Versatile 1351

Chapter 1351 Put My Life on the Line For You Once Again

Qi Yang received a secret call soon after he returned to Nanping City.

"Sir, you asked Xianren to investigate if there was anyone suspicious who had bought tickets for trains, coaches, or flights. He did find out that someone special bought two tickets for the flight from Nanping's Mount Wuyi. The flight is a week from now. Should we investigate further, and see if we can find out the details of the two passengers?"

"That won't be necessary. It's fine as it is. Ask Xianren not to investigate further, or he might end up alerting the enemy," Qi Yang said.

"Should we continue with the investigation, then?" the person asked.

"No, just focus on the tasks on hand. Let me know if there's anything else as usual," Qi Yang replied.

Qi Yang ended the call. His face showed his astonishment. He looked at Mo Fan and asked in confusion, "How did you know they had returned to Nanping City, instead of escaping into the mountains?"

"It's a new ability I have. I won't explain the details. It looks like your men have verified the information?" Mo Fan answered.

"Mm, the flight is a week from now, but there's no way we would have noticed it if we didn't focus on the city..." Qi Yang confirmed.

As the Leader of the Preventive Committee, Qi Yang was an expert at tracking down targets, yet he had no clue how Mo Fan was able to tell exactly where their targets had gone.

Both the Shepherd and Cheng Ying were extremely cunning. Normally, they would have lost track of the two by now. They had not even realized that they were hiding somewhere in the city!

"We just have to do what we are supposed to, so they won't be suspicious. I bet they won't do anything reckless for a week, either," Mo Fan went on.

"You're right; the higher their positions in the Black Vatican, the more cautious they will be. If they managed to make their way back to the city, they won't do anything to catch our attention, as it would only bring more troubles to their higher-ups. The Extraditors are responsible for bringing their disciples back safely. They won't allow any mistakes... it seems like we are going to have a huge catch this time. The Shepherd... who would have thought... we have not had the chance to come into contact with someone of his level in many years!" Qi Yang blurted out in excitement.

The Black Vatican had been infamous across the world for a long time. Even taking out a Blue Deacon was a great contribution for an Enforcer. That alone was enough to guarantee a promotion, let alone someone as important as an Extraditor...

Qi Yang had a feeling he might be able to make some great contributions by following Mo Fan!

Mo Fan was not in a rush to deal with the two targets for the time being. The Fiendish Night was a divine power when it came to tracking down targets. Mo Fan would immediately receive feedback after the slightest presence of magic around his targets. He was well aware of what they were doing and where they had gone.

"Are you serious? They are just walking around on the street and enjoying delicacies?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Mm, the Shepherd and Cheng Ying must have disguised themselves as ordinary civilians, eating and having fun as they please. They haven't been using any spells for a long time. There weren't even any magic ripples, so I thought I'd lost them..." Mo Fan said.

"How bold is that Shepherd? He clearly has no respect for the Enforcement Union," Zhao Manyan spat.

"Boldness of execution stems from superb skill, and he is indeed skillful enough. Even if his cover was blown in the city, he could still run away easily," Mo Fan judged.

The Shepherd was extremely powerful. Mo Fan could not afford to lower his guard!

Unfortunately, the Shepherd's position was not high enough to convince the authorities to dispatch a Super Mage. However, it would be a different story if they could lure out the person behind the Shepherd!

"Say, what do you think the Cold Prince is planning?" Zhao Manyan asked in mid-thought.

Each time a Red Cardinal was up to something, it would result in a terrible disaster. It was the main reason why Mo Fan had to intervene now!

Zhao Manyan was eager to learn what the Cold Prince was up to. Why would he come to China for it? What was he trying to achieve? The Enforcement Union was already keeping an eye on the Black Vatican, yet they still dared to plot something in China!

"To be honest, I'm a little worried too," Mo Fan could only reply.

"Are you worried that the conspiracy is worse than we could ever imagine, and we aren't capable enough to stop it?" Zhao Manyan knew what Mo Fan was thinking.

"Yeah, we can't afford to underestimate any member of the Black Vatican. The way they hide in the cities and the countries... they are like a cancerous cell in a healthy person; you never know when they will turn into a deadly disease, and when you realize it's destroying your health, it's already too late to stop it. You can only endure it, and if you don't resist it, death will be the only possible outcome!" Mo Fan said grimly.

It was the same that had happened to Bo City and the Ancient Capital. Whenever the Black Vatican made their move, it was like the mountain was collapsing and the ground was cracking apart. Everything they learned was so insignificant and useless...

Nothing was scarier than the thought of it happening again!

How could Mo Fan not be worried? He was afraid to experience the suffocation and the sense of helplessness after learning there was another conspiracy afoot.

His strength had improved at an insane speed. He was doing everything he could to become stronger, yet it still did not make any difference, since his enemy was always stronger than him!

"Why don't we let the Preventive Committee handle it? The Enforcement Union, Preventive Committee, Magic Association, military, and the government will handle it. Even an Elder of the Enforcement Union has died so easily, let alone us! We won't stand a chance if we really are up against a Red Cardinal of the Chief Extraditor..." Zhao Manyan was hesitant.

He was not mentally prepared to face something as huge as the Black Vatican.

He felt like they should just focus on looking for the Totem Beasts... hang on, even looking for the Totem Beasts was not necessarily a safe task, when he recalled what had happened during the incident of the Giant Purple Sacred Linden. He still had nightmares of climbing up the filthy, terrifying, and dangerous body of the demon tree!

"It's too late to give up now. Only I have the ability to track down the Shepherd. Perhaps even the Heavens think I'm the most suitable person to take down the Black Vatican, so they gave me the Fiendish Night. We might have no clue about what the Cold Prince wants to do, or what he's planning, but it also means they are still in the early phase. It's the same as the Calamity of the Ancient Capital. If we had realized that the Calamity of Bo City was just a test run, we could have stopped the Calamity of the Ancient Capital from taking place. Similarly, if we can learn something important right from the start, we should be able to prevent an incident similar to the Red Mediterranean Sea... I would regret it if I gave up now!" Mo Fan told him.

Only those who had experienced the Calamity of Bo City and the Ancient Capital would know the pain of wishing that time could be reverted!

Unfortunately, time would never be reversed; all that mattered was the present!

Zhao Manyan was lost in thought after seeing Mo Fan's determination. He finally made up his mind after some time, "I didn't expect to hear something like that from you. I always thought you were a rascal. Screw it; I, Zhao Manyan have decided to put my life on the line for you once again!"

Chapter 1352 The Power of the Moon Moth Phoenix

There were three days left until Mo Fan had to follow the Shepherd and Cheng Ying to the Black Vatican's headquarters. He had to be extremely careful; they could not afford to ask for any help, to avoid the Black Vatican from becoming suspicious.

It was the same for anyone who was trying to infiltrate the Black Vatican. It was like climbing down into a pitch-black abyss without any safety devices. You could never tell if there were traps ahead, nor how deep the abyss was...

Mo Fan did not discuss his decision with anyone. Mu Ningxue was extremely furious when she found out what Mo Fan was up to. She believed Mo Fan should at least discuss it with her. She knew Mo Fan would not necessarily take her advice, but she was still angry at Mo Fan for not telling her beforehand!

"Come to Fanxue Mountain!" Mu Ningxue ordered him.

"But they are leaving in three days..." Mo Fan said. He did not want anything to go wrong with the plan at such a crucial time.

"The journey doesn't take long. Besides, isn't it riskier to be waiting there instead? The Black Vatican won't have trouble finding where you are," Mu Ningxue replied.

"You're right," Mo Fan finally agreed.

Mo Fan took a flight to Feiniao City. The trip was only a few hours long. He consumed some energy to cast a few Blinks and showed up in front of Mu Ningxue as quickly as possible.

As he expected, Mu Ningxue was clearly not in a good mood. Their relationship had been improving a lot since the establishment of Fanxue Mountain. Mo Fan was now able to hold hands with her and even give her a quick kiss sneakily at times. Their relationship was pure like middle school kids, yet judging from Mu Ningxue's reactions, he believed he would not have any chance of doing so today.

"Hehe..." Mo Fan put on a wry smile when he saw Mu Ningxue's icy expression.

Mo Fan did admit that he was being too reckless. Even though a man could do anything he wanted, he had to respect his wife's opinion too!

"Put this on." Mu Ningxue stretched her hand out. There was a blue ring on her palm.

"Oh my!" Mo Fan stared at Mu Ningxue with wide eyes.

Was she for real? Since when did Mu Ningxue buy a pair of rings without him knowing? Shouldn't they be doing this together?

Mo Fan rubbed his head and smiled, looking at the ring. He demurred, having wild thoughts popping up. "I don't think I should wear it now. If you were to say something along the lines of "let's get engaged after I'm back", I'd be afraid I wouldn't be coming back. Last words are quite scary sometimes!"

"It's the Ring of Venice!" Mu Ningxue snapped, rolling her eyes.

"Oh, I see, it's not our engagement ring?" Mo Fan finally realized.

"Wasn't your Ring of Venice destroyed when you went up against Zorro? This ring is an old Ring of Venice..." Mu Ningxue placed the ring on Mo Fan's hand.

"Didn't you win it yourself? You should keep it for yourself, then. It's not like you are in a safer spot than I am," Mo Fan had no intention of accepting it.

