure engulfed in flames flew out of it.

She was swimming freely in the fire, like a fish in the water. However, the little creature did not indulge in the moment. She quickly rammed into Mo Fan's chest and hugged him firmly.

Mo Fan was startled. Little Flame Belle had fallen right into his arms before he could take a look at her changes. How much did the little creature miss him?

Likewise, Mo Fan was not really concerned about her changes. He was only looking forward to the sense of relief when he felt the heat burning in his chest.

Mo Fan could feel Little Flame Belle's heartbeat. He could feel Xinxia's emotions from her, too!

"Let's go home!" Mo Fan eased up and hugged Little Flame Belle.

Little Flame Belle shook her head and let out a cry, as if she was telling Mo Fan, *I'm going to conquer this mountain!*

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1215: Ardent Sunset, New Soul-grade Fire!

It was quite obvious that the Burning Mountain contained an abundant supply of Fire Magic, but Mo Fan was utterly confused. How was Little Flame Belle going to conquer the mountain? Was she seriously thinking of eating the whole mountain?

Mo Fan stood to the side quietly. He saw Little Flame Belle flying into the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground that she had flown out from.

She emitted a strong aura. The mountain seemed to be shuddering after sensing her power. The flames nearby began to circle around her before entering her body.

The sea of flames was rolling fiercely. Little Flame Belle was like a bottomless hole in the middle of it, a hole that could never be filled up, even when the water of the sea was pouring straight into it!

Little Flame Belle was only absorbing the flames nearby at the start, but soon the flames across the entire mountain were slowly moving toward her. Mo Fan watched in disbelief as the endless flames surged into her tiny body in a spectacular manner.

Little Flame Belle had a huge appetite, and kept devouring the flames. She even absorbed the energy of the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground. Her body was slowly emitting the color of the rose-tinted clouds at sunset. It was beautiful, yet it also possessed an extremely dangerous aura!

"What kind of fire is that?" Mo Fan was astounded.

The color of Little Flame Belle's fire had changed. It was no longer the brown of the Fire Calamity, but a beautiful, ardent red. Mo Fan could easily tell how scorching and deadly the fire was without even touching it!

"Little Flame Belle, are you refining the fire?" Mo Fan asked.

Little Flame Belle was obviously absorbing the flames on the mountain to refine her own flames. She was not done with her rebirth, she was only just getting started!

Little Flame Belle uttered a cry. Her petite figure had the imperious aura of an empress. She was commanding the Fire Magic around her, asserting control over the fire!

The flames on the mountain were slowly extinguished, starting from the edge of the sea of fire. It was clearly not the time for the fire to disappear yet, but the fire of the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground was gradually being absorbed by Little Flame Belle. The remaining flames that were nowhere as strong or pure were treated as a whetstone by Little Flame Belle to hone her fire...

The ardent, rose-tinted light, with a gradient of light to dark, slowly merged with Little Flame Belle's body.

Little Flame Belle was originally made of fire. The ardent flames granted her an imperious demeanor. Her aura now greatly resembled the destructive aura of the Flame Belle Empress!

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Some time later, the flames on the mountain vanished completely, and the temperature on the mountain dropped too.

Little Flame Belle, engulfed in ardent flames, flew out of the Elemental Sacred Ground. She had a big satisfied smile on her face.

"What is the fire that you've refined?" Mo Fan asked.

Little Flame Belle was eager to show off her new power too. She summoned an ardent fireball and tossed it indifferently at a boulder nearby!

The fireball was only the size of a Fire Burst, yet the boulder burst into flames as soon as the fireball touched it. The fire burned the boulder into ashes within seconds!

The rocks in the desert were able to withstand incredible heat, let alone the rocks on the top of the Burning Mountain. They had been assaulted by the fire for many years. Those that remained were clearly indestructible to the fire, but Little Flame Belle's flames were able to burn them to ashes with ease!

"Is that a Soul-grade Fire?" Mo Fan blurted out in joy. If Little Flame Belle had obtained a Soul-grade Fire, it meant he had access to it too!

Little Flame Belle let out a cry. Her body was soon engulfed in a fierce, brown fire that Mo Fan was very familiar with. It was the fire that Little Flame Belle once had, the Calamity Fire!

Mo Fan initially thought her Calamity Fire would be replaced by the new fire. The Calamity Fire was indeed incredibly powerful, as it was able to grow stronger together with Little Flame Belle. To Mo Fan's surprise, Little Flame Belle was able to retain the Calamity Fire after she refined the new Soul-grade Fire!

"Does that mean you now have two types of Soul-grade Fire?" Mo Fan exclaimed.

Little Flame Belle let out a happy cry.

Mo Fan remembered the Fiery Sorceress Jiang Feng had two different flames, too. One was used as her attack, and the other circled her defensively. It meant Little Flame Belle was extremely close to reaching Jiang Feng's strength, since she now possessed two different kinds of fire!

Little Flame Belle had two different flames, while he had one, meaning that he would have three kinds of fire when he was Possessed by Little Flame Belle!

Different fires had different effects, and different Domains, too. Mo Fan could not imagine how unstoppable he would be once he managed to find a Soul-grade Fire Seed for himself!

“Calamity Fire, Ardent Sunset, Rose Flame, HAHAHA, I’m going to be unbeatable again!” Mo Fan burst out laughing imperiously, even though he was still standing naked on the barren mountain top.

Little Flame Belle stood on Mo Fan’s head. The naive little creature burst out laughing too. The only difference was she sounded a lot more adorable.

1

Little Flame Belle also had a new ability after she was reborn. She could shrink into a Tiny Flame Belle like a blazing red porcelain doll whenever she pleased, allowing her to lie on Mo Fan’s head or shoulder...

Mo Fan was still laughing egotistically, and Little Flame Belle followed suit.

The mutated demon locust looked at them in confusion. It eventually let out a few cries too, to liven things up further. It ended up making the scene even weirder.

“Let’s go, it’s time we go down the mountain and crush anyone that we find to be an eyesore!” Mo Fan strutted down the mountain. He was clearly in a good mood.

Little Flame Belle was a fan of destruction. Now that she had two different flames, she would definitely enjoy burning the bad guys even more.

“Little locust, it’s time to say goodbye. Remember to be a kind-hearted demon locust, do you understand?” Mo Fan did not forget to bid farewell to the mutated demon locust.

The demon locust seemed like it was unwilling to part ways with Mo Fan. He had no choice but to give the little creature another piece of jerky.

The little locust beat its wings and led Mo Fan to another side of the mountain.

After traveling for a kilometer, Mo Fan discovered black stones that looked like pebbles scattered across the place. It was quite a stunning sight.

The little locust found a crystalline, black rock and brought it to Mo Fan. It seemed to be giving Mo Fan a parting gift.

