

Versatile 1441

Chapter 1441: Two Sons of B**ches

1441 Two Sons of B**ches

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The bar at the relay station was surprisingly crowded. Many men that had come so far away from their homes to work here could not resist the urge to share their hard-earned money with the unfamiliar yet friendly ladies in the bar.

Mu Bai felt extremely uncomfortable in his seat. He had an urge to leave, but the lady sitting beside him kept taking the initiative to talk to him. She had a depressed look when she saw the cold look on his face. “Do you despise girls like me?”

“No, not at all; I’m just not used to coming to a place like this,” Mu Bai explained quickly.

“Then why aren’t you drinking? I’ve already given you three toasts. Look at how much fun they are having,” the lady with light eyeliner said.

The lady was very young, in her twenties. Her makeup was a little clumsy, slightly spoiling her rather good-looking face. Mu Bai had spent most of his time on his cultivation, and rarely had the time to go on dates. He did not know what to do when a woman suddenly approached him.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan were like regular customers of the bar. They continued to drink while playing with dice and yelling out numbers. Mu Bai had no idea how the game worked. He only knew the loser had to empty a glass of beer, so they were drinking at quite an insane pace.

They had important work to do tomorrow. Were they not worried they would mess it up if they drank too much? The two ladies that were drinking along with them seemed a little shy at first, but after around ten minutes, they were laughing out loud while hanging their arms around one another. It looked like four men were drinking instead.

Mu Bai was having a hard time enjoying himself, maintaining a certain distance from the lady beside him. He was mindful of his words, too. To his relief, the lady could tell that Mu Bai was from a well-educated family of the city, since his temperament was different from those who had grown up in the mountains like them. She could not help but feel inferior around him. It was not like she had never met customers like him, but most of them only treated her as a tool to vent their desires. They would just pay her after the job without treating her seriously.

Mo Fan suddenly turned around and asked seriously, “Mu Bai, don’t tell me you’re still a virgin?”

The other two ladies giggled as Mu Bai blushed. He felt so awkward that he was lost for words.

Even he did not expect that he would remain single for so many years. It was mainly because he had lost his passion and anticipation for sex after everything he had gone through. He had placed all his focus on becoming stronger, as if he was trying to run away from something.

He used to look down at Mo Fan because of how vulgar and lowly the man was. However, when he saw them having so much fun with the women, he was slightly jealous of how free and unconstrained they were.

“Should we go for a walk instead? I know a nice spot. There’s nothing much in the mountains, but at least the air is very refreshing,” the hostess with light eyeliner said.

“Mm, sure,” Mu Bai immediately agreed to the suggestion, since he was feeling uncomfortable in the bar. He had never been to a place like this before.

Bo City had been built on a mountain too, but its terrain was gentler, unlike the steep and jagged mountains and hills of Kunlun Mountain...

Mu Bai followed the woman to get her purse before leaving the bar. He caught a glimpse of a familiar face in a little booth with curtains. He did not recognize who the person was, as the lighting was too dark. The person was most likely in the booth because he did not want anyone to recognize him.

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The woman brought Mu Bai to the outskirts of the relay station. She had obviously grown up here since she had led Mu Bai along a mountain path that most people did not know existed. They went along the narrow mountain path that was covered in moss and found themselves at the spacious top of a mountain with a clear view. It was an uncultivated land with no factories and constructions. Mu Bai took a deep breath and immediately felt the phlegm stuck in his throat dissolving. The air was cool and refreshing. He could even feel it purifying his lungs.

“I like to come here whenever I’m feeling down when I was a kid. The view of the valley, the glowing stars in the sky, the pleasant scent of the flowers, and the chirps of the insects make me forget all my troubles,” the woman said.

“Mm, it’s very comfortable here,” the night breeze blew the fringe in front of Mu Bai’s forehead up, revealing his face. He preferred to keep his fringe long to cover his eyebrows and forehead. It made him feel more secure.

The woman stared at Mu Bai’s face, dazzled. She spoke after a while, “You’re very good-looking.”

“Good-looking? Isn’t that normally used to describe women?” Mu Bai was startled.

“Mmm... but men can be good-looking too, like you, clean and handsome,” the woman said.

Mu Bai smiled. He was quite pleased by the compliment. It had been a long time since anyone described him like that. Most people only described him as gloomy and quiet over the years.

“Are you feeling troubled? Why is your brow furrowed all the time?” the woman said. She took a step forward and fondled Mu Bai’s brow. “Look, there are already lines here.”

Mu Bai took a step back. He was not used to such intimate interaction. He was used to being on the alert.

However, he quickly noticed the disappointment on the woman’s face. He said apologetically, “Sorry, it’s just my normal reaction...”

“Is it really difficult for you to trust someone? Or you just don’t like women like me touching you?” the woman asked.

“Something happened before, so I can’t get myself to trust anyone, including those who are the closest to me,” Mu Bai said.

“Oh? May I ask what happened?” the woman asked.

“I prefer you not to,” Mu Bai shook his head.

“Did your close ones leave you? I noticed that you are wearing a bracelet on your hand. It’s very old-fashioned, but you seemed afraid to let it get dirty in the bar,” the woman asked.

“My mother used to wear it. She passed away two years ago,” Mu Bai said.

He rarely mentioned that to anyone, but for some reason, he was willing to share it with the woman. Perhaps it was because he was at a remote place, and everyone was a complete stranger to him. Even if he told someone, it would not reveal the grief in his heart.

After the Calamity of the Ancient Capital, Mu He was sentenced to death, and his mother had passed away in sorrow. He was suddenly left alone in the world. Every time he closed his eyes, he would see a head covered in blood rolling down a flight of stairs. The head would face him and glare at him before grunting, “I treated you like my own son; why did you betray me still!?”

Even his mother was not willing to accept the truth, right up to the moment she closed her eyes forever. He was alone now; he had nowhere to go, and cultivating had become the only source of oxygen for him.

Mu Bai was confident that Mu He was Great Deacon Hujin, but he also knew that the man had never tried to set him up. Otherwise, Mu He would not have brought Yu Ang to Mu Zhuoyun, but him instead!

“Have you seen the stars before?” the woman asked.

“I have,” Mu Bai said.

“I’m referring to the sight of stars filling up the sky like grapes hanging all around us. I’ve been to some of the cities before, but I noticed there aren’t as many stars there. It’s very beautiful; it feels like you’re lying in the middle of them,” the woman said, lifting her gaze.

Mu Bai lifted his gaze too, but unfortunately, he could not see any stars since it was a cloudy night. Mu Bai was struggling to imagine the sight that the woman was mentioning.

“I heard from your friends that you guys are going somewhere very dangerous. You might end up losing your lives,” the woman said.

“Mm, it’s quite dangerous,” Mu Bai nodded.

“Then you must come back safely. There’s a chance that the wind will start blowing the night after tomorrow. It will drive the clouds and the dust away, so the sky will be the clearest by then. If you come here again, you’ll see the stars as I’ve mentioned,” the woman said with great anticipation.

“You seem to be very familiar with this place,” Mu Bai said.

“Yeah, I’ve grown up here,” the woman said.

“Then why did you choose this as your work? Did someone force you to do it? I’m sorry, I didn’t mean anything,” Mu Bai said.

“Not at all. I just want to eat nice food, live a better life, and wear nice clothes. Besides, instead of watching out for people harboring malicious thoughts, isn’t it better to make them pay instead...” the woman said.

Mu Bai was suddenly lost for words. He thought most women that decided to become escorts had no choice but to do it for a living, but he seemed to have overcomplicated it. He could not find any words to refute the woman’s answer either.

“I have to go, I’m going into the mountains tomorrow,” Mu Bai said.

“Mm, I’ll send you back. I have no idea how late they are going to drink. To be honest, I prefer attending to customers like you and your friends. You just want to have some drinks and chat with us. We can just talk about local affairs and boast around to kill some time. It doesn’t matter if we get down to the real ‘business’, it just depends if you guys are still sober or not. We are enjoying ourselves too. It’s been a while since I last saw Sister Li and Sister Sang laughing like that,” the woman said.

“Mm, I can tell you are good at conversations,” Mu Bai nodded.

“It’s the basics of what we do... well it also depends on who our customers are.”

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When Mu Bai returned to where they were staying for the night, he immediately saw Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan sleeping soundly in the stinking corridor. If Mu Bai had not known who they were, he would not have believed they were on the national team. Such a disgrace to the country!

“Hey, Mr. Mu is back, how did it go with Xiao Zhou?” the woman called Sister Sang smiled when she saw Mu Bai returning alone. She was not surprised.

On the other side, Sister Li glanced at Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan, who were asleep like dead pigs, and said with a giggle, “They were boasting how their faces wouldn’t even turn red after drinking a whole carton of beer, but they ended up like this before finishing half a carton. Now that you’re back, can you please drag them into their rooms? We are too tired to do it.”

“Oh, Xiao Zhou is fine, I’ll do it. You two should go home and rest,” Mu Bai said.

“Xiao Zhou isn’t really the talkative kind, so I hope you didn’t mind... anyway, come visit us again!” Sister Sang seemed quite concerned about Xiao Zhou’s image.

“Mm, I understand, you two can go now,” Mu Bai did not want anyone to see them like this. He quickly dragged Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan to their rooms.

