

Versatile 1371

Chapter 1371 Fighting a Lone Battle

Blue Bat and Violet Ghost were shocked, but the latter was able to keep his calm. He asked in a solemn voice, "How did you know?"

"I killed his female associate and forced him to eat her heart. I was quite enjoying myself, but he managed to run away while I was being careless," Mo Fan chuckled. The Black Clergy nearby shivered in fear upon seeing his smile.

This Northdeer was clearly insane!

Violet Ghost believed in Mo Fan. He glared at his men.

"How did the Enforcement Union find us!?" Violet Ghost hissed.

Violet Ghost did not suspect Mo Fan. First of all, Mo Fan had been unconscious and half-dead. It was impossible for him to lead the Enforcement Union to them. Secondly, if Mo Fan had really brought the Enforcement Union to them, why would he bother telling them now, just to earn their trust? It was meaningless.

"I'll deal with him. Now that I've joined you, I must show you how valuable I am," Mo Fan said to Violet Ghost.

"Alright, but don't make a move unless it's necessary. Let's see how many people they have," Violet Ghost said cautiously.

The place was no longer safe if the people of the Enforcement Union were aware of their location. Violet Ghost immediately stopped the Summoning of the Underworld Gate and ordered his men to relocate the magic formation.

The Black Clergy stayed to protect the Mages who were in charge of the magic formation. They left under Violet Ghost's lead.

The group began to withdraw, but Blue Bat remained beside Mo Fan.

"I'll come with you," Blue Bat said.

"Sure, as long as you can keep up with me," Mo Fan grinned indifferently.

Before Blue Bat could react, she saw Mo Fan's grin slowly turning into a black puff of smoke. When she took a closer look, there was only a black mist scattering in the air, with no sign of Mo Fan.

Blue Bat wanted to follow him, but he was just too quick for her. Left with no choice, she could only follow Violet Ghost and the others who were relocating to another place.

Opening the Underworld Gate was not a simple task, so they could not afford to be disturbed at all. Since the people of the Enforcement Union had shown up, there was no way Violet Ghost would stay in the same spot.

That being said, Violet Ghost did not trust Mo Fan completely. However, while they were withdrawing from the place, the informer that Violet Ghost had planted close to the Enforcement Union told him a bunch of Enforcers were on their way to his location. Violet Ghost was even more convinced that Mo Fan was Northdeer. He was also glad that he had decided to save Mo Fan's life, as he ended up saving his own life too!

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Mo Fan had Fiendish Night. Even a Super Mage would struggle to avoid being tracked by him, let alone a normal Enforcer.

An Enforcer's rank was higher than a regular member of the Enforcement Union. They were usually more experienced and stronger than regular members of the Enforcement Union, and were entrusted with special missions.

Mo Fan had met the Enforcer before. He was one of He Feikun's associates, who had come to bring the mentally-unstable old herdsman away.

Mo Fan was clear on the overall strength of He Feikun's squad. If they were thinking of taking out this force of the Black Vatican led by Violet Ghost on their own, they were most likely going to be wiped out instead!

As such, Mo Fan did not expose them to set them up. He was saving their lives! Violet Ghost was no weaker than him, and had four other Blue Deacons with him, including Blue Bat, whose strength remained unknown, not to mention around a hundred Black Clergy. He Feikun would only stand a chance if he brought along a Vice Elder of the Enforcement Union. Otherwise, he was only going to get himself killed!

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"What are you looking for?" an eerie voice appeared behind Jiang Lin. He quickly turned around in a cold sweat.

He saw a man in a blue outfit, their face full of scars. Most importantly, it felt like something was grabbing onto him firmly. His mouth was covered by two hands, preventing him from screaming for help...

When Jiang Lin stopped panicking, he was shocked to see that his own shadow was grabbing onto him!

-What kind of ability is this?- Jiang Lin had never seen an ability like this before. He stared at the Blue Deacon with wide eyes. He could feel his death approaching.

"Don't panic, listen to me carefully," Mo Fan smiled. He knew the smile on his current face would not seem too friendly, nor was it any convincing, but this was where his temperament came into play. He believed he could explain the situation to the man in the shortest time possible, "You're with He Feikun, right? I'm the Tree of Oath."

“Tree of Oath?” Jiang Lin was astounded when he heard the name.

The Tree of Oath was the Enforcement Union’s secret code. Even though there was a chance that the Black Vatican had figured it out somehow, the mention of the name could still ease the atmosphere slightly.

“You do know that it’s very easy for me to kill you,” Mo Fan continued calmly.

Jiang Lin nodded. He believed in his instincts. If his shadow stabbed him with its claws, he could not even struggle. He was an Advanced Mage, but he had a feeling that the man could kill him as easy as the flip of his hand!

“How many men do you have?” Mo Fan asked.

“He Feikun is in charge; there are three Enforcers, including me, and ten other members of the Enforcement Union,” Jiang Lin said honestly.

“It’s not enough. The enemy has more, and Violet Ghost is among them, too. Take your men and leave, I’ll stay on the trail,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had two plans in mind. If the Enforcement Union had enough people, he would immediately lead them to Violet Ghost and take the Black Vatican out. He would then put up an act and save both Violet Ghost and Blue Bat so they would lead him to the Chief Extraditor and Unas, who were the closest to the Cold Prince.

If the Enforcement Union’s numbers were not enough, Mo Fan would advise them to leave. First, they would only end up dying if they were to engage the enemy. Second, he had already earned Violet Ghost’s trust. This group of the Black Vatican was only a part of the conspiracy. Taking them out now might even mess up his plan!

“What should I tell He Feikun? He’s a very impatient guy,” Jiang Lin said.

“He’s an idiot. It’s only going to mess up the whole operation. Tell him the Black Vatican isn’t here. They had already withdrawn when you arrived,” Mo Fan told him.

Jiang Lin nodded. If he told He Feikun everything, the man would never believe what Mo Fan said. He would lead his men and come here right away. Jiang Lin had worked with He Feikun for a long time, and was extremely familiar with his character. Mo Fan had also met He Feikun at the hospital. He knew how stubborn and arrogant the man was, definitely not the kind to achieve great things.

“May I ask who you are... you must be one of the respectful seniors if you managed to sneak into the Black Vatican as a Blue Deacon?” Jiang Lin asked.

Mo Fan shook his head with a wry smile.

Mo Fan was just a nobody. Taking the identity of Northdeer was made possible by sacrificing endless lives. Even Leng Qing, an Elder of the Enforcement Union, had ‘died’ to preserve it. Mo Fan only happened to be the last person receiving the baton. The people might cheer him for making it to the finishing line, but they would completely forget about the others that were panting heavily while lying on the spots where they passed on the baton.

“What is happening in the east?” Mo Fan asked as he recalled something.

“We don’t know either. Our superiors ordered us to work together with the Preventive Committee and deal with the members of the Black Vatican that are hiding here. However, during this period, many fortresses have dispatched their troops to the east. Senior, what’s happening here?” Jiang Lin asked.

“We only found out that the Black Vatican is Summoning creatures from the Underworld to invade our land... yet the majority of the troops are being sent east, where a great storm is coming, further weakening our defense. Speaking of adding hail to snow!” Mo Fan sighed.

Mo Fan was angry, too. The information he had gathered was enough to prove that the Cold Prince was up to something, yet the backup he requested never arrived. The members of the Enforcement Union that had been sent here were clearly nowhere enough!

It was like a rat plague was about to happen. The streets were already crawling with rats, but not only was the government reluctant to act, the authorities were placing their attention somewhere else instead. How could he not be disappointed?

However, how could Mo Fan withdraw after learning what was happening?

His face was calm, but his rage had erupted like a volcano when he learned how the Black Vatican had brutally massacred the people of the Qiqige Tribe, let alone the slaughter they were planning to bring to the cities warded by the Northguard Fortress!

There was no backup and response from the authorities. If he gave up, the whole land would turn into Hell. The people being evacuated to Feihuang City would be trampled to death by the creatures of the Underworld!

Mo Fan might be disappointed, but he had no choice but to clench his teeth and stay on the trail. Once he was done here, he swore he would punch the cold-hearted authorities in the face!

“Don’t tell anyone you saw me,” Mo Fan said.

Jiang Lin nodded. He knew not everyone in the Enforcement Union was trustworthy.

“Can you please pass on a message to Commander Zhang Xiaohou at the Ancient Capital? Tell him to convince the remaining army in the North Valley to hold their line of defense at all costs,” Mo Fan said.

“I give you my word, senior...senior, is the situation really that serious?” Jiang Lin asked seriously.

The line of defense at the North Valley...

The scale of the battle sounded like nothing he had been through. He could not help but doubt if the Black Vatican could really stir up something so crazy.

“I really don’t want to see an entire city stacked up with dead bodies again,” Mo Fan replied.

“Is senior a survivor of the Ancient Capital? Senior, don’t you worry, we will not let the Black Vatican get its way, I swear on my life!” Jiang Lin swore.

Mo Fan was slightly relieved after seeing Jiang Lin’s determination. It turned out that he was not fighting a lone battle, after all!

“I’ll be going,” Mo Fan said.

“Take care, senior,” Jiang Lin replied.

“You too.”

The darker the journey ahead, the more precious it was to find a companion along the way. Mo Fan had no idea if he would see the Enforcer again.

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Mo Fan stumbled into Blue Bat on his way back.

Blue Bat looked at Mo Fan and asked, “Where is the guy?”

“There, mixed up with the soil. You want to take a look?” Mo Fan asked.

“Violet Ghost told you to stay put!” Blue Bat was displeased by Mo Fan’s carelessness.

“Oh, I might consider listening to that if it came from you,” Mo Fan replied.

Blue Bat could not react for a moment. She quickly dodged Mo Fan’s gaze after calming down and changed the topic, “Let’s go; the guy is most likely the Enforcement Union’s scout. Things are going to be troublesome when they realize he’s dead!”

“It’s fine, I’ll kill them all when they come,” Mo Fan replied.

“Humph, did you forget that you were almost eaten by the condors?” Blue Bat said.

“I admit that I couldn’t take the guy on, but one day, I’ll hang him on a cliff and let the condors eat him slowly while he is still wide awake!” Mo Fan promised.

Blue Bat had already gotten used to how bombastic a person Mo Fan was. She simply ignored him and did not even bother checking the ‘remains’ of the Enforcer, quickly leaving with Mo Fan.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan was having a weird feeling, too. He bet not many people could curse themselves so descriptively and blatantly like him!

Chapter 1372 I Dare to Stop the Ruler-level Creatures, Too!

The Northguard Fortress...

As the ancient wall disappeared, the Yoked carried out their new wave of attacks.

The soldiers of the Northguard Fortress had no choice but to face the Yoked head-on. Many Mages had to go down the wall and hope they could survive while being surrounded by the Yoked.

They had to send someone to destroy the Cursed Runes that were enhancing the Yoked’s defenses. Otherwise, even Advanced Spells were not enough to kill the Yoked!

To do that, the Mages with the Wind Element, Shadow Element, and Earth Element had to sneak into the enemy's army, resulting in lots of casualties. The majority of them never returned. They were either intercepted by the Yoked or dragged away by the Underworld Monarch Frog's tongue when they accidentally got too close to the creature.

Several Advanced Mages died to the Underworld Monarch Frog. The soldiers of the Northguard Fortress had no choice but to risk their lives just to keep the army of undead at bay.