Mo Fan was startled. He could easily tell that the rock had crystalized as soon as he saw the gloss on its surface. A rock crystal was invaluable, it was the highest-quality Fundamental Crystal. Mo Fan never thought the little locust would be giving him such a huge gift.

“Do you want to go with us?” Mo Fan asked Little Flame Belle to translate for him.

To his surprise, Little Flame Belle was able to communicate with the demon locust. The little creature seemed quite intimidated by Little Flame Belle, since it was unable to withstand the heat of the Ardent Sunset engulfing her.

Little Flame Belle soon relayed the demon locust's words to Mo Fan.

"You are staying here to guard this place? Is there even anything you can guard here apart from a pile of black pebbles? We'll be going then. Remember to be a kind demon locust, and don't you dare harm the crops!" Mo Fan patted the demon locust on its head. "By the way, how fast have you grown? You were only this small a few days ago, but you're already so big now. Does your kind feed on fertilizer?"

3

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Mo Fan went down the mountain with Little Flame Belle. The Burning Mountain was no longer as valuable as it used to be, since Little Flame Belle had absorbed most of the energy of the Fire Elemental Sacred Ground. Even if the mountain still burned at night, the scale of the flames were nowhere close to what they used to be.

Little Flame Belle reminded Mo Fan to bring her to places like this, so she could further refine her fire.

It was obviously a piece of good news to Mo Fan. Little Flame Belle's rate of growth was actually quite slow. It would take years for her to grow into a Flame Belle Empress. However, if Little Flame Belle could continue to grow stronger by refining her fire, she would most likely become even stronger after she evolved into a Flame Belle Empress!

"We've spent almost three days here. I wonder how the others are doing?" Mo Fan hurriedly made his way down the mountain. He was worried about Zhang Xiaohou, Mu Nujiao, Lingling, Jiang Shaoxu, and the others, since he had been gone for quite some time.

The sand in the air thickened as they crossed the area with the black rocks.

Mo Fan eventually saw the structures of the relay station that were half-buried under the sand. However, he did not find a single person there.

"Strange, did they already leave? I'm quite sure Houzi and the others would be waiting for me here instead?" Mo Fan mumbled to himself.

Little Flame Belle flew back and forth helping Mo Fan to search for the others. However, she did not find any trace of the people either.

"Lingling, Lingling, can you hear me? I'm back from the mountain," Mo Fan took out the communication device to try contacting Lingling.

He did not receive a response. It was likely that the bad weather was stopping the signal from getting through.

The question was, where did they go? Why didn't they leave some clue for him? How was he supposed to look for them?

Little Flame Belle let out a cry to call Mo Fan over. The little creature seemed to have found something.

Mo Fan went over and saw an arm exposed above the surface behind a structure. The rest of the body was buried under the sand.

Mo Fan's heart sank. He quickly dug through the sand using Telekinesis.

The corpse was already dead, implying that the person had been dead for more than a day.

After digging the corpse out, Mo Fan realized that it was Li Sichong, the man he had saved before!

Mo Fan let out a relieved sigh. He was relieved that it was not Zhang Xiaohou or the girls... However, he immediately frowned. If Li Sichong had died here, it meant the others were in trouble now!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 1216: Earth Pistil

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A group of people wearing blue military jackets had gathered in a valley, some of them guarding the entrance.

"Tong Li, why are you doing this!? We trusted you!" Zhang Xiaohou yelled, glaring at Tong Li.

"It's what I had to do in order to achieve our goals. Unfortunately, Lin Feili isn't aware of the situation he's in. Is he seriously going to keep the secret until we bury his bones under the sand? How stubborn, just like Squadron Leader Zhou," Tong Li smiled.

"HAHAHA, they are pretty stupid too, thinking we are risking our lives to go an expedition for the sake of the others? Risking our lives for mere glory and reputation? Unfortunately, you guys had to poke your nose into other people's business. You have seen what you're not supposed to, so bad luck!" Zheng Tong burst out laughing.

"Zheng Tong, are you seriously doing this to your leader!?" Ge Ming snapped furiously.

"I'm sorry, leader. We were thinking of doing it silently, but we can't help it since Lin Feili somehow recognized me," Tong Zhuang said.

"You were the soldiers that were stationed here?" Ge Ming looked at the betrayers, his heart sinking to the bottom.

The Golden Battle Hunters had suffered a great loss after the incident related to the Black Vatican. Ge Ming was thinking of using this expedition to earn their reputation back. He had asked Tong Zhuang, whom he trusted, to find some reliable men, yet it turned out that he had been used all along!

Ge Ming looked at the soldiers and the scar-faced general. He was immediately overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness.

"Lin Feili, I will give you one more chance. Where is the Earth Pistil!?" Tong Li tightened his grip on Lin Feili's throat. His eyes were almost poking out of the sockets, filled with greed and anger.

Zhang Xiaohou looked at Tong Li, who was like a completely different person and felt extremely guilty.

He always thought things were as simple as they looked. He was so naive to believe Tong Li's words.

The man did not come for his sister's remains. He did not even care about his sister's death. He was here for the Earth Pistil, an important resource that would allow them to build a city in the desert!

"It was you that destroyed the relay station, right?" Jiang Shaoxu asked coldly.

Jiang Shaoxu had seen fragments of Lin Feili's memory when she was helping him to recover. Lin Feili was unwilling to face the past, so even when he had recovered the ability to speak and his memory, his subconscious still chose to forget about the past.

No one would have thought that the team going on an expedition would be followed by a group of soldiers. They had long been planning to return to the desert...

Tong Li did not leave because he was bringing his sister's remains back. He had gone to contact the soldiers. By the time the team realized what was going on, they were already surrounded by the soldiers.

"It was me that destroyed the relay station!" the general leading the soldiers, Shi Qianshou, declared without any expression.

"Aren't you worried that you're going to be sentenced to death by the military courts?" Zhang Xiaohou said.

As a soldier, Zhang Xiaohou found General Shi Qianshou's actions intolerable.

A soldier's job was to defend the relay stations, the towns, and the cities, yet not only did the scumbag fail to do his job, he even wiped out a relay station that once was the size of a little village.

To make things worse, the man abused his power and told his superiors that the relay station was buried by a huge sandstorm. The people simply forgot about the relay station together, with the crimes the general had committed. If Li Sichong had not discovered Tong Zhuang and Zheng Tong's secret, they would never have realized they were being used.

"That relay station is nothing compared to a city. Don't even bother saying that I'm being inhumane. There's only one rule in this desert: whoever is alive has the right to speak! What I'm asking is very simple... hand over the Earth Pistil! If you hand it to the useless government, its energy is going to deplete in no time. The relay station will forever be a relay station, worse than a little village... If you give me the Earth Pistil, I can turn this place into a city, the only city that can survive in the desert. To our north is an endless supply of ores, and further away is a natural furnace. To our west is an endless supply of mutated seeds from the demon insects. This city is going to surpass everything!" Shi Qianshou proclaimed.

