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Chapter 1291: The Tragedy in the Sea of Grass

The gray-uniformed Elder Wang Dakuo was crouching beside a mountain stream and filling his bottle. Even so, he still turned to Wang Dakuo and the others and scolded them, "You guys are from the same Magic Association. How could you not help him if he was dying? I'm so disappointed. If anything happens to Guo Muzhuang, what am I supposed to tell the people of the Magic Association?" Wang Dakuo berated them.

Wang Dakuo utterly regretted his decision of pursuing the Hillman hot-headedly. He almost forgot his way back, and because he did not stick with the group, a man had died, and Guo Muzhuang was most likely not going to survive either.

"We are just trying to avoid more casualties!" Wang Hua protested.

"Elder, look above you!" Hu Duo blurted out in excitement while pointing into the sky.

"It's the Dandelion Grass. I didn't think we would be so lucky to see these natural Dandelion Grass seeds floating in the sky. Quick, let's follow them. There must be quite a few Giant Purple Lindens nearby!" Wang Dakuo was overjoyed, as if he had completely forgotten about what happened to the group.

Wang Dakuo led the group and soon arrived at a place with a clear view. They were overwhelmed with joy when they noticed even more Dandelion Grass than they had initially seen floating in the air.

"There must be lots of Giant Purple Lindens there. It's a blessing from the Heavens!" Wang Hua blurted out.

"Quick, we're about to make a huge fortune!"

In the grassy valley, a team of young Hunters slowly made their way through the tall Yu Grass. They spread the tall grass apart while venturing deeper into the valley. Whenever they lost their sense of direction, they just needed to look up into the sky and follow the white seedheads to make sure they were heading in the right direction.

"Da Fei, I'm telling you, the last adventure I had was such a close call. We stumbled into a bunch of Blue Ice Sea Monsters as soon as we went out to the ocean. The demon creatures were out hunting for food. There were at least fifty Mages on the ship, but more than half died in the battle. It's why I think this Mount Kunyu isn't even that exciting," a man with a broken nose toward the back of the team declared.

The man continued forward and shoved the grass blocking his path to the side impatiently while talking to his teammate Da Fei behind him, "What is it? You don't believe what I said?"

The man heard heavy breathing behind him.

He twisted his lips and turned around. He was about to explain what happened during his previous adventure in detail when he surprisingly saw the man standing behind him was a head taller than him. He was stunned. Wasn't Da Fei supposed to be half a head shorter than him? Since when did he have to raise his head just to see his face?

The man with the broken nose immediately realized the person was not Da Fei as soon as he lifted his gaze. It was a hideous face with exposed tusks. The man subconsciously took a few steps back staggeringly upon seeing the face.

A huge paw swung fiercely and hit the man in the face. Blood immediately sprayed in the air.

The Hillman grabbed the man's throat and hurled him to the ground before he could even cry out in pain.

The man was trying to use magic, but the sudden move took him by surprise. He felt like he was about to suffocate from the enormous pressure around his neck.

The Hillman controlled its strength perfectly. It was enough to knock the man unconscious without killing him. After the man stopped struggling, the Hillman carried the bloke around the height of one-eighty on its shoulder and disappeared into a bush nearby.

The whole sequence ended pretty quickly. Nothing was left behind apart from some unnoticeable traces of blood.

"Stick together, make sure you don't get lost in here," the captain of the team of Hunters called out.

"Da Fei, where do you think you are going? Come back here!"

The man called Da Fei realized he was straying away from the team even though he was less than ten meters away. He quickly regrouped with the others with an awkward face.

"Da Fei, wasn't Lao He in front of you?" the captain asked.

"Huh? Isn't Lao He with the others?" Da Fei asked, puzzled.

"Stop, everyone, stop moving. I need a headcount!" The experienced captain immediately gathered the team when he realized something was wrong.

The team initially had ten members. However, he had not seen the man with the broken nose for quite some time!

The rest of the team quickly searched their surroundings within a certain radius. However, the grass was just too tall and thick. They were still struggling to find the man with a sunken nose even though Da Fei mentioned he still heard the man blabbering less than a minute ago...

"Come back, regroup at once!" The captain immediately summoned the members when he realized something was odd.

"F**k me, where's Shi Niu? Why isn't he back yet?" someone soon blurted out in the team.

"There's something here. Stay on your guard!" the captain said sternly.

The rest of the team fell silent. They focused their attention on the grass nearby. One of them could no longer stand the limited space they had. He recklessly used a spell to get rid of the grass nearby to create some space.

However, it was utterly meaningless. The area outside of the space he created was still covered in dense grass. There was no sign of the two members that had gone missing.

"What should we do now?"

"How are we going to find Shi Niu..."

"We can't afford to go and find them. It's only going to make things worse. Hold your ground, and stay calm!" the captain said.

The atmosphere suddenly became extremely weird. Even the slightest sound was making the team feel uneasy...

The sea of grass swayed in the wind. The sight of the cobs rolling forward like waves was spectacular.

The sky was perfectly blue while the ground was a boundless green sea of grass. If someone looked down from a great height, they would see little paths like the trails left by a small raft on a lake across the valley.

Occasionally, there would be a little disturbance with blood and grass scattering in the air. There were also dull cries and deep roars blended with the howling wind and rustling grass. Similar situations were happening continuously across the valley. Unfortunately, the sea of grass was too tall and spacious. The sounds were too soft and blurred when they reached the open sky...

Deeper within the valley, Mo Fan and his crew began to pick up their pace. The grass ahead was being split apart like waves. The areas where the grass was too dense were set aflame instead, burning the grass into ashes!

Mo Fan did not let the fire spread, as it might place other Hunters in a more difficult position. The grass had a surprisingly strong resistance to fire, making it difficult for the fire to spread.

"We must take out the den before more Hunters arrive. Otherwise, more than a thousand Hunters are going to die here!" Mo Fan swore.

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan had discovered many Hillmen hidden in the grass on their way here. They had to find the Giant Purple Lindens or the Hillmen's den as quickly as possible to avoid more people dying in this terrifying sea of grass...

It was a journey of no return for the Hunters who were not strong enough!

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Chapter 1292: The Crests of the Giant Purple Lindens

An odd sound was coming from the bushes. Lan Luo immediately scanned her surroundings cautiously.

It was difficult to tell if the grass was rustling because of the wind or there was indeed something moving among the grass. Therefore, they had to be on alert at all times, which was very mentally draining.

"I can't sense where they are," Zhao Manyan murmured.

"It's their natural slaughterhouse here. They should have some way to avoid detection," Mo Fan agreed.

"There are voices in this direction..." Lan Luo turned to her side before quickly turning around and blurting out, "There's some movement here... and here too!"

Mo Fan looked around him. He grinned and said, "It looks like we're getting close to their den, so a lot of them have come to intercept us!"

With a loud thud, a Hillman over two meters tall charged out from the grass right in front of Mo Fan and lunged at him. The creature was hiding less than ten meters away, close enough to pounce on Mo Fan right away!

Mo Fan cast an indifferent gaze at the creature. His eyes emitted a mysterious silver light when the Hillman drew close enough. The light instantly transformed into an invisible force.

Mo Fan used Telekinesis to knock the Hillman over ten meters into the air. A dark lightning bolt descended from the clear sky and landed precisely on the Hillman before it could react!

The bolt of lightning went through the Hillman's body and immediately blew the creature into blood droplets. Its thick flesh, sturdy skin, and muscular build were completely useless against Mo Fan's lightning with its twelvefold damage!

"So strong!" Lan Luo's eyes glittered when she saw how Mo Fan had killed the Hillman so easily.

Hillmen were strong Warrior-level creatures, considering how they were able to wipe out groups of Hunters easily. Even so, they did not stand a chance against the young man. Lan Luo already had some idea on who Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan were. After all, there were not many Mages so powerful at such a young age!

"A bunch of clowns, come out here!" Mo Fan snapped while completing a silver Star Pattern.

A silver rhomboid appeared above Mo Fan. It landed under Mo Fan's control, applying a strong force across a huge area. The tall grass within three hundred meters was pressed flat to the ground. Even the ground sank a little under the pressure!

The grass was pressed flat. The Hillmen hiding in it while slowly sneaking up on the humans were completely exposed. The creatures stared at one another with blank faces. They did not expect the human Mage to have such domineering power!

However, the brutal Hillmen quickly unleashed a blood-red light and charged fiercely at the humans.

Lan Luo saw a few dozen Hillmen as soon as the area was exposed. Even an experienced Mage like her felt her scalp turning numb.

As for Guan Xixi and Liu Xiaojia, it was their first time seeing so many Warrior-level creatures. They were already hugging one another with trembling legs after feeling the terrifying auras of the creatures, so much stronger than the presence of mere Servant-class creatures!

“Why are they so many of them? I’m leaving these to you, I’ll hold this direction; Zhao Manyan, look after the girls,” Lan Luo said. She seemed pretty calm.

However, when eight Hillmen began to charge at her, she slightly lost her ground. She even failed to cast an Advanced Spell!

It could not be helped. Even when she was in some strong teams, she had never found herself in a situation like this. They were going up against around forty Warrior-level creatures. Each was strong enough to bring real danger to their team!

“I thought there would be hundreds of them waiting for us here. It looks like they aren’t treating us seriously enough, Mo Fan,” Zhao Manyan said.

“Same here, should I do it or you?” Mo Fan asked.

“You can do it, I’ll look after the girls!” Zhao Manyan said.

Mo Fan nodded. He slowly lifted his finger and pointed at the sky.

Lightning strikes suddenly flashed across the clear sky. They soon split into lightning arcs and rapidly gathered above Mo Fan’s finger...

The lightning arcs crackled sharply. At Mo Fan’s command, the lightning strikes descended rapidly, each over a hundred meters long and thick as an aged tree. When the dark lightning bolts struck the ground, they immediately spread into arcs of electricity, resembling a spider web covering an area of over a hundred meters. It started with a few dozen lightning strikes, but by the moment they reached the ground, there were hundreds or even thousands of lightning threads flickering wildly across the place!

The lightning was dazzling and loud, inflicting damage on every single Hillman scattered across the area, paralyzing the creatures while puncturing them...

The Hillmen cried out like apes in their pain. They continuously fell to the ground while twitching in the giant lightning web. Only a dozen or so were still standing after just a brief moment, barely withstanding the damage inflicted by the lightning!

“Tyrant Call!” Mo Fan hissed.

The Lightning Tyrant Scars had been stacking on the Hillmen, each able to call down an Exploding Apex with its damage amplified twelvefold. If there were more scars on the same Hillman, the lightning they triggered would be even stronger!

