

Versatile 1701

Chapter 1701: The Calamity of the Cloud of White Demons

“Teacher, I went to the western part of the country, so...” Bai Hongfei answered, a bit embarrassed. He glanced at his skin and noticed that it was indeed very tanned.

“Did you contact your family?” Mo Fan asked him.

“Oh, I haven’t. I just came back. I heard that you had established Fanxue Mountain, so I came here right away...” Bai Hongfei said.

“Will you die if you give your family a call? I have no clue how your sister found out that you left home and went on an adventure because of my influence. She kept asking me to be responsible for it!” Mo Fan sighed, “You better tell your sister that you’re back in one piece, or else she’s going to block my apartment’s entrance with a knife in her hand!” Mo Fan scolded him.

Mo Fan only learned Bai Tingting was Bai Hongfei’s sister after he went off on his adventure.

He had initially treated Bai Tingting as an acquaintance, but their relationship completely changed after she found out her brother had left because of him.

“I...I’m scared of talking to her. She will definitely ask me to go back home in tears. I’m worried that I might compromise because of it and go back home. I didn’t dare listen to her voice for the sake of my cultivation,” Bai Hongfei explained reluctantly.

“Mm, mm, you’re right. A man must have his ambitions. I’m glad that you said so. I will relay your intentions to Bai Tingting. She won’t have to worry about taking me down with her life, she’s going to be busy teaching her merciless brother a lesson,” Mo Fan said with a nod.

“...” Bai Hongfei was left speechless. It had been so long, yet his teacher was still so good at entrapping others.

“Teacher, Bai Hongfei is interested in joining our Fanxue Mountain,” Cao Qinqin blurted out happily.

“Ah? Aren’t you the successor of the Bai Clan? You shouldn’t joke around like that. Our Fanxue Mountain has no place for someone like you. You should go home,” Mo Fan said.

The Bai Clan had an exceedingly high reputation in the Magic City. Even the Mu Clan was inferior to them, yet the little successor of the Bai Clan was planning to join Fanxue Mountain. Wouldn’t the people of the Bai Clan come and raze the Fanxue Mountain to the ground?!

“Teacher, please hear me out! Even if I accept my role as a successor, I have no choice but to follow the path my clan has arranged for me, not to mention that I’m far from qualified to be the successor. It won’t do me any good. After all, the elders will still decide everything for the clan! I’ll let them do as they please for now... I have been staying in Fanxue Mountain for a few days. I noticed how ideal of a

place it is for me. Everything is new and full of challenges. I'm able to learn more and grow stronger here. I can assume personal responsibility for the things I do!" Bai Hongfei said confidently.

"Bai Hongfei, that's such an inspiring speech. I'm impressed," Mo Fan said flatly.

Bai Hongfei scratched his head. He did not know what else to say. Mo Fan was being utterly straightforward. He had given up the ridiculous inheritance of his clan in the Magic City just to join Fanxue Mountain...

"Teacher, aren't you going to let Bai Hongfei stay? Fanxue Mountain is short of hands!" Cao Qinqin begged him.

"I don't mind if you want to join us, but you better think of a way to convince your sister. Otherwise, she's going to think that I've led you astray again..." Mo Fan warned him.

"As long as teacher agrees, I will talk to my sister myself! I believe she will understand me," Bai Hongfei smiled like the guy on the Darlie toothpaste tube.

"That's great, our Fanxue Mountain has recruited another expert! Teacher, Bai Hongfei is very strong now. You can ask him to handle the fights. He won't let you down!" Cao Qinqin said.

"I won't be needing his help to beat people up. It's my favorite pastime!" Mo Fan scoffed.

"Teacher, you are now a reputable figure in our country. There are times when you will feel disgraced to even handle fights yourself; those are the fights I can handle on your behalf. You won't be disappointed!" Bai Hongfei grinned.

Mo Fan eventually agreed with Bai Hongfei. Besides, someone that enjoyed being pretentious like him would definitely look more impressive if he had a couple of reliable fighters around him!

"Sure, you can follow me around then!" Mo Fan agreed.

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Mo Fan asked Cao Qinqin to guide Bai Hongfei to the HR department to sort him out. The people of Fanxue Mountain would assign him a suitable role. It was none of Mo Fan's concern.

As a matter of fact, there was nothing in Fanxue Mountain that really concerned him...

"Damn, I forgot to give Mu Ningxue the Ward Rock again. Forget it, her birthday is around the corner, too. She might be so happy that she'll climb onto my lap herself... tsk tsk tsk," Mo Fan said while humming pleasantly.

Everyone was busy with their roles in Fanxue Mountain. Mo Fan was the only one taking a casual stroll. He felt rather relaxed.

He was so free that he went to grab some afternoon tea. He asked the charming Apas to tag along to please his eyes. He also enjoyed the envious look from other men. He took a sip of the smooth iced coffee and pleasantly recalled the blissful time he had last night.

Apas pouted and stared at Mo Fan's indulged face as if he was a retard.

A while later, Lingling showed up in a little loli dress. She looked energetic with her hair tied up in her trademark double ponytails. Her youthful charm immediately attracted the attention of the people in the tea house, both men and women...

"Is it Children's Day? You look pretty cute in your outfit," Apas smiled. She never gave up any opportunity to mock Lingling.

"Idiot!" Lingling replied.

"You two should stop arguing whenever you see one another. Lingling, did you see the photo I sent you?" Mo Fan said.

"Mm, it seems I wasn't wrong about the threat that the Salamander Demons might pose. I actually underestimated it!" Lingling said.

"How is that?" asked Mo Fan.

"I initially thought the little Salamander Demons were a new species that could mass reproduce quickly, like the demon locusts, and were capable of bringing great destruction... but after seeing the photograph, I think the Great Salamander Demon is the new species instead!" Lingling said.

"I don't quite get it..." Mo Fan admitted.

"The Great Salamander Demon we took out is only a single creature from the army of Great Salamander Demons in the photograph. I don't know how it ended up in the Thousand Islands Lake, creating the situation there, but the numbers of these Great Salamander Demons in the middle of the Pacific Ocean are comparable to the Sandstorm Demon Locusts. Imagine how great a disaster millions of Great Salamander Demons can cause!" Lingling stated.

"Millions of Great Salamander Demons... and each of them is able to produce millions of Salamander Demons... it's how they are covering the middle of the Pacific Ocean like clouds!" Mo Fan gasped.

"The Salamander Demons are bronze, but the demon creatures in the photo are white..." Lingling added for him helpfully.

Chapter 1702: A Snake Demon from Africa

"Does the difference in color indicate they are not the same species?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mm! They might be trickier to deal with than the Salamander Demons in the Thousand Islands Lake, so if we want to prepare ourselves in advance, we need to familiarize ourselves with them first and figure out their weaknesses..." Lingling confirmed.

"I don't understand, why would nature allow such a species that goes against the rules to exist?" Mo Fan shook his head helplessly.

Mo Fan knew how much of a threat a Great Salamander Demon could pose after encountering the Salamander Demons in the Thousand Islands Lake. He initially thought the world was safer after taking out the Great Salamander Demon. To his surprise, the numbers of Great Salamander Demons in the Pacific Ocean were so overwhelming! They were producing the shelled demon creatures like machines! If they did not find a way to take care of them, the land might soon be overrun by the demon creatures. They were a lot deadlier than the Sandstorm Demon Locusts!

“Humans aren’t any better,” Lingling pointed out.

Mo Fan gaped. He was lost for words when Lingling suddenly mentioned that out of the blue.

That being said, Lingling was absolutely right, too! Humans were exactly the same, occupying and bringing destruction wherever they went. If nature could tolerate humans, why couldn’t they allow such disastrous clouds of demon creatures to exist?

“Forget it, it’s something that the Shoreline Alliance should be worried about. If they do show up, I’ll just beat the crap out of them. Let’s talk about Jiang Xia for now,” Mo Fan changed the subject.

“The Tree of Vows is in the Qinling Mountains. Jiang Xia has marked the specific location for us,” Lingling said.

“That’s great, we’ll set out next month!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

It was easier to find the Totem Beasts if they had clues to follow. It meant he was not far away from reaching the Super Level!

“It’s only the start of the month. Why are we waiting until next month?” Lingling asked, confused.

Based on her understanding of Mo Fan’s personality, he would normally set out the following day whenever they found a new clue. He was a Space Mage too. He would normally keep necessities and supply in the storage of his Space Element, thus he could easily set out on a journey the next day.

“A little girl like you shouldn’t ask too many questions. Anyway, you should focus on finding more information about the Tree of Vows...” Mo Fan answered.

“Someone has tasted the forbidden fruit. He’s planning to indulge his desires for a little longer,” Apas interrupted.

“Apas, can’t you behave more like a little girl? How could you eavesdrop and peep at us?” Mo Fan glared at Apas.

“I don’t really give a damn, but it’s hard not to guess what happened when your blissful emotions are being reflected to me!” Apas looked at Mo Fan disdainfully.

She initially thought this man was different from the others after learning how capable he was, yet he too was rampant in his sexual desires. He was clearly overreacting. He had been like this for the entire day, as if he was going to drift into the clouds if he was not held down by a string.