"As a soldier, you're meant to hand in every resource you find, but you're misappropriating the Earth Pistil just so you can become a local tyrant here. Stop trying to justify your act of destroying the relay station. You are no different than the demon insects and maggots here!" Zhang Xiaohou retorted.

"Lin Feili, I know the captain told you where the Earth Pistil is, and I believe it's still here, but you know I don't have the patience to dig up every place just to find it. You have one last chance. If you don't hand

it over, I will kill a person every minute until you're the only one left. If you insist on holding on and watching these people die because of you, be my guest!" Shi Qianshou said.

Shi Qianshou soon set his eyes on Zhang Xiaohou.

He straightened his gaze as a signal. Zheng Tong and Tong Zhuang immediately went up to Zhang Xiaohou and pressed him down to the ground!

Lin Feili immediately went berserk, yet he was pinned down by the soldiers. He could not even budge. Even a Super Mage like Ge Ming was unable to break free from their control.

Zheng Tong gave Zhang Xiaohou a powerful kick and yelled, "Hey kid, why aren't you acting arrogantly now? Didn't you have a bright future ahead of you? Humph, you're going to turn into a pile of bones soon!"

It was a pity that Mo Fan was not here! Otherwise, he would definitely enjoy torturing Mo Fan, as the man had been an eyesore to him for quite some time!

1

"So many years have passed, don't you feel guilty even the slightest for what you have done!?" Lin Feili snapped with bloodshot eyes.

"Guilty? The old captain should be the one to feel guilty. If he had handed the thing to me, I could have sent my men to escort the people here away. They wouldn't have been eaten by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts!" Shi Qianshou replied.

"You were the one that attracted the Sandstorm Demon Locusts here! I knew all along!" Lin Feili snapped.

"What if I did? Hurry up and make your decision! I know you're not afraid to die, but are you going to watch these people die because of you, or hand over the Earth Pistil? Your choice!" Shi Qianshou said calmly.

Lin Feili was on the verge of losing his mind. There was no way he could handle the shock if what happened eleven years ago was to repeat itself again.

He was only alive because of two reasons; he wanted to guard the Earth Pistil, and second, he wanted to tear the crazy general to pieces with his bare hands!

There had been around two hundred people at the relay station, including the soldiers stationed there and the Hunters that were resting there temporarily. There were some people that had long settled down at the relay station, too. Shi Qianshou had led the Sandstorm Demon Locusts here to force the old captain to give the Earth Pistil up. The old captain did not accept his demand. In the end, Shi Qianshou, who was in charge of transportation and gathering back then, used his Domain to block off their escape, resulting in the people being eaten alive by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts...

Lin Feili was fortunate enough to survive. The only reason he did was because he ate a poisonous snake in despair. He was supposed to be dead, and the Sandstorm Demon Locusts did not touch him since he was poisoned.

However, Lin Feili had amazingly woken up. He realized that he had to eat the same poisonous snake every day to sustain his life. It was the main reason why he could not leave the desert...

He had been living like a beast in the desert, while the others had died because of Shi Qianshou's greed and ambition!

Lin Feili thought Shi Qianshou did not mean to kill the people in the first place. He was just trying to get his hands on the Earth Pistil, but it somehow ended up in a tragedy. The man was only trying to force the old captain to hand over the Earth Pistil...

However, Lin Feili was wrong. Shi Qianshou never cared about the lives of the people. He was only interested in getting the things he wanted. He even had his own private army. He was planning to build a city in this resource-rich desert. He was planning to be a tyrant in the desert!

His private army had grown significantly after so many years. The man had never given up on the Earth Pistil, nor did he have any sign of remorse or guilt!

"Time's up. Here, say goodbye to your new friend... oh, I forgot to mention, your friend is a Commander at Qinling Mountains. He has done quite a lot despite his young age. He was also a hero of the Ancient Capital, saving millions of lives. Tsk tsk tsk, he could easily reach my rank in a few years. Such a great talent, but he's going to die here because of an idiot like you," Shi Qianshou said. He sounded like he was feeling pity for having to kill the young and talented Commander.

Lin Feili was stunned. He glanced at Zhang Xiaohou. He never thought Zhang Xiaohou was a Commander at such a young age, not to mention that he had saved so many lives.

"If I tell you where it is, will you let them go?" Lin Feili took a deep breath and said to Shi Qianshou.

"Of course."

"But they already know your crimes. I don't believe you're going to let them live," Lin Feili said.

"HAHAHA, Lin Feili, how dumb could you be? Who cares about what happened eleven years ago? Even if someone actually cared, how are they going to prove I was the one that did it? I'm a General now. The military court can't really prove me guilty without any solid evidence! So what if they heard about the incident? Telling them a story isn't going to be considered a piece of evidence," Shi Qianshou burst out laughing. He was not treating anyone seriously, including Ge Ming.

1

Ge Ming might be a Super Mage, but the power and influence of a mere Leader of the Golden Battle Hunters was nothing compared to his.

"Let them go, and I'll tell you where it is!" Lin Feili said.

"Sure, Zheng Tong, Tong Zhuang, release them..."

"Let the ladies go first," Zhang Xiaohou pointed at Jiang Shaoxu and Mu Nujiao.

"How gentlemanly of you, fine, let them go first," Shi Qianshou waved his hand. He had no interest in the girls, despite their glamorous looks.

Compared to the chance of building a city and acquiring the power to rule over hundreds of thousands of people, Shi Qianshou seriously could not have cared less about a few women!

Chapter 1217: Poison Seal, Chased by the Demon Locusts

“I’ve already released the girls as you requested. Isn’t it time for you to tell me where the Earth Pistil is?” Shi Qianshou said deliberately.

“They have nothing to do with this, I don’t want any of them to die,” Lin Feili said.

“I know you want to save them all. You just need to tell me where the Earth Pistil is. I can’t be bothered killing them, either,” Shi Qianshou said.

“General, I mentioned there’s still another guy on the loose. That young man is quite strong. If you let these women go, they might go and find him,” Zheng Tong said.

“Is he a Super Mage?” Shi Qianshou asked.

“No, he’s just an Advanced Mage.”

“Should I waste my time on him then?” Shi Qianshou asked rhetorically.

“No, you’re right, General!” Zheng Tong said with a stiff expression.

“Lin Feili, you should at least tell me which direction the Earth Pistil is at. I know it’s somewhere here...” Shi Qianshou said.

“In that direction,” Lin Feili pointed at some jagged rocks.

Shi Qianshou waved his hand. A soldier immediately went over to the rocks and took out a device to scan the area.

The device started to glow soon. Shi Qianshou’s eyes flickered with excitement.

Lin Feili was not lying to him. The Earth Pistil was indeed in the direction that he said. The jagged rocks must be different from the black rocks nearby.