Every participant in the finals of the World College Tournament was given a Ring of Venice, but they were not high quality. However, the ring Mu Ningxue had was the real Ring of Venice. The organizer had given it to the most influential participant during the World College Tournament. Mu Ningxue had gone from being disqualified from the national team and leaving her renowned clan to making a comeback and proving herself during the World College Tournament, despite the burden she had to bear with one of her family members being a member of the Black Vatican. The organizer and many others were impressed by her, and decided to give her the special honor.

Mo Fan's ring was destroyed by Zorro during the tournament. The organizers were so stingy that they did not even bother replacing it for him!

"Put it on, or I'll freeze you right here!" Mu Ningxue demanded.

Mo Fan could tell that Mu Ningxue was serious. He quickly put the ring on his finger and told Mu Ningxue not to worry about him.

How could Mu Ningxue not worry? It did not matter what Mo Fan did normally, whether it was going on an adventure in a desert, venturing deep into an old forest, or fighting against demon creatures; Mu Ningxue believed Mo Fan knew what he was doing, and was able to look after himself.

But this time, he was up against the Black Vatican, and he was trying to track down a Red Cardinal. Those people were devils wearing human skins as a disguise, ten times scarier than the demon creatures. How could she not worry?

"Xuexue..." Mo Fan grabbed Mu Ningxue's hands after seeing the firm look in her eyes. He wanted to say something to her, yet he ended up shaking his head when he recalled the ridiculous thing he just mentioned. "Forget it, I shouldn't be saying it. What if something bad happens. just like how it always does in the TV dramas?"

"Just say it; are you still so superstitious at your current age?" Mu Ningxue scoffed at him.

"Oh alright..." Mo Fan nodded. He decided to say it in the end, "After I'm back, let's settle down. You can invite your relatives and friends, I'll ask my friends to come too. It's fine if you want to make it luxurious and magical, I'm kind of rich now, or if you only want it to be simple and quiet with just the two of us, that's fine by me too."

Mu Ningxue was touched by the words, even though she had prepared herself for them.

It was the same as when she walked out after arguing with her family. Mo Fan was waiting for her on the mountain behind her house. He asked where she was going, and she said anywhere, as long as they were together.

She had completely changed over the years. She was struggling to remember the words she said, the things she had done, and the promises she had made, but the man before her was still the same.

"But... maybe I'm no longer the Mu Ningxue you love," Mu Ningxue said at a loss. Even she had no idea why she would say something like that.

"I like your body, not your person," Mo Fan whispered subconsciously.

"What did you say!?"

"Oh, what I meant was, don't overthink it. You are you, we've known one another for so long. Look at how compatible we are. We've never fought, we've always been a lovely couple..." Mo Fan quickly corrected himself.

Mu Ningxue fell into deep thought.

Even though they had now grown up, Mo Fan never failed to amuse her and help her get over the tough times. She had always been glad to have him around.

"What do you say?" Mo Fan asked nervously.

"No deal," Mu Ningxue rejected after a slight hesitation.

"Why?" Mo Fan was stunned. He thought his attempt was going to be successful, since he was like a soldier going to war!

Mu Ningxue did not answer him. She told Mo Fan to pay Yu Shishi a visit. She seemed to have something related to the Totem Beasts to show to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan pressed further for the reason, but Mu Ningxue insisted on not telling him. Mo Fan had no choice but to leave with regret.

After Mo Fan left, Mu Ningxue shook her head self-mockingly and said, "I am the one that is being superstitious..."

Amid his great confusion, Mo Fan went to Lunar Fang Mountain to look for Yu Shishi, who was taking care of her cute little moths.

Yu Shishi had 'reproduced' a lot of moths in no time. The little creatures seemed to have an outstanding reproductive ability. Their numbers had recovered quickly, despite losing so many recently...

"Hey, are you listening!?" Yu Shishi glared at Mo Fan.

"What were you saying?" Mo Fan replied.

"Nothing... why do you look so lost?" Yu Shishi asked.

"Oh, you are considered a woman too, can I ask you something... chill, relax, take your fangs away, I don't want you to be poisoned after drinking my filthy blood," Mo Fan quickly blurted out. He continued with an awkward smile, "I was going to ask what you women are thinking..."

Mo Fan told Yu Shishi what happened between him and Mu Ningxue. He was hoping Yu Shishi could explain Mu Ningxue's reaction to him. He felt like it was the right time to say it.

"I think she likes you too, she should agree normally... but let me ask you a question first," Yu Shishi said.

"What is it?" Mo Fan said.

"Do you have another woman too?" Yu Shishi asked.

"Yeah, just one."

"Oh, she really likes you, then. Otherwise, you would have been torn into pieces by now... if I was her!" Yu Shishi snapped. She had never seen anyone so shameless!

"Is it really because of that... I thought she had slowly accepted it," Mo Fan murmured.

"Are you a retard!?"

"Every human needs some kind of ambitions. My ambition is to have two wives!"

"You can go die now, you're beyond redemption!"

"Aren't you looking for me? I must tell you, I will only have two wives. Even though your body is hot and your chest is huge, I believe our relationship should stop at physical interactions between us. I shouldn't go too far... hey hey, I was just joking, why are you showing your fangs again? Can't you just be a proper human? Stop showing your beastly side, it's weird," Mo Fan chided her shamelessly.

Yu Shishi felt her lungs were about to explode. Mu Ningxue was such an honorable person. Even Yu Shishi was very impressed by her; why would she fall for a retard like Mo Fan?!

"The Moon Moth Phoenix is entering her reincarnation cycle soon. Her current power will dissipate. I heard Liu Ru mention that you are in need of the power of the Totem Beasts. If you can absorb it, be ready when the whole moon comes out tonight. Otherwise, you're going to miss out on the opportunity," Yu Shishi withheld her urge to curse and him, trying her best to speak calmly.

"Tonight?"

"Yes, tonight! You should be well prepared. I must warn you, the power of the Totem Beasts is very special. It's not something a person can absorb easily. You might end up with serious injuries," Yu Shishi warned him.

Mo Fan was overjoyed. He initially thought he had achieved nothing by saving the Moon Moth Phoenix, but to his surprise, her power would dissipate whenever she entered the reincarnation cycle...

Instead of giving her power back to nature, it was better to give it to Little Loach. The little creature had been starving for a long time!

Mo Fan's cultivation would improve significantly once he fed Little Loach. He could not ask for better timing, as he was about to have a showdown with the Black Vatican!

Chapter 1353 Absorbing the Totem Fairy Ligh

The sky was clear that night. A whole moon was hanging in the sky. Its brilliance shone down upon Lunar Fang Mountain and sprinkled on the blue moths that were dancing in the air. The mountain looked like it was glowing, a stunning sight from the distance.

Mo Fan was sitting beside a giant cocoon. The Moon Moth Phoenix had degenerated after the battle. Most Totem Beasts were imbued with the same spirit, and some would even say they were the same entity over thousands of years. When they approached the end of their lifespan, they would degenerate and return to their younger stage and grow slowly again. They would lose their memories, too.

The Moon Moth Phoenix was that kind. Her soul and flesh were severely injured. She had been enduring pain for many years. It felt like she had long waited for this moment.

The moonlight descended. The giant cocoon of the Moon Moth Phoenix began to emit the same light as the blue moths. Mo Fan recognized it as the power of the Totem Beasts that he was looking for without

needing Yu Shishi's explanation. This power would normally dissipate as the Moon Moth Phoenix entered the reincarnation cycle...

As a matter of fact, it was the Moon Moth Phoenix's cultivation, built up over the years she had lived in the current cycle. Mo Fan had always wanted to verify if the power of the Totem Beasts was enough to upgrade Little Loach. It was a once in a blue moon opportunity!

Mo Fan took off the Little Loach Pendant and slowly placed it beside the giant cocoon. The fluorescent light began to scatter, yet Mo Fan's Little Loach Pendant did not show any sign of reacting. However, after a minute or two, Little Loach seemed to grasp the traits of the power. The Pendant began emitting a similar light!

As soon as its light appeared, the Totem Power dissipating into the surroundings started gathering toward the Little Loach Pendant at an increasing speed.

"It really works!" Mo Fan was overjoyed.

Mo Fan looked into the world inside the Little Loach Pendant and discovered that the Nether River containing countless Soul Remnants was crazily absorbing the Totem Power. Its width was increasing, too...

The truth was, Little Loach Pendant's Nether River was already a huge river to begin with. The calm and clear river reflected the lights of souls as if they were tiny lanterns. The Totem Fairy Light scattered across the Nether River. The still surface of the river reflected its brilliance.

The spacious Nether River was slowly filled up by the light. It went from several dots of light to as dazzling as carnelian jewelry; a spectacular glowing diagram formed in the world inside the Little Loach Pendant!

Mo Fan had seen something like it before when he was killing a vast number of demon creatures, but the light of the Soul Remnants was nowhere as pure as the Totem Fairy Light. Since the Soul Remnants contained the hatred, grudges, and unwillingness of the demon creatures, the Nether River would have a foul atmosphere. It needed a long time for the water to clear them up before Little Loach could refine the Soul Essences that Mo Fan needed to strengthen his spells.

The Totem Power was like several high-quality Soul Essences, without any negative emotions. When the Little Loach Pendant was absorbing them, they soon accommodated themselves to the new environment!

The expansion of the Nether River showed that the Little Loach Pendant had upgraded. Mo Fan had clearly felt his cultivation rate decreasing significantly after reaching the Advanced Level. The energy of the Underground Holy Spring was no longer enough to enhance his current level of cultivation. He needed a new energy that would allow him to improve rapidly in the Advanced Level, especially considering the number of Elements he had to look after!