“What do you know? You might be beautiful, but you’re just an immature little kid compared to my Mu Ningxue. It’s the reason why you’ve failed to seduce me even when you kept calling me Brother Mo Fan; my heart is already protected by my goddess!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

“Do you really need a month for that? Can’t you finish your business in just a night?” Lingling said blatantly.

Mo Fan burst out coughing, left speechless by Lingling’s comment.

Why did he have a feeling that the two little girls were more experienced than him? They did not even blush when discussing the topic. Why were their tones and expressions so pure and natural?

Lingling was not pleased. She would be extremely bored if Mo Fan was going to indulge in his fantasies

However, she obviously had no chance of convincing Mo Fan, especially when he had already lost his mind. She had no choice but to spend some boring days in Fanxue Mountain. If she returned to the Magic City, she would be forced to go back to school, even though it was full of retards. She could keep her freedom if she stayed in Fanxue Mountain.

Apas was extremely curious about everything. Since Mo Fan was indulging in his desires, Lingling had no choice but to bethe one to show Apas around Fanxue Mountain.

“Why did I keep seeing blue moths around here?” Apas asked her.

Lingling had silently brought Apas to a remote spot in the woods. They arrived at a forest filled with with beautiful peach blossoms. The bright colors and elegant sight immediately attracted Apas’ attention. She blurted out excitedly, “What are these? Why are they so pretty?”

The peach blossoms continued to the waist of the mountain, where a delicate wooden hut stood. Its roof, garden, and windows were covered by intelligent blue moths.

It was almost evening, and the blue moths had woken from their sleep. Their wings were as dazzling as colorful butterflies, weaving through a garden of flowers. The dusk’s light sprinkled onto the trees, the hut, and the blue moths.

“Can you please control your foul snake’s aura? The little creatures here don’t even dare to move because of your presence!” Lingling turned around and glared at Apas when she noticed the blue moths freezing in place. They were too scared to lift off into the air.

“It’s a natural intimidation between creatures of different levels. It has nothing to do with my aura. These little creatures are pretty sensitive. Most creatures won’t even notice it. I like them!” Apas replied.

The door of the wooden hut swung open while they were talking. A woman in plain clothing walked out elegantly from the hut. Her eyes were glittering like stars. She smiled gently when she saw Lingling in the garden.

“Something... doesn’t feel right about her,” Apas observed the woman who had come out of the hut. The look in her eyes shifted.

The woman noticed Apas’ presence too, and immediately went on alert. If Lingling had not been standing beside Apas, Yu Shishi would not have acted so calmly.

“These blue moths are hers,” Lingling said.

“No wonder, they have inherited the intelligence of their leader!” Apas exclaimed.

“Lingling, who is this?” Yu Shishi asked.

“A snake demon from Africa,” Lingling replied succinctly.

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Lingling had come to Yu Shishi because something about the Qinling Mountains was troubling her.

The region of the Qinling Mountains they were going to was occupied by a bunch of demon butterflies. The demon butterflies might be a huge nuisance to deal with. Lingling thought that since her moths were species similar to the butterflies, she might learn the demon butterflies’ weaknesses from Yu Shishi.

“About that, I’m not really familiar with the demon butterflies. I will only figure it out after seeing them in person. Say, come find me when you’re setting out for the Qinling Mountains. I’m looking for the leaves of Moon Mulberry Trees from the Qinling Mountains, too. We can go together!” Yu Shishi exclaimed happily.

Yu Shishi happened to be troubled by the supply of leaves of Moon Mulberry Trees.

The leaves were for the little Moon Moth Phoenix. The special trees could only be found in the Qinling Mountains. Without them, the Moon Moth Phoenix would never evolve from her current form of a little silkworm!

Chapter 1703: I’ll make sure They Live Longer than You!

“How is she doing?” Lingling asked.

“Pretty good, she is eating and sleeping well. She just needs the true essence of moonlight. If she solely relies on the essence she collects every night, it might take her years to evolve. The leaves of the Moon Mulberry Trees are the best solution for now!” Yu Shishi led Lingling and Apas into the hut.

Apas noticed a huge bed of plants inside the hut, well-protected like a baby cradle. There were a few tiny Mulberry trees in the plant bed.

On one of the trees lay a lunar-white silkworm. Its round eyes were staring at Apas curiously.

“She’s not afraid of me?” Apas blurted out curiously, staring at the tiny creature.

“Her rank isn’t lower than yours, ok?” Lingling sniffed.

“What is she? She feels like a little elf filled with a special kind of energy. Why is she so tiny? She’s like a little baby...” Apas reached her hand out and caressed the silkworm.

Yu Shishi stood on the side with an alert look. She did not interfere after she realized the little silkworm was not against it.

It was unlikely that a person Lingling brought along would harm the little Moon Moth Phoenix.

The silkworm was the Moon Moth Phoenix after she had reincarnated. She was still in the form of a silkworm, as she had yet to reach her cocoon phase. Yu Shishi had been looking after her carefully, hoping for her to grow and enter her cocoon, so she could evolve into the real Moon Moth Phoenix!

"It's so fuzzy..." Apas giggled. The little silkworm had climbed onto her palm. She seemed to be enjoying Apas' presence.

Normally, such an intelligent little creature would be extremely sensitive to danger, and Apas would easily intimidate these little creatures in a new environment. To Apas' surprise, the little silkworm was bold enough to crawl onto her palm even after sensing the presence of a Medusa. The little creature was not afraid that she might suck her life essence dry!

Apas soon noticed other silkworms in the room. They might not have a noble aura like the silkworm in the plant bed, but they were also no ordinary creatures!

"Mm, I enjoyed raising moths when I was young. I ran to a village far away just to pluck the leaves of mulberry trees. I carefully observed their growth and waited for the day they entered their cocoons..." Yu Shishi smiled.

"Do they grow quickly?" Apas asked.

There were many strange cocoons in the deserts too, but most of their makers were savage and ugly once they broke free, very different from these adorable moths. Apas was still a little girl in nature. She preferred to take care of these clean, elegant little elves!

"They grow very quickly. You can watch them growing from an egg as tiny as a grain of sand to a silkworm in just a few days. You can pluck a huge leaf from a mulberry tree and lay it down as their bed. They will sleep on the leaf and occasionally bite at it whenever they are hungry. You can even hear their soft munching sounds! They might be weak, but they grow up pretty quickly. You just need to provide them with a little box and a few leaves. They will grow into adults even if you don't look after them!"

"Do you know what the best moment is when raising these little creatures?" Yu Shishi added when she noticed how absorbed Apas was.

Apas shook her head, eager to hear the answer.

"They aren't so good looking when they are still a silkworm. They only know to eat and sleep every day, but once they turn into cocoons, they will transform completely inside. They will have wings, allowing them to dance elegantly under the moonlight. You can find their elegant figures circling the trees, lake, shrubs, and rocks. They are even more dazzling under the moonlight... you can never imagine how the silkworms transform into the little night elves!" Yu Shishi said.

Apas had an urge to try it herself after listening to the joyful experience Yu Shishi had when raising the silkworms.

"Can I raise a few of them?" Apas asked.

“You can’t take this one, but you can choose some of the others. They would like a master to accompany them as they grow up, too...I’ve been choosing pure-hearted kids to adopt these silkworms since I joined Fanxue Mountain. They are happy to look after them!” Yu Shishi agreed.

Fanxue Mountain was a private land with a strict rule that forbade anyone from hurting the blue moths and the Soul Moths, providing them a safe habitat.

Yu Shishi was not the only one protecting them. The people that had adopted the little Soul Moths were looking after them too. Yu Shishi was more than willing to let people that genuinely cared about the Soul Moths adopt a few of them.

The number of Soul Moths had greatly increased due to the presence of the Moon Moth Phoenix. Yu Shishi was struggling to take care of them all alone.

“Can I choose myself?” Apas asked.

“Of course you can, but it’s difficult to identify their lineage and talents before they evolve. Some Soul Moths are very powerful after they grow into adults!” Yu Shishi informed her.

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Apas chose a few silkworms that caught her eye. She placed them in small wooden boxes, treating them carefully, like a little girl who had just received her gifts.

“They might be afraid of your presence still, but don’t worry, once you feed them for a few days, they will be very close to you,” Yu Shishi assured her. She caressed the silkworms that Apas had adopted to pacify them.

“A lot of people in Fanxue Mountain are raising the little moths,” Lingling had noticed.

“Yes! As a matter of fact, if the Moon Moth Phoenix can enter her cocoon and evolve, she will give birth to more Soul Moths with outstanding lineages. It will definitely improve the defenses of Fanxue Mountain!” Yu Shishi said happily.

“Mm, I’m looking forward to seeing her breaking out of her cocoon too!” Lingling reached her hand out and fondled the tiny Moon Moth Phoenix.

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Apas was extremely happy with her new pets. She was looking forward to witnessing their transformation and the day they could beat their wings and fly!

After having this thought, she suddenly realized Lingling was not as much of an eyesore as she thought. After all, the girl had brought her to meet this interesting woman!

