

## Versatile 1301

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#### Chapter 1301: Mo Fan to the Rescue

“Protect the leader!”

The soldiers finally reacted. They quickly cast all kinds of spells.

The soldiers were in a panic, trying to save Shao Ru. Unfortunately, their spells were ineffective against the Bronze-Fang Hillman. The spells did not stop the creature from moving closer to Shao Ru, who was already suffering serious injuries.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman seemed to be aware that the woman was the main reason that its underlings were dying so quickly. It persisted in trying to kill her first!

Meanwhile, Shao Ru’s eyes flickered with panic and regret as death approached.

She was too careless. She had clearly underestimated the Hillmen’s intelligence. It turned out that they had purposely created the distractions in different directions. She had good hearing, but if the surroundings were too noisy when a powerful creature was slowly sneaking up to her, there was still a chance she could miss it.

Shao Ru had no chance of using her magic, as the Bronze-Fang Hillman kept going after her. She was just a typical Mage who was unable to take on a Commander-level creature at close distance!

“Protect her!” a soldier yelled and stood in between the Bronze-Fang Hillman and Shao Ru. He only had a thin layer of Water Barrier as his defense!

“Don’t!” Shao Ru screamed, but a sharp paw directly went through the soldier’s chest and came out from his back while her voice was still lingering in the air.

The soldier’s body was still twitching. He could not believe that his defense was non-existent against the creature’s attack. He stared at the Bronze-Fang Hillman with wide eyes...

The Bronze-Fang Hillman drew out its paw. However, the soldier used his final breath to hold onto the paw, preventing the creature from pulling it out.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was infuriated. It swung its other paw wildly and tore the soldier into pieces within a second. Shao Ru’s eyes reddened as she watched the soldier’s flesh and blood scattering in the air!

“Run, we’ll protect you!” The other soldiers continued to engage one-by-one to stop the Bronze-Fang Hillman from attacking Shao Ru.

Shao Ru had lost all her fighting capacity due to her serious injuries. She was not stupid enough to stay behind and fight the Bronze-Fang Hillman. It would only mean the sacrifices of the soldiers were in vain!

“I swear that I’ll avenge you all!” Shao Ru yelled furiously and staggered into a bush nearby.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was enraged. It did not think it would fail to kill the woman that was posing a great threat to its underlings.

It vented its frustrations and rage on the remaining soldiers. It tore all five of them into pieces. Their blood splattered on the grass nearby where the cold moonlight was pouring down on like an eerie crimson rain!

The captain of the team arrived at the place Shao Ru had mentioned . He split the grass blocking the path and saw a few Hillmen behaving strangely. They were surrounding three Hunters that they had tied up, instead of tearing their limbs off like everyone expected.

“What are they up to?” a young soldier asked, confused.

“I have no clue. Let’s save them first,” the captain said.

The soldiers immediately went forward. However, the Hillmen turned around and left as soon as they saw the Battlemages showing up. They had no intention to fight at all.

The young soldier was a little suspicious after seeing the Hillmen’s reaction. He went up to the Hunters that were tied up and asked, “Why didn’t they kill you?”

“I don’t know. They... they were just hurting us to make us scream. The louder we screamed, the lesser the pain they inflicted on us. We had no choice but to scream at the top of our lungs!” the Hunters said.

The others in their group were all dead, only these three Hunters had survived. It was like the Hillmen had purposely kept them alive so they could scream for help. Something did not feel right about it...

“Shit, they were luring us here on purpose!” the captain soon realized. He immediately headed back to the team.

“Squad four-seven, are you with Shao Ru?”

“We’ve found a few survivors. The Hillmen ran as soon as they saw us...”

“Turn back at once. We’ve been tricked!”

A few other squads immediately headed back to where Shao Ru had been. However, they were greeted by a strong smell of blood. Their expressions fell immediately.

They split the grass and saw puddles of blood across the place and splattered on the grass nearby. Body parts mangled beyond recognition were scattered across the place. Everyone stood there with wide eyes; they could not believe what had happened...

“These Hillmen...” the soldiers were not astounded by the deaths of their comrades, but the intelligence that the Hillmen had shown!

The Hillmen had used their eagerness to save the Hunters to split the team up. They even used some Hillmen as bait to lure people away. Their real target was Shao Ru all along!

The Hillmen knew that Shao Ru’s Sound Element was a great threat to them, so they had set up a trap for them!

Most demon creatures were not intelligent. Besides, they had never encountered a species with such great teamwork. The soldiers had never thought that they as humans would be tricked by the demon creatures one day!

“Where’s Shao Ru? Where is she!?”

“Look at the mess; how can we possibly tell who is who?”

“She isn’t here. She might be alive still. Split up and search the area. We must protect her at all costs!” the captain ordered.

“We left quite a number of men behind, yet they still lost so quickly. Does that mean...”

“A Commander-level creature, it’s a Commander-level Hillman!”

Daylight was still some time away. Mo Fan slowly slid down the trunk with the Fleeing Shadow.

The height the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger occupied was most likely the highest they could go. They had no clue what terrifying species they would encounter if they kept going up the tree. Their priority was to take out the cunning Hillmen. Mo Fan decided to do some scouting after he had rested up.

The Hillmen were not sensitive to the Shadow Element. Mo Fan managed to reach the spot where the main trunk branched off into five other trunks. He could see the distribution of the Hillmen on the roots from here.

It was obvious that the Hillmen had occupied the roots of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. Mo Fan went around in a circle to see if the Hillmen had truly occupied the entire root system of the Linden...

After some time, Mo Fan discovered that the Hillmen were not defending every direction. There was a certain direction where there was barely any Hillmen around.

He slowly made his way down and saw a slim figure in torn clothes covered in blood lying in a gap between the roots. Mo Fan was quite surprised that someone had made it to the tree. However, he could not tell if the woman was alive.

Mo Fan went forward cautiously. There were a few Hillmen patrolling on the slope nearby. He was wondering how the woman had managed to avoid the Hillmen and reach the spot under the tree.

The woman’s upper body was greatly exposed. The two round white ‘rabbits’ had an urge to jump out from their cover. There was a huge wound along her shoulder. It had almost destroyed the woman’s sexiest part. It was a great relief despite the misfortune.

He moved his gaze down. The wound on the woman’s leg was even deadlier. The cut went from her quads to her ankles. It was almost a meter long!

Mo Fan was shocked when he saw how long the woman’s legs were. It was a pity that her leg was so heavily damaged.

“She’s alive still,” Mo Fan noticed that the woman was still breathing. She had fallen unconscious after losing too much blood.

Mo Fan took out a high-quality Blood Serum to replenish the blood she had lost.

She did not have a chance to wrap and treat her wounds. It was likely that she had been on the run for some time...

Mo Fan had no choice but to take out the medicine that Xinxia had given him to save the woman's life!

Xinxia's medicine was crazily effective. The woman was barely breathing just a second ago, but her breathing soon became steady and the wounds that were bleeding continuously were slowly mending!

"Ugh..." The woman moaned softly. She opened her eyes and saw a human's face. She was stunned for a moment before letting out a relieved sigh.

Before Mo Fan could speak, he heard an unpleasant cry from nearby.

Shao Ru rose to her feet. Her head was spinning a little due to excessive loss of blood. However, she could barely stand. She stared at the Bronze-Fang Hillman that was approaching.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was still pursuing her relentlessly, even though she had run so far away.

"You should leave at once," Shao Ru said coldly, not turning around.

Mo Fan opened his mouth. He looked closely at Shao Ru's face from the side and noticed the woman's temperament was similar to Mu Ningxue's. It was rare to see a Maga with an aura like an iceberg, but somehow, he found women like her quite attractive!

"You're in such a bad condition. Let me handle it," Mo Fan said.

"Nonsense!" Shao Ru snapped in an irresistible tone. "Do you have any idea what it is? You should run if you want to live, as far away as possible!"

Shao Ru's heart was burning with anger when she recalled the soldiers that had sacrificed their lives for her. Since she could no longer run away, she had decided to fight the Bronze-Fang Hillman to the death. It was still too early to tell who would be the last one standing!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman cried and dashed at them like an arrow, followed by a loud gust of wind!

Even though every Bronze-Fang Hillman was just as ugly in Mo Fan's eyes, he could still tell that it was a different Bronze-Fang Hillman than the one he encountered before!

"Have you asked me for permission before trying to kill someone?" Mo Fan stomped the ground. Lightning arcs danced around him like dragons...

He crossed his arms in front of him, and fired two lightning bolts at the Bronze-Fang Hillman!

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#### **Chapter 1302: Opposing Species**

The lightning lit up Shao Ru's pale face. She stared at the man who had appeared out of nowhere in astonishment.

“You’re...” Shao Ru was a little furious. She did not want anyone to die for her again!

However, as the lightning grew stronger, Shao Ru forgot what she was trying to say. She saw the two lightning beams crossing paths in front of the Bronze-Fang Hillman. A lightning strike soared up into the sky like a dragon before it was set off like a huge explosion. Its overwhelming force instantly destroyed the Bronze-Fang Hillman’s sturdy skin!

Blood and flesh flew scattered in the air. Even the Bronze-Fang Hillman’s outstanding defense failed to protect it from the lightning explosion. The overwhelming force knocked the Bronze-Fang Hillman flying before it slammed heavily into the tall grass nearby. The lightning explosion razed the tall grass to the ground, clearing a huge area.

The lightning arcs were still flickering on the Bronze-Fang Hillman. The creature was struggling to rise to its feet. The attack had obviously inflicted serious damage on it.

Shao Ru looked at the Bronze-Fang Hillman in disbelief. She slowly shifted her gaze back to Mo Fan!

Mo Fan realized the woman had attractive eyes. Even when they were filled with astonishment, they had a different charm than their usual cold look.

“Were you trying to say that I’m too naive?” Mo Fan smiled.

Shao Ru was so shocked that she even forgot to close her mouth. It was mainly because he looked so young. She could hardly imagine anyone at his age possessing such ridiculous strength!

Who would ever think that such an ordinary-looking young man was able to inflict serious damage on a Commander-level with a single Lightning Spell?

“Let’s go up the tree. A whole bunch of them are going to show up soon,” Mo Fan told her.

Shao Ru nodded after she finally recovered her wits.

“Let me help you,” Mo Fan wrapped his hand around the woman’s waist when he saw she was struggling to move on her own. The woman’s waist was crazily slim. It was rare to see a woman as slim as her with such a stunning bust. Her figure was absolutely insane. Mo Fan believed he would be having a boner if it wasn’t for the excessive blood and gore he had witnessed lately...

Mo Fan transformed into a Shadow Bird and brought Shao Ru up the trunk.

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As Mo Fan thought, the Bronze-Fang Hillman started crying for help to hunt them down.

Mo Fan had fully recovered from his injuries, and was able to fully utilize his Shadow Element. In addition, he was not surrounded by the Hillmen. They would have trouble finding him, no matter how quick they were able to climb the tree.

The first glimpse of light had risen in the horizon, dyeing the clouds blazing red. It was a little eerie to look at.

Mo Fan found a safe spot and placed Shao Ru down so she could rest. After all, she was seriously injured. Her condition would worsen if she moved excessively.