“Let them go, or you will never find the Earth Pistil,” Lin Feili said.

“Sure, but just so you aren’t trying to trick me, I’ll be holding him hostage still,” Shi Qianshou grabbed Zhang Xiaohou and smiled.

Lin Feili clenched his teeth. He went up to the jagged rocks and placed his hands on them. A dark brown energy rippled, spreading toward the surroundings as an invisible magic formation was withdrawn. The thick rocks suddenly softened and turned into mud.

As the mud continued to pour out, it revealed a long passage.

“So it’s a magic formation. The old captain is pretty cunning. It turns out that he was suspicious of me a long time ago,” Shi Qianshou smiled. He had an extremely greedy look in his eyes. “Tong Zhuang, you’ll keep an eye on this man. Lin Feili, take the lead. We are going in together.”

Tong Zhuang escorted Zhang Xiaohou and followed Lin Feili into the dark passage. Shi Qianshou waved his hand, signaling a team of soldiers to go on ahead before he also went into the passage.

Shi Qianshou turned around and looked at the rest of the soldiers when he was about to enter the passage. He glanced at the rest of the hostages and said, “Zhang Qihu, stay here. Kill anyone that shows up!”

“Affirmative!” Zhang Qihu saluted sharply.

“General Shi, are you seriously going to let the girls go? I know they won’t pose any threat to us, but they might cause some trouble...” Zheng Tong said with a menacing expression. It was obvious that the man did not want any potential risks.

The truth was, he was not happy that Mu Nujiao had run away. She was the kind of woman that he always wanted to get his hands on. In this unoccupied desert, strength and numbers were everything. No one would ever learn of their crimes!

“Do you really take me as the merciful kind? Don’t worry, they won’t be alive for long. Something else will take care of them,” Shi Qianshou showed his palm. A faint, poisonous light was glimmering on it.

Zheng Tong was astounded as soon as he saw the light. “I heard General Shi is able to control insects. Could it be that you were the one commanding the Sandstorm Demon Locusts to attack the relay station?”

Shi Qianshou smiled without answering the question.

“So the two girls...” Zheng Tong asked in a low voice.

“They won’t live for long.” Shi Qianshou looked at Zheng Tong and grinned, “You’re the typical kind of man that can’t achieve greatness. Women are great, but they can only satisfy your desires temporarily. When you have lots of power, you will understand the women are just a mere appendage.”

“You’re right, general. I just feel that it’s quite a pity for such a beautiful woman to die like that,” Zheng Tong said.

“You have done well this time. Without your help, we might have struggled to get into the desert safely. You will get all you want after I got my Earth Pistil. However, make sure those that are supposed to die are dead. Only the dead in the desert can reassure me,” Shi Qianshou said.

“Affirmative!”

Outside the basin, Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu were sprinting toward the Burning Mountains.

They had to tell Mo Fan what had happened. They had to find a way to rescue Zhang Xiaohou and the others at all costs.

“Right, Lingling, we haven’t seen her yet. Is she alright!?” Mu Nujiao blurted out when she remembered something.

“She’s smart; she must be hiding somewhere. I’m only worried that she couldn’t bear it, she’s only a little over ten years old...” Jiang Shaoxu murmured.

The two immediately panicked. They were wondering if they should look for Mo Fan or Lingling first.

A small figure with a pair of ponytails suddenly showed up. She was wearing a wind coat. Her eyes seemed calm and collected despite the odious environment. She was looking at the two girls.

“Don’t worry about me, just tell me what happened,” Lingling came over and said.

“It’s such a relief that you’re fine. Otherwise, we wouldn’t know what to tell Mo Fan!” Mu Nujiao was overjoyed.

Lingling suddenly disappeared when the military showed up. They did not know how she was able to tell something was wrong so quickly.

Luckily, Shi Qianshou, Zheng Tong, Tong Zhuang, and the others did not really consider Lingling a threat. They simply assumed the little girl was going to be eaten by the demon creatures when she was wandering on her own. Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu had the same worry. To their surprise, Lingling was perfectly fine. She even had the time to tidy her hair. She was indeed worthy of the title of Hunter Master. She was able to find the safest spot, even in the worst environments.

“Was Shi Qianshou behind it?” Lingling asked.

“Yeah, we didn’t expect he was responsible for the tragedy at the relay station. Why would there be such a deranged man!?” Jiang Shaoxu snapped furiously.

“So that means the Earth Pistil is real?” Lingling asked further.

The two girls were stunned. They were curious why Lingling knew about the Earth Pistil.

“What’s happening inside?”

“Lin Feili brought Shi Qianshou into a passage. It should lead them to the Earth Pistil. They must have taken Zhang Xiaohou and Ge Ming as hostages. Lu Fei, Yang Bao, Xu Pingdong, and the rest of the members of the Golden Battle Hunters were still in the basin being guarded by the soldiers,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“Something’s strange,” Lingling murmured.

“Strange? What is?” Jiang Shaoxu was confused.

“There’s no way Shi Qianshou would spare anyone’s life. It’s just too strange that he let you go so easily...” Lingling said.

“...Girl, do you want us to be killed instead!?” Jiang Shaoxu snapped.

Mu Nujiao had the same suspicion.

Even though Shi Qianshou was quite full of himself, he was still a general. If someone knew what he had done here, he would still be sentenced to death. His private army would be put on trial, too!

A noisy sound was heard coming from the mountains. It was getting clearer gradually.

Lingling lifted her gaze and looked toward the mountains. She immediately realized what was happening when she saw a huge cloud approaching them.

“As I thought, Shi Qianshou never planned to let you live. The man is a Super Poison Mage. He is most likely the reason why the Sandstorm Demon Locusts built their nest here,” Lingling said.

“Oh Heavens, why are the Sandstorm Demon Locusts here? Aren’t they supposed to stay away from the relay station?” Jiang Shaoxu screamed.

The two girls were utterly terrified after seeing the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. They could clearly tell that the demon locusts were coming after them, but they could not understand why!

“Shi Qianshou must have marked you with some Poison Seals that are attracting the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. You can try running toward the Burning Mountains. You might have a chance to save yourself if you can make it to the Burning Mountains before they catch up with you, and if the Burning Mountains are still on fire... I’ll be going first. Best of luck,” Lingling immediately turned around and left.

The two girls were stunned for a moment as they watched the little figure disappearing into the distance.

Did Lingling really just abandon them like that?

The numbers of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were too overwhelming. They quickly ran toward the Burning Mountains when they saw the Sandstorm Demon Locusts approaching from the distance.

Lingling ran in the opposite direction. She was surprisingly quick, as if her boots were enchanted with magic.

Lingling ran to a hilltop and watched Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu running in the distance.

“Mo Fan wouldn’t blame me for leaving them to die, right?” Lingling sighed.