Lingling glanced at the smiling Apas and said, “Remember to leave a few holes on the boxes after laying the leaves inside them... I seriously doubt these silkworms will live more than three days under your care!”

“Don’t you worry, I’ll make sure they live longer than you!” Apas retorted promptly.

“Humph!”

“Humph!”

Chapter 1704: Was it Exciting?

Mo Fan casually strolled through the mansion. Mu Ningxue finally came back from Feinia City late that night.

Mo Fan took pity on Mu Ningxue when he noticed how worn out she looked. The evil thoughts in his mind were cut down by almost half.

“I have something to give you, but I completely forgot about it last night,” Mo Fan admitted.

“Mm?” Mu Ningxue recalled that Mo Fan did say he had something to give her.

Mo Fan took out the Ward Rock and placed it on Mu Ningxue’s palm.

Mu Ningxue lowered her head. She glanced at the object and asked with a confused look, “Are you pulling a prank on me?”

“What prank... huh, why is this thing here? I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I took the wrong thing!” Mo Fan blurted out awkwardly.

The object on Mu Ningxue’s palm was not the Ward Rock. It was a round eyeball, and to make things worse, the eyeball was spinning around oddly in her hand. Luckily, Mu Ningxue was not that easy to frighten. If it were almost any other woman, they would immediately slap Mo Fan in the face after receiving such a terrifying eyeball.

“I can feel the magic inside it. Where did you find this eyeball?” Mu Ningxue asked him.

“I almost forgot about it! This is the Burning Evil Eye. I found it at the Sunset Shrine in Cairo. It’s a treasure, too. It can emit a special glow over an area that applies a burning effect to intruders. I haven’t figured out how to use it, but I believe it might be useful if we place it at a crucial spot of our Fanxue Mountain,” Mo Fan declared.

“How about its power?” Mu Ningxue asked, intrigued.

“It’s very powerful. Even a Commander-level creature or an Advanced Mage will be injured by the burn of the evil light if they stay in it for too long,” Mo Fan stated firmly.

“We have a few islands nearby that are rich in resources and materials. Those islands are one of our primary sources of income, but they aren’t located within the safe zone. Sea monsters will invade them at times, so we have to invest a lot of funds into protecting cargo. If this Burning Evil Eye is really that effective, we might be able to use it to drive away the invaders!” Mu Ningxue conjectured.

There was no end to the numbers of sea monsters. They would show up whenever the tide rose, and due to the rising sea level, many islands were now further away from the safe zone, making them more dangerous and more prone to being raided by the sea monsters. It wasn't just Fanxue Mountain; the other renowned clans were investing a lot of funds into protecting their islands too!

"Are you referring to the Gold Reefs Island?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mm, the Gold Reefs are extremely important to us. Half of our fighters are stationed at the island in rotations, but not only are the casualties high, we are expending a lot of resources too," Mu Ningxue told him.

Guarding a mineral-rich island was a strenuous task, especially when it was located in the demon creatures' territory. Exterminating the demon creatures nearby did not necessarily guarantee the safety of the island. The sea monsters would eventually return in waves, so the defenders had to stay on alert twenty-four hours. Not only was it important to arrange the rotations appropriately, they had to worry about compensation for the casualties too!

The demon creatures were naturally fond of exotic materials, so Gold Reefs Island was more like a miniature battlefield, where battles between the defenders and the demon creatures were constantly taking place.

"I'll ask Apas if she has any ideas how to deal with the sea monsters," Mo Fan said.

"If we can free up the men on the Gold Reefs Island, we might be able to clear the woods close to the West Ridge," Mu Ningxue said.

"You seem very busy," Mo Fan scratched his head. He was completely unaware of Fanxue Mountain's situation.

"Mm, I have had a lot of things to do lately. I'm a little worried that my cultivation will lag behind," Mu Ningxue said.

"I wanted to give you this..." Mo Fan put the Burning Evil Eye away and took out the real Ward Rock.

Mu Ningxue stared at the orb Mo Fan was holding. She had never seen such a special thing before.

The Burning Evil Eye contained the magic of the Curse Element, so she could sense its power when she was close to it, even though it was inactive. It was already a huge surprise for Mu Ningxue, as it might resolve the tricky problem the Gold Reefs Island was facing...

However, the second object that Mo Fan took out was even more reserved. The orb clearly contained a strong energy tightly related to nature within it. She could easily tell it was something extraordinary!

"Do you remember the Earth Pistil?" Mo Fan smiled. He could see Mu Ningxue had no clue what the thing was.

"Mm!" Mu Ningxue would never forget the Earth Pistil. Without its power, there would be no Fanxue Mountain. This land used to be a gray area, since the Magic Association had deemed it unsafe to be inhabited.

No matter how much potential the land had, no one would bother coming here if their safety was not guaranteed. Mu Ningxue obviously remembered the Earth Pistil, the sacred stone with the power to look after a city!

“It might not be as powerful as the Earth Pistil, but it can establish a defense along the coastline, just like the East Maritime Fortress in Japan. Didn’t you want to turn Fanxue Mountain into the safest small city? I believe this thing is going to be very useful,” Mo Fan told her.

Mu Ningxue was stunned. Where exactly did Mo Fan find so many precious and rare artifacts? The Burning Evil Eye was already a huge surprise to her, let alone a Ward Rock!

Both artifacts were considered priceless!

Mu Ningxue lifted her gaze slightly and stared at Mo Fan. Even though she was not filled with joy like she had been pampered, she was still touched by the gifts. At least she knew that the man was sincerely concerned about her.

Mo Fan was waiting for Mu Ningxue to tip her toes and kiss him, but she was simply standing still without shifting her gaze away. Mo Fan ended up running out of patience first.

Oh my, look at her beautiful face! He could play with it for a few lifetimes. He had an urge to press her to the wall and kiss her!

For some reason, he felt a great sense of achievement when smearing his saliva all over that beautiful face. Mo Fan took the impulse to act first. He had completely tossed his pity for Mu Ningxue beyond the topmost clouds. He insisted on not leaving bed until daybreak!

Mu Ningxue was utterly helpless too. She was doing nothing apart from looking at him. Why did he suddenly turn into a beast? How did he even manage to keep his calm in the past?

Mo Fan initially planned to stay at Fanxue Mountain for a while and keep Mu Ningxue company. He was thinking of setting out for the Qinling Mountains the next month, but after breaking through his goddess’ defense, he now had an urge to place an order for his coffin here. He would never leave Fanxue Mountain until the day he had to lie inside it!

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Another great dawn came as Mo Fan was lying on the bed. He watched Mu Ningxue put on her clothes and leave. His heart was brimming with satisfaction and a sense of achievement. It had been over ten days since his dream came true, yet his passion and excitement showed no sign of fading away.

Unfortunately, his plan of indulging in his desires every night still came to an end when Mu Ningxue needed to go somewhere else. She had to leave to take care of some matters related to Fanxue Mountain while searching for the remaining pieces of the Ice Crystal Bow.

The Ice Crystal Bow was Mu Ningxue’s chance to achieve the Super Level. The Ice Crystal Bow used to be an icy demon, whipping her and forcing her to pursue higher levels of cultivation. When Mu Ningxue obtained the fragments of the Ice Crystal Bow and acquired Ice Fundamental Crystals for the Ice Crystal Bow, she managed to lift off the seal on the Ice Crystal Bow’s power, greatly improving her cultivation.

As Fanxue Mountain continued to grow, granting her access to the higher levels, she realized how important it was to achieve the Super Level. If she was not strong enough as a leader, Fanxue Mountain would only be treated disdainfully and picked on by others. Too many people were jealous of them. They were waiting for the opportunity to raze it to the ground!

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Mo Fan had been indulging in his desires for half a month. It was time for him to focus on his breakthrough to the next level, so he decided to set out for the Qinling Mountains early.

The Qinling Mountains had rather complicated terrain. The place was infamous throughout the country because of how dangerous it was. Mo Fan was bringing Lingling, Apas, and Yu Shishi along. He did not feel secure at all.

Yu Shishi's strength was not particularly outstanding. She could only look after herself if there was any danger. Lingling might have some life-preserving gadgets and tricks to avoid danger, but her safety was not guaranteed in the demon creatures' territory.

Apas might be strong, but Mo Fan was worried that they might encounter demon creatures who would not fall for her tricks...

Speaking of which, am I really that popular among women? Why am I surrounded by women when I'm out on an adventure... mm, mm, if only they were somewhat stronger. Mo Fan looked at Apas, Yu Shishi, and Lingling while fondling his chin.

Since he was looking for a Totem Beast, he had to ask Zhao Manyan to tag along, too. The two of them had chosen a similar path. If he did not want to achieve the Super Level, he could indulge his secular desires in Magic City for as long as he pleased!

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As Mo Fan thought, Zhao Manyan did not hesitate to come along. He arrived at Fanxue Mountain with a strong grudge.

He grunted in displeasure when he saw Mo Fan's face brimming with bliss. "What the hell are you so happy for?"

"Am I? I'm perfectly normal," Mo Fan rubbed his forehead.

