

Versatile 1271

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Chapter 1271: The Dreadful Curse Cerberus!

A demonic glow rose into the sky in the distance. A strong gust of wind swept in all directions from the center of the white woods. The trees swayed like strong waves of an ocean. The broken leaves and trees scattered in the night sky.

The evil glow continued to grow brighter. Nighthawk stood on the head of the Light-Curtain Eagle, the strong wind blowing at his face. The man lifted his sharply-defined face, revealing a long scar that went from his neck to the back of his ear!

“This presence...” Nighthawk frowned. His expression turned cold too.

“What is it? You know what it is?” Mo Fan asked.

Mo Fan was well aware that the presence belonged to the Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds, but there was something different about it this time. It felt stronger and scarier!

“Can you see the scar on my face?” Nighthawk twisted his lips. He flipped his hair up to fully expose the scar.

Mo Fan was finally able to get a close look at the scar. It was terrifying. The lumps across the scar showed how deep and wide the wound had been!

“I thought I wasn’t going to live back then. I can still feel that I’m lying in my own pool of blood...” Nighthawk recalled the past with a painful look. He shook his head to clear his thoughts and said, “It’s the Dreadful Curse Hell Hound. When I was hunting down a criminal, it was his Dreadful Curse Hell Hound that bit my neck!”

“It’s indeed the presence of a Dreadful Curse Hell Hound, but the man is from the Research Union,” Mo Fan said.

Nighthawk nodded and said, “There isn’t just one person that owns the Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds, but judging from how strong its presence is, I’m afraid the guy has access to the Hell Forge Ritual!”

“Hell Forge Ritual? What does that mean?” Mo Fan was confused.

As soon as Mo Fan finished the sentence, three ghastly heads of Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds poked out from the canopy layer of the woods. Their eyes were swaying like fires, emitting an intimidating light. Dark red breaths were coming out between their fangs. The snow that landed close to them was evaporated by the scorching heat instantly!

The Light-Curtain Eagle subconsciously beat its wings to slow down when it felt threatened. The creature was obviously intimidated by the overwhelming presence of the deadly beast. It even lost its balance slightly when it felt the strong aura of the beast sweeping at it.

As they got a little closer, Mo Fan realized the three heads of the Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds were actually connected to the same thick neck, all covered in dreadful curses!

The neck had three heads on it, each with a different aura and color. Even the fierce light from their eyes was different!

“You have found yourself a formidable opponent. The man can already merge three Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds into one. He has forged three Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds into a Dreadful Curse Cerberus several times stronger than a Dreadful Curse Hell Hound!” Nighthawk said.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was at least five times bigger than a normal Dreadful Curse Hell Hound. The trees were over fifty meters tall, but were nowhere enough to conceal the creature’s size.

Its three heads loomed above the canopy. Two of them were roaring fiercely into the night sky, while the remaining one was staring at the canopy as if searching for something hiding in it.

The head with green burning eyes suddenly discovered something. The other two heads immediately locked murderous gazes on a slim figure weaving through the trees with her wind in the canopy!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus dashed forward, and ramming the trees into pieces. They poked their heads forward, as if they were fighting for the chance to swallow Mu Ningxue down!

The beast’s speed and strength were absolutely terrifying. It had managed to catch up to Mu Ningxue even though she was making a run with her Nimble Wind. She kept switching her positions like an ice fairy. Whenever the Dreadful Curse Cerberus was about to catch up to her, she would make an urgent turn to distance herself...

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus kept charging forward, knocking down a huge bunch of innocent trees like it was running through a field of grain. It continued to change direction and pursue Mu Ningxue relentlessly.

The head engulfed in a green fire suddenly opened its mouth and spat out sinister green flames at her!

The green flames surged through the woods like a long green tongue, rapidly closing in on Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue glanced back and saw the green flames. She also noticed the other two heads of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus were watching her closely. They would lunge in the same direction she was dodging into. She had nowhere to run to!

Mu Ningxue’s heart pounded heavily. The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was easily the strongest Commander-level creature she had ever encountered. Even her frost had no chance of suppressing its hellish aura!

If she did not have enough time to set up her ice, if her Ice Magic failed to suppress her opponent, there was no way she could take on the formidable beast!

As she thought, as soon as she tried to dodge, the moment she slowed down a little, the other two heads of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus lunged at her simultaneously. As they opened their mouths, the deadly aura circling them suddenly turned into a pitch-black cave with sharp fangs. They were not biting at her, they were trying to swallow her directly!

“Wind Wings: Six Wings Protection!”

The white Wind Wings extended and bent forward. They stacked on top of one another to protect Mu Ningxue!

The Six Wings Protection was an outstanding defensive spell of the Advanced Level, one of the uses of the Wind Wings. The only downside was, once the Wind Wings were used as protection, they would soon dissipate. It would take some time before the Mage could summon new Wind Wings again!

The wind surged wildly. The Six Wings Protection did resist the attack of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus, but Mu Ningxue also fell to the ground after losing her Wind Wings.

Without them, Mu Ningxue had no chance of escaping from the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The Dreadful Curse Cerberus seemed quite intelligent. Every move it took had a goal in mind. It was gradually driving its prey into a dead end!

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Chapter 1272: Bound by the Six Eyes!

“You son of a b**ch, don’t you touch my wife!” Mo Fan’s thunderous voice came from the sky.

The Light-Curtain Eagle had finally reached the sky above the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. Mo Fan could not bear to watch the creature bully Mu Ningxue. He immediately jumped down from over a thousand meters in the sky!

“Little Flame Belle, what are you waiting for!?” Mo Fan turned around and yelled at Little Flame Belle on the Light-Curtain Eagle as he was falling.

Little Flame Belle was a little slow with her reaction. She followed Mo Fan and dove down from the sky after hearing his cry. She clenched her fists and extended them forward while using her fire to form a little cape behind her...

3Upon seeing that, Mo Fan swore he would never let Little Flame Belle watch those boring animes ever again.

2Mo Fan was already engulfed in bright red flames as he was falling from the sky. Little Flame Belle finally caught up to him when he was around two hundred meters from the ground. She slammed into Mo Fan’s chest together with the flames of her Calamity Fire and Ardent Sunset!

Mo Fan had his own fire, too. As soon as he made contact with Little Flame Belle, the flames were burning so fiercely that it felt like he had turned into a devil from Hell. His aura skyrocketed as the strong flames filled up the sky above the canopy layer!

“You better piss off!”

The flames burning on Mo Fan gradually grew stronger. He was diving right at the Dreadful Curse Cerberus like a meteorite!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus's heads were still fighting over the chance of having the first bite when the 'meteorite' came down from the sky and knocked the enormous beast flying!

The beast had thick and sturdy skin. It skidded along the ground, gouging out a trail a hundred meters long behind it. However, when the Dreadful Curse Cerberus rose to its feet again after the strong impact, there were only a few minor scratches on it...

The head with eyes engulfed in orange flames let out a furious cry at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan recognized the head. It was the Dreadful Curse Hellish Hound that had managed to escape previously. He could still see the scar left by his lightning on its head!

"You son of a b**ch, I'm going to chop you into pieces today!" Mo Fan taunted when he sensed the rage and animosity from the beast.

Mu Ningxue felt a lot more at ease knowing that Mo Fan had made it there. She was obviously no match against the Dreadful Curse Cerberus, but things would be different if Mo Fan was here!

"Mo Fan, the beast is pretty strong, be careful," Mu Ningxue warned him.

They could not afford to make a single mistake when facing the formidable beast. The cunning and dangerous Dreadful Curse Cerberus seemed to be good at discerning the weaknesses of its enemy. It would target those weaknesses relentlessly!

"How is Yu Shishi doing?" Mo Fan asked.

"Not great! She can't take on Zeng Guanglie on her own," Mu Ningxue said.

"Don't worry, I've brought a helper with me," Mo Fan looked into the sky and yelled, "Nighthawk, go ahead and help the woman with wings!"

"Got it, but you have to be careful! The Dreadful Curse Cerberus is very dangerous!" Nighthawk yelled.

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"Humph, you were only lucky last time since I hadn't completed my Hell Forge Ritual. Otherwise, I would have razed your Fanxue Mountain to the ground! Now that you two have walked right into the trap! I'm sorry to say you won't be able to leave in one piece!" Houndman walked out from the shadows. He jumped onto the Dreadful Curse Cerberus and looked down at them.

His eyes were murderous.

The value of the Totem Beast was unimaginable. Houndman was trying to trade it for resources that would help him achieve the Super Level. There was no way he would let two young Mages ruin his ambition!

"Kill them!" Houndman ordered coldly.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus' aura skyrocketed. As its aura surged forward, it surprisingly disturbed their mind by inflicting a strong fear on them. It slowed down the channeling of their spells...

Mo Fan frowned as he noticed it, "The creature's Domain is stronger than ours."

“Mm, we can’t force a fight with it,” Mu Ningxue had deduced.

Her strength was in suppressing her target with her Ice Magic, but it was not as effective when she was facing an opponent stronger than her magic.

Similarly, Mo Fan mainly relied on the destructiveness of his spells. He was greatly restrained when his spells could no longer break through the defense of the enemy.

“The Dreadful Curse Cerberus might be tricky to fight against, but Houndman isn’t that strong. We should find a chance to take him out,” Mo Fan said.

“The guy is pretty cautious.”

“We’ll find a way...”

Mo Fan let Mu Ningxue cover him as he pretended to be accumulating power to attack the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. However, he suddenly cast Blink, leaving only a ring of fire where he was standing while he moved to the back of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus raised its claw and swung it at the ring of fire. It swept the dust into the air and cracked the ground. The force was strong, but it did not land on Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was already behind the Dreadful Curse Cerberus, trying to drag Houndman down from the beast...

As soon as Mo Fan cast his Space Magic, the Dreadful Curse Cerberus immediately unleashed its bloody aura, forming a barrier that encapsulated itself and Houndman. The runes covering its body began to glow too!

“So that’s the reason why it wasn’t injured after I hit it!” Mo Fan immediately realized the truth behind the creature’s outstanding defense when he saw the barrier.

The ‘meteorite’ that he and Little Flame Belle had turned into possessed extraordinary force, yet it had only left the Dreadful Curse Cerberus with a few scratches. Even Mo Fan found it hard to believe. He had fought against Commander-level creatures with sturdy defenses before, yet none of them were as agile and powerful as the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. If the beast really had such impressive defense, speed, and strength, wouldn’t it be as strong as a Ruler-level creature?