"I was running short on time just then. Here, let me treat your wound," Mo Fan took a few leaves and placed them down for Shao Ru to lie on.

The leaves were huge. He could easily turn them into a mattress by stacking them together. Mo Fan knelt down beside Shao Ru's leg and tore her pants that were little more than dangling cloth, revealing her injured leg.

It was Mo Fan's first time using such a rough approach. The pants were easier to rip off than he had imagined. He tore the pants all the way up to Shao Ru's waist. He could vaguely see her black lace underwear in the gap. The part of Shao Ru's quad that was not injured was whiter and tender, too.

It was not Mo Fan's first time being a pervert. He pretended to be treating the wound without moving his gaze away. He even explained the special uses of the ointment as he was applying it to the wound. He did not give Shao Ru any chance to feel embarrassed!

A man who was placing his full attention on the task of hand would be less likely to be regarded as someone with malicious thoughts, especially when he was showing an indifferent attitude, like a doctor treating a patient. Even if he did take advantage of a girl, she would most likely just accept it. Mo Fan was extremely experienced with his approach. He saw all he wanted to see without making the girl feel uncomfortable!

"I'll do it myself," Shao Ru interrupted when she saw Mo Fan was going to treat the wound on her chest.

Mo Fan was pretty interested in seeing how her slim waist was able to support her huge bust. Unfortunately, the woman was reluctant to give him the chance to do so.

"Are you a Hunter, too?" Mo Fan asked.

Shao Ru briefly explained her situation to Mo Fan. He was quite surprised after hearing her. It turned out that she was an elite Sound Maga whom the government had asked for help, but her team ended up being set up by the Hillmen!

"The number of Hillmen is a lot higher than we thought," Shao Ru admitted.

"I already warned the government to be extremely cautious!" Mo Fan sighed. He was hoping the same fate did not befall the other teams. Otherwise, the representatives of the government, the military, the Magic Association, and the Hunters would all be wiped out here!

"You're Mo Fan? The strongest participant in the World College Tournament?" Shao Ru observed Mo Fan closely.

"Yeah," Mo Fan nodded.

There were too many people with the name Mo Fan around. As such, most people he met would not think too much whenever he told them his name.

"No wonder... let's have a duel some time," Shao Ru said.

"..." Mo Fan was left speechless. What the heck was she even thinking!?

“Do you think I’m not worthy to be your opponent?” Shao Ru frowned. She looked down and harrumphed, “There’s no way I would end up like this if I wasn’t taken by surprise.”

“Just rest up for now,” Mo Fan said helplessly.

The injuries that Shao Ru had suffered were not deadly, but she had lost too much blood from the bleeding. Mo Fan’s medicine was very effective. The woman was able to recover pretty quickly.

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Mo Fan brought her higher up the tree to regroup with the others.

Zhao Manyan’s eyes widened when he saw Mo Fan returning with a beautiful woman. However, when he recovered from the shock of seeing Shao Ru, he put on a wry smile and said, “Mo Fan, how many women are you thinking of bringing with us?”

Mo Fan also realized it was a little crazy when Shao Ru joined the other girls.

Chen Yi, Lingling, Guan Xixi, Lan Luo, Liu Xiaojia, Shao Ru... the two of them had to look after six women. How ‘frightening’!

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“I went down to take a look around. The direction the sun rose has the least number of Hillmen. The other places are all crowded with them. There should be around three or four thousand of them. According to Shao Ru, there were a few thousand Hillmen in the sea of grass too, which means their number is above five thousand!” Mo Fan said.

“Five thousand... it’s pretty much a horde!” Lingling exclaimed.

The Hillmen were a Warrior-level species. The combined strength of five thousand Hillmen was obviously a lot greater than a horde of Servant-class creatures. It was obvious that the government’s plan had gone south this time.

“We have to take out the leaders of the Hillmen to weaken them so the government and the military can take them all out at once,” Shao Ru said.

She had learned from the experience that the higher the level of the Hillmen, the smarter they were. Therefore, taking out their leaders was the best way to crush their teamwork. If the Hillmen were united, the humans would still pay a huge price, even if they managed to defeat them!

“One more thing; the Bronze-Fang Hillmen are very cunning! They prefer to sacrifice the lives of their underlings. They won’t involve themselves in a battle unless it’s necessary. The Bronze-Fang Hillmen cherish their lives. They are well aware that there are powerful Mages among us!” Lingling said.

Mo Fan could easily relate to what Lingling had just said. It was exactly what the cunning Bronze-Fang Hillman that had ambushed him did!

“Should we try and use the other species on the tree, then? I believe some of the creatures living on the tree are quite strong,” Zhao Manyan suggested.

“It wouldn’t work. If the Hillmen are able to occupy the roots, it means the Giant Purple Sacred Linden has permitted them to stay. Didn’t you see the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger wouldn’t target creatures outside its territory? It feels like they have some sort of agreement regarding their territories,” Lingling said.

It was difficult to get two species to fight one another unless they were each other’s natural enemies.

“Strange! I heard the old people mentioned that the Giant Purple Linden only allows gentle species to stay around it. If this Giant Purple Sacred Linden has been around for a long time, it doesn’t make sense that it would allow an aggressive species like the Hillmen to set up their territory here,” Chen Yi said, confused.

“Do you know what the ruler of the outer Mount Kunyu before was?” Lingling asked.

Chen Yi shook her head and said, “I only knew it was a less aggressive species. It doesn’t really pose any threat to Yantai. My grandmother even told me that the ruler of outer Mount Kunyu was actually protecting Yantai...”

“Isn’t it something that only a Totem Beast would do?” Zhao Manyan said.

“Was the ruler that died a Totem Beast?”

“I can’t say for sure, but it’s possible...” Lingling said.

“Now that you mention it, it reminds me of something. When I was attacked by the Bronze-Fang Hillman, a bunch of birds with colorful tails showed up when the Bronze-Fang Hillman almost caught up to me. I barely escaped because they were keeping the Bronze-Fang Hillman busy for a while,” Shao Ru exclaimed.

“Birds with colorful tails... we haven’t seen anything like them. We only saw a bunch of unfriendly shameless demon sparrows,” Liu Xiaojia said.

“Why were they helping you?”

“I don’t know, I thought they were just hostile toward the Hillmen...”

“That must be it. Look at the trees in the distance!” Lingling pointed in the direction of the rising sun as she discovered something.

The sunlight sprayed across the top of the dense trees, and the sound of birds singing and chirping was heard. Not long afterwards, birds with multi-colored tails started to appear and weave through the branches above the layer occupied by the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger.

“It seems they are lining up to dive from the tree...” Zhao Manyan observed.

“It explains why there aren’t many Hillmen in this direction. It’s likely they are enemies with the Hillmen!” Mo Fan deduced excitedly.

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## **Chapter 1303: The Rivers of Blood Under the Tree**

1303 The Rivers of Blood Under the Tree



The sea breeze swept past gently. The white waves were calm, too. A few stalks of flowers close to the beach were swaying slightly. A pair of old slippers were cautiously placed to the side to avoid damaging the flowers that were adding some color to the beach.

An old lady had her back to the sun. Her slim figure was sitting on a chair that she had brought along with her leisurely.

The sound of someone crying came from nearby. Before the old lady could enjoy some peaceful moments, a little girl beside came up to her with tearful eyes.

"What is it? Xiao Dongxia?" the old lady asked confusedly.

"My Xiao Fei is dead. He had always been obedient. He would show up every day at this time to play with me, but he didn't show up after I finished school today. I went to your garden to find him, but I found him under a tree. He wasn't flying or skipping around. I kept calling him, but he didn't respond," the little girl was overwhelmed by sorrow.

"How did he die?" the old lady asked.

"I don't know. I buried him under the tree. No one is going to wait for me to come home after school every day," Xiao Dongxian cried.

Chen Yi's grandmother let out a sigh. Xiao Dongxia's parents were both Hunters. They were usually away because of their work, thus they seldom looked after Xiao Dongxia. The little girl used to have a grandmother around Chen Yi's grandmother's age waiting for her to come back from school every day. After her grandmother passed away, Xiao Dongxia kept an intelligent sparrow as her pet. The sparrow would wait for her in front of her house every afternoon. He was the lonely girl's best friend.

Chen Yi's grandmother was surprised to learn that the sparrow had died. The sparrow seemed to possess a little of the lineage of the demon creatures. Although it would not grow into an aggressive demon creature, it was unlikely to die so easily...

"It's alright, I'll be waiting for you from today on. Grandma Yan still has a few years left, I can look after you until you have grown up," Yan Shi said.

"Really?"

"I promise. You can come to my house when your daddy and mummy are away. Chen Yi can teach you lots of things too!"

"Sure!" Xiao Dongxian nodded and wiped her tears off with her hand.

Xiao Dongxie left after she stopped crying. Yan Shi looked at the little girl as she left and let out a sigh.

It was heartbreaking to see a little child treating the joy and company that a little sparrow was giving her so preciously.

Why couldn't the younger generation be more sensible? If they couldn't give up pursuing wealth blindly or seeking thrills in life, they shouldn't have given birth and left the poor little child to grow up alone... Shouldn't they feel guilty about it?

Yan Shi had lost the mood to relax. She rose to her feet and slowly made her way back to her garden.

She saw the traces of the ground being dug up under a tree. It was obviously where Xiao Dongxia had buried the sparrow. Yan Shi hesitated for a moment before she crouched in front of the tree and slowly dug up the sparrow's body to see how it died. She would not allow anything to pose a threat to the peaceful town!

She might be old, but she would have no problem taking out some demon creatures...

"How strange," Yan Shi had dug up the remains of the sparrow, but its body had already started to decompose, as if it had been buried for more than a week. There was only a pile of feathers and rotten meat...

How did the body decompose so quickly?

Yan Shi slowly re-buried the sparrow and fell into deep thought.

A few minutes later, Yan Shi suddenly looked around her garden. Her dim eyes flickered with astonishment. Her hands began to tremble too.

"Could it be... could it really be!?"

"But... there are no other possibilities!"

"I should have known, I should have known!" Yan Shi kept smashing the things around her as if she had gone mad.

She soon calmed down. However, she was now emitting a formidable aura. She was clearly withholding her power, but it still knocked over the things in the garden. Even the tree had bent away from her!

She looked towards Mount Kunyu. Her crooked body suddenly unleashed a shocking power and soared a thousand meters into the sky. The old woman who looked so weak that even the wind could blow her away had flown into the sky like an enraged eagle!

The Dandelion Grass was still drifting in the wind, like elegant little fairies dancing around their protector.

The Giant Purple Sacred Linden reflected a purple light under the sun. The blue sea of grass had no visible ends to it, and the sacred tree in the center of it was breathtaking. However, under the rays sprinkling down from the tree, bright red blood was flowing along the roots and the ground like a river. Dead bodies beyond recognition were scattered across the place. The wind was brimming with the scent of death...

"It seems like the Giant Purple Lindens doesn't welcome these brutal Hillmen. Let's take them all out with the help of the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows!" Nie Lengshan's voice echoed in everyone's ears.