Hundreds of lightning strikes came down simultaneously at his trigger, sweeping the soil into the air while the flesh and blood of the Hillmen sprayed in the air after they were pulverized!

The lightning of Tyrant Call was insanely quick. It did not fork before attacking its target; it was just a blast with brute force that slaughtered the Hillmen, whether they were standing or lying on the ground!

A destructive aura lingered in the air, with the smell of burned flesh. Lan Luo, Guan Xixi, and Liu Xiaojia were completely dumbfounded...

That was more than forty Warrior-level creatures! Normally, they would need a huge team of Hunters against such a group of demon creatures, yet the young man had wiped them all out in just half a minute!

Lan Luo had already thought Mo Fan was insanely strong when she saw him killing a Hillman instantly. She did not expect he would be able to kill more than forty Warrior-level creatures like he was reaping crops... it completely toppled her understanding of magic!

"Come, I think we're pretty close to their den," Mo Fan said indifferently, dusting off his hands.

The three girls stood dumb like wooden chickens. It took them a while to recover from the shock!

Liu Xiaojia's eyes were filled with glittering stars of admiration. She suddenly saw Mo Fan as her Prince Charming!

The man's charm was off the charts compared to the boys who were outwardly attractive, but worthless inside. The way he controlled his lightning imperiously had changed her view of a man!

"Are...are you a Super Mage?" Lan Luo could not help but ask.

Lan Luo suddenly realized how stupid she sounded after asking the question. How was it possible for anyone to reach the Super Level at his age?

"No, it's because I have a strong Soul-grade Seed and Domain," Mo Fan said.

"Oh, I see! You are most likely the strongest Advanced Mage I have ever met, stronger than the old Hunter Masters too! I now understand why you're bold enough to come here," Lan Luo said.

Lan Luo was aware that Mo Fan had a Commander-level creature whose strength was already beyond their level. As such, she assumed Mo Fan's Primary Element was the Summoning Element. She thought he would rely on his wolf to fight, but it turned out he did not even need the Summoned Beast's help!

He had only drawn Star Patterns to cast his spells. He had yet to use a single Advanced Spell!

Anyone could tell how crazily strong his Intermediate Lightning Spells were, which meant his Advanced Lightning Spells would be even crazier!

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They started hearing more sounds coming from nearby after advancing less than three kilometers.

The girls were not as intimidated after witnessing Mo Fan's strength. They continued to move forward.

The creatures could hide or come out all they wanted. Either way, the group was still going to reach their den.

"We're close," Mo Fan said.

The presence of the Seal of Darkness was stronger, indicating that the creature he had marked was just ahead.

The Hillmen were quite intelligent. Even though a huge number of them had gotten close to the group of humans, they still showed no intention of attacking recklessly.

“Holy crap! Everyone, look up!” Zhao Manyan suddenly yelled.

The yell gave the girls a great fright. It even scared some of the Hillmen that were hiding in the surroundings, who immediately fled for their lives...

Mo Fan lifted his gaze. He was struggling to see the sky because of the tall grass around. However, he soon noticed a huge canopy at the edge of his vision!

The canopy was extremely tall. It felt like it was as tall as the tallest mountain in the area. Mo Fan was wondering if it was a tree growing at the top of a mountain. However, as he spread the grass blocking his view, he realized the tree was a lot bigger than he had imagined!

As he continued to clear the view, he gasped when he saw the canopy extending into the distance without a visible end to it!

“The...the tree is too... f**king huge!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

Mo Fan quickly jumped into the air and stood on the grass that was blocking his view.

When Mo Fan reached the top, he subconsciously held his breath. His field of view was dominated by a huge towering tree located at the center of the valley. The canopy he saw was not even the tree’s uppermost branches. They were just the lowest branches of the tree, and only consisted of a tiny portion of the actual tree. What he could not see before was a trunk as huge as a mountain, with branches intertwining with one another. It was like a huge curtain connecting the ground and the sky!

Mo Fan suddenly realized why the Yu Grass only reached their ankles like normal weeds in other places, but was taller than humans in this valley!

The Giant Purple Linden here was so huge that it was able to reach the sky and veil it...

Even when Mo Fan jumped into the air, he still could not see the entire tree!

Mo Fan had been to many places, but it was definitely his first seeing something so spectacular. He could no longer describe it as a tree if it was like a small world on its own. The trunk would be like climbing a mountain...

“No wonder the Dandelion Grass puffballs are all heading toward the valley. Who would have thought there was such a sacred Giant Purple Linden here outside Mount Kunyu. I believe the previous ruler of the outer Mount Kunyu was living in it...” Lingling murmured.

The tree was hidden in a spacious valley deep in the wild. There had always been rumors of a wonderland in Yantai. The Giant Purple Linden could easily be considered a great wonder. It was like the Roots of Heaven!

“Mo Fan, how many demon crests do you think are on the tree?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“Are you seriously worried about that now? Do you think a tree of this level will only have demon crests on it?” Mo Fan replied.

“It’s really something. If the ruler of the mountain didn’t die, I can’t imagine how many years it would take for us to find the tree. I feel like we could even build a whole city on it!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

“I can’t help but wonder how many demon creatures are living around the tree... I’m afraid it’s on the scale of a horde!” Mo Fan shouted, studying the branches of the tree.

Lingling mentioned that every Giant Purple Linden was like an ecosystem for demon creatures. Many creatures of different levels would reside around it. With that in mind, the enormous Giant Purple Linden was easily a city of demon creatures, a paradise for them!

Should they even bother entering a place like that?

Could a few Advanced Mages really stand a chance against the demon creatures here?

Mo Fan suddenly lost the confidence he had displayed when he said that he was going to wipe out the Hillmen’s den after seeing the magnificent tree.

A human was not even the size of a little bug compared to the tree!

“I believe the Hillmen have only occupied one of the branches as their den, since they have come from other places. It’s unlikely they could claim a huge territory unless they have a Ruler-level Hillman with them...” Lingling said.

Shennongjia was the real place of origin of the Hillmen. Lingling did not believe they would find a Ruler-level Hillman here.

If there really was a Ruler-level Hillman, Lingling would have no choice but to alert her grandfather. Only people at her grandfather’s level were capable of dealing with the matter. The Hillmen butchered humans to entertain themselves. The human leaders would never allow a Ruler-level Hillman to stay so close to a city!

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Chapter 1293: Ballsier than Heavens

Mo Fan and his crew eventually reached the shade under the giant tree.

Although the branches of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden were as complicated as a maze, its leaves were not dense enough to completely block off the sunlight. Otherwise, the whole place would be in pitch-black darkness, considering how big the shade was!

Rays of sunlight peeked through the gaps between the branches of the giant tree. It was easy for people to ignore how beautiful sunlight could be since it normally covered huge areas. However, when the sunlight was filtered out by the branches and leaves into beams of light, they would notice how stunning it could be.

“We’re here,” Lingling announced.

The ground began to rise like a little slope. However, the ground was not actually rising. It was only getting higher because they were getting closer to the Giant Purple Linden, whose roots were pushing the ground up like hills. Half of the roots were above ground, while the other half had spread and grown in all directions...

A single root had the width of a city street. Even following the roots of the tree, they had to walk almost two kilometers before they could reach the main trunk!

The main trunk of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden seemed to be the combination of many trees bundled together. The trunk had large vein lines and many vines.

They were initially worried about how they were going to climb the tree, but they realized they would have no problem climbing the tree as they approached the trunk. Even when they were still a distance away, they could see that the veins were like stairs they could walk on. They would not have any problem climbing the tree!

“Mo Fan, it looks like they finally know how to respect their guests. They have prepared a huge banquet for us this time,” Zhao Manyan proclaimed, pointing ahead.

The Yu Grass was no longer limiting their vision after they reached the roots of the tree. They were currently on a little slope, allowing them to see a massive number of figures moving on another spacious hill ahead...

“So many of them!” Lan Luo blurted out.

“It looks like the guy that I tagged with the Seal of Darkness knows that I’m here for him. It has gathered so many Hillmen,” Mo Fan mused.

Mo Fan followed the guidance of his Eyes of Darkness. He quickly fixed his gaze on a Hillman standing at the highest part of the roots connected to the trunk. It was slightly bigger than the other Hillmen nearby. The bronze tusks that it was extremely proud of were emanating its noble aura!

The Hillman cried out like an ape while waving its paws around. It was difficult to tell what it was up to.

Every Hillman in the surroundings uttered similar cries and waved their paws in the air too. They seemed very excited.

“Are they seriously welcoming us? I heard that some creatures are very respectful toward powerful existences. The more you beat them up, the more respect they have for you,” Zhao Manyan wondered, seeing the strange reaction of the Hillmen.

“I think so too. Why don’t you go ahead first?” Mo Fan shot back.

Zhao Manyan chuckled. He was not stupid enough to believe such ridiculous sayings. He could easily tell how strong the hatred and grudge the Hillmen had against humans was from how brutally they treated the Hunters.

They were making a huge amount of noise. They began to feel uneasy hearing the cries of the Hillmen.

Soon, the same cries were coming from the sea of grass behind them. Lingling turned around and lots of movements in the grass, heading in their direction.

A Hillman jumped out from the grass and landed on the roots right behind Mo Fan's group.

The grass split apart as more figures continuously jumped out and flanked the group from behind, completely blocked off its escape!

The number of cries increased. There were so many Hillmen that the path that Mo Fan and his crew had taken was completely blocked off. The number of Hillmen was a lot higher than what everyone had expected!

"Are you now satisfied with their welcoming ceremony?" Zhao Manyan looked around and discovered the number of Hillmen had suddenly doubled. They had filled up the entire slope leading to the Giant Purple Sacred Linden.

"Ugh, they are overdoing it a little," Mo Fan did not think there would be so many Hillmen.

These were Warrior-level creatures; to think that thousands of them had suddenly appeared out of nowhere! Mo Fan now realized how scary a horde of demon creatures was. They could be torn to pieces at any minute if they were too careless.

"I'll take care of defense. Stop hiding tricks up your sleeves. Show them what you have, or else they are really going to cook us alive," Zhao Manyan said.

"Well... Little Flame Belle is still hibernating, so my Fire Element isn't as strong now," Mo Fan said softly.

Zhao Manyan's face twisted as soon as he heard the words. He cursed, "F**k me, did you seriously bring me here when Little Flame Belle isn't available?"

Zhao Manyan almost lost his mind. Half of the reason that Mo Fan's magic was so strong was the control of the Fire Element that Little Flame Belle granted him, allowing him to use Fire Magic in any form as he pleased. It also granted Mo Fan the ability to take on huge numbers of demon creatures at close range.

If Little Flame Belle was not around, Mo Fan was just a certain level stronger than most Advanced Mages...