"Watch for the Yoked with several layers of Runes on them. They are the key targets!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

Many soldiers had died in the first wave. Zhao Manyan had volunteered to help; he could not sit back, knowing they were short on numbers.

He was now with the troop entrusted with taking out the Yoked who were distributing the Runes!

Lingling's analysis and observation discerned that there were two kinds of the Yoked. One was the Yoked that received the defensive Runes from the Underworld Monarch Frog. The other kind were Runic Yoked, who were distributing the defensive Runes to the rest of the Yoked through the chains.

In other words, the Underworld Monarch Frog could not directly transfer the defensive runes to the Yoked at the front. It could only transfer the Runes to the Runic Yoked, and let them distribute the Runes to the rest of the Yoked.

It was a great weakness of the Underworld Monarch Frog. In other words, even without relying on the ancient walls, they just had to kill the Runic Yoked first, and the rest of the Yoked would turn into ordinary Warrior-level creatures. They would then be vulnerable to the magic blasts and the Advanced Spells.

The Runic Yoked's defense was not enhanced by the defensive Runes, so it was possible to kill them. Unfortunately, most of these Runic Yoked were very close to the Underworld Monarch Frog, so when the Mages were close enough to attack the Runic Yoked, they were also within the attack range of the Underworld Monarch Frog! It was difficult to keep track of the range. Many Mages had already died!

Zhao Manyan also had an unyielding spirit too. He had volunteered to join the front line and drive the Underworld Monarch Frog back to the Underworld at all costs.

In terms of defense, Zhao Manyan was clearly no weaker than the Yoked strengthened by the defensive Runes. Most importantly, despite their outstanding defense, the Yoked's attacks were only average. If both sides were similarly sturdy, why would they bother wasting their time on the Yoked?

As a result, the troop that Zhao Manyan was in managed to break through the Yoked's defense and go right at the Runic Yoked hiding at the back of the army.

"I'll attract the Underworld Monarch Frog's attention. Get it done as quickly as possible!" Commander Bin Wei was fighting in the front line now. She used the demon lilies to move through the air and approach the Underworld Monarch Frog rapidly.

The Underworld Monarch Frog's eyes bulged from their sockets. Similar to true frogs, it had bad eyesight. It could only see things that were moving quickly.

Its eyes rolled upward, obviously watching Bin Wei. It suddenly flicked its tongue out and snapped a huge demon lily in half!

Bin Wei crossed her hands in front of her and pulled her fingers apart gently.

Something was moving in the air. It was completely transparent initially, but barely visible when the dust swept past. Countless vines scattered above the Underworld Monarch Frog. Poisonous and thorned, the vines grew rapidly as soon as they made contact with the Underworld Monarch Frog. They completely covered the monster, who was like a small mountain of flesh, in an instant!

The Underworld Monarch Frog let out a loud croak and shook itself. It shattered the thorny vines to pieces with ease. The vines were clearly not strong enough to penetrate the Underworld Monarch Frog's body. If the vines could inject their poison into the Underworld Monarch Frog, they would paralyze the creature temporarily.

The Underworld Monarch Frog locked its gaze on Bin Wei as its body suddenly sank a little. The yellow ground began to crack apart as it could no longer withstand its weight.

The Underworld Monarch Frog bounced up into the air, its pitch-black mouth lunging at Bin Wei like a terrifying abyss. It did not matter which direction Bin Wei tried to dodge in, as it would not make any difference at all.

The Underworld Monarch Frog's mouth was big enough to swallow a cloud. Bin Wei quickly grabbed up, feeling a strong sense of death approaching!

An invisible vine appeared in her hand out of nowhere. Its other end was connected to the clouds. With a mere thought, the vine dragged Bin Wei high up into the sky at its fastest speed!

The black mouth had already trapped her, but just as the Underworld Monarch Frog was about to close it, she soared higher into the sky.

Bin Wei looked at the vine that had descended from the clouds and let out a relieved sigh.

She had the Cloud Vines and the Demon Lilies, two special plant species. The Cloud Vines allowed her to move freely in the air!

However, just as Bin Wei was feeling relieved after escaping from the Underworld Monarch Frog's mouth, the creature flung its enormous tongue at Bin Wei as it was falling, taking her by surprise.

"Water Curtain!"

Zhao Manyan quickly tossed a huge Water Curtain into the air. The Water Curtain stood between Bin Wei and the Underworld Monarch Frog, blocking the deadly tongue.

Bin Wei was quite experienced. She immediately soared higher with the Cloud Vine after receiving the help to distance herself from the Underworld Monarch Frog.

BANG!

The ground cracked into pieces when the Underworld Monarch Frog landed heavily. The surrounding Yoked and Mages were knocked to the ground by the enormous impact.

Zhao Manyan had long braced himself for it, yet he still staggered a little...

Unfortunately, a Yoked that was knocked flying by the impact happened to come right at him!

Zhao Manyan managed to react in time. He avoided the crash by twisting his body beyond the normal capabilities of a human in mid-air.

"It's a Runic Yoked!" Zhao Manyan turned around and instantly noticed the brighter Runes on the Yoked.

They were desperately searching for the Runic Yoked, but one of them had suddenly shown up right in front of them. Zhao Manyan stabilized himself and slammed his palms onto the ground heavily!

Obvious ripples appeared along the ground and swiftly spread to the spot where the Runic Yoked had landed. The perfectly-timed wave knocked the Runic Yoked back toward Zhao Manyan like a fish's tail flip.

"Get him!" Zhao Manyan yelled at the soldiers around him, since he did not really have any move that could kill the creature instantly.

Several destructive spells were fired at the Runic Yoked before it could even land, blasting it into pieces, that were then burned to ashes by a Fiery Fist: Nine Halls!

As soon as the Runic Yoked died, the Yoked receiving the defensive Runes through the chains connected to it basically lost their armor.

It was very easy to identify the Yoked that had lost their defensive Runes. The soldiers on the walls of the fortress cheered whenever they saw the Yoked without their outstanding defense, followed by a rain of Elemental Spells pouring down on them. Those Yoked had no chance of survival against spells after losing their defenses!

"Well done!" Bin Wei exclaimed, standing on a Cloud Vine. Her impression of Zhao Manyan changed completely after seeing him take down another Runic Yoked for the troop.

His Water Curtain had come at a very opportune time, too. She might have died if not for that!

The Underworld Monarch Frog was an unusually slow but powerful creature. Most attacks could not inflict any damage on it, but if they managed to dodge a few of its attacks, the fleshy creature would have to rest for a period to recover its strength!

"There's one here!" the captain of a Summoner troop riding a Fiery Wolf yelled from not far away.

The man was extremely bold. He had woven through a few hundred Yoked alone and dragged the Runic Yoked out with him. He was handling himself perfectly even after taking on a group of the Yoked on his own for more than ten minutes.

"Don't let him run away. Eyes of the Rock Demon: Petrify!" Zhao Manyan cast the Advanced Earth Spell decisively when he saw the man was being chased by a huge number of the Yoked.

Zhao Manyan's casting speed was a lot quicker than the rest of the Advanced Earth Mages. As a Mage who owned a Soul-grade Earth Seed, his performance in a battle also significantly outmatched the Advanced Mages who only had normal Spirit-grade Seeds!

A few dozen of the Yoked froze in their tracks when Zhao Manyan glanced into their eyes. Another Earth Mage using the same spell only managed to petrify nine Yoked, who managed to break free from the spell just a brief moment later.

"My Earth Element has received the Blessing of the God's Seal, its base damage is 1.5 now," Zhao Manyan explained with a smile when he saw the defeated face of the captain beside him.

"You have a Soul-grade Earth Seed, your Earth Element's base damage is 1.5, and every defensive spell you cast seems to be enhanced by a special Rune. It's similar to the Runes that the Yoked have..." the captain observed aloud, while catching his breath.

"Yeah..." Zhao Manyan nodded.

An uproar arose from the troop ahead. The soldiers were quickly backing toward them.

"Underworld Monarch Frog, it's coming toward us, retreat!"

"Retreat, quick!"

The Yoked that they were struggling to kill were not the scariest enemy to the soldiers. The one that would bring them despair was the Underworld Monarch Frog. No one, apart from General Bin Wei, could possibly stand a chance against its tongue!

"It's about to shoot its tongue out, dodge it!"

"It's impossible, its range is too far!" the soldiers cried out in fear.

Zhao Manyan fixed his gaze on the Underworld Monarch Frog with a determined face.

He muttered, "It's why I dare to stop a Ruler-level creature's attacks, too!"

Chapter 1373 Slaying the Underworld Monarch Frog

Zhao Manyan stepped forward when the others were backing away. The soldiers fleeing for their lives were impressed by his courage.

When Zhao Manyan made it to the front, the Underworld Monarch Frog's deadly tongue was already flying toward him. The angle it was coming from and the power it contained were clearly going to sweep a dozen people into its stomach!

The soldiers on the front line were mostly elites, consisting of talented Intermediate and Advanced Mages. They did not suffer many casualties when fighting against the Yoked, but whenever the Underworld Monarch Frog made its move, their only outcome was to be eaten like the lowliest insects!

“Baxia Seal, Skytemper Rocks, Eyes of the Rock Demon, Titan Body!” Zhao Manyan yelled at the top of his lungs and spread his hands like wings, blocking for the soldiers.

His eyes emitted a blue-brown light. His body was engulfed in the brilliant glow of the Earth Element!

The Baxia Seal circled around him. The brilliant light of the Earth Element outlining Zhao Manyan pushed forward. The outline would expand a few times for every meter it covered. When it reached twenty meters away, its outline had turned into a giant!

Its body was made of blue-brown rocks, its shape exactly the same as Zhao Manyan, its arms spread wide. Just as everyone thought the Underworld Monarch Frog was going to eat them all, the giant rock statue defended them all!

The Underworld Monarch Frog’s tongue landed on the giant rock statue. Even though it managed to break the statue into pieces, and even though Zhao Manyan spit out a mouthful of blood from the feedback he received, he did not allow any damage to be inflicted on the soldiers...

Zhao Manyan staggered a few steps back, but he was wearing a reckless grin.

Ruler-level!

So what if it was an attack from a Ruler-level creature, he still managed to resist it!

The captain with the Earth Element standing beside Zhao Manyan stared at his smiling face like he was looking at a monster...

An Advanced Mage who could resist the full strength of a Ruler-level creature? Was he even human!?

Most Super Mages did not prioritize improving their defenses, so they were very vulnerable when facing Ruler-level creatures. However, this young man had actually resisted a Ruler-level creature’s attack. The giant statue slowly collapsing to the ground was like Zhao Manyan himself. The captain was beyond impressed!

Bin Wei, who had failed to stop the Underworld Monarch Frog busy, gasped in disbelief. She initially thought the troop on the front line was going to suffer incredible losses. She did not expect the pompous young man to possess such remarkable strength. He had really stopped the Underworld Monarch Frog’s attack!

The Titan Body’s defense was so outstanding that even a Ruler-level creature could not break through it easily...

They all thought the defensive Runes of the Yoked were incredibly powerful, but it turned out that the person with the greatest defense was in the Northguard Fortress. It explained why the troop had managed to get so far this time!

The Underworld Monarch Frog’s strength was solely in its powerful attacks, its undodgeable rolling tongue, and the Yoked that were its slaves. When Zhao Manyan used the Titan Body to stop its attack, it basically destroyed the Underworld Monarch Frog’s plan to wipe out the troop of Battlemages. The Battlemages quickly withdrew to a safe distance with the time that Zhao Manyan had bought them.