"The surface of the water is glowing! It seems the Totem Power is indeed good enough to help the Little Loach Pendant evolve!" Mo Fan blurted out in excitement.

Little Loach had always been picky. He had not eaten much food recently. It was not like Mo Fan had forgotten about him, but he was having trouble finding things that were suitable for Little Loach. The little creature only bothered to lift his eyebrows at extremely rare resources.

Mo Fan had finally found something that suited Little Loach's tastes!

For some reason, Mo Fan could tell that Little Loach was extremely fond of pure energy like this Totem Power.

"By the way, why weren't you reacting like this before, when I was with the Black Totem Snake?" Mo Fan suddenly recalled as he observed the Little Loach's transformation.

"Oh, the Black Totem Snake was only going through ecdysis; he wasn't entering another reincarnation cycle, so he did not give up his Totem Power," Mo Fan answered his own question.

However, Mo Fan soon thought of another question. If the Totem Power of a Totem Beast would only dissipate when the Totem Beast was entering the next cycle, wouldn't that mean he would have to find the rest of the Totem Beasts and kill them for Little Loach to keep growing?

After that wild thought, Mo Fan sat down on the ground and prepared himself for a breakthrough of his cultivation after Little Loach was done absorbing the power.

Fire Element: Second-tier Advanced Level.

Lightning Element: First-tier Advanced Level.

Shadow Element: First-tier Advanced Level.

Summoning Element: First-tier Advanced Level.

Space Element: First-tier Advanced Level.

Mental strength: the fifth stage.

Mo Fan decisively focused on the Lightning Element. At the current stage, his Lightning Element had the highest chance of having a breakthrough. His Lightning Element had been stuck at the first tier for quite some time...

Normally, a Mage would focus on certain Elements as their cultivation continued to increase. Even Mo Fan was unable to improve his Lightning Element for such a long time, let alone the Mages that lacked resources!

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Mo Fan easily broke through the barrier of the Lightning Element; it was smoother than he had anticipated. The Lightning Element had long been in a saturated state, so it easily reached the second tier with a little push from the energy Little Loach had provided.

Every tier of advancement would grant the Mage a new branch of the respective spell at the new level. The Mage's control and mental strength would improve significantly, too. The mental strength development was essential for Mo Fan's Space Element, and it also played an important role when resisting spells targeting his mind, so it was very important to keep improving his mental strength!

The Lightning Element had a successful breakthrough, but it was clearly not enough. His other Elements desperately needed some improvements too, be it the Space Element, the Shadow Element, or the Summoning Element. They were all extremely useful to Mo Fan, as any improvements to the Elements would improve his overall strength too!

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"So your cultivation isn't really that impressive at all," Yu Shishi commented, after observing the whole process.

"Why? Do you want to try avenging your little moths now?" Mo Fan raised his eyebrows at her.

"Humph!" Yu Shishi responded with a snort.

She was in fact quite surprised. Mo Fan's cultivation was weaker than she thought, yet he was almost unbeatable among Advanced Mages...

If he achieved the highest tier of the Advanced Level for all his Elements, how terrifying would his strength be?

Chapter 1354 Osiris and Khonsu

The northern boundary of the country...

"Are you asking us why we are so respectful toward young girls? It's because of a legend that everyone here believes..." an old herdsman said as he moved along.

Fresh air without a single trace of dust swept past. With just a deep breath, one felt like they were taking the unique fragrance of a vast and spacious land into their lungs. The area was surprisingly open. There were no trees, no mountains, and no buildings within sight. There was only a wide expanse of flat valley and spectacular geometric lines with a slight arc further away connected with the blue sky on the horizon...

The vast land would occasionally be embroidered by a silver ribbon; it was clean and simple, yet it turned out to be a most stunning scene!

"A legend, I love legends. A local legend always reflects how stupid the local people are," a teenage boy wearing a pair of sunglasses replied indifferently.

"You can listen to the story first, before coming to a conclusion. In the early days, the valley was barren. There wasn't any grass, the water was dried up, and the land was constantly troubled by locusts. The locals were struggling to make a living. The livestock kept dying, there was no production of milk and meat, and barely any agriculture..." the old herdsman casually flicked out his whip.

"A very cliche opening," the teenage boy snorted.

"To stop the people from leaving their hometown and living as nomads... oh, it means without having our own land and source of water... a young girl called Qiqige decided to climb the mountains. She knew

the source of the rivers was the springs in the mountains. She went far away and climbed to a great height to find the source, and she discovered the source had frozen because of the cold. The temperatures are lower when the altitude increases," the old herdsman went on.

"So what did the girl do?" the teenage boy asked. He seemed a little intrigued now.

"She did not have any power, but a sincere heart to help her people. She took off her clothes, revealing her body as she hugged the bone-piercing ice tightly. She tried to use her body temperature to melt the ice. The water from the ice she melted with her pure body entered the stream. The spring and the water veins contained the fragrance of her virginity... the spring came back to live again, returning life to this land. What we have here... is Qiqige's statue. It was her holding the ice, the spring that nurtures our lives," the old herdsman pointed ahead.

In front of them stood a unique statue; a young woman painted white. Its shape was quite abstract. Most people would assume it to be a boulder that served as a landmark if they did not hear the story behind it.

"I see, no wonder half of the girls here are given the name Qiqige," the teenage boy said with a smile.

"Exactly, every young woman is a blessing to us. Every family is proud to have a girl too," the old herdsman said with a sincere smile.

The young man walked around the statue in circles. He looked at the map he was holding with a sinister smile.

He turned around and looked at the glamorous woman in a short dress accompanying him and said, "I believe it's a sign from the Heavens. We should set our coordinates here, right where the status is."

"If you say so," the glamorous woman smiled.

"Old mister, have you heard of another legend that isn't from our country? I think it suits the story you just told pretty well," the teenage boy turned back to the old herdsman.

"Is that so? I'm rather curious about it, please tell me." The old herdsman sat down and started smoking. He was quite relaxed.

"It happened in Egypt, where women have always had a low status. They were slaves and toys to the men. You could even trade two healthy cows for a healthy woman. There was a girl called Khonsu. She was greatly tortured and humiliated, living a lowly life. One day, she stole a beautiful gold necklace from her master. She tried to sell it for money and run away, but the necklace was special. A demon spirit came out of it at night... Ah, you can think of it as a genie, it doesn't really matter... the demon spirit told her that it could fulfill a wish for her, but the girl would have to trade her soul for it. Khonsu immediately agreed to it in exchange for respect and love from the people. After that, she enjoyed ten years of fame and the love of countless men. She ended up with a higher status and more wealth than the slave masters.

"But, the demon spirit returned after ten years, as it had promised. It had come back for her soul.

"Khonsu was a scheming and extremely greedy woman. She wanted more; she wanted to enjoy her fame for a longer time. She had been looking for ways to avoid the demon spirit even before it showed up, so she would not have to give up on her soul."

The teenage boy was telling the story passionately. He paused briefly and glanced at the old herdsman.

The old herdsman shook the cigarette butts off and exclaimed, "She's indeed incomparable to our Qiqige. She's filthy, greedy, and selfish... so, what did she do? Was she given the punishment that she deserved?"

"Now here is the best part of the story. Khonsu had done her homework over the years. She learned that the demon spirit was actually Osiris, the Lord of the Underworld. He would trade with humans at times, and he would lock her soul up as one of his concubines. She would become his toy and be tortured forever. Khonsu knew she had enjoyed living her dream for ten years, but the price she had to pay was to suffer an even worse fate than her life from before. She decided to fight until the end. She knew Osiris had a residence in the mundane world, and I bet you've heard it before...

"Osiris' residence in the mundane world is the pyramids. He had to rely on the power of the pyramids to roam around in this world."

The old herdsman's eyes widened after hearing the keyword. He nodded and said, "The pyramids, they are pretty famous. So what happened then?"

"Khonsu utilized the reputation, wealth, and power she had accumulated over ten years to collect something special. It was called the Triangle Dimensional Mirror. She used it to refract the brilliance of the pyramids, so it would never reach the city and the place she lived in..." the teenage boy said.

"She's a smart girl, but a pitiful girl too. She was only trying her best to stay alive," the old herdsman observed.

"However, she ended up infuriating Osiris. The Lord of the Underworld would not allow a petty human to trick him like that after failing to fulfill her end of the trade... Osiris can only visit the mundane world once every ten years, yet because the image of the pyramids couldn't reach where Khonsu was, Osiris decided to vent his anger on humanity.

"Since the Triangle Dimensional Mirror was only reflecting the light of the pyramids instead of absorbing them, the brilliance of the pyramids still ended up in other cities and areas. Therefore, Osiris and his undead would trample the cities and massacre the people there to vent their frustration toward the despicable humans!"

The old herdsman was lost in the story. For some reason, the story that the teenage boy was telling was different from his. Even though it sounded more ridiculous, and had a more bizarre setting, somehow he felt like it had actually happened in the past!

"Every ten years, Khonsu brought a bloodbath to a city just to protect herself. Lots of lives were lost!" the teenage boy said. He seemed unusually excited.

"Such a detestable woman!" the old herdsman murmured.

"Yeah, she's the complete opposite compared to Qiqige. However, that's not the end of the story," the teenage boy agreed.

"It's not the end yet? Did she finally pay for what she had done?" the old herdsman asked.