There was no chance of survival after they were targeted by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Shi Qianshou did not want them to leave the desert in one piece. He was only putting up an act in front of Lin Feili.

“Mo Fan is going to avenge you,” Lingling promised.

Lingling did not have any other choice. The Sandstorm Demon Locusts would kill them in an instant. She could only hope that Jiang Shaoxu and Mu Nujiao had some trump cards up their sleeves to survive the situation.

“Hehe, little girl, that’s very smart of you. You actually managed to escape from our surround!” a strange voice came from behind the rocks.

Lingling turned around and saw a tall, skinny man wearing a gray-blue military jacket coming out from the shadows.

The man had a ghastly appearance. His eyes were poking out from his eye sockets. The vicious look in his eyes meant he had no intention of showing any mercy to the little girl.

Lingling was taken by surprise. She did not think Shi Qianshou would be sending someone after Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu. Even if they managed to stay alive from the Sandstorm Demon Locusts, this man would still make sure they were dead in the end!

This Shi Qianshou was utterly vicious, yet extremely cautious, too!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1218: The Strength of the Ardent Sunset!

“Can your General really control the Sandstorm Demon Locusts?” Lingling asked. She did not seem to be panicking after facing the man that was planning some mischief.

“Does it even matter? I’m quite curious too; what is a young girl like you doing here? Girls at your age should be studying in schools and playing at home. You should be eating some dessert as you are going shopping, shouldn’t you?” the skinny soldier grinned and slowly moved toward Lingling.

“I hate all of those things,” Lingling replied.

“If it was me in the past, there’s no way I would kill a little girl like you, but you know I can’t disobey the orders of my superior. I am not allowed to let a word leave this place,” the skinny soldier came even closer, his cold eyes fixed on Lingling.

“No one is going to believe the words of a little kid,” Lingling raised her head and said in a serious voice.

The soldier chuckled. He was amused by the little girl.

“Sorry, can’t do, it’s an order. Anyone that comes in here is not allowed to leave. Some things are meant to be buried under the sand. You shouldn’t be digging them up, since more lives are just going to die because of it. The people thought the scariest thing in this desert was the Sandstorm Demon Locusts, but those that are familiar with General Shi know he’s the deadliest king of scorpions in this desert!” the soldier smiled, but it gradually lost its warmth.

He raised his right hand slightly. A black mist circled his hand, and slowly turned into a black blade pointed at Lingling’s temple.

“You do know you’re the bad guy?” Lingling said.

“I know, of course I know.” The skinny soldier was still smiling.

“But I bet you don’t know that most bad guys died in the end because they talked too much. They should have just focused on the job, idiot!” Lingling snapped.

The soldier was startled. As he was about to get angry, a shadowy black bird appeared beside him. The shadow quickly dissipated, and a human figure stepped out from it, standing stood less than half a meter away from him.

The man had dark brown eyes that looked like they were going to spit fire at any second. The soldier had never felt such a strong pressure. His whole body turned cold in an instant.

“I dare you to touch her!” The eyes belonged to Mo Fan. He had found Lingling by following the symbols she had left behind. He happened to arrive just as he saw the soldier threatening Lingling!

“Who...who are you!?” The soldier was shocked.

The soldier also had the Shadow Element, yet he was completely unaware of the man’s presence. It meant the man’s Shadow Element was significantly stronger than his!

It was also his first time seeing the Fleeing Shadow in the form of a shadow bird!

“You won’t need to know who I am. You just need to remember before you die that I’m ten times scarier than your General!” Mo Fan slammed his fist into the soldier’s chest.

His punch was enhanced by the overwhelming force of the Space Element. The soldier’s chest caved in before he flew into the distance like a bullet and slammed heavily into the black rocks.

The soldier vomited blood after slamming into the rocks. His magic Armor barely saved him, but he was in immense pain. as his bones were all broken!

“That’s...that’s all you got, you’re still nothing compared to General Shi...” the soldier said mockingly despite the condition he was in. He seemed to be fearless of death.

However, before he could finish his sentence, a huge flame suddenly burst out of his body. In less than a second, the soldier was completely devoured by the fierce flames of the Ardent Sunset. The flames even burned the rocks nearby into ashes!

The fire was still spreading across the rock of the hill. It had long burned the soldier and his Armor into nothing, but the flames were still spreading uncontrollably, just like Mo Fan’s fury!

“Who is this asshole General Shi?” Mo Fan clenched his fist and extinguished the flames in the distance. He turned around and asked Lingling.

“Forget about that for now, I think you should take care of those demon locusts first,” Lingling pointed in another direction. There were two vague figures out there.

Mo Fan was startled. He quickly realized the figures were Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu, and they were running toward the Burning Mountains. More importantly, they were being chased by countless Sandstorm Demon Locusts!

The demon locusts were like a gray cloud. They slowly turned into a veil in the sky, flying in a line. They gradually closed in on Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu. Some that were closer were already attacking them!

If more demon locusts reached them, they would soon turn into skeletons. Mo Fan did not have time to ask Lingling. He immediately cast Blink.

“I’m fine here, hurry and save them,” Lingling told him.

Mo Fan nodded. He connected the last Star Pattern for the Silver Constellation, a magic formation with a bigger coverage.

With a silver flicker, Mo Fan's figure faded away in the trembling space. As the light's brightness reached its limit, Mo Fan vanished into thin air and reappeared at the waist of the hill nearby within the blink of an eye...

Lingling glanced into the distance and saw the same silver Star Constellation. Mo Fan vanished once again after it flickered. Lingling looked further ahead and saw Mo Fan...

The same silver Star Constellation appeared. Mo Fan soon arrived behind the sand dunes. He was getting smaller and when as he drew closer to Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu.

Lingling let out a relieved sigh after she saw Mo Fan able to cover the distance so swiftly.

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The demon locusts were beating their wings very quickly. The drone they produced was no longer just a sound, but a sonic wave surging across the sand dunes!

As the Sandstorm Demon Locusts drew closer, the sound was preventing Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu from channeling their spells. The vicious Sandstorm Demon Locusts flew past them. Their sharp claws and teeth tore through the girls' clothes and skin, leaving cuts on their bodies.

The rest of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts picked up their pace after picking up the smell of blood. The demon locust swarm was going to eat the two girls!

"We are having trouble using our magic!" Jiang Shaoxu forcibly summoned her magic Armor, hoping to buy herself some extra time.

They finally understood why the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were unstoppable. Their wings produced a sonic wave that would stop the Mages from being able to focus on the channeling of their spells, meaning that just the sound they produced was dealing a deadly blow to a Mage!

The magic Armor that the two girls were wearing would not last for long. They were fully covered in the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. The creatures had stacked on top of them like two huge cocoons!

"Little Flame Belle, take them out!" a voice yelled as the two girls were about to reach their limit.

A petite figure flew into the cloud of Sandstorm Demon Locusts, surrounded by a circle of fire that slowly enlarged. The fire set the Sandstorm Demon Locusts on fire with the slightest touch...