“It’s not going to work. Just accept your fate!” Houndman chuckled when he realized what Mo Fan was up to.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus turned around. Its three pairs of eyes flickered coldly!

Mo Fan felt his scalp turning numb the moment the six burning eyes of three different colors stared at him. When he tried to look away, he suddenly realized he was surrounded by a line of the same eyes!

Green, orange, and brown!

The eyes of three different colors showed up on Mo Fan’s left. As he moved in a different direction, he was shocked to see that the eyes were still chasing after him. He clearly felt the savagery of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus hiding in the shadows just by looking at the eyes!

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Chapter 1273: Deception in a Battle

Mo Fan quickly backed away, but the eyes kept following him around. The more he looked at them, the stronger the fear inside his heart grew.

Mo Fan forcibly closed his eyes. His surroundings turned pitch-black. He initially thought he would be able to escape the stare of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus, but the ghastly eyes continued to appear in his mind and project fear into his heart. He started having trouble breathing properly.

Most terrifyingly, there were no longer just six eyes. It was like a dozen or more Dreadful Curse Cerberus were surrounding him. Over a hundred eyes engulfed in flames were staring at him. It was so horrifying that it felt like his spirit would scatter like ash!

Mo Fan was utterly spooked. The Eyes of Terror of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus were overwhelming. Even he was feeling tortured, despite his fourth-stage mental strength.

As Mo Fan was struggling to break free from the fear inflicted on him, his necklace started emitting a watery blue light. It began to spread like ripples, each wave soothing Mo Fan's heart as it was on the verge of being crushed into pieces!

Mo Fan finally regained consciousness after some time. He could not open his eyes, yet he could hear Mu Ningxue's scream.

"Mo Fan! Wake up!" Mu Ningxue was shoving Mo Fan heavily. She sounded panicked.

Mo Fan opened his eyes. Before he could come to his senses, he was shocked to see the body of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus looming up right before him. It had raised its burning, rotten paws right above him.

Mo Fan's heart pounded. He glanced at Mu Ningxue, who did not escape to save herself. He calmed his thoughts in the nick of time.

"Grab onto me!" Mo Fan reached his hand out and hugged Mu Ningxue around her waist.

Mu Ningxue shuddered when Mo Fan wrapped his arm around her waist, but she knew now was not the time to complain.

"Blink!" Mo Fan endured both the physical and mental pressure he was under and forcibly cast the Advanced Spell of the Space Element.

Silver stars rapidly appeared and formed Star Orbits and Star Patterns under Mo Fan's feet. Even though their pace was dazzling, the Dreadful Curse Cerberus' paws were only inches away...

"How naive, are you seriously trying to use the Advanced Space Spell in the short period of time you have!?" Houndman scoffed disdainfully.

The Space Element was regarded as the most complicated Element. Not many people were able to use it adeptly or perfectly master it. A Space Mage needed a lot of time to practice and improve the Space Element, which basically meant they would have to sacrifice the time to practice their other Elements!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus stomped down. The ground cracked open as rock splinters scattered in all directions. The force continued to spread out, knocking the trees down. The force almost razed the entire woods to the ground. The area affected by the blow was over two hundred meters across!

The silver light dots were as small as fireflies, and swayed and dimmed amid the flying dust. The Dreadful Curse Cerberus slowly raised its front paw...

Normally, the Dreadful Curse Cerberus enjoyed the sensation of the viscous blood of its prey sticking onto its paws whenever it crushed them into pulp. Even though its prey was humans this time, meaning there would not be much blood, it was more satisfying for the creature, knowing that it had avenged its fallen comrade!

The creature lifted its paws half a meter into the air, yet there was nothing below it, apart from some rock splinters, not even a single drop of blood.

Houndman and the Dreadful Curse Cerberus were shocked. Master and servant finally realized their prey had already escaped!

“How did he do it!?” Houndman exclaimed.

Regardless of how quick Blink was, he still needed a certain time to channel the spell, especially when it involved constructing a Star Constellation made up of 343 Stars. How could the kid possibly cast the spell so quickly?

“Flame sword!”

Mo Fan suddenly appeared behind the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. He swung a huge burning sword forward in the shape of a crescent.

The damage of the flame sword had nothing to do with its sharpness. It was purely abusing the explosive energy when the flames were compressed together. It immediately unleashed its destructive force when it landed on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus.

The flames of the Ardent Sunset and Calamity Fire spread rapidly after knocking the Dreadful Curse Cerberus flying. The creature was soon engulfed in flames. It cried wildly as it was being burned by the flames.

“It looks like it didn’t have time to set up its barrier!” Mu Ningxue realized the creature’s weakness when she saw the scorched wound left by the flame sword on the Dreadful Curse Hell Hound.

“Mm, it’s very likely that using the barrier consumes a lot of energy, so it can’t afford to use it all the time. If that’s the case, we might have a chance to kill it!” Mo Fan said.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus had failed to react to Mo Fan’s surprise attack. The flame sword had left a huge wound on its body. Furthermore, it was continuing to burn and worsen the injury. Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue were in an advantageous position!

“Damn it!” Houndman clenched his teeth. Words were not needed to describe how agitated he was.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus should have been able to kill the two young Mages very easily, yet they were still standing after so long!

“Dreadful Curse Glare!” Houndman ordered.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ eyes began to emit light rays at Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue.

“Nyx Regime!” Mo Fan reacted swiftly. A dark aura loomed over the place and soon consumed the area in pitch-black darkness.

The Nyx Regime was Mo Fan’s Dark Domain. Any attacks directed at Mo Fan’s mind were greatly weakened within it. Most importantly, the Dreadful Curse Cerberus was having trouble tracking Mo Fan down in the darkness, so it had no chance of inflicting fear on him!

Mo Fan would not fall for the same trick twice!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ eyes flickered wildly, yet it could not find exactly where Mo Fan had gone to. Mo Fan constantly changed his positions in the Nyx Regime. He appeared beside the Dreadful Curse Cerberus suddenly and threw a fiery fist at it.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was struggling to see properly. It subconsciously unleashed a bloody aura when it saw the light of the flames.

The bloody aura formed a powerful barrier around the Dreadful Curse Cerberus and Houndman. However, Houndman was angry when he realized the attack that Mo Fan had just executed was extremely weak. It would not have inflicted any damage on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus even without the protection of the barrier!

“Have a piece of my strongest destructive spell!” an excited voice said from another direction.

Houndman turned around and immediately saw brilliant flames approaching from the dark. A strong wave of heat preceded it.

It was an attack made up of three types of flames. Houndman quickly warned the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The creature let out a roar and strengthened the protection around itself.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus had taken a serious blow from the flame sword. Its strength would fall significantly if it kept on receiving those attacks.

With a slight breeze, a little blast landed on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ thick barrier.

The flames crackled and swayed wildly. It looked like mere firecrackers thrown at an indestructible mountain wall when compared to the enormous body of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus.

Houndman’s face reddened in rage when he saw the little spark. The heads of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus slanted to the side too, as if they were completely confused.

The strongest destructive spell?

Houndman immediately realized he had been tricked again. His heart was raging in his chest!

“Ice Hollow Roses!”

Mu Ningxue secretly completed her Ice Spell. Several icy roses suddenly blossomed close to the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The icy thorns appeared right when the Dreadful Curse Cerberus withdrew its barrier. The icy roses turned into deadly weapons pouring down on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The creature was soon covered in bleeding holes!

The holes were tiny, yet it was still stunning to see almost a thousand holes poked in the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The creature was covered in blood. Meanwhile, the passive ability of every Ice Spell, the penetrating frost, was digging into the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’s body through the wounds...

The creature’s blood flow began to slow down. It was clearly not in favor of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. Its movement speed was reduced under the effects of the Ice Magic!

The wound inflicted by the flames was already hindering its movements, as whenever it tried to accumulate force in its back legs, the wound would split open and bleed. Now the frost was penetrating the creature’s body too! The creature was greatly weakened by its injuries.

Houndman was sullen. The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was supposed to be unbeatable when facing Advanced Mages with its Blood Barrier. He never thought he would be tricked by Mo Fan’s shameless moves twice...

Houndman just could not understand. Wasn’t Mo Fan supposed to be the strongest participant in the World College Tournament? How could he be so shameless in a fight? He was yelling so loud that he was using his strongest destructive spell! Both Houndman and the Dreadful Curse Cerberus were so convinced by it, yet it was just a tiny little fireball that was only good for illuminating the area. When Houndman thought about how the little fireball had wasted the creature’s important Blood Barrier, he had an urge to turn into a Dreadful Curse Hound to tear Mo Fan into pieces himself!

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Chapter 1274: That’s What You Get for Trying to Be a Bully Under Your Dog’s Protection!

“Nirvana Ice Domain!”

Mu Ningxue’s Nirvana Ice Domain grew stronger as soon as the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ aura weakened. It gradually surpassed the aura of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus.

She had managed to implant the frosty aura in the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ body, making it easier for her to restrain the creature’s movement with her Ice Magic. Her ice was finally able to control the pace of the battle after it gradually penetrated the creature’s body through its wounds.

The temperature of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’s blood dropped faster the lower it was. Its body temperature soon dropped to half of its initial level!

It was very crucial to restrain the creature’s speed, finally allowing Mu Ningxue and Mo Fan to dodge the creature’s attacks. It also allowed Mu Ningxue to kite the Dreadful Curse Cerberus with her agile Wind Element and ability to manipulate the terrain with her Ice Element.

“Tyrant Call!”

Mo Fan changed his approach to work better with Mu Ningxue’s Ice Magic. He no longer used his Fire. The continuous lightning strikes left Lightning Tyrant Scars all over the Dreadful Curse Cerberus.

The yellow Lightning Tyrant Scars glowed wildly on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus in many places. However, Houndman had no clue that they were going to trigger the Tyrant Call!

Mo Fan was smart with his approach. He triggered the Tyrant Call as soon as the Dreadful Curse Cerberus was done with its attack. The lightning strike triggered by more than a hundred stacks of the Lightning Tyrant Scars slammed down from the sky and landed right on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. The powerful blast left a huge scorched hole on the creature’s back!

The hole was so big that the bones inside the creature’s body were visible. The ice poured into the open wound on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ body without restraint!

Mu Ningxue was better at fighting battles of attrition, since her Ice would grow stronger as the fight went on. She confidently directed her frost to lunge into the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ body after Mo Fan blasted its skin apart. They could easily tell that the creature was getting weaker.