They had killed a dozen Runic Yoked in a short period of time, and taken down hundreds of the Yoked, too. The number of the Yoked were dropping rapidly. The Underworld Monarch Frog bellowed furiously, yet its movements were restrained by Bin Wei's outstanding Plant Magic!

"I found another one!" The morale of the troop rose tremendously after Zhao Manyan defended the soldiers with the Titan Body.

Morale played an important role in a battle. The Underworld Monarch Frog was like an unstoppable devil to the soldiers. There were deaths whenever it attacked, but if someone managed to step forward and stop the Underworld Monarch Frog's attacks, it was like giving the soldiers a powerful stim pack. Even though Zhao Manyan was only able to stop the attack once, it was still completely different than trembling in fear and waiting for their deaths previously!

"Don't you dare run away! Lightning Swordbird, get him!" An expert of the Summoning Element locked his gaze on a Runic Yoked that was fleeing toward the Underworld Monarch Frog.

A bird covered with feathers flickering with lightning and wings resembling huge fans of swords dove from the sky. Its Summoner stood up on the back of the Lightning Swordbird and fired Giant Shadow Spikes down. They picked out the Runic Yoked from among the Yoked and nailed it to the spot.

The Lightning Swordbird swept past the Yoked and grabbed the Runic Yoked with its claws.

The Yoked tried to grab onto the Runic Yoked to prevent it from being abducted, but the Lightning Swordbird immediately unleashed lightning swords, stabbing down at them.

The Lightning Element had a strong penetrating nature, the unique trait of the Lightning Element. Even the Yoked's incredible defenses were not so effective against the Lightning Element!

The lightning swords knocked a bunch of the Yoked to the ground. The Runic Yoked was unable to escape the claws, and was lifted into the sky!

The Lightning Swordbird tossed the Runic Yoked towards the army of Battlemages. The soldiers synchronized their spells and tore the Runic Yoked to pieces before it could even hit the ground!

"It's Ye Hong! He finally showed up!" someone exclaimed.

The captain of the Summoner Troop, riding a Fiery Wolf, lifted his gaze, his face respectful. It was obvious that airborne Ye Hong was more reputable than him among the Summoners.

"Who's that guy? He's very strong!" Zhao Manyan was relieved after seeing an expert had shown up.

"The prodigal son of the Northguard Fortress. He normally just stays at the Northguard Fortress for a month every year, and spends the rest of the time traveling between places. It's surprising that he has come back. It turns out that he still cares a lot about the Northguard Fortress," the captain with the Earth Element, Feng Changyu, told him.

"He has been looking for the opportunity to reach the Super Level. He believes there won't be any chance if he keeps staying at the Northguard Fortress. He used to be Chang Yi's superior. He was in charge of the Fourth Troop, the strongest troop we ever had," an old soldier added.

The man riding the Lightning Swordbird was very strong. He was roaming freely through the air, while the Lightning Swordbird was searching for the Runic Yoked with its sharp eyes. He had taken the pressure of around three hundred Yoked from the shoulders of the soldiers on the front line.

Many soldiers in the troop knew who Ye Hong was. The troop's morale had skyrocketed when Zhao Manyan stopped the Underworld Monarch Frog's attack, but the soldiers completely united and fought with an even stronger spirit when Ye Hong showed up. Suddenly, even the Yoked strengthened by the defensive Runes were not as scary!

"Three troops to the west! Seventh Troop, hold your position; Tenth Troop, fire Brilliant Light at will; Wind Mages of the Second Troop, stay at the back and assist the others with their retreat!" Ye Hong ordered from the sky.

Bin Wei was the commander of the army, but she was unable to give orders since she was busy fighting the Underworld Monarch Frog. As a result, the troops were simply following their instincts when fighting against the Yoked. The army became a lot more disciplined after receiving orders from Ye Hong.

Zhao Manyan was a little confused. Why did the man ask the Wind Mages of the Second Troop to assist with the retreat? Wasn't it the perfect time to push forward and take out more Runic Yoked while they still had the chance? However, Ye Hong had ordered everyone to withdraw instead!

The soldiers obviously believed in him. The captains withdrew their troops immediately upon receiving the order. As the army was retreating, the Underworld Monarch Frog suddenly charged ahead and swallowed a huge area into its stomach. If the army had stayed and fought the Yoked, at least three companies would have been wiped out!

A company consisted of a hundred soldiers. How long would it take the Northguard Fortress to train three hundred soldiers?

When Zhao Manyan saw the reason behind the orders, he was impressed by Commander Ye Hong, who had just joined the battle not long ago. He had to be an experienced commander who had fought countless battles!

The Underworld Monarch Frog had long gathered its strength for an attack, but it ended up in failure. Most of the Runic Yoked were now dead, too. The number of the Yoked decreased rapidly. Only around three hundred were left!

"Now is our chance!" Ye Hong declared.

They had to kill the Yoked before dealing with the Underworld Monarch Frog. The Underworld Monarch Frog's main fighting force was the Yoked. If they eliminated all the Yoked, it was the same as severing its limbs.

The soldiers of the Northguard Fortress united. They were clearly in control of the battle. They proceeded to slaughter the remaining Yoked!

The three hundred Yoked were slain in no time. Only the Underworld Monarch Frog and the Battlemages surrounding it remained on the battlefield, the remains of the Yoked scattered around.

“I never thought I’d have the chance to kill a Ruler-level creature one day!” Captain Feng Changyu blurted out excitedly.

Zhao Manyan was as excited as the soldiers were. Although he had fought a similar battle in Egypt before, this situation was just as grim. Mo Fan was around then to eliminate the Dark Swordmaster with the help of Little Flame Belle in her Adult Phase. Since Mo Fan was not around, Zhao Manyan had become a key person in the battle. He was being admired by the soldiers, just like Bin Wei and Ye Hong.

In the past, Zhao Manyan always thought soldiers were idiots whose lives were always at risk. He never wanted to be a soldier because of that, but after they managed to defend the Northguard Fortress and defeat the army of the Yoked led by a Ruler-level creature, he realized how passionate, exciting, and glorious it was to win a battle!

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“It turns out that you’re more suitable to take my role after all.” General Bin Wei was a little worn out. She barely survived in the fight against the Underworld Monarch Frog. She was finally able to catch her breath when she saw Ye Hong coming to back her up on his Lightning Swordbird.

“My old comrades have given you quite some trouble. I apologize for that, but I believe no one is ever going to doubt you after today. You achieved the Super Level earlier than me, and you know the secret of the Great Wall. How could someone like me, who only knows how to kill, achieve anything?” Commander Ye Hong replied.

“Then I shall let you command the army to take down the Underworld Monarch Frog,” General Bin Wei informed him.

“My pleasure!” Commander Ye Hong acknowledged confidently.

Even though the man had yet to achieve the Super Level, this previous Commander of the Northguard Fortress clearly had the courage and capabilities of a Super Mage. General Bin Wei believed he would break through the barrier that had stopped him for almost ten years soon. He would surely achieve the Super Level and soar into the sky!

Chapter 1374 Self-Detonating Frog

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“Watch out for the poison!” General Bin Wei warned him.

Poisonous liquid jetted out like beams. Even a few drops were enough to turn a person into a puddle. General Bin Wei ordered the majority of the army to back away from the Ruler-level creature to avoid unnecessary casualties.

The Underworld Monarch Frog did not have aggressive moves. Most of its strength came from the Yoked. It was quite effective if the soldiers just fired their spells at the creature from a safe distance.

The rain of spells poured down on the Underworld Monarch Frog, but its body was covered in the defensive Runes that defied the spells. The soldiers were powerless against its outstanding defense.

“Keep going, there’s no way the runes will last forever!” Commander Ye Hong ordered.

The spells did not stop pouring down. There were still a lot of Mages with long-range attacks in the fortress, up in the safest positions. As long as they still had energy, they could just continue to fire their spells and vent all their frustrations on the enormous creature, regardless if the spells were actually doing any harm to it.

After a few rounds, the Runes had clearly dimmed, giving the soldiers a great boost in confidence.

“I thought its defense was unbreakable, but it seems to be falling apart. Brothers, let’s keep it up, we are about to kill a Ruler-level creature!” the sergeant of a troop of magic cannon Mages on the wall yelled.

A huge bunch of Star Patterns appeared, lights of different colors swept through the sky and dove at the creature.

“Layering Formation! Super Fiery Fist!”

The Octagon Sentry Formation in the Northguard Fortress lit up again. A huge group of Intermediate Fire Mages poured their energy into it crazily. The scorching Fire Patterns filled the sky above the Northguard Fortress in a spectacular show!

A huge Fiery Fist the size of a tower sprang forward. The spells flying across the sky were like little shrimps next to a giant whale. The enormous spell howled, dyeing the sky and ground red as it lunged at the Underworld Monarch Frog. Even the mountain-sized creature began to panic when it saw the spell coming at it.

It moved its body, trying to dodge the Super Fiery Fist, but the burning fist was as big as a meteorite. The whole place was set aflame before it even hit the ground!

The whole land was engulfed in fire, the soldiers could not even see it clearly. The Underworld Monarch Frog’s heavy body was knocked flying by the enormous impact. The scorching heat was melting its Runes and flesh!

The flames finally broke through its outer skin. The stinking flesh underneath emitted a disgusting smell as thick smoke rolled into its surroundings.

The Underworld Monarch Frog cried out in agony, twisting its body around. It was trying to attack the soldiers nearby with the chains hanging from it.

The Mages quickly spread out, but suddenly the Underworld Monarch Frog started rolling forward, the flames still burning on it. It had turned into a fiery ball! The creature seemed to be holding a strong grudge; it was planning to crash right into the wall of the Northguard Fortress!

The Underworld Monarch Frog was struggling to move previously; now it was like a giant tank of meat, rolling like a ball and bringing the inextinguishable flames with it!

“Shit, it’s about to slam into the Northguard Fortress!” Ye Hong exclaimed. “Stop it!”

The soldiers immediately worked together and cast barricading spells to intercept the Underworld Monarch Frog. However, the momentum of the Underworld Monarch Frog was just too overwhelming, considering how heavy it was. The spells could only slow the creature down slightly, they were nowhere enough to stop it!

The Underworld Monarch Frog smashed flat the land, which was already in extremely bad condition, quickly approaching the Northguard Fortress. There were at least a few thousand Mages on the wall. Many of them were going to die if the Underworld Monarch Frog smashed into the wall with such great force!

No one had expected the clumsy Underworld Monarch Frog to have such a move up its sleeves during its deathbed struggle. A Ruler-level creature would normally try their best to stay alive. If it had rolled away instead, they clearly would have had no chance of stopping it from running away!

Lingling was on the wall, too. She watched the Underworld Monarch Frog closing in and filling up her vision. She did not understand why the Underworld Monarch Frog did not run away!

A Ruler-level creature should treat their life preciously. It could have used the same move to run away; why would it insist on razing the Northguard Fortress to the ground and taking out the Mages that were the least of his concern, if it meant sacrificing its life? A Ruler-level creature should have its own intelligence. It was unlike low-level creatures that would fight back simple-mindedly when they were under attack...

Could it be that there was something even scarier than it behind its chains? It had no choice but to advance like the Yoked, since it was not allowed to retreat!?

“City of Steel!” General Bin Wei’s thunderous voice came from the sky.

The ground a hundred meters ahead of the Northguard Fortress began to shake. A magnificent wall of boulders emerged from the ground.