Flames the color of the sky at sunset surged wildly through the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. The sky was soon dyed red by the fire. The Sandstorm Demon Locusts stood no chance against the overwhelming heat of the Ardent Sunset. Thousands of them died instantly to the fire!

Little Flame Belle felt like the demon locusts were still burning too slow. She took a deep breath, and blew out a brown fire that swiftly spun into a tornado made of Calamity Fire. It sprang up like a dragon and flew straight at the Sandstorm Demon Locusts!

The Calamity Fire's damage was no weaker than the Ardent Sunset. The two Soul-grade Fires seemed to be competing against one another, seeing who was going to kill the most Sandstorm Demon Locusts!

The Sandstorm Demon Locusts were soon reduced into ashes and scattered in the air.

The ears of Mo Fan, Jiang Shaoxu, and Mu Nujiao could relax. As a matter of fact, the Sandstorm Demon Locusts were a pain in the arse for even Mo Fan to deal with if he was alone. The sonic wave would reduce a Mage to an ordinary human. Luckily, Little Flame Belle had recently acquired the Ardent Sunset, which seemed to be the Sandstorm Demon Locusts' natural foe. Otherwise, it was unlikely they could kill the Sandstorm Demon Locusts within a short period.

It was a relief that the Sandstorm Demon Locusts that were sent after Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu were only a small portion. If the entire army of the Sandstorm Demon Locusts was here, Mo Fan definitely would have had no chance of saving the girls. He could not tell how long it would take him to burn them all into ashes.

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“Mo Fan!”

“Mo Fan, you're finally here!”

The two girls were about to burst out crying. Being eaten by the Sandstorm Demon Locusts was surely the worst way to die!

“It's fine, it's fine now...” Mo Fan comforted them.

Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu were utterly terrified. Their experiences here in the desert were definitely beyond what they could bear. They were still lost in their thoughts after they somehow survived from the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. They did not even realize their clothes were ragged. Parts of their fair, tender skin that were not hurt were exposed. It was surprising how they were still not tanned after spending some days in the desert...

Mo Fan hugged the girls and comforted them. His eyes were looking back and forth between them.

After some time, the two girls finally realized Mo Fan had taken advantage of them countless times with his eyes. They quickly found a spot to treat their wounds and change their clothes.

“Mo Fan, are you seriously so strong that you can even face the Sandstorm Demon Locusts?” Jiang Shaoxu asked with a hint of admiration.

“Little Flame Belle has resurrected. She also obtained a new Soul-grade Fire that's extremely effective against the Sandstorm Demon Locusts,” Mo Fan replied honestly.

The Ardent Sunset was indeed the Sandstorm Demon Locusts' natural foe. Even the mutated Demon Locust that enjoyed staying inside the fire on the Burning Mountains did not dare to come any closer to Little Flame Belle, let alone the ordinary Sandstorm Demon Locusts. They were like little sticks that could be set on fire with the slightest spark!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1219: The Scum in the Army

The group went close to the cave that Lin Feili lived in. Mo Fan quickly discovered two soldiers guarding the entrance. They clearly had no intention of letting anyone pass.

“Jiang Shaoxu, can you take them out?” Mo Fan pointed at the two soldiers in gray-blue outfits.

“Their cultivation isn’t strong, I’ll handle them,” Jiang Shaoxu agreed.

“Be careful, they might be communicating constantly to see if everything is fine. If they don’t respond, the others might notice something is wrong,” Mo Fan reminded her.

“Don’t worry, I know how to control their minds.”

Jiang Shaoxu went into the rocks and cast an Advanced Psychic Element Spell to control the minds of the soldiers from over a hundred meters away.

The mental strength of the two soldiers was not high. Jiang Shaoxu was able to control them easily.

Mo Fan, Mu Nujiao, and Lingling strutted past the soldiers, yet they did not even react. One of them was still reporting through his communicator.

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They walked inside and soon arrived in the valley. Hiding behind the rocks, Mo Fan peeked through the cracks and saw the people of the Golden Battle Hunters surrounded by a hundred soldiers. The person in charge was a bearded man with a bulky build. His face was like a brown-haired tiger.

“That guy is Zhang Qihu. He’s pretty strong. Shi Qianshou was only focusing on Ge Ming, while that Zhang Qihu took out the rest of us. We didn’t even have time to fight back,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“They have a lot of men. Can you tell how many Advanced Mages and Intermediate Mages they have?” Mo Fan asked.

“Sure, but it will take some time,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

It was necessary to understand the strength of their enemy. Jiang Shaoxu sneakily used her Psychic Element to inspect the soldiers’ cultivation levels, while Mo Fan silently moved into the valley with the Dark Noble Mantle.

The Dark Noble Mantle was extremely handy at preventing his presence from being exposed. Even a Super Mage was unable to notice him if they weren’t close enough.

Mo Fan observed the surroundings and realized only a few people were guarding the valley. The others had gone deeper into the valley through the passage.

It was good news for Mo Fan. It was incredibly difficult to take on the entire army, but if the soldiers split up, it was easier for him to take them out one by one!

“There are seven Advanced Mages, the rest are Intermediate Mages. I’m afraid we can’t really take them on, right?” Jiang Shaoxu said.

A hundred Intermediate Mages were stronger than ten Advanced Mages. If they could not make it past the entrance of the valley, how were they supposed to save Zhang Xiaohou, Lin Feili, Ge Ming, and the others that had gone deeper inside?

“We still have a chance if there’s only seven of them. Mu Nujiao, don’t show yourself. I’ll keep them distracted while you lay down a Demon Tree. Jiang Shaoxu, take care of those with the Psychic Element and the Curse Element, leave the rest to me!” Mo Fan said.

“Mo Fan, are you sure about going up against over a hundred Mages on your own?”

“Why not?”

Mu Nujiao did not say a word, she was already preparing her Demon Tree in the dark. All Plant Magic required a certain time to prepare. Once they planted enough roots and branches across the area, they were basically unbeatable inside it.

The ground was surprisingly sturdy in the area, so it was even harder to penetrate it with plants. However, it also had an advantage; the ground did not shake much, so the Mages with the Earth Element would not notice any abnormalities easily.

That being said, if the plants reached under their feet, and if the cultivation of the Mages was on par with Mu Nujiao’s, they would still sense her magic...

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“Keep your chin up; when boss secures the Earth Pistil, we are all going to be living it up. We can do whatever we want, without having to be wary of what the army thinks!” Zhang Qihu said to the soldiers.

“Captain, it’s such a waste to let those two girls go. Shouldn’t we just have kept them so we could relieve the boredom?” a soldier replied promptly.

“Humph, you are all soldiers, but you are acting like bandits instead!” a female soldier snapped furiously.