Even if Mo Fan could take on ten or twenty Hillmen himself, they were currently facing at least three thousand Hillmen. Leaving the Commander-level Hillmen aside, three thousand Warrior-level Hillmen were already an unstoppable wave; how were the few of them supposed to handle it?

"I was thinking that we wouldn't have trouble running even if we couldn't defeat them," Mo Fan admitted.

"You are seriously going to get us killed. I'll try to hold them back as long as I can. You better think of a plan to escape this shithole!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

"If we are thinking of clearing a path out, I suggest we move forward," Lingling proposed.

"Are you kidding me? We're going forward?" Liu Xiaojia said. They were already at the Hillmen's den, wasn't going deeper only going to worsen the situation?

“Yeah, we can’t go back. There are more Hillmen behind us. We can’t really tell how many Hillmen are still roaming in the sea of grass. They are going to intercept us if we try to go back. Our only choice is to go forward. There should be other species of demon creatures. We can try hiding in their territories for now,” Mo Fan agreed with Lingling’s suggestion.

“You guys are ballsier than the Heavens,” Lan Luo said with a wry smile. For some reason, she also agreed that it was the only choice they had after hearing the explanation.

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Chapter 1294: Wolves vs Hillmen

“Charge!” Mo Fan yelled, his eyes emitting a sharp silver flicker.

Silver Star Orbits circled Mo Fan and transformed into wisps of strong forces, crashing into the Hillmen standing in a line ahead.

The Hillmen spat out mouthfuls of blood. They went flying to the sides as if a heavy truck had just rammed into them.

Mo Fan had cleared a path for the group by knocking the Hillmen that were blocking it away with Telekinesis. The others quickly sprinted up the thick roots before the Hillmen caught up from behind!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman roared. It had purposely ordered its underlings to gather behind the humans to prevent them from running away. It never thought the humans would be charging in its direction instead!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman kept letting out cries while swinging its arms around like a commander.

Mo Fan recklessly charged forward along the giant sloping roots while knocking the Hillmen blocking the path flying. Some flew into the air while others fell off from the edges of the roots. Unfortunately, Mo Fan’s mental strength was still too weak. If it was in the fifth stage, he could instantly kill the creatures with his Telekinesis!

To ensure that the wisps of forces were strong enough to knock the Hillmen flying, Mo Fan could divide the force into only seven wisps at a time. However, as more Hillmen began to show up from different directions, Mo Fan was struggling to hold them back by himself!

“Old Wolf, clear a path for me!” Mo Fan did not hesitate further. He immediately Summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf!

“Awoooo~!!!”

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf leapt out from the Summoned Beast Plane and dashed two hundred meters ahead so quickly that he only left a faint afterimage behind. In comparison, the Hillmen seemed to be in slow-motion or perfectly still. When the wolf’s afterimage disappeared, a huge mist of blood sprayed in the air from the wounds inflicted on the Hillmen by the wolf’s claws. The Hillmen slowly fell to the ground and lay still.

The difference between the Commander-level and the Warrior-level was just too huge. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was howling excitedly, as it had been a while since he had last fought a good battle!

However, the tribe of Hillmen was not just mere decorations. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was soon surrounded by over a hundred Hillmen before he was done being a show-off. The Hillmen knew the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was strong enough to kill them instantly, so they split into groups and took turns attacking the Flying Creek Snow Wolf!

For some reason, since the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was surrounded by the Hillmen, he kept missing his attacks, even though he was aiming right at them...

The Hillmen were swinging their arms and legs around and doing strange movements, like a bunch of savages dancing around a fire. The sight soon dazzled the Flying Creek Snow Wolf!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf had not killed a single Hillman after a while. It significantly slowed down the pace of the group moving forward. Zhao Manyan felt great pressure when he heard the cries of the Hillmen behind approaching them.

“You’re such a disappointment!” Mo Fan cursed at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf felt wronged. He could not understand why either; he was clearly faster and stronger than the Hillmen. He could easily kill a few of them just by swinging his claws around randomly since there were so many of them around him. However, he just kept missing. The creatures were surprisingly quick at dodging!

“Thunderbolt!” Mo Fan pointed his finger into the sky and summoned a dark lightning strike!

The Thunderbolt descended rapidly in a destructive manner, aiming right at the Hillmen that were behaving strangely.

The Lightning Strike landed on the roots and left a huge hole. The Hillmen had managed to dodge the lightning strike, as if they had anticipated it beforehand.

Mo Fan was stunned when he saw his lightning miss the Hillmen...

He was a strong Lightning Mage that had gone through countless battles. How could his attacks possibly miss these Hillmen when they were not even that quick?

Mo Fan was extremely quick at X Casting his spells. Several Star Patterns flickered continuously under his feet as more lightning strikes began to appear from the sky. They either forked into lightning arcs, fell right down, or formed a web of lightning on the ground...

However, for some reason, the Hillmen still managed to dodge most of the attacks with strange movements. The number of Hillmen that died was a lot lower than Mo Fan had imagined!

Mo Fan was dumbfounded!

What the hell was going on? They had only killed a few dozen of Hillmen after so long, but a few hundred of them were already coming up from behind. They would soon be stuck here!

“The oddity effect!” Lingling exclaimed with a frown when she saw Mo Fan and the Flying Creek Snow Wolf were being played like a fiddle.

“The what now?” the ignorant Mo Fan said.

“In the ocean, when the larger predators are attacking a school of fish, the fish will suddenly split up and swim in an orderly manner, allowing them to dodge the attacks of the predators! It’s called the oddity effect. These Hillmen are used to working together. They are similar to us humans in some ways. Didn’t you notice? You think that you can just easily pick a target, but you end up missing the attack,” Lingling said.

Mo Fan held his breath and fell into deep thought.

“F**k me, hurry up and clear the path. I can’t hold on for any longer!” Zhao Manyan yelled.

“It’s like an illusion. These Hillmen all look the same, they will move according to others’ movement, but from your perspective, it feels like some of them are slower than the others, tricking you into thinking that you can easily land your attacks on them. However, the Hillmen were actually moving very quickly. Their strange random movements are just to let you misjudge their speed and the directions they are moving!” Lingling said in a professional manner.

Lan Luo and Liu Xiaojia were utterly surprised. Why would a little girl know something so complicated?

“What should I do, then?” Mo Fan asked immediately.

“If your Fire Element is available, you can easily abuse the wide coverage of your Fire Magic to defeat them. After all, the Lightning Element is better at targeting single entities... use the Summoning Gate to disrupt their tempo!” Lingling said.

“Got it! Old Zhao, hang in there!” Mo Fan nodded.

Zhao Manyan’s face darkened. He was barely connecting his defensive spells. There were not many pieces of defensive Equipment left either!

“Summoning Gate: Beast Tide!”

Luckily, the reliable Zhao Manyan managed to buy enough time for Mo Fan to construct the Star Constellation.

The Star Constellation of the Summoning Element needed the most time to build of the Advanced Spells of the Elements. It was very easy to interrupt the Channeling of the spell, and Mo Fan was still not too familiar with it too. Zhao Manyan almost reached his limit while Mo Fan was Channeling the spell. There were hundreds of Hillmen hanging on his Light Barrier. His defense would have collapsed long ago if it weren’t for the buffs from the Totem Seal of the wooden clapper!

The Summoning Gate sprang open. A bunch of huge muscular white wolves charged out of it, howling loudly. These wolves were very aggressive. They immediately lunged at the tiny Hillmen without waiting for Mo Fan’s instructions!

It was not easy to control the Beast Tide, since it was basically a large-scale spell that did not distinguish between friendlies and hostiles. As more wolves came out of the Summoning Gate, these aggressive white wolves immediately started a massive battle with the Hillmen!

“Awooo!”

While the white wolves were messily engaging the Hillmen, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf at the front suddenly let out a deafening howl. The white wolves immediately shuddered and froze in place.

The white wolves stopped attacking and stood in formations like soldiers before charging forward with the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

Each wolf was a lot stronger than a Hillman, and due to their huge size, they were like a squad of white tanks advancing when they were charged forward in formation. It destroyed the formation of the Hillmen!

The wolves immediately cleared the path ahead. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf led the rest of the wolves and charged four hundred meters ahead. They simply ignored the Hillmen that were dancing around like clowns and continued making their way to the trunk!

“Well done!” Mo Fan exclaimed. He finally recalled that these white wolves were the Flying Creek Snow Wolf’s underlings in the Summoned Beast Plane. The tide of beasts was very disciplined with the Flying Creek Snow Wolf leading them!

A group of disciplined criminals was the deadliest. Mo Fan was overjoyed when he saw the Hillmen being crushed by the wolves.

“Hurry up, the Beast Tide won’t last for long!” Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan felt like he was about to collapse. When he heard that they could finally leave, he dragged Liu Xiaojia and Guan Xixi and fled as quickly as possible. Lan Luo cast Wind Track in time to speed everyone up, too.

“Gravity Space!” Mo Fan set up a rhomboid behind the group when he saw the Hillmen catching up. The Hillmen within it slowed down significantly, as if huge metal balls were tied to their legs.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman realized its underlings were having trouble stopping them. It cried out furiously and jumped down from the higher ground. It had decided to engage the humans himself!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman had around a hundred Hillmen who were almost three-meters-tall with it. They seemed to be the elites among the Hillmen. They cried imposingly as they charged down at the wolves!

“Awooo!” The Flying Creek Snow Wolf had no intention to back away. He uttered a furious howl and led the wolves to engage the Hillmen!

The area below the Giant Purple Sacred Linden belonged to the wolves!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1295: The Ass-Kicking Flying Creek Snow Wolf!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf pounced at the Bronze-Fang Hillman, biting recklessly at the Hillman's shoulder. To his surprise, the Bronze-Fang Hillman was reckless too! It did not even bother dodging. It swiped its sharp paws at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's stomach instead!

Blood jetted out from both the creature's wounds. The Flying Creek Snow Wolf snapped the Bronze-Fang Hillman's scapula and tore its arm off. Meanwhile, the Bronze-Fang Hillman tore open a long cut on the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's stomach, ripping some of his intestines as blood kept pouring out from the wound.

"Wolf, I think you're at a disadvantage!" Lingling was not responsible for fighting and had time to analyze things.

"Awoof!" The words seemed to have infuriated the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. He ignored the wound on his stomach and crossed his claws as he pounced forward. He pinned the Bronze-Fang Hillman down on the roots and bit at the creature's head!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman lifted its head and viciously pointed its sharp tusks at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's throat!

Luckily, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf reacted swiftly and backed away. He opened his mouth and let out an icy breath.