The creature’s aura had weakened, because it was dying.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue had perfectly utilized the strength of their Lightning Tyrant and Nirvana Ice Domains. In addition to that, Mo Fan’s Lightning was significantly stronger than normal Lightning Mages. Since the Dreadful Curse Cerberus could no longer use its Blood Barrier, Mo Fan continuously summoned wild lightning down on it. The heads of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus were severely blistered from the continuous strokes.

Blood was pouring out from the creature’s wounds. Seriously injured by the ice and lightning, the Dreadful Curse Cerebus still attacked furiously, but Mu Ningxue dodged it with ease while triggering the Storm Trap that she had left behind.

A powerful wind with bearing frozen blades swept the gargantuan Dreadful Curse Cerberus into the air. The strong blades sliced at the creature, leaving even bigger wounds all over it.

Houndman was also in a miserable state after losing the protection of its blood barrier. He was covered in blood, just like the Dreadful Curse Hell Cerberus!

“Damn it, damn it, who do you think you are to challenge me? Die!” Houndman felt like he was about to lose his mind. He had actually lost to two students that had just graduated, when he was basically dominating the Advanced Level. The Dreadful Curse Cerberus that he was extremely proud of was suffering from serious injuries!

Houndman jumped down from the Dreadful Curse Cerberus when he saw the creature was struggling to rise to its feet. He was going to take Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue on with his magic.

“Why do I think the dog is all you got? You’re useless on your own!” Mo Fan grabbed Houndman’s throat with Telekinesis when he saw the man charging at him recklessly.

The Curse Spell that Houndman just cast dissipated straightaway. He had almost suffocated from Mo Fan’s powerful grip.

“Why aren’t you acting smug now!?” Mo Fan raised his other hand and gave Houndman a great slap to the face.

The slap strengthened by the Space Element was not something a human Mage could possibly endure. Houndman immediately lost two of his front teeth. He spat out a mouthful of blood. His face was beyond recognition after taking the slap.

“This is for bringing your dogs to my territory, you piece of shit!” Mo Fan gave Houndman a huge slap to the other side of his face before he could even react. His face was swollen even further after losing a few more teeth!

1“That’s what you get for trying to be a bully under your dog’s protection! Do you really think you can lay your hands on the Totem Beast?” Mo Fan did not show any mercy. He slapped Houndman on the face again, knocking him unconscious.

Houndman’s face was covered in blood, swollen like a roasted pig. When he regained consciousness, he realized Mo Fan was still holding him in the air. He immediately fainted, overwhelmed by his anger.

Mo Fan never cared about righteousness and justice. When Mu Ningxue asked him what they should do about the Dreadful Curse Cerberus, Mo Fan decisively cast a Sky Lightning Claw to tear the Dreadful Curse Cerberus into pieces!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was extremely strong. It posed a great threat even when he was teaming up with Mu Ningxue. Why would he bother sparing the creature’s life?

“You’re still pretending to be unconscious!?” Mo Fan woke Houndman up with another slap to the face. Houndman could no longer speak properly after losing his teeth. His nose and mouth were basically mashed flat and looked like one big smear.

When Houndman saw the Dreadful Curse Cerberus that he had spent all his life raising torn to pieces by lightning, his eyes rolled up as he fainted in despair!

*1*Killing the Summoned Beast of a Mage using the Summoning Element as their primary Element was the same as crippling their cultivation. It was unlikely that they could raise the same Summoned Beasts again. Houndman was in so much despair that he fainted straightaway!

“Did you really just wake him up just so he could see the dead body of his Summoned Beast?” Mu Ningxue rolled her eyes at Mo Fan.

*1*Mo Fan grinned; he was enjoying torturing the man!

When Mo Fan was about to say something, three brilliant lights floated out of the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ body. They seemed to be confused after leaving the body, but after the Little Loach Pendant shuddered, they immediately flew toward Mo Fan.

“Are those...” Mo Fan seemed surprised.

It was already a great fortune if he could obtain a Soul Essence from killing a Commander-level creature. To his amazement, killing the Dreadful Curse Cerberus actually gave him three Soul Essences!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was clearly one of the strongest Commander-level creatures he had ever fought against, meaning that the three Soul Essences were most likely better than normal Soul Essences too. He could definitely make a fortune by selling them!

1Mo Fan burst out laughing.

Mu Ningxue was unable to see the Soul Essences that Mo Fan had collected. She assumed Mo Fan had started to lose himself as he indulged in the pleasure of torturing the man.

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“Nighthawk, how are you doing?” Mo Fan showed up while dragging the unconscious Houndman along the ground.

Nighthawk turned around. He was surprised to see Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue.

“Where’s the Dreadful Curse Cerberus?” Nighthawk asked.

“Dead,” Mo Fan said.

“You killed it?” Nighthawk found it hard to believe.

Nighthawk still had a lingering fear for the Dreadful Curse Cerberus. He could still feel pain from the scar on his neck every time he recalled the past. Even though he might be strong enough to take down the creature now, it was still an unhealable wound...

“You actually killed the Dreadful Curse Cerberus...” It took Nighthawk some time to collect his thoughts. He shook his head helplessly and said, “You two are seriously monsters.”

Nighthawk finally understood why China had come first in the World College Tournament. These two were just insanely strong if they could kill even a Dreadful Curse Cerberus!

“There’s nothing we can’t beat when us husband and wife work together!” Mo Fan laughed.

1Mu Ningxue was too lazy to refute it. She went over to Yu Shishi instead.

1Nighthawk had taken care of Zeng Guanglie, Ke Lingxi, and the underlings. He did not have any problem dealing with them, considering how strong he was. He could even take out Houndman too, if it was not for his subconscious fear of the Dreadful Curse Hell Hounds.

“Nighthawk, how dare you help outsiders against the members of the Magic Association? I’ll tell the council about it! They will make you pay for it!” Ke Lingxi barked like a dog. He had recognized Nighthawk.

“Ke Lingxi, you knew they were after the Totem Beast, yet you still tried to help them steal it. Feel free to explain yourself to the Chairman. I can’t wait to see how many years in prison you will be sentenced to since you, a committee member of the Research Union, has been giving important information about our country’s Totem Beasts to outsiders!” Nighthawk replied disdainfully.

The Research Union had clearly crossed the line. If they were only after Yu Shishi to research the unique scent that stopped the demon creatures from attacking her, no one could possibly do anything to them. However, things were different as soon as a Totem Beast was involved!

Even though people were not willing to mention the Totem Beasts, they were still the heritage of their country. Since the incident that had involved the Black Totem Snake, these Totem Beasts had been under protection, like the ancient heritage of their country, yet Ke Lingxi still dared to trade the information of the Magic Association to the people of the Asia Magic Association!

“Ke Lingxi, you know what you’ve done. You better tell us who’s behind it. Perhaps the Chairman might go easy on you. Otherwise, there’s a chance that you might be charged with treason!” Nighthawk said imperiously. Ke Lingxi’s threat was clearly useless against him.

Ke Lingxi was dumbfounded. As a matter of fact, he knew there would be great consequences if Houndman was caught, since he was not a Mage from their country...

“What’s going on here?” Mu Ningxue was confused after hearing Nighthawk’s words.

“Continent Councilman Su Lu of the Asia Magic Association isn’t on friendly terms with Chairman Shao Zheng. Su Lu is using the Donghai Magic Association to search for Totem Beasts. If Ke Lingxi is willing to testify that Su Lu is behind it, Chairman Shao Zheng will easily make Su Lu pay for it!” Mo Fan told Mu Ningxue.

“Then what about Yu Shishi...” Mu Ningxue hesitated.

“Don’t worry, Shao Zheng has left me in charge of the Totem Beasts. I’m pretty much the ambassador of Totem Beasts now, so Yu Shishi is under my care. No one apart from the Councilmen can lay a hand on her,” Mo Fan declared.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1275: The Totem Beast That Fits

The Moon Moth Phoenix was safe now, but she still showed no sign of waking up. Yu Shishi’s face was covered in tears. Almost all of the blue moths had died in the battle. The ones left alive were injured too. They were flying pitifully around Yu Shishi in circles.

“Cheer up,” Mu Ningxue comforted her.

Yu Shishi wiped her tears and forced a pitiful smile. “It’s worth it as long as the Moon Moth Phoenix is safe!”

“You’re safe too. I believe they can reproduce pretty fast again under your delicate care,” Mu Ningxue said.

“Mm, you’re right!” Yu Shishi nodded.

Either way, she had fulfilled her role and protected the Moon Moth Phoenix. It would be worse if the Moon Moth Phoenix was taken away after she had sacrificed everything. If that happened, she would never be able to recover from the loss!

"I'll have to find a new hiding spot for her. I'm sorry I can't tell you where she would be relocated to," Yu Shishi said.

"Hang on," Mo Fan stopped Yu Shishi.

Yu Shishi was obviously still holding a grudge against Mo Fan. She looked at Mo Fan alertly. She was afraid that these benefactors that helped to drive away the people that were harboring malicious intent toward the Moon Moth Phoenix were having other thoughts about the Moon Moth Phoenix, too.

"No one is supposed to know where the Moon Moth Phoenix apart from you, yet how did they manage to find this place?" Mo Fan asked, his eyes narrowed.

"I...I don't know either," Yu Shishi fell into deep thought. *—Yeah, how did they know where the Moon Moth Phoenix is?—*

Meanwhile, Lingling walked up to the group of people that Nighthawk had subdued and stared at one of the men with his head lowered.

"You are Lian Xishan, right?" Lingling asked.

The man raised his head. He seemed to be in a panic.

Lian Xishan never expected that Chairman Shao Zheng was paying attention to the Totem Beasts. Ke Lingxi was clearly colluding with outsiders to steal the Totem Beast, meaning that he would have to face grave consequences too!

"I'm...I'm not," Lian Xishan quickly denied.

"You're seriously a disgrace to Jiang Shaojun. The man risked his life to search for the Totem Beasts, but you sold the information to these people that tried to harm the Totem Beasts instead!" Lingling harrumphed coldly. She sounded a little angry.

"Is he the colleague that Jiang Shaojun mentioned in his journal?" Mo Fan looked at Lian Xishan.

"Mm, a piece of scum," Lingling confirmed.

Mo Fan went up to Lian Xishan and snapped, "I've asked around and learned that Jiang Shaojun went missing while he was looking for an ancient Totem Beast. Were you the one that killed him!?"