“Lieutenant Huang Yi, you’re quite wrong about that. Aren’t soldiers basically the same as bandits in the old times? It simply depends on who’s holding the power in their hands. You can ask even the honest men among us if they were interested in the two girls just then. Not only were they gorgeous, their bodies were hot, too. They must have come from a nice background. It was the only chance that soldiers like us could taste them...” the upright soldier said. “Am I right, brothers?”

“Yes! HAHHAH!”

“We’ve been following orders from the military and guarding the cities and outskirts. We are sent to the most dangerous places, yet we don’t even get any benefits from it. We are risking our lives for the army, but we are living like refugees. Since we followed General Shi, even though we are still putting our lives at risk, the benefits he gave us are nothing like before!” Zhang Qihu agreed with the proud soldier, “Huang Yi, you should just turn your back on something like this. Us men who live on the edge have a lot of desires to satisfy still!”

“Captain is right, I’m just wondering if Black Falcon managed to catch up to them... perhaps he’s already enjoying the girls himself!”

The hidden Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu flushed. Their hearts were burning with anger.

What the proud soldier said about soldiers being the same as bandits was absolute nonsense. They had seen a lot of righteous soldiers!

Evil could not be justified. If anyone let the evil in their hearts take control, they would be scum and degenerates, regardless of their appearance on the outside. That Zhang Qihu and the proud soldier might be lieutenants, but it was ridiculous how they thought every other soldier was the same as them!

“It seems these people knew what they were doing all along. They are prepared to take the risks, too. I believe I won’t have to go easy on them!” Mo Fan scoffed.

Mo Fan had a good impression of soldiers because Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong and his men were willing to sacrifice their lives for others, without asking for anything in return.

It was obvious that these soldiers were corrupted!

They had abused the remoteness of the desert to foster the evil thoughts in their hearts. Mo Fan believed it was necessary for their souls to wander in the wild winds of the desert for hundreds, or even a thousand years, so they would realize how idiotic the path they had chosen was!

“Summoning Gate: Beast Tide!”

A lunar light shrouded Mo Fan as he swiftly constructed a Star Constellation. It glowed brightly as a giant Summoning Gate slowly opened, and enormous white wolves rushed out!

The white wolves just kept coming. They were bulky and muscular, and the whole valley was shaking from the force their limbs were exerting.

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The wolves charged into the valley, taking the soldiers that were expressing their ideas so freely by surprise!

“What’s happening!?”

“Demon creatures, we are being attacked!”

“Don’t panic, stand in your formations, prepare for battle!” the female Lieutenant Huang Yi yelled.

The soldiers were well-trained, since they were elites in the army. They moved into their positions in no time, despite the surprise attack. They quickly summoned Rock Barriers accurately around their formation to stop the wolves from getting any closer!

A Flying Creek Snow Wolf dashed out from the group of wolves. It pounced at the rocks and smashed them into pieces, then swung its claws at a soldier nearby.

The soldier was instantly torn to pieces with blood splattered across the area. The man had a perverted smile while talking to the proud soldier just a minute ago, but he had died a horrible death!

The Rock Barriers only managed to hold the enormous wolves back temporarily. Their thick flesh endured the flames, lightning, and wind directed at them as they tore savagely at the soldiers they could get their claws on!

“Maintain the formation! It’s only a bunch of wolves, there’s nothing to be afraid of!” The proud soldier was one of the people in charge. He stood on the higher ground and commanded his men.

The troops cast Fire Spells simultaneously. The Star Patterns stacked up before numerous fiery red rays swept past and landed on the wolves in the form of Fiery Fists!

Not long after, strong gusts of wind appeared and swept at the wolves, scattering them.

“Rain of Burning Fists!” Mo Fan stood on the shoulder of one of the wolves and fired flames into the air. Huge Fiery Fists soon poured down from the sky and landed on the soldiers, forcing them to split up!

“Who’s there!?” the proud soldier shouted furiously when he saw Mo Fan.

“Your ancestor!” Mo Fan leapt into the air as a pair of burning wings swiftly appeared on his back.

Using the wings, Mo Fan glided across the sky with the Fiery Fists. He locked his eyes on the proud soldier and threw a punch, sending a fiery dragon at him!

The fiery dragon sprang forward and easily penetrated the defense of the Light Element that the soldiers had set up. The flames of the dragon devoured the proud soldier and immediately burned him to ashes.

Both Mu Nujiao and Jiang Shaoxu were satisfied when they saw the proud soldier being incinerated. They knew the man was harboring evil thoughts on them when they were still in the soldiers’ custody. It served a man like him right!

“Mo Fan, it’s Mo Fan!” Yang Bao blurted out in joy.

“He’s a man of honor, he actually came to save us!” Xu Pingdong and the others were lost for words.

Despite being overwhelmed by numbers, Mo Fan had still forced his way in. They were very grateful, yet was it really wise for him to walk right into the trap?

“Brother Mo Fan, we are grateful for it, but you should run and leave the desert. Tell the army what happened here, so we can die content, knowing that justice has been served!” Xu Pingdong shouted out.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1220: Facing a Hundred Soldiers!

“Trying to run away? No one is leaving this desert today!” Zhang Qihu looked at Mo Fan coldly, yet he did not attack right away.

He was a lieutenant. If he had to deal with a man that was courting death, what was the point of being in charge of the others?

He had quite a number of elites under his command. They could easily deal with this man that slipped through the net!

Zhang Qihu waved his hand and said disdainfully, "Huang Yi, Lao Yin, brother, I'll let you three handle him!"

"Hehe, brother, you wouldn't mind me detaining him alive so I can flay him slowly?" Zhang Dan smilingly said.

"Since when do you have such a weird fetish? I shouldn't have placed you in charge of interrogating criminals. You can detain him and do your thing somewhere else," Zhang Qihu snapped.

"Not a problem!" Zhang Dan jumped forward and landed on a rock. In a few seconds, Demon Trees with spikes burst out of the ground and whipped wildly around the man. It was a ghastly sight!

"He's pretty strong. We should take him out together to avoid more casualties," the female lieutenant Huang Yi said.

"That won't be necessary, but that wolf is going to be a hassle to deal with. Forget it, the others will handle the wolf. Let's focus on taking out the kid," Lao Yin said.

All three of them were Advanced Mages. They rapidly surrounded Mo Fan.

Zhang Dan was a Plant Mage. He controlled the plants that were spreading around him adeptly.

Zhang Dan was the first to approach Mo Fan. As he pointed ahead, a bunch of Demon Tree Hands with spikes sprang forward!

Mo Fan had no intention of dodging the attack. When the Demon Tree Hands were around twenty meters from him, they suddenly burst into flames. The ardent flames spread fiercely and burned the Demon Trees to ashes in seconds!

"Telekinesis: Illusionary Claws!" Mo Fan reached his hand out and grabbed the throat of the lieutenant called Zhang Dan.