Unlike the Entrance-Sealing Wall from before, the ancient wall was split into several segments this time, each around fifty meters long. They were arranged in rows like ancient soldiers, using their mass to block the Underworld Monarch Frog!

The Underworld Monarch Frog’s strength was absolutely terrifying, and could even smash through the sturdy ancient wall, but it eventually came to a stop after destroying three segments of the Great Wall!

The strength of the Great Wall was several times that of the fortress. The three segments were over fifty meters wide when they rose in lines. The wall of the fortress was only slightly over twenty meters wide. If the Great Wall had not emerged from the ground and lined up to defend them, it was likely that half of the fortress would have been destroyed!

When everyone was still astonished, the Underworld Monarch Frog began to expand rapidly, exploding after a huge blast. Its flesh splintered into thousands of pieces and flew in all directions. The poisonous liquid in its body turned into rains of killing liquid arrows, covering an area over a kilometer wide!

“Quick, defend yourself!”

“Look out!”

The fortress was in a great mess. No one had known the Underworld Monarch Frog had the ability to blow itself up! A few drops of its acidic poison were enough to melt a person. It could even melt the walls of the fortress, let alone a human's body!

"Layering Spell, Water Barrier!" a commander yelled at the Octagon Sentry Formation.

The Water Mages swiftly cast the Water Barrier. The Star Orbits intertwined with one another and hung elegantly in the sky.

Water ribbons appeared on the Northguard Fortress and quickly formed a circular barrier to stop the poisonous acid rain!

However, since they had only set up the defense in reaction, the Water Barrier was primarily protecting the Mages on the walls. There were lots of areas that it could not cover. The rain of poison acid poured down and melted through the structures.

The stone buildings made of stones melted at an insane speed, like sand that was soaked wet. There were people that failed to hide from it. They cried out in agony and turned into puddles of blood before the others could lend them a hand.

The same scene occurred in many places across the fortress. Countless innocent lives were lost. The people stood still in silence for some time.

Commander Ye Hong let out a long sigh.

They had tried so hard to protect and preserve the Northguard Fortress. They had cautiously avoided casualties among the soldiers, and even prevented the walls and towers from collapsing. However, the streets inside the fortress were in a great mess. The number of deaths was not that high, but it was still a pity that their lives had been lost.

General Bin Wei was not feeling well, either. The rain of acidic poison had caused massive destruction. The fortress was basically in ruins, and had lost its magnificence. She initially thought it was going to be a great victory...

"It was still a Ruler-level creature after all," Zhao Manyan said helplessly.

The Underworld Monarch Frog did not destroy the fortress, but it posed a great threat to it until the very end. It even took down a few hundred Battlemages with it...

"Either way, we've won the battle. We've protected the Northguard Fortress. Even a Ruler-level creature wasn't able to get past us!" Captain Feng Changyu exclaimed.

"He's right!"

"There's nothing much we could do when a Ruler-level creature is pulling a kamikaze on us, but it doesn't change the fact that we've killed them all!"

"Let's go back to the fortress!"

"Time to go back, we've won the battle!"

Casualties were unavoidable in a battle, but the victory was still theirs. Everyone at the fortress had been prepared to die in the battle, but they would not allow failure. If they lost, the cities behind them would be massacred. Most of the soldiers at the fortress were locals. Their parents, wives, relatives, and friends were in the cities shielded by the Northguard Fortress!

Over two thousand Battlemites took part in the battle, but the casualties were not particularly serious. Their performance was quite outstanding compared to the battles they normally fought against the Beijiang Desolate Beasts.

The soldiers gathered around Bin Wei and Ye Hong as they returned to the fortress. Zhao Manyan was thrown into the air by the soldiers he was leading. Everyone returned to the fortress in high spirits and cheers...

“Holy crap, go easier!”

“Don’t throw me so high!”

The Mages were very strong. Normally, it was quite impressive for people to toss someone half a meter high into the air, but Zhao Manyan was thrown around twenty meters up. Every time he went up, it would take him some time to fall back down again, as if he was playing the jumping machine...

“Ohhhhh!” Zhao Manyan was thrown into the air again. This time, the soldiers were challenging themselves to see if they could toss him thirty meters into the air. Zhao Manyan lost his balance when he reached the top. He began to spin...

He caught a quick glimpse of the horizon. The dust had yet to clear away, but he could see an enormous silhouette standing there. He even saw the flicker in its eyes, and felt a strong presence of death across the distance, sending a great chill down his spine!

What the hell was that?

Once again, Zhao Manyan was overwhelmed by shock!

Chapter 1375 Carriers of the Underworld

Zhao Manyan was still wondering if he had seen it wrong when he landed in the hands of the soldiers. When they tossed him back up into the air, he activated his golden wings and stopped up there.

Zhao Manyan beat his wings to soar higher into the sky. He swiftly reached a height of a hundred meters and stared in the same direction to get a better look.

The dust that was drifting in the wind gradually cleared up. The enormous silhouette that left Zhao Manyan in great astonishment was still there...

“Is that a person’s face?” Zhao Manyan stared into the dust-shrouded distance, trying hard to get a closer look.

Amid the dust was an enormous human face, hanging at the same height that Zhao Manyan was at. It was more than a hundred meters in the air!

A giant face over a hundred meters up?

Zhao Manyan only knew of the Tyrant Titans possibly being that huge. However, he was confused, as he could not see its body.

The dust in the distance did not clear up entirely. Zhao Manyan could only see a face hanging in the sky. The enormous silhouette was something that Zhao Manyan had imagined subjectively. The truth was, he could not see the creature's outline, as if its body was hidden behind the dust.

"What is it?" Commander Ye Hong asked. He had shown up on his Lightning Swordbird.

The commander could easily see that Zhao Manyan was behaving strangely. He was worried that the fortress was still being threatened.

"Can you see it? The human face?" Zhao Manyan pointed into the distance.

Commander Ye Hong followed Zhao Manyan's finger. He shook his head after a while. "I see nothing!"

Zhao Manyan was a little confused. He soon guessed that the Blessing of the God's Seal had made his eyesight better than others.

As a matter of fact, Zhao Manyan was feeling some fear, especially when the face was looking at him. He could feel himself freezing in place, barely able to move his finger. It was a natural fear when a living thing was facing a greatly superior existence!

Zhao Manyan gathered his courage to look at the face again, but it had vanished into the dust.

The dust slowly faded away, returning to them a clear view of the vast land. Zhao Manyan was now able to see a great distance, yet there was no sign of the human face.

Its disappearance left Zhao Manyan extremely worried!

"Was it something terrifying?" Commander Ye Hong asked in a serious voice.

"The word 'terrifying' wasn't enough to describe it," Zhao Manyan replied softly.

Zhao Manyan had seen the Black Totem Snake, and had even lived close to a Supreme Ruler like Baxia. The fear that the face floating in the dusty sky gave him was no weaker than them, which meant it was something that was countless times stronger than the Underworld Monarch Frog!

The Commander-level had different levels. Using Mo Fan's strength as a standard, he could kill weaker Commander-level creatures instantly with his lightning. However, he would have to work with Mu Ningxue to barely handle a strong Commander-level creature. As for some Supreme Commanders, similar to Little Flame Belle's current level, even Mo Fan would not stand a chance against them...

The same thing applied to Ruler-level creatures. The difference between strong Ruler-level creatures and weak Ruler-level creatures was extremely huge. The Underworld Monarch Frog was clearly at the bottom of the Ruler-level, while the Black Totem Snake and Baxia were both among the strongest existences among the Ruler-level creatures. Normally, Ruler-level creatures comparable to the Black

Totem Snake and Baxia were extremely rare in this world; the mysterious human face of an unknown creature was such an existence, and it was only ten kilometers away from the Northguard Fortress!

It did not approach the Northguard Fortress. It was like an emperor casually observing the work of its men. It could not care less about their deaths, since they were nothing but its lackeys.

Zhao Manyan was struggling to identify if he was afraid of the unknown and was imagining things in his mind, or he was actually terrified from the pressure that the creature had put him under. He was extremely cautious even when he was breathing.

“What exactly happened?” Commander Ye Hong asked solemnly.

“We only thought those things were from Egypt...” Zhao Manyan replied.

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Fenna finally obtained the information Lingling had asked for. She e-mailed everything she found to Lingling.

The information was all very mixed-up. Lingling had to filter the information according to the situation that had occurred at the Northguard Fortress. Many were ancient legends in Egypt. Some of them were real, from undisclosed records. Some were just stories that the locals came up with after seeing some natural phenomena, thus only some part of the stories were true. It was necessary to filter out irrelevant information.

The majority of the history was speculation. As a result, historical records and artifacts were extremely meaningful, as they were the only evidence to prove what was right!

Egypt’s history was extremely complicated. The creatures of the Underworld closely followed the changes of their dynasty, to an extent that there existed two kinds of status in Egypt; one was their status when they were still alive, and one was their status in the Underworld!

“Underworld Monarch Frogs, the most ancient creatures of the Underworld. They used to be the Pharaohs’ mounts. They can carry an entire city while traveling across deserts and oceans...”

“The Yoked: loyal, passionate, and vicious slaves of the Underworld Monarch Frog. They are only a bunch of lost souls if they are separated from the Underworld Monarch Frog. They were placed under the Pharaoh’s Curse when they were alive, so they cannot find peace after they died. The stronger the grudge they were holding, the greater the power they would receive from the Underworld Monarch Frog. In addition to that, they can obtain more power through killing, too.”

“The Triangle Void Mirror, an artifact that originated from the legend of Osiris and Khonsu...” Lingling quickly read through the legends of ancient Egypt and records that had been verified.

“Long ago, it was proven that the Triangle Void Mirror did not exist. It was just a story that someone had come up with, to direct the hatred of Egypt’s people toward the mirages to someone that did not exist. Khonsu was just a sacrifice that the ruler used to put the blame on.

“The Triangle Dimensional Mirror is an artifact forged by an unknown master, with the ability to combine two kinds of Dimensional Magic. It has the power to reflect an object beyond the limitations of space and distance. Since the energy that it requires is said to be evil, an ancient Magic Association dismantled it. Its parts were kept in different Magic Associations and the method to reassemble them was lost.”

Lingling read the story while flipping through some of the records.

There was indeed a document that proved the Triangle Dimensional Mirror had been dismantled. The document had the symbol of a Magic Association, and to Lingling’s surprise, the symbol actually belonged to a Magic Association in China, the Potala Palace Magic Association!

“One of its core components is kept inside the Sacred Hall of Liberty. The Research Union is conducting experiments on it to discover its secrets...”

Lingling suddenly recalled something.

When Mo Fan was attacked by an Executioner in New York, the people of the Black Vatican had used the opportunity when the Mages of the Sacred Hall of Liberty were busy searching for the Executioner, stealing something from the Sacred Hall of Liberty!

“Could it be that the Cold Prince found the descendant of the person that forged the Triangle Dimensional Mirror? Was he using the opportunity to steal the core component of the Triangle Dimensional Mirror?” Lingling slowly pieced the information together.

Lingling had not put much attention on the stolen item. The Sacred Hall of Liberty did not say a word, either. They never told anyone what the missing item was.

“Maybe they didn’t think someone would know the method to reassemble the Triangle Dimensional Mirror, so they didn’t really care when it was stolen, since it wasn’t something that is used commonly,” Lingling reasoned why the Sacred Hall of Liberty did not treat the stolen item seriously, but she was very displeased by them.

If the Sacred Hall of Liberty had not hidden the truth, perhaps they would have found out what the Cold Prince was up to earlier!

