

Versatile 2021

Chapter 2021: Qin Yu'er

Mo Fan was surprised. Why would Mu Ningxue mention her all of a sudden?

"I initially thought I was the only person in this world with such a special trait, but I realized there are others who suffered more than me after I met Qin Yu'er," Mu Ningxue said.

"That Qin Yu'er, does she have an Innate Soul Seed too?" Mo Fan exclaimed.

Mu Ningxue shook her head and said, "Her body is even more special than mine. The Ice Magic in my body was Awakened when I was around the age of twelve. At first, I only needed to endure the cold, but it grew stronger as I grew up. Therefore, I had to cultivate diligently so I wouldn't freeze myself to death in bed. My body is like a devil that keeps growing stronger. It keeps whipping me so I can sustain it with a higher cultivation."

Mo Fan subconsciously reached his hand out. He finally understood why Mu Ningxue's personality had changed so much. Any other emotion was no longer important under her circumstances, since her thoughts were constantly filled with pain.

"The situation lasted until I was finally able to control it when I grew up. However, outsiders only know it as an Innate Soul Seed, the perfect Innate Talent of the Ice Element..." Mu Ningxue finished.

"Why didn't you tell me before?" Mo Fan said. He was sorry for her.

She used to be a cheerful little princess, but she had turned into an icy goddess only a few years later. Mo Fan never understood the reason behind it. He could not help but feel guilty about it now that Mu Ningxue had finally told him the truth. He was too young and naive. He thought everyone was looking down on him because he was born at the grassroots. It even distanced him from Mu Ningxue.

"There's nothing you could do either," Mu Ningxue said.

"Ugh... you're right. I can just rub you when you sleep and warm you with my body," Mo Fan said.

"As a matter of fact, my body is pretty aggressive too. It's difficult for me to physically touch someone. It's similar to the weather here in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain. It will freeze a person's blood in less than ten minutes," Mu Ningxue said.

"Ten minutes? Mm, that's plenty. I'm pretty fast sometimes. I can't hold it back since you are so good-looking," Mo Fan commented.

Mu Ningxue did not understand what Mo Fan was implying at first. She immediately realized the meaning behind it when she saw his mischievous grin. Her eyes flickered with embarrassment. She stepped on Mo Fan's foot with her heel, the trick that Lingling often used to teach Mo Fan a lesson!

Mo Fan took a deep breath reflexively.

"I'm being serious!" Mu Ningxue said.

"Sure, alright, go on, I won't interrupt again!" Mo Fan piped up.

"My situation was pretty bad, but Qin Yu'er's was worse..." Mu Ningxue directed the topic back to Qin Yu'er.

"So five minutes is the limit for her, I feel bad for Zhan Kong... my bad, go on," Mo Fan lowered his head quickly.

Mu Ningxue was about to lose it. Couldn't he wait until she was done talking? He was the one that wanted to know the truth in the first place, yet he kept adding nonsense to it!

"Her situation is worse because her Ice Magic doesn't grow with her age," Mu Ningxue said after organizing her thoughts.

"What do you mean?" Mo Fan was confused.

"When she Awakened her Ice Magic at the age of ten, it was as strong as mine when I was twenty years old," Mu Ningxue said.

"When you were twenty years old? Weren't you almost an Advanced Mage by then?" Mo Fan exclaimed.

"She was only ten years old. Even the most talented Mage would struggle to endure such powerful magic, especially when it was not under her control..." Mu Ningxue explained.

Mo Fan dropped his jaw, lost for words.

"Since she couldn't control the Ice Magic in her body, she was like a calamity that the legends foretell. Whenever she lost control of her emotions, it would bring a huge snowstorm to the area she lived in. All the plants would freeze to death, so it was inhabitable for living creatures. If it happened in a city, the city would be locked in snow. My body only brings pain to me, so I can still live with my family. I could also go to school, but she couldn't live with anyone, not even the remote villages," Mu Ningxue went on.

Mo Fan was astounded. He had never thought such an Innate Talent existed. It gave the person overwhelming power, yet it also brought her disaster!

"She was sent to Tianshan Mountain when she was eleven. She could only live in the Valley of Glaciers. The people of her clan still came to visit her at first, but she was soon left alone, including her immediate family. They believed she wouldn't harm anyone while she was at Tianshan Mountain," Mu Ningxue said.

Mo Fan's eyes teared up.

The Valley of Glaciers might be sacred and beautiful, yet it was also extremely lonely. To think that a girl had been forced to live here since the age of eleven. Mo Fan was soon filled with sorrow. His throat felt sour.