A huge icy mist swept at the Bronze-Fang Hillman. The roots were covered in a thick layer of ice as soon as they made contact with the mist. The Bronze-Fang Hillman failed to react in time. Its legs were frozen by the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's breath!

Seeing the opportunity, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf executed an Ice Spell again and lifted his gaze. With an icy flash of light, a crystalline ice cone appeared right above the Bronze-Fang Hillman.

The ice cone fell rapidly, growing continuously as it was falling. When it was only ten meters away from the Bronze-Fang Hillman, it had turned into an icicle with a sharp tip falling onto the Bronze-Fang Hillman at terrifying speed!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman cried when it sensed the approaching danger.

Several Hillmen jumped onto it after hearing the cry. They stacked on top of one another above the Bronze-Fang Hillman, using their bodies to shield it!

The icicle went through the Hillmen like a meat skewer. Fresh blood poured out from the holes on their bodies.

Meanwhile, the Bronze-Fang Hillman finally broke free from the ice. It smacked the iceberg into pieces and rose to its feet. It did not bother looking at the Hillmen that had died for it. Instead, it glared at the Flying Creek Snow Wolf as if it had just been humiliated!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf smirked disdainfully at the Bronze-Fang Hillman. It was meant to be a duel, yet the creature had sacrificed its underlings to save itself!

As a matter of fact, the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was not in a good mood, either. If his mother Mu Ningxue was around, he could easily beat the crap out of the Bronze-Fang Hillman. He could not unleash the full potential of his lineage without the presence of Ice Magic, thus he was not much stronger than an ordinary Commander-level creature!

Lingling, who had been watching the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's battle, turned around and asked, "Is anyone an Ice Mage?"

"I am, but it's not that strong," Lan Luo said.

"That's fine; just keep casting Ice Spread to lower the temperature!" Lingling ordered.

"Sure," Lan Luo had no clue how it could help, but she began to use her Ice Magic.

Lan Luo did not use her Ice Spells mainly because her Ice Magic had no chance of slowing down the Hillmen. She had focused on using the Wind Element to speed up the group. There were almost two thousand Hillmen chasing after them. They would die for sure if they slowed down even a little!

To their relief, the roots of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden were like a steep slope. The higher they went, the steeper they became. As such, the Hillmen were having trouble forming a circle around them...

"Ice Spread: Blizzard!" Lan Luo followed Lingling's instructions and cast the Ice Spell close to where the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was fighting.

The white wolves seemed to be fond of the Ice Magic too. Their morale increased as they continued to take down the elite Hillmen with ease!

Dead bodies littered the area, with blood flowing down the roots like a river. To Lan Luo, Liu Xiaojia, and Guan Xixi's surprise, they actually managed to clear a path through such a huge number of Hillmen! They were getting closer to the trunk!

Mo Fan was clearing a path at the front while Zhao Manyan held the Hillmen that were chasing after them back. Their combined strength was comparable to that of an army!

"Tyrant Call!" Mo Fan's yell immediately activated the Lightning Tyrant Scars inflicted on the creatures by the wild lightning arcs. Countless lightning strikes descended like rain. The roots of the tree were scorched and blistered after hundreds of dark lightning bolts blasted it. This time, the Hillmen that were forced to split up were struggling to dodge the lightning. More than a hundred of them died to the spell. It suddenly cleared the path ahead!

"Assh**es, have a piece of that!" Mo Fan cursed them.

Mo Fan had purposely accumulated lots of Lightning Tyrant Scars. The Hillmen were able to dodge powerful spells like the Sky Lightning Claw with their strange movements. As such, Mo Fan decided to use Basic and Intermediate Spells like Lightning Strikes and Thunderbolts to keep applying Lightning Tyrant Scars on the Hillmen instead.

The spells were nowhere enough to kill the Hillmen, but when the number of Lightning Tyrant Scars on each Hillman reached a certain number, a single Little Tyrant Domain and Tyrant Call ended up killing a whole bunch of them. Lots of Soul Remnants and Soul Essences flew into the Little Loach Pendant like densely-packed fireflies that were densely packed together, giving Mo Fan a great fortune.

The Hillmen were collecting demon crests, too. Many of the Hillmen that Mo Fan killed had some demon crests on them. Mo Fan quickly said to Chen Yi, "Don't forget the demon crests, these creatures have a lot of them."

"..." Chen Yi was left speechless. How money-driven was the man? Was he really concerned about the demon crests in a situation like this?

Chen Yi's cultivation was pretty high, too. She had only pretended to be weaker at the Magic Association, yet she felt a little helpless when Mo Fan asked her to collect the demon crests from the dead Hillmen instead.

Frost stacked up on the roots as the temperature continued to drop. The power of the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's lineage was slowly awakened, allowing him to utilize his full strength, speed, vitality, and Ice Magic!

The wound on the Flying Creek Snow Wolf's stomach was greatly hindering his movement. However, the wound started recovering at a remarkable pace as soon as his lineage was awakened, the same with his other wounds!

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf's speed more than doubled, leaving a stunning afterimage behind.

His white figure swept past the Bronze-Fang Hillman, which was dazzled by his rapid movement. His claws flickered continuously around the creature.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman did not even realize what had just happened. Its body was covered in deep claw marks, from which blood was jetting out.

"Awoo!" The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was not done with his attack. He howled and fired arrow-like icicles at the Bronze-Fang Hillman from different directions. The Bronze-Fang Hillman rolled on the ground trying to dodge them, but some of the icicles still landed on it.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf crouched as a strong icy aura rose. The chill in the air intensified, and even breathing felt harder.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf stomped the ground with his front limbs. A huge icy storm chased after the limping Bronze-Fang Hillman.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was desperately summoning the normal Hillmen to block the storm for it. However, the strong wind tossed the tiny Hillmen into the sky, and they were reduced to a bloody mist upon reaching a certain height.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman cried out in panic, hugging a thick vine firmly. However, the icy storm dragged the vine right into it!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman let out cries of agony. It was utterly confused amid the incredible pain. How did the wolf suddenly become so strong, even though the wolf was barely any stronger than it in the first place?

BANG!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman slammed heavily on the roots, breaking most of its bones. Even if it managed to rise to its feet, it had lost its ability to fight.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf dashed forward like an icy arrow, arriving before the swaying Bronze-Fang Hillman in the blink of an eye. His sharp claws swept past. The Bronze-Fang Hillman remained still for a second before its head split from its body, a pillar of blood jetting into the sky.

The head rolled down the roots and fell into a dim hole.

“The Commander of the Hillmen is dead!” Zhao Manyan blurted out in joy.

Species that lived together had a great weakness. When their leader died, they would scatter like a sheet of loose sand. They would subconsciously flee for their lives, which was why Zhao Manyan was feeling relieved.

“Now is not the time to celebrate; we have to climb up the tree!” Lingling reminded him.

The resistance from the Hillmen ahead dropped significantly after the death of the Bronze-Fang Hillman. However, the Hillmen chasing after them from behind showed no sign of stopping...

“They have more than one Commander, we have to go now!” Mo Fan ordered.

The trunk of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden was like a steep cliff. Mo Fan called the Flying Creek Snow Wolf over and let him carry the girls.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was very agile. As soon as the girls were in position, he jumped and sprinted up the trunk like it was perfectly flat.

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan stayed behind to cover for the others. It felt like the number of Hillmen was still the same. They kept pursuing them relentlessly.

“Go up first!” Mo Fan said.

“Alright!” Zhao Manyan did not waste a second. He extended his golden wings, and with a beat of them, he soared up, sticking close to the trunk. He soon caught up to the Flying Creek Snow Wolf.

The white wolves had returned to the Summoned Beast Plane not long ago. They were starting to lose control of the situation. Mo Fan also learned that the Hillmen were surprisingly good at climbing the trunk. More than a hundred of them had already climbed sixty meters up the trunk...

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1296: Bloody Battle, At Wits End!

“Lightning Strike!”

Mo Fan fired hundreds of lightning strikes at the Hillmen making their way up the trunk. The lightning arcs were whipping at the Hillmen that were rolling at him like a tide.

The lightning strikes were not strong enough to inflict serious damage on the Warrior-level creatures, but they were enough to infuriate them. The Hillmen seemed to have realized that Mo Fan had been abandoned by his teammates. They also realized that this man was the most detestable, since he had

killed most of their fallen comrades. The Hillmen that were climbing the tree turned around and headed down instead to flank Mo Fan together with the others that were approaching.

Mo Fan looked at the savage Hillmen calmly. He first used Telekinesis to knock the Hillmen that were the closest to him into the air. His body immediately unleashed a brilliant silver light...

"Blink!" A huge Star Pattern appeared under Mo Fan's feet, followed by more Star Patterns as they combined into a majestic Star Constellation made up of three hundred and forty-three Stars. It opened up a Space tunnel that Mo Fan was flying into to escape from the huge encirclement...

BANG!

Just as Mo Fan was about to escape the huge surround, a four-meter Bronze-Fang Hillman appeared out of nowhere and rammed into his chest. Its incredible impact was like a tsunami!

Mo Fan was only seconds away from entering the Space tunnel, but the surprise attack ended up knocking him out of the tunnel!

Mo Fan slammed a few meters deep into the trunk. A few of his ribs had broken. He spat out a mouthful of blood.

Incredible pain surged throughout his body, and he almost lost consciousness. He did not expect a stronger Hillman hiding nearby would suddenly appear and give him such a deadly blow. He would have died if it wasn't for the physical attributes of his Demon Element!

-How cunning!-

Mo Fan wiped the blood from his lips. He forcibly unleashing his lightning to stop the Hillmen from getting any closer.

There were too many Hillmen. It was as difficult as driving a huge tide back. In just the blink of an eye, there were almost a hundred Hillmen less than twenty meters from Mo Fan. They were almost close enough to tear him into pieces!

"Back off!" Mo Fan knocked some of the Hillmen back with Telekinesis. However, more Hillmen kept showing up after he knocked the first wave back. He would not be able to resolve the danger with his current approach unless his Telekinesis was able to knock all the Hillmen back at once.

The cries of the creatures were deafening. However, Mo Fan felt like he could hear the Bronze-Fang Hillman that had ambushed him laughing viciously...

"Shit, Mo Fan failed to Blink up here!" Chen Yi's face turned pale as she glanced down.

Mo Fan's figure was surrounded by the enormous wave of Hillmen. Anyone would assume that the Hillmen had torn Mo Fan to pieces if they did not see the flickering of the lightning and the silver glow below.

"Keep going up, leave it to me!" Zhao Manyan dove back down as soon as he realized something was not right. However, there was not much he could do since the Hillmen had already stacked up in layers. He could only cast his defensive spells on a clear target, but he could not even see Mo Fan now...