"Isn't it obvious? Look at your face, did you actually do something to the little gorgeous snake? Mo Fan, do you seriously have such a strong fetish... well, was it exciting?" Zhao Manyan asked.

Zhao Manyan was just being himself. He could easily tell that Mo Fan's sexual needs had been well satisfied lately!

Chapter 1705: We can't talk Anymore

"It's not her!" Mo Fan said, raising his eyebrows.

Zhao Manyan was startled. If it was not Apas, who could Mo Fan possibly get his hands on? It was unlikely to be Yu Shishi. Apas was similar to Yu Shishi. If Mo Fan did not have the fetish for Apas, he would not lay his hands on Yu Shishi either!

Zhao Manyan turned around and looked at the adorable Lingling with double ponytails, drinking her juice.

"Holy crap, you son of a b**ch, she's only a kid!" Zhao Manyan immediately cursed.

"F**k me, what the heck are you thinking!?" Mo Fan was utterly speechless.

"Who knows, you keep acting like you won't damage the flowers of our country, but maybe your desires are already driving you mad deep inside your heart. I've seen many old perverts. A beautiful and charming girl like Lingling is obviously going to be their prey. Oh Mo Fan, how could you do this? I...I f**king despise you... well, was it exciting?" Zhao Manyan had to ask, after he was done cursing.

Mo Fan was utterly impressed. He seriously wondered what other nonsense the man had stored in his mind!

"It's not her, either!" Mo Fan exclaimed.

"Then who is it? You didn't go to Magic City. If you went, you might pluck that big rose Mui Nujiao. Apart from them, Fanxue Mountain only has..." Zhao Manyan recalled the women who were close to Mo Fan.

Zhao Manyan seriously did not have high expectations for Mo Fan. He was the kind of man who had no guts to carry out the evil intentions in his mind. If he actually could not withhold his desires any further, the women he had mentioned were most likely going to be his target.

"Should I give you a tip?" Mo Fan asked, seeing how interested Zhao Manyan was.

"Could it be Goddess Mu? No, no way, considering how it is between you two, there's no way you will hit a home run in the next five years, unless you decided to drug her, albeit with the risk of being killed by her with an arrow..." Zhao Manyan mumbled to himself.

"Pricks!" Yu Shishi said disdainfully as she overheard their conversation. "Is everyone here? Let's head out then!"

"There are a few more still, let's wait a little longer," Mo Fan said.

Yu Shishi glared at Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan and demanded, "Won't you consider there are other women around before discussing a topic like that?"

"Oh, really? I thought you would enjoy it too!" Zhao Manyan replied shamelessly.

Yu Shishi almost flipped the table. *These two assh****...*

She was about to lose her temper when she saw a well-groomed young man heading in their direction. Apart from his tanned skin, he had a comfortable and attractive bearing.

Yu Shishi was stunned when he came closer.

Similarly, the man was staring at Yu Shishi too!

“It’s you?” Bai Hongfei was the first to break the silence. His eyes were fixed on Yu Shishi.

Yu Shishi seemed a little out of sorts. She had thought she would never cross paths with the man she had tricked. She felt a little guilty whenever she recalled her past, but to her surprise, he had suddenly shown up in front of her!

“Bai Hongfei, stop staring. She’s indeed the one who tricked you. I’m keeping an eye on her on behalf of the Lingyin Enforcement Union to prevent her from doing any harm again. She’s currently atoning for her sins at Fanxue Mountain by contributing to society. She’s been behaving well so far,” Mo Fan informed him.

“Oh, I see, nice to see you again!” Bai Hongfei refocused and sincerely extended his hand.

Yu Shishi was surprised that Bai Hongfei did not hold any grudges against her. She was able to let go of the burden in her heart.

“Is there anyone else? Where’s that little b**ch Mu Bai? Did he no longer bother to hang around with us weaklings after he became a Super Mage? Why didn’t he come? I was thinking of scolding him!” Zhao Manyan said.

“Mu Bai is currently cultivating in seclusion. He is determined to learn the Star Palace after reaching the Super Level. I doubt you’re going to see him anytime soon. Besides, I don’t think you’ll have the guts to scold him again when he comes out!” Mo Fan scoffed.

Mu Bai was cultivating in seclusion in Fanxue Mountain. Having a Super Mage was extremely important to Fanxue Mountain for the time being. However, no one had expected Mu Bai to be the first person to achieve the Super Level. If Mo Fan knew he would benefit so much from the adventure in the Pyramid, he would not have brought him along!

“Nonsense, even if he can cast a Super Spell, I can block it with a single hand... So, if there’s another guy waiting for us at the Qinling Mountains, who is it?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“You will find out when we get there.”

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The group immediately set out for the Qinling Mountains after everyone arrived.

They headed for a town in the shadow of the Qinling Mountains. A man was waiting for them at the entrance. He was skinny and not too tall. However, the military jacket showing his rank set off his imposing aura.

The town was half-militarized. The people on the streets were mostly soldiers. The small town was specifically constructed here to resolve the problems of the Qinling Mountains.

Since the crisis of the oceans, the military outposts and towns inland were no longer as lively, as many soldiers were allocated elsewhere. The only problem was, the threats posed by the demon creatures

inland were still around, despite the rising sea level! As a result, the situation inland was rather grim, too. The military was carrying heavier burdens on its shoulders.

“Major General!”

“Major General!”

A troop of soldiers marched past the entrance. They saluted when they saw the young major general. The skinny man saluted back to the soldiers, but his eyes were fixed on Mo Fan and the others as they slowly drove into the town.

“Holy crap, Major General? Zhang Xiaohou, you’ve already been promoted to such a high rank! Don’t you tell me you’ve reached the Super Level too!...” Zhao Manyan blurted out.

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“No, not yet, but I’m almost there. My superiors have been taking good care of me. They have provided me with a lot of help,” Zhang Xiaohou answered, a little embarrassed.

Following that, Zhang Xiaohou quickly went up to Mo Fan and eyed the two young women beside him. The first one, Lingling, had grown a lot since they last met. She was now a teenage girl with a charming, intelligent face.

Zhang Xiaohou had never met the other girl before. Her face was delicate, like an exquisite work of art. Her physique was as alluring as a little demoness, too. She seemed to be around sixteen, yet she was already so attractive! She would definitely turn into a disastrous beauty when she grew up!

As expected of Brother Fan, he could not care less about the girls’ age, as long as they were beautiful enough...

“Brother Fan!” Zhang Xiaohou grinned. His smile never changed. It did not make him look clumsy, yet it did not make him look smart, either.

“You’ve been doing well... have you abused your authority over your female subordinates with the unspoken rule?” Mo Fan asked of him.

“...” Zhang Xiaohou was suddenly lost for words...

Chapter 1706: Great Lesser Earth Dragon

Zhang Xiaohou was on his way to becoming an expert of the Qinling Mountains. He had spent half his career fighting demon creatures in Qinling Mountains after he joined the army.

When he heard Mo Fan was coming to Qinling Mountains to look for a Totem Beast, he gladly volunteered to be their guide!

“This town is built to keep an eye on the Qinling Mountains. To be honest, you all have done me a huge favor. I have always wanted to investigate the deeper regions of the Qinling Mountains, but I’m currently short on men. I wouldn’t dare to go too deep into the mountains, knowing that my men aren’t strong enough,” Zhang Xiaohou told them.

“Are you in charge of the town?” Mo Fan asked.

“Mm, my rank is the highest in this military outpost! I’m responsible for commanding the soldiers and preventing potential disasters. This mountain path is very close to the Qinling Mountains, and due to the complicated terrain, it’s easy for powerful creatures to conceal their presence. If we failed to guard this place, it would severely endanger the Ancient Capital to the north, and several important cities to the west. If the demon creatures headed south, they might join hands with the White Magic Falcons at West Ridge to invade Jiangsu Province!” Zhang Xiaohou said grimly.

Zhang Xiaohou had been fighting the creatures of Qinling Mountains before the incident in Beijiang. The military had placed him fully in charge of this area of the Central Plains, so he was now carrying huge responsibilities!

“The demon creatures of Qinling Mountains are from Kunlun. The powerful creatures in Kunlun mostly stay deep in the mountains and forests. They rarely pose a threat to our cities, but the Qinling Mountains are different. They happen to be located between a few important cities and serve as the boundary between the northern and southern parts of our country. In the past, the north of Qinling Mountains was ruled by the undead, but ever since the undead were brought under control, the demon creatures of Qinling Mountains have been troubling us...” Bai Hongfei said.

Bai Hongfei had spent some time to the west of the Qinling Mountains, so he was familiar with the situation there.

“Let’s head into the mountains then!” Mo Fan answered.

Mo Fan could not wait to achieve the Super Level. He did not want to waste any time!

“We can’t go into the mountains right now,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Why is that?” Mo Fan asked, confused. Did they seriously need to choose a lucky day before entering Qinling Mountains? Were the mountains that dangerous?

“Every now and then, a strange wind will blow through the Qinling Mountains. It’s fine if there are trees providing cover, but if we happen to be somewhere without any cover, or if we’re at the top of the mountains, the wind will start corroding us. The wind will soon leave us as just bones, unless we have a layer of defense protecting us all the time! The locals here refer to it as the Wind of Sorrow!” Zhang Xiaohou told them all.