The area between the branches and the roots was relatively spacious. There were currently lots of Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows flying around. They seemed to have reached the end of their patience after the Hillmen intruded on their territory. They had launched a huge attack to take out the Hillmen.

Meanwhile, the human soldiers had found the Giant Purple Sacred Linden by following the Dandelion Grass. Most of the Hunters that had gone to the outer slopes of Mount Kunyu had ended up here. The brutal deaths that the Hillmen had inflicted on them had greatly infuriated the humans. They split into squads under the leadership of the government and the military and swore to take down every Hillman. They would reclaim the dignity they had lost and avenge those that had died horrible deaths!

The Hunters had gotten used to being undisciplined. They might be stronger than the average soldier, but since they had not undergone systematic training, they did not have an advantage facing the thousands of demon creatures, unlike the soldiers!

When Mages worked together in groups and set up barriers as their defense while attacking with destructive spells from a distance, it was usually more effective than fighting the demon creatures in small teams or on their own. Most importantly, some Mages were able to set up magic formations against the demon creatures. The comparison of one Warrior-level creature to seven Intermediate Mages was no longer valid!

The Commander leading the army was an outstanding leader. Meanwhile, Nie Lengshan, the expert with the Sound Element, was asserting control over the battle too. More than two thousand Hillmen had died so far...

The cunning Bronze-Fang Hillmen could not afford to hide any further. There were seven of them, each holding back the troops of soldiers with their Commander-level strength...

"We shall avenge Shao Ru and our fallen brothers. Kill these sons of b\*\*ches!" the Captain with rough facial features roared.

He was leading a hundred elites of his company to forcibly clear a path among the Hillmen. The Summoned Beasts charged forward like a strong wave, crumbling the oddity effect the Hillmen were abusing. The Hillmen were forced to retreat to the roots of the tree constantly.

More blood was pouring out like rivers and streams. It permeated the ground and reached the thick roots of the tree...

The remains of the Hillmen, feathers of the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows, and limbs of humans were stacked up together. The place had suddenly turned into a bloody Hell.

"Let's make our way down too. How could we miss the party?" Zhao Manyan said excitedly, looking down from atop a great branch.

The guy had reclaimed his arrogance after his energy recovered. He was once again full of himself, as if he could take the whole world on!

Mo Fan looked at the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows that had suddenly engaged the Hillmen. Not long ago, they were trying to figure a way to get the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows to fight against the Hillmen after learning the species were enemies. To their surprise, the hot-tempered Rainbow-

Tailed Demon Sparrows simply dove down from the tree and engaged the Hillmen before they could do anything!

The Hillmen were suffering heavy casualties after they were flanked by both the humans and the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows!

“The army below is pretty strong. Who’s leading them?” Lingling asked.

Not many armies were able to take on a horde of Warrior-level creatures. A group of Warrior-level creatures could easily eliminate a group of a hundred Battlemages when attacking at the perfect time, but even though the army below did not consist of a huge number of soldiers, each of them was very strong. It was obviously not an ordinary army!

“Nie Lengshan is giving orders, and the Commander is an experienced General too. They must be Yantai’s Ace!” Shao Ru said.

“Nie Lengshan? I think I’ve heard the name before,” Mo Fan remarked.

“He’s one of the strongest Advanced Mages in our country. Since he’s a Sound Mage, he is actually more useful than some Super Mages in a battle,” Lingling said.

Lingling was familiar with some of the reputable people of their country. She was surprised that Nie Lengshan was put in charge of the operation. It explained why the horde of Hillmen was struggling to hold their ground...

“Houndman or Nie Lengshan, who’s stronger?” Mo Fan had to ask.

Houndman was the strongest Advanced Mage that Mo Fan had encountered so far. He had little chance of beating Houndman on his own. He had only managed to defeat Houndman because Mu Ningxue was around!

“Houndman is pretty strong in the Advanced Level, but he’s definitely not at the top. I believe Nie Lengshan could take out Houndman in just ten rounds,” Lingling said.

Lingling had some idea how strong the Dreadful Curse Cerberus was, so she was able to make the comparisons even though she did not watch the battle between Mo Fan and Houndman.

“That means he’s really strong... there are quite a lot of experts in our country!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

“You might have a chance against him after Little Flame Belle advances to the next stage,” Lingling admitted.

Mo Fan’s eyes glittered at the mention of Little Flame Belle!

“So, are we going down or not?” Zhao Manyan asked impatiently.

“Have patience; the Bronze-Fang Hillman that attacked us hasn’t shown up yet. It’s our target,” Mo Fan answered.

Mo Fan would not forget the injuries it had inflicted on him!

## Versatile Mage

### **Chapter 1304: Who Blew the Dandelion Grass?**

It was important to kill the Bronze-Fang Hillmen. These Hillmen knew how to fight in formations under the commands of their leaders. Therefore, it was necessary to take out their leaders first!

“Is that the one you were referring to?” Shao Ru pointed at the roots. A Hillman was hiding inside a gap between them.

The battle below was too messy. It was extremely difficult to pinpoint a target accurately. Mo Fan was surprised when he saw the creature that Shao Ru was pointing to was exactly the Bronze-Fang Hillman he was looking for!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was hiding instead of engaging the enemy. However, its position was quite close to the captain of a troop nearby. It seemed to be waiting for its chance to ambush the captain.

“That guy only knows to sneak up to its target. How did you find it?” Mo Fan asked.

“Heartbeats. The other Hillmen have rapid heartbeats, but that creature is different. I’m good at hearing heartbeats. There’s barely any living creature that can escape my hearing,” Shao Ru said.

“You’ve done a great job!” Mo Fan glared at the Bronze-Fang Hillman. He could finally get his revenge. He swore he would make the creature feel the pain this time!

“Zhao Manyan, escort them to the army. It’s safer there. I’m going to take out that creature!” Mo Fan said.

“Screw you, why am I the nanny, while you go and act like a hero?” Zhao Manyan snapped.

“Fine, I’ll escort them to safety. You go take out the Bronze-Fang Hillman!” Mo Fan replied.

“I’ll be the nanny instead...”

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Mo Fan was very confident in Zhao Manyan’s defense. Even if the group had to travel across the battlefield, it would take at least seven Bronze-Fang Hillmen or thousands of Hillmen to break through his defense!

“I’ll go with you,” Shao Ru said with a firm expression.

“Are you sure? How are your injuries?” Mo Fan asked.

“I’m fine.” Liu Xiaojia’s Healing Magic had been enough to heal Shao Ru’s wounds.

Mo Fan knew Shao Ru was strong. It would be easier for him to travel across the battlefield with the Sound Maga’s help.

“Mo Fan, be careful,” Lingling suddenly said with a stern face.

“What is it? Are you having a bad feeling about this?” Mo Fan said.

Lingling was a super genius. She was able to analyze most situations, but when a situation was too complicated even for her, or if she did not have enough information, she would come up with different speculations, and some of them were clearly not in their favor. She would always warn Mo Fan to be careful whenever she was struggling to understand something.

“Mm, there’s something I can’t figure out yet. Anyway, just be careful!” Lingling said.

“Alright, I promise you I’ll run as soon as I realize something isn’t right,” Mo Fan smiled and pinched the little adorable girl’s chin.

To his surprise, Lingling was not angry at him. It did not necessarily mean she had given Mo Fan permission to pinch her face. She was just too preoccupied with her thoughts.

—

Mo Fan and Shao Ru took another direction. They were planning to reach a spot above the Bronze-Fang Hillman along the tree and attacked the creature with an element of surprise from above.

However, they would have to go through the demon sparrows’ territory. That being said, with Shao Ru’s Sound Element, they could easily sneak past the demon sparrows without alerting them.

“Run as soon as something doesn’t feel right? Is that something you always do? Aren’t you supposed to be a hero?” Shao Ru suddenly turned around and asked. She seemed a little familiar with Mo Fan’s achievements.

“Let me tell you, heroes don’t really exist in this world. Most of the time, it’s like a situation where a person is drowning, and the only ones nearby are a dog that can’t swim, a cat that simply ignores the cries for help, a woman who keeps screaming on the shore, and you who aren’t really that good at swimming. You have no choice but to go and save the drowning person. The truth is, I always find myself struggling between someone who just can’t afford to watch someone die before me, and a selfish person who’s not willing to risk his life to save the person,” Mo Fan said.

“What kind of reasoning is that?” Shao Ru snapped.

“In simpler words, if there’s someone better than me around, there’s no way I will volunteer myself like an idiot. If it’s obvious that I’m going to die for sure, I’ll be the first to run!” Mo Fan said.

“But I heard what happened in the Ancient Capital was pretty grim too, yet you still stepped forward, didn’t you?” Shao Ru said.

“Oh, I was going to die either way, I just chose to die in glory,” Mo Fan replied forthrightly.

“...” Shao Ru was lost for words.

Shao Ru had been wearing a cold face all along. She did not seem grateful, even though Mo Fan had saved her life. As a matter of fact, Shao Ru had known who Mo Fan was for a long time. She knew his Innate Talent was ranked fifth, she knew what he had achieved in the World College Tournament, and she also knew he was declared the hero who had saved the Ancient Capital during the calamity. Shao Ru always imagined the man to be righteous and courteous. Every action he did should have had the

demeanor of a trustworthy leader. Otherwise, how could he possibly achieve so many remarkable deeds...

She never thought she would meet the legendary man when she was dying from serious injuries. To her surprise, the man was no different than the usual perverted men. He even acted like a hypocrite. She was left speechless most of the time after hearing his words. It was even worse when he was speaking to his friend Zhao Manyan.

As a result, Shao Ru's impression of the two reputable representatives of the national team had crumbled completely. Her eagerness to duel Mo Fan and her curiosity toward him had dropped by more than half. She initially thought she could defeat a few national representatives to prove herself...

"Someone like you managed to resolve the calamity that even Forbidden Mages struggled against. How lucky were you?" Shao Ru had to ask.

"It's not luck," Mo Fan was displeased by Shao Ru's words. He knew many people were biased against him. He said, "It's just that people have the urge to bind an achievement to a specific person and purposely make him a hero so everyone else can remember what happened. I just happened to win the World College Tournament, so when Han Ji revealed it to the public, many people just thought I was the person that saved the Ancient Capital. Do you want to know what happened exactly?" Mo Fan replied as they continued on their way.

"Sure," Shao Ru was indeed interested.

"The Clock Tower Magic Association was planning to kill ten authorities in order to get their hands on Salan. We are speaking of ten Super Mages with superior status who have contributed greatly in the past... They were willing to sacrifice them just because it was their best chance at getting rid of Salan, the Red Cardinal of the Black Vatican! However, the Black Vatican was willing to compromise. They told us the secrets of the Dark Abyss in exchange for Salan's life. It was a glimpse of hope for the Ancient Capital. In order to make our way to the Dark Abyss, we did something very inhumane. We sacrificed innocent lives to bait the undead just so we could clear a path; those people were not even Mages. They were defenseless against the undead. They sacrificed themselves just to serve as a distraction. Meanwhile, the troop clearing a path to the Dark Abyss only had a plan on how they were going to reach the Dark Abyss, but they never planned how they were going to make it back to the city. My friends and I were in the center of the troop. They did not allow us to use a single spell. They only asked us to try our best and find the ancestor of the undead in the Dark Abyss. As we made our way to the Dark Abyss, people just kept dying around us, including Intermediate, Advanced, and Super Mages. I don't remember many of their names, but I do know that human lives were the lowliest at that time. They could not even afford to cast an extra glance at their closest comrade who died... I can never be like them. I was more afraid of dying than any of them, but unfortunately, I was the one being protected, just because I was allowed to enter the Dark Abyss...