Lian Xishan's face paled after hearing the accusation!

"Heavens, I never killed Jiang Shaojun!" Lian Xishan shook his head urgently and said, "I have nothing to do with it. I didn't kill him. He insisted on going to look for the ancient Totem Beast. I thought it was too dangerous, and his speculation was just too ridiculous, so our team didn't go with him!"

"Oh? Do you know where he went then?" Mo Fan asked.

"He went to a few places. Once, he visited Hangzhou, and he came to me looking very excited. He told me that he had discovered a great secret. He was hoping that I could help him find the Totem Beast. I assumed he had gone crazy, so I just ignored him. He was very disappointed with me, and then he went north," Lian Xishan said.

Lian Xishan quickly told Mo Fan everything he knew after he was accused of killing Jiang Shaojun.

“He went to Hangzhou?” Mo Fan fell into deep thought.

“I only knew he went somewhere in Gansu,” Lian Xishan said. His forehead was covered in sweat.

“Well, do you recognize this feather?” Mo Fan took out a huge feather from the storage of his Space Element.

Lian Xishan obviously recognized the feather. The expression on his face said it all.

Lian Xishan collected his thoughts after some time. He stammered, “It took us a great amount of effort to find this feather. However, there was a huge disagreement in the team after that, so we didn’t continue with the search.”

“Where did you find this feather?” Mo Fan asked

“In Yantai! I can give you all the information I have if you’re interested!” Lian Xishan exclaimed.

“It seems like you’re still of some use. I guess I’ll hand you to the Enforcement Union later,” Mo Fan smiled.

Lian Xishan immediately looked grateful. If he really ended up in Chairman Shao Zheng’s hands, a little archaeologist like him was surely going to face great problems...

“I’ll be going then,” Yu Shishi said.

“If the Moon Moth Phoenix wakes up, can you please ask if she knows of the other Totem Beasts?” Mo Fan asked.

“Sure!” Yu Shishi nodded. The favor Mo Fan asked was nothing compared to the help that he and Mu Ningxue had provided.

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The forest happened to be closer to Hangzhou, so Mo Fan, Mu Ningxue, Nighthawk, and Lingling decided to escort the people to Hangzhou instead.

Tangyue was around when they arrived at the Lingyin Enforcement Union. She looked at Mo Fan, Nighthawk, Mu Ningxue, and Lingling with wide eyes.

Tang Zhong was around, too. Mo Fan spoke before he could even speak, “Old Tang, can I borrow the prison of your Enforcement Union for some days? These people are very important to the Chairman.”

“Can you at least tell me what’s going on first? Zeng Guanglie, Ke Lingxi... what the heck have you done this time?” Tang Zhong recognized the prisoners.

The Donghai Magic Association occasionally had dealings with the Hangzhou Magic Association, and both Zeng Guanglie and Ke Lingxi held fairly high ranks in the Donghai Magic Association too. Why did they end up being escorted by Nighthawk like they were criminals?

Tang Zhong learned the truth after a brief explanation from Nighthawk.

“You are a fool!” Tang Zhong berated them sadly. He seemed to be quite close to Ke Lingxi.

“Brother Tang Zhong, I didn’t think it would end up like this. I was blinded by my greed,” Ke Lingxi let out a heavy sigh.

It was useless to say anything now. He had colluded with outsiders instead of telling anyone about his discovery of a Totem Beast. There was no way he could escape punishment.

“Just tell the Chairman everything you know, and he might go easy on you for it,” Tang Zhong said.

“I will,” Ke Lingxi sighed haggardly.

“Tangyue, escort them to the prison,” Tang Zhong said.

“A lot of things have been happening lately. Our cells are almost full,” Tangyue nodded, somewhat amused.

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It was already late at night. Mo Fan did not leave straightaway. He decided to spend the night at Hangzhou with Mu Ningxue.

If he had to find the perfect place for a date, it would definitely be the island at the heart of West Lake with its stunning view. Mo Fan had never been to shadowy shrubs with a clear beautiful lake together with Mu Ningxue. He purposely brought Mu Ningxue to the island in the middle of West Lake. The place was surrounded by water with a spectacular pavilion on it. It kept placing Mo Fan in a reverie...

“Are you serious about looking for the Totem Beasts?” Mu Ningxue asked him.

“Yeah, you have been improving so much that I’m having a hard time catching up,” Mo Fan said.

“What does it have anything to do with searching for the Totem Beasts?” Mu Ningxue was confused.

“I don’t know, I just feel like I’m tied to the Totem Beasts in some ways. There’s this voice that keeps calling me. The voice grows stronger whenever I come into contact with a Totem Beast,” Mo Fan said seriously.

Mu Ningxue rolled her eyes as she listened to Mo Fan’s explanation, “Bullshit! You can just go search for the Totem Beasts if you are interested in them. It’s not like you can just stay at a place and behave yourself.”

“Xuexue, you know me well,” Mo Fan took the initiative to stick his face closer.

Mu Ningxue was well aware of Mo Fan’s intentions. She picked up her pace and went inside the building nearby.

“You mentioned the drawings here before,” Mu Ningxue observed the drawings on the walls to distract herself from Mo Fan’s pursuit.

“Ah, these. I’ve been here a lot of times, but I can’t figure out what they mean... these bits here are similar to the patterns on the wooden clapper we saw in Japan. It looks like characters, or diagrams, or nothing at all. These bits are on the Black Totem Snake. Look here, it’s like the body of a snake protecting a village, which might be referring to the Black Totem Snake...and these bits...” Mo Fan suddenly fell silent. A sudden thought crossed his mind as he was explaining his discovery to Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue looked at Mo Fan after he suddenly became quiet. She was breathing as softly as she could.

Mu Ningxue was familiar with Mo Fan. It was obvious that he had thought of something, so she did not make a sound to disturb him.

As she thought, Mo Fan suddenly focused the drawings on the walls. He first looked at the Totem Beast that resembled the Black Totem Snake, before looking at the pattern that was related to the wooden clapper!

“Xuexue, look here, isn’t this shape similar to the pattern we saw on the Moon Moth Phoenix’s cocoon!?” Mo Fan went up to the wall and pointed at a strange pattern.

Mu Ningxue followed Mo Fan’s finger and recalled the pattern on the giant cocoon. She nodded and said, “You’re right, they are alike!”

“Take a look at this!” Mo Fan took out the feather of a Totem Beast that he had shown to Lian Xishan before. He placed the feather above the pattern of the Moon Moth Phoenix.

Mu Ningxue observed closely. After comparing the two, she was surprised to see that the pattern of the Moon Moth Phoenix was actually very similar to the pattern on the feather. They could even stack on top of one another. It was like two fingerprints that were ninety-percent identical!

That being said, the patterns on the Totem Beasts were a few dozen times bigger than fingerprints!

Was it just a coincidence? The pattern of the Moon Moth Phoenix was almost the same as the pattern on the mysterious feather!

“Xuexue, have you heard the legend about the Black Tortoise?” Mo Fan asked.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1276: The Cell Drenched with Blood

Mu Ningxue looked at Mo Fan, waiting for him to keep going.

“It’s something that Zhao Manyan told me before. I was quite curious why he was suddenly interested in Totem Beasts and even started researching about them,” Mo Fan recalled the words that Zhao Manyan had told him and linked them to the information about Baxia that Chairman Shao Zheng had told him recently. He organized the information before explaining it to Mu Ningxue.

“Zhao Manyan told me the legend of the Black Tortoise, how it had two descendants. One is the Black Totem Snake, and the other is Baxia. Based on Old Bao and Chairman Shao Zheng’s speculation, the wooden clapper that Zhao Manyan found is a symbolic artifact of Baxia, something that was normally in the possession of the chiefs of the ancient tribes that were protected by the Totem Beasts. Take a look at this; it’s the pattern of the Totem Beast that Jiang Shaojun was searching for. I believe it’s the seal of the Black Tortoise.”

Mo Fan took out Jiang Shaojun’s journal. There was a scribbled line tagging the Black Tortoise in it.

Most importantly, the seal of the Black Tortoise looked very familiar to Mu Ningxue...

“The...the seal of the Black Tortoise seems to be the combination of the seals of the Black Totem Snake and the wooden clapper!” Mu Ningxue concluded after recalling the pattern on Zhao Manyan’s wooden clapper.

“Exactly, it’s the combination of both! The two seals can combine into the seal of the Black Tortoise... it basically verifies the legend that the Black Tortoise had two descendants, Xuanshe and Baxia!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

Mu Ningxue nodded. She noticed Mo Fan was quite excited after solving a mystery.

“Look at this part of the feather,” Mo Fan placed the mysterious feather on the wall and used his hand to cover a part of it.

“Mm, it’s similar to the Moon Moth Phoenix’s pattern, you already mentioned that,” Mu Ningxue said.

“If our speculation of how the Black Totem Snake and Baxia are related to the Black Tortoise, it means the Moon Moth Phoenix is actually one of the descendants of this feather’s owner!” Mo Fan said.

Mu Ningxue’s heart skipped a beat upon hearing the words. An indescribable excitement was echoing in her heart!

If the Moon Moth Phoenix was only the descendant of the feather’s owner, what exactly would the Totem Beast that the feather belonged to be like?

“Hang on! If we already know the Moon Moth Phoenix’s Totem Seal and the seal of the feather’s owner, we can use subtraction to find out the seal of the other Totem Beast?” Mu Ningxue was excited after realizing that.

“Exactly!” Mo Fan nodded quickly.

The formula for the Totem Seals was simple. The seal of Baxia + the seal of the Black Totem Snake was the seal of the Black Tortoise!

It also implied that the seal of the mysterious feather’s owner – the seal of the Moon Moth Phoenix = the seal of an unknown Totem Beast!

The traces of Totem Beasts had been erased by time. It was extremely difficult to search for clues about them. However, if they knew the seal of a Totem Beast beforehand, it might be a useful clue to tracking down that Totem Beast!

“Maybe Jiang Shaojun figured out how the Totem Beasts are related to one another from the drawings here?” Mu Ningxue recalled what Lian Xishan said.

“That must be it. He insisted on exploring the south even if it meant going alone. He must have figured out there was a powerful Totem Beast there using the Totem Seals. He even mentioned it in the journal!” Mo Fan exclaimed eagerly.

Jiang Shaojun had found the truth to a Great Totem Beast with the help of the Totem Seals. However, no one had believed him back then, so he decided to prove it himself.