“Mr. Mu, your friends haven’t paid yet,” Sister Li called out.

Mu Bai’s face darkened immediately.

F**k, not only did they drag him along to find escorts, they didn't even pay them! These two sons of b**ches!

Chapter 1442: Volcanic Pond

1442 Volcanic Pond

being a mage did not necessarily mean they were good at drinking. mo fan's mind was still spinning when he heard lingling urging him to get ready.

mo fan took a shower to freshen up himself. he no longer looked as miserable as he was last night after being outdrank by two hookers.

zhao manyan soon came out too. he muttered under his breath, "damn it, how dare that sister li look down on me? not only did she say that i'm worse at drinking than her, she even said that i'm worse than her in bed too! damn it, if only i didn't drink that much last night, or i would have taught her why nuwa patched up the sky!"

"enough boasting; you might not even be alive to walk out of your room," mo fan shot back.

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everyone else had already gathered at the relay station. the team 9included more than twenty people, but only nine were going into the fire vein, including mo fan, zhao manyan, mu bai, qi shan, mui zhuocheng, dongfang xifeng, dongfang linlin, and the others.

the rest of the team would be on standby close to the fire vein. they included dongfang mo, mui guangqing, dongfang ming, lingling, and some other people.

their destination was quite a journey away. mui guangqing summoned his mount, a mountain beast, to carry the team across the mountains of sun ridge. the team gradually approached the location of the fire vein.

"see that scorching rock peak? that's the highest peak of this mountain. it's where the ruler of sun ridge resides. after observing it for a long time, we've discovered that the scorching rock peak is shrouded by an orange mist of volcanic ashes almost all the time, and it has never completely gone away. the mist is our perfect cover. the beast won't be able to see us, no matter what we're going to do," mui guangqing informed everyone, pointing at one of the peaks.

the peak soared up beyond a huge mist and cluster of gray clouds. the clouds were orange, with tongues of fire sprouting out at times. it was most likely a spiraling airflow that continuously absorbed the volcanic ashes and particles from the volcano, forming a spectacular volcanic mist after a certain period of time!

the clouds did not look misty, but felt heavy instead. together with the mountains nearby, it felt like the spacious land had been compressed into a ravine. it was somewhat gloomy and restrained!

"isn't the ruler interested in the fire vein?" mo fan had to ask.

"from what i can tell, it's more interested in the volcanic mist instead, but i heard from the locals around here that it isn't the friendliest beast. brother mo, please be careful," mui guangqing warned him.

no one could guarantee that the ruler was actually asleep in its own territory. if it happened to be taking a stroll, the whole team was going to be done for!

mo fan's demon element was still in hibernation. if a great ruler suddenly showed up, mo fan was going to die for sure too!

"it's one of the greatest threats to us; brother mo and his men are going to keep an eye on the creature. they will alert us if anything happens... the rest of you will be coming with me," mui guangqing said.

the terrain began to rise after the team crossed a few valleys. the slopes were heading toward the sky, extending beyond the volcanic mist. it felt like they were about to enter a different world above the clouds.

mo fan could not help but marvel at the sight of it. they were only on one of the ridges of kunlun mountain that was not particularly well-known, yet the sight on it was already this spectacular. how astonishing would it be if he was standing at the top of kunlun mountain?

kunlun was occupied by a kingdom of demon creatures. the demon creatures residing in the qinling mountains used to be from kunlun; they were just a side branch of kunlun's kingdom!

if a little side branch was enough to dominate the qinling mountains, how powerful were the demon creatures that were dominating kunlun mountain!?

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the terrain kept going higher. just as the team thought they were about to reach the clouds, their vision ahead suddenly cleared up as they crossed a section of the ridge. it was outside mo fan's expectations...

"this mountain was once the tallest peak, but it ended up like this after it was hit by the meteorite," mui guangqing explained. he already knew the team was going to be shocked by the sight.

he also had not expected he would reach the highest point of the ridge while he was still climbing a steep slope the first time he came here. the truth was, it was not the highest point of the mountain. the mountain used to be around a thousand meters tall three centuries ago, but a meteorite had smashed its peak to pieces, giving the mountain its current appearance. the top of the mountain had been turned into a plateau big enough to build a large city on!

"we call it the roulette wheel summit; its widest point is seven kilometers, the smallest is five. the fire vein is right at its center, a volcanic pool around four kilometers wide that was created by the meteorite. just take a few more steps forward, and you'll be able to see the hole!" mui guangqing said.

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the team continued ahead. they had indeed noticed a steep crack on the flat terrain ahead. they could already see the edge of the hole, but to their surprise, they still could not see what was inside. they had to move closer...

they were finally able to look into the hole after they went further ahead. its depth and size alone were already raising some hackles. the people were already struggling to find the courage to keep going!

"such an eye-opener!" zhao manyan could not help but exclaim.

it was truly a fire vein; its appearance alone was enough to intimidate them, but they had yet to see any fire from it yet...

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the team continued forward. they suddenly saw a blinding red that directly struck their souls!

it felt as if just the sight of the redness was enough to set them on fire. it continued to make them feel tinier as they moved forward!

the imperious flames had completely filled up their vision. a few of them had already halted in their tracks. they had totally lost their minds after witnessing the spectacular sight.

“this...this is unbelievable!” it was dongfang mo’s first time coming here, too.

mui guangqing smiled proudly. it was he that had discovered the place, and today would be the day they began excavating this elemental vein that had existed for three hundred years! it was going to change the fate of the two renowned clans!

“mo fan, you can just give guan xixi a call and tell her about the girl who helped return my car!” zhao manyan almost wet his pants after looking into the hole.

my heavens, how were they supposed to make it out alive after jumping into the fire inside that!?

“can you get a hold of yourself? you already came all the way here,” mo fan retorted.

the other volunteers were thinking of giving up, too. they had no idea how dangerous the fire vein was before coming here. they had already lost the courage to get closer, let alone jump into the hole. they had only seen a small part of the volcano’s caldera. they had not even reached the edge of it!

the air only felt a little heavy when they were climbing up the mountain, and the temperature was still normal. when they reached the roulette wheel summit and drew closer to the volcanic pool, it felt like they had entered a world of flames!

Chapter 1443: Bugged Down in Crisis!

1443 Bugged Down in Crisis!

the lava was burning energetically. they could see plumes of fire rising more than twenty meters high, spiraling in the air. when they looked down into the chasm from the edge, the volcanic caldera resembled a spectacular sea of lava. its restlessness was inspiring fear in them.

the expressions of the disciples of the renowned clans that had volunteered to participate in the operation had shifted tremendously. they obviously regretted their hot-headed decision.

mo fan looked down into the chasm and noticed the lava was split into several layers, as if each layer was holding a burning liquid with different effects. when the different lavas gathered in a specific spot, he immediately sensed a formidable energy being formed.

“look out!” he yelled.

as soon as mo fan warned the others, a huge explosion took place inside the chasm. the scorching lava splashed upward like a huge geyser, rising above the team before scattering across the land. the people immediately backed away in fear.

luckily, zhao manyan reacted very quickly, summoning a water curtain to shield the team from the lava!

“i’ve been smashed by the waves at the beach, but it’s my first time being smashed by lava,” dongfang xifeng observed calmly.

“how terrifying is that? if we didn’t defend ourselves, the lava would have easily burned through us, leaving just our bones behind!” mui zhuocheng exclaimed.

“it almost broke through my water curtain,” zhao manyan looked up and pointed at the blue barrier.

the advanced spell was left with holes after the lava splashed on it. it clearly showed how insanely high the temperature was!

“it’s only the lava on the surface. the temperature is going to be higher the deeper we go. i’ve briefly classified the different layers of lava into red lava, brown lava, black lava, and white lava. the red lava’s temperature is at least the temperature of a fire spell of an advanced mage. a water curtain without any special effects will only last for five seconds. the next is the brown lava. it’s mixed with the red lava, and is similar to the surging undercurrents in the ocean. the brown lava’s temperature is twice the temperature of the red lava. a normal water curtain will only last for one second.

“after that is the black lava. the black lava is absolutely terrifying. the explosion just then was caused by the black lava. it usually has a spherical shape, and looks like iron spheres floating in the lava. they are constantly floating around, but when two black lavas come within fifty meters, it results in the scene we just witnessed, an explosion that will blow the lava into the air,” mui guangqing explained to the team.

mui guangqing led the team back closer to the edge after the lava in the air had fallen to the ground.

“take a look,” mui guangqing walked very close to the edge and asked the others to gather around him. he pointed at the spot where mo fan had seen the lava of different colors gather previously, “when two black lava spheres collide, it will trigger a violent reaction. the explosion is as strong as a super level fire spell. after the explosion, the spot where the explosion took place will become like that.”

the others looked in where mui guangqing was pointing and immediately discovered a deep hollow.

“the lava doesn’t flow very quickly. when the lava is blown away, it will take between five to ten minutes to fill up the gap again,” mui guangqing told them.

the others stared at the hollow. as mui guangqing had mentioned, there was no sign of any lava flowing into the hollow. the lava further away was creeping toward it at a very slow pace.

“the red lava’s temperature is already equivalent to an advanced fire spell, not to mention that we are constantly burning when we are inside the lava. apart from a super mage, no one could possibly last for more than two minutes in that, let alone in the brown lava that is even deadlier. does that mean we can only last for half a minute in the brown lava?” dongfang linlin asked seriously.