"So many people died, but not many people are going to remember them. They were all volunteers, even though they didn't even know one another's names. They died, I lived, so I ended up becoming the hero. It was like I was the only person contributing... screw that, there's no way I could do it on my own. I'm only proud that I was able to crush the opponents from all over the world during the World College

Tournament. As for the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, I don't think it was my doing. Besides, I'm not the person who saved the Ancient Capital. They won't mention that person's name even now."

Shao Ru was stunned after hearing Mo Fan's words. She turned around and looked at Mo Fan. His face had a grim expression, even though he was explaining the details with a calm voice.

"I'm sorry," Shao Ru said softly.

"You seem to be particularly interested in what happened at the Ancient Capital. Did any of your close ones die there?" Mo Fan asked. He knew Shao Ru was placing a lot of attention on the topic.

"My father was there. He wasn't a Mage. I kept hearing things about you, and every time I hear your achievements, it reminds me of the letter he left for me..." Shao Ru said.

"What did the letter say?"

"He said that he had made a decision that a man should make. It did not feel significant, but he did not regret it," Shao Ru said.

"Was he one of the people that was sacrificed as bait?" Mo Fan quickly deduced.

"I went to the Ancient Capital. I wanted to kill the person that came up with the idea of using civilians as bait. I spent a long time searching for the person, but I eventually found out that the man had also volunteered as bait... from that moment on, I knew it wasn't easy surviving the Calamity of the Ancient Capital," Shao Ru said.

Mo Fan understood why Shao Ru seemed to be holding a grudge against him, even though he had saved her life.

Her father had died namelessly, but he had ended up with all the glory!

She was apologizing for being biased against him.

"Let's discuss it some other time. We should focus on the problem at hand for now," Mo Fan pointed down.

They had gone past the territory of the demon sparrows and reached the spot right above the Bronze-Fang Hillman. The creature had no clue that two pairs of eyes were watching him closely from the branch above it.

"We'll strike when there are fewer Hillmen around it," Shao Ru said.

"Mmm, you should be careful, too. Just like Lingling, there's something that keeps bothering me..." Mo Fan murmured.

"What is it?"

"It seems like the Hillmen aren't responsible for all the Dandelion Grass that is flying here... so, the question is, who's helping the Hillmen hunt the humans?" Mo Fan wondered aloud.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1305: Great Lightning Explosion**



The Bronze-Fang Hillman was surprisingly patient. Mo Fan would strike without hesitation as soon as the creature started to make its move. To his surprise, the Bronze-Fang Hillman remained in its position even after the captain of the troop had moved past it. It seemed to be waiting for more prey to walk into its trap.

"It's about to attack. I can hear its heartbeat speeding up," Shao Ru warned Mo Fan.

"Did you hear my excitement rising, then?" Mo Fan smiled, before turning into a Shadow Bird that dissolved into the shadows of the leaves, and reappeared right behind the Bronze-Fang Hillman!

"Lightning Explosion!"

Mo Fan unleashed the Lightning Magic he had accumulated. Wild lightning arcs appeared after a shocking explosion of dark lightning. The overwhelming force disintegrated everything it came into contact with!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman did not expect the attack. Its hide blistered under to the terrifying lightning explosion, revealing a whole chunk of scorched meat. It looked utterly miserable!

"I told you I'd be back to get my revenge!" Mo Fan stared at the Bronze-Fang Hillman coldly.

It was obvious that this Bronze-Fang Hillman was the main leader of the horde of Hillmen. The creature was significantly stronger than the rest of the Bronze-Fang Hillmen, or the creature would not have been able to inflict serious damage on Mo Fan, who had quick reflexes!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman lost its temper as soon as it saw Mo Fan. It let out a furious howl.

It had failed to take out this human after losing so many of its underlings, and now the human was vigorous and lively once again...

It strongly believed this human was responsible for leading the humans straight to its den!

"Tone: Kill!"

Shao Ru came down from above too. She quickly moved her fingers in the air when she saw a few groups of Hillmen approaching. She was moving her fingers as if there was a zither right in front of her. Each note she played would unleash a strong sonic wave, knocking the Hillmen flying, slicing their throats, or even producing a deafening sound in their skulls...

She acted very quickly. She was even more impressive than Nanyu when it came to using her Sound Element offensively. It was something that Mo Fan did not expect.

"Help me take out the small ones!" Mo Fan told Shao Ru.

"Got it!" Shao Ru's impression of Mo Fan had improved slightly. She was willing to act in a supporting role.

The glowing tones swept forward in a dazzling display. The Hillmen that showed up did not stand a chance against Shao Ru's attacks. Mo Fan could finally focus on fighting the Bronze-Fang Hillman after seeing how remarkable her strength was!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was already charging at Mo Fan. The speed that the creature was moving at with its muscular limbs stirred up a fierce gust of wind, accompanied by an enormous pressure!

Mo Fan clearly felt the might of the Commander-level creature. Its presence alone was enough to make the legs of low-level creatures tremble. It could easily abuse its overwhelming presence to slaughter creatures that were weaker with ease. The aura could even suppress enemies that were as strong as itself!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman's aura mainly consisted of its natural bloodlust after taking countless lives. Mo Fan would never allow himself to be in a disadvantageous position. He let out a roar to summon the lightning and establish the Lightning Tyrant Domain!

The Lightning Tyrant Domain and the fierce aura of the Bronze-Fang Hillman resulted in two opposing forces clashing into one another. The rapid flickering and smell of ozone in the air that symbolized the wild nature of the Lightning Magic was on equal footing with the aura of bloodlust that the Bronze-Fang Hillman possessed...

"Silent Deadly Ray: Lightning Arm!"

Lightning coils covered Mo Fan's arms. He crossed his arms before himself as the Bronze-Fang Hillman was about to ram into him. The lightning flickering around him spread forward like a web and covered the area with high-voltage electricity...

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was very agile. It wove through the lightning arcs and managed to dodge those that were posing a greater threat to it. It even evaded Mo Fan's Silent Deadly Bolt!

The intertwining lightning arcs and the crucial Silent Deadly Bolt failed to inflict any damage on the Bronze-Fang Hillman. It was obvious that the creature was no ordinary Commander-level creature!

BANG!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman kicked out after dodging Mo Fan's lightning. The force of its kick propelled the flowing air in the opposite direction!

The kick was aiming right at Mo Fan's waist. The power it contained could easily smash a living person to pieces of bloody flesh flying in the air!

Mo Fan swiftly turned into a shadow and moved a hundred meters away along the shadow of the tree. He could move freely among the shadows nearby...

A place full of shadows was the most ideal place for Mo Fan to fight, as it would make his movements nimble and untraceable!

The Shadow Element turned out to be the Bronze-Fang Hillman's weakness. It was unable to locate Mo Fan right away. Even if Mo Fan was only using a low-level Fleeing Shadow that was not sending out a clone, the creature still had to wait for Mo Fan to show himself again.

Mo Fan could not afford to stay in the shadows, since he would not be able to use his magic when he was in the shadows. Mo Fan had come to get revenge. He did not come to play hide and seek with the creature!

Mo Fan came out of the shadow and stood there, accumulating energy for a huge attack.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman sprang forward instantly. Its explosive power allowed it to rapidly reach maximum speed, like a steel chariot charging forward. Its swiftness as it swept forward like the wind was just unbelievable!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was well aware of the weaknesses of human Mages. They needed time to cast their spells, and the stronger the spells, the longer the Channeling. Therefore, as soon as it sensed the dangerous energy gathering, it decisively surged ahead, not giving the human any chance to cast his destructive spells!

Mo Fan chuckled when he saw the Bronze-Fang Hillman approaching rapidly. A dark shadow suddenly loomed over him.

Mo Fan's figure faded away in the darkness. It felt like he had completely dissolved inside the area. The Bronze-Fang Hillman's attack missed completely after it arrived in the area. It instantly felt uneasy at the darkness surrounding it!

Hillmen had a strong awareness of danger; the Bronze-Fang Hillman would not be afraid of normal darkness. It decisively turned around and fled the area.

"Giant Shadow Spikes: Sealing Magic Formation!"

The Giant Shadow Spikes were silent, and it was difficult to notice their presence, but if someone took a closer look at the rays of sunlight, they would discover that the rays were shattered into pieces by sharp black shadows. The deadly Giant Shadow Spikes had long formed a formation in the area, waiting for its prey to step into the trap!

The Magic Formation of Giant Shadow Spikes nailed into the Bronze-Fang Hillman to restrict its outstanding movement speed. It was a critical blow!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman had outstanding strength and speed, but its defense was relatively average. Mo Fan had set up the Nyx Regime to impair its movements. He would treat the rare chance he had bought himself preciously to take revenge on the creature that had ambushed him last time!

"Lightning Explosion!"

Mo Fan had plenty of time to prepare his attack. The dark Magic Formation was very effective against the Bronze-Fang Hillman. He needed time to cast a Lightning Spell strong enough to blast the crap out of the Bronze-Fang Hillman.

Since he only had the Rose Flame for the time being, his Fire Magic was nowhere strong enough to handle a battle at this level. Mo Fan had decided to utilize the full potential of his Lightning Element!

Lightning strikes fell densely from the sky and landed on Mo Fan.

Mo Fan's hair was standing upright as he stood in the middle of the wild lightning strikes. His body reflected black light, as if it was forged with lightning. The spectacular sight left Shao Ru astonished...

"Is that the same spell he used to defeat Zorro?" Shao Ru recalled the spectacular fight during the World College Tournament in Venice. She was one of the spectators back then, and just like everyone else, she thought Mo Fan was surely going to lose the fight. To her surprise, Mo Fan hit himself with lightning strikes to overload Zorro's unbeatable Chaos Element.

Mo Fan had accumulated an unknown level of Lightning Magic. It felt like the energy was able to raze the whole place to the ground at any second...

"Giant Lightning Explosion!" Mo Fan yelled, and fired two Silent Deadly Bolts. The dark lightning rays crossed paths at a certain point. It felt like the air nearby was being sucked into a black hole. A marvelous lightning dragon soared into the sky, setting off a huge explosion that spread outward like a glowing ring!

The sound of the blast came after a brief moment of silence. The fallout lasted for a long time. As the strong gusts of wind swept in all directions, the dust the explosion stirred up blanketed things a great distance away from the center...

Countless Hillmen were knocked flying by the huge explosion. The Bronze-Fang Hillman right in the middle of the explosion had clearly felt Mo Fan's wrath this time. Not only was its body covered in wounds, half of its body was missing!

The Bronze-Fang Hillman only had a bloody head and the right half of its body left, the bones and organs exposed in the air. The other half of its body was nowhere to be seen.