“She only Awakened the Star Dust of the Ice Element at the age of fourteen. She started cultivating by referring to the books her family left with her...”

“Her Ice Element reached the Advanced Level when she was seventeen. She could finally control the Ice Magic in her body and return to her normal life.”

“She was enrolled into the Imperial College, with outstanding results. She met Zhan Kong there, and they were both chosen as candidates for the national team. They traveled around the world to train themselves, just like us.”

“The Chief Military Instructor was on the national team too?” Mo Fan was startled.

Zhan Kong was a representative of the national team? Why would someone on the national team be appointed to Bo City, which was small and far away? Or perhaps he was downhearted by the things that befell Qin Yu’er?

“There was an accident during the World College Tournament. The Heresy Judgment Court was suspicious of Qin Yu’er, as her strength was too overwhelming. You are familiar with what kind of people the Heresy Judgment Court are. Back then, the advisors and Qin Yu’er’s clan did not step forward to explain Qin Yu’er’s situation, as they were scared of being accused by the Heresy Judgment Court. The Heresy Judgment Court ended up proclaiming her guilty and accusing her of being a living disaster!” Mu Ningxue said.

Chapter 2022: The Scar of the Ice Magic

“Wasn’t she able to control her power? Why was she considered a heretic?” Mo Fan gasped.

“The Magic Association has always been like this. They are afraid of powers unknown to them. Those who possess power the Magic Association is unfamiliar with, either innately or purposely, are treated as heretics. The truth is, we all know many powers aren’t listed in the Magic Index, such as the Totem Beasts. They exist, but the Magic Association has never acknowledged them. Their existence was even erased from history!” Mu Ningxue explained.

“The Magic Association... They might have existed for humans and Mages’ sake at first, but that’s not necessarily the case now. It’s more about politics,” Mo Fan sighed.

The Magic Association was huge. Its branches were scattered across the world.

Not every Magic Association had diverted from their main goals. Many local Magic Associations still obeyed their rules of conduct. Mo Fan had witnessed all this in person: the higher authorities, especially the continent-level Magic Associations and the two greatest arbitration organizations, the Holy Judgment Court and the Heresy Judgment Court, had tyrannized people on more than one occasion.

To Mo Fan’s surprise, Qin Yu’er was targeted by the Heresy Judgment Court too. She was considered a heretic!

“The Heresy Judgment Court has too much power. No faction or organization dared to stand on Qin Yu’er’s side, except Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong...”

“Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong was a disciple of a renowned clan back then. His objection was meaningless. Instead, he was expelled by his clan, hence why a great talent like him was assigned to our Bo City. Qin Yu’er didn’t tell me that, I heard it when I was in the Mu Clan. If it weren’t because of the Heresy Judgment Court, Chief Military Instructor would have held a high position on the national team. He might even have been the advisor of our batch,” Mu Ningxue went on.

The advisors of the national team had great power. Even the local Councilmen had to nod their heads and bow around the advisors. It was Mo Fan’s first time hearing this about his Chief Military Instructor’s past. He could imagine how impressive the Chief Military Instructor had been from the few words, including the pain he had gone through.

“The Heresy Judgment Court sealed Qin Yu’er away in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain, the deserted place that had tortured her for seven years. They wanted her to fall into eternal slumber in the Valley of Glaciers that has been around since forever!” Mu Ningxue’s lips were trembling as she spoke.

Seven years, seven years were gone in the blink of an eye. It sounded so simple when Qin Yu’er told her what had happened, yet Mu Ningxue knew how much of a torture it was to spend seven years alone.

Mu Ningxue was familiar with the problems of cultivating with their Innate Ice Magic. Qin Yu’er had practiced diligently for seven years so she could control the Ice Magic in her body, allowing her to return to a normal life.

However, the Heresy Judgment Court had sealed her back in the land of ice that was her absolute nightmare, even though she could already control her power. The Scar of Tianshan Mountain was beyond anyone’s reach. It was crueler than executing her!

“He said he would come, even if his hair had turned white... it was the only thing that kept me alive’, Qin Yu’er told me,” Mu Ningxue repeated the phrase softly. She could deeply relate to Qin Yu’er.

Mo Fan was completely lost for words.

He was extremely touched when he heard of Qin Yu’er’s past from Mu Ningxue. He had experienced how cold and cruel Tianshan Mountain was himself now, so he could easily relate to what Qin Yu’er had gone through.