“Is the wind seriously so deadly? The Qinling Mountains are indeed as scary as the people have always said!” Zhao Manyan muttered.

“The wind is currently at its strongest phase. We should wait for a while before entering the mountains. Otherwise, we won’t be able to go in too far,” Zhang Xiaohou explained.

“Have you figured out its pattern?” Lingling asked him narrowly.

Lingling had done some homework before coming here. She knew that the Wind of Sorrow was a deadly seasonal wind. No one knew the cause for it, but humans would have difficulty staying in the wind very long!

"I do not. I've been here for a long time, yet I still can't figure out when the Wind of Sorrow will occur. It always happens at random times," Zhang Xiaohou admitted.

Going into the Qinling Mountains was a challenging task. Zhang Xiaohou had been to the mountains many times over the years. Many Battle-mages that had joined the army at the same time as him had stayed forever in the Qinling Mountains. He was quite lucky compared to them!

"The Qinling Mountains are indeed worthy to be called the Demon Mountains! It's difficult to interpret their temper. Many Hunters preferred to settle down near somewhere, because it's a lot safer for them to do their jobs when they can slowly familiarize themselves with the environments, regular patterns, and seasons of the place. It will give them a lot of advantages! But the Qinling Mountains are different. I've never heard of anyone that says they enjoyed searching for treasure in Qinling Mountains. I bet only the military can keep an eye on things here," Bai Hongfei chimed in.

"Is it really that dangerous?" Zhao Manyan had to ask.

"The Wind of Sorrow has been blowing for the past few days. We will have to hide under the trees if we enter the mountains now. You might as well get some rest in the town and wait until the wind calms down," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"If the Wind of Sorrow doesn't have any pattern, wouldn't that mean we might be caught in it in any second once we are in there? We might survive if it only lasts for a brief period, but what if it doesn't stop? Wouldn't we end up in a pile of bones? Are we really considering going into the mountains?" Zhao Manyan blurted out.

"There must be some way to deal with it." Mo Fan looked at Zhang Xiaohou.

"Yes, there is a way, but there's no reason to trouble ourselves, knowing the danger is right in front of us. Staying here for a few days won't hurt. Brother Fan, I can bring you around too," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Alright, we'll wait for a few days."

The town was oddly quiet at night.

Mo Fan was walking along the street alone. He noticed that there was not a single place open for him to get some supper.

The lights in the town were switched off before the clock struck nine. The whole town was dark, apart from the patrols and the sentry towers.

The Qinling Mountains were right in front of Mo Fan. The mountains here looked different from the mountains in the south. The mountains in the south were stacked up like cones, so it was easy to identify the different mountains looking down from a great height.

Qinling Mountains were connected, instead. An obvious line forming the tops of the mountains stretched across his vision and blocked his view. He had to lift his head just to see the night sky.

It felt like the little town was leaning against a heavenly wall...

The wind kept blowing, its howls coming from high up in the sky. Mo Fan could easily tell how unusual the wind was, even though he was not inside it.

Mo Fan remembered the wind at Kunlun was fierce and terrifying, too. He was surprised to heart that the Qinling Mountains also had a special wind. It had greatly increased the difficulty of their expedition!

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Three days later, the howling Wind of Sorrow finally calmed down.

The group was packing their stuff before entering the mountains when a bunch of Mages in military outfits suddenly arrived at the town. Their ranks were quite high, judging from the badges on their shoulders.

The soldiers were led by a special commander. The color of his uniform was slightly different from the uniform Zhang Xiaohou and the others were wearing. He was riding a golden brown Earth Element dragon. Its muscular build was a clear indication of its outstanding strength. Its imposing bearing immediately grabbed everyone's attention when it set foot in the town.

"A Great Lesser Earth Dragon?" Zhao Manyan blurted out in surprise when he recognized the beast.

"Are you sure it's a Lesser Dragon?" Mo Fan stared at the mount. He had to admit that the creature did have an imposing and imperious aura. Even the Flying Creek Snow Wolf was a few levels weaker than it!

Dragons had long lifespans, but their reproductive ability was extremely weak, especially the true dragons with noble lineages. The number of true dragons in the world had a tendency to remain the same. It neither increased nor decreased.

As a matter of fact, dragons were quite lusty. When they could not find their own kind to fulfill their desires, they would look for species similar to them. The most common species that the dragons ended up mating with were lizards.

As a result, there were many dragons with mixed lineages in this world. If one was strictly referring to their lineages, those with only a slight relation to dragons were normally referred to as crossbreed dragons.

They were many kinds of crossbreed dragons. Their strength ranged from the Warrior-level to the Commander-level, and they usually had very sturdy flesh.

The dragons with purer lineages were called pseudo-dragons. They were a lot stronger. The weakest among them was at least a Commander-level creature, and the strong ones could even reach the Ruler-level. The pseudo-dragons had insane vitality and strength, as their blood had truly inherited the power of the dragons!

The level above the pseudo-dragons was very close to the real dragons. They were called the Lesser Dragons!

The Lesser Dragons were very strong, ranked at the top among demon creatures. The number of Lesser Dragons was slightly higher than the true dragons. Almost every adult Lesser Dragon would be a Ruler-

level creature. Not only did they possess a dragon's scales and draconic might, they could even unleash dragon breath that was very close to the level of a True Dragon!

In Europe, having a Lesser Dragon as a Contracted Beast was considered an utmost glory!

They could not help but wonder who the Mage riding the Great Lesser Earth Dragon was. The Lesser Dragon had not grown into an adult, yet it was already unleashing the imposing aura of a king of beasts!

As a matter of fact, if Mo Fan had the chance, he would rather quickly trade Apas for a Lesser Dragon. He could not stop imagining how cool he would look when he showed up on certain occasions atop a Lesser Dragon!

The master of the Lesser Dragon looked down and asked the soldiers at the entrance, "Who's the chief commander here?"

The soldiers were left in awe by the beast's imposing aura, losing their bearing as soldiers. They subconsciously looked to Zhang Xiaohou.

"I am!" Zhang Xiaohou stepped forward. He looked at the man and noticed he was not saluting.

Regardless of a soldier's rank, saluting was a must in the military. The guy had come to the town under his jurisdiction without notifying him beforehand. He was expected to salute and explain his purpose of coming first!

"We are going to the Qinling Mountains to save an important person. You will take charge and gather your elites to come with us. I'm giving you half an hour to make the preparations!" the man on the Lesser Dragon uttered, as if he was giving an order.

"Do you have the official documents for the order?" Zhang Xiaohou asked him.

"My words are enough!" the master of the Lesser Dragon replied haughtily.

Zhang Xiaohou frowned. He could see the badge on the man's shoulder; it showed the man's rank was only the same as his own.

If the man's rank was higher, it was acceptable for him to give orders. However, if he was only the same rank, what right did he have to act so full of himself?

"If you don't have official documents, I won't be taking orders from you," Zhang Xiaohou replied.

Chapter 1707: Journeying Together with the Violet Imperial Battalion

The face of the man on the Lesser Dragon immediately darkened upon hearing those words. He subconsciously unleashed his aura to apply pressure to Zhang Xiaohou.

He was finally willing to inspect Zhang Xiaohou closely. It felt like he was going to interrogate him; he looked far from friendly!

“Huh? I didn’t expect to stumble into a major general here...” the man blurted out in surprise when he finally noticed Zhang Xiaohou’s rank.

“Are you going to talk properly now?” Zhang Xiaohou did not go easy on the man, either!

He had never seen anyone that dared to throw orders around without revealing his identity first, especially after trespassing into someone else’s command without permission!

“I am Li Dexin from the Violet Imperial Battalion. The people behind me are my comrades. We have received an urgent mission from a general at the main headquarters. He has asked us to save a member of his family who is trapped in the Qinling Mountains quickly,” the man riding the Lesser Dragon grudgingly replied.

“The Violet Imperial Battalion!” the officer standing beside Zhang Xiaohou blurted out in shock.

The Violet Imperial Battalion was the most reputable platoon in the Central Plain. Every Battlemage dreamed of being selected by the Violet Imperial Battalion so they could join the special platoon.

The Violet Imperial Battalion was similar to a special ops team. They normally handled operations that ordinary Battlemages would struggle to complete. It was a great surprise that the people of the Violet Imperial Battalion had come to the outpost.

Every soldier had heard of the Violet Imperial Battalion. The soldiers at the entrance immediately saluted to pay their respects.

Zhang Xiaohou did not salute, nor did he need to. He stared at the Violet Imperial Mage called Li Dexin and said, “That’s an order for you. What do I have anything to do with it?”

“What do you mean? The Violet Imperial Battalion is in the middle of an important operation! The other platoons are obliged to provide us with their full support! You are only the chief commander of a little military outpost! There’s nothing wrong with asking you for assistance!” Li Dexin harrumphed coldly. He was quite displeased by Zhang Xiaohou’s attitude.