Shao Ru was intent on taking out the rest of the Hillmen, and turned around. She was utterly shocked after witnessing the destructive power of Mo Fan's Lightning Spell.

How was it possible for his Lightning Spell to be that strong? Was that lightning only from a Soul-grade Seed?

The vitality of Commander-level creatures was superior. Even a few destructive Advanced Spells executed with Soul-grade Seeds were unlikely to inflict any serious wounds on a Commander-level creature. Even if the Bronze-Fang Hillman did not have an outstanding defense, it still did not make sense that a single Lightning Spell could blast half of its body away...

It seemed like Mo Fan's Advanced Lightning Spell was only in the first-tier, too, yet the spell had almost killed a Commander-level creature instantly. He was not just a Mage, he was a monster!

"Is that the Blessing of the God's Seal? Did you apply it to your Lightning Element?" Shao Ru exclaimed as a sudden thought crossed her mind.

Mo Fan did not expect Shao Ru to be so familiar with the details of the World College Tournament. He nodded and said in a serious tone, "I'll need to catch my breath. Keep an eye on it for me, it's not dead yet."

The Bronze-Fang Hillman was still able to move even after losing half of its body. Most Commander-level creatures had the ability to flee for their lives as long as they were still breathing!

Shao Ru immediately cast a Demon Tree Hand to trap the Bronze-Fang Hillman that was trying to run away.

### Versatile Mage

#### **Chapter 1306: Appropriate to Oneself**

The Demon Tree Hand was clearly stronger when it was cast close to the roots of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. One could even use the spell to control the thick roots of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden and fling them around at the Hillmen that were trying to protect the Bronze-Fang Hillman. The roots swiftly wrapped up the Bronze-Fang Hillman before it could flee!

Shao Ru controlled the roots to drag the half-dead Bronze-Fang Hillman toward her. To her surprise, despite the injuries that the creature was suffering, the creature displayed its strong will to live by biting through the roots that were binding it. It did not give up on trying to run away!

It kept screaming to summon its comrades. A huge group of Hillmen quickly showed up. They had come recklessly to save the Bronze-Fang Hillman, even though many of them were dying to the spells from the army of Battlemages.

“These creatures are pretty loyal!” Mo Fan chuckled when he saw the Hillmen panicking, “But the question is, is that enough to save their leader?”

The Hillmen tore and bit at the roots to clear a path to their leader. It finally freed up the Bronze-Fang Hillman a little. However, several Giant Shadow Spikes landed on it as it was planning to run away, nailing it to the spot.

Fresh blood kept pouring out from its wounds. The Bronze-Fang Hillman was almost at its limit. The Shadow Magic was incorporeal. It was amusing to see the Hillmen trying to get rid of the Giant Shadow Spikes and free the Bronze-Fang Hillman.

They might be able to tear and bite the roots, but they could not remove the Giant Shadow Spikes!

“Sky-Flame Funeral: Hellish Flames!”

Mo Fan completed another Advanced Spell. The blazing red Rose Flame appeared and swiftly turned into a huge meteorite sweeping across the sky as it descended.

Even though the Spirit-grade flame was not that strong, Hellish Flames was a second-tier Advanced Spell. Its power was still useful against the Warrior-level Hillmen. They had clustered up as they were trying to save their leader. The wide area of the Hellish Flames would burn them all to ashes!

The remaining body of the Bronze-Fang Hillman suffered greatly in the scorching heat. Its presence began to weaken as it cried out in agony from amid the flames.

The light of the flames reached a long distance away. Some of the Mages that were standing on the lower grounds were shocked when they saw the flames.

“Isn’t...isn’t that a Bronze-Fang Hillman? It’s around four meters tall!” Chen Binbin exclaimed.

“I wonder who managed to kill a Bronze-Fang Hillman of that level!” Wang Dakuo went forward to take a closer look at the Mage.

“Why does he look so familiar?” Hu Duo pointed in the direction of the mage.

Wang Hua was wearing a twisted expression. He was the first to recognize who the man was. He was having a hard time believing that the young man possessed such remarkable strength.

Even his uncle Wang Dakuo, whom he was extremely proud of, was unlikely to take on a Bronze-Fang Hillman by himself, yet that man had done it!

“Yo, it’s you guys,” Mo Fan turned around and saw Wang Hua, Wang Dakuo, and the others. He did not expect to bump into them here. It seemed like they had come with the army.

Mo Fan took a closer look and discovered that a person was missing from the group. He did not need to ask to know that the person had most likely died either when they were waiting for Wang Dakuo in the woods, or after they had come to the valley. He was quite surprised that these people actually had the guts to come into the valley and fight the Hillmen...

“Is that a Bronze-Fang Hillman?” The Commander of the army came forward. He was both shocked and confused when he saw the remains of the four-meter-tall Bronze-Fang Hillman.

The remaining Hillmen had suddenly lost their will to fight. The army was then able to break through the Hillmen’s line of defense with ease, as the Hillmen were starting to flee for their lives. The Commander was initially wondering what had happened. It turned out that someone had killed the Hillmen’s leader!

“The Bronze-Fang Hillman is dead. Brothers, charge!”

“The Bronze-Fang Hillman, let’s kill the rest of them!”

The remaining Hillmen were like a sheet of loose sand after losing their leader. Most importantly, the morale of the human army rose as soon as the news of the Bronze-Fang Hillman’s death spread among the soldiers. The soldiers suddenly became unstoppable. Even the Hunters had placed their doubts behind them and focused on killing the Hillmen!

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows became more aggressive, too. The battle was suddenly one-sided!

“It seems like we’ve taken out one of the Hillmen’s main leaders!” Shao Ru noted when she saw the Hillmen losing their morale.

Mo Fan taking down the Hillmen’s leader had proven extremely effective. It had prevented more people from dying and secured the victory for the humans. Unfortunately, not many people were able to take out the demon creatures’ leader alone like him. Shao Ru’s thoughts were still filled with the astonishment of witnessing the Giant Lightning Explosion!

“Their leader is dead!”

“The Hillmen’s leader is dead!”

Cheers were heard coming from another direction.

The people immediately looked in the direction of the cheers and saw a man with brown wings floating in the sky while holding the giant head of a Bronze-Fang Hillman.

He tossed the head at the Hillmen. His imposing demeanor even stopped the Hillmen from attacking him!

“It seems like Nie Lengshan was the one who killed the highest leader of the Hillmen. The Hillmen have lost their will to fight!” Shao Ru smiled wryly as she looked into the distance.

The Bronze-Fang Hillman that Mo Fan had killed was slightly inferior, one could easily tell from the length of their fangs. The Hillmen were trembling in fear after learning that their two leaders had fallen!

The human’s hatred of the Hillmen was off the charts. They were not willing to spare the Hillmen even when the creatures were fleeing for their lives. It eventually turned into a great hunt.

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows hated the Hillmen’s guts too. They kept intercepting the Hillmen to prevent them from running away. The situation eventually turned into a one-sided massacre as more Hillmen fell dead to the ground.

These creatures that enjoyed torturing other living creatures finally felt the fear of death. Unfortunately, the magic that most Mages had was more suitable for killing rather than torturing. These brutal creatures died too quickly!

The Hillmen died rapidly, their remains scattered across the place. The area below the spectacular Giant Purple Sacred Linden was covered in rivers of blood. Its roots were dyed red, too.

“I wonder if what we are doing is a blasphemy to the sacred tree,” Guan Xixi suddenly sighed.

“Why would you think that? Everyone is pleased with the outcome. Didn’t you see? Even the other species residing on the tree are not pleased with the Hillmen. Otherwise, why would they help us in the battle against the Hillmen? We wouldn’t have been able to win the battle so easily without the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows’ help!” Liu Xiaojia said.

“Indeed, these demon sparrows’ hatred toward the Hillmen is stronger than ours. Didn’t you see that they barely left any of the Hillmen alive?” Nie Lengshan glanced into the distance.

Nie Lengshan did not give the command to chase after the Hillmen that fled. First, it was unwise to chase after the Hillmen in the sea of grass. Second, the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows were already pursuing the Hillmen and cleaning up the rest of them. All they needed to do was organize the people, clean up the corpses, and return to the city after a great victory.

The human army did not suffer great casualties since Mo Fan and Nie Lengshan had slain the two leaders of the Hillmen pretty early, putting an end to the battle. It had greatly minimized their losses.

“I suggest we leave as soon as possible. We are still in outer Mount Kunyu, the demon creatures’ territory. The smell of blood is going to bring us more trouble,” Mo Fan said.

“Mm, I agree with you. Mr. Tong...” Nie Lengshan nodded.

“Are you kidding me? We’ve just managed to cleanse the outer slopes of Mount Kunyu. How could we leave like this? This Giant Purple Sacred Linden is a miracle. It might make Yantai the richest city along the coastline!” exclaimed Tong Shang, the representative of the government.

“There are a lot of strong species living on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. It’s in our best interest not to provoke them,” Mo Fan refuted him instantly.

The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger was clearly not the strongest species on the tree. Mo Fan was feeling uneasy about something else higher up in the tree. Most importantly, who was the one that had killed the previous ruler of the outer Mount Kunyu?

Was it the Hillmen?

The answer was quite obvious. The Hillmen had overwhelming numbers and quite a few Commander-level creatures leading them, yet even their strongest leader was no match for Nie Lengshan. It was unlikely that the Ruler-level creature that was previously ruled over outer Mount Kunyu died to the Hillmen!

Mo Fan immediately shared his worries. However, Tong Shang burst out laughing and said, “Even Ruler-level creatures will eventually die one day. It’s obvious that it reached the end of its life. It died a natural death... It’s too good of an opportunity for us! We can’t afford to miss it!”

The inner slopes of Mount Kunyu had brought unimaginable benefits to Yantai. If they could make the outer slopes of Mount Kunyu part of the safe zone too, it simply meant they would end up with an endless gold mine. It would help Yantai grow into a super city along the shoreline in just a few years. They would no longer be afraid of being invaded by demon creatures!

Tong Shang did not want to waste the hard-earned victory. He wanted to appropriate the miraculous Giant Purple Sacred Linden too!

As for the creatures living on the tree?

What danger could they possibly bring? There were Super Mages in Yantai too! He could easily convince them to lend a hand if he told them about the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. He could gather enough people to eliminate the demon creatures on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden by promising certain benefits in return. They would be able to claim all the resources on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden!

The ruler of the outer Mount Kunyu was dead, meaning that the tree was unclaimed for the time being. It would be a great waste if it only served as a habitat for the demon creatures!

If the Giant Purple Sacred Linden was able to generate energy to strengthen demon creatures, it could also help humans improve their cultivation, allowing Yantai to train more talented Mages.

Either way, Tong Shang had no intention of leaving. He had decided to claim Outer Mount Kunyu, even if it meant shedding the same amount of blood that was flowing like rivers under the tree!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1307: The Hostile Demon Sparrows, Part One**

1307 The Hostile Demon Sparrows, Part One



“So you’re telling me that you’re the one who was spreading the news about the Giant Purple Lindens?” Mo Fan asked the stubborn Tong Shang.