“I’ll kill you all before I die!”

Mo Fan continued to unleash his will. His blood boiled vigorously as the danger worsened. His will was improving significantly, too...

A gravitational force appeared and compressed a circle of Hillmen around him into minced meat. Their blood splashed onto Mo Fan, turning him into a bloody mad man.

He did not have enough time to cast stronger spells. His outstanding mental strength and the Basic and Intermediate Lightning Spells were the most reliable in his current situation, since he was able to cast them with a thought. It was the only way he could survive!

Circles of dead bodies kept falling to the ground. It was definitely not Mo Fan’s first time fighting under dire circumstances like this. When he was in the Space of Death, he ended up stacking up a huge pile of bones. The urge to surpass his limits, the feeling of burning his battle intent thoroughly, the danger and thrill from facing his death at every second were awakening the great potential hidden deep within his soul!

It was not that easy to kill Mo Fan. Even without awakening the true demon sleeping deep within him, he could still unleash the full potential of the demon blood flowing in his body. His speed increased and his thoughts were quicker. He was able to cast spells more fluently while using his mental strength at maximum output for a long time!

Mo Fan was relying more on his Space Element. His will was obviously quicker than casting spells. He had to clear up some space with the Space Element before he could cast his Lightning Spells...

“Quicker, stronger!”

It was not enough. He would not be able to stop the Hillmen from closing in at this rate!

The strong desire of exceeding the limit of his mental strength exploded amid the great pain he was feeling from his chest. Every cell in his body tensed under the enormous pressure of death. Their energy kept colliding into the barrier holding back his mental strength!

“AHHHH!!!” Mo Fan let out a huge cry. The brilliance of the silver light he was emitting reached its peak as a strong force surged in all directions like a tornado. Hundreds of Hillmen closing in were knocked flying by the incredible force!

The area that barely had any gaps suddenly cleared up. Despite being covered in blood, Mo Fan’s aura showed no sign of weakening. It continued to rise vigorously instead.

“Die you motherf***ers, Sky Lightning Claw!”

Mo Fan finally had the chance to use his strongest Lightning Spell with the time he had bought himself.

The Lightning Tyrant Domain seemed to have grown stronger after the breakthrough in his mental strength. The Hillmen subconsciously backed away after feeling the overwhelming presence. They were now hesitating to move any closer!

It ended up buying Mo Fan even more time to Cast! The Sky Lightning Claw descended from the sky and tore the Hillmen to pieces mercilessly. The Hillmen had no chance to dodge the attack, since they were too densely packed together. Their blood and flesh scattered in the air!

Countless Hillmen died horrible deaths to the Sky Lightning Claw. However, it was far from the end of it. Lightning descended like feasting dragons and swept across the place in the form of lightning claws, branches, chains, and arcs. They fell straight down, spread wildly like webs, and punctured the bodies of the creatures...

Groups of Hillmen died continuously, blood and flesh flew everywhere. The bloody remains that the Hillmen were reduced to by the lightning splattered on the others. Some fell to the ground as their bodies were scorched black. The rest of the Hillmen stood on the roots with blank faces. They suddenly lost their courage to move forward!

"Mo Fan!" Zhao Manyan and his golden wings dove from the sky, yelling at him.

Mo Fan took a deep breath. He did not seem to have any intention to leave.

Zhao Manyan was utterly stunned when he saw Mo Fan covered in blood. The man was an absolute monster. He had managed to ruin the morale of thousands of Hillmen by himself, even though he was seriously injured.

"Let's go!" Mo Fan stomped the root and jumped into the air.

Zhao Manyan reached his hand out and grabbed Mo Fan's. He quickly headed back up.

The Hillmen on the ground became tinier. They watched Mo Fan leave with terror-stricken faces.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman cried out furiously. It never expected the human to escape from their encirclement. It even brutally tore a few of its underlings into pieces to vent its frustrations!

Mo Fan looked down and stared at the Hillman that had ambushed him coldly.

His eyes were bloody red. He did not say a word, yet it felt like he was telling the Bronze-Fang Hillman, "I'll definitely come back and take your life!"

They finally found a clear branch after flying a few hundred meters up the trunk. It was as spacious as a road they could run freely on. It felt like they were just standing on a brown patch of land when they looked ahead standing on the branch.

Mo Fan heard the sound of a heart pounding heavily. It was not his. His heart had calmed down a while ago. It was most likely Xinxia, feeling uneasy after realizing he was in danger.

Mo Fan fondled the fast-asleep Little Flame Belle, telling her not to worry about him. It was not her fault she was not available to fight for the time being. It was him being careless. He was not cautious enough, even though he knew the Hillmen had more than one Commander.

"How is he? Is he in danger?" Chen Yi asked nervously. Tears were rolling in her eyes. She almost lost her soul when she saw the condition Mo Fan was in.

“Strange, his body is oddly strong. The bleeding of some of his wounds has already stopped before they were treated... most importantly, the wound on his chest, it’s unbelievable!” Liu Xiaojia immediately went up to treat Mo Fan. However, she discovered that Mo Fan’s body was inhuman as soon as she touched him. How was it possible for a human to have a body as strong as a demon creature?

“I’m fine, I just need a little rest,” Mo Fan smiled.

Chen Yi had used her spell to wash most of the blood off. Mo Fan rose to his feet. Apart from the pain in his chest, he felt pretty good.

He let out a heavy sigh.

Liu Xiaojia, Chen Yi, and Lan Luo assumed Mo Fan was feeling uncomfortable. They quickly went up to him and asked if anything was wrong. To their surprise, Mo Fan glanced down at the dead bodies of the Hillmen that had piled up and said, “I didn’t have time to collect the demon crests. What a great loss.”

“...”

“...”

“...”

The three girls were left speechless. They suddenly felt an urge to strangle the man to death!

“Mo Fan, did you remember something Jiang Shaojun mentioned in his journal, about a Totem Beast that lives in an unusual tree?” Lingling looked up, staring at the towering Giant Purple Sacred Linden.

“It looks like those goddamn Hillmen have actually pointed us in the right direction!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

There was another huge benefit he had gotten from the Hillmen too. His mental strength had reached the fifth stage!

The difference between each stage was insane!

He remembered that Ai Jiangtu’s mental strength was in the fifth stage before. He had finally caught up to Ai Jiangtu’s level!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1297: The World in the Tree

The group continued to climb up the trunk of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. They soon realized that the main trunk branched off into more trunks. Even though the trunks were splitting off from the main trunk, each trunk still had remarkable width, with no sign of the top.

“The main trunk has branched into five trunks. Which one should we take?” Lan Luo asked.

“Let’s take the one in the middle,” Mo Fan pointed at one of them and said.

Each of the trunks had a slightly different color. They continued with their journey after choosing the trunk with a blue-yellow surface.

The wind gently touched their face. It was Mo Fan's time feeling like he was high on a mountain with a steep cliff, even though he was only climbing a tree. He took a glance down and was able to see the whole Valley of Yu Grass. It looked like a huge ocean!

—

"Holy crap, what the hell is that!?" Zhao Manyan shrieked. A creature with a segmented body showed up in front of the group. It was moving slowly along the trunk in an undulating wave motion.

"It looks like a caterpillar," Chen Yi remarked.

The creature did resemble a caterpillar, with a strange-looking head and a green body with spikes. However, the group was having trouble believing it, mainly because of its unbelievable size!

"Are the creatures here fed with hormones or what? How is a caterpillar so big!?" Zhao Manyan demanded.

"The Giant Purple Lindens are indeed rich in nutrients for other living creatures. The amount of nutrients that this Giant Purple Sacred Linden has is immeasurable," Lingling said calmly.

"Are we sure we should be going up then?" Liu Xiaojia said in a worried tone.

Who knew what terrifying creatures they would encounter if they kept going up the tree. Liu Xiaojia was starting to feel intimidated by the things awaiting them up there.

"Mo Fan hasn't fully recovered yet. Going down is basically suicide," Lingling replied.

— —

The group continued up. They were a significant distance away from the ground. As they looked around them, they could see some clouds at the same height as them. The wind was strong enough to blow them off the ground...

"I see some branches!" Guan Xixi exclaimed.

It turned out that climbing the tree was tiring than making it up a mountain. They had finally gone high enough to see the branches of the tree.

The branches were also incredibly huge. They were more than wide enough for humans to run and jump on them. The long branches extended into the distance without a specific pattern, like roads in a city that would lead them to some unknown places.

The leaves were not very dense, or the sunlight would have trouble passing through the gaps between them. The sunbeams that made it through the canopy were spectacular in the dim world among the branches.

They heard something tapping on the leaves, but they did not see a thing when they followed the sound.

The leaves of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden were bigger than palm leaves. Someone as light as Lingling could even jump onto the leaves. They were strong enough to support her as long as she did not stomp on them on purpose.

They could still hear the sound of something tapping the leaves. It did not sound like the wind. Everyone stayed on alert.

A strange cry was heard. It felt like it had come from higher above, or from other trunks that had branched off from the main trunk.

After all, they had little knowledge of the environment they were in. Even the rustling of the leaves would make them feel uneasy. Zhao Manyan glanced at Mo Fan, who still looked feeble and said, "You better recover soon. The rest of us won't stand any chance if some powerful demon creatures show up."

Mo Fan smacked his lips. He was already trying his best to recover. Liu Xiaojia's Healing Element was not as efficient as the Healing Element of the Parthenon Temple. If Xinxia was around, it would only take her a few spells for him to fully recover.

"I keep feeling that something is watching us," Liu Xiaojia said nervously.

"We are currently in another creature's territory. It would be strange if there wasn't something watching us. Let's just hope it's not some savage species," Zhao Manyan murmured.

Another cry occurred. The sound was a lot closer this time. The group immediately felt uncomfortable at how sharp the screech was.

The leaves nearby shrouding the sky suddenly crackled loudly, followed by the sound of wings beating rapidly and sharp screeches. The silence was replaced with deafening noises!

Blue-white figures appeared from below the leaves and the branch they were walking on. Some were flying in circles in the shadows nearby...

"It's the demon sparrows!" Lingling said.

"Run!" Mo Fan yelled.

Zhao Manyan cast a Water Spell and a Light Spell to defend the others in the group from the sharp claws of the demon sparrows.

The sharp claws of the demon sparrows soon left cracks on the barrier of light. Even with the Totem Seal's effects, Zhao Manyan's defense was collapsing shockingly fast.

Zhao Manyan would not have trouble protecting a single person against the demon sparrows. However, since there were more people in the group, the defensive barriers he needed to set up were a lot bigger, so they were not as thick as the defense he usually set up for a single person.