It was why Zhan Kong insisted on visiting Tianshan Mountain even after becoming one of the living dead!

Was that the promise that helped Zhan Kong preserve his consciousness when the Qin Emperor’s soul tried to devour him?

When Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong lunged at the black mantle, the greatest pain he endured was not losing his flesh, but the fact that he was unable to see Qin Yu’er again.

“Qin Yu’er said she saw Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong when she was freed from the ice, but he turned around and left. She couldn’t understand...” Mu Ningxue said.

Mo Fan looked at the frozen valley. He recalled Zhan Kong’s half-dead face.

Mo Fan could relate to Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong's feelings when he chose to turn around.

Mu Ningxue did not speak, as if she was lost in the story. She could feel an endless sorrow pouring into her chest. She felt sorry for the couple.

Mo Fan was recalling everything that had happened on Tianshan Mountain. He suddenly had an urge to go back in time and change the past, to relieve Chief Military Instructor Zhan Kong from the Qin Emperor's Curse so he could reunite with Qin Yu'er and tell her with a smile, "I'm here!"

The two remained silent for quite some time.

After a while, Mo Fan finally recalled the question he meant to ask at first. He cleared his thoughts and asked, "What about your Third Element? What happened to it?"

"People like us will face a serious problem, in that there is a possibility that our new Elements are unusable. You can think of it as some kind of deformity. Their Star Dust won't grow like other Elements, but die prematurely. I asked Qin Yu'er about it. She told me she had the same problem. She only had a single Element even after she reached the Advanced Level. She never Awakened a second Element," Mu Ningxue said.

"How could that be?" Mo Fan wondered.

"Even though I've Awakened the Third Element... A Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit dies prematurely because of me," Mu Ningxue said.

"Dies prematurely?"

"I was too eager to grow stronger. Qin Yu'er already told me there might be some problem with my Third Element, yet I still signed a Contract with a little Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit. In the end..." Mu Ningxue's face turned gloomy.

Back then, Mu Ningxue and her family were cast out because of Mu He. She was also disqualified from the national team and forced to leave the clan. She desperately wanted to grow stronger.

The little Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit's death had woken her up. She realized she was being too impatient. If she did not calm herself, her recklessness was only going to hurt the people around her.

Qin Yu'er spent seven years on Tianshan Mountain controlling her power so she would not hurt others. Mu Ningxue realized she could not afford to lose control of herself and act irrationally.

Mu Ningxue grieved over the death of the Tianshan Mountain Ice Spirit, but she managed to recover from her obsessions. Her path forward was much smoother after that, and paying an unforgettable price!

Chapter 2023: The Locked Third Element

Mo Fan immediately realized why Mu Ningxue was uneasy and tried to run away when the little cub asked for a hug.

The little Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit must have been extremely fond of Mu Ningxue's Aura, similar to the little cub. The little cub had reminded her of the grave mistake she made when she was lost in her obsessions.

"I..." Mu Ningxue was emotionally stirred at the mention of the topic.

After all, it was the first newborn who crossed paths with Mu Ningxue. She blamed herself for what she had done and was struggling to walk out of the pain.

The premature death of the Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit was sealed away at the bottom of Mu Ningxue's heart, together with her Third Element.

"You shouldn't blame yourself too much. I believe the Ice Spirit would still choose to sign a Contract with you if she was given a second chance. She wanted to share the pain with you. Your souls were connected briefly before the Contract was signed. She was aware of the risk involved, she just lacked a little luck. If she made it, your Third Element should work too. I think the little cub is pretty tough. Do you want to try it again?" Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan assumed the little cub possessed an outstanding lineage, even among the species of the Scar of Tianshan Mountain. Mu Ningxue's Innate Ice Magic was not as terrifying as Qin Yu'er's. The little cub should be fine if Mu Ningxue signed a Contract with her. Mu Ningxue would then be able to cultivate the Summoning Element!

If the little cub did not make it, it was not their fault, either. They did not force her to sign a Contract with Mu Ningxue. It was she that kept jumping into Mu Ningxue's arms because she was particularly attracted to her.

"You are after the Night Amethyst, right?" Mu Ningxue had a feeling Mo Fan had some ulterior motives.

"No, am I the kind of person that would do anything to achieve my goals?" Mo Fan denied awkwardly.

"Let's not try it. Qin Yu'er used her power to seal the Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit's soul in a leaf. She made a protective talisman with it that can protect me from danger," Mu Ningxue said.

Mo Fan glanced at Mu Ningxue's neck and saw an amulet resembling a leaf. He had never noticed it before, perhaps because Mu Ningxue was quite busty.