“That means the Cold Prince has reassembled the Triangle Dimensional Mirror! He’s moving a pyramid from Egypt to here to open up an entrance to the Underworld,” Lingling conjectured.

The answer was fairly obvious... but how could they possibly stop it from happening?

The Cold Prince was nowhere to be found, nor did they know where he was going to use the Triangle Dimensional Mirror next. It even felt like they were already done with the plan. What awaited the Northguard Fortress were the endless creatures of the Underworld!

Lingling smiled wryly upon having the thought.

It felt like it was meaningless to learn everything, since there was no way they could stop it from happening!

“The Underworld Monarch Frogs are the pack beasts of the Underworld. An Underworld Monarch Frog can lift and drag a small pyramid...” Lingling continued to read. She suddenly paused in the middle of her sentence.

Zhao Manyan was standing beside Lingling. His thoughts were preoccupied by the monster with a human face. He did not really hear what Lingling had said. When he saw Lingling staring at him with a terrified expression, he asked nervously, “What’s wrong?”

“Have you seen the pyramid?” Lingling asked.

“What pyramid? I didn’t see one,” Zhao Manyan replied.

“The record says the Underworld Monarch Frogs are the carriers of the Underworld Palaces! An Underworld Monarch Frog can carry a small Underworld Palace. These Underworld Palaces are similar to the pyramids. In Egypt, whenever an Underworld Monarch Frog shows up, it means a pyramid is being moved. The whole country would go into Red Alert!” Lingling exclaimed.

The pyramids could be moved, but the only way to do so was the Underworld Monarch Frogs!

“No, we didn’t see any pyramids. The chains on the Underworld Monarch Frog disappeared on their own after it died,” Zhao Manyan said.

“The Underworld Monarch Frog wasn’t carrying a pyramid on its back...” Lingling had a terrible look. She finally blurted out, “Which means there isn’t only one Underworld Monarch Frog moving it!”

Zhao Manyan dropped his jaw. His mouth remained open for some time.

The Underworld Monarch Frog was dragging a pyramid with its chains?

The same pyramid that contained countless undead and served as the gate between the living world and the world of the dead? The terrifying place not a single person had come back alive from!?

Zhao Manyan was there when the mirages appeared. He clearly knew the destruction that a small pyramid could bring...

Chapter 1376 Swooning in Frigh

“Old Zhao, take a look at this!” Lingling suddenly exclaimed.

Zhao Manyan was still lost in his thoughts. He quickly went up to Lingling when he heard her yelling.

There was a diagram of celestial bodies on Lingling’s laptop. Lingling had processed the diagram and discovered that the distribution of the ancient celestial bodies matched the geographical distribution of the pyramids!

“Celestial bodies and the pyramids, this article was proven to be valid. Every pyramid in Egypt corresponds to a star in the galaxy. These stars are constantly moving, but they will return to their initial

position on a certain day, and the position corresponds to the location of an ancient pyramid. They are called the Star Coordinates,” Lingling said.

“Holy crap, how could I possibly understand something so complicated? There are so many stars in the sky! Wouldn’t a random latrine pit that those Egyptians built in the past correspond to the coordinates of a star, too? It’s too vague of a statement,” Zhao Manyan protested.

“No no no, someone did deduce the distribution graph of the pyramids... give me a second, I’ll verify it now,” Lingling quickly typed on the laptop. She was switching between images at such an insane speed that Zhao Manyan’s eyes were dazed.

A moment later, Lingling came up with a set of Star Coordinates. If Mo Fan was looking at them, he would just assume them to be normal latitude and longitude coordinates, but the well-educated Zhao Manyan still knew the difference between mundane geography and Star Coordinates.

“Isn’t this place the Qiqige Tribe’s town?” Zhao Manyan noticed that the coordinates were located in the town the Qiqige Tribe resided in.

“Didn’t the old herdsman mention he saw a pyramid? Let’s verify if the Star Coordinates correspond to the location of a pyramid in Egypt,” Lingling said.

“...” Zhao Manyan rolled his eyes. How were they supposed to verify it? The calculations involved already sounded extremely complicated.

Most importantly, if the stars were constantly moving, how was it possible for the land of Egypt to correspond to the same Star Coordinates as the land of China?

“These are the Star Coordinates of every pyramid in Egypt. Luckily, General Fenna included them in the information she provided. I believe it’s part of their military secrets,” Lingling nattered on. “Here is the formula to calculate the orbit of a star...”

Zhao Manyan’s head was spinning. How could they possibly know which star they should be looking at?

To his surprise, Lingling quickly entered the Qiqige Tribe’s coordinates. The laptop immediately filtered out the stars that would appear in the sky above the coordinates throughout every season.

The old herdsman kept mentioning how the pyramid had shown up where the statue of Qiqige was located, allowing Lingling to get the precise coordinates for it. There were quite a number of stars that directly corresponded to it throughout the year. The filtered results had more than ten pages.

A lot of the names were in English. Zhao Manyan did not have any interest in astronomy. He had no clue what the stars were.

“Alright, we’ve filtered out the stars that would pass by the coordinates of the statue,” Lingling’s eyes were glittering. She was in an extremely focused state.

“What’s next, little fairy?” Zhao Manyan prodded her.

“It’s simple; we just need to match them with the stars that correspond to the coordinates of every pyramid in Egypt!” Lingling said.

Zhao Manyan found it extremely difficult to believe. First, there were so many stars that would pass by the coordinates of Qiqige's statue. The filtered results did not really mean anything. Second, they were not sure if the pyramids actually corresponded to the stars. Even if they were, how were the two even related?

"Found it! It's a star called Unas," Lingling looked excited. She pointed at the star that matched the criteria.

"The Pyramid of Unas?" Zhao Manyan scrolled down the information and was surprised to see there was actually a pyramid called Unas!

"We're pretty lucky. It happens to be a pyramid that is named after the star, which also means everything the old herdsman said is the truth," Lingling stated.

"Holy crap, Lingling, you're unbelievable!" Zhao Manyan was utterly impressed by Lingling's intelligence.

Anyone would have a headache reading the ancient records, yet Lingling was able to find out which pyramid had appeared at the town of Qiqige Tribe.

It was unlikely that everything was just a mere coincidence. Lingling had filtered out the orbits of the stars and found a match through them. In terms of probability, the number of stars that the pyramids in Egypt corresponded to were around a hundred, and among the countless stars, only one had matched the criteria. The only explanation was, the theory behind the relation between the pyramids and the stars was right!

"I'll ask General Fenna right away!" Zhao Manyan quickly contacted Fenna after learning the name of the pyramid.

General Fenna immediately sent her men to investigate the Pyramid of Unas in Egypt.

The area within a hundred kilometers from a pyramid was forbidden, thus no one would know if a pyramid had disappeared. However, someone among the Hunters in the area might have noticed something unusual.

As they thought, someone from Egypt's Hunter Union said there was indeed a strange glow coming from the territory of the undead around the Pyramid of Unas. When the glow appeared, the undead close to the pyramid went under the ground and disappeared. The pyramid's outline became faint for some time too, but the others assumed it was pure nonsense.

However, it suddenly became the most convincing proof!

The Pyramid of Unas did disappear for a moment. The Hunter had also seen the undead disappearing into the ground. Meanwhile, undead had shown up at Qiqige Town and the old herdsman had seen a pyramid at the corresponding Star Coordinates. It clearly hinted that the Pyramid of Unas did appear in their country!

"Unbelievable..." Zhao Manyan took a deep breath.

He still could not believe it had really happened. He wanted to think that the people of the Black Vatican had only found a way to open a rift to the Realm of the Undead, allowing the creatures of the

Underworld to stir some trouble in their world. The appearance of the pyramid sounded impossible, and yet he had started to believe it now.

It was not just a mirage, it was the real pyramid!

They were only up against an illusion of the pyramid during the battle in Egypt. The undead they faced were only those that were living in the outer area of the pyramid. The whole army was on the brink of being wiped out because a Dark Swordmaster had accidentally shown up...

But now, it was hard to tell if the Triangle Dimensional Mirror could only produce the mirage of a pyramid, or if it could actually move the real pyramid to their country. After all, the Underworld Monarch Frogs would not just follow the mirages around, since their job was to move a real pyramid!

“Was the Underworld Monarch Frog we killed moving the Pyramid of Unas?” Zhao Manyan asked.

Lingling shook her head and said, “The Pyramid of Unas is just a small pyramid. A single Underworld Monarch Frog is enough to move it.”

“Then...then what exactly is the pyramid we are about to face?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“Assuming the theory of the Star Coordinates is right, I can list the stars corresponding to the pyramids in Egypt that will pass by the North Valley soon. There are around a hundred stars corresponding to the pyramids in Egypt. I believe the odds of them passing by our country are extremely low. Unas is already one of them, and it happened to be right above Qiqige Town at night half a month ago. If any stars passing by our country around this time correspond to a pyramid in Egypt, it’s most likely the pyramid that the Underworld Monarch Frog’s chains were tied to!” Lingling declared.

“Mmm, go ahead,” Zhao Manyan nodded.

General Bin Wei and Ye Hong came inside while they were busy finding out the truth. They were extremely tired. As the commanders of the Northguard Fortress, they were usually the last people to get some rest.

They only came after settling everything in the Northguard Fortress. They were not simple-minded people, and they wanted to know what exactly was going on, too.

Zhao Manyan explained their discoveries to them while Lingling was busy with the calculations.

General Bin Wei and Ye Hong were completely dumbfounded after listening to Zhao Manyan. They were lost for words for a long time.

A pyramid!

An undead ruler’s palace in Egypt actually appeared in their country! It was unbelievable!

“We’ve contacted Egypt and verified that the Pyramid of Unas did behave unusually,” Zhao Manyan stated.

“It’s so difficult to believe it, but after everything that happened, I would rather believe that it actually happened,” Ye Hong said.

“Mmm, the appearance of the Underworld Monarch Frog is enough to prove how serious the situation is,” General Bin Wei agreed.

“You’ve done the right thing, asking the cities behind us to be evacuated. If a pyramid does appear, all the Northguard Fortress can do is to buy some time,” Ye Hong said.

“Unfortunately, it’s not that easy to execute the order. I wonder if a week is enough for the people to be evacuated to Feihuang City,” Bin Wei sighed.

The people were unaware of the danger involved. Even if everything was exactly as they had deduced, they still lacked the evidence to prove it. The people were likely reluctant to understand and follow the evacuation order...

The problem was... would they still have time to run when they saw an army of undead charging at them?

Smash! Lingling’s laptop suddenly fell from the table and smashed on the ground.

The loud crash gave the other three a great fright as they were discussing the terrifying truth. They quickly turned around, noticing that Lingling did not even care to pick up the laptop. Her face was extremely pale, while her eyes were filled with disbelief and fear!

“Lingling?” Zhao Manyan’s heart skipped a beat when he saw Lingling’s face.

‘Is there really a star corresponding to a pyramid that is passing by our country soon?’ General Bin Wei asked quietly.

Lingling nodded.

“What star is it?” Ye Hong asked, even more softly.

“Orion...” Lingling lifted her eyes. Her pupils were unfocused. She stared at Ye Hong, Zhao Manyan, and General Bin Wei silently for a moment before saying, even she was struggling to believe it, “The pyramid that Orion corresponds to is... Giza!”

When Lingling mentioned the name “Giza”, it felt like a ferocious tide was suddenly coming down at them from the icy night sky... making their souls shiver in fright!