A man who was so passionate about the past, a man that was willing to sacrifice everything to seek the truth, a man who had discovered the secrets of the Totem Beasts ended up missing... Mo Fan had heard Jiang Shaojun talking about her brother Jiang Shaojun many times. He could not relate much to the man, but now that he had discovered the secret, his heart was pounding heavily too!

What could the Totem Beast that the feather belonged to, the creature whose rank was higher than the Moon Moth Phoenix, be? On the other hand, what was the Totem Beast that was on the same level as the Moon Moth Phoenix?

What was the Great Totem Beast that Jiang Shaojun kept mentioning in his journal? Was it the same Totem Beast that the feather belonged to? Or was it something else?

“Even though I don’t really understand why you are so passionate about the Totem Beasts, I strongly believe you will find the other Totem Beasts, beyond the Black Totem Snake and the Moon Moth Phoenix,” Mu Ningxue encouraged him quietly.

Mo Fan could not tell for sure either.

Why was he so passionate about the Totem Beasts? Was it because of their power?

Was it because he was interested in the overwhelming strength of the Totem Beasts? Was he fascinated by the fact that he could roam freely across the world if he could subdue one or two of them!?

“By the way, do you know what happened to Zhao Manyan?” Mu Ningxue said as the thought crossed her mind.

“About that, there’s something I couldn’t understand,” Mo Fan replied.

“What is it?” Mu Ningxue was quite curious too. She had heard the specifics of Zhao Manyan being eaten by a giant creature from the others.

“If Baxia was following us all the way from Japan to Venice, why did he show up all of a sudden after the end of the World College Tournament? I kept feeling that things aren’t as simple as they seem!” Mo Fan said.

Mu Ningxue glanced outside the building and happened to see the Black Totem Snake poking his enormous head closer. It was obvious that the Black Totem Snake was aware of Mo Fan’s presence, and had come to greet him.

A thought crossed Mu Ningxue's mind when she saw how friendly the Black Totem Snake was to Mo Fan, "Mo Fan, is it possible that Zhao Manyan's life was in danger? Baxia didn't show up to destroy anything, nor was he trying to eat Zhao Manyan. He was actually trying to protect him!"

Mu Ningxue's words immediately cleared up Mo Fan's doubts!

Yeah, Baxia had obviously been following Zhao Manyan, since the wooden clapper was its symbolic vessel. Zhao Manyan was like the chief of the ancient tribe the Totem Beast was protecting, so he suddenly showed up when Zhao Manyan's life was in danger!

Why did he not think about that in the first place!? That meant that something did happen to Zhao Manyan...

"Do you remember what Zhao Manyan was discussing with you?" Mu Ningxue said.

"He seemed pretty dispirited, mainly because of his father. He was hoping to make his father proud of his contributions. There was something he wanted to tell me too, but he didn't say it in the end. It felt like it's going to hurt if he said it," Mo Fan recalled.

"Aren't you very close to him? Why would he not tell you about it?" Mu Ningxue asked.

"I...I don't know," Mo Fan had no clue either.

"Normally, there are a few possibilities why he didn't want to say it. First, it might hurt the person he's talking to. Second, it might hurt someone that's as important as you are to him. Third, it might hurt himself," Mu Ningxue told him.

Mu Ningxue was able to give Mo Fan a different view of the questions he had. If Baxia only showed up because Zhao Manyan was in danger, was Zhao Manyan not willing to tell him everything because it was going to put his life in danger?

A loud cry from the sky interrupted Mo Fan's thoughts.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue went outside and saw Nighthawk and his Light-Curtain Eagle circling in the sky.

The Black Totem Snake had already submerged into the water, just so he did not scare the Light-Curtain Eagle so much that it would not dare to land.

"Mo Fan, something bad happened!" Nighthawk said with a frown.

"What is it?" Mo Fan said.

"We'll talk after we reach the Lingyin Enforcement Union," Nighthawk signaled Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue to come onto his Light-Curtain Eagle.

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They rode the Light-Curtain Eagle as it flew across the lake and headed toward Lingyin Mountain...

Nighthawk brought them straight to the prison. Tang Zhong and Tangyue were there too. They were wearing terrible looks. They could not find any word to say when they saw Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan looked into the prison and saw one of the cells had a huge pool of blood and a corpse that was beyond recognition in it.

In the other corner, Houndman looked up with a ferocious gaze. His hands were covered in blood. The blood was slowly dripping onto the floor.

“He killed Ke Lingxi,” Tangyue said with a self-blaming look, “I shouldn’t have locked them up in the same cell.”

Mo Fan was astounded by the sight.

The minds of the prisoners were suppressed when they were in the cells, meaning that they could not cast a single spell. In other words, Houndman had killed Ke Lingxi in the most brutal way.

Ke Lingxi’s death meant that they no longer had any evidence to accuse Continent Councilman Su Lu!

“Why did you do it!? The offenses you’ve committed aren’t even that serious. You just needed to spend a few years in jail, and you could still be a Mage after that. However, there’s no way you’re coming out of prison after killing Ke Lingxi!” Tang Zhong snapped.

“I’m more afraid of Su Lu than being imprisoned forever,” Houndman looked up. He did not wear a proud grin, like things had gone according to his plan. Instead, his face was pale and he was covered in a sweat of uneasiness and fear!

Su Lu hated being let down by his men the most. Houndman knew he would suffer greatly if not only did he fail to accomplish his mission, but he also ended up bringing trouble to Su Lu.

Houndman would rather make amends, even if it meant committing a serious offense by killing a committee member of the Research Union. He would rather spend the rest of his life in jail than be punished by the enraged Su Lu!

“Is that guy really that scary?” Mo Fan asked, seeing Houndman’s reaction. It was hard to imagine why a man who was almost unbeatable in the Advanced Mage would be so scared of a person!

“You don’t understand, you will never understand... you better be prepared too. Su Lu never forgives anyone that opposes him. Soon... you will be wearing my shoes,” Houndman curled up in the corner. It felt like he was suffering from a mental disorder.

1“... let’s go,” Mo Fan sighed.

Tangyue was still blaming herself for it. Mo Fan reassured her that she was not to blame.

Tangyue might be an Enforcer, but she was too kind to understand how twisted humans could be. It was definitely not her fault...

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1277: One Last Time

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Lujiang Private Hospital in the Magic City was located on the side of a hill. Its unique position and the spectacular woods surrounding it made it one of the most luxurious hospitals available. The majority of the people here were not patients, but medical personnel. It was common to see an aged patient followed by a group of medical personnel. They would even measure the wind speed as a safety precaution...

There was a spacious ward on the fourth floor. It was already midnight, so most of the medical personnel had left. Only a few had stayed to be on guard. The nurses were dozing off. They looked quite tired.

“Mother, I’ll bring you home. You aren’t used to resting here,” a man with glossy hair spoke up.

“I want to stay here,” the woman said.

“It’s fine, I’ll be keeping an eye here,” the man said.

“Al...alright. Oh Youqian, I wouldn’t know what to do if you weren’t here with me.” The woman seemed haggard.

The family had suddenly ended up in such a miserable state that only pain and grief were left. Bai Mingjing felt like she could not bear it any longer.

The man sent Bai Mingjing on her way and came back to the fourth floor. He glanced at a man with a scarred face and said, “Do me a favor tonight.”

“You can’t do it yourself, right?” the scarface said.

“Wait until it’s two in the morning. I didn’t expect the old man to last for so long,” Zhao Youqian said.

“You’re seriously the most cold-blooded person I’ve ever seen,” the scarface grinned.

“An assassin like you has no right to criticize me,” Zhao Youqian harrumphed.

The scarface leaned against the wall beside the door and watched Zhao Youqian leave. His eyes flickered with a slight hint of hostility.

He was holding a certain grudge against Zhao Youqian. His wife would not have been eaten by the island monster if the man had not hired them for the job.

That being said, it was not too bad working for Zhao Youqian; at least he would receive great benefits once the man took over the Zhao Clan.

After taking a look at his watch, Bacon lit up a cigarette and started smoking on the spot.

“Sir, you’re not allowed to smoke here. Please smoke at the end of the corridor,” a nurse that was dozing off spoke up immediately.

Bacon smacked his lips. However, he was not too bothered by it. He slowly moved to the end of the corridor.

“Wait, sir, there’s an injection scheduled soon. Can you please let Dr. Mo in first?” the nurse said.

“Here’s the magic lock, do whatever you want,” Bacon indifferently tossed the key to the magic lock to the nurse.

The nurse caught it and placed it aside. She began to do some paperwork.

Not long after, a doctor wearing a mask showed up. He glanced at the scarface Bacon standing at the end of the corridor alertly, but soon averted his gaze. He nodded at the nurse that had managed to get the key to the magic lock.

He went inside the ward. The room was fairly spacious with all kinds of instruments. However, it felt extremely cold inside.

The room had French windows, so it was possible to see into the room from the outside. The nurse went into the room and drew the curtains. The two Mages on duty felt it was inappropriate, but the nurse simply glared at them and continued to draw the curtains.

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“Thanks, you’ve done me a huge favor,” the doctor said sincerely.

“Just hurry up, the guy is going to be back after he’s done smoking,” the nurse said.

The doctor went over to the sickbed. His eyes reddened when he saw the old man lying on the bed who had no sign of vitality on his face.

In Zhao Manyan’s memories, that face always had the imperious expression of someone that ruled over a renowned clan, but it would occasionally have a patient and loving look when the man was looking at him. However, it had now wilted like an old tree. Zhao Manyan suddenly felt he was having difficulty breathing properly!

Zhao Manyan took a deep breath. His whole throat felt sour. He was trying his best to keep his calm.

However, the face like a wilted tree shuddered a little. The man’s eyes slowly opened. The dull eyes that were overwhelmed with fatigue glanced at Zhao Manyan.

Zhao Manyan was stunned. He did not dare to say a word.

The old man suddenly became restless. He tried to reach his hand toward Zhao Manyan’s face.

Zhao Manyan was still wearing a mask. He did not expect his father would be able to recognize him at first glance. When the cold fingers touched his face, he could no longer hold back the tears that were spinning in his eyes. They began to run down his face.

Zhao Manyan held the old man’s skinny hand. There were lots of things he wanted to say, but he was choked with sobs.

“Dad...” Zhao Manyan finally gathered his thoughts, but to his astonishment, the old man’s hand fell to the side as if it had lost its strength...