He lifted Zhang Dan off the ground. The man summoned his magic Armor in a panic, but his Armor was nothing impressive. It began to crack open when Mo Fan strengthened his grip!

"Damn it, take him out now!" Zhang Qihu immediately panicked upon seeing this.

Zhang Dan was his brother. He never thought the man could suppress his younger brother so easily, after seeing how young he looked. It was surprising the young man was an Advanced Mage!

A strong magical aura was surging around Mo Fan. A few other Advanced Mages were channeling their Star Constellations. One was the Muslin of the Sky, turning into a giant spear, and the other was a Water Curtain, pouring down like a waterfall!

The Water Curtain posed a greater threat to Mo Fan. It was like a crack had just opened above him. The current was strong enough to shatter the bones of an enormous wolf!

In addition to the two Advanced Spells, a group of soldiers was locking their spells onto Mo Fan. Fiery Fists and Rolling Waves lunged at him, followed by strong winds and purple lightning!

He was suddenly surrounded by destructive spells!

However, Mo Fan had no intention of letting Zhang Dan go. A silver Star Pattern was flickering under his feet as he held Zhang Dan across the distance...

A silver rhomboid loomed over the area Mo Fan was occupying. The area of the Space Rhythm was over fifty meters wide. It felt like time had frozen inside it!

“Time Stasis!” Mo Fan raised his hand and clenched it into a fist. The energy of the Time Stasis spread into his surroundings!

The Muslin of the Sky, the Water Curtain, the strong waves, winds, the dense burning fists, and lightning all came to a stop around Mo Fan, failing to move even a single inch forward!

Xu Pingdong, Yang Bao, Fei Shu, and the people of the Golden Battle Hunters were dumbfounded. They felt an urge to simply kneel in front of Mo Fan and worship him as he stood in the center of the colorful destructive spells!

“Is...is the Space Element really that strong!?” Yang Bao, who also had the Space Element, was restless.

The single Space Rhythm had nullified so many attacks and spells. Most importantly, the man’s imperiousness had instantly toppled Yang Bao’s impression of the Space Element!

The soldiers and lieutenants attacking Mo Fan were dumbfounded, too. They were stunned for a moment until they heard a loud crack. Zhang Dan’s neck had been snapped by the terrifying man!

Zhang Dan fell to the ground. His head was distorted while his eyes were rolling, his face frozen in a painful expression. The man was obviously dead.

Zhang Qihu’s eyes reddened. He was thinking of letting his brother gain more experience from the battle, yet the man had killed his brother in the blink of an eye! It completely infuriated him!

“I’m going to tear your head off!” Zhang Qihu yelled angrily. He charged toward Mo Fan like a heavy missile, and slammed into the ground. Sharp rocks burst out of the ground within a hundred meters of where he landed!

Mo Fan quickly jumped to higher ground to dodge the spikes. He saw Zhang Qihu’s skin hardening, as if he had just put on an armor of rocks. The man launched himself into the air and kicked at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan turned into a shadow bird and flew rapidly along the walls. To his surprise, the walls were under Zhang Qihu’s control, too. Rows of spikes poked out of the walls after Mo Fan...

“Destroy him!” Zhang Qihu took a deep breath. He waved his hand to signal the soldiers when he saw Mo Fan fleeing into the distance.

Star Patterns appeared under the feet of the soldiers. The energy of more than ten Intermediate Spells soon rumbled forth; the whole valley was trembling!

“Demon Tree Trap!”

As the Intermediate Mages were about to blast Mo Fan with their spells, the ground that they were standing on suddenly cracked open. Countless Demon Tree Hands sprang up like powerful huge arms and dragged the soldiers into the ground!

Mo Fan glanced at Mu Nujiao, still hiding behind a rock, with a hint of relief.

Mu Nujiao's primary Element was the Plant Element. The trap she had set up was absolutely impressive. It immediately took out the soldiers of a few squads and disrupted the channeling of their spells.

Mo Fan had just used the Space Rhythm: Time Stasis. The spell was still on cooldown. It might be a struggle to stop so many spells at once!

"Useless pricks! Huang Yi, Lao Yin, come with me; we are going to skin him alive!" Zhang Qihu groaned and led his two old comrades after Mo Fan.

Zhang Qihu was incredibly adept at using the Eyes of the Rock Demon, especially the way he was using it both offensively and defensively, turning him into a rock beast. Mo Fan could only take him on directly with the help of Little Flame Belle.

The problem was that if he had to use Little Flame Belle here, how was he supposed to fight Shi Qianshou?

Zhang Qihu was most likely one of the strongest Advanced Mages. He was clearly not an easy opponent, especially with how deadly his Rock Spikes Domain was.

"Where are you going to run to this time? I'm going to avenge my brother!" Deadly rock spikes burst out of Zhang Qihu's body as he charged forward like a tank.

Huang Yi and Lao Yin had forced Mo Fan into a corner, leaving him with no chance of escaping. Mo Fan had no choice but to face Zhang Qihu directly.

"Blink," Mo Fan did not panic. Their attempt to flank him was useless as long as he had Blink available.

Zhang Qihu rammed into the rocks as Mo Fan had entered the tunnel of the Space Element just a second ahead of him. He reappeared a hundred meters behind Zhang Qihu with a silver flash, his face calm.

Huang Yi and Lao Yin frowned.

The young man was seriously a tough opponent to fight against. Not only did he dare to take them on alone, he was able to face Great Lieutenant Zhang Qihu calmly, too!

"Damn it!" Zhang Qihu broke free from the rocks. He turned around and almost lost his mind when he saw Mo Fan's calm face!

It was humiliating knowing that he was being played like a fiddle by the young man!

Zhang Qihu did not attack recklessly again. He gave the order to his men, "Use the Shadow Element to seal his movement!"

He had a bunch of Shadow Mages on standby. Once they set up the Formation of Giant Shadow Spikes, it would prevent the young man from using Blink. Otherwise, they would never land any of their spells on him.

“How stupid,” Mo Fan chuckled when he sensed the energy of the Shadow Element rising around him.

Mo Fan cast the Advanced Shadow Spell before the Shadow Mages were done channeling their spells.

“Nyx Regime!”

The light shining upon the valley was interrupted by darkness. A black mist loomed over the place. The people could not see a thing.

The soldiers with Shadow Element were strengthened by the darkness too, but they had lost track of their target. If they fired the Giant Shadow Spikes now, they might hit their own people instead!

Most importantly, the man’s Shadow Element was clearly a lot stronger than theirs. Would their Giant Shadow Spikes even do anything to him?

“Formation of Giant Shadow Spikes! Seal!”

As they thought, a stronger energy descended upon them. They could clearly sense the darkness infiltrating their bodies and minds, leaving them terrified!

The soldiers shuddered when the shadow swords landed on them. Their bodies and minds were completely Sealed off by the swords!