“That’s right, I did spread the news! Of course, I didn’t expect the Hillmen to show up. I was just telling the truth. Everyone knows how valuable these Giant Purple Lindens are. The Hunters should bear the risks themselves,” Tong Shang declared. He did not bother keeping it a secret.

“Screw you!” Mo Fan lifted his leg and kicked Tong Zhuang right in the stomach.

Tong Shang was a government official. He believed he was perfectly safe with Nie Lengshan and a few captains standing around him. To his surprise, Mo Fan was still bold enough to kick him right in the guts!

Tong Shang went flying. His chin slammed heavily onto the firm root of the tree nearby. His mouth was full of blood after he broke one of his incisors!

Wang Dakuo was enraged. He pointed his finger at Mo Fan for some time before uttering, “You! What do you think you’re doing!?”

The other captains immediately surrounded Mo Fan and glared at him. The Mages that were working for the government quickly went over to Tong Shang and helped him up.

Tong Shang wiped the blood on his face with a dark face and a fierce look in his eyes. He shoved the people away and returned to the same spot. He said coldly, “Mo Fan, I will accept the kick, since I’ve neglected my duty for making a wrong decision that led to unnecessary deaths. However, I won’t go easy on you if you insist on stopping me. Even if you came in first in the World College Tournament, even if you are the savior of the Ancient Capital, I will not show any mercy!”

Tong Shang waved his hand, signaling the soldiers to back away.

“As expected of a government official! Your mistake has caused so many deaths, yet you still think you can just get over it with a single ‘sorry’!” Shao Ru was utterly displeased by Tong Shang’s attitude too.

“Humph, who do you think you are to dare point your fingers at Mr. Tong!?” Wang Hua snapped. He turned to Wang Dakuo and said, “Uncle, you are on Mr. Tong’s side, right?”

“Well, I’ll have to discuss it with the Elders of the Magic Association first,” Wang Dakuo deferred.

Wang Dakuo was a representative of Yantai’s Magic Association. He was actually quite interested in lending a hand. As the saying went, “The boat floats high as the tide rises.” If the city was able to grow, it would attract more talents, thus benefiting the Magic Association, too. The Penglai Magic Association was only at the scale of a local Magic Association. Their influence was still too weak.

Even though Nie Lengshan was a representative of the military, he was only placed in charge of the operation. He did not have a say in the safety and development of the city.

If Tong Shang insisted on proceeding with his plan, it was likely that the person in charge of the military in Yantai would agree too!

The Giant Purple Lindens in the outer Mount Kunyu were already attractive to them, let alone this Giant Purple Sacred Linden that was like a blessing from Heavens. They could easily claim the resources now that the ruler of the outer Mount Kunyu had died!

“This battle is only the beginning. For the sake of Yantai, for the sake of the people and the growth of the city, we shall not be afraid of bleeding or sacrificing ourselves. I believe many people would be proud that they had fought to their death under the Giant Purple Sacred Linden,” Tong Shang stated pompously.

The Captains were obviously following Tong Shang’s lead. They were willing to risk their lives for his proposal.

Nie Lengshan did not say a word. If the authorities decided to make Outer Mount Kunyu a part of the safe zone to claim the Giant Purple Sacred Linden, he would have no choice but to continue fighting.

There was nothing Mo Fan could do to a government official like Tong Shang. Even if he asked Councilman Zhu Meng or Chairman Shao Zheng for help, it was unlikely they could convince the authorities to give up on the potentially bright future of the city with the small risks they were taking. Even though many Hunters had died, they had all come willingly. They were responsible for their own lives. Besides, Tong Shang had not done anything wrong. He had gathered a strong army to eliminate the Hillmen as soon as he was alerted to their existence. He had managed to save the Hunters that were in the danger of being wiped out.

The surviving Hunters were actually grateful for what he had done!

As a matter of fact, some other Hunters had alerted the government about the Bronze-Fang Hillmen before Mo Fan asked Mr. Gao to relay the information on his behalf. Therefore, apart from killing the Bronze-Fang Hillman who was the second leader of the Hillmen, Mo Fan had not contributed much, so he did not really have a say in the decision, either!

The power was still in the hands of the authorities. The only thing that Mo Fan could do was give the man a kick, knowing that he could not do anything to him in return!

“Mo Fan, forget it, it’s their own business,” Zhao Manyan advised him.

“Nie Lengshan, can you do me a favor? Can you take a picture if you happen to see a pattern like this when you’re exploring the tree?” Mo Fan did not forget about the Totem Beast. He showed Nie Lengshan the Seal of the Totem Beast that they had derived.

“Not a problem,” Nie Lengshan gladly promised.

“By the way, please be careful when you’re exploring the tree. It’s not as simple as it looks,” Mo Fan said firmly.

“Do you have any evidence to back up your claim? If you do, I believe the Councilmen will reject the proposal to claim the tree.” Nie Lengshan had a feeling that Mo Fan’s worries were on point.

“I don’t,” Mo Fan said.

Perhaps they might find something interesting if they went higher up the tree, but their strength and condition prevented them from going any further. The Four-Lives Salamander Tiger was already their limit.

Nie Lengshan fell silent.

He believed they should treat Mo Fan's instincts more seriously. Unfortunately, it was not enough to convince the authorities and officials of Yantai, who seemed to have foreseen a bright future for the city...

"Mr. Tong, we are having some difficulties retrieving the corpses of our soldiers," the Captain with a rough face said.

"We must retrieve them, even if it's difficult. We shouldn't abandon them just because their remains are all over the place!" Tong Shang was not an idiot. He knew how to earn people's respect. If he did not retrieve those who had died in the battle, it would dishearten the people!

"Well, that's not really the problem..." the Captain was about to explain when they suddenly heard loud noises from the tree above.

The low-level demon sparrows had left their territory. They started to utter piercing screech while flying above the humans who were standing below the Giant Purple Sacred Linden.

"What do these demon sparrows want? Are they trying to drive us away?" Tong Shang let out a hollow laugh, looking at the low-level demon sparrows.

The demon sparrows were the weakest species on the tree. They were a little stronger than ordinary Servant-class creatures. They only had an advantage in numbers. It would be annoying if they attacked in huge groups, but the army would not have much trouble eliminating them.

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows were the real threat to the army. Their strength was comparable to the Hillmen's. They resided in the layer above the Four-Lives Salamander Tiger, at an altitude of around four thousand meters. There were lots of Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows at that height. They were like nobles when compared to the low-level demon sparrows!

"Just ignore them as long as they don't attack us... oh, the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows have returned. I didn't expect them to have such a strong hatred toward the Hillmen. They actually chased the Hillmen so far away," Tong Shang murmured.

"Yeah, I bet they killed every Hillman that managed to escape. It did save us lots of time and trouble. Unfortunately, we will be fighting them fairly soon," Captain Sun said.

"They are quite friendly to humans. It's good that they have returned. They can keep an eye on these demon sparrows for us. Their cries are so annoying!" Tong Shang said impatiently.

Tong Shang was planning to assign a troop to Nie Lengshan and let him scout the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. It would be great if they could find out all the species that were living on the tree, so they could figure out how much manpower they would need to claim the Giant Purple Sacred Linden.

Fresh blood was dripping into the soil under the tree. Some fell onto the shoulder of a Maga in her thirties. A hand suddenly reached over to prevent the blood from falling onto the girl's shoulder, just so she would not be soaked in blood.

The female Hunter turned around with a smile and said to the caring man, "We might be able to earn a fortune this time. We can live a comfortable life, even if we stop working for a year or two. I'm missing Xiao Dongxia a little. We should really spend more time with her."

"Mm, you're right. We'll rest for a year and focus on improving our cultivation, to see if we can reach the Advanced Level, even if it's only one of us. We won't have to risk our lives in the wild just to make a living anymore. I've already contacted the people of the Lu Clan. It's better to be working for a renowned clan since we're planning to settle down. That way, Xiao Dongxia will have a bright future ahead too. She won't have to risk her life like us..." Dong Jia said with a smile.

The woman nodded heavily. She was about to speak when she heard a chirp nearby.

She was instantly wary and looked around. She let out a relieved sigh when she discovered that it was the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows who had returned from their hunt.

"It's them, they have done us a great favor this time," the female Hunter, Qing Shu said with a smile. "I remember Xiao Dongxia has a pet sparrow too. They really are our mascots."

Qing Shu saw the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow descending slowly. She reached her hand out, holding a piece of biscuit to express her friendliness to the demon sparrow.

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow was less than two meters away from Qing Shu. It suddenly beat its wings and produced a gust of wind that cut at Qing Shu murderously!

"Look out!" Dong Jia immediately cast a Light Barrier to protect Qing Shu as soon as he sensed the approaching danger.

Qing Shu took a few steps back in fear. Luckily, the Light Barrier had appeared in time, or the gust of wind would have stabbed right through her! Qing Shu was utterly confused. Why was the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow attacking her, when they had always been friendly toward them? Did she do something that had enraged the demon sparrows?

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1308: Soul-Twisting Melody: Broken Inearth**

##### 1308 Soul-Twisting Melody: Broken Inearth

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow backed away temporarily after its attack failed, waiting for an opportunity to strike again.

"I'm glad you were with me..." Qing Shu let out a relieved sigh. She glanced at her husband, Dong Jia lovingly. She felt a strong sense of security whenever she was with him. He was the reason why

someone careless like her did not die like the others, even when she had made a lot of mistakes in the past.

“Hehe...ugh!” Dong Jia wore a smile. However, it immediately stiffened in the next second as he groaned in pain!

Dong Jia slowly lowered his head and saw a long deadly beak poking out of his chest. Fresh blood was surging to his throat and pouring out of his chest at the same time. An enormous pain slowly replaced the strong love towards his wife.

“AHHHH!!!” Qing Shu screamed. Before she could react, the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow had lifted her husband into the air...

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow beat its wings. Its strength was utterly shocking. It flew into the sky while holding Dong Jia with its long beak. When he breathed his final breath, it flung its beak and tossed the man to the ground.

Qing Shu watched her husband landing limply on the ground. She suffered a mental breakdown when she saw her husband’s remains were beyond recognition. She immediately pursued the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow that had appeared out of nowhere...

However, when she jumped onto the roots, she heard cries of agony coming from all directions. The Mages that were cleaning up the corpses were under attack by the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows. Many corpses with holes in their chests were hurled to the ground mercilessly. There were a lot of casualties, as they had all dropped their guard against the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows!

Qing Shu was no longer able to tell which Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrow was responsible for her husband’s death. She stood still and watched the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows massacring the people in disbelief. She did not expect the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows, whom she thought were their mascots not long ago, would suddenly butcher them as brutally as they had the Hillmen. Both the army and the Hunters suffered great losses. The area below the enormous tree was covered in blood once again as endless cries of agony echoed across the place!

—

A few authorities were still discussing their plan of securing Outer Mount Kunyu under the main trunk when they heard loud cries coming from the distance. They immediately frowned.

“What’s going on?” Captain Su asked with wide eyes.

“We are being ambushed!” a soldier responded through the radio.