Chapter 1377 The Great Pyramid of Giza

The night suddenly fell silent. The weather was not cold, yet it felt like they were all standing in ice.

The four people inside the room had stopped breathing. Their pupils were hollow, as if they were stuck in a nightmare.

They had completely lost their ability to think under the feeling of suffocation and mental impact that conclusion had brought them!

The Underworld Monarch Frog was pulling the Great Pyramid of Giza...

The Great Pyramid of Giza!

It was the huge kingdom of undead that could easily devour half of Egypt, the most magnificent of the Underworld Palaces. If the pyramid appeared in their land, what would happen to Beijiang once the pyramid started covering the land with its deathlight!?

“I don’t think we are only having a nightmare...” someone finally spoke in the silent room. Ye Hong was the first to break the silence, “A nightmare is normally something bad that a person was imagining during the day, but I’ve never, ever, imagined anything like this! I would never think such a thing!”

The discovery completely exceeded Ye Hong’s understanding of how terrible a situation could be. Only the cruelest truth would continue to throw punches at them when they could not even endure them!

Similarly, as a Super Mage and the commander of almost ten thousand elite Mages of the Northguard Fortress, Bin Wei felt so tiny after hearing that conclusion. A single gust of undead that the Great Pyramid of Giza stirred up could easily tear a Super Mage like her to pieces!

The Underworld Monarch Frog...

The Northguard Fortress had used everything they had to barely stop the invasion of a single Underworld Monarch Frog. They were even so proud of their achievement. Little did they know, the Underworld Monarch Frog was nothing but an insignificant slave with the appearance of a frog before the Great Pyramid of Giza!

“What... what should we do?” Zhao Manyan asked after staring at the others for some time.

What could they possibly do? Bin Wei did not know, nor did Ye Hong. It felt like there was nothing they could do, apart from being trampled entirely!

Lingling suddenly recovered from her dispirited state and said, “We have to look for Mo Fan!”

“Right, look for Mo Fan, he must have some way...” Zhao Manyan said.

Lingling shook her head and said, “Find Mo Fan, tell him the truth, and we’ll leave this place at once.”

Zhao Manyan was startled. He did not expect those words from Lingling.

On second thought, her decision was clearly the most rational choice! What could they possibly do against the Great Pyramid of Giza, apart from getting themselves killed?

Since the stars were constantly moving, and the Great Pyramid of Giza was temporarily moved here by the Triangle Dimensional Mirror, it would only last for a few days. Their only chance was to evacuate the land. They were going to die for sure if they tried to resist...

“Alright, I’ll go look for Mo Fan now... damn it, I don’t even know where he is, he didn’t bring the badge of the national team with him,” Zhao Manyan cursed in a panic.

“I think I know where Brother Fan is,” a voice entered the room.

The group turned around and saw a skinny but energetic young man in the uniform of a general walking in.

His expression alone had indicated that he had heard everything too, but he had been standing at the entrance, struggling to collect his thoughts.

“Zhang Xiaohou!” Zhao Manyan was overjoyed.

He had shown up just in time. It would be a lot easier for them to look for Mo Fan with his help. They could not afford to give up on Mo Fan. He was trying so hard to stop the Black Vatican, but it turned out all their efforts were in vain. Beijiang’s fate was now in the hands of the Heavens, but they would not allow Mo Fan to die. They had to find him at all costs. They had to stop him from going any further and leave this place at once!

“Lingling, is it true?” Zhang Xiaohou looked at Lingling with a helpless wry smile.

“It’s just my speculation. I didn’t have any proof, and I know it’s not enough to convince the government, the military, and the Magic Association, but trust me, it’s the truth. It will happen. It’s useless to do or say anything now. We have to find Mo Fan and leave at once!” Lingling had never reacted like this. She might sound calm, but her heart was clearly on the verge of collapsing.

The room fell silent again. The last glimpse of hope in Zhang Xiaohou’s eyes disappeared.

General Bin Wei and Commander Ye Hong stared at one another in silence.

Zhao Manyan looked at them and snapped, “What are you two waiting for? Hurry up and tell everyone to evacuate the fortress! You are all Mages, there’s still time if you start running now. It’s too late once the Underworld Monarch Frogs move the Great Pyramid of Giza here!”

“We have sworn an oath to protect the Northguard Fortress!” Commander Ye Hong said.

“How the hell could you possibly protect it? The fortress has already ended up like this when we were only up against an Underworld Monarch Frog. Do you have any idea how terrifying the undead in Egypt are? I was there when they were fighting a mirage. The undead in the outer area of a pyramid were already troublesome to deal with, due to their insane numbers. The Northguard Fortress wouldn’t stand a chance against even a small pyramid, let alone the Great Pyramid of Giza. Any entity in the Great Pyramid of Giza could easily raze this Northguard Fortress to the ground!” Zhao Manyan swore.

The Northguard Fortress was nothing but a little wooden fence to the Great Pyramid of Giza. It could not even withstand the force of a wild beast crashing into it, not to mention the whole tide of wild beasts was coming. Why would they even bother staying? Were they really going to let thousands of people die just to buy a few minutes?

“Hunters may leave, the businessmen and magic students may leave, the civilians may leave, but how can we soldiers abandon our posts?” Commander Ye Hong said.

“Unless we receive the order to retreat from our superiors,” General Bin Wei said.

“Your superiors? Are you out of your mind? Your superiors even dispatched the best troop you have elsewhere when you were under attack by the Underworld Monarch Frog! I would be damned if they believed the speculation of a little girl around the age of ten. Why do you think Mo Fan has taken so many risks just to infiltrate the Black Vatican? Isn’t it obvious that he’s trying to collect evidence? But does it even matter? Did the authorities even say a word?” Zhao Manyan was on the verge of losing his temper.

What the heck was happening in their country? Could the problem in the East be more serious than what they were facing now!?

"I'll try and convince our superiors, but we won't be able to leave without an order to retreat," Bin Wei replied.

"I'll ask the people that aren't from the military to evacuate at once," Ye Hong said. Ye Hong believed in Lingling's speculation. Everything that happened so far was enough proof that the worst had yet to come!

"My Heavens, I don't even care anymore. Lingling, Zhang Xiaohou, let's go. We have to find Mo Fan as soon as possible!" Zhao Manyan believed they were completely out of their minds.

To hell with the duty of a soldier; if they chose to wait for their deaths just because it was an order, instead of sizing up the situation when necessary, what would they even need living humans for? Why didn't they just join the army of undead that was already on their way!?

Chapter 1378 The Prophet of the Sacred City

The group traveled across the North Valley with incredibly heavy hearts. Somehow, the sky did not feel as vast as it used to be. They were having difficulty breathing from the pressure it was putting on them.

Zhao Manyan recalled Mo Fan's words, which had stirred up great emotions in him along the journey.

If they did not try their best, they would only live with enormous regrets after everything happened. The pain would leave a lasting mark deep in their hearts, leaving them in endless torture.

But they had already done everything they could. The only problem was... how could just the few of them possibly stop the Black Vatican?

The Black Vatican was the public enemy of the whole world. The seven Red Cardinals were wanted criminals with the highest bounties; everyone in the world wanted to get rid of them, yet how many in the world actually stood a chance against them? The Magic Associations of the five continents? The Parthenon Temple? The Holy Judgment Court? The Hunter Union?

The seven Red Cardinals were still at large. They had become the idols of criminals and the wicked. Many strong Mages were willing to submit themselves to them.

They had overestimated their capabilities. In the end, there was nothing they could do. It was just the few of them, a useless Preventive Committee, and some stubborn members of the Enforcement Union... how ridiculous...

The country did not even care, yet they were still wasting their time and efforts trying to uncover the Black Vatican's conspiracy. They had ended up discovering an enormous glacier crashing down upon them. They might feel better if they had not uncovered it, if they had just continued to live in ignorance!

"We are meeting up in Guli Village," Zhang Xiaohou told Zhao Manyan.

Apart from Lingling and Zhao Manyan, Ye Hong and Bin Wei had tagged along too. Even though they believed in Lingling, they wanted to see the truth with their own eyes.

If they did not witness it personally, they would not be able to convince the commanders of northern military to give the order to retreat. The commanders of the Northern Fortress would not want their men to sacrifice their lives for nothing!

"I know where Guli Village is. It's a lot faster this way, but there's a very deep canyon," Ye Hong said.

The group followed Ye Hong's guidance to Guli Village. If it was somewhere Mo Fan had planned to meet them, it would be fairly close to the Black Vatican's location. They had to be extremely cautious.

Luckily, the overall strength of the group was quite high. Bin Wei was a Super Mage with the Earth Element and the Plant Element. They would have no problem retreating if they found themselves in any danger.

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Commander Ye Hong immediately frowned when they arrived in Guli Village.

There were still a lot of people in Guli Village who had yet to be evacuate. Was it because they did not receive the evacuation order, or they were unwilling to obey it?

They went to a memorial hall in the village, but the person waiting for them was not Mo Fan. It was a man in a gray-white robe whose face was covered.

Zhao Manyan and Lingling were confused and alert, as they did not know who the person was, but Zhang Xiaohou approached the man and chatted with him. It seemed like Zhang Xiaohou had recognized him.

"I believe you two are the commanders of Northguard Fortress?" the mysterious man asked, looking at General Bin Wei and Commander Ye Hong.

"We are, may I ask who you are?..." Ye Hong was even more confused about the identity of the mysterious man.

"I don't have a name, or a codename. I'm only a phantom that doesn't exist," the mysterious man replied.

Nobody lowered their guard after hearing his words. Zhang Xiaohou proceeded to explain, "He is the Prophet of the Sacred City. He was the one that figured out Salan was among the authorities during the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, and proposed the plan to execute them all."

The Northguard Fortress was not too far from the Ancient Capital. General Bin Wei knew about the plan to execute the authorities, but she was still quite shocked after hearing the words.

She had not heard about any Prophet of the Sacred City before, but the execution plan was quite well known among the generals. If it wasn't for the plan, the Ancient Capital would not have been able to survive the calamity. In other words, the man had played an important role in finding out who Salan was!

On top of that, General Bin Wei was very impressed with the man's decisiveness, ready to sacrifice ten powerful figures just to get their revenge on the Red Cardinal of the Black Vatican. It clearly took the Black Vatican by surprise. Even Salan never thought she would end up in such a trap.

The plan had brought the Ancient Capital hope and given it the chance to survive the calamity. The mysterious man's contribution certainly could not be overlooked, but their superiors had never mentioned anything about him. It was just as the man had said himself, he was only a phantom!

"What prophet, if I really had the power to foresee the future, things would not end up like this," the mysterious man said self-mockingly. "Lingling, Zhang Xiaohou has already told me about your speculation." He sighed. "To think that our great nation has taken the calm and peace so for granted that they couldn't even see through the Black Vatican's conspiracy better than a little girl. If anyone is the prophet, you clearly did a better job than me."

"It's all thanks to my sister and Mo Fan. They strongly believe that the Black Vatican is up to something!" Lingling replied.

"Since the Prophet of the Sacred City is here, does that mean there's still a way to fix it?" General Bin Wei asked, hoping.

"No, I'm afraid we don't really have a plan to turn the tables around. All we have is an ill-advised plan, but let's wait for Mo Fan first. We'll need the information he has gathered from the Black Vatican. Otherwise, everything we decide won't mean anything..." the mysterious man replied.

The mysterious man faced the altar inside the memorial hall, leaving a lonely back to the others.

It was obvious that he had just made it there too. His eyes were lackluster.