His eyes that were glittering were tightly shut now. There was less pain on his face, but it had lost all vitality.

His father had passed away...

His heart had stopped beating. His body had lost its warmth. He had really passed away.

Zhao Manyan crouched still. His heart was experiencing a great surge of emotions. His face greatly contorted in pain.

“You...you were waiting for me all along?” Zhao Manyan finally spoke, staring at the old man who was already dead.

His father was gravely ill after the World College Tournament. Zhao Manyan was told that he would not live for more than half a month. The family had agreed to let him die peacefully in advance, to avoid being tortured by the illness.

However, it had already been half a year since then, but the old man was still holding onto his last breath.

The man had endured the pain and torture for half a year... just to hear the news that he was still alive and see his son for one last time!

Zhao Manyan could no longer withhold the emotions in his heart. He fell onto the chest of the old man that was slowly growing cold and burst out crying like a kid.

The nurse let out a sigh upon seeing this.

The father and son were separated by death right after they had reunited. The old man had endured the torture of the illness for half a year just for this moment. The past half a year was longer than the old man's entire life.

Luckily, he made it. His father could finally rest in peace.

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“Sir, you still have the smell of a cigarette on you, you can't go in there!” a nurse yelled loudly outside the room.

“Time's up; having the smell or not doesn't matter to the old man now,” Bacon smiled.

“How can you say that? He's still a patient. He's still alive as long as he's breathing,” the nurse snapped.

“You still don't know what I do for a living, right?” Bacon looked at the stubborn nurse with a cold grin, “You save people's lives, but I'm quite the opposite!”

The nurse backed away subconsciously after seeing the man's terrifying gaze.

Bacon opened the door and immediately noticed the man wearing a mask.

“Who are you?” Bacon immediately showed strong hostility and glared at Zhao Manyan sharply.

“Sir, he's Dr. Mo, he's working the night shift today,” the nurse quickly explained.

“Take off the mask,” Bacon snapped coldly, but did not attack right away.

“Mr. Bacon, there's no need to be so rude...”

"It's none of your business!" Bacon glared at the nurse. The nurse froze in place. She was so terrified that she could not even speak.

Bacon walked up to Zhao Manyan and repeated, "Take off the mask!"

Zhao Manyan's breathing intensified after feeling the enormous pressure from the man.

Zhao Manyan recognized the man. He was one of the assassins that Zhao Youqian had hired to kill him. He was a Super Mage. Zhao Manyan did not stand a chance against him.

Zhao Manyan slowly took off the mask under the pressure, revealing his face. It was a haggard but handsome face.

Bacon stared at Zhao Manyan. His murderous aura rose for a moment, but it soon dissipated rapidly.

"I'm sorry, I've never seen you before. Dr. Mo, right? How's the old man?" Bacon withdrew his intimidating demeanor and wore an insincerely apologetic smile.

"He passed away, just a moment ago," Zhao Manyan said.

"Oh? Guess it makes me less guilty," Bacon said.

"Tell the family to make arrangements," Zhao Manyan donned the mask and left the ward with a cold expression.

"Don't you worry, it will surely be a grand funeral knowing how rich the family is, hehe!" Bacon replied.

Zhao Manyan took a deep breath again while heading out of the room. The nurse followed quickly.

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After going outside, Zhao Manyan was struggling to breathe. The tears that he tried his very best to hold still ended up pouring down like a rain.

Zhao Manyan had the urge to tear the scarf into pieces with his bare hands when he was uttering disrespectful words at his father. Unfortunately, he could not do it, since he was still too weak to take the man on, nor could he do anything to Zhao Youqian, who basically had the whole Zhao Clan under his control now.

Zhao Manyan walked aimlessly on the streets, like a zombie. The city was still lively at night. In the past, he would be spending his money recklessly by now. However, the city looked completely empty in his eyes. All he could see was a boundless darkness!

There was no sense of direction, nor a single glimpse of light in it.

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Zhao Manyan had no idea where he was after wandering around aimlessly. He only sensed a black shadow moving past him from the side.

Zhao Manyan lifted his gaze and saw a familiar figure slowly walking out of the shadow with a pure and sincere smile.

“Old Zhao, I knew you weren’t dead!” Mo Fan quickened his pace after appearing from the shadows.

Zhao Manyan was stunned. He smiled too, even though his smile looked rather ugly.

Chapter 1278: The Seal on the Little Loach

“Did you manage to see him one last time?” Mo Fan asked.

“I did,” Zhao Manyan nodded.

“It’s Zhao Youqian, right? Do you want to get revenge? I can help you,” Mo Fan offered.

“Not now,” Zhao Manyan shook his head.

Zhao Youqian was a maniac. Zhao Manyan was worried that Zhao Youqian might harm his mother if his brother knew he was still alive.

Besides, he was still too weak now. Zhao Youqian might not be able to cast a single spell, but he had lots of experts protecting him. Zhao Manyan could not even take on the scarfaced Bacon.

Zhao Manyan had matured a lot. He knew that if he was too preoccupied with the thought of getting revenge, he would just let his father down. Didn’t his father hold onto his last breath just long enough to learn he was still alive?

Many people believed that death was honorable, and being reckless was being brave. However, most of the time, the people that chose to die were only trying to be freed from their burdens, as they were not brave enough to face the heavy blows and carry the anticipation of the people that had passed away. Choosing to die was actually the cowardly act here!

Zhao Manyan did not want to do anything stupid, nor would he let his father down. He would live comfortably, live longer than anyone else, and live freely!

“How did you know?” Zhao Manyan was quite surprised that Mo Fan knew Zhao Youqian had set him up, and the fact that he was still alive.

“I guessed it. I was in Hangzhou not long ago when the Black Totem Snake vaguely sensed that Baxia was approaching the shoreline of our country, so I guessed that you were coming back. I’ve been waiting at your father’s hospital ever since. I’m glad that I was right,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan recalled that Zhao Manyan was discussing his brother after being reminded by Mu Ningxue.

Zhao Manyan and Zhao Youqian were brothers by blood, thus it was difficult for Mo Fan to even think about the possibility. However, he immediately arrived at the conclusion after asking Lingling to investigate the Zhao Clan.

The discovery was very heartbreaking; to think that even a family member related by blood would do such a thing. It would shatter even the strongest belief...

“Don’t worry, I’m fine. It was only a matter of time until my father passed away. Zhao Youqian tried to kill me, but I’m still alive. Nothing has changed,” Zhao Youqian said.

“If you’re not planning to get your revenge for now, what are you thinking of doing?” Mo Fan asked.

“I was thinking of the same thing too... it seems like the plan we initially had isn’t going to work now,” Zhao Manyan said.

“Yeah, we were supposed to be derelict in our duties as we went on and get laid by the Japanese lolis, the mature women and b**ches in America and England, but we ended up winning the first place in the World College Tournament and becoming the role model of the people in our country,” Mo Fan exclaimed in mock protest. He could not understand which part had gone wrong along the journey that led them accidentally to performing as exemplars during the World College Tournament.

“Maybe I’ll travel around the world for a year or two to liven up myself. I’ll worry about what to do later,” Zhao Manyan said.

“Ah, traveling, why don’t you come with me? I’m on a job that involves a lot of traveling too. I bet you’ll like it. To make it better, the government is paying all the fees!” Mo Fan said.

“Sounds great, where are we going first?” Zhao Manyan’s eyes glittered after hearing Mo Fan’s plan.

The truth was, Zhao Manyan wanted to become stronger. He believed the traveling that Mo Fan mentioned was clearly going to involve training too. It was more efficient to go on adventures than just cultivating diligently. He accepted as soon as Mo Fan mentioned it.

“We’re going to Yantai. Speaking of which, it might have something to do with you too,” Mo Fan said.

“Me?” Zhao Manyan was confused.

“The creature that escorted you here is the Totem Beast Baxia, right?” Mo Fan said.

“Hehe, so you already knew! I wasn’t sure in the first place until he showed up in Venice. I thought I was dead for sure, but he brought me to a place, I have no idea where. I was seriously injured. It took me months just to recover, so I ended up spending all my time cultivating at that shitty place,” Zhao Manyan said.

“I didn’t think you would be so lucky,” Mo Fan said.

“Baxia isn’t fond of interacting with humans. I think he has gone back to the Pacific Ocean. Besides, I’m too weak, so he wasn’t too fond of me, either. It took a great effort just to convince him to bring me back here,” Zhao Manyan explained.

“A tsundere old turtle, so it seems. I’m curious how spectacular it would be if he was standing together with the Black Totem Snake,” Mo Fan said.

“He wasn’t fond of the Black Totem Snake either, even though they are brothers. They are like the kind that don’t want anything to do with one another,” Zhao Manyan said.

“...” Mo Fan felt his head hurting. It explained why the Black Totem Snake never mentioned that he had a brother.

“What did you mean by traveling?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“We are looking for Totem Beasts!”

Zhao Manyan’s jaw dropped.

That was a hell of a job! As expected of Mo Fan, the man who was always caught up in things that no one would even bother doing!

If Zhao Manyan had not come into contact with Baxia, he would be calling Mo Fan crazy right now. Totem Beasts were like ancient artifacts that had existed in the last era. They might be buried thousands of meters deep under the ground. They were most likely going to end up finding some bones and remains of the Totem Beasts...

However, Zhao Manyan now believed there were still Totem Beasts alive across the world. Some had indeed died off, but there were those that were secluded from mankind, similar to Baxia, by living in the territories of demon creatures!

“It’s going to be an interesting job. By the way, do you know that there’s still a seal on the wooden clapper? I can only unleash its full potential with an equivalent level of strength. Baxia isn’t willing to take my orders because I haven’t completely opened the seal of the wooden clapper,” Zhao Manyan said.

“That’s great then! Once you use the power of other Totem Beasts to crack open the seal, you’re basically invincible in the country. I bet Zhao Youqian wouldn’t even dare to lift his finger if you sent Baxia after him,” Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan nodded. He needed power, and the only way he could be powerful enough to face Zhao Youqian was with the Totem Beast!

Zhao Manyan no longer looked so lost after having a goal and a direction in mind. Zhao Manyan could not wait for the day that he finally earned the approval of the tsundere old turtle and gained his formidable power!

Zhao Manyan went back to school. He secretly bought an apartment as a playground for him and his girlfriends. His family was clueless about it, meaning that Zhao Youqian would not be looking for him there, either.