"Yeah, she got her punishment. A boy who was the survivor of one of the cities that were destroyed became Khonsu's servant. The boy was smart and handsome, and extremely loyal to Khonsu, and he soon became her favorite. When Khonsu thought she had finally found her true love, the boy stole Khonsu's Triangle Dimensional Mirror. There was a thunderstorm that day. The boy tossed the Triangle Dimensional Mirror into the sky. Khonsu watched the lightning blasting the mirror into pieces and dust..." the teenage boy said.

"Well done! It served her right. You can't just let innocent people die because Khonsu wasn't willing to fulfill her end of the deal," the old herdsman exclaimed.

"No no no, the man didn't earn the respect of the people, either. Osiris did end up taking Khonsu away, and she's still suffering even today, but the man was spurned and cursed by the people too. His corpse is still in front of the royal palace in Egypt, trampled by everyone walking past," the teenage boy corrected him.

"Why is that?" The old herdsman was confused.

"Because even though the Triangle Dimensional Mirror had turned into dust, it still persisted in the air in Egypt. It's smaller than dust particles, and impossible to drive away. They are meant to exist forever, and once in a while, the seasonal winds will blow the particles of the Triangle Dimensional Mirror together to refract the light of the pyramids. The pyramids will show up near a city. Osiris' anger toward humans has never ceased, so he keeps sending the undead to attack the cities..." the teenage boy grinned.

"Why do I feel like I've heard it before..." the old herdsman was not completely uneducated. He had heard things about Egypt before.

"Of course, it's called... the Mirage!"

Chapter 1355 Triangle Dimensional Mirror

The infamous disasters in Egypt: the mirages!

It was not just a natural optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of light. In Egypt, a mirage was more like a sign that Osiris' army had descended upon the mundane world again, a sign of a bloodbath!

The old herdsman was slightly knowledgeable. He had read about the major incidents across the world in some books. For some reason, the story felt unusually real, just like there was actually a Qiqige who sacrificed her body to melt the ice.

"What do you think? Is Khonsu more deeply rooted in the hearts of the people, or your Qiqige?" the young man asked with a smile.

"Well... I still think our Qigige is more impressive," the old herdsman said.

"HAHAHA, but your Qiqige is only well-known in such a small place here. Meanwhile, Khonsu has been the nickname for evil women in Egypt for centuries! The truth is, people are more likely to remember bad things that are wildly spread for a long time. By the way, have you heard about the strength of faith?" the young man seemed quite interested in talking with the old herdsman.

The old herdsman nodded. He was clearly not an ignorant old man.

"There are many deities in this world. Their power is stronger when the numbers of their believers are higher, and their believers are more sincere. As a result, in the past, lots of the deities were willing to do meaningful things for humans so they could acquire more power through their believers' faith. The respect, sincerity, and loyalty that the believers showed to the deities became the strength of faith and floated to the realm of the gods, making them stronger," the young man told him.

"Yes, we do believe in ideas like that," the old herdsman agreed.

"But do you know there's more to the strength of faith, that isn't so wildly spread?" the young man inquired.

"More to it?" the old herdsman was confused.

"If respect, worship, and loyalty from humans give the deities the strength of faith, what about the detest, hatred, and disgust from humans toward the devils? Will they give the devils power, too?" the young man said.

The old herdsman was startled. He did not know the answer to that question.

If the faith of humans could make deities stronger, wouldn't the hatred they accumulated make devils stronger, too?

"So, do you reckon there are more people like Qiqige or Khonsu in this world?" the young man inquired.

The old herdsman was left speechless.

The truth was, there were too many people like Khonsu. She was the depiction of human nature!

"If the deities are grouped into kind and wicked, and if we are to determine the strength of each side based on the strength of faith they receive, it's pretty obvious that the evil deities possess more power than the kind gods!" the young man said.

"I can't find any reason to disagree with you," the old herdsman said.

"That goes without saying; how do you even disagree with the truth?" the young man said proudly.

"I don't understand, why would you know all this? It's not something someone of your age would know, right?" the old herdsman asked in confusion.

"Why would I know this?" The young man suddenly burst out laughing. He patted the old herdsman on the shoulder and said, "Old man, it's because we are the worshipers of the evil deities. The world spurns our church and hates our disciples. The more they hate the evil gods we believe in, the stronger we are!"

The old herdsman looked at the young man in disbelief. He said after some time, "Son, there might be a misunderstanding. It shouldn't be like that."

"Human leaders keep coming up with countless ideas of utopias and stories like Qiqige to restrain the nature of humans, thus restraining the power of evil gods, but can humans really stop their hatred and anger? Can a person really not have any negative thoughts after being mistreated, being looked down at, and suffering torture?" the young man went on.

"It's possible, son. There are still many kind and innocent people like Qiqige," the old herdsman did not sound as confident.

"I guess so. Why don't we have a bet between us?" the young man said.

"A bet? On what?" The old herdsman was confused again.

"This is your hometown, right? We just went past your house and saw your daughter, your wife, and your mother, who's still healthy even though she's over eighty years old. She even gave me a straw ring, didn't she?" the young man said.

"Yes, my mother is very fond of you. She says your purple eyes are beautiful, like those of a fairy," the old herdsman said.

"Your neighbors are very friendly, too. I met them. They are optimistic, even though they are poor. They are very hospitable too, right?" the young man added.

"Yeah, they are good neighbors," the old herdsman said.

"Because of the legend of Qiqige, the people here are kind, friendly, and passionate. They are respectful of young women, too. It's a tribe that deserves to be complimented," the young man said.

"Of course, our Qiqige Tribe is well regarded by the outside world too," the old herdsman smiled proudly.

The young man turned to the glamorous woman behind her. He smiled when he noticed she was done with the preparations, "Then why don't we use it as our stake?"

"I don't quite understand," the old herdsman said.

"You win if you don't hate me or detest me. I will give up on my role as a Red Cardinal, and I give you my promise that I'll be a kind person like Qiqige!" the young man smiled. It was a warm smile, yet there were evil and hypocrisy underneath!

"Why would I do that? Your ideas might be strange, but you are a polite kid after all..." the old herdsman was still confused.

"Being polite is part of my manners, but doing evil is my nature," the young man said.

"You are really a strange kid." The old herdsman shook his head helplessly. He realized he could not convince the young man. His thought process and knowledge were more advanced than an old herdsman like him.

He turned to the glamorous woman and asked, "Aren't you going to give your brother a piece of advice? He keeps having these troubling thoughts."

"You've misunderstood. He isn't my brother, he's my master... mm, our relationship is similar to Khonsu and her slave. I'm his slave," the glamorous woman smiled.

"What..." The old herdsman was lost for words. He was about to say something when he saw the woman pointing her finger at the statue of Qiqige!

The white statue broke into dust scattering in the air and falling onto the grass. The old herdsman was immediately enraged.

"What do you think you are doing!?" the old herdsman shouted.

"I'm setting our landmark here," the woman replied, as if it was meant to be.

"Old man, you're already mad? I'm afraid you're going to lose the bet," the young man said.

"I'm not mad, we can always rebuild the statue! But you shouldn't be doing this, it's disrespectful to us... what are you holding?" the old herdsman asked haltingly.

The woman lifted a delicate, exquisite triangular device and asked, "Are you referring to this?"

"Yes," the old herdsman confrimed.

"It's something precious," the young man explained. "It took Salan and I great efforts to steal an important component to complete it. Do you remember the Triangle Dimensional Mirror I mentioned?"

"I do; didn't you say it was shattered by a lightning strike?" the old herdsman answered.

"Oh, that wasn't the real Triangle Dimensional Mirror. The Triangle Dimensional Mirror that Khonsu had was just a replica. It was only useful for refracting light. It's more suitable to call it the Triangle Void Mirror. It somehow ended up in Egypt, and Khonsu managed to get her hands on it. This one here is the real Triangle Dimensional Mirror. You will soon witness its marvelous power," the young man said.

The old herdsman was stunned.

If the legend about Egypt was real, the Triangle Dimensional Mirror was capable of refracting the images of the pyramids. It was definitely not good news!

"Master Cold Prince, I'm ready," the woman smiled.

"Mm, time to show the old man what we have!" the young man said.

The Triangle Dimensional Mirror was placed on the remains of Qiqige's statue. A few of the Cold Prince's subordinates infused a special energy into the device. The Triangle Dimensional Mirror suddenly emitted an icy light, like the cold brilliance of the moon.

The light soared and left a boundary in the vast blue sky, as if it had become another dimension!

The boundary across the sky was emitted by just one of the Triangle Dimensional Mirror's surfaces.

Another horizontal line soon swept across the vast grassland into the horizon, the remnants of Qiqige's statue at its center.

Another line perpendicular to the second line appeared and swept into the distance. It had split the land in four. If anyone was looking down from the sky, they would have seen the spectacular sight of the land being split into four!

A line soaring into the sky!

Two horizontal lines perpendicular to one another extending into the horizon!

The three lines crossed paths at specific coordinates. A unique icy glow filled the area. It was supposed to be a clear day in the afternoon, with a bright sun, but the whole place suddenly turned gloomy and cold!

"Behold, the most beautiful moment is about to arrive!" The young man's eyes were filled with passion.

The old herdsman was in disbelief. He had never seen anything like it!

"What exactly is this?" the old herdsman asked faintly.

Chapter 1356 The Appearance of the Underworld Brilliance

It looked like a different space had been moved here. The scene was incompatible with the vast grassland and open sky.