“exactly, if you’re forcing your way through, even a super mage will be turned into ashes by the brown lava, let alone you guys,” mui guangqing confirmed.

“hey hey hey, stop saying that like it’s nothing important! if the lava can easily burn a super mage to death, what the hell are we even doing here? let’s just go on with our lives!” zhao manyan protested.

“nature will always give us a chance. didn’t i already mention it? the black lava that is scarier than the brown lava is our ally,” mui guangqing said.

“you’re saying that the hollow that is produced when the black lava spheres triggers an explosion is our best chance to reach the bottom of the volcanic pond?” mo fan said.

“exactly, the lava flows very slowly. even if the place goes very deep, you should have time to make your way down to the bottom. you won’t be buried in the red or brown lava when the hollow is there!” mui guangqing stated.

mo fan’s face darkened after hearing the explanation.

was this really the best plan that the dongfang clan and the mui clan could come up with? were they really asking them to wait for an opening produced by the explosion and jump straight into the chasm? going down might be easy, but how were they supposed to come back up?

were they going to wait for the black lava to trigger an explosion again? the problem was... they had no way of telling when the explosion was going to happen!

they were just too many uncertainties. first, their lives were solely dependent on the black lava spheres, which were not even in their control. second, it was difficult to tell if they were going to find something worse as they made their way to the bottom. third, they could not tell how long the hollow would be around for, not to mention that they had no idea where it would show up at!

mo fan finally understood why even the dongfang clan was struggling so much to excavate the fire vein, even when the fire element was their field of expertise. it was like placing a bet with their lives at stake. they were betting on the fact that nothing would go wrong, that their plan would work perfectly, and all their speculations were right. if anything went wrong, the whole team was going to be wiped out!

fan dong finally gathered his courage and said, “uncle guangqing, i didn’t know it was this dangerous. even though i do think i have no other concerns in this world, i’m still reluctant to just get myself killed like that!”

“i...i think i’ll pass too. i initially thought of using this chance to earn a better status in the clan, but nothing else matters if i end up dying here. please apologize to uncle mo on my behalf,” another disciple of the dongfang clan agreed.

everyone on the team was an advanced mage, so no one was stupid enough to risk their lives after learning the danger involved. mui guangqing’s explanation sounded simple, but they only realized how dangerous the whole thing was after seeing the lava and the explosion with their own eyes. the sight was significantly more terrifying than they had imagined! they were already struggling to resist their fear. how were they supposed to jump into the chasm and complete such an insanely difficult mission?

“i won’t force any of you to go down there. i believe you know the way back,” mui guangqing sighed.

fan dong and the other person did not hesitate any further, quickly leaving the place. even staying a second further would cast an inerasable shadow on them.

the others also became hesitant after seeing the two leave.

“mo fan, please spare me, the pyramid was already thrilling enough for me. i still haven’t fully recovered from it after half a year...” zhao manyan said with a twisted face.

zhao manyan did not hesitate at all. he wanted to depart with the two that had wisely taken their leave. unfortunately, mo fan had used shadow imprisonment to keep him there!

“we’ve already lost two of our members before we even started,” qi shan said mockingly, his face cold.

“it’s still doable without them. i knew that some of us would turn tail eventually. it’s a lot better than i thought, losing only two members,” mui guangqing admitted.

“i thought the plan was going to be more reliable. i didn’t expect us to have to rely on luck so heavily. we have to hope that the volcanic pond behaves itself!” mo fan muttered.

“it’s the only plan we can think of. we’ll need you to break the sarkinite rocks at the bottom. sarkinite has the ability to nullify dimensional magic. you can only use the scrolls of space after destroying the sarkinite rocks. it’s going to determine your ability to make it out in one piece!” mui guangqing told him.

“even dimensional magic isn’t going to work in there?” mo fan’s expression darkened even further.

he was willing to have a try at it despite the risks involved, because he had the space element. he was not too worried initially, but when he learned that the space element was no longer usable in the chasm, he really had to think twice about doing the job!

his demon element was still hibernating, so he would have to solely rely on his own capabilities if anything went wrong. he would have difficulty surviving in the extreme heat at the bottom of the chasm. he had really found himself in a pinch this time!

“every elemental vein has sarkinite rocks, hence why it is so difficult to excavate an elemental vein. scrolls of space are incredibly rare, too. our clans only have a few left, but we have no choice but to use them under the circumstances. the only problem is, the space element won’t be able to move through the layers of rocks, since almost every corner in the fire vein has the sarkinite. we’ve managed to find a perfect spot after surveying the place for six months. if you can destroy the sarkinite in that specific spot, you’ll be able to use the scrolls of space!” mui guangqing said.

“i bet it’s not going to be easy to find the spot?” mo fan asked.

“it’s indeed going to be tricky to find it. we don’t really know what the situation is down there. we’ve only determined the spot through simulations. i’ll show you the directions later, and you must determine the exact path to the spot,” mui guangqing said.

“i have a poor sense of direction! i can even lose my directions on the roads, let alone down there!” mo fan protested loudly.

“i have memorized the path,” dongfang linlin said.

“mm, we asked her to do most of the simulations. dongfang linlin will guide you to the sarkinite, but the rest of you must remember the directions just in case something happens,” mui guangqing said.

“by the way, didn’t you mention the white lava, apart from the red lava, brown lava, and black lava? what exactly is the white lava?” lingling interrupted.

“that’s the most important thing i’m going to explain right now!” mui guangqing said with a slightly louder voice.

“f**k me, are you telling me that everything you just mentioned is only the appetizer!?” zhao manyan bleated.

Chapter 1444 West Kunlun Wind

mui guangqing looked rather awkward, but soon regained his serious expression and replied, “we believe the white lava is the core of the fire vein at the bottom of the caldera, where the meteorite smashed into the mountain. if we aren’t mistaken, its temperature should be high enough to burn a ruler-level to ashes within a minute.”

“are you being f**king serious now!?” zhao manyan screamed at the top of his lungs.

“the white lava should only appear in fixed locations, which is why we need a fire spirit summoned beast to cross the white lava and set the space coordinates. none of us have gone inside, so you’ll have to act according to the situation. if you can’t find a way to cross the white lava, you’ll have to leave with the scrolls of space,” mui guangqing said.

the fire spirit summoned beast obviously referred to little flame belle.

in other words, the white lava was located at the bottom of the volcanic pond. it had the highest temperature, and could set anything on fire with the slightest touch. even a ruler-level creature had no chance of enduring its heat. advanced mages like them would be burned to ashes if even a single drop of the white lava touched them!

the only way across the white lava was using the scrolls of space.

however, they were a lot of uncertainties when using the scrolls of space, especially when they had no clue how many walls, rocks, or obstacles there were in the surroundings. using the scrolls of space recklessly was only going to get themselves killed. because of that, someone had to cross the white lava first and set the coordinates where the scrolls of space would teleport them to!

only then would they be able to teleport to the right spot!

“your job is done once you’ve set the space coordinates. leave the excavating to professionals like us,” mui guangqing said blithely.

they went through the plan once again. it turned out that they only had a single scroll of space. it was currently in the hands of mui zhuocheng, who was also a space mage himself. it was the mui clan that had provided them with the extremely rare magic scroll. mo fan would have been more than happy to keep it as a safety measure, but it was unlikely that mui zhuocheng would give it to him.

all magic scrolls were uncommon. only a very few factions had the skill to produce magic scrolls, not to mention something as extravagant as the scroll of space. mo fan had seen asha'ruiya using one before when they were at the top of mount tyrant. mo fan could still feel chills running down his spine whenever he recalled the shadows of the enormous creatures above the clouds, and the giant hand looming over them.

the mui clan had seriously gone all out this time, offering the use of the scroll of space that they treated as the clan's heirloom and heritage. nothing was better than the scroll of space when running away; the distance it could cover was a lot greater than using blink!

mo fan's blink could teleport him less than three hundred meters. the walls in the volcanic pond were clearly more than a thousand meters thick, so it was impossible for him to teleport out of the volcanic pond with blink. the thought of teleporting into the lava accidentally was already creating great pressure on his thoughts...

after the team was done with the preparations, all they needed was a suitable time to jump into the hole.

mui guangqing kept his eyes on the volcanic pond all the time. he was waiting for a longer opening before giving the signal.

every time a hollow appeared as a result of an explosion, the lava would scatter across the place. it was suicide to fly above the lava, so the team could only wait at the edge patiently until a hollow was formed closer to the edge they were standing at.

it was a long wait. hollows would not appear all the time, and due to the size of the volcanic pond, most of the hollows either appeared closer to the center or on the side opposite where the team was at...

"it's here, the next one is very close to us!" dongfang linlin said.

"it won't do, it won't last for long. the hollow is going to fill up before you can make it to the bottom," mui guangqing shook his head.

"but we've waited for so long."

"we can't afford to rush it."

"it seems like the wind is blowing in our direction. the lava is going to splash on us. should we choose a different spot?" mo fan said.

"we'll wait here, have some patience."

mu bai was playing an important role on the team, since he was an ice mage. not every mage had outstanding fire resistance. those that were appointed to enter the volcanic pond had already put on magic equipment of the ice element and the water element, but they were still struggling to endure the heat. the longer they waited, the more unbearable the heat was.