"Did something serious happen in the East?" General Bin Wei asked.

"Mmm, I just came from there. You will know what happened soon. Let's focus on the North Valley for now. Hopefully, you won't blame our country for being too harsh on you..." the mysterious man answered.

General Bin Wei and Commander Ye Hong exchanged glances with one another. Their expressions turned grimmer.

Something serious must have happened!

"Zhang Xiaohou, how is Mo Fan doing?" Zhang Xiaohou asked.

"I'm not sure, he only asked someone to deliver a message to me..." Zhang Xiaohou said.

"It's quite worrying to let him infiltrate the Black Vatican on his own," Zhao Manyan sighed.

The mysterious man turned around. He looked at Zhao Manyan and said, "He reminds me of someone."

"Who?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Zhan Kong! Before the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, Zhan Kong had found out there was more to the Black Vatican's plan when he took out the Darkwing Wolf. He found me and asked me to help him infiltrate the Black Vatican. I happened to have a codename available, so I told him that once he took over the codename, he would have to disappear from this world. He did not hesitate, he did not even have to think about it..." the mysterious man said.

Zhang Xiaohou opened his mouth. He stared at the mysterious man in disbelief.

Zhang Xiaohou still did not understand why their Chief Military Instructor showed up at the Dark Abyss out of nowhere. It turned out that he had long given up his identity to infiltrate the Black Vatican...

Zhang Xiaohou took a deep breath. He was not feeling good...

"I was only able to lock down Salan with the clues that Zhan Kong had provided... when the country is in trouble, some people will only tremble in fear, but some chose to sacrifice themselves. I'm relieved that we have people like them among us." He sighed again. "I really wished that more people knew what he had done," the mysterious man said.

Zhang Xiaohou finally understood why Mo Fan had made the decision to infiltrate the Black Vatican.

The place fell silent for some time, until they heard heavy footsteps approaching slowly.

They followed the sound of the footsteps and saw a man covered in a loose black robe. Zhao Manyan, Lingling, and Zhang Xiaohou were too familiar with Mo Fan. They immediately recognized him without seeing his face, even though his aura was a little cold.

"Are these the only people we have?" Mo Fan asked when he arrived.

"Some are not here, but the people here are more or less all we have," the mysterious man said.

"Why do I feel like we are more like the bad guys hiding in the dark?" Mo Fan asked sarcastically.

"..."

Lingling ran up to Mo Fan, who picked her up and patted on her head while comforting her. "Don't worry, I'm fine."

"Liar!" Lingling saw through Mo Fan's lie right away. She pulled Mo Fan's mask away, revealing his scarred face.

Zhang Xiaohou and Zhao Manyan gasped as soon as Mo Fan's face was revealed. Did he seriously call that fine!?

"Let's go, right now, we are leaving now, my heavens!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

Zhang Xiaohou was feeling uneasy, especially after hearing what the mysterious man said previously about Zhan Kong. Mo Fan's attempt must be as dangerous as the situation their Chief Military Instructor was in, yet they were completely unaware of what he was going through.

"It's not as bad as you all think. There are pretty ladies in the Black Vatican, she's been taking care of me the whole time!" Mo Fan smiled to ease the atmosphere.

It was General Bin Wei and General Ye Hong's first time meeting Mo Fan. They could not help but think how optimistic he was after hearing his words.

"Taking care my ass; if we don't go now, we are all going to die here! Do you know what pyramid they are bringing here? You can ask Lingling yourself!" Zhao Manyan raised his voice.

Mo Fan looked at Lingling. The little girl told him about the speculation.

Mo Fan was stunned for some time. The answer was both within and beyond his expectations!

When the Black Vatican continued to open the Underworld Gates, Mo Fan already knew they were planning to bring a huge pyramid here, but he did not expect it to be the scariest one of them all: the Great Pyramid of Giza!

“Let’s go, since you’ve left the Black Vatican, we’ll decide where to go after we escape to the East,” Zhao Manyan said.

Mo Fan was able to calm down pretty quickly, since he was sort of prepared for it. He looked at the mysterious man and said, “I thought the authorities had already given up on us.”

“Well, you aren’t completely wrong about that; they did decide to give up on this land, whether the Great Pyramid of Giza is going to show up or not,” the mysterious man replied.

Mo Fan did not lose his cool, nor was he furious. He was only overwhelmed by sorrow. He said after a prolonged silence, “They can give up on us if they want. What plan do you have? I can’t believe you’re only here as a messenger and telling us we are completely on our own here...”

Chapter 1379: The Reason For Not Leaving

If the mysterious man was here, it did not make sense for him to just do nothing. Mo Fan believed he had some plan in mind!

“What plan? We should just get the f**k out of here. Do you really think the few of us can stop the Great Pyramid of Giza? Are you dreaming now? I would like to be a hero too, but it’s like a mantis trying to stop a chariot!” Zhao Manyan protested.

Mo Fan did not lose his patience despite Zhao Manyan’s grumbling. He looked at Zhao Manyan and said, “Old Zhao, calm down.”

“Calm my ass, you said it yourself! We are trying our best, just so we won’t regret it even if the worst happens. Are you telling me that we haven’t tried our best? Do we really have a chance of stopping what’s going to happen? The military in the north doesn’t even care, why do we have to do their job instead... didn’t you hear the Prophet? The authorities have already given up on us. Aren’t we nothing but idiots if we stay?” Zhao Manyan groaned.

“Old Zhao, let’s hear what the Prophet has to say. You can leave if you really think he’s out of his mind,” Mo Fan replied.

“Fine, I can’t wait to see what plan you are going to come up with. Nothing matters when you’re up against absolute power! Either way, I’m leaving after hearing what he has to say. If you don’t, I’ll beat you into a cripple and drag you with me!” Zhao Manyan snapped.

“Can you even beat me?” Mo Fan raised his brows.

“Who f**king cares!?”

The mysterious man saw everyone looking at him. He understood what they were feeling. The fact that they had not lost their minds or broken down mentally showed how tenacious their mindsets were.

“First, it’s true that the Great Pyramid of Giza is going to appear. We won’t be able to stop it now. You have heard it from Mo Fan, the Underworld Monarch Frogs aren’t showing up all in the same place. The Great Pyramid of Giza will clearly be moved here unless we know the whereabouts of every Black Vatican deacon, and eliminate them all to stop the Underworld Monarch Frogs from appearing,” the mysterious man informed them.

“Second, the Black Vatican’s overall strength is clearly higher than the strength of the people we currently have,” the mysterious man continued.

Zhao Manyan was about to speak, but he withheld the urge to curse when he saw Mo Fan staring at him.

“Everything I said is the truth. The Cold Prince has prepared a long time for this. He doesn’t even care if we know what he’s up to now. He’s that confident, certain that none of us can stop him. We have to admit that he’s a devil, just like Salan, and unfortunately, our country has ended up as his sacrifice, just so he can prove he’s as competent as Salan...” the mysterious man trailed off.

The Cold Prince had spent a long time on the plan. It was already in motion when he acquired the core component from the Sacred Hall of Liberty.

He was able to set down the coordinates in any country, and bring great destruction to it, but he insisted on making China his target...

It was all thanks to Salan!

“Can we cut straight to the main point? What’s the point of knowing all this?” Zhao Manyan said impatiently.

“The Cold Prince is just like any other Red Cardinal. He has his own ideas, which revolve around the idea of the strength of evil faith. If he hates someone, he won’t try to kill them. He will kill everyone that the person cares about instead, trying to obtain their hatred, rage, and obsession to get revenge. He believes he will be empowered by their evil faith. As a result, if the Cold Prince has more chess pieces than Salan, if his subordinates scattered across the world like Salan’s, he will definitely cause a greater panic. The guy is a psychopath, and unfortunately, the Heavens still gave him such outstanding talents,” the mysterious man went on, ignoring Zhao Manyan’s complaint.

“Did Mo Fan manage to gather any useful information? If we can’t stop the disaster, I’ll risk everything I have to take down the Red Cardinal with me. I’ll teach him that he has to pay if he wants to stir up trouble in our land!” Ye Hong snapped furiously.

“There has been some progress, but I haven’t learned anything critical,” Mo Fan sighed.

“Mo Fan, are you reluctant to leave because you want to take out the Cold Prince?” Lingling asked when she realized Mo Fan’s intention.

Mo Fan opened his mouth, shocked. He did not expect Lingling to see through his intentions so easily.

“Brother Fan, is that true?” Zhang Xiaohou asked.

Mo Fan nodded after a slight hesitation, “Mmm, the Chief Extraditor isn’t here. There’s no way we can track down all the members of the Black Vatican. The Cold Prince has split his men up into many groups, to prevent us from interfering with his plan. Taking one or two groups won’t make any difference, so I’m thinking of waiting until their grand ceremony... to track down the Cold Prince!”

“Damn it, I knew you would lose yourself every time you do something! When we joined the national team, we already said that we were only going to enjoy ourselves while traveling across the world, yet we gave everything we had just to earn glory for our country. This time, you were only meant to gather some evidence that the Black Vatican was involved, and even though you’ve already done it, it somehow turns into an attempt to assassinate a Red Cardinal of the Black Vatican! F**k me, that’s a Red Cardinal of the Black Vatican we’re talking about! The Magic Associations of the Five Continents couldn’t do anything about him, and you’re thinking of assassinating him!?” Zhao Manyan was about to lose his temper again.

“If the Red Cardinals aren’t doing anything, there’s nothing we can do about them. Since the Cold Prince is planning such a huge conspiracy, it also means he’s going to expose himself. If we don’t grab hold of the opportunity to eliminate him, he will withdraw behind the curtains after he has earned his reputation. We’ll never be able to find him again, which is why...” Mo Fan said.

“Which is why you’re doing it, even if all odds are against you? Who do you think you are? The Invincible?” Zhao Manyan snapped.

“Our people have been trampled and massacred by two Red Cardinals in a short period of time. They are still at loose after destroying cities and bringing massive destruction upon our country. They are just like gods; more people are going to worship and learn from them. Are we just going to let them destroy our dignity?” Ye Hong spoke up.

“Is dignity more important than staying alive? If the people hiding in the inner city shared the same thought as you during the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, they would have rushed out of the city and fought the undead to death for the sake of their dignity. There would be no survivors!”

Lingling pulled Mo Fan’s sleeves and said softly, “Mo Fan, we’ve already done our best. Let’s just leave. Why do we have to kill the Cold Prince? If you go, you won’t survive either...”

Mo Fan shook his head and said helplessly, “I don’t want to act like I’m a hero, but there are times where we don’t have any choice. I’m the closest person to the Cold Prince at the moment. If I give up now, wouldn’t it make me the accomplice of a second Salan? Did you forget about the maggot and the pseudo-dragon it turned into? We were chasing it all the way into the ocean just to eliminate it... the reason we did it was because we knew about the terrible consequences if we let it live. Every life that it took would end up as a hint of guilt in our hearts.

“I’m already trying my best to be a heartless person. That way, I might be able to live a more comfortable life, and I wouldn’t be bothered by the sense of guilt accumulating in my heart... but I realized I couldn’t do it. If the Cold Prince is still alive after the ceremony, think about the crimes the people that are following him will commit. If the victims are just strangers, I can still suppress the guilt at the bottom of my heart, but what if they hurt someone that I care about, like you? What will I feel? Will I hug your lifeless body and burst into tears knowing I’ll never be able to see your smile again and slowly

forget about it, or will I roam across the world in rage until I find the Cold Prince and tear him to pieces?”