The place was very close to Mo Fan’s place. Mo Fan asked Zhao Manyan to give him Baxia’s Totem Seal. That way, he finally had the complete Totem Seal of the Black Tortoise!

The Totem Seal of the Black Tortoise might not be useful now, but who knew that it might turn out to be an important clue that would help them track down the other Totem Beasts. Mo Fan was still unsure if the Totem Beasts were connected to one another.

Zhao Manyan went back to his apartment to organize the information he had on Totem Beasts. Meanwhile, Mo Fan was lying on the resting chair on the balcony of his apartment.

He was the only person in the apartment. Both Ai Tutu and Mu Nujiao were nowhere to be seen.

Mo Fan suddenly sat upright after some time. He took out the Little Loach Pendant below his shirt.

Finding the Totem Beasts was indeed exciting, and the benefits were incredible too. However, they were not the main reason why Mo Fan was interested in them...

Little Loach, the special pendant that had been keeping Mo Fan company for a long time, felt alive to him too.

Nanyu had an interest in learning ancient lore, and had mentioned that the Little Loach Pendant was a vessel stronger than the wooden clapper.

If the wooden clapper was the symbolic vessel of Baxia, the descendant of the Black Tortoise, what was the Little Loach Pendant?

The Little Loach Pendant's existence had always been a mystery. Mo Fan believed it might have represented a Totem Beast in the past, too...

He could only solve the mystery by finding the Totem Beast it was representing!

"Little Loach, you have a seal on you too, right? Every time you eat something delicious, the seal will open a little, giving me great benefits... I bet the energy that the Totem Beasts have is your favorite too!" Mo Fan murmured to himself, looking at the Little Loach Pendant.

Mo Fan's rate of improvement was still too slow. At least, he thought it was slow, compared to how quickly Mu Ningxue was improving.

Mu Ningxue had been cultivating diligently. The power she received from activating the pieces of the Ice Crystal Bow was quite remarkable, too.

Since Mo Fan had six Elements to take care of, just being diligent was never going to be enough for him, not to mention that he would have eight Elements in total once he became a Super Mage.

Therefore, it was necessary to upgrade the Little Loach Pendant further!

Well, it might be inappropriate to say it was upgrading...

Initially, Tangyue told Mo Fan that the Little Loach Pendant was the kind of magic equipment that was able to grow, thus Mo Fan assumed that the Little Loach Pendant had been growing after devouring the things it was interested in.

However, it turned out that the Little Loach Pendant was most likely a symbolic vessel placed under a seal. It was closely related to the Totem Beasts. Every time it devoured some suitable source of energy, it would open the seal restricting its powers a little bit, thus granting Mo Fan more energy and benefits!

Mo Fan understood what he had to do after arriving at that conclusion.

It was also the reason why Mo Fan had accepted the job right away after Shao Zheng told him about the Totem Beasts.

There was nothing that could make him stronger as efficiently as the Little Loach Pendant. If he already had a mountain of gold waiting to be dug up, why would he bother wandering around aimlessly?

Besides, Mo Fan was very eager to learn the secrets of the Little Loach Pendant!

If Baxia was already so powerful, how powerful would the Totem Beast that the Little Loach Pendant was linked to be?

Versatile Mage

Chapter 1279: : Little Flame Belle is Growing?

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Houndman had provided Mo Fan with three Commander-level Soul Essences, each of them of high-quality. It was definitely a handsome profit for Mo Fan!

When Mo Fan was thinking of how he should spend the money, Little Flame Belle laid down half-heartedly on Mo Fan's shoulder. She did not seem to be in a good mood.

"What is it?" Mo Fan touched Little Flame Belle's head.

As soon as he touched the little creature's head, he immediately felt a scorching heat.

Even though Little Flame Belle was a Fire Spirit, her temperature was normally within the range of a human's body temperature when she was not showing hostility towards something. It was why Lingling was able to keep hugging her.

Therefore, it was strange to feel a strong heat when he touched her head.

"Is she having a fever?" Mo Fan asked. He realized how stupid he was after asking the question. Would a Fire Spirit even get a fever!?

"Ling~" Little Flame Belle seemed very down, like a kid feeling dizzy from a fever. Mo Fan's heart ached when he saw her gloomy face.

Little Flame Belle had no idea what was happening to her. She was having difficulty controlling the temperature of her flames.

Mo Fan did not dare leave her at home, as there was a chance that the unit he had bought for over ten million would be burned to ashes in the blink of an eye.

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Mo Fan brought Little Flame Belle to the Clearsky Hunter Agency. As he expected, Lingling had skipped school to research the clues that Jiang Shaojun had left behind.

She immediately told Mo Fan her discoveries when she saw him walking in, "There are indeed traces of a Totem Beast in Yantai, Lian Xishan didn't lie to us. With the help of the Moon Moth Phoenix's Totem Seal, there's a chance we can find the truth about the Totem Beast there. It would be best if we could find the actual Totem Beast instead!"

"Lingling, we'll discuss it later. Can you tell what's happening to Little Flame Belle?" Mo Fan placed Little Flame Belle who was like a little furnace on the bar.

To his surprise, Little Flame Belle quickly left a scorched mark on the wooden bar. Mo Fan hastily picked her up again. She had almost destroyed Old Bao's precious bar!

"She's very hot!" Even Lingling had to stay a distance away.

"Ling~" Little Flame Belle cried helplessly. She had no idea why she could not control her flames. She felt like a stronger flame would burst out from her body at any second.

It did not feel good. It was bad news if a Fire Spirit could not control her own flames!

"By the way, didn't Little Flame Belle behave like this before?" Lingling asked, recalling something.

"Did she?" Mo Fan could not recall Little Flame Belle having difficulty controlling her flames.

"Back when she was entering the Youth Phase, didn't she keep burning everything around her? You ended up paying lots of money out before," Lingling reminded him.

"Oh, you're right, but she was just being naughty. I don't think it has anything to do with her condition now, right?" Mo Fan said.

"I believe they are the same thing. Back then, there must be some energy that she was having trouble controlling, so she kept releasing it instead. After all, she was still very young, so she didn't know releasing the fire as she pleased was not right. She is able to control herself now, but the energy inside her body after reaching the Adolescent Phase was just too powerful. She was struggling to control it, resulting in the increase in her temperature," Lingling said.

"So you're saying that Little Flame Belle is about to evolve?" Mo Fan was overjoyed.

"That's what I think. We estimated that it would take Little Flame Belle three to five years to reach the Adolescent Phase, but I believe the Time Liquid and being reborn with the Ardent Sunset has sped up her growth. She must be advancing into the Adolescent Phase!" Lingling judged confidently.

"HAHAHA, Little Flame Belle, you're about to reach the Adolescent Phase!" Mo Fan was overwhelmed with joy.

Little Flame Belle had been in the Youth Phase for a very long time. Most importantly, she was already as strong as a Commander-level creature while in the Youth Phase. Her strength improved significantly after she was reborn with the Ardent Sunset, too!

The truth was, Mo Fan did feel a little strange that Little Flame Belle's strength had not improved as much as he had expected after she was reborn.

Now that he thought about it, it was not because Little Flame Belle's strength had not improved, but because she was still entering the Adolescent Phase!

The Adolescent Phase would not just improve her strength; even her appearance would change again!

"She changed a little before, so I thought she had already entered the Adolescent Phase," Mo Fan exclaimed.

"The changes should be very obvious once she entered the Adolescent Phase. She wouldn't look like a little girl still," Lingling sniffed at the thick-headed idiot's words.

“What should I do now?” Mo Fan asked.

“Do you have money?” Lingling asked.

“Well, I earned some recently,” Mo Fan said.

“How much?” Lingling said.

“Three high-quality Commander-level Soul Essences. I believe each one is worth around five hundred million!” Mo Fan said.

Houndman had clearly invested more than fifteen hundred million on the Dreadful Curse Cerberus; Mo Fan earned a fortune from killing the creature!

It was easier to earn money after his cultivation improved!

“Oh, I think that’s enough to buy a Soul-grade Fire Seed or two. I’ll go with you to the Shanghai Plaza and look around. We’ll buy one or two Soul-grade Fire Seeds that suit Little Flame Belle’s taste,” Lingling said.

“...” Mo Fan almost dropped his jaw to the ground.

What did she mean, buy one or two Soul-grade Fire Seeds that suited Little Flame Belle’s taste!?

Every Soul-grade Fire Seed was crazily expensive. Mo Fan had yet to find a suitable Soul-grade Fire Seed to upgrade his Rose Flame. He finally had a sum of money to replace the Rose Flame, but his head started spinning after hearing Lingling’s words!

“Are you seriously telling me that she has to eat Soul-grade Fire Seeds in the Adolescent Phase?” Mo Fan blurted out in shock.

“Not necessarily. You can still feed her Spirit-grade Seeds normally, but feeding her fragments of Seeds isn’t going to help anymore. However, since she’s at a crucial time of entering the Adolescent Phase, you’ll need Soul-grade Fire Seeds to ensure that she can successfully enter the Adolescent Phase. You can easily tell that Little Flame Belle is suffering. It’s because the energy inside her is beyond what her body can contain. Her life might be in danger if we don’t lend her a hand. I’ve heard many special creatures die when advancing to the next phase,” Lingling said.

Mo Fan immediately became serious when he heard Little Flame Belle’s life might be in danger.

However, Mo Fan’s heart was still aching. He had finally earned some money after so long, yet he was about to burn it all like joss paper...

His Double Innate Elements was already using a lot of his money. To his surprise, Little Flame Belle was using his money even quicker! Like father, like daughter, indeed!

“Don’t worry, you’ll know how worthwhile it is to spend the money soon!” Lingling assured him. She was well aware of Mo Fan’s financial problems.

“I know, I’ve seen the list of the items being auctioned not long ago. There will be an international auction at Shanghai Plaza in a week. There are many Soul-grade Seeds being auctioned off. Since we’re

helping Little Flame Belle reach the Adolescent Phase, we'll have to prepare enough money to compete with the rich people," Mo Fan said.

"I agree, let's try to secure three Soul-grade Fire Seeds just in case, but we won't need the kind that have a Domain," Lingling said.

Little Flame Belle already had two Domains. Therefore, the Soul-grade Fire Seeds with a Domain would not provide her any help. She just needed the pure fire energy that the Soul-grade Fire Seeds contained!

"Are there any jobs worth taking recently? Let's try and earn some money with the time we have left," Mo Fan said.