"hang in there. i know it's very tough, but our chance might arrive in the very next second. well, there's also a chance that we will have to wait here for a whole day..." mui guangqing reassured the team.

“at this rate, i’m going to be worn out before going inside,” zhao manyan said.

mu bai had expended a significant amount of energy. to make things worse, the lava kept falling in their direction because of the strong winds.

“damn it, where did the wind even come from? there was barely any wind before!” zhao manyan cursed.

mu bai lifted his gaze and looked into the sky. he suddenly noticed the thick cloud of volcanic ashes drifting away, as if someone was dragging the orange and brown mist to the west...

the wind was strong enough to blow the volcanic ashes away?

for some reason, mu bai suddenly recalled what the hooker xiao zhou told him the other night...

“then you must come back safely. the west kunlun wind is going to start blowing the night after tomorrow. it will drive the clouds and the dust away, so the sky will be the clearest by then. if you come here again, you’ll see the stars as i’ve mentioned.”

the west kunlun wind?

wouldn’t that mean the wind was going to blow the volcanic ashes away, too?

mu bai immediately looked at the scorching rock peak that he had not bothered to watch before.

he was utterly dumbfounded by what he saw; the scorching rock peak, which was initially shrouded by the volcanic ashes, was now visible. it was as sharp as a sword, pointing imperiously at the sky. he could see a giant pair of red wings extending slowly out from atop it. they were absolutely shocking, despite the distance between them!

the west kunlun wind had blown the volcanic ash cloud away!

mu bai also recalled mui guangqing mentioning that the dominator of sun ridge was not well-behaved at certain times. was he referring to when the west kunlun wind was blowing!?

“damn it, why did the wind have to come at this time!?” mui guangqing yelled when he finally realized what was happening.

xiao zhou had grown up around here. she might not be a mage, but she was familiar with the shifting of the seasons at kunlun mountain. she knew the exact day when a strong wind would occur... mu bai learned about it the night before, but it did not occur to him that the two events were related!

he did not think the volcanic ashes that they were relying on to conceal them from the creature’s vision and senses would be blown away by the west kunlun wind!

the fat was seriously in the fire now. the group of people above the volcanic pond was completely exposed under the proud gaze of the great ruler. its eyes were obviously sharp as a ruler-level creature. it could easily lock its eyes onto them at their current distance!

Chapter 1445 Using Violence to Curb Violence

“mo fan, any other advanced mages would be scared if they stumbled into a commander-level creature in the wild; why must we step on the toes of a ruler-level creature every few days? are we f**king forbidden mages now!?” zhao manyan cursed while running as fast as he could.

the west kunlun wind alone was very strong, let alone the powerful gusts that were surging in their direction after the sun ridge’s fiery-winged ruler started flying at them. the winds immediately blew the stones and the dust on the roulette wheel summit into the air, together with the volcanic ash, lava droplets, and gravel. the group was left with no choice but to run for their lives!

the sun ridge ruler’s speed was absolutely shocking. it was several mountains and valleys away when the group noticed it, yet the creature was less than three kilometers away after they had only run a few steps. a ruler-level creature was able to kill an advanced mage instantly from a distance of a kilometer. they would have to split up and run in different directions once the creature was close enough to attack them!

mo fan had to admit that zhao manyan was right; he had been stirring up troubles with a lot of insanely strong creatures lately...

as a matter of fact, commander-level creatures and ruler-level creatures were extremely rare. one might accidentally enter the demon creatures’ territory, wander aimlessly for ten days, and still not stumble into a single commander-level creature. having that in mind, the only explanation as to why he had been stumbling into ruler-level creatures so often lately was because he had been looking for too much trouble. he kept putting himself in extremely dangerous situations!

“enough talk, that son of a b**ch is going to attack us from range when it’s around a kilometer away. you better ready your defense so we have a chance of getting out here alive!” mo fan shouted back.

speaking of a bad start! their lives were in danger before they had a chance to put the long-awaited plan into motion. not only did they go through so much trouble, but they also had to be chased around by a ruler-level creature, too!

“a ruler-level creature with wings is normally six times faster than the strongest advanced wind mage. our speed isn’t even half as fast as an advanced wind mage. it’s useless trying to run away!” lingling said, as if the danger was none of her concern.

“so are you telling us we shouldn’t be running!?” zhao manyan yelled.

it was indeed useless to try to run away in their situation. the fiery-winged ruler’s speed was like an enormous eagle. unfortunately, they were not rabbits, as rabbits still had a chance of running away from an eagle. they were like a bunch of clumsy piglets instead, visible and slow-moving targets running in a single direction!

most terrifyingly, there was no cover on the roulette wheel summit. it felt like the fiery-winged tyrant was making its way to a dining table to enjoy the delicacies that had presented themselves!

“old zhao, it’s only two kilometers away!” mo fan said after glancing back to roughly estimate the distance.

the fiery-winged tyrant was not as huge as mo fan had imagined when it was two kilometers away, but the size of its wings was unbelievable. it was obviously the kind of ruler-level creature with an incredible speed!

this kind of ruler-level creature was usually deadlier, since its prey did not even have a chance to run away!

“stop yelling, i’m preparing... f**k me!” zhao manyan immediately saw the creature beating its fiery wings to fire burning projectiles at them as soon as he turned around!

the projectiles were like meteorites, sealing the group’s escape path. several meteorites the size of a house slammed heavily onto the path ahead. everyone immediately ran in separate directions!

“don’t split up!” mui guangqing yelled when he saw two members running in the opposite direction to them.

“it’s a fast ruler-level creature. it’s going to take us out one by one if we split up. we might have a chance to hold on longer if we stick together,” lingling said.

the two members were not thinking clearly, but they still turned around and fled with the team.

“damn it, its attack range is more than a kilometer!” mo fan cursed.

“where’s old mo? where’s dongfang mo? wasn’t he supposed to keep an eye on the creature? what the hell is he up to!?” zhao manyan yelled.

“they must be making preparations on the other side. they didn’t expect the creature to come right at us. don’t give up yet, we must hold on until dongfang mo is here. it’s our only chance. look out, fire is coming out from the ground!” mui guangqing said, pointing ahead.

flames were emerging from the ground. even though the creature was still more than a kilometer away, it was already able to attack the group. flames sprouted along the ground like fire lilies. the group wove through the flames like wriggling snakes. luckily, everyone in the group was an elite advanced mage. the entire team would have been wiped out by now if it consisted of some ordinary mages!

“old zhao, it’s coming again!” mo fan yelled.

“i know, stop yelling!” zhao manyan said.

“we are going to die for sure; damn it, i should have left with fan dong!”

“don’t panic, we can still make it!”

“how? it’s a ruler-level creature!” dongfang linlin said.

the ruler was inflicting overwhelming fear on the team. everything they had learned until now was like a child’s play compared to the terrifying baptism of fire pouring down at them.

“it’s coming,” mui zhuocheng said hopelessly. he could already see the shadow of the ruler-level creature looming over them. he also felt a scorching heat that he had never experienced before coming at them. their defense was almost non-existent!

a long cry was heard. it sounded extremely close. the fiery-winged tyrant had turned into a soul-crushing burning drill diving at them at an angle. it was lunging right at the roulette wheel summit, and the group of mages that were desperately running for their lives.

zhao manyan turned around at the perfect time and spread his arms apart! "titan body!"

a brown light burst out from his body and formed silhouettes of a sturdy figure. each image was bigger than the one before!

the last silhouette was almost the size of a tyrant titan. its outline solidified as its brightness reached its limit. it looked like a titan spreading its arms apart, standing its ground firmly!

the fiery-winged tyrant slammed into the enormous silhouette. the titan dissipated like bubbles. meanwhile, zhao manyan was knocked flying by the enormous impact. he fell down in front of the group.

"well done!" mo fan exclaimed happily.

the titan body was shattered into pieces, but the fiery-winged tyrant's head was spinning from the enormous impact. it was standing there stunned. the defense had managed to buy the team some time!

the team would have been forced to split up if they did not stop the fiery-winged tyrant's attack. the fiery-winged tyrant would have plenty of time to feast on them!

"impressive, how impressive!" mui guangqing's impression of zhao manyan shifted tremendously when he saw how zhao manyan had defended them from the ruler-level creature's attack. if everything had gone according to plan, their chance of success would have been higher with a defensive mage like him on their side!

mui zhuocheng, dongfang linlin, qi shan, and the others were stunned, too. they stared at zhao manyan, who was fallen miserably on the ground, in disbelief. the guy was far more impressive than they had thought. unfortunately, it did not really make any difference, as the ruler-level creature would be coming after them again in no time!

as they had thought, the fiery-winged tyrant did not give them any chance of escaping after recovering from its dizziness. it used the fiery lilies to seal off their path of escape once again.

"this way, follow me!" mui guangqing took the lead. the buff from his wind element gave the team a glimpse of hope.

the wind trail boosting the team's speed had changed direction. the path down the mountain was completely blocked off. they could only run toward the volcanic pond. it would mostly buy them some time. dongfang mo must be close by, but his speed was obviously no match for the ruler-level creature. it would take him some time to come from the other mountain!

their initial plan was to let dongfang mo be on standby close to the scorching rock peak. if they ended up making too much noise, dongfang mo would take the initiative to lure the ruler-level creature away. however, they had not expected the wind to blow the volcanic ashes away. the fiery-winged tyrant had ignored dongfang mo and gone right after them instead! dongfang mo did have magic wings. he was chasing the ruler-level creature, but his speed was completely outmatched by it!