“Is it those lowly demon sparrows? How bold of them! We won’t show any mercy to them!” Tong Shang let out a hollow laugh.

He initially planned to let the demon sparrows live for a little longer. He was considering sparing their lives if they were willing to move away. He did not expect the demon sparrows to take the initiative to attack them instead. It seemed like he would have to kill them all now!

“No, it’s...it’s the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows! The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows are attacking us!” the soldier yelled. It was so loud that everyone could hear him.

Nie Lengshan, Captain Sun, Tong Shang, and Wang Dakuo were stunned. They quickly headed over to a spot with a clearer view. They ran up the roots and immediately saw the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows who had just returned from their hunt diving at the soldiers and Hunters fiercely!

Everyone was busy retrieving the corpses of their fallen comrades and the loot from the demon creatures. The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows were their allies in the battle that had just ended. They had not attacked a single human during the battle, thus everyone assumed they were friendly. They did not place much attention on the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows, even when they were flying closely around them. To their surprise, these Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows were even deadlier than the Hillmen. Countless people had already died to their claws and beaks!

Fresh blood was splattered across the place before the blood that was shed in the previous battle had even dried up. The area under the Giant Purple Sacred Linden was dyed red once again...

“What the heck is going on? Why are the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows attacking us!?”

“Damn it, what are you all waiting for!? Return fire!”

“The second squad is wiped out!”

“Advisor, the seventh squad is dead too.”

“Those low-level demon sparrows are making their moves too. There are too many of them!”

The demon sparrows had filled up the whole space below the tree. These demon sparrows were good at diving at their targets. The Servant-class demon sparrows did not pose much threat to the elite Mages, but the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows’ strength was comparable to the Hillmen’s. They were dealing serious damage to the army whenever they engaged the soldiers at close range.

Just not long ago, the humans were working with the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows to wipe out the brutal Hillmen. Who would have thought that the humans would be massacred by the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows so soon!?

“How is this possible? How is this possible!? Did they find out we’re planning to drive them away from the Giant Purple Sacred Linden?”

“Impossible, there’s no way they could understand us!” Tong Shang had a grim face.

“We have to retreat now!” Nie Lengshan snapped.

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows would not have been able to deal such serious damage to the army if they were still on their guard. Unfortunately, it was too late for them to react now. Hundreds, or even thousands of Mages had died to the demon sparrows’ merciless attacks.

“But...”

“There’s no other choice. We have to retreat now! The Servant-class demon sparrows are forming a circle further away. They aren’t just trying to stop us from using magic, they are planning to trap us all here under the tree! We have to force our way through before they set up the cage. Otherwise, no one is going to leave this place alive!” Nie Lengshan snapped.

Nie Lengshan had the highest authority during a battle. Even though Tong Shang was unwilling to give up on the opportunity, he had no choice but to agree with Nie Lengshan's decision.

"These goddamn Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows! I'll assemble a greater army when we make it back to the city and kill them all!" Tong Shang snapped furiously.

"Everyone, head east, we're going to fight our way through!" Nie Lengshan's voice echoed in everyone's ears.

The soldiers and Hunters were finally able to recover from the messy situation under the command of the Sound Mage. They quickly moved into formations and barely held their ground against the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows.

As for the Mages that failed to regroup with the army in time, they ended up being butchered by the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows, despite trying their best to make their way to the army. Many people broke into tears watching their comrades falling to the ground. It was meant to be a great victory; why did it end up like this!?

—

The soldiers and Hunters regrouped under Nie Lengshan's command after suffering great casualties. They returned fire by firing their spells into the air continuously, killing a significant number of Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows. Unfortunately, the situation was just too one-sided. They had to retreat at once!

"Soul-Twisting Melody: Broken Inearth!" Nie Lengshan murmured under his breath. Each tone he produced was like a strong beat of the drum of death. The sound produced directly penetrated the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows' flesh and snapped their souls in half!

Nie Lengshan rarely used the Soul-Twisting Melody. However, after seeing how everyone just kept dying around him, he angrily played the deadly melody, even though it would damage his soul in return!

The melody of Broken Inearth overwhelmed every single sound in the area. It felt like the dark presence of countless envoys of death were circling in the air. The area of the spell was incredibly huge. The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows started losing their balance as if they were intoxicated as soon as they were caught by the deadly melody. A moment later, their eyes, mouth, and ears started bleeding as if the devils had harvested their souls. They fell from the sky and smashed heavily into the ground...

The Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows started pouring down from the sky like rain. The incredible spell had provided some relief for the army. The soldiers and Hunters did not expect Nie Lengshan to possess such astounding power. The Soul-Twisting Melody was as strong as a destructive Super Spell!

"Well done, Nie Lengshan!" Captain Su and Tong Shang exclaimed.

The Soul-Twisting Melody had killed many of the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows. It was utterly satisfying to the humans. It should have taught the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows a great lesson about messing with the humans!

Nie Lengshan took a deep breath after he finished the Soul-Twisting Melody...

The attack was very effective, but it was nowhere enough to overcome the situation. He clenched his teeth and began to murmur under his breath again to cast the same spell!

“Lengshan, don’t...” a female Captain immediately advised against it.

“There’s no other choice. I can’t just watch them die,” Nie Lengshan did not take the advice. He insisted on playing the melody. However, he immediately felt a great blow to his soul. Not many Sound Mages would dare to play the Soul-Twisting Melody consecutively. It was no different than committing suicide!

Suddenly, a long sharp tree branch came down from the sky. It reached the ground before anyone could react...

The tree was so huge that it was shrouding a huge part of the sky. The army had yet to leave the enormous shadow that it was projecting. The branch was like a deadly spear that a deity from the heavens had tossed down. It punched right through Nie Lengshan from above...

“Lengshan!” the female Captain burst into tears and screamed in agony.

The branch was withdrawn rapidly, lifting Nie Lengshan up with it. Everyone immediately looked up, but there was already no sign of Nie Lengshan, apart from a few drops of his blood falling onto their faces...

An overwhelming fear immediately filled their souls!

What just happened!?

What the hell was that!?

The thing had stabbed Nie Lengshan and dragged him right up into the tree within the blink of an eye... It had killed the emotional support of their army so easily!

What exactly killed him!?

The female Captain that was beside Nie Lengshan never shifted her gaze away from the tree...

When they first arrived, the female Captain marveled at the beauty of nature as soon as she set her eyes on the spectacular tree. She never thought she would be able to see something so magical. A huge tree shrouding the sky, tall enough to touch the heavens...

But now, she was trembling in fear when she looked up at the enormous tree once again... her body was spasming violently!

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1309: The Guardian of the Moon Moth Phoenix**

1309 The Guardian of the Moon Moth Phoenix

The wind started blowing from behind them. It was not as refreshing as Mo Fan assumed to be. He came to a stop and looked behind him.



For some reason, despite the incredible size of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden, it was impossible to see the tree after reaching a certain distance away. Mo Fan could no longer see it from his current distance...

"What is it?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"I have picked up the smell of blood on the wind," Mo Fan said. He was particularly sensitive toward the scent after being a Hunter for a long time, even though the scent was extremely faint after the wind had carried it a long distance away.

"Maybe we aren't far enough," Mr. Gao said.

"No, it's the smell of fresh blood," Mo Fan said confidently.

The group turned around, but they could not see anything out of place. Zhao Manyan believed Mo Fan was not just trying to scare them. He summoned his golden wings and sprang into the sky.

A strong wind swept past Zhao Manyan's ears as he rose a thousand meters into the sky to take a glance at the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. However, he still failed to see anything. The blue sky was connected to the sea of grass in the distance, yet there was no sign of the enormous tree.

While Zhao Manyan was deep in thought, a strong wind carrying a figure was approaching from another direction.

"Such incredible speed!" Zhao Manyan was stunned.

The figure had just appeared from the distance, yet she had arrived in front of him in the blink of an eye. The person seemed to have noticed Zhao Manyan's presence too. She took a detour and flew toward Zhao Manyan rapidly!

Her clothes were flapping wildly in the strong wind. The strong wind swept at Zhao Manyan's face, which was filled with great astonishment after he took a closer look at the woman in front of him. He stared at the old woman in disbelief.

"Xiao Yan?"

"Grandaunt?" Zhao Manyan almost dropped his jaw to the ground. From what he could remember, the old woman had always been weak and troubled by sickness. She was the kind that would be knocked down by a little breeze, yet she was currently hovering in the sky while her white hair was drifting in the wind. Her back was upright instead of stooping forward as usual. Her eyes had the imperious look of a strong Mage!

"Where's Chen Yi?" Yan Shi asked.

"She's down there. Grandaunt, you...you're a Mage?" Zhao Manyan was still having a hard time believing it.

"I stopped being one many years ago."

Zhao Manyan and Yan Shi landed on the ground. Chen Yi had the same reaction when she saw her grandmother with a completely different appearance and temperament.

Neither of them knew Yan Shi was a Mage, not to mention that she was a Super Mage with unimaginable cultivation!

“Grandma, what’s going on?” Chen Yi asked.

“Where are the others? Why didn’t they leave with you? Where are the army and the Hunters?” Yan Shi asked.

Yan Shi was relieved to see that Chen Yi was perfectly fine. However, she frowned as soon as she realized there were not many people around.

“Tong Shang is planning to claim the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. I believe he’s sending people to scout the tree before requesting more backup to clear the tree,” Mo Fan explained.

Even though he was utterly clueless about the situation, he could easily tell that something bad was happening, just like he and Lingling had predicted.

It did not mean Mo Fan and Lingling had some special abilities to sense danger. There were just too many things that they could not explain. The more unknowns there were, the more dangerous the situation could be. Both Lingling and Mo Fan were experienced Hunters. Drawing on advantages and avoiding disadvantages was already part of their nature!

“Idiots!” Yan Shi snapped furiously when she learned Tong Shang’s decision.

“I’ve just picked up the smell of fresh blood,” Mo Fan said.

“Damn it, that devil that is disguising itself as a sacred existence. Why didn’t they realize it was behind everything all along!?” Yan Shi said anxiously.

“Grandma, what’s going on?” Chen Yi asked.

Mo Fan looked at Yan Shi. He too was interested in the answers. What was the devil that she was referring to? Was it the Hillmen, or something that was living higher up in the tree?

“We learned of the existence of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden thirty years ago. Back then, the White Magic Falcons were invading the outer Magic Association. There was a huge war between them and the horde of demon creatures living on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. The remains and blood of the demon creatures filled up the valley and turned into nutrients for the Yu Grass, resulting in the sea of grass. The army that was stationed at the Bohai Sea was worried that the war would spread to Yantai, so they set up a perimeter with the Magic Associations along the shoreline to prevent the horde on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden and the White Magic Falcons from invading the city...”

“It’s the White Magic Falcons again,” Mo Fan sighed.

“The White Magic Falcons were already a massive horde thirty years ago. We all knew that if the White Magic Falcons ended up securing the Giant Purple Sacred Linden, it would turn into a kingdom of White Magic Falcons in thirty years. When that happened, every city to the north of the Qinling Mountains and the Huai River would cease to exist!” Yan Shi informed them.