Lingling looked into Mo Fan’s dark eyes. She could not find any words to answer him.

“The Black Vatican has always been around us. One day, they are going to hurt the people around us. I might be able to protect every one of you, but I can’t stay by your side all the time, nor am I lucky enough to know what the Black Vatican is up to every time. The Calamity of Bo City, the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, and the current situation here in the North Valley: both the people around me and I are so close to death. Even if I was to tie you all by my side, when a calamity like this happens, I am still tiny and helpless...” Mo Fan said.

Everyone could feel their hearts beating rapidly after listening to Mo Fan!

“It’s why I can’t convince myself to just turn around and leave.” Mo Fan fondled Lingling’s head with a faint smile.

Lingling lifted her head and saw the smile on Mo Fan’s scarred face. Her eyes filled with tears!

“Asshole, every one of you is an asshole, you keep talking about your ideas that I can’t refute! Father said that, my sister said that, and now you too!” Despite Lingling’s outstanding intelligence, she was still no match for Mo Fan’s words. She hugged Mo Fan tightly and completely lost the calm she was wearing as a disguise. She was still just a little girl...

Mo Fan smiled. Perhaps it was why he always had some peace of mind; there were still people like them around. Perhaps he was only doing the same thing because of those people too...

“Brother Fan, the Chief Military Instructor would be very proud of you if he heard what you just said.” Zhang Xiaohou was extremely touched.

“Then we should blame him for not teaching us how to be cowards,” Mo Fan said.

“Mo Fan, if you insist on killing the Cold Prince, we’ll have to split up,” the mysterious man said.

“We were meant to listen to your plan, but somehow, I ended up being the topic of the discussion?” Mo Fan replied.

He was starting to get more emotional as he aged. If it was his old self, he would not bother talking so much. He would simplify it to just one sentence: If that son of a b**ch Cold Prince dares to pick on us, we’ll screw him up!

“General Bin Wei, you’re the successor of the Northguard Fortress, right?” the mysterious man inquired.

“Yes,” General Bin Wei nodded.

“The North Valley has an ancient defensive mechanism. It covers a very large area. It might be able to buy the people that are evacuating some time,” the mysterious man said.

Chapter 1380 The Contract of the Black Vatican

The mysterious man looked at General Bin Wei, who noticed everyone was looking at her. She replied after a moment, "Are you referring to the Great Wall?"

"Yes, the powerful Beijiang Desolate Beasts were the greatest threat in North Valley in the past. The people here were constantly at war with them. The ancient defensive mechanism was built during that period. It had been a long time since then, long enough for the people to forget about it," the mysterious man said.

"The defense of the ancient Wall is outstanding indeed, but I'm afraid it's still not enough to stop the undead of the Great Pyramid of Giza, right?" Commander Ye Hong said.

General Bin Wei emphasized when she realized something too, "It's true that the ancient wall of the Northguard Fortress isn't enough to stop the Great Pyramid of Giza, but if we work with the other fortresses in North Valley and set up a barrier at the right place, even the undead of the Great Pyramid of Giza will not be able to set a single foot in our land!"

"That's right!" the mysterious man said. "It's the strongest defense that our ancestors built. Our first priority is to evacuate everyone in North Valley. We should be able to reduce the casualties to the minimum once we activate the defense!"

The eyes of the people in the memorial hall glittered with hope after hearing the mysterious man's words!

If they could activate the defense of the ancient wall, they might be able to stop the Great Pyramid of Giza's forces!

"That's right, fighting them head-on is out of the question. Even the whole army of North Valley wouldn't be able to take them on, but if we can stop them from advancing and buy the people enough time to evacuate, we wouldn't mind giving them the land!" General Ye Hong knocked his head as he came to that conclusion.

"How can we activate the defense? I don't think we have many successors of the Great Wall, like General Bin Wei, left?"

"Don't worry; if I've come up with the plan, I have a way to activate the defense. However, the process isn't simple, and I'll need the help of everyone here..." the mysterious man proposed.

Commander Ye Hong patted his chest and said, "Prophet, just tell me if you need any help. I'm willing to risk my life to ensure North Valley's safety!"

General Bin Wei showed firm determination, too. She had more reason to do it, as a successor of the ancient wall.

"There really is a way, as long as there is a will. See, Old Zhao, it's not as terrible as you thought!" Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan twisted his lips and said, "Do you really think it's not terrible enough? We aren't even sure if we can activate the defense. Even if we did, we still don't know if it can hold off the undead, let alone

guarantee that the people will have enough time to evacuate. The plan might work theoretically, but it's extremely difficult to execute it! We don't even know what kind of accidents might happen..."

"But we still have to give it a try!" Zhang Xiaohou countered.

"We need the exact location where the Great Pyramid of Giza will show up, which means Mo Fan will continue to infiltrate the Black Vatican to obtain more information, and the others will come with me to activate the defense to hold off the army of undead!" the mysterious man declared.

The hope served as a glimpse of light, motivating people stuck in a pitch-black abyss to move forward. Instead of waiting to rot in the darkness, they would rather use all their energy to climb toward the light, regardless of how filthy, difficult, and lengthy the journey was. It was better than waiting in silence and despair. If they made it out, they would surely be reborn to a greater height!

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It was just as the mysterious man said. Mo Fan had to split up from the others.

Mo Fe had now infiltrated the Black Vatican. He believed he would find out the exact location where the Great Pyramid of Giza would be once the Black Vatican proceeded with its ceremony. He would also witness the Cold Prince carrying out his crazy plan!

Killing him was all Mo Fan wanted to do. He had sworn to become stronger in Bo City, to prevent the disaster from happening again. However, it had all happened so quickly, and there was really nothing Mo Fan could have done.

But this time, Mo Fan would not back away again!

He would surely send all scum of the Black Vatican to Hell, including the Cold Prince that dared to stir up troubles in their country!

Mo Fan said goodbye to the others and proceeded along the path alone, the same path that Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong had chosen!

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"Where's Old Zhao?" Mo Fan asked Zhang Xiaohou and Lingling before leaving the village.

Zhao Manyan had left the memorial hall in advance. He seemed to be reluctant to commit to the necessary sacrifices, nor was he willing to let Mo Fan bear the risk alone. He was right that the plan was only theories; there were too many unknown factors about it. If anything went wrong, they would die because of it. Besides, there was no plan to retreat if things went out of control. They were basically placing their lives in the hands of fate!

"Maybe he went out to get some air, Brother Fan, we won't be able to support you from here on, do be careful," Zhang Xiaohou told him.

"I'll be fine," Mo Fan replied.

Mo Fan went around, but still could not find Zhao Manyan. He felt a little sorry for Zhao Manyan, since he did promise he would retreat after collecting the evidence, but they had somehow ended up in a situation where they had to face a true Pyramid. Anyone would have lost their mind by now!

He wanted to say goodbye to Zhao Manyan, but the man was most likely holding a grudge against him. He might even be hiding somewhere, waiting for a chance to knock him out and drag him away... Mo Fan had overstayed slightly. He could not afford to wait any longer.

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Mo Fan returned to the Black Vatican's base, located on a mountain fifty kilometers away from the village.

The mountain only had a few dried plants scattered over it. It was almost barren, with only some dried trunks, branches, and exposed roots.

The old roots intertwined with one another on the dried land. They had scattered across half of the mountain. Blue Bat soon showed up when Mo Fan returned to the camp.

"Where have you been?" Blue Bat asked.

Blue Deacon was wearing a crystal blue outfit, and looked gorgeous in it. If she had not been in the Black Vatican's base, no one would even think of her as a vicious member of the Black Vatican. Blue Bat had spent a lot of time with Mo Fan recently. Perhaps Blue Bat felt that Mo Fan was different from the rest of the fanatical members of the Black Vatican. She enjoyed talking to him.

"I went to get some supper. I prepared some for you too," Mo Fan grinned and tossed a plastic bag to Blue Bat.

Blue Bat opened the plastic bag in confusion. Her face paled when she saw human organs inside it. Blood poured out from it and fell to the ground. She quickly fled the scene.

Mo Fan bust out laughing, when he saw Blue Bat running into the distance.

Some disciples of the Black Vatican saw everything that happened too. They all looked at Mo Fan like he was a psychopath, and tried their best to avoid him.

Violet Ghost wearing a dark blue outfit showed up while Mo Fan was laughing. He looked at Blue Bat who was running away in fright and said with a mocking grin, "You seem to enjoy giving her surprises."

"I'm just too bored. I've been around for some time, but no one enjoys the things that I do," Mo Fan did not bother picking up the organs that were covered in dust on the ground.

There was no way he would be eating them, of course. Most of the members of the Black Vatican were driven by their desires. They might have committed a lot of crimes, but not many of them were mentally ill. Mo Fan was acting like a psychopath as part of his disguise. That way, even if he did something unreasonable, the others would not be suspicious of him.

Luckily, Northdeer had joined the Black Vatican not long before, yet had already made a reputation for himself. Even if Mo Fan accidentally revealed a cloven foot, the others would not be suspicious.

Besides, since the Chief Extraditor was not here, no one could really prove that Mo Fan was a fake, as his face had been destroyed. On top of that, the Chief Extraditor did send Northdeer to receive the Shepherd and Cheng Ying, so it all came together perfectly!

“Tall Sparrow is a fan of them, just like you. Do forgive me for not having a great appetite like you,” Violet Ghost said.

“Tall Sparrow... maybe I can be his friend if I have the chance. Were you looking for me?” Mo Fan asked.

“We are done with our mission here. Unas has asked us to regroup for the ceremony, but since all your men are dead, you won’t be able to take part in the ceremony alone,” Violet Ghost said.

“Humph, even though I’ve failed, I still gave the church everything I had,” Mo Fan harrumphed with a cold grin.

“I’ve told Unas about it. You also helped us to avoid the Enforcement Union, allowing us to summon the Underworld Monarch Frog quicker than the other groups. It’s why we are being allowed to participate in the ceremony and worship the Cold Prince!” Violet Ghost explained.

“So what now? Are you going to abandon me, or let me join you?” Mo Fan said.

“You can join us, but you will be under me, just like Blue Bat,” Violet Ghost said.

“Under you? Are you kidding me now? I’m a Blue Deacon just like you, why do I have to be under you?” Mo Fan said in a displeased tone.

“Then I’m afraid I can’t bring you to the ceremony,” Violet Ghost said.

“You’re threatening me now. Is this how you treat someone that helped you?” Mo Fan snapped angrily.

“The Cold Prince set the rules. After all, we can’t guarantee if anyone among us is having second thoughts. We must ensure that those taking part in the ceremony are absolutely loyal to Master Cold Prince,” Violet Ghost said.

“I can swear my loyalty to the Cold Prince, but you.. I’m sorry, I’m more ambitious than that,” Mo Fan said.

Violet Ghost was not angry. He added when he saw Mo Fan taking his leave, “Feel free to see me if you change your mind.”

“Farewell,” Mo Fan said.

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Mo Fan packed his stuff. It was obvious that he was planning to leave.

The truth was, Mo Fan was not planning to leave at all. He could not afford to accept Violet Ghost’s offer so easily. Violet Ghost was suspicious of everyone around him. He had a chance to come into contact

with Unas, someone who was directly under the Cold Prince. To ensure that there would be no problem when Violet Ghost led someone to meet them, the person had to sign a Cursed Contract!

“Are you leaving?” Blue Bat asked, frowning when she saw Mo Fan packing up.