“Our ranks are the same, so I will decide if I’m helping or not! I have other things to worry about. If you’re going to Qinling Mountains, you will find the path that will lead you to the mountains to the north of the town,” Zhang Xiaohou informed him coolly.

“Major General, they are from the Violet Imperial Battalion. It won’t do us any harm if we can help them with the operation. Should we consider?...” General Gao behind him whispered.

Brigadier General Gao was meant to be in charge of the outpost. Normally, he would have the final say in decisions, but Zhang Xiaohou was the chief commander of every outpost and town in the region close to the Qinling Mountains. He was General Gao’s superior!

Since Zhang Xiaohou was currently in the town, General Gao had no choice but to listen to him!

As a matter of fact, Li Dexin was quite surprised, too. A brigadier general was normally the highest officer stationed at a military outpost, so he would have no problem ordering the soldiers around. He did not expect to stumble into a major general!

However, Li Dexin did not treat Zhang Xiaohou seriously. How was a mere major general in the mountains comparable to a major general of the Violet Imperial Battalion? A town in a mountain and a true city both had their own mayors, but were they even the same!?

Zhang Xiaohou did not hesitate to talk back. He was utterly displeased by the man's arrogance!

The military was strict about discipline. It was important to identify yourself when entering other people's territory. Some military bases did not even allow soldiers of other platoons to enter them. This outpost might not be a secret base, but the man was obliged to prove his identity before entering it!

Not only did these Battlemages of the Violet Imperial Battalion fail to do so, they did not even bother asking for his permission before requisitioning his men to assist them in their operation, when he was their chief commander!?

You're taking my men without telling me first!?

What did they think the Qinling Mountains were!? Going there without choosing the right time and season was suicide! Even if they had informed him first, he still might not agree to help!

The Violet Imperial Battalion might be a special existence, but Zhang Xiaohou had no plans to submit to them!

An advising officer behind the enormous Lesser Dragon stepped forward. He actually saluted Zhang Xiaohou before he spoke, "There's only one major general at the Qinling Mountains. I believe you must be General Zhang Xiaohou, who was promoted recently?"

Zhang Xiaohou saluted in return without saying a word.

"Sir, we've heard of the strange wind in the Qinling Mountains. Those who are unfamiliar with the terrain of the Qinling Mountains might die a horrible death to the wind. Our mission is very urgent, so it's our fault for not informing you earlier. I do hope that you can provide us with assistance. The Violet Imperial Battalion will be in your debt!" The short advising officer had greatly lowered his stance.

"That's more like it! Things would be a lot simpler if you behaved like that at first," Zhao Manyan snapped back.

"What do you mean by that? And who do you think you are!?" Li Dexin glared at Zhao Manyan.

"I've already promised my friends that I would bring them to the Qinling Mountains. If you want to go, you can ask General Gao's men to assist you." Zhang Xiaohou did not go overboard. He had no intention of complicating matters further.

"Well, if General Zhang is going to the Qinling Mountains, why don't you come with us? From what I know, if anyone could be said to be familiar with the mountains, it has to be you! Our mission is to save members of the Great Commander's family. Lives are at stake here, so I do hope General Zhang will assist us!" the advising officer asked sincerely.

Zhang Xiaohou did not agree right away. He looked at Mo Fan.

"Where are you heading to? Which part of the mountains?" Mo Fan asked the advising officer.

“Around here.” The advising officer was well-prepared, and immediately took out a detailed map.

“Houzi, are they going the same way as us?” Mo Fan asked him.

“More or less,” Zhang Xiaohou replied.

“Let’s go together, then. It doesn’t matter if they are coming with us. They might come in handy,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan did not mind the Violet Imperial Battalion tagging along. These Violet Imperial Battlemages were pretty strong, especially the guy on the Lesser Dragon.

It was clearly going to be a dangerous trip. It would be safer to have more people with them!

“Brother Fan, we can just ignore them,” Zhang Xiaohou told him, clearly not enthusiastic about the idea.

“It’s fine, it’s more fun when there are more people around,” Mo Fan assured him.

“Yeah, did you see the female officer standing at the back there? Oh my, she’s hot!” Zhao Manyan said.

Zhao Manyan’s eyes were capable of locating the women in a crowd in the shortest time possible. They would swiftly filter out the ordinary-looking ones and lock onto the beauties!

Chapter 1708: Winged Patrol Beasts

There were nine people from the Violet Imperial Battalion, led by Major General Li Dexin. He was arrogantly leading the way, riding his Great Lesser Earth Dragon.

“You guys... don’t seem to be from the army, right?” the advising officer asked with a smile, glancing at Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Yu Shishi, and the others.

“We are from Fanxue Mountain,” Bai Hongfei stated calmly.

“Fanxue Mountain?” Li Dexin turned around and sniffed disdainfully, “Never heard of it!”

“It’s normal for ignorant people not to hear of many places or things,” Yu Shishi mocked him instantly.

Yu Shishi already treated Fanxue Mountain as her home, and would not allow anyone to look down on it. Besides, Li Dexin was simply too full of himself. Even Yu Shishi had the urge to drag him down from his pet dragon and beat the crap out of him!

“It’s my first time hearing anyone dare to describe the Violet Imperial Battalion as ignorant!” a woman with a long ponytail in the group spoke up.

The woman had thick hair, its volume quite sizable when it was tied up. The straight hair nearly reached her waist, and the black belt there perfectly set off her alluring curves. The woman was clearly responding to Yu Shishi. She was confident and proud of the Violet Imperial Battalion!

“The Qinling Mountains are just ahead. The path is steep, so be more careful,” Zhang Xiaohou reminded everyone, conveniently distracting them from the argument.

Mo Fan was not too familiar with the Central Plains, so he was not familiar with the Violet Imperial Battalion, either. He purposely slowed down and asked Zhang Xiaohou about it.

“Do you know the Imperial Mages of the Ancient Capital?” Zhang Xiaohou asked him back.

“I do. Are they related?” Mo Fan replied quickly.

“A little. The most talented Mages in the Ancient Capital are recruited by the Imperial Mages, an utmost glory for them, similar to being chosen to become Royal Guards. Meanwhile, among the platoons in the Central Plain, there is a special division that usually handles difficult missions and operations. Every year, each division will recommend a few talents to the Violet Imperial Battalion. Think of them as special operators,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“I see! No wonder they are so proud of themselves!” Mo Fan said.

“Damn, that chick, I won’t let any of you steal her from me. She’s mine, tsk tsk tsk, look at her flexible waist and her long legs. Man, imagine her curling those legs around me!” Zhao Manyan blurted out excitedly.

Zhao Manyan’s eyes had never left the woman who was arguing with Yu Shishi. He found the imposing bearing of her military training the most appealing!

“I can tell that you can’t wait to beg her to whip you and step on you with her heels, right?” Mo Fan needled him.

“That doesn’t sound too bad, now that you mentioned it. With her face and posture? I wouldn’t mind having some fun with her!” Zhao Manyan declared.

“Brother Zhao is still a thrill-seeker! The women from the Violet Imperial Battalion are pretty tough to handle,” Zhang Xiaohou laughed.

“Drinking the strongest booze and riding the toughest chick, I have no regrets!” Zhao Manyan proclaimed.

Zhao Manyan was not too excited about the trip, but it all changed after the Violet Imperial Battalion began tagging along. He was psyched as long as there were women around, no matter the circumstances!

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The paths leading to the Qinling Mountains were rather steep. The only way forward was across narrow bridges dangling in the air, even though they had not ventured too deep into the mountains. On one side were the magnificent walls of the mountains, and on the other were steep cliffs above deep valleys. The wind was constantly howling. A little loli like Lingling could easily be blown off the cliff at any second.

Mo Fan purposely Summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf and let Lingling ride him, as he was concerned about Lingling’s stamina.

Li Dexin grinned not long after Mo Fan Summoned the Flying Creek Snow Wolf. He said, “I didn’t know you were a Summoner too!”

“Yeah,” Mo Fan nodded.

“But the Commander-level is likely to be your wolf’s limit, right?” Li Dexin said.

“Mm, it’s very difficult for him to evolve into a Ruler-level creature. I’ll need a lot of resources for that,” Mo Fan admitted.

“Resources? How naive are you? Don’t you know how important the lineage of Summoned Beasts is? You have forcibly evolved the wolf to its current level. If you insist on continuing, it will still be a lot weaker than creatures with outstanding lineages, even if it reaches the Ruler-level! In comparison, even though my Great Lesser Earth Dragon is only a lesser Ruler-level creature now, it can easily take on a Ruler-level creature with its dragon flesh and dragon breath!” Li Dexin declared proudly.

“A Lesser Dragon does have some extraordinary capabilities, but I’m already used to having my wolf around, so I will help him achieve the higher levels if possible,” Mo Fan replied blandly.

“A wolf will always be a wolf. It’s incomparable to a dragon. You will understand once you reach the higher levels. A wolf like that will only end up as a transportation tool,” Li Dexin stated firmly.

Mo Fan merely put on a ‘screw you’ smile. He did not bother arguing with the man any further.

Li Dexin too was lazy to chat with a stubborn fool like Mo Fan. He continued to lead the way in front of the group.