“mo fan, i’m done for,” zhao manyan said, his face extremely pale.

“hang in there, old mo is going to be here soon,” mo fan comforted the injured zhao manyan.

“can we not be brothers in our next life?” zhao manyan said softly. he was scarred after being set up by mo fan numerous times.

“sure, i’ll be your father instead.”

“screw you!”

“do you really have the mood to joke about that under the current circumstances?” dongfang linlin grunted.

“it’s coming again!” mu bai warned.

“dongfang linlin, you must be a space mage too, right? stay here and be prepared to lend me a hand. i’ll go and stop that ass***. don’t you abandon me!” mo fan said to dongfang linlin.

“here?” dongfang linlin did not understand what mo fan was referring to, but before she could discuss the plan further, mo fan had stopped running. he turned around and faced the fiery-winged tyrant just like zhao manyan had!

the fiery-winged tyrant was gliding just above the ground of the roulette wheel summit. it was moving like a red flicker; it was so quick that there was barely any time for anyone to react.

“little flame belle!”

little flame belle tore the rift above mo fan apart after receiving the signal. she descended upon mo fan in the form of the flame belle empress. it looked like mo fan was being possessed by a fire spirit...

the flames of ardent sunset engulfed mo fan like fiery armor. they first erupted from his feet before covering his entire body. it looked like mo fan had just put on a suit of imperious armor!

mo fan did not have any defensive spells. he had decided to curb violence with violence instead!

he clenched his fists. the ardent sunset burned vigorously on his left fist, while the calamity fire spread rapidly from his right. he slammed his fists into one another in front of his chest. the two fire domains exploded as the fire magic accumulated rapidly, like water being drawn into the eye of a vortex!

Chapter 1446 Relay Blink Escape Technique

“fiery swamp!”

mo fan slammed his fist onto the ground, setting it on fire and forming a swamp of raging flames ahead of him!

he then fixed his eyes on the fiery-winged tyrant!

the creature's speed was insanely high. mo fan knew he would most likely end up in the creature's beak if he waited until the creature was within range before setting up his fire domain!

"rise!" mo fan roared. he swung his other fist at the sky in an uppercut!

an enormous fiery dragon rose from the swamp of flames. it went right at the fiery-winged ruler flying close to the ground.

the massive dragon of fire contained remarkable power. its scattering flames were strong enough to burn everything within five hundred meters to ashes. even though mo fan had thrown the fiery dragon punch slightly early, it still collided with the fiery-winged tyrant!

the fiery dragon rose in an unstoppable manner, the howls of its flames sounding like the roars of a dragon. it was the strongest attack that mo fan had learned with little flame belle's strength while he spending almost half a year recovering at the parthenon temple. it required some time to channel and its range was very limited, but it could easily kill a commander-level creature once it landed on the target!

the fiery-winged tyrant had obviously underestimated its opponents. it never thought a mere human whose aura was a whole level weaker than it could throw such a terrifying fiery punch. the rising dragon forcibly knocked it into the air. it started spinning after losing its balance, while the raging flames devoured it.

the eyes of mui guangqing and the others almost popped out of their sockets when they saw the rising dragon punch!

zhao manyan's attempt to defend the team from the ruler-level creature's attack was already shocking, but mo fan was even crazier. he managed to knock the fiery-winged tyrant into the sky! they were struggling to imagine how the imperious fiery dragon rising from the swamp was unleashed by a weak, feeble mage. how reckless and wild was this guy!?

the fiery-winged tyrant was infuriated. its dignity as a ruler-level creature was greatly shaken after failing its attacks twice in a row.

the fiery dragon had inflicted minor injuries on the creature, but they were nowhere enough to weaken it. it forcibly twisted its body in the sky and used its wings to stabilize itself. its imperious aura extinguished the flames of the ardent sunset and the calamity fire. it raised its head and exhaled an overwhelming breath at mo fan!

the exhalation was mixed with scorching flames that could easily burn anyone into ashes. mo fan clearly had no chance of enduring it...

mo fan was utterly shocked too. he initially thought his attack would knock the creature further away to buy him some time. he did not expect the creature to recover so quickly!

it was a ruler-level creature, after all. even his strongest attack would only result in a negligible outcome!

"blink!" mo fan was no idiot. he had used all his might to slightly shove this guy away, but the guy's single slap in reaction to his shove was enough to break all his bones to pieces. he was clearly not on the

same level as this creature. he should be running for his life after he managed to take advantage of the creature by luck!

mo fan could teleport at most two hundred and seventy meters away with blink. it was the furthest distance he could cover by drawing a silver star constellation, and only when he was using the spell on himself!

mo fan escaped from the range of the fiery-winged tyrant's breath with a single cast of blink. unfortunately, the tyrant's breath was not so easy to dodge. the creature merely moved its head to redirect the strong blast at mo fan. as it shifted its head, the terrifying force of the breath tore a huge path across the ground. the gouge spread rapidly in mo fan's direction!

"dongfang linlin, help!" mo fan yelled at dongfang linlin.

the strong wind was approaching too quickly. mo fan needed time to construct the star constellation to cast blink. he was still within the range of the creature's breath, as he had moved less than three hundred meters away.

mo fan was well aware of the strength of a ruler-level creature. they could easily bring utter destruction upon an area for five hundred meters around them, and up to a kilometer with some of their moves.

mo fan was already fleeing at his quickest pace. he finally caught up to dongfang linlin.

luckily, dongfang linlin was a very smart and collected woman under the pressure. as a space mage, she already knew what mo fan was up to when she saw mo fan running at her. he was planning to use her blink to run away from the creature, like a relay race!

dongfang linlin had constructed the silver star constellation in advance. she timed the spell perfectly. the moment mo fan caught up to her, the star constellation flickered. they both vanished into thin air, leaving a trail of crystalline dust in the air.

the deadly breath poured down from the sky before the crystalline dust dissipated, leaving a terrifyingly long and deep ravine across the sturdy ground!

"not bad, two hundred meters!" mo fan complimented when he realized he had reappeared two hundred meters away.

the first-tier blink was only usable on a single person. the more adept the space mage and the higher their mental strength, the greater the maximum distance they could cover with a single cast. mo fan was only able to blink a hundred meters away when he first learned the spell.

after reaching the second-tier, he could blink through obstacles, as long as the space was not completely sealed up. he could also teleport others within the star constellation with him, but the higher the number of people and the greater the area the objects he was trying to teleport occupied, the shorter the distance he would be able to cover.

in mo fan's case, when he was casting blink on himself, the maximum distance he could travel was between two hundred and fifty to three hundred meters. if there were two people, the distance would shrink to between a hundred fifty to two hundred meters. dongfang linlin had managed to teleport

them two hundred meters away, her space element was obviously on par with his. the volunteers of the two renowned clans were indeed very impressive!

the two hundred meters was extremely important. otherwise, he would have had no chance of escaping the range of the ruler-level creature's attack.

even so, they immediately ran as fast as they could after they teleported away from the attack. mui guangqing was smart enough to leave a wind track behind to boost their speed while their blink was on cooldown!

it was such a close call!

the two space mages had barely escaped the ruler-level creature's breath attack. if mo fan had not knocked the creature far enough away, he would have had no chance of escaping from the attack. he was still too weak to take on a ruler-level creature. he might be able to stay alive for now, but the countdown of death was already ticking!

"why isn't old mo here yet? is he trying to set us up!?" mo fan yelled.

"he's there!" mui guangqing finally saw dongfang mo, but the man was still around two kilometers away. the fiery-winged tyrant was too angry to even care about dongfang mo.

"we are running out of room ahead. we are doomed!" zhao manyan shouted.

"it's coming. we are done for, this is the end..."

"can anyone hold it back briefly? do it now."

"we've already tried our best. there's nothing we can do!"

"blink, hurry up and use blink..."

"blink my ass, it would only teleport us into the lava!"

Chapter 1447 Mo Fan, The True Rascal

"just think of something, quick!"

"oh dongfang mo, we are all going to die," mui guangqing was already saying his last words when he saw the fiery-winged tyrant approaching.

dongfang mo was clearly not going to make it in time. besides, a super mage had no chance of taking on a ruler-level creature alone. human mages were significantly weaker than demon creatures of the same level. it was also a lot trickier to rescue and protect someone else in the middle of a fight...

"quick, jump into the hole!" lingling suddenly blurted out. her innocent voice did not sound convincing at all. the others had no clue what she was trying to say.

however, mo fan always treated lingling's words seriously. he turned around and saw two lumps of black lava exploding around seven hundred meters away from where they were. the scorching lava splashed into the sky, and poured down like a great storm. even the mages that were responsible for defending the team were too preoccupied to set up their defense. they were going to die either way. perhaps being burned to death was the better way to die!

"jump, jump into the hollow now!" lingling was panicking. she kicked at zhao manyan beside her.

zhao manyan immediately reacted. his eyes flickered with a glimpse of hope.

"there's an opening, quick, jump into it now!" zhao manyan was the first to jump. he dove right into the pool of lava.