As the old herdsman was filled with astonishment, he suddenly saw a giant silhouette appearing at the spot where the lines crossed paths.

The silhouette felt like an illusionary projection at the start. It was unreal.

However, its outline gradually became clearer. The old herdsman realized he was looking at a structure the size of a hill. The stairs leading up to the narrow top were made of golden stones. Each golden stone was perfectly cut, with sharp edges!

Each cut stone was far taller than a person!

The entire building was made of tens of thousands of these golden stones. They were stacked together to form a magnificent structure with triangular surfaces!

The old herdsman felt like he was dreaming. He never thought he would see such a golden structure at such close range. It had suddenly appeared on the grassland, as if it had just mysteriously traveled here through space!

As it became more real, the old herdsman began to feel an enormous pressure from it...

Why would it show up here!?

Why would a pyramid show up here!?

"This is the real mirage," the old herdsman heard the young man say.

The old herdsman fell to the ground, feeling like his soul was crumbling to pieces under the imperious aura of the pyramid that traveled across space. The pieces of his soul were drifting in a new wind that was filled with the aura of death...

"Can you feel it?" the young man said, sounding like a devil now. "This light that doesn't have any heat, it's even sending chills down my spine and making my hair stand on end... this is the light of the Underworld!" the young man proclaimed.

The old herdsman saw it and felt it too.

It was exactly what the young man had described. Even the sun had darkened under this light. The sky had turned gray and gloomy. The land was shrouded by a mist, and the temperature had dropped significantly too!

The light of the Underworld!

The gloom that allows the dead to roam freely!

The old herdsman finally realized everything that the young man had said was real.

Ghastly shrieks came from across the place. The old herdsman broke out in a cold sweat.

"The kingdom of the dead exists in another dimension, and the gate that leads it to the mundane world isn't our land, but Osiris' residence, and the places its light can reach!" the young man said.

Every sentence that the young man said was like a heavy blow to the old herdsman. He could barely withhold the shock he was receiving!

The grass had wilted. The plants had fallen and scattered about.

If the grassland was a huge green painting, it was like someone was scribbling on it with black, gray, and dark colors, giving it a spooky, terrifying shade. The process did not last long, moving quicker than a scene suddenly shifted in a nightmare. It was unbelievable...

The icy land cracked apart. One after another, ferocious-looking undead climbed out of the cracks. They were restless under the brilliance of the pyramid, and had a dangerous vibe. The sounds they produced spread into the distance...

Their numbers continued to increase, soon as dense as a herd of livestock. When the wind blew from the town, the scent of the living roused them. Their eyes emitted a savage flicker!

The undead were unaware of the presence of the old herdsman, the young man, and his subordinates. They let out starving cries and sprinted toward the town the old herdsman came from wildly.

The army of undead was like Osiris' soldiers. The old herdsman clearly felt Osiris' hatred and anger toward humanity in that particular moment...

The old herdsman finally reacted after some time. He ran as quickly as possible when he saw the undead heading toward his home.

However, the old herdsman could not mount his horse, which had already fainted. He used all his strength to keep running. He fell to the ground feebly, but he did not feel the pain. He rose to his feet numbly again...

The old herdsman's speed was obviously no match for the undead. When he stood on the hill panting heavily and trying to catch his breath, he looked down at the town and saw how the beautiful, kind town had been replaced by Hell!

Bloodstains were everywhere. White bones were scattered across the ground. Cries of agony howled on the wind across the land. The people that he was close to and the strangers had all turned into corpses, all beyond recognition when the old herdsman reached the town. Most of them were no longer intact.

The daughter that he was most proud of...

His healthy, optimistic mother...

His diligent wife...

His poor yet friendly neighbors...

The people of his tribe who believed there was still kindness in the world...

Not a single one of them was alive!

Why, why, why did they do this!?

The old herdsman turned around. He could not shed a single tear. Tears were meant to vent the sorrow in a person's heart, but even shedding tears would not make any difference when grief had reached its limit. All that was left was the confusion, doubt, anger, and hatred that had filled up the old man's chest.

"Why...why?..." The old herdsman was like an empty shell.

The young man slowly approached and said with a calm voice, "Didn't I already say it? I'm having a bet with you."

"A bet?" The old herdsman could not believe his ears.

For a moment, the old herdsman believed the young man held a strong grudge against them. He had surely endured prolonged suffering and torture if he would go so far to get his revenge.

Yet the people of the Qiqige Tribe had always been friendly to the others; since when did they provoke this devil?

"Yeah, so do you hate me now?" the young man asked.

The old herdsman almost lost his mind when he heard the question.

This bastard had killed all his family and people, and yet was asking him the question so calmly!?

What was his answer? It was obvious! He had the urge to eat the devil's flesh alive, to gnaw his bones, and drink his blood!

"You've lost," the young man smiled. He could see the answer from the old herdsman's twisted expression. "You should be like Qiqige. You should cast away your hatred and grudge, and continue to be friendly toward me. That way, I would give up on my role as a Red Cardinal, I would undo the sins I've inflicted on your tribe... but you couldn't do it. You hate me, you detest me, you're angry at me..."

The young man paused briefly. The gentle smile on his face gradually became icy and aloof, with a strong hint of disdain and loathing.

"You lost, and as the price, I will be taking your insignificant strength of faith!"

Chapter 1357 The Truth Crawling Out from the Ground

Mo Fan received a call from Qi Yang as soon as he got off the plane. Qi Yang asked Mo Fan, Lingling, and Zhao Manyan to head north right away.

Despite being confused, the three drove an off-road vehicle that the Preventive Committee had provided for them. They followed the highway to a spacious grassland...

They were driving very quickly, and kept going forward recklessly even when there was no road available. Judging by Qi Yang's tone, something serious had happened.

The trio met Qi Yang's Preventive Committee after they arrived in the valley behind a mountain.

There were ten members in the Preventive Committee. Qi Yang was the Leader and the commander. As for the remaining nine members, two were Battlemages, and the rest were spies, watchers, and trackers.

In terms of strength, they were not that impressive. Mo Fan might be able to take down the whole Committee by himself. That being said, the Preventive Committee was established to collect solid evidence. Once they had enough evidence to prove a great conspiracy was happening, they would request the assistance of the Magic Association!

"What happened?" Mo Fan asked.

"We received a report not long ago that the town here has gone missing," Qi Yang said.

"Shouldn't it be something the Magic Association is responsible for?" Zhao Manyan grumbled.

The government could not possibly ask them to do everything. They were currently following the trail of an Extraditor of the Black Vatican. All their efforts would be in vain if the Extraditor got away!

"It definitely has something to do with the Black Vatican," an ordinary-looking man of the Preventive Committee said.

"Let's check it out first," Lingling said.

The group went to the town and discovered the buildings were still around. Even the tents scattered across the field were intact. It did not seem like anything serious had happened apart from the slight disorder.

The town was in a mess, yet the valuables were still around. It clearly was not the work of bandits. It was rare to see a huge town being robbed in China.

The town was deserted. Not a single person was around, but there were bloodstains everywhere. It was what the Preventive Committee was worried about the most. The bloodstains were a clear sign that something gruesome had happened here...

"A lot of people must have died, but I don't understand it. There wasn't a single corpse, not even a single part of their bodies," Qi Yang frowned.

It was the Preventive Committee's first time encountering anything like it. The place was full of bloodstains that had dried up in the wind. They could all imagine the massacre, but why would the culprit bother cleaning up all the remains? It was hard work, and it had not been long since the town last contacted the outside world. It was impossible for the culprit to have enough time to clean up the mess.

Lingling was closely inspecting the town. A member of the Preventive Committee came up to Qi Yang and was about to whisper into his ear. Qi Yang glared at him. The man quickly reacted and said aloud, "We found a mentally unstable old herdsman. He was sent to the nearest city to be treated. He seems to be a resident of this town."

"Can he talk properly?" Qi Yang asked.

The man shook his head.

"We'll pay him a visit after he recovers. Did any of you find anything?" Qi Yang asked his members.

"I think it's the Beijiang (North of Xinjiang) Desolate Beasts. They have been living in the northern boundary of our country. This Beiji Grassland is very close to the northern boundary. It's likely that the whole town is wiped out by the demon creatures before they could call for help... as for the corpses, I bet the savage Beijiang Desolate Beasts ate them all up," a man with a rough face and thick lips said.

"I agree with Daxie (Big Scorpion)," a woman agreed. Everyone called her Fujie (Sister Fu).

"There's another possibility. A Super Poison Spell might have caused it. The poison was strong enough to liquefy the remains... I also discovered wilted plants in the grassland to the north. The plants were stained with destructive energy; it's a sign of the Poison Element," the member that first showed up with information, Qu Kang, spoke up.

Qi Yang fell into deep thought after listening to the reports and speculations from his underlings.

As a matter of fact, he believed everything they had said was too one-sided. Something did not feel right to him.

He looked at Mo Fan and asked, "What do you think?"

"None of them are right," Mo Fan said.

"Why would you say so? It's obviously a Super Poison Spell!"

"You're so young, you might not have enough experience. It's what greedy creatures like the Beijiang Desolated Beasts do. They always ate up all the remains of their prey. There was a similar incident around thirteen years ago. It also took the authorities a long time to figure out the truth..." Daxie said.

"Don't just all talk at once, wait for your turn," Qi Yang said.