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"Such a pity, you are missing your Third Element... what about your Fourth Element?" Mo Fan asked after he realized something.

Mu Ningxue was now a Super Mage. She could have Awakened her Fourth Element too! Mo Fan was worried that her Fourth Element had encountered the same problem too. If so, it would put Mu Ningxue at a great disadvantage.

"I...I feel very lost too," Mu Ningxue's pupils were unfocused.

Mu Ningxue was uneasy about Awakening a new Element after what happened to her third Element. She had yet to Awaken her fourth Element. She was afraid that it might share the same fate.

After reaching the Super Level, Mu Ningxue did not struggle to take on people with only one or two Elements at the Super Level. Her outstanding Ice Element granted her an edge over others.

However, how was she going to fight those with three or four Elements in the Super Level?

Every Element would have its bottleneck. If her cultivation was stuck, focusing on other Elements was an effective way to push her main Elements' cultivation too! However, if Mu Ningxue only had two Elements, her cultivation would be stuck in the middle of the Super Level. She would struggle to achieve higher levels!

Mu Ningxue was still quite young. She had a great chance to achieve the Super Level for all her Elements, and even became a Forbidden Mage!

It would be terrible if her cultivation was stuck because she only had two Elements!

Mu Ningxue had tagged along on the expedition because the cultivation of her Ice Element had been stuck for some time.

Her cultivation was supposed to improve significantly after she obtained more Fundamental Crystals of the Ice Element, because of the Ice Crystal Bow's powerful traits.

However, her cultivation stopped improving. Mu Ningxue realized the thing she worried about the most had happened. Her cultivation had stopped improving because it lacked the push from other Elements!

"You didn't dare to awaken the fourth Element, right?" Mo Fan said.

"Mm," Mu Ningxue nodded.

"It's even more a reason you should untie the knot of your third Element," Mo Fan pointed out.

If Mu Ningxue did not get over her third Element, her fear and worry might cause the awakening of her fourth Element to fail too. Every Mage only had one attempt at Awakening new Elements. If she failed, she would never obtain a new Element! Mo Fan understood the reason why Mu Ningxue did not dare Awaken the fourth Element, but the main problem was still her third Element.

If Mu Ningxue was unable to Awaken new Elements, she would not have Awakened the Summoning Element as her third Element. There was no way she would have been able to sign a Contract with the Ice Spirit.

"I believe there are certain odds to signing the Contract. The weaker creatures are unable to endure the power of your Ice Magic, but the stronger ones should be fine. In the end, you still need to establish a Contract to unblock your Summoning Element so you can Awaken the fourth Element," Mo Fan declared after analyzing the situation.

"Qin Yu'er told me the same thing, but I want to try another way, like the Tianshan Dew..." Mu Ningxue said with a troubled face.

She did not want a little creature that she built a relationship with to die because of her. It was like losing someone close to her.

“What’s the Tianshan Dew?” Mo Fan was puzzled.

“It’s the dew from the Tianshan Sacred Lotus. It will never freeze. Ice Magic keeps freezing my body and my soul, but the Tianshan Dew can protect my soul, so it will stop the Ice Magic from harming my Contracted Beast,” Mu Ningxue said.

“We don’t even know where to look for the Tianshan Sacred Lotus... Maybe you should really try doing it with the little cub. She’s more than willing to let you place a seal on her,” Mo Fan tried to convince Mu Ningxue.

“I would rather stick to two Elements,” Mu Ningxue refuted him.

She did not want to take the risk. Besides, she was not fond of the little cub. If she wanted to sign a Contract again, she would still choose the Tianshan Scar Ice Spirit.

“(Sigh), why don’t I give you two of my Elements. I have too many of them. I can’t take care of them myself,” Mo Fan teased her.

There were only seven Calabash Brothers, yet he had eight Elements to water and fertilize!

“I’m not interested in your Elements!” Mu Ningxue huffed.

“Seriously? You aren’t interested in any of them?” Mo Fan said with a wry smile. He was shunned even when he tried to sacrifice his Elements!

“No.”

“Fine, let’s keep going. We’ll find the Tianshan Sacred Lotus!” Mo Fan promised.

Chapter 2024: Mo Fan, the King of Criticism

They had to follow the alliance if they wanted to find the Tianshan Sacred Lotus. Only the leaders of the alliance knew where it was.

They had found a Night Amethyst, they just needed to look after the little cub. It would be safer for them to stick with the alliance too.