Mo Fan gaped. He did not think the horde of White Magic Falcons already posed such a great threat thirty years ago!

“Our leaders believed it was unwise to just defend passively. The fate of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden would directly decide our fate too. As such, we sent a huge army to help the Giant Purple Sacred Linden and stop the invasion of the White Magic Falcons...” Yan Shi said.

“No wonder the Rainbow-Tailed Demon Sparrows were helping us to fight the Hillmen; it turns out that we already helped one another thirty years ago,” Chen Yi said.

Yan Shi did not seem to agree with them.

“The sky here is under Dimensional Disorder. It’s stopping me from flying to the Giant Purple Sacred Tree. Bring me to it, I’ll explain the details along the way,” Yan Shi said.

“Sure,” Mo Fan nodded.

Dimensional Disorder was something like a maze of illusions. It was most likely why they could not see the Giant Purple Sacred Linden after reaching a certain distance away.

It was impossible to reach the Giant Purple Sacred Linden from the sky. The only way was through the sea of grass on the ground. It made sense that Yu Shi was struggling to find the right way, even though she had participated in the war thirty years ago!

“How did you find the Totem Seal?” Yan Shi suddenly asked.

“We found the Moon Moth Phoenix, and the feather of another Totem Beast. We managed to derive the Totem Seal from them,” Mo Fan said.

“The Moon Moth Phoenix... she...she’s still alive!?” Yan Shi was stunned. She looked at Mo Fan in disbelief.

Mo Fan was confused about why Yan Shi was surprised all of a sudden. Her face was filled with a strong hint of remorse!

“You know about the Moon Moth Phoenix?” Mo Fan asked.

“Are you sure she’s still alive!?” Yan Shi asked.

“I think so, she is currently inside a huge cocoon hidden in the woods,” Mo Fan briefly explained his encounter with the Moon Moth Phoenix.

Yan Shi was in tears before Mo Fan was done speaking. She kept wiping off the tears on her face with her sleeves.

“I have let her down, it’s all my fault...” Yan Shi was struggling to control her emotions the more she spoke. She was like a completely different person compared to the demeanor she had as a Super Mage before.

“What happened?” Mo Fan was even more confused now!

“I...I...” Yan Shi was stammering a little. It took her a while to spill the beans, I...I was the guardian of the Moon Moth Phoenix!”

Yan Shi slowly opened up her trembling hand as she spoke. She showed a chain bracelet resembling the tail of a moth to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan glanced at it, and was surprised to see the exact same Totem Seal he had discovered on the Moon Moth Phoenix!

Yan Shi was just like Tangyue; she was a descendant of a tribe that was protecting the Totem Beasts!

But why was she shedding tears of remorse? Why was she in such pain that it felt like she would rather end her life with her own hands?

“If you’re the Totem Guardian of the Moon Moth Phoenix, why didn’t you stay with her?” Mo Fan asked.

“It’s because... I killed her,” Yan Shi said.

It was only a few words, yet they seemed to have drawn away all the remaining life force that the old woman had.

She was not willing to use a single spell for thirty years. She would rather wait for her death in a lonely shed by the sea in remorse.

“You killed her?” Mo Fan was even more confused.

A Totem Guardian killed a Totem Beast?

The Totem Guardians were the only people left in the world who were still treating the ancient Totem Beasts as their gods. Their ideology had been passed down for thousands of years, but it was unaccepted and even despised by the current society. Even so, judging from Tangyue’s feelings toward the Black Totem Snake, Mo Fan was confident that every Totem Guardian would never hurt the Totem Beasts, since they were willing to sacrifice everything to protect them!

Why did Yan Shi kill the Moon Moth Phoenix!?

Did that mean the Moon Moth Phoenix was in a giant cocoon, not because she had reached the end of her life cycle, but she was actually dying from some serious injuries!?

Which meant... Yu Shishi wasn’t telling him the truth, either?

She wasn’t waiting for the Moon Moth Phoenix to wake up, but only taking care of the Moon Moth Phoenix in her deathbed struggle?

“Why?” Mo Fan could not understand.

The Moon Moth Phoenix had saved Yu Shishi’s life when she was abandoned in the wild. It implied that she was still friendly to humans; why would Yan Shi want to kill her!?

“Because she was helping the White Magic Falcons,” Yan Shi said.

Helping the White Magic Falcons?

Mo Fan was dumbfounded again. He immediately asked, “Weren’t the White Magic Falcons killing the creatures on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden to claim it as their territory? Weren’t they posing a great threat to humans...”

Yan Shi nodded. She was finally able to calm herself. It seemed like she had finally found a reason to stand back up on her feet after learning that the Moon Moth Phoenix was still alive!

“That’s strange, the Moon Moth Phoenix is a Totem Beast; why was she helping the White Magic Falcons? It would only place humans in danger,” Mo Fan had to say.

### [Versatile Mage](#)

#### **Chapter 1310: Devil Tree Spikes**

Mo Fan, Yan Shi, Shao Ru, and Zhao Manyan continued on their way to the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. Yan Shi explained the details of what happened along the journey.

Thirty years ago, the horde of White Magic Falcons was invading the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. Yan Shi and a bunch of Super Mages realized that the war between the demon creatures was going to endanger Yan Shi and the other cities nearby. The military, government, Magic Association, Hunter Union, and the alliance of renowned clans would not allow the horde of White Magic Falcons to set up a new kingdom. They decided to take the initiative instead, and help the Giant Purple Sacred Linden drive the White Magic Falcons away...

The blood that was shed during the battle filled up the valley. Corpses stacked up like hills as the humans, the White Magic Falcons, and the horde of demon creatures on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden fought to their death.

After an epic battle that lasted for ten days, the alliance between the humans and the demon creatures on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden managed to drive the White Magic Falcons back. However, when the White Magic Falcons was about to suffer a humiliating defeat, the Moon Moth Phoenix showed up together with her army of moths...

The moths stopped the humans from killing the White Magic Falcons. They were crazily attacking the horde on the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. They stood on the opposite side of the humans. Once again, the scale started to lean in the opposite direction.

The authorities placed the blame on Yan Shi since she had been telling them that the Totem Beasts were always on their side. However, the Moon Moth Phoenix’s actions greatly infuriated the leaders...

Yan Shi was left with no choice. She used her power as a Totem Guardian to summon the Moon Moth Phoenix...

The Moon Moth Phoenix did not reject her call. Little did she know, she had walked right into a deadly trap that Yan Shi had set up for her!

The Moon Moth Phoenix suffered serious injuries. Everyone saw her body disintegrating into tiny little moths and flying away into the distance. Yan Shi regained the trust of the human leaders, yet she was deeply in remorse ever since. She left the scene and stopped being a Mage after the war.

In the end, the horde of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden won the war. The humans managed to stop the rise of the kingdom of White Magic Falcons too. The White Magic Falcons fled to the north after

suffering great losses and struggled on in the Nanling Mountains. They had only recovered in the last few years.

Since the Giant Purple Sacred Linden helped them to drive the White Magic Falcons away, the authorities signed a pact to keep the secret, allowing the Giant Purple Sacred Linden to stay in Outer Mount Kunyu. The humans would not disturb it. The Giant Purple Sacred Linden seemed to have some level of intelligence, too. It restricted the demon creatures in Outer Mount Kunyu from invading human territories, too.

Therefore, for the past thirty years, Yantai had only needed to worry about the sea monsters. There was no danger inland!

“So you’re saying that if Tong Shang insists on proceeding with his plan, the Giant Purple Sacred Linden might kill them all instead?” Mo Fan said.

The smell of blood was stronger the closer they were to the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. Mo Fan could already imagine what the place would look like. He had complicated feelings.

Yan Shi shook her head and said, “No, we’ve been played like a fiddle all along!”

Mo Fan did not understand what Yan Shi meant by it. Who was playing them like a fiddle?

—

The strong smell of blood lingered in the air. The group split the tall grass apart and saw the blurry yet magnificent figure of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden before them.

Mo Fan and Yan Shi picked up their pace. When they finally reached the trunk was, they halted in their track and glanced ahead with wide eyes!

There were dead bodies covered in blood everywhere!

They all died in different ways, but not a single corpse was intact. Their body parts were scattered on the roots, the slopes, and on the ground. Some were dangling from the branches above, with blood dripping down like a string...

Mo Fan felt like he was suffocating!

He initially thought only some of the people would die after the group was punished by the Giant Purple Sacred Linden for their greed. He never expected to see every soldier, Hunter, and personnel of the government lying dead under the tree. The sight was worse than seeing the Hillmen killing humans brutally.

“They are all... dead?” Mo Fan stood still. His heart was rolling with shock, fear, and anger!

“We were still too late.” Yan Shi wore an expressionless face, yet her eyes were burning with rage.

So many people, including the impressive Nie Lengshan, had died!

Captain Sun was dead, Tong Shang was dead, their men were dead...

Wang Dakuo was dead, Wang Hua's head was lying beside Chen Binbin's severed limbs. Even the selfish girl called Hu Duo was dead. She was hanging on a branch with a hollow stomach...

Not a single person was alive!

It was a terrifying, hellish sight. Even Mo Fan, who had seen lots of deaths and gore, felt his soul trembling upon witnessing it!

Mo Fan lifted his gaze and looked at the Giant Purple Sacred Linden covered in blood. For some reason, Mo Fan was having trouble breathing inside the shadow projected by the giant tree. It felt like a devil whose claws stained in blood were looming over him...

"Let's go!" Yan Shi yelled.

Mo Fan was still in shock. He soon heard Yan Shi yelling again.

"Quick, the devil won't let anyone that sees its true nature live!" Yan Shi said.

Mo Fan turned around and started running. He could feel the devil's bloody claw coming down at him. He was about to turn into one of the sacrifices!

A sharp branch sprang down from the tree and stabbed in the direction that Mo Fan was running to, like a spear of judgment from the Heavens. Mo Fan subconsciously held his breath, feeling the strong sense of death approaching!

Mo Fan split into four shadows, flying into different directions like birds.

The branch plunged right into the soil. Even the ground could not endure its strength. Mo Fan shivered in fear when he saw the branch landing less than half a meter away from the shadow bird he had turned into!

If he was not on alert, the branch could have easily nailed him to death. Even the Black Snake Armor stood no chance against it.

"Dark Noble Mantle!"

Mo Fan realized the extreme danger he was in. He quickly activated the mantle to conceal himself in the shadows...

However, the move that Mo Fan was extremely proud of was like an amusing child's play in front of the devil. Another branch came down from above and tore Mo Fan's clothes apart as he barely dodged it!

Mo Fan did not dare waste a second further. He quickly gathered his focus and glanced upward at the tree. However, he immediately stood still as if he was struck by lightning in the following second!

The branches started falling again. It was not like Mo Fan was not trying to dodge them, but he seriously had no clue where he should be dodging into. The Devil Tree Spikes densely covered an area over a thousand meters in the air. He could barely see any gaps between them. They were descending faster than a human could think. Even if Mo Fan cast Blink a few times consecutively, he would still be turned into mincemeat!

It was like the Heavens had sentenced him to death. It was utterly meaningless to try and escape it.

The difference in strength was just too huge!