"That won't be necessary. Is there something to eat? We haven't eaten since the flight," Mo Fan asked.

"..."

The members of the Preventive Committee opened their eyes wide. They all looked at Mo Fan as if he was a monster.

The man still had the appetite to eat after learning such a horrible tragedy had occurred. The whole place was covered in blood. It was extremely gory, yet he still noticed that he was starving...

"You over there, set the place up so we can sit on the ground. You will soon know what happened here," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan, Lingling, Zhao Manyan sat on the ground and ate some food. Meanwhile, the members of the Preventive Committee continued to search for clues, as they were not pleased with Mo Fan's response.

"Leader, are they really here to lead us? Why do I feel like they are just a bunch of kids with some background?" Daxie asked Qi Yang in a soft voice.

"I think so too; they don't even bother listening to us or searching for clues. They didn't even care about the investigation. What were they thinking?" Fujie harrumphed coldly.

"He is..." Qi Yang was about to introduce Mo Fan to them when he suddenly felt the ground loosening, like something was about to come out of the ground.

Qi Yang was confused. He took a close look at the ground, but did not notice anything.

Mo Fan was done with his meal, and shouted, asking everyone to gather before him.

The members of the Preventive Committee were displeased, as they were still busy with their investigations, yet they had no choice but to obey the order. After all, Mo Fan and his crew were in charge now.

"Do you know what's causing this?" Qu Kang snapped.

Mo Fan looked into the horizon. The sun was slowly setting in the west. Its remaining brilliance scattered across the land, while the darkness slowly invaded from the horizon in the opposite direction...

Qu Kang went enraged when he saw Mo Fan enjoying the view of the sunset instead of answering his question, "What the heck are you all doing here? Are you only here to go through the motions? You're done now, hurry back to your comfortable cities!"

"Qu Kang!" Qi Yang snapped, his face dark.

Qu Kang was a stubborn man. He kept glaring at Mo Fan and his crew.

"Take a look yourself, they should be out at any second," Mo Fan pointed at the bloody town and said helplessly.

"What are we supposed to look at? Are you telling me the culprit is going to show up on its own!?" Qu Kang yelled.

Ghastly cries like wild beasts were suddenly coming from the town, piercing and eerie. The cries were coming from the ground, echoing in the ears of the members of the Preventive Committee.

The soil covered by dried bloodstains began to loosen up. The firm ground cracked apart as rotten hands reached out from the gaps, followed by broken heads and savage gazes, and finally festered bodies covered in blood!

Their bodies were quite disgusting to look at. Even though most of them still had arms, legs, and bodies, their body ratios were incompatible. It was as if... they were made of the body parts of different people!

Every corpse consisted of body parts of different people. Some had a man's head, but a woman's slender body. Some had bulky figures, but their arms and legs were those of children!

Their appearance would be amusing if they were made of playdough, but they were clearly living humans recently. The way their body parts were connected together was sending chills down the Preventive Committee's spines!

"My Heavens..." Fujie screamed. She was frozen with shock.

"Are these... the people of the town?" Daxie blurted out in disbelief.

"Undead! It's the undead!" Qi Yang said.

Mo Fan did not seem surprised when he saw the undead crawling out of the ground. He said, "If there's only blood, but no corpses, it's pretty obvious that the corpses have gone into the ground, and would only show up at night. You call yourself elites of the Preventive Committee? You don't even have the basic knowledge about the undead!"

Mo Fan was clearly very familiar with the undead after his encounter at the Ancient Capital.

The moment he set foot into the town, he knew who the culprit was, but he did not understand; the undead had already gone back to their graves, to their underground palace after the Calamity of the Ancient Capital. Why would they show up now?

Why would the town be overrun by undead?

Besides, the town was quite a distance away from the Land of the Undead. He had never heard of there being undead in Beijiang. A land that the sun was shining brightly upon was clearly not suitable for the undead!

The members of the Preventive Committee were ashamed after being scolded by Mo Fan. Indeed, they had not expected the undead were behind it.

"It's getting more complicated. Let's hope the two aren't related..." Lingling looked at the ghastly undead.

She could imagine what the people of the town had gone through, seeing how twisted and messed up they were. Apart from sorrow and grief, she was brimming with the anger from the sense of helplessness!

"The rest of you will continue to follow the Shepherd's trail, I'll let you know his whereabouts at all time. Send out your spies if necessary. I'll investigate the incident of this town myself. If the undead of the Ancient Capital is really behind it..." Mo Fan stopped talking.

The Calamity of the Ancient Capital would always remain an incurable scar in Mo Fan's heart. Whenever the scar was touched, hidden under his calm expression was anger that was building like a volcano!

Chapter 1358 Into the Dark Abyss Again

Mo Fan left Lingling and Zhao Manyan at Beijiang. He paid a visit to the Ancient Capital alone.

Mo Fan went to the Clock Tower Magic Association the very same night and found Han Ji. The old man was doing some research on incidents that had happened in the past. He was quite surprised to see Mo Fan.

Speaking of which, Mo Fan had not gone to the Ancient Capital since the calamity. The city had been rebuilding since then, trying to recover its past glory. The people were very strong here. They chose to stay, but it still felt like something was missing. They needed a long time to forget about the past.

"Did something happen?" Han Ji asked.

"I believe you guys are constantly calculating the location of the Dark Abyss, right?" Mo Fan asked.

Since Han Ji had learned that the Dark Abyss was the entrance to the Ancient King's imperial tomb, he had allocated some of his men to keep an eye on the Dark Abyss. Han Ji did not want such events to happen again!

"Mm, we are," Han Ji nodded.

"Where is it now?" Mo Fan asked sternly.

"Give me a second."

Han Ji left briefly and came back with a thick book. He was accompanied by a scholar who seemed to be an expert of the Space Element. Han Ji carefully listened to what the scholar was telling him.

"The Dark Abyss will actually relocate when the sun sets tomorrow, it will relocate to here..." Han Ji pointed to the map.

Han Ji was the only person who had access to the coordinates of the Dark Abyss. He would not allow anyone to know the pattern of the Dark Abyss' movements, but he did not hesitate to share the information with Mo Fan.

"I'm paying it a visit," Mo Fan said.

"Paying it a visit? You mean you're going to the Dark Abyss? What for?" Han Ji asked quickly.

"There's something I must ask them in person. I'll be going. Mm, it's pretty close to Ganxi City. I can take a plane there, it won't take long," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan did not stay in the Ancient Capital for too long, taking a plane to Ganxi City. The next opening of the Dark Abyss would be around two hundred kilometers from the city.

When Mo Fan arrived at the desolated yellow land the next day, the Dark Abyss was already there. The dark aura from it was like an ill omen that a demon king was about to appear. Anyone in their right mind would not dare to set foot in the Dark Abyss.

There was no sign of undead around the Dark Abyss. It was unlikely to see undead in living human territories. Mo Fan's tiny figure slowly disappeared into the entrance of the pitch-black furnace of the underworld, as he entered the mysterious and terrifying world!

Mo Fan stood on the edge of the Dark Abyss and took a deep breath. He looked down into the abyss and saw the faces filled with hatred, hunger, and rage that he had expected. The faces were blended into one as the Dark Abyss slowly spun around, like a vast ocean with endless pain.

Mo Fan had jumped into the Dark Abyss once. He knew the Little Loach Pendant's light would help him reach the bottom of the abyss safely. However, he really did not want to experience that fear a second time.

Mo Fan closed his eyes. The dark aura was strong as usual.

Mo Fan jumped into the abyss and disappeared into the sea of undead...

After landing in the dark space, Mo Fan followed the path and ventured deeper. As usual, countless undead were wriggling like slow-moving clouds above him. Corpses were falling onto the ground like rain, but those that landed close to Mo Fan turned into puddles of bloody mud.

Mo Fan continued forward, and reached the white tomb. The imperial tomb that had existed for more than a few thousand years was exactly the same as before. It still gave Mo Fan a chill when he saw it

The watching evil eyes were still there!

Mo Fan reached the corridor. There was no resistance. He successfully walked to the end.

The Eternal Wicked Lotus was no longer there. Mo Fan had no trouble entering the next hall, since the door was no longer there.

Mo Fan simply picked one of the bridges among the Nine Bridges of Death and One Bridge of Life. The bridge did not lead him to the Space of Death. It led Mo Fan straight to the Blood Altar, to the Blood Throne...

Mo Fan had not been to the Blood Altar last time, so this was his first time seeing it. The floor was black, and smooth enough that he could see his own reflection. His surroundings were as pitch-black as the cold, void, eternal galaxy...

The Blood Altar floated in the emptiness, spinning slowly. However, people standing on it were unaware of the spin. It was impossible to tell directions.

A suit of black armor was seated on the Blood Throne. It was empty inside, yet it remained in a certain posture, as if there was a person in deep thought or slumbering like a statue inside it. However, it emitted an overwhelming presence!

"Chief Military Instructor," Mo Fan said, his emotions stirring when he saw the black armor.

"You are not my descendant," Zhan Kong's voice replied, even though there was nothing inside the armor. However, the eyes inside the armor lit up.

"I might not be a pure descendant of Bo City, but I'm your student!" Mo Fan answered.

The Ancient King did not respond.

Mo Fan knew the 'person' inside the black armor was not completely the savage and magnificent king of the undead. It still possessed the soul and memory of the Chief Military Instructor that had sworn to protect Bo City to the death.