They suddenly heard shrieks coming from the tall cliffs. It was difficult to locate their source, as they were echoing off the mountainsides.

Mo Fan lifted his gaze to locate the creatures uttering the cries, but there were many spots along the walls, trees, and rocks where the creatures might be hiding. It was tricky to tell where the creatures were!

“It’s the Winged Patrol Beasts. You can hear their cries almost everywhere in the Qinling Mountains!” Zhang Xiaohou informed them.

“Did they notice us? I was told that these Winged Patrol Beasts are very annoying to deal with! They will immediately gather a large group of Winged Patrol Beasts to them whenever they notice any intruders. They won’t attack right away, but will roam in the surroundings until they are confident their numbers are enough to crush the intruders and feast on them!” The female officer, Ling Fei, lifted her head, revealing her slender neck.

Chapter 1709: The Wind of Sorrow

Zhang Xiaohou glanced at the female officer named Ling Fei. He was surprised that the woman was familiar with the demon creatures of the Qinling Mountains.

“Indeed, the powerful creatures can easily hide themselves, while the lesser creatures are tricky to deal with. These Winged Patrol Beasts are extremely cunning. They are not strong on their own, but they

won't attack intruders right away. They will keep sending out signals to the other beasts nearby with their cries, while staying in the area. Not only are they going to summon more Winged Patrol Beasts, they might attract the attention of other powerful creatures too!" Zhang Xiaohou confirmed.

"Other powerful creatures? Why would they do that? It won't do them any good!" Zhao Manyan protested.

"The Winged Patrol Beasts are lowly creatures. They will wait until the greater creatures are done feasting before eating the remains left behind. Therefore, we have never had to worry about burying corpses in the Qinling Mountains. These Winged Patrol Beasts will always clean them up," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Aren't they like vultures, then?" Apas asked.

"Except they are more disgusting," Zhang Xiaohou agreed.

A few piercing shrieks came from above while they were talking. It sounded like the Winged Patrol Beasts were right above them!

"Did they notice our presence? We should leave at once," Bai Hongfei said worriedly.

"Don't panic. The cries do not necessarily mean they have found us. These Winged Patrol Beasts like to make noise for no reason, just to intimidate timid intruders. We just need to stay on the path. We will be fine once the cries fade away," Zhang Xiaohou said.

Zhang Xiaohou had entered the Qinling Mountains many times. He could easily identify the meaning behind the cries of the Winged Patrol Beasts and determine if they were bluffing or if they had truly found intruders.

"They are just a bunch of weaklings, we shouldn't be worried about them. Our time is running short, let's hurry!" Li Dexin said impatiently.

"General, we are currently in the Qinling Mountains; we should be more respectful," the advising officer said.

"Respectful? If we bother wasting our time on the lesser creatures patrolling the canopy and the mountains, we are not being respectful, it's called making a big fuss over minor issues! We are going straight as fast as we can. If they dare to bother us, I'll handle them!" Li Dexin said.

"We all agreed beforehand that I'm in command!" Zhang Xiaohou was once again displeased by Li Dexin's arrogant behavior.

"Forget it, let him be. Besides, he did say that he will handle it," Mo Fan said.

Li Dexin did not want to waste too much time traveling. The mission was too important for him. It was the perfect opportunity for him to cosy up to his commander, so he could not allow any harm to befall his superior's family!

Several more cries were heard. The group lifted their eyes and saw shadows beating their wings along the top of the mountainsides and the huge trees along the edge.

“They did find us this time,” Zhang Xiaohou judged.

“Humph, they won’t be a threat!” Li Dexin scoffed.

The group continued on their way. More shrieks came from above the walls on both sides. They would occasionally see one or two creatures with gray feathers flying from one side to the other. They took quick glimpses at the unwanted guests while they were flying past above them.

“Their numbers are increasing!” Ling Fei noticed.

“My ears are hurting,” Zhao Manyan added right after Ling Fei’s comment.

Unfortunately, Ling Fei did not even bother to look at Zhao Manyan. He had tried flirting with her cheekily, yet all he received in return was an icy expression that clearly indicated the woman’s disinterest in talking to him.

“They are always like this, disturbing and annoying their prey; they might even make noise for the whole night around the spot where we camp, making it difficult for us to rest and recover our energy. The strange thing is, no matter how calm a person is, their cries will still influence them,” Zhang Xiaohou informed everyone.

“The cries of these Winged Patrol Beasts are enchanted with magic. They aren’t just normal cries,” Apas spoke up.

Apas was most familiar with Psychic Magic. The ability to disturb and unsettle the minds of an enemy with sound might not be effective with just one or two creatures, but when the cries stacked up as their numbers increased, it would severely impact their targets!

“You know quite a lot, little girl,” the advising officer noticed.

“I’ve learned them from big brother. He knows a lot. He always sits on my bed and shares his knowledge with me before I sleep,” Apas smiled like an innocent vixen, purposely leaning closer to Mo Fan.

On the bed...

Before sleep...

The soldiers of the Violent Imperial Battalion immediately fixed their eyes on Mo Fan, including the advising officer.

Mo Fan immediately saw the word ‘jerk’ in the look in their eyes. How could such an adorable little girl fall into the hands of a perverted man like him!?

Mo Fan was utterly speechless at Apas’ behavior. Once again, she had successfully used her charm to seduce the men into directing their anger at him!

For some reason, Apas enjoyed watching Mo Fan being isolated and picked on while she pretended to be a harmless sacred little angel, as if she could finally be free once the great demon was annihilated.

“Should we keep going? The place ahead is a spacious valley. I believe the Winged Patrol Beasts will reach a certain number there. Powerful creatures are going to show up there,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Of course we aren’t stopping! I told you, I’ll handle the demon creatures!” Li Dexin declared.

“I wasn’t asking you!” Zhang Xiaohou snapped. He was seriously unfond of Li Dexin.

“Let’s go. The Winged Patrol Beasts are tailing us, it’s meaningless to hide any further,” Mo Fan said.

Li Dexin immediately glanced at Mo Fan. He noticed that Major General Zhang Xiaohou kept asking Mo Fan for suggestions along the way. It was very likely that Mo Fan was the leader among them!

A man with only a wolf as his Summoned Beast was acting like the boss in the group. How naive!

The cries suddenly became noisier and more piercing. The group felt like their heads were about to explode. The Winged Patrol Beasts were extremely annoying. They had the urge to jump into the sky and eliminate them all, just so their ears could enjoy some peace.

“Humph, a bunch of lowly creatures dare to act so impudently in front of me? Great Lesser Earth Dragon, time to teach them a lesson,” Li Dexin snorted disdainfully.

The Great Lesser Earth Dragon was covered in golden-brown scales. Despite its name, it actually resembled a ferocious machine dragon made of metal!

The Great Lesser Earth Dragon had no wings, but its height was still shocking when it stood up on two legs.

It lifted its head and let out a blasting roar. The dragon’s cry swept across the space above the walls like a cannon shot, creating the equivalent of a huge shockwave after a great explosion. The Winged Patrol Beasts circling in the air scattered like a frightened school of fish. Scattered feathers fell from the sky as they fled into the woods further away.

The hundreds of Winged Patrol Beasts that had gathered fled in an instant after the roar. The stronger creatures hiding among the trees were left in awe. They did not dare to make any move for the time being.

“The aura of a Lesser Dragon is indeed pretty fierce!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed.

The dragon’s roar alone had driven the lesser creatures away. It did smooth out the journey significantly, as they would have otherwise wasted a lot of time on these Winged Patrol Beasts, who would cry continuously if they did not find a way to kill them all.

“I told you, we shouldn’t waste our time on them!” Li Dexin smiled when he heard the others’ compliments.

“It’s not that simple,” Zhang Xiaohou scoffed.

“Those lesser creatures do not stand a chance against our absolute strength. The method you normally use to enter the Qinling Mountains is too gentle!” Li Dexin retorted.

Li Dexin did not think much of Zhang Xiaohou’s experience in the Qinling Mountains. Experience did not matter if a person was strong enough. Would a lion be hesitant to enter a forest just because a bunch of ants was blocking its way?

Everyone was in a better mood after their ears were able to enjoy a moment of peace. Having a Lesser Dragon with them did save them a lot of trouble. The low-level creatures sensibly cleared a path for them after sensing the Lesser Dragon's intimidating aura.

They had been journeying for the whole day without realizing it. The temperature on the Qinling Mountains dropped significantly as the night fell, and the strong wind was chilly.

The howls of the wind sounded like people crying sinisterly. The group initially decided to set up their tents under the cliffs, but the wind kept growing stronger. Its howls were soon covering the mountains.

"The wind sounds so eerie," Zhao Manyan said.

"How unlucky are we, to encounter the Wind of Sorrow on our first night?" Zhang Xiaohou smiled wryly.

"Didn't the Wind of Sorrow just occur recently?" Mo Fan asked quickly.

"The Wind of Sorrow isn't seasonal. It doesn't occur on a regular pattern. I initially thought it would be gone for quite a while, since its previous occurrence has lasted for more than a week, yet it has returned in such a short time..." Zhang Xiaohou murmured.