"Now that you mention it," Lingling quickly opened up her notebook and downloaded the information about a job. She showed it to Mo Fan and said, "When I was researching about the Totem Beast in Yantai, I accidentally found out that a big corporation producing magic equipment is collecting a special part from some demon creatures. They are offering a hundred thousand for each piece. The price is negotiable, depending on the quality...and they are buying as many as people have. A few Hunter Groups have gone to Yantai recently because of the job. I think it's perfect for us, since we'll be searching for traces of the Totem Beast in Yantai, too."

"Sounds good, speaking of killing two birds with one stone! I'll ask Zhao Manyan to come along too. We'll go to Yantai tomorrow!" Mo Fan nodded.

"He's alive?" Lingling gasped in astonishment.

"It turned out that my speculation was right, but it was his brother that set him up. He will have to fake his identity for the time being," Mo Fan said.

"Alright, I'll collect more information about our job tonight."

Lingling was extremely happy that they were on a job. That way, her grandfather would not force her to go to school.

Lingling always looked forward to Mo Fan showing up. Mo Fan was her partner. If Mo Fan was looking for a job, she could conveniently and magically transform into a Hunter Master!

"Little Flame Belle, if you aren't feeling well, you should rest in the Contracted Space. Don't worry, I'll buy you a few Soul-grade Seeds once I have the money and guarantee that you can enter the Adolescent Phase right away!" Mo Fan hugged the scorchingly hot Little Flame Belle.

"Ling~" Little Flame Belle was surprisingly obedient. She returned to the Contracted Space after enjoying Mo Fan's hug for a while.

"They are collecting as many crests of demon creatures as everyone can gather... this corporation is pretty rich. With Lingling's help, there won't be any trouble obtaining the crests they are looking for. I'll do my best to make them go bankrupt!" Mo Fan glanced at the information that Lingling sent him with a cunning grin!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 1280: Hunters Filling the Streets

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Their plane headed north along the eastern coastline. It arrived at Penglai International Airport in Yantai after a little over an hour.

The group headed to Yantai City after the flight. Lingling explained the details of the job to Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan on the coach.

“These demon crests aren’t something like the feathers growing on the heads of demon creatures, but a special leaf containing the essence nature at the top of a certain plant. It only grows on top of a plant called the Giant Purple Linden. The leaves of Giant Purple Lindens are able to gather the energy of the Sun into the fruit they bear. As such, the demon creatures that feed on their fruits are usually stronger. Therefore, every Giant Purple Linden actually has a small ecosystem of guardian beasts protecting the tree and little creatures residing in the vicinity of it. The demon crests are the most important part of the Giant Purple Lindens, helping gather the energy of the Sun. I’ve done some research: the corporation needs to utilize a large amount of energy from the demon crests, since they mainly produce magic Equipment of the Light Element,” Lingling informed them.

“I know the corporation you’re talking about. They were established here in Yantai around five years ago. In simple words, they were able to grow so quickly because they invented the technology to produce magic Equipment from the demon crests. Currently, the majority of the Light Element Equipment in Asia and Europe is produced by them. They have gained a great reputation. I believe they are supported by Tokyo’s Shrine of Mages, from Japan. Apparently, the corporation plays an important role in improving the economy along the coastline. They are collecting and refining the raw materials here. They then transport them to Dalian by sea to their production line to produce defensive magic Equipment, before selling them in Japan. The Equipment is made in China, but their prices rise significantly after they reach Japan,” Zhao Manyan added on.

Zhao Manyan knew a thing or two when it was related to money and business. He always had a way to find out how a business was operating behind the scenes.

“These demon crests weren’t that valuable in the past. A demon crest used to be around ten thousand yuan, and not many people bothered gathering them. However, in just five years, the demand for the demon crests in Yantai skyrocketed. Each demon crest is worth a hundred thousand now. But, even so, Tokyo’s Shrine of Mages is still making bank from it. The cost of a single piece of Equipment produced from the demon crests is two hundred thousand at most, but it can be sold at a price of five hundred thousand!” Zhao Manyan informed them.

“These cunning businesses always get away with the money that the Mages have risked their lives to earn!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

Defensive Equipment had always been the thing that below-average Mages lacked the most. Hunters spent most of their time fighting demon creatures, so they were well aware of the difference that a piece of defensive Equipment could make. As a result, most of the money they earned ended up in the pockets of the companies that were manufacturing defensive Equipment!

“A hundred thousand is a reasonable price for the demon creatures. Back when it was only ten thousand, the Japanese managed to earn a great fortune!” Zhao Manyan agreed.

“Speaking of which, it feels like we are a little too late. I heard many people discussing the demon crests on our way here,” Lingling said.

When they landed in Penglai International Airport, the place was crowded with Hunters. She even noticed mercenaries and Hunter Groups from other countries. It was obvious that the news regarding the gold mine of demon crests had spread wildly.

Lingling and Mo Fan were quite disappointed after seeing the competition they were facing.

However, it was part of the nature of their career. It was impossible for every job to go smoothly!

“Chen Yi is in Yantai, we can ask her to be our guide,” Zhao Manyan mentioned.

“Is she from Yantai?” Mo Fan was surprised.

“Yeah, it’s her hometown. She will be happy to see us,” Zhao Manyan smiled.

“Such a pity that Little Flame Belle is sleeping. She would be happier if she sees the little creature,” Mo Fan murmured.

Mo Fan had not met Zhao Manyan’s cousin Chen Yi after the incident of the Fiery Sorceress Jiang Feng. He knew it would take Chen Yi a very long time to get over the past. After all, she had ended her mother’s life with her own hands, even though Jiang Feng had no regrets.

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They soon managed to find Chen Yi’s home. It was a little hut facing the sea along the coastline, surrounded by blooming flowers as if spring had just arrived.

An old woman was lying in the garden. The sunlight shone upon a face full of wrinkles. She looked very peaceful.

Chen Yi was wearing a dress and holding a pair of scissors, trimming the wilted branches of the old trees in the garden. She asked while doing her job, “Grandma, can’t we just wait for the branches to fall on their own? Why do we bother cutting them off?”

“Girl, taking care of a tree is just like looking after a person. If you don’t fix a person’s bad habits in time, the evil will corrode the bones and even the hearts. These branches might not look harmful on the surface, but their dying cells will spread to the roots and destroy them. A tree without roots is basically dead,” the old woman replied in a doddering manner, her eyes squinted. However, her mind seemed to be clear.

The old woman slowly opened her eyes when she sensed someone approaching, and saw Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan walking in...

"Girl, the jerks that are hitting on you are back again," the old woman called out mockingly.

"Grandaunt, I'm Zhao Manyan, Bai Mingjing's son!" Zhao Manyan quickly explained with an awkward face.

Chen Yi was surprised to see Zhao Manyan and Mo Fan. "Why are you here!?"

Chen Yi clearly had no idea that Zhao Manyan had gone missing. The incident was not completely revealed to the public. Chen Yi had spent all her time in Yantai, so she was clueless about what happened in the Magic City.

"You are Mingjing's son. I remember you; I told you not to harm the little sparrows so you wouldn't develop the habit of thinking that it's fine to hurt the little animals or other people, as long as it doesn't affect you. Have you fixed your bad habits now?" The old woman looked at Zhao Manyan sternly.

"Ugh... I believe you're referring to my elder brother?" Zhao Manyan vaguely remembered it. They were playful when they were still kids. They once tortured the little sparrows in the garden and ended up being scolded by their grandaunt.

Zhao Manyan set the sparrows free, but Zhao Youqian flung the sparrows to the ground and killed them in a rage.

"You are the younger one... oh, I heard Chen Yi mention you. What about your brother? How is he doing... if a person doesn't fix his habits, it might rot their bones. You can still dig it out from the bones while enduring the pain, but once it reaches your heart, there's no way you will be able to fix it. He might end up harming people!" the old woman said.

Zhao Manyan had never taken his grandaunt's words seriously. However, after what happened, he did not feel good hearing them again.

Perhaps it was exactly what his grandaunt had said: Zhao Youqian's habits had rotted his heart. All he cared about was his own benefits. He had lost his conscience and human empathy.

"Don't tell me you're here for the demon crests, too?" Chen Yi asked.

"Yeah, we thought only a few of us had the information. Who knew that the streets would be crowded with Hunters. Even the inns are three times as expensive as usual!" Mo Fan grumbled.

"You can just stay here with me and my grandma, I'll prepare the rooms. Just place your stuff in the living room!" Chen Yi was very happy. It had been a while since anyone visited her. She had been living peacefully here and gradually forgot about the past, but she did feel a little lonely since she did not have any friends around her own age.

"Did you stop practicing magic?" Mo Fan asked when he sensed that Chen Yi's cultivation had not changed much.

Chen Yi shook her head and said, "There's no end to it. I'm already content with how strong I am, since I don't go around and fight demon creatures. I feel happy that I can teach the young Mages who have just

Awakened their magic in the Penglai Magic Association. I couldn't be a great person, but it's not bad being the teacher of future great people, either!"

Mo Fan realized that Chen Yi's temperament had changed a lot. She used to be a little proud with a blind ambition of pursuing everything she saw. However, it seemed like she had figured out what she really wanted. She was like an orchid with a unique fragrance, waiting for her time to blossom.

It explained why the old woman thought they were trying to hit on Chen Yi. The girl was indeed more charming now!

"We are actually here for something else. We are only interested in the demon crests to earn some quick money," Zhao Manyan said.

The Totem Beast was still their first priority. Yu Shishi was not willing to let anyone come into contact with the Moon Moth Phoenix. It could not be helped since she was being very cautious after everything she had gone through. However, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan believed if they could find the other Totem Beasts, they would be able to unleash the full potential of their symbolic vessels!

Zhao Manyan had confirmed it with Baxia. Mo Fan strongly believed it, too!

"Grand aunt, you've been living here for so long. Have you seen anything like this before? It's an ancient Seal, related to a certain ancient existence," Zhao Manyan said, showing the seal that Mo Fan had derived to the old woman.

The old woman opened her eyes. She acted languidly at first, but her eyes glittered when she took a glance at the Seal. She started to tremble, as if a shocking memory had risen up!

Mo Fan and Lingling exchanged glances.

The old woman had recognized the Seal!

Their speculation on the Totem Seals was right! After taking out the Totem Seal of the Moon Moth Phoenix from the Totem Seal of the feather, the remaining Totem Seal was related to another Totem Beast!

It turned out that the Totem Beast was really here in Penglai, or at least the old woman had seen the Seal before!