He had gone to Tianshan Mountain to save Qin Yu'Er. That alone had proven that he was still the Zhan Kong he knew!

Besides, the Nine Bridges of Death and One Bridge of Life did not lead Mo Fan to the Space of Death, indicating that the Ancient King was being merciful to him.

"A town in Beijiang was wiped out by undead. Everyone in the town died and was turned into undead... are your underlings responsible for that?" Mo Fan asked.

The 'person' before Mo Fan was the ruler of the Kingdom of Undead. Even Han Ji would not expect Mo Fan to go into the Dark Abyss to ask if he was responsible for it!

The fate of a little town seemed insignificant when compared to some of the calamities that happened, but to Mo Fan, it was more serious than any of the calamities...

If the undead at the Ancient Capital were responsible for it, it meant the current peace would be broken once again. The undead would no longer stay in their tombs, and would start to invade human territories again. It also meant that the Ancient King had declared war against humans as the ruler of the Undead, and intended to drag the living into the abyss of death!

It was definitely something that Mo Fan did not want to see!

He was afraid that the Ancient King's response would be "Yes!".

It would mean Mo Fan would be declaring war against the Ancient King, even though there was still a part of the person he respected the most in the entity before him. As a living human, Mo Fan would have to fight the ruler of the Undead to death!

"No," the Ancient King replied.

Mo Fan finally recovered his usual expression. He let out a relieved sigh.

He was afraid of hearing the Ancient King say "yes", but he still had to ask. He would have no choice but to demonize. The truth was, even Mo Fan was not confident he would stand a chance against the Ancient King, even with the power of the Demon Element!

"She wants to see you, no matter what you've become," Mo Fan told him.

Qin Yu'Er had returned to her own life, but she was waiting alone for him. Mu Ningxue would visit her and talk to her occasionally, and she could easily tell that...

The Ancient King's face slowly appeared under the hollow helmet. It was Zhan Kong's face, but his skin was gray, and transparent enough to see the intertwining veins underneath.

However, his face soon disappeared once mroe, leaving just a pair of cold eyes again.

The eyes eventually disappeared too, leaving just the black armor in a sitting posture on the Blood Throne. There was no sign of life, yet its presence was as overwhelming as a mountain!

"Chief Military Instructor..." Mo Fan said. His emotions were a little unstable.

There was no response. The only sound echoing at the Blood Altar was Mo Fan's own voice.

"Thank you for teaching me many things," Mo Fan took a step back. He saluted the black armor the same way he did when he was training at Snowy Peak Mountain. "I told Zhang Xiaohou that everyone has someone that serves as a spiritual pillar in their heart. Even if we are facing the most difficult situation, we won't panic as long as that spiritual pillar is with us, as that person will support us even if the sky was to fall... Zhang Xiaohou told me that I'm a person like that to him. He asked me if I have anyone like that, but I said no..."

The black armor remained stationary. It was like Mo Fan was talking to himself...

After everything fell silent, Mo Fan continued with a self-mocking laugh, "I actually lied to him. Many times, I'm the one that is trembling in fear because of how useless I am."

Chapter 1359 Stand By a Tree Stump and Wait For a Hare

Mo Fan made his way back to Hohhot and transited to Hanzhong. He received an update after leaving the Dark Abyss. The old herdsman that had witnessed the destruction of his town had woken up.

Mo Fan made his way to the hospital, but he realized everyone in the room was silent.

He glanced around and noticed Qu Kang and Fujie were not around. The other members of the Preventive Committee had gathered at the old herdsman's sickbed.

The old herdsman's eyes were hollow, a sign that he had suffered a tremendous blow mentally. Mo Fan was wondering if the man had actually recovered from the shock.

"Mo Fan, you better hear what he has to say," Zhao Manyan said in a deep voice.

Mo Fan went up to the old herdsman. He could see the old man's hands were trembling.

"Old man, did you really see the pyramid?" Mo Fan asked sternly.

Mo Fan had come immediately after hearing a brief description of the old man's statement on the phone. He believed it would be best to ask the old man in person.

The old man raised his head and looked at Mo Fan with dull eyes. He nodded.

"Can you briefly describe what happened when you saw the pyramid? I've seen the pyramid in Egypt, so I would like to compare it with the one you saw," Mo Fan said.

"There's the deathly light, the Realm of the pyramid, and lots of undead, black and gray, the triangle mirror..." the old herdsman's words were barely intelligible.

When people experienced extreme sorrow and fear, they would selectively forget the past if the scenes were too painful.

The old herdsman was currently in a situation like that. He had witnessed something unusually terrifying. He was struggling to describe what he had seen in detail. He only remembered seeing the pyramid, the undead, and blood everywhere...

"The deathlight of the pyramid... Mo Fan, only a pyramid's Realm would allow the undead to move about in broad daylight. I already asked the old man about it before you came. His description of the light is the same as the glow of the mirages we saw in Egypt. I don't think the old man made it all up," Zhao Manyan spoke up.

"The undead of the Ancient Capital are still in their tombs. They have nothing to do with the incident." Mo Fan looked out of the window. For some reason, he did not feel the usual warmth from the clear sky. It felt like something was making the sky hazy and was blocking it.

"Could it really be undead from Egypt? But, why would Egypt's undead show up in the northern territory of our country? That's impossible!" Qi Yang blurted out in disbelief.

He had never heard of Egypt's undead showing up in other countries. Qi Yang had already reported the incident to the Magic Association, but the Beiguo (North Country) Magic Association insisted it was just some misbehaving undead coming out from their graves and had killed everyone in the town.

Mo Fan was about to ask more questions when a few people wearing the white-orange uniforms of the Enforcement Union came into the room. One of them was wearing a tall hat. It was rather artistic and strange.

He Feikun strutted up to them. "I'm an Enforcer of the Beiguo Magic Association, He Feikun! We have some questions to ask this survivor!"

He was clearly not asking for permission, but notifying them what he was here for.

"Old man, did you say you saw the pyramid?" He Feikun asked. He sounded suspicious of the old man.

"I...I already told you everything!" The old herdsman was mentally unstable. He immediately lost control of his emotions when the man doubted him.

"Humph, what a ridiculous excuse you've come up with! I believe you're covering up for the culprit, am I right?" He Feikun took another step forward.

"How can you say something like that!?" Qi Yang snapped.

"I can say whatever I want! The Beiguo Enforcement Union is in charge now. You can hold me responsible if anything happens. Your Preventive Committee can continue on with your work, and stop interfering with ours," He Feikun replied disdainfully.

He Feikun went forward without waiting for the others' response. He snapped imperiously, "What pyramid? I'm sure it was just the work of an evil Undead Mage. We'll be taking the old man with us."

"What? He's our important clue. How can you take him just like that?" Qi Yang was furious.

"Can you please use your brain?" the Enforcer, He Feikun, snapped. He glanced at the Preventive Committee and Mo Fan's crew disdainfully and said, "The whole town is dead, but why is he alive? He doesn't know any magic. If he witnessed it all, how is he still alive? Most ridiculously, he said that he saw a pyramid! The pyramids are in Egypt; since when does our country have a pyramid? None of his words make any sense. He's either a lunatic that has lost his mind and kept thinking about ridiculous things, or he's an accomplice of the culprit, trying to mess with our investigation!"

The members of the Preventive Committee were left speechless.

The truth was, they were willing to believe the old man in the beginning. After all, he did see the undead, and his description of what happened matched the details they noticed at the scenes. However, as soon as he mentioned the pyramid, everyone assumed the old man had yet to recover from his shock.

"I'll find some valuable information from him. Isn't the Preventive Committee following the trail of the Black Vatican? If it really has something to do with the Black Vatican, I don't mind you being involved. If not, just mind your own business!" He Feikun snarled.

Before anyone could speak, He Feikun dragged the old herdsman away and left. The old herdsman suffered a mental breakdown again after being forced around and interrogated. He kept smashing the things around him and cursing.

"See, I told you he's crazy," He Feikun grinned coldly back at them.

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Lingling were overwhelmed by anger. They had come all the way here to search for clues and find out the truth, yet this asshole had come out of nowhere and driven their important witness insane. How were they supposed to continue with the investigation?

"Mo Fan, what do you think?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"I don't know. What the old man said was indeed ridiculous. The pyramid... that's not possible. I was also thinking that an evil Undead Mage was behind it on my way here," Mo Fan admitted.

"I'll show you the recording. See if you think the old man's description of the Realm of the pyramid was on point. I'm a little light-headed now," Zhao Manyan said.

Zhao Manyan played the recording for Mo Fan. It was the description that the old man had given about the Realm of the pyramid when Mo Fan was not around.

Mo Fan listened to the recording carefully and frowned.

"I don't think anyone that hasn't seen the Realm of the pyramids before could describe it in such detail," Zhao Manyan declared.

"Likewise; it seems he did see the Realm of the pyramid," Mo Fan nodded.

"Doesn't that mean he actually saw a pyramid?"

"Is there really a power that can move the pyramid to somewhere so far away in this world?" Mo Fan asked.

"I'm afraid it's actually possible," Lingling said.

The old man's description was on point. If they could find the reason why only he survived, it would mean he was telling them the truth!

"It's useless making wild guesses here. They are the only clue we have," Mo Fan whispered.

"Are you referring to the Shepherd and Cheng Ying?" Zhao Manyan said.

"Mm, I really hope the old man was only imagining it, and mixed up the things he saw in a movie with what happened in real life," Mo Fan said.