Li Dexin walked to the edge and purposely stuck his hand outside the edge to feel the wind.

"It doesn't seem that scary," Li Dexin declared.

"This is only the beginning. We can't set up camp here, we have to find a Curtain Tree. Otherwise, we'll use up half of our energy before daylight!" Zhang Xiaohou stated.

Chapter 1710: The Never-Ending Lesser Creatures

A strong wind kept sweeping along the pitch-black ridge. The group was moving as fast as they could along a rapid stream. The wind had changed significantly not long ago. Not only was it slowing them down, but their skin was also cracking from the strong corrosion.

Everyone was forced to set up magic barriers to defend themselves, or the wind would eventually turn them into a pile of bones!

"It's so dark, how are we going to find a Curtain Tree?" the advising officer said worriedly.

They were already struggling to identify the plants during the day, let alone in the dark. If they kept rushing amid the Wind of Sorrow, they were more likely to walk into trouble. They would be in great danger if they were ambushed by a pack of demon creatures under the current circumstances.

"What is a Curtain Tree?" Mo Fan also asked.

"A huge plant that is called the Guardian of the Qinling Mountains. They are scattered all over the mountains. Their branches and leaves are quite special. Their branches dangle like a willow after the tree reaches a certain height. Their leaves intertwine along the dangling branches and form layers of

curtains to shield it from the Wind of Sorrow. Therefore, if we can find a Curtain Tree, we can hide under its leaves to shelter us from the Wind of Sorrow,” Lingling reported.

“That’s true, but it’s already difficult to find the Curtain Tree in the day, let alone at night...” the advising officer sighed.

“Damn it, the wind is growing stronger. I’m losing the outer layer of my skin!” Zhao Manyan cursed.

At first, the group only felt their skin turning extremely dry because of the wind, but it began to crack apart not long after. If they could not defend themselves, the wind might even peel off their skin. They did not understand how deadly the Wind of Sorrow was before entering the Qinling Mountains, but they now realized how terrifying it was after experiencing it firsthand.

The Wind of Sorrow had covered the Qinling Mountains. There was no place to hide, as the wind could penetrate even the slightest gap. After being tortured for three hours straight, the Wind of Sorrow had given Mo Fan and the others a new impression of it!

Zhao Manyan had no choice but to set up his defenses, constantly consuming his energy to maintain them. Having no energy in the wild was like a woman running around naked in a village!

“Old Zhao, how long can you last against the wind?” Mo Fan asked.

“Around five hours. My energy will more or less run out in five hours,” Zhao Manyan replied.

“If he’s lucky enough and the wind stops growing stronger... we might be able to last a little longer, but if it keeps growing, I’m afraid that even five hours is asking too much,” the advising officer judged.

The Great Lesser Earth Dragon leading the group tried to drive the Wind of Sorrow away with its breath. However, everyone failed to break the wind up after trying all their Elements. Only defensive spells were effective against it.

The Great Inferior Earth Dragon was covered in golden-brown scales, so its defense was comparable to a Ruler-level creature. To everyone’s surprise, the dragon’s scales were visibly cracking! The skin not protected by scales was filling with cracks, too!

The creature was more exposed to the deadly wind due to its massive size. The Great Lesser Earth Dragon was suffering greatly, as the barrier of the defensive spells was not big enough to cover it.

“Go get some rest.” Li Dexin helplessly withdrew the Great Lesser Earth Dragon into his Contract Space. He cursed, “What the hell is this wind? Even my dragon can’t withstand it!”

“The Wind of Sorrow ignores every kind of defense. Everyone has to follow the Qinling Mountains’ rules, regardless of their level,” Zhang Xiaohou said evenly.

“What kind of a shitty place is this!?”

Mo Fan was surprised that even a Lesser Dragon had struggled to endure the wind. He could not help but wonder where the wind came from, to possess such a strange power.

“How are those lesser creatures surviving in the wind if a Lesser Dragon is struggling against it?” Yu Shishi had to ask.

“The lesser creatures have their little tricks to survive here. Besides, the Wind of Sorrow doesn’t care about the level of creatures. The skin of a Lesser Dragon will start to crack after it is exposed to the wind for three to five hours, and the same goes with the weaker demon creatures,” Zhang Xiaohou explained calmly.

“Percentage health true damage...” Zhao Manyan mentioned a common term from video games.

“No wonder the Qinling Mountains are called the Demon Mountains. It’s difficult for ordinary people to understand their power. It really is a trip of no return!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

“Major General Zhang, isn’t it more dangerous for us to walk around aimlessly?” Advisor Xu finally spoke up in concern.

“We just need to travel for another kilometer,” Zhang Xiaohou replied, unperturbed.

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The group followed Zhang Xiaohou for another kilometer. Advisor Xu was just about to speak up again when Zhang Xiaohou suddenly increased his pace. He quickly moved under a huge wall against the wind.

The massive wall looked like a mountain being sliced in half by a sword. It was perfectly straight, with lots of trees growing on it. Their thick trunks had constructed a tiny world in the dark, where many creatures lived.

At the edge between the wall and the ground stood an ancient tree that was completely different from the others. Its trunk extended into the darkness, and was further split into two at the middle...

Both trunks were firm and upright. They were unaffected by the corrosive wind, nor were they swaying in the slightest. Their branches were different from normal trees. Those that grew out of the trunks were dangling naturally from them, forming layers of elegant curtains.

The branches were densely covered in leaves in a slight arc, shielding the area under the tree perfectly. The Wind of Sorrow only managed to shake the leaves slightly instead of scattering them!

“Isn’t that a Curtain Tree!?” Advisor Xu exclaimed in relief.

They had been traveling in the Wind of Sorrow for three hours, but the wind showed no sign of weakening. Advisor Xu was getting more worried about their situation. Their mission was to rescue someone in the mountains. That person might be in danger if they were delayed too long!

To Advisor Xu’s surprise, they had found a Curtain Tree amid the grim situation. Where there’s a will, there’s a way!

“Well done, Houzi. You managed to find the place in the dark,” Mo Fan patted Zhang Xiaohou on the shoulder.

Zhang Xiaohou had been leading the way. He insisted they keep going even when the group was feeling uneasy. To their surprise, he had managed to bring them to a Curtain Tree. The group could finally catch their breath!

“I’m dying from fatigue. I’ve used up so much of my energy, even though I wasn’t doing much. What happens when we are really in trouble?” Zhao Manyan moaned.

There were two areas protected by the curtains of the two trunks. They decided to split into two groups based on their genders, since they had to sleep for the night. They simply found a spot in the curtains and laid down on the ground to get some rest.

As a matter of fact, the cultivation level of the group was pretty high. They had never felt so tired after traveling in the wilds for a single day, but the Wind of Sorrow was just too weird. They were even more scared of the Wind of Sorrow now!

“Let’s get some rest. The Wind of Sorrow should be weaker in the day, so we’ll increase our pace tomorrow,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

Mo Fan and his group were here for the Tree of Vows. They were not in a rush, but the people of the Violet Imperial Battalion were running short on time. They had no idea if the person they were told to rescue was capable of looking after themselves before help arrived. If the person was a scrub, they might not even survive the night!

The person who had consumed the most energy was Zhao Manyan. A Light Mage from the Violet Imperial Battalion had used up his energy, too. The thick-browed man was meditating diligently, trying his best to recover his energy before daybreak.

“The environments are pretty nice here, it’s like a high-quality tent!” Mo Fan noted as he scanned his surroundings.

The area under the Curtain Tree was surprisingly clean. A patch of soft red moss had grown under the Curtain Tree since it was difficult for the sunlight and wind to enter the curtains. The moss was as comfortable as a carpet. The dirt under the layer of moss would not stain their clothes when they were lying on it. If it was summer, Mo Fan could imagine lying on it for a whole day if he brought along cold drinks, half a watermelon, and a phone with full signal...

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The Wind of Sorrow blew continuously outside the curtains. The wind had obviously grown stronger during the latter half of the night, but the people were resting comfortably under the tree. The wind did not bother them, no matter how strong it was.

A few noises occurred outside the curtains around three in the morning.

Mo Fan was awake. He immediately opened his eyes and listened to the noises carefully.

He frowned when a few piercing cries followed up.

Didn’t those cries belong to the Winged Patrol Beasts? The wind was blowing so strongly outside, why weren’t the Winged Patrol Beasts hiding from it?

The cries grew more frequent as time went by. It felt like more Winged Patrol Beasts had begun to circle the area. They were summoning more companions to them!

“What’s going on?” Li Dexin asked impatiently after he was woken up.

“It seems like they have no intention of letting us go. They have gathered more numbers this time,” Mo Fan observed.

“Those annoying pests! This time, I won’t be driving them away!” Li Dexin grunted.

Li Dexin was about to Summon his Lesser Dragon to teach the Winged Patrol Beasts a lesson. However, a strong gust of wind knocked people and their things to the ground as soon as he parted the curtain.

“Damn it, why is the Wind of Sorrow even stronger now?... What’s going on with the Winged Patrol Beasts outside?” Li Dexin cursed.