Lan Luo quickly cast a Wind Spell to speed everyone up. They had obviously trespassed into the demon sparrow's territory. The demon creatures seemed very angry!

"Water Curtain!"

Zhao Manyan cast Advanced Spells continuously. He was expending a lot of his energy, but it was the only way to protect the group from the fierce attacks of the demon sparrows!

“This way!” Lingling was sitting on the back of the Flying Creek Snow Wolf as she led the way.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf jumped between the branches and leaves and went higher into the tree. There were not many demon sparrows nearby. It seemed like they had left the demon sparrows’ territory.

Zhao Manyan protected the group as they went higher into the tree. The demon sparrows stopped pursuing after a while. It seemed they were only active between the height of fifteen hundred meters to two thousand meters on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden.

“These demon sparrows are supposed to be Servant-class creatures, but they are way stronger here!” Mo Fan observed.

The demon sparrows were a common species in many places. They had strong reproductive abilities, and could be found in most jungles. Even though they were at the bottom of the food chain, they could still pose a huge threat by abusing their numbers...

It turned out that sections between the height of fifteen hundred meters to two thousand meters were only the bottommost level of the Giant Purple Sacred Tree. The demon sparrows were only the lowest level residents of the tree, but even so, they still gave the group a great scare, as they had rarely seen demon sparrows being so aggressive!

“The Hillmen must have occupied the sea of grass and the roots. I believe the species living on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden didn’t change much,” Lingling added.

“The tree is so tall. If we split it into layers, we can’t even tell how many layers there are. If these fierce demon sparrows are considered the bottommost level, what would the creatures living at the top be like?” Lan Luo lifted his gaze and looked up into the tree with no visible end.

Mo Fan and Lingling exchanged glances with one another. The Giant Purple Sacred Linden had clearly been around for a long time. There was a possibility that the top of the tree was the nest of the Totem Beast of Yantai!

“I don’t think we should be going any higher. Didn’t we come to take out the Hillmen in the first place?” Liu Xiaojia said timidly.

“It’s true that we shouldn’t go any higher. We can still protect ourselves against these demon sparrows, but we are likely to stumble into stronger species the higher we go,” Lingling agreed.

Although she was very curious about the world higher up in the Giant Purple Sacred Linden, she had no choice but to focus on their current circumstances.

They found a hole in the trunk. Zhao Manyan set up a barrier to prevent creatures from ambushing them while they were taking a rest.

The hole was not in the main trunk. Even the minor trunks branching off from the main trunk were thicker than a tree more than a hundred years old. There were quite a number of holes in the trunks. Some were dry, perfect for the group to rest up in despite the smell of blood inside them.

Zhao Manyan had almost consumed all his energy. He desperately needed a rest. Mo Fan's injuries were still mending, too. He was energetic once again, but he had the same problem as Zhao Manyan; he needed a long time to recover the energy that he had expended!

—

Mo Fan heard a soft rustle from the outside as he was about to doze off.

He immediately opened his eyes. They emitted a sharp flicker amid the darkness.

There was initially a barrier protecting the entrance, but it had been torn down without them knowing. A dark figure slowly crawled inside the hole. Its eyes looked around before reaching its hands toward Lan Luo...

Lan Luo was quite slim. The creature was thinking of snatching her away and making its run!

"You asked for it!" Mo Fan grinned coldly. His eyes emitted a sharp flicker as a strong force rammed into the cunning Hillman who was trying to kidnap the girl.

Following the sound of bones cracking, the cunning Hillman was knocked out of the cave. It fell down and landed heavily on another branch below, turning into a pile of mincemeat!

Unpleasant cries were heard from all directions, waking the rest of the group up. When they looked out of the cave, they were shocked to see lots of Hillmen piling up on the branch. Their eyes glowed red in the dark, like stars in the night sky... but were a lot scarier!

"Damn it, how petty are those demon sparrows? Did they seriously just let these Hillmen go through their territory!?" Zhao Manyan yelled.

They purposely went through the territory of a demon species to prevent the Hillmen from chasing after them. They thought the Hillmen would think twice before crossing another species' territory. They did not think the demon sparrows were so undignified that they simply let the Hillmen cross their territory without making a single noise!

"Time to go!" Mo Fan was well-rested. He immediately led the others out of the tree hole.

He took a quick glance down and saw many black figures moving across the branches below. They were moving like nimble apes between the leaves and branches. They were a lot quicker at climbing the trees than the group of Mages was!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1298: The Shameless Hillmen

Cries of agony continued to echo among the branches as more Hillmen fell from a great height. Some barely held onto the branches with their claws, but most of them slammed heavily onto the lower branches and turned into bloody meat.

The silver light of Telekinesis flickered continuously, knocking the Hillmen trying to approach Mo Fan and his team into the air. The Hillmen could only get to thirty meters from Mo Fan. As soon as they crossed that line, they would be sent flying by the powerful force of his Telekinesis!

Mo Fan was now able to split his will further into more wisps. Each wisp was a lot stronger, too. It could even kill a Hillman instantly if it struck the creature at the right angle...

Ai Jiangtu was able to dominate most of his battles with just a single spell, and Mo Fan had finally caught up to him. He felt more at ease when dealing with the Hillmen after his mental strength had improved!

That being said, he would be able to kill the Hillmen even faster if he was Possessed by Little Flame Belle.

“Watch your left!” Lingling warned.

Mo Fan did not even turn his head. A wisp of his will struck the Hillman that was leaping at him from his blind spot. The Hillman barely reached a distance of ten meters from Mo Fan, before spitting out a mouthful of blood as it slammed heavily into the main trunk.

“Keep going up!” Zhao Manyan had no choice but to constantly switch between attacking and defending. The Hillmen kept coming down from above. It was obvious that they had long moved into position, trying to prevent the humans from escaping again.

The branches below were filled with black figures. It was almost impossible to even count how many of them there were. These Hillmen were more stubborn than anyone had imagined!

Mo Fan was running short on energy. Otherwise, he would have gone down and snapped the neck of the Bronze-Fang Hillman that had inflicted serious damage on him in half!

The group continued to move up the tree. Luckily, Mo Fan’s Space Element was a lot stronger after his mentality reached the fifth stage. Otherwise, things would be a lot worse while the Hillmen were ambushing them in the dark!

—

Zhao Manyan panted heavily. He was absolutely worn out.

He barely had energy left after helping the group pass the demon sparrows’ territory safely. The group was on the run again before he could even rest up. His energy was seriously depleted.

Any Mage would feel extremely uneasy when they ran out of energy, especially when on a giant tree where a powerful creature could show up at any second...

“The Hillmen are below us, and unknown creatures are above us. We are seriously going to die at this rate. Damn it, I thought about the possibilities of dying on a battlefield, in a city, or at sea, but I never thought I would die on a f**king tree!” Zhao Manyan grumbled.

He had run out of energy. He could only grumble and complain to vent the enormous pressure he was feeling.

Mo Fan was still doing fine. After all, he was mostly using Basic and Intermediate Spells, reducing the consumption rate of his energy.

“They seem to have stopped chasing us,” Lingling told everyone.

Zhao Manyan looked down and saw the Hillmen crouching on the branches below them, watching them. They looked like they were too afraid to pursue any further, even though they were unwilling to let their prey go.

Zhao Manyan did not feel any relief from seeing that. Anyone who had been in the wild would know that when the demon creatures stopped pursuing suddenly, it did not mean the demon creatures had suddenly decided to spare their lives, but that there was something even scarier waiting for them ahead!

“What are you waiting for? Keep going up!”

“But what if there’s something even scarier up there?” Zhao Manyan protested.

“Scarier my ass!” Mo Fan was reluctant to believe that their luck was that bad. He immediately climbed higher with the girls.

Zhao Manyan’s timid character was exposed as soon as his energy was depleted. The Hillmen were very intelligent, indeed. They knew Mo Fan and his crew were almost at their limits, thus they did not give up on their pursuit.

They managed to run away from the Hillmen after climbing a few hundred meters up the tree. However, the Hillmen did not seem to have any intention of leaving. They stood there waiting on the branches, as if they knew the humans would eventually come down again.

Mo Fan greatly detested these Hillmen. He swore he would kill every single one of them once his energy recovered!

—

“It’s too quiet here,” Lingling said softly.

The view was the same in all directions. They were surrounded by huge leaves and intertwining branches. The branches were like a huge, complicated maze. They could no longer tell which one was the main trunk of the tree. It was very dark too, as the light of the stars was not bright enough to illuminate their surroundings, leaving everyone on their toes.

A sound gradually approached, followed by a gust of wind with a rotting odor. It sounded like a creature snoring.

Everyone looked around them, trying to figure out what the creature was.

Mo Fan was able to see clearly at night. He looked ahead and saw a creature with a lizard’s head but a leopard’s body fast asleep at a fork of two branches. It was totally unaware of the presence of the intruders.

Mo Fan did not dare speak. He slowly pointed his finger at the fork, at the deadly-looking creature mostly covered by branches and leaves.

Lingling was an absolute genius. She could tell what the creature was just by looking at the outline of the creature's face. She said with an extremely soft voice, "It's a Four-Lives Salamander Tiger, a powerful Commander-level creature. It spends most of its time sleeping, but it's very dangerous when it's awake!"

"Does that mean it has four lives?" Zhao Manyan asked worriedly.

"Exactly, it's a very strange life form. It only needs to sleep for a day to fully recover even after suffering life-threatening injuries. As a result, the Four-Lives Salamander Tigers dare to provoke any creature. They aren't afraid of challenging those that are stronger than them, including Ruler-level creatures!" Lingling said.

"We are lucky that it's sleeping. It doesn't seem to be bothered by us."

"We should really thank the Heavens for that. Let's find somewhere safe before it wakes up," Zhao Manyan said.

Zhao Manyan was like a different person after he ran out of energy, like a little rat desperately trying to survive on the streets...

—

Everyone was tiptoeing as they continued up the tree, trying their best to stay away from the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger.

They were holding their breath while moving up the tree, fully focused. For some reason, their hearts were pounding heavily. They were afraid the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger would suddenly wake up!

Suddenly, they heard an inharmonious sound.

They had almost left the area when they saw a tiny Hillman making its way up to the branch. It then ran over to the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger under the gazes of Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Guan Xixi, Liu Xiaojia, Lan Luo, Liu Xiaojia, and Chen Yi, who were all staring at it with wide eyes!

At that particular moment, both Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan felt like there were thousands of llamas galloping in their hearts!

The little Hillman rushed up to the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger's mouth and started making noise. It kept crying out loudly, even though it was extremely scared.

The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger woke up right away. It opened its mouth and swallowed the little clown that disturbed its sleep promptly!