It was not like Mo Fan did not have any pity for the old herdsman, but even he was having a hard time imagining what would happen if a pyramid actually showed up in Beijiang...

Normally, the Enforcement Union was responsible for incidents like this. It was obvious that He Feikun was an absolute asshole and a piece of trash, but unfortunately, the Preventive Committee's first priority was to track down the Black Vatican and gain access to its higher-ups.

The Shepherd and Cheng Ying were still on the loose, living like normal people. They were even being extremely friendly to the strangers around them. No one would possibly think they had anything to do with the Black Vatican.

Mo Fan did not make a move, either. The Black Vatican was being extremely cautious. The two were still waiting patiently, even after they assumed they had gotten away. Perhaps their higher-ups were afraid the two would bring them trouble if their identities had been compromised.

"Say, is there a chance that the Cold Prince and the Chief Extraditor have given up on them?" Zhao Manyan was getting a little impatient.

The Shepherd and Cheng Ying were not moving after so long. Mo Fan's Darkness Corruption would not last forever. Once its effects were gone, the two would surely slip away. Everything they had done so far would be in vain!

"Their ranks aren't low; I don't think the Black Vatican is going to give up on them. They are probably trying to make sure everything is fine," Mo Fan said confidently.

"But what if they aren't crucial to the conspiracy they are busy with?" Zhao Manyan said.

It was a possibility. They had to consider every scenario, knowing the risks involved.

"We've tried our best," Mo Fan could only say.

The only thing that Mo Fan could do was stay on the two's trail. They were an important clue that Leng Qing had traded her life for. He had to keep following them. Even if he was not able to find the authorities of the Black Vatican, Mo Fan would not have any regrets, since he had done everything he could!

His targets were extremely patient. Mo Fan took his time, too. He continued to cultivate with the energy he had obtained from Little Loach's recent upgrade.

His Shadow Element was about to have a breakthrough. He was using every second he had, hoping to increase his odds against the Black Vatican before the clash took place!

Zhao Manyan was pretty bored, and kept walking back and forth. When he returned to Mo Fan, he felt like he was about to go insane when he saw Mo Fan calmly meditating.

Mo Fan's eyes suddenly sprang open as Zhao Manyan was about to leave. His eyes emitted a sharp glitter!

"A breakthrough?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Mm! And... they are on the move!" Mo Fan replied.

Chapter 1360 Red Alert, Part One

Northguard Fortress...

The city had existed for a long time. It used to be called Northguard Pass, but it was upgraded into a fortress, a special checkpoint along the boundary with a magic market.

The market was inside the fortress. The fortress was surrounded by thick steel walls, with huge towers at the front and back. It was spectacular and magnificent, with a stern and imperious aura!

Mo Fan and his crew were utterly confused. When the Shepherd and Cheng Ying left the city, they came straight to the Northguard Fortress, and headed north to the Yellow Valley.

Since they were heading to somewhere remote and desolate, Zhao Manyan had no choice but to stay behind at the fortress. There was nothing but barren yellow land ahead!

Zhao Manyan and Lingling waited inside the fortress. Only an expert of the Shadow Element like Mo Fan could afford to stay on the trail of their targets. If they went with him, the enemy would most likely notice their presence. The Black Vatican was known for how cautious they were. They had not lowered their guard even now...

Lingling was still investigating the incident of the little town. She had found some information related to ancient Egypt.

"I doubt you will find anything at this rate, why don't you just ask?" Zhao Manyan said when he saw the topic that Lingling was researching.

"Ask who?" Lingling nudged her huge glasses.

"General Fenna; she's in charge of a city in Egypt. I still have her number, hehe!" Zhao Manyan chuckled.

Before the finals of the World College Tournament, Zhao Manyan was greatly impressed by the lady General during the battle against the undead in Egypt. She gladly gave Zhao Manyan her number and told him to contact her if he needed anything.

Zhao Manyan had been extremely busy lately. He had completely forgotten about her.

Zhao Manyan dialed an international number. He could share their situation with her and ask for her thoughts.

"Is this General Fenna?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"It's me, why are you calling me again? I told you I'm not interested in Asian men," General Fenna replied coldly.

"..." Zhao Manyan was left speechless. Fine, he admitted that he did try to flirt with her... "I really have some business to discuss with you this time."

Zhao Manyan told General Fenna everything that the old herdsman had told him.

Fenna fell silent for some time. She finally responded when Zhao Manyan asked if she knew anything. "Theoretically, it's not impossible."

"Theory or not isn't really our concern. Mo Fan has already dove pretty deep into the Black Vatican..." Zhao Manyan replied.

"Basically, there's an ancient legend about the mirages in Egypt. Even we can't tell if it's real or not," Fenna said.

"What legend?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"It's about Osiris and Khonsu; it's a story similar to Pandora's Box... I'll briefly explain it to you," Fenna said.

The story about Osiris and Khonsu was not widely known in Egypt. The Egyptians assumed the mirages were just a natural phenomenon, a heavenly punishment.

Only a few knew about Khonsu's story. Fenna was a general, so she had more or less heard about the ancient legend. However, it was impossible to verify if the legend was true.

"Triangle Dimensional Mirror?" Zhao Manyan and Lingling exchanged glances with one another in astonishment.

The old herdsman did mention something similar when he was murmuring to himself. However, everything that the old man said was too unbelievable!

"Apparently, the Triangle Dimensional Mirror doesn't really exist. Some say it's placed inside the pyramid... I'm not really an expert when it comes to ancient artifacts. Give me some time, I'll try asking about the Triangle Dimensional Mirror," Fenna said.

Fenna was astounded to hear a mirage had shown up in China. It was definitely necessary for her to look into it.

"Alright, please hurry!" Zhao Manyan felt a great chill running down his spine after hearing the tale of the legend from Fenna.

Lingling shared the same feeling. The legend about Osiris and Khonsu matched some of the things that the old man had tried to tell them. They now had a stronger feeling that the old herdsman was actually telling the truth!

Fenna needed some time to investigate the ancient legend. However, Zhao Manyan had a strong feeling that the legend was real. He was feeling extremely uneasy being on standby.

"Why don't we go buy some equipment that's useful against the undead? There's a huge magic market here, I bet we can find everything we need," Zhao Manyan said.

"Sure," Lingling nodded.

Waiting blindly was not going to do them any good. It was better to take some precautions. Perhaps they were really up against Egypt's undead. They both felt that the old man had spoken the truth!

Hopefully, Mo Fan was able to collect some important information. They had a feeling that something serious was about to happen!

The two went to the magic city. Zhao Manyan focused on buying antidotes, since most undead had strong poison. A whole arm would fester if one did not treat a tiny scratch inflicted by an undead nail!

In addition to that, if they could buy one or two pieces of Ice Element equipment, it would be extremely useful against the undead. Zhao Manyan had quite a lot of money with him. It was better to be prepared than not!

"Speaking of which, isn't this Northguard Garrison a part of the Great Wall?" Zhao Manyan glanced around the fortress as he recalled something.

The magic city was surrounded by the tall walls of the fortress. If they kept heading north, there was indeed an ancient long wall. Its aged bricks were aligned with the yellow land and the hills; the wall continued to the east and the west, forming a magnificent barrier protecting the Central Plains.

"The wall was built to defend ourselves against the Beijiang Desolate Beasts," Lingling said.

"Aren't Beijiang Desolate Beasts massive and strong? Can the walls really fend them off?" Zhao Manyan glanced into the distance.

The wall was huge compared to the size of a human. It was extremely difficult for humans to climb over it, so it could easily fend off an invading army.

The problem was, the wall was only useful against ordinary people. A Mage would have no problems crossing it, let alone demon creatures who could jump twenty meters into the air!

The demon creatures could easily trample the rock wall to the ground. He wondered why the wall was still standing today.

"You're clearly an uncivilized man!" a tanned woman harrumphed coldly when Zhao Manyan expressed his doubts.

Zhao Manyan was standing on the wall surrounding the fortress. There were a lot of Battlemages around him.

The person that scoffed at Zhao Manyan was a female soldier. She had a slim waist and an extremely huge bust. Her handsome stance was perfect for someone like Zhao Manyan, who had a uniform fetish!

Zhao Manyan never cared what a beautiful lady said, even if she was despising him. He would always approach a woman with a shameless smile.

"Can you please explain to me what's special about the wall, then?" Zhao Manyan inquired.

"Northguard Garrison has been attacked countless times during the last thousand years. The enemy's numbers were always higher than the number of defenders on the walls, but they never invaded the fortress successfully! It's all because of the Great Wall!" The woman obviously had great faith and respect for the ancient wall. She would not allow anyone to disrespect it!

"Is that so? But I feel like the spells of a bunch of Earth Mages aren't necessarily weaker than the wall, right?" Zhao Manyan pressed.

"Imbecile!" The female soldier despised Zhao Manyan even more.

"Hey, don't go yet; you haven't told me the reason!"

"I have no intention to speak to the likes of you," The female soldier left, followed by a patrol of Battlemages. They were all glaring at Zhao Manyan with great hostility.

Zhao Manyan was utterly confused. He did not believe he had said anything wrong. The Great Wall was just a tourist attraction now. It would not provide them with any practical value if a battle was to break out.

Zhao Manyan's phone started ringing as he was cursing the proud lady soldier under his breath. Zhao Manyan thought it was Fenna, but he heard Mo Fan's voice yelling into his ear when he picked up.

"Ask the Northern Pass to go on red alert right now!"