"don't, the opening isn't huge enough, we aren't going to make it to the bottom!" mui guangqing yelled, staring at the shrinking zhao manyan as he fell deeper into the hole.

the noise that the lava was producing was utterly deafening, but the others could still hear zhao manyan's loud scream coming from the hole, "oh shit, oh shit, f**k!"

mo fan looked at zhao manyan, who had taken the lead. he then looked at the fiery-winged tyrant and roughly estimated the distance between them.

"screw it, jump!" mo fan picked the petite lingling up and dove into the hole, going right after zhao manyan's cursing form.

the others were stunned. mu bai and qi shan were the next to jump into the blazing red pond. the others followed in turn, as they were left with no choice.

"the plan wasn't supposed to be like this!" mui guangqing jumped into the hole too. tears almost burst out of his eyes as he was falling into the hole.

they had been waiting for the perfect opening for so long. any of the openings previously were a lot bigger and deeper than the current one. if they knew it would come down to such a terrible situation, they would have jumped into a hole a lot earlier. which god did they offend that resulted in the team detonating before the plan even started!?

"old zhao, can you go a little slower? what if you're burned to death because you're going so fast on your own!?" mo fan yelled.

"shut the hell up, it's not like i can slow myself doooooowwnnn!" mo fan found it hard to hear zhao manyan clearly.

"pull everyone closer to us," lingling's head poked out from mo fan's arms as she spoke.

"alright, hang on me tight," mo fan loosened his grip, allowing lingling to hang on him like a little sloth.

mo fan immediately used his telekinesis while falling to forcibly drag the others that had jumped at different times closer to him.

"holy crap, why is someone still up there!?" mo fan looked up and saw a person standing at the edge like a statue.

it was entirely possible that someone's mind would completely go blank when they were stuck between the fiery-winged tyrant approaching from behind and the giant volcanic lake in front.

mo fan clearly did not have the time to counsel someone under the circumstances. all he could do was use his telekinesis to drag the person into the hole without getting their consent...

luckily, the distance was not too far apart. mo fan's telekinesis was still strong enough to drag them into the hole. it grabbed at them and shoved them toward the hole. the maga called mui qing promptly screamed at the top of her lungs as she fell miserably into the sea of flames!

"mu bai, keep the lava away!" mo fan said calmly after he gathered everyone toward him.

huge pillars of flames sprang up like dragons as the team gradually approached the lava. the hollow was less than a hundred meters below them. if the hollow was not deep enough, it meant there was still lava blocking the path. if their defenses were not good enough, they would be burned to ashes within seconds!

"icebound coffin!"

mu bai was able to remain calm under the circumstances, too. he immediately constructed an ice constellation after the signal from mo fan.

the icy-white star constellation was glowing brightly, indicating that mu bai had a very solid foundation. the faint blue ice also indicated he had a high-level ice seed!

ice rapidly froze around the team as they fell into the hollow. the ice slowly formed an icebound coffin, encapsulating every member on the team!

the icebound coffin fell straight into the brown lava at the bottom of the opening.

the lava was around four hundred meters deep, but the explosion had only given them an opening around three hundred meters deep. in other words, they would have to traverse a hundred meters of lava, and fifty meters of that consisted of the extremely high-temperature brown lava!

the icebound coffin had fallen right into a boiling furnace. it was already melting from the extreme heat from their surroundings, before even touching the flames!

a white mist began to rise around the icebound coffin. half of it melted as soon as it made contact with the red lava.

the icebound coffin slammed into the pool of lava. the red lava splashed into the air and immediately burned hotly, turning the hollow into a pill-refining cauldron...

the members could already feel the terrifying heat penetrating their bodies and bones, despite the layer of ice protecting them. mo fan was still possessed by little flame belle, so his fire resistance was on par with hers. the red lava did not pose too much of a threat to him, but the others were in a much worse situation compared to him. mo fan already saw the girl called mui qing who was the furthest away from them burning...

"her organs must be burning!" mo fan started to panic a little.

their bodies were covered in ice, but the strong heat was being transmitted right into their organs. the organs would burst into flames if they could not find a way to lower the temperature. it was absolute torture.

mo fan could not bear to watch the girl die just like that. either way, he was the one that dragged her into the hole without her consent, even though she would be dead by now if it was not for him.

mo fan broke free from the ice that mu bai had applied to him. he forcibly dragged mui qing closer to him...

“little flame belle, can you draw the fire out of her body?” mo fan said to little flame belle.

little flame belle told mo fan that it was impossible to draw the flame out directly. besides, the fire was burning inside her body. the only way was to draw it out through her respiratory tract.

mo fan could not care less anymore knowing the girl’s life was at stake. he broke the ice surrounding mui qing and placed his lips on her mouth. he forced his way through her teeth and took a deep breath...

the flames burning inside mui qing’s lungs were already growing. luckily, mo fan had reacted in time to forcibly draw the deadly flames out of her respiratory tract and lungs!

the ice was transparent. zhao manyan’s eyes widened when he saw what mo fan was doing through the ice.

holy crap, mo fan was seriously unmatched when it came to being a rascal. did he seriously just kiss an unconscious beauty forcibly under the current circumstances!?

the ice finally melted. mu bai had done his best. mui zhuocheng immediately activated the magic ring on his finger, constructing a water constellation. a dark blue barrier encapsulated everyone on the team!

the water barrier managed to insulate them from the majority of the heat, giving the team a chance to catch their breath.

“did it feel good?” zhao manyan asked.

“good my ass, i was trying to save her life! her lungs were burning out!” mo fan grunted.

“more like it’s burning under your stomach,” zhao manyan replied, grinning.

mo fan did not want to waste his time on the scumbag zhao manyan. he glanced at mui zhuocheng, who was maintaining the water barrier with everything he had and asked, “how long can your barrier last...”

mo fan noticed the barrier breaking apart before he could even finish his question. the brown lava started pouring in through a crack in the barrier. the air inside the barrier instantly erupted into flames. the flames were as strong as a sky-flame funeral cast with a soul-grade seed!

it was terrifying; it felt like the team was being blasted by mo fan’s violent flames!

not many people at the advanced level could withstand mo fan’s flames, including mo fan himself. mui zhuocheng had already used everything he had, yet the defense had only lasted for such a brief moment.

dongfang xifeng was the next to act. according to the plan, he would use his blue soul-grade flame to drive the brown lava away, like combating poison with poison. the others no longer felt safe when they saw the lava surging at them!

“water curtain, baxia seal!”

zhao manyan quickly used his water element to fill the gap. it barely suppressed the violent flames of the brown lava.

“icebound coffin!” mu bai and mui zhuocheng cast the spell simultaneously. two icebound coffins separated the team from the lava.

“little flame belle, can you manipulate the lava?” mo fan asked.

“ning!~”

little flame belle was a fire elemental creature. mo fan immediately felt a terrifying heat burning every inch of his body when little flame belle flew out from his body. he was already suffering such great pain as a fire mage, let alone the others!

mo fan looked at lingling, who was lying on his back. he noticed that lingling had already fallen unconscious. she was encapsulated by a strange glow. it seemed to be protecting her, stopping the flames from touching her.

Chapter 1448 Nothing Left to Live For

mo fan let out a relieved sigh when he saw the barrier around lingling. it seemed like old bao had given lingling some precious magic equipment, too. otherwise, she would have burned into ashes after jumping into the hole, since she was not a mage. the special glow did not provide mo fan with any protection; it was most likely bound to lingling’s soul. it could only protect her.

the fifty-meter-deep brown lava was an extremely long journey for the team. it felt like they had just gone through the torturous process of reincarnation!

the team eventually fell into a thick and cloudy mist. the mist was extremely strange; its resistance was surprisingly greater than the lava. luckily, it did not bring any harm to the team. as soon as they moved into the mist, it immediately cut off the effect of the brown lava!

the brown lava’s heat did not permeate into the mist; it seemed that the mist and the lava were incompatible. it was like they had fallen into a transparent cottony swamp. they had to put in quite an effort to continue descending...

“thank the heavens!” mui guangqing was in a miserable state, but he was so touched that he had an urge to fall to his knees and pray in sincere gratitude.

they had forced their way through the brown lava. they had used everything they had to stay alive!

“mui zhuocheng, take out the scroll of space, let’s leave this place at once. i don’t want to stay here any longer!” dongfang xifeng blurted out.

“can anyone treat my injuries? my hand is fully burned.”

“mui qing is still unconscious. who is going to treat your injuries? uncle guangqing, i believe it’s unnecessary to keep going. we are all worn out. it’s a miracle that we are still alive...”

mui guangqing shook his head with a sigh.

“how can we possibly accomplish our mission with our current condition?” dongfang xifeng grunted.

“didn’t i already tell you? the dimensional magic isn’t going to work here. we aren’t able to use the scroll of space unless we destroy the wall of sarkinite rock!” mui guangqing stated.

the team only remembered that after he repeated it. everyone immediately lost their spirits.

-that’s right, the dimensional magic is restricted here. we finally found a safe environment where we can take our time and establish the magic formation to escape from here, yet it turns out to be a cage imprisoning us instead!-

“let’s head down. the environment at the bottom is much stabler. we’ll discuss our next step there,” mui guangqing said.