The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger barely felt the Hillman that it had just eaten. The Commander-level creature had extremely sharp hearing. As soon as it woke up, it lifted its gaze and stared right at Mo Fan and his team, who were already quite a distance away...

“F**k this shit!” Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan cursed at the same time. They all knew how cunning and vicious the Hillmen were, yet they never thought they would do something so shameless.

They had sent one of their own up to die just to wake the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger up. Was it really fair for demon creatures to have such intelligence?

“What are you waiting for? Keep running, are you waiting to celebrate New Year here!?”

“Come to me, quick!” Mo Fan yelled.

The others realized what Mo Fan’s plan was when they saw a silver light circling him. They quickly stuck close to Mo Fan.

The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger was terrifyingly quick. It was able to move at maximum speed despite the complicated branches and leaves that were in the way. It was approaching the group so quickly that it looked like an illusion!

“Blink!” Mo Fan completed the Advanced Space Spell. The silver Star Constellation encapsulated everyone.

They quickly vanished into the tunnel of Space as soon as it opened up.

With a brief flicker, the group vanished into thin air, reappearing at a spot around three hundred meters away.

Mo Fan did not lower his guard, as he was afraid that the creature could still catch up to them. He immediately drew another Star Constellation!

The energy he needed to teleport seven people twice in a row was insane. Mo Fan already felt his head spinning, a sign that he had overdrawn his energy!

Luckily, they had managed to escape from the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger. The creature would have a hard time finding them with the leaves and branches limiting its vision.

None of them dared make a sound. They even held their breaths as long as possible. There was no sign of the Commander-level creature after ten minutes. They finally let out a relieved sigh.

“Those f**king sons of b**ches, I swear I’ll kill them all after we have all recovered!” Zhao Manyan stomped and yelled furiously.

Mo Fan was disgusted by what the Hillmen had done, too. It was his first time encountering such a shameless species. If the undead attacking the Ancient Capital were as intelligent as the Hillmen, the Ancient Capital would have fallen long ago!

Either way, Mo Fan shared the same thoughts as Zhao Manyan. He had an urge to just charge down the tree and slaughter every single one of the Hillmen!

“Let’s hide here for now. The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger isn’t as aggressive. I don’t think it’s going to chase us relentlessly. Mo Fan, use your Shadow Element to conceal our presence. The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger is not as sharp at night,” Lingling said.

“Mm, let’s rest up. We should be fine after recovering our energy.”

“We should be around three thousand meters high now?” Guan Xixi wondered aloud. She was talking to Chen Yi, but the girl was staring at the night sky with a blank expression instead.

“What’s wrong, Chen Yi?” Guan Xixi asked worriedly.

“I...I think I’ve seen this before...” Chen Yi said seriously. However, she shook her head and corrected herself, “I’ve seen something similar before!”

“Hardly anyone knows about the existence of this Giant Purple Sacred Linden. We wouldn’t even have found it if it wasn’t for the Hillmen,” Mo Fan interjected.

“It’s a drawing, I’ve seen a similar drawing... I remember now! It’s in my grandmother’s house. She has a drawing like this in her house. The leaves that reach the sky, the branches that are wide like roads, and the starry sky in the distance!”

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1299: The Importance of Sound Mages

Chen Yi had seen a similar sight before. It was in the drawing in her grandmother’s bedroom!

“Does that mean your grandmother has been here before?” Mo Fan asked, surprised.

Even though the Giant Purple Sacred Linden was stunning, it had long been dominated by demon creatures, especially flying species. There was no way a plane would have passed by the area, so not many people would know about the existence of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. To his surprise, Chen Yi’s grandmother had found out about the tree before the authorities of the Magic Association, the military, and the government!

The question was... if she knew about the Giant Purple Sacred Linden, why didn’t she tell anyone? Even if it was just a piece of information, it would attract the attention of countless people to come and look for it!

“It seems like we’re quite in luck. We somehow found the right place.” Chen Yi was clueless about how her grandmother knew about the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. They would have to ask her grandmother some other time!

The group finally had a chance to catch their breath, hiding in Mo Fan’s Shadow Magic. The place was deadly silent for the rest of the night. Perhaps it was because the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger was good at maintaining its territory, or most creatures living on the tree had strict routines. Despite trying to stay alert, they soon fell asleep, overwhelmed by fatigue.

A long drawbridge connected the inner and outer slopes of Mount Kunyu. The military had stationed soldiers to guard the drawbridge on one end.

Currently, thousands of people had gathered at the slope close to the drawbridge. They mainly consisted of Hunters planning to earn some quick money. The outer slopes of Mount Kunyu were known to have a lot of Giant Purple Lindens. If they were lucky enough to find a few of the trees, they could easily earn up to a million yuan. Even inexperienced Hunters had a chance to earn some money, so they could not wait to enter the outer slopes to search for the demon crests!

“Why aren’t you letting us in? What are we waiting for? I’ve come all the way from Guangdong Province just to earn some money, and now you’re stopping us from going in. What do you mean by this!?” a man yelled furiously.

The man had come to Yantai from Guangdong Province, which meant he had traveled across half of China just to come here. He thought he was going to make bank, but the government and the military were stopping people from crossing the bridge.

“He’s right, why didn’t you stop the Hunters that went in first? Why do we have to wait so long here!?”

“It’s not fair!”

“Are you purposely keeping us here because they have bribed you!?”

Thousands of people were yelling angrily. The officials were having a hard time controlling the situation. Some Hunters at the front of the line were about to use violence after they were provoked by the others.

Things would go out of control as soon as people started using magic. Even though it was rare to see independent Mages getting into a fight with the personnel of the Magic Association, the government, or the military, as the saying went, “stopping a man from earning money is like killing his parents”. The Hunters were on the verge of losing their tempers!

“Who’s causing a scene here!?”

An imperious voice exploded like a deafening thunderclap as the Hunters were about to lose control. The words echoed in everyone’s ears like the chimes of a bell. The Mages immediately felt their ears ringing and their heads spinning. They could not even cast a single Spell in their current state!

“It’s...it’s Nie Lengshan!”

“My ears are hurting!”

It took a while for the sound affecting the people to disappear. The Hunters at the front saw a man in his thirties with wings on his back landing in front of the drawbridge. He was glaring coldly at the Hunters who were on the verge of losing control!

“Nie Lengshan, don’t you dare use your identity and strength to put pressure on us. We just want to make some money, but these assh**** are blocking us here because they were bribed by the Hunters that went in first! They even came up with such a bad excuse...” the Hunter at the front of the queue snapped.

“Open your goddamn eyes and tell me what these are!” Nie Lengshan casually tossed a bag onto the ground.

The bag was tied very loosely. Something fell out of it as soon as it hit the ground.

The Hunters immediately looked at the bag and saw tusks covered in blood scattered across the ground. One of the Hunters went forward to empty the bag. He found the head of a Hillman inside!

“A huge number of Hillmen have shown up in the outer Mount Kunyu. They are using the demon crests as bait to hunt greedy idiots like you. More than two hundred people have died! These are the photos of the dead that some of the Hunters that returned gave to us. Take a look at them yourselves!” Nie Lengshan took out some photos to back up his claim and tossed them into the crowd of Hunters.

Most of the Hunters were convinced as soon as they saw the head and the tusks of a Hillman on the ground. However, their faces paled when they looked at the horrible corpses of the people that had been brutally killed by the Hillmen.

There were lots of photos, each displaying a horrible sight. Some relatively young Hunters among the crowd even vomited!

“If you still want to head inside, I won’t stop you. We just happen to need a bunch of reliable Hunters to help us deal with the Hillmen. These brutal Hillmen torture humans to entertain themselves. The outer slopes of Mount Kunyu are too close to Yantai, we will not allow the Hillmen to set up their territory here!” Nie Lengshan declared. His voice was loud and clear to everyone.

“Hillmen...Hillmen are Warrior-level creatures, and they are good at working together, too. I think we’ll pass,” a middle-aged Hunter said.

“We only came to join in on the fun, so we’ll pass too. Hehe!”

“We’ll be going since it’s so dangerous. We can find somewhere else to hunt demon creatures too. Am I right?”

Most Hunters did not have the courage to face the Hillmen. In just a few moments, the majority of the Hunters that were demanding to enter the outer Mount Kunyu left. The Hunters that stayed were either confident in their strength, or were part of a strong Hunter Group!

“Brother Nie, feel free to tell us if you need our help. Our Leopard Head Hunter Group might not be as reputable as you, but we won’t show any mercy when it comes to killing demon creatures either,” a bloke wearing a leopard head cap said.

“We do need your help to solve a serious problem. Commander Sun has already led his squad to the Valley of Yu Grass. I have come back here to request reinforcements,” Nie Lengshan said.

“Everyone in our team is an Advanced Mage. If there really are Hillmen in there, as Mages of Yantai, we are more than willing to help,” a mature woman in her thirties said.

“Very well, come with me.”

Of the crowd of over three thousand Hunters, only around three hundred were willing to take on the Hillmen. That being said, everyone that chose to stay was an elite. Their help was much needed!

“What happened, exactly?” the leader of the Leopard Head Hunter Group asked.

“A strange phenomenon occurred. The Dandelion Grass in the mountain is all flying in the same direction, and that place turned out to be the perfect hunting ground for the Hillmen. Ninety percent of the Hunters that entered the mountain have made their way to the valley. We have no idea how many Hillmen are inside the Valley of Yu Grass. We have to kill the Hillmen as quickly as possible. Otherwise, almost eighty percent of the Hunters are going to die in there!” Nie Lengshan informed them.

“There should be at least four thousand Hunters who went onto the outer slopes. Are the Hillmen really that scary? Can they really kill thousands of Mages?”

“They could only kill a few hundred at most with some tricks, but that won’t be the case if all the Hunters went into the sea of grass!”

The experienced Hunters did not believe the Hillmen could pose that much of a threat. However, they were astounded after they followed Nie Lengshan to the valley covered in grass higher than their heads!

They would completely lose track of anyone that walked into the grass. The Hillmen were able to conceal themselves perfectly within the grass. Even if the members of a team were sticking closely together, the Hillmen could still find a chance to attack those that were slightly separated from the team. They finally understood why Nie Lengshan was taking it so seriously!

“We’ve already sent out an emergency alert to summon every Sound Mage in Yantai and the nearby cities. We only managed to gather seven of them,” Commander Sun Yi sighed.

“Only seven of them?” Nie Lengshan seemed disappointed.

It did not matter how strong they were once they went into the grass. Even a Super Mage could only kill a few Hillmen that were scouting in the valley...

Being strong enough was not the key to solving the problem. More importantly, they had to find a way to locate the Hillmen hiding in the sea of grass!

Nie Lengshan was a Sound Mage. He could easily locate the Hillmen in the sea of grass. As such, he was the main person in charge of the operation. However, it was impossible for him to do it alone. It would be ideal if every team had a Sound Mage. That way, the Hillmen would no longer be able to hide themselves here!

“Seven it is. We’ll split into eight teams and enter the valley. Let’s find the Hillmen’s den and kill them all, to avenge those that have fallen!” Nie Lengshan stated.

The military, government, and Magic Association had dispatched a thousand elite Mages. There were around four hundred Hunters, too. They immediately split up into eight teams and went into the sea of grass to take on the Hillmen, under the lead of the Sound Mages!

“Sigh, if only there were more Sound Mages.”

“We can’t help it, the Sound Element is a kind of Dimensional Magic. It’s very unlikely for people to Awaken it in the early levels!”

The situation clearly highlighted the importance of Sound Mages. As a matter of fact, there was always a high demand for Sound Mages due to their outstanding ability to sense danger for the team. They were good at avoiding danger, hunting down targets, disturbing the enemy, and suppressing fire...

Most Mages were basically blind when moving in the sea of grass. Having a huge army would not make any difference. Only the Sound Mages could extend their senses through the thick grass!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 1300: Shao Ru, the Sound Maga

“There, watch where my Brilliant Light is!” a woman yelled.

The Brilliant Light flew across the sea of grass and landed on a swaying stalk of Yu Grass. Underneath it was a ghastly creature, whose eyes widened in disbelief!

The Hillman was waiting for its target to move closer. It already had its eyes on a slim Maga with tender skin and could not wait to have a taste of her. It never thought the humans could locate it when it was staying perfectly still. The blinding light immediately revealed its silhouette in the darkness!

“Where do you think you are running to!?”

“Die!”

The Battlemages cooperated with perfect synergy and surrounded the Hillman in no time!

A soldier with the Plant Element quickly tossed binding roots forward with a sharp gaze. The roots firmly tangled the legs of the Hillman.

The Hillman tried to break free from the roots, but the surrounding temperature began to drop rapidly. Small pieces of ice gathered around the creature like they were being attracted to a magnet, forming a layer of frost on it.

The Hillman’s speed was greatly reduced. A few destructive spells followed and broke through the Hillman’s defense, inflicting serious damage on it.

“Kill it!” the Sound Maga said.

“Affirmative!”

The Battlemages decisively killed the Hillman and retrieved its tusks.

They were collecting the Hillmen’s tusks were first because the tusks were valuable, and second because it was a symbol of avenging the humans that these Hillmen had killed. They had brutally slaughtered many Mages on Mount Kunyu. It was necessary to teach these demon creatures that humans were not something they could slaughter as they wished. They were keeping the tusks that the Hillmen were proud of to let them have a piece of the humiliation and terror they were applying to the victims!

“Found a corpse here!”

“Here too!”

The Battlemages soon found the remains of a few Hunters close to the spot where the Hillman was hiding. Most of the corpses were no longer intact.

“Take one of their belongings and bury the bodies,” the Sound Maga said.

It was impossible to bring all the corpses back, as there were too many of them. Besides, most of the bodies had been torn apart, so it would be pointless to bring them back. There was a code among the

Hunters and Mages in the wild. If they could not retrieve the corpses of their fallen comrades, they would take one of their belongings for their families to identify and bury the dead bodies on the spot.

Most Hunters in the wild would carry a badge with them. It was the most effective way to identify those that had died since the badge was durable and unique to each Hunter.

As people that were constantly risking their lives at the front lines, it was the least they could do. The Battlemages could not afford to be bound by formalities. All they needed to do was to show the Hillmen how they were going to avenge the victims they had brutally killed!

“These sons of b**ches, they have killed so many...” Nie Lengshan hovered above the valley and looked into the distance of the boundless valley.

How many corpses were concealed by the tall grass? The thought alone was enough to send shivers down his spine!

“Brilliant Light!” The talented Sound Maga found traces of the Hillmen once again.

This time, she tagged a bunch of Hillmen with the Brilliant Light. The Hillmen were used to working together. Most of them would stick together in groups if they were not being overly greedy. The Brilliant Light revealed the entire group of Hillmen. The Battlemages could easily find them by following the Brilliant Light!

“Basic Spells are a lot more useful at times like this!” someone exclaimed.

“Yeah, but who exactly is the woman? She’s doing such a good job. Her senses are so sharp. Not a single Hillman within a few kilometers has managed to hide from her. Our team has already killed over three hundred Hillmen. We are having trouble carrying all the tusks!” exclaimed Wang Dabao, who was in the Sound Maga’s team.

The Leopard Head Hunter Group was assigned to the fourth team, led by a Sound Maga that was summoned here by the emergency alert. Not only did she possess outstanding cultivation, she was able to make the right calls all the time. She was hunting down the Hillmen like they were nothing but a bunch of clowns!

“I heard someone calling her Shao Ru; I believe it’s her nickname, but I’m not sure if she’s a Hunter, a member of the Magic Association, the government, or a renowned clan. She seems to be pretty famous around here,” another member of the Leopard Head Hunter Group, named Li Sikang, someone spoke up.

“So she’s Shao Ru?” someone in the team exclaimed.

Every local Mage seemed to have heard the name Shao Ru before. Their gazes at the Sound Maga with a cold personality were immediately filled with respect.

“A year ago, the Blue Ice Sea Monsters attacked a fishing village and kidnapped more than ten fishermen. Not many people dared to pursue the culprits after learning that the Blue Ice Sea Monsters were responsible. However, not long after, she went to the Blue Ice Sea Monsters’ den alone and wiped out the entire den of Blue Ice Sea Monsters! The news shocked many of the renowned clans. Many of

them tried to recruit her, but she ended up rejecting every invitation. Apparently, she even beat the crap out of the second son of the Penglai Clan!” a Hunter from Yantai said.

“The second son of the Penglai Clan, Lu Wenxing? Isn’t he the strongest Mage among the younger generations in Yantai?”

“Exactly, Lu Wenxing even came third in the Hunter Competition. He’s easily one of the most talented young Mages in our country, but he still lost to Shao Ru. Many people saw it in person!”

Most people on the team were unaware of who the woman was. The others quickly spread it around when they heard it from the people that were discussing it. Who would have thought that such a cold and delicate woman would possess such remarkable strength! The men on the team no longer dared to underestimate her!

“Miss Shao, I’m utterly impressed by how observant you are. HAHAHA, we’ve managed to kill a whole bunch of Hillmen!” a captain with rough facial features said.

The captain was an Advanced Mage with over a hundred soldiers under his command. Even though they were a strong squad, they could not possibly do anything without the Sound Maga’s help.

“It’s a pity that one of them managed to get away by faking its death. It managed to sneak away into the grass when we were retrieving the tusks. By the time we realized it, it had already disappeared,” a soldier said. His gaze toward Shao Ru was oddly passionate.

“I know where it went, but another group of Hunters around three kilometers away is in trouble. We should head over at once,” Shao Ru turned in the direction of the moon. The moonlight sprinkled on the grass like a thin layer of makeup, setting off the elegant temperament of the mysterious and powerful Maga. The men on the team could feel their hearts itching.

“We should hurry, let’s hope we can make it in time to save them!” the captain said.

The captain immediately led the way while the Leopard Head Hunter Group followed.

“I believe our team is the most efficient so far...”

“Of course! Let’s keep it up. We might be able to make a name for our Leopard Head Hunter Group if we do well in this operation!” Wang Dabao proclaimed, in high spirits.

It was rare to have a chance to work together with a reputable Maga like Shao Ru!

—

The teams proceeded to hunt down the Hillmen. With the help of the Sound Mages, the Hillmen had no chance of escaping. The number of Hillmen that were preying on the Hunters gradually fell. The Hunter Groups were also evacuated from the valley to prevent further casualties.

However, the teams still discovered lots of corpses in horrible conditions along the way. They were infuriated every time they saw the brutal deaths the victims had suffered!

The Hillmen had to die!

—

“Someone is screaming for help in this direction. It sounds like a big group!” Shao Ru said.

“This way?” the captain asked.

Shao Ru nodded.

“Brothers, follow me to the rescue!” the captain left with a hundred elites.

“There are people in this direction too. There aren’t many, but we must save them too,” Shao Ru pointed in another direction.

“Shao Ru, these Hillmen can mimic our voices. Please be mindful of it when you hear the screams for help!” The teacher, Mr. Gao, was also on the team.

“Yeah, Brother Mo Fan who was the first to find out the Hillmen’s conspiracy told us so. The Hillmen are very cunning and intelligent. We shouldn’t walk into their traps,” Liu Xiaojia’s senior said.

“I’m aware of that!” Shao Ru said confidently. She looked in another direction and said to Mr. Gao, “I need you to head there with a team to save the survivors.”

“Got it!”

“Leopard Head Hunter Group, there are seven Hillmen a kilometer away from us. My Brilliant Light will chase after them. I’ll leave them in your hands,” Shao Ru calmly instructed.

“Don’t worry, we’ll make sure to take them all out!”

“There are a lot more Hillmen around here. It looks like we’re getting closer to their den.”

—

The members of the fourth team split up to rescue the survivors and kill the Hillmen. They followed Shao Ru’s instructions and the guidance of her Brilliant Light with great discipline. They did not panic despite the confusing terrain in the sea of grass.

A strange voice was heard coming from the bushes nearby. Shao Ru frowned and scanned her surroundings, on high alert.

A Hillman taller than the ones they had encountered so far suddenly appeared from behind Shao Ru. The creature looked even scarier when it revealed its bronze tusks!

Shao Ru was taken by surprise. She did not expect a Hillman would be able to escape the detection of her Sound Element!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman attacked at a crazy speed. The soldiers that were protecting Shao Ru could not react in time. Its sharp paws swept fiercely at her chest.

Shao Ru barely reacted in time. However, her shoulder was still sliced open. She almost lost her arm!

Fresh blood poured out from the wound. The Bronze-Fang Hillman was not done yet. It swung its other paw down at Shao Ru’s leg as she was dodging aside, trying to drag her back!

Once the creature dragged Shao Ru back, it would obviously stab its tusks through her. However, Shao Ru was having trouble dodging the grab!

“Tone: Kill!”

Shao Ru cast a Sound Spell in the nick of time. The sonic wave whipped the savage Bronze-Fang Hillman hard...

Shao Ru quickly drew her legs back as the Bronze-Fang Hillman was knocked off-balance briefly. To her surprise, the Bronze-Fang Hillman still managed to swipe its paw down, leaving a long bloody wound down her leg with its claws!