“it’s not like there’s a better option...”

“damn it, how did it even come to this!?”

the team made their way through the thick mist. at the bottom was a cave made of jagged rocks with extremely high melting points, as mui guangqing had mentioned before. the rocks had obviously been refined by the flames over a very long time, almost turning into crystals. it made the cave look like an underground world made of irregular glossy black-brown rock faces and protrusions...

the mist was still around. it did not interfere with their breathing, but it felt like they were in an underground cave drowned in seawater. they felt like they were swimming around!

“the mist is stopping the lava from pouring into the cave,” mui guangqing noticed.

“but it also makes it difficult to move around. i believe the mist severely impacts our magic too, right?” mo fan was swimming at the front. he would slowly drift to the top of the cave if he remained still. the rock crystals spread across the ceiling were quite sharp. the mist was buoyant enough for the rock crystals to stab right through them if they did not resist it!

“mmm, our magic’s efficiency is significantly reduced, but it’s going to be a lot better once we make it through here. the place we are heading to is perfectly normal,” mui guangqing said.

“i’m never going to forget this...” dongfang linlin said.

“shouldn’t you be saying that when you’re lying comfortably in a bathtub at home filled with hot water? we don’t even know if we’re going to make it out alive!” zhao manyan corrected her.

“it’s going to be fine, let’s be more optimistic. even though the situation is a little more complicated, we still made it down here, didn’t we?” mui guangqing tried comforting the others.

“you call this a little more complicated? my soul almost left my body a few times!” dongfang xifeng grumbled.

“leader, i think dongfang linlin is suffering from some burns,” mui zhuocheng told mo fan.

mo fan went up to dongfang linlin and saw the armor on her back was severely scorched. the tender skin on her back was crossed with blistered red wounds. a few dark red lines were spreading across her back like spiderwebs...

“she’s suffering from the fiery poison, it’s deadly!” mui guangqing recognized the fiery poison right away. his optimism had only lasted for a few seconds.

“is it curable?” mo fan blurted out.

if the fiery poison was not dealt with right away, it was similar to opening up a hole in her health bar. her health would be drained constantly.

dongfang linlin’s injuries were very serious. she had no chance of recovering on her own, nor would the medicine they brought be of any help.

“is mui qing still unconscious?” qi shan asked.

“yeah, she won’t be waking up anytime soon,” mo fan shook his head.

mui qing was the team’s healer. a healer was usually more vulnerable. even though mo fan had done all he could to protect her, her breathing was too weak after the damage the flames had dealt to her lungs. on top of that, the oxygen level in the underground cave was very low, too. it was difficult to tell when she was going to wake up.

mui qing would be able to cure dongfang linlin’s injuries, but she was currently in a pinch herself!

“may i ask, is dongfang linlin the only one that knows the directions?” zhao manyan asked. he was staring right at mui guangqing.

mui guangqing immediately felt awkward. he said, “well, i wasn’t planning to come down here at the beginning, so i didn’t bother to memorize the map, but don’t you worry, i still have a faint memory of it. i should be able to recall the details when i see the similarities later.”

“brother mui zhuocheng, are you sure you still have the scroll of space too? did it fall out of your pocket when you were jumping into the cave?” zhao manyan asked deliberately. he seemed to have lost all faith in mui guangqing.

“do you think i’m an idiot!?” mui zhuocheng spat.

“oh, that’s good to know. i was asking just in case,” zhao manyan said.

“i...i can hold on for a little longer. let’s stop wasting our time. we should hurry up and find the sarkinite while i’m still awake,” dongfang linlin insisted.

“don’t worry, everything is going to be fine. don’t lose hope yet, we’ll make it out alive!” mui guangqing continued to comfort the others as the eldest among them.

unfortunately, the others were not influenced by his fake optimism. they followed behind dongfang linlin like they had nothing left to live for.

their chance of survival solely depended on how long she could live!

Chapter 1449 White Lava Curtain Waterfall

the mist slowly faded away. the underground cave of brown crystals with complicated maze-like tunnels was bigger than the team had imagined. they would arrive at another indistinguishable junction after traveling every fifty to sixty meters. there were both narrow and spacious interconnected paths. trying to find the wall of sarkinite was like trying to scoop up a needle from an ocean!

the fiery poison continued to drain away dongfang linlin’s vitality. her face was like a golden sheet of paper, but her lips were pale as snow. she was even struggling to walk properly, let alone using her magic. it looked like she would collapse in any second.

qi shan offered to carry her on his back, but dongfang linlin shook her head, saying that it was the only way she could keep herself awake.

dongfang linlin clenched her teeth and endured the pain. about ten minutes later, she fell to the ground feebly, like a shirt from its hanger. her breath was hot enough to burn a person.

“the fiery poison has spread across her entire back. if the fiery poison reaches her heart and spreads through her body via her blood, she will die.” mui guangqing helped dongfang linlin to her feet, but she had already lost consciousness. it was unlikely that she would wake up again.

the spiritual pillar supporting the rest of the team collapsed as she fell to the ground.

it was impossible to turn around and go back the same way. the mist was formed by the heavier substances in the volcanic pool that had accumulated over a long period. the explosions of the black lava had propelled these substances deeper into the volcanic pool though the pits they had created.

it basically meant it was easy for them to jump into the hole, but if they tried to fly up and out, the overwhelming force of the explosions would be pressing down on them!

mui guangqing already made it clear; breaking the sarkinite was the only way out!

“there’s nothing we can do but sit here and wait for our deaths,” dongfang xifeng sat on the ground. he could no longer be bothered.

“even though i might have trouble finding the exact location of the sarkinite, i know the rough direction that will lead us to the white lava. the oxygen level should be higher there. i’ve been observing mui qing’s condition. she seems to be unconscious because of the lack of oxygen, since her respiratory tract was severely injured. if we can make it to the white lava, she might have a chance to wake up once she

has enough oxygen. if she wakes up, she might be able to save dongfang linlin's life too!" mui guangqing said seriously.

"what if she doesn't wake up? what if dongfang linlin is already dead before we reach the white lava? what if we can't even find a way to cross the white lava? didn't you say the white lava is the hardest to cross..." dongfang xifeng said.

"anything is better than waiting to die here! let's go!" mu bai grunted. he was displeased with dongfang xifeng's pessimistic attitude.

"yeah, stop grumbling like a pathetic woman, we are mages!"

the team's will to survive was still very strong. they began searching for paths that would bring them deeper into the cave after hearing mui guangqing's suggestion.

the white lava was located deeper into the cave, so it was not difficult to find. the problem was the white lava's terrifying temperature; even a ruler-level creature could not endure its heat.

however, they did not have a better idea. they had no choice but to go forward while dragging their injured teammates with them.

—

"brother guangqing, don't tell me you are having trouble finding the white lava now?" zhao manyan could not help but ask.

it was not like zhao manyan did not have confidence in mui guangqing, but somehow, he felt like they had walked the same meandering path multiple times. the guy might be knowledgeable, but he seemed to have no sense of direction, just like mo fan!

"well... don't you worry, i'm going to find it," mui guangqing replied awkwardly.

"the cave, paths, and tunnels are refined by the high-temperature lava. when the meteorite slammed into the mountain, its flames spread wildly inside it..." lingling said.

"little girl, what are you trying to say? we aren't on an excursion for a geography class," mui zhuocheng said.

"kunlun mountain mainly consists of four different substances. the one with the lowest melting point is the orange soil, followed by the brown rock, the black iron rock, and the blue rock. the area we were at previously was made of dark brown crystals that were formed after the brown rock was refined at a high temperature. some of the crystals are mixed with blue rock, indicating that the flames that burned the area had a relatively low temperature, hence the rocks still retained their brown color..." lingling said.

lingling's speech was full of theories. the others had no idea what she was talking about, but mui guangqing was a researcher, and immediately realized her point.

"exactly, she's right!" mui guangqing blurted out excitedly.

"right about what? just say it!" mui zhuocheng snapped.

“where are your manners?” mui guangqing glared at mui zhuocheng before explaining with an excited look, “the little girl is a genius. basically, the white lava’s temperature is extremely high, thus only the blue rock with the highest melting point can endure its heat. look at the crystals around us. instead of a pure color, they are mixed with hints of black and blue! we just need to follow the crystals with hints of blue to find the white lava!”

the orange soil, brown rock, and black iron rock along the path would be melted by the white lava as it flowed past, leaving only stone with a higher composition of blue rock behind. they just needed to follow that path to find the white lava!

“it’s indeed helpful to read a lot of books!” zhao manyan raised his thumb at lingling.

there were only three things that lingling normally spent her time on: reading books, completing jobs, and drinking milk tea. she was extremely smart; not just because her iq was high, but because she had read a lot of things!

—

the path was clearly leading them deeper into the cave after the team followed lingling’s instructions, proving the validity of her speculation.

the brown crystals were no longer visible as they proceeded further. even the black iron rocks were nowhere to be seen. all that was left were blue rocks that resembled the palace of an emperor, illuminated by the light of the flames.

“found it! it’s here, look!” mui guangqing blurted out excitedly.

he pointed at the end of the path, where a white curtain of flames was falling. it looked just like a pure piece of silk cloth from afar.

they walked closer to it and discovered that the narrow tunnel was actually leading them to a bigger pool!

the pool was huge, with a diameter of over three hundred meters, with countless tunnels along the walls. it was plain that the scorching lava scattered across the cave would all end up here in the pool eventually, like streams flowing to a larger lake!

the curtain of white lava not only sealed up the tunnel; it was like a huge dome encapsulating a hundred meter circle at the center of the pool!

the dome of white lava seemed to be protecting something inside it.

“the white lava won’t hurt us as long as we don’t touch it,” mui guangqing informed them.

the others were dumbfounded by the spectacular sight in the underground cave.

—

the white lava resembled a curtain at first, but as they looked up, it was more like a waterfall covering a full circle inside the pond. the dome extended from the blue crystalline ground they were standing on to

the top of the cave. the spectacular white lava kept flowing up against gravity, but not a single spark or tongue of fire was extending from it.

most kinds of flames were wild and restless, so it was common to have spark, bursts, and flames leaping off from areas where the density of flames was higher. even the slightest splash of burning lava could set the air on fire, but the white lava was surprisingly calm and self-restrained. it was quietly protecting whatever was inside it, arousing everyone's curiosity towards the mysterious treasure within it!

it was mo fan's first time seeing anything like that too. little flame belle had already snuck out of the contracted space. she curiously drew closer to the fiery curtain while blinking her eyes.

mo fan did not let little flame belle touch the white lava waterfall. it was obviously going to react to any intruder aggressively.

"this thing can burn even a ruler-level creature to death. what can we do, apart from praying to it?" dongfang xifeng said.

"isn't now the perfect time for someone to show us what he has? he has to contribute if he's thinking of getting a share of the action!" mui zhuocheng stared at mo fan.

mui guangqing glanced at mo fan before looking at the little fire spirit floating beside him. mui guangqing asked, "what do you think? can your flame belle enter the white lava waterfall?"

"i'm not sure," mo fan replied.

"what do you mean you're not sure? dongfang linlin is about to die!" dongfang xifeng exclaimed.

mo fan glanced at dongfang linlin. her other body parts were blistering now. she was beyond recognition, especially compared to her glamorous appearance from before. even the parthenon temple would have no chance of saving her once the fiery poison reached her heart!

"ling~"

little flame belle floated in front of the curtain of white lava. she reached her finger out to touch the white lava. however, a strong force immediately burst out of the white lava and landed on little flame belle.

little flame belle went flying and slammed heavily into the wall of blue rock nearby, leaving an outline of her petite figure on it.

"ling!"

little flame belle climbed out from the wall and returned to the white lava furiously. she squeaked and grumbled at the white lava.

"flame belle is a blessed creature born in flames. the white lava isn't too hostile to her. it only knocked her flying, but it's going to burn us into ashes if we try that," mui guangqing commented.

"what should we do then!?" dongfang xifeng said.

"mo fan, look over there," lingling pointed at a tunnel in the opening.

the tunnel had lava pouring out of it like the throat of a fire dragon. the lava was flowing out of it at a constant rate, as if it was being expelled by an enormous dragon!

“what’s that?” mo fan asked.

“a primitive soul-grade fire! i’m afraid you and little flame belle will have to subdue a powerful flame nurtured in this place if you are thinking of entering the dome of white lava. that way, the white lava will not reject you and little flame belle’s presence!” lingling stated.

Chapter 1450 The Soul-grade Flame in the Well

The flames spitting from the tunnel were controlled. When Mo Fan stepped closer, he could sense that the temperature of the flames was comparable to the Brown Lava. He immediately felt his head hurting.

“Are you sure you want to go in there?” Mui Guangqing was a little worried when he saw Mo Fan’s reaction.

“Dongfang Linlin is running out of time. If she dies, the rest of us will never leave this place. I can still endure the heat of the Brown Lava, but not for too long,” Mo Fan replied.

“I wish you good luck.”

The Primitive Soul-grade Fire Seed in the tunnel was exactly what Mo Fan was looking for.

On top of that, if the Soul-grade Fire was born in this underworld cave, it had to be compatible with the White Lava. If Mo Fan could subdue it, he might have a chance to enter the dome of White Lava!

“Little Flame Belle!” Mo Fan Summoned her.

Little Flame Belle immediately merged into Mo Fan’s body, setting him on fire. He went into the flame-spitting tunnel without wasting any further time.

—

Mo Fan was almost blasted right back out of the tunnel when he stepped into it. It felt like a fire dragon was breathing right at him. He could feel his skin cracking apart from the heat, despite his outstanding fire resistance!

He proceeded forward through the tunnel, estimating the interval between the surges of flame the tunnel was spitting out. He immediately hid in the little gaps along the tunnel when he sensed the strong flames surging in his direction. It somewhat reduced the amount of heat he had to endure!

After moving another three hundred meters ahead, Mo Fan was surprised to discover that the place was actually a smaller reserve of fire, similar to the one inside the dome. It was remarkably deep. When Mo Fan lifted his eyes, he happened to see a huge lump of Brown Lava falling down. It immediately turned into a fierce flamethrower when it touched the Blue Rocks, and surged along the path Mo Fan had come from.

Mo Fan felt like he was about to be set on fire when the Brown Lava barely missed him. He quickly used the Ardent Sunset and the Calamity Fire to separate him from the Brown Lava. If he was careless, he might end up just like Mui Qing, and his inner organs would start to burn...

Luckily, the lava did not flow constantly, and the surge stopped after a short time. The scorching lava below flowed away quickly.

Mo Fan looked up the tunnel, and realized that the place actually continued upwards to another pool of lava.

When he looked up, the Brown Lava was flowing like water above him. He wondered why the lava would occasionally fall from the pool, causing the tunnel to spit out flames...

Is it because of the Primitive Soul-grade Fire? Mo Fan soon spotted a crystalline red object that resembled a leaf, floating at the center of the lava pool.

As Mo Fan tried to take a closer look, he immediately noticed the scorching Brown Lava falling down again. The Brown Lava poured straight down where Mo Fan was standing, after passing through the crystalline object.

"F**k this shit!" Mo Fan clenched his teeth. He quickly hid in a gap inside the tunnel to avoid being struck by the Brown Lava.

His skin had started to crack. He knew Little Flame Belle was suffering like he was. Mo Fan comforted when he heard her moan in pain, "Hang in there, we'll be out of here very soon!"

After waiting for the lava to flow away, Mo Fan immediately went into the opening and looked up. He noticed that the crystalline object seemed to be glowing a little, and its luster was a little different from before.

Is the Brown Lava like water to it?, Mo Fan wondered.

It explained why Primitive Soul-grade Seeds were so rare and special. This cave had existed for many years. It was indeed possible to refine an incredible treasure of the Fire Element in such an environment!

"Ling!~" Little Flame Belle cried out in joy. It was obvious that she was delighted by the thing up there.

Meanwhile, the Little Loach Pendant in front of Mo Fan's chest started buzzing too, reminding them of its existence.

"What are you thinking? That thing is mine, don't you dare eat it!" Mo Fan quickly ordered with the Little Loach Pendant.

Still, Mo Fan was excited when he sensed the Little Loach Pendant's response. It was rare to see the Little Loach Pendant expressing its interest in something. It clearly showed that this Soul-grade Flame that had been irrigated by Brown Lava for more than three hundred years was something impressive!

"Little Loach, give us a hand. The two of us won't be able to handle it," Mo Fan negotiated with the Little Loach Pendant.

The Little Loach Pendant contained some energy. However, Mo Fan was unsure if it could transform the energy into something useful to him. Mo Fan could endure the surge of Brown Lava one more time, but he needed some time to refine the Fiery Leaf. He would have to endure the heat of the Brown Lava at least a couple more times!

Little Loach soon fell silent. It completely ignored Mo Fan's ask for help.

Mo Fan was utterly speechless. What was he even thinking? How could he possibly hope the all-take-and-no-give pendant would lend him a hand?

He still had to rely on himself. If Little Loach was interested in it, it must be something valuable. He had to claim it at all costs!

—

The group was waiting anxiously at the bigger pond. They soon noticed Mo Fan coming out from the tunnel.

"How did it go?" Everyone asked.

"It's a bit of a hassle. I'll need some help from you all," Mo Fan said.

"How can we help? Unlike you, we can't even endure the heat of the Brown Lava!" Mui Zhuocheng grunted.

Mo Fan briefly explained the situation to the team. He immediately looked at Zhao Manyan.

"Screw it, I knew it would come to this, alright, I'll help you block the Brown Lava once, but that's most likely my limit. The heat of the Brown Lava is too high for me," Zhao Manyan said.

"I'll come too; I should be able to block it for you once too," Mu Bai said.

"The two of you will do. I can't bring too many people with me. The gaps along the tunnel aren't big enough for too many people... the rest of you will wait for us here," Mo Fan nodded.

The gaps inside the tunnel could help them avoid being struck by Brown Lava flames directly. They would have no problem making it to the pond with Mo Fan's help. There also happened to be a gap with a Blue Rock close to the final pool, which was also able to protect them from the Brown Lava. It was the key to Mo Fan's plan working!

"We'll rush into the tunnel after the next wave of lava. Zhao Manyan, lift us up; I'll block the first wave. I'll immediately start refining the Primitive Soul-grade Fire Seed afterwards," Mo Fan said.

"Alright, we'll try our best!" Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan agreed.