The group followed the markings left by Yassen and the others, who had not traveled too far away. However, when they noticed some of the mages were missing, they knew it was unlikely that those who had not regrouped with them would return.

“You guys are pretty lucky. Every one of you has returned,” Xing Hui smiled at Mo Fan and his crew.

Mo Fan's team had done the best job at preserving its numbers compared to the other teams. The old Hunters were feeling uneasy about it.

Xing Hui purposely glanced at Mu Ningxue. He wore a strange look as he said, "I know you, I've heard about you. I hope you won't trouble Mu Tingying again."

Mu Ningxue did not even bother looking at Xing Hui. She treated his words like an insignificant breeze.

Mu Ningxue was the kind of person who did not bother arguing verbally with others. She was used to hearing distorted truths, and would not waste her time correcting them.

Mo Fan, on the other hand, turned around and stared at Xing Hui. "Some people like to think others are stronger than them because of luck. When tigers are kept in cages in a zoo for too long, they will lose the ability to hunt when they return to the wild, not to mention an old dog that only knows to obey its master's order and bark randomly at people!"

Xing Hui was from the Mu Clan, even though his surname was not Mu.

The Mu Clan had many women with great power, thus many people had married them and lived in their clan to earn their support.

The strange thing was that Xing Hui was a typical man who had married someone from the Mu Clan for his own gains. Everyone who had spent some time in the capital knew how what kind of scum he was. He had abandoned his wife and daughter and took up with Mu Tingying's sister, Mu Nan, instead!

Mu Tingying was Xing Hui's sister-in-law. He had been looking down on Mu Ningxue from the beginning.

Most interestingly, the man's eyes were brimming with lust, yet he had to talk to Mu Ningxue with an attitude, just so the others from the Mu Clan were aware that he was loyal to Mu Tingying and Mu Nan.

Mo Fan was seriously impressed. Why did every man and dog dare to jump out of nowhere and bite Mu Ningxue now? She was now the leader of Fanxue Mountain, which was currently a powerhouse in Feinia City. They were being too respectful to a dog who was sticking his face up the Mu Clan's ass!

"I hate it when people scold indirectly. I can ignore it if you're referring to someone else, but if you're referring to me, please say my name out loud. Make sure you can hold yourself responsible for your words!" Xing Hui stepped forward and snarled.

"I don't have the time to remember a nobody's name. Look at my finger, not my thumb, not my index, not my nameless, and not my pinky. Whoever it points at, that's the guy I'm talking to.. you there, those who are behind him, please step aside, or he might ask if I was pointing at you all instead. Now, you should know who I was referring to, old dog!" Mo Fan reached out his hand and raised his middle finger.

His finger was right in front of Xing Hui. The people who happened to be behind him were Kuma, Lu Xiu, Tommy, and the others. They were dumbfounded when they heard Mo Fan.

Brother, you almost stick your finger into the man's nose. Do you seriously think he's that retarded to think you are actually referring to someone else? We are at least ten meters away!

"Why must he always be so arrogant?" Lu Xiu complained.

“He might be arrogant, but you wouldn’t want to mess with him, either,” Kuma replied.

They had witnessed Gavin’s death in person. Even though Lu Xiu was not pleased with Mo Fan, he was too scared to provoke him!

The old dog... uh, Xing Hui, did not move. His lungs were about to explode when he saw the middle finger and the disdainful grin on Mo Fan’s face. Even the disciples of renowned clans in the capital who were going to be leaders in the future did not dare humiliate him like that. Did this Mo Fan really think he was a national hero after winning the World College Tournament?

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“I can kill you right now!” Xing Hui’s eyes were almost sticking out. His Ice Magic was spreading. It solidified and turned into sharp spears before it dissipated. It felt like the place was growing full of deadly thorns.

“Xing Hui, the alliance still holds. I hope you aren’t planning to break the rules. Verbal argument is fine, but don’t cross the line. It’s not safe here,” Yassen stepped forward with a powerful aura of the Wind Element rising about him.

“I hope you aren’t going to interfere with this,” Xing Hui said coldly.

“I also don’t like it when people boast in front of me. You better stick to your words if you said you are going to kill me. It’s pretty embarrassing if you fail to achieve what you said!” Mo Fan hugged his head like he had never treated Xing Hui seriously.

How amusing, so many people wanted him dead! Xing Hui might even struggle to get a spot in the queue!

The words set the gunpowder keg in the man’s stomach on fire. Blue veins surfaced on his face as more Ice Spears appeared and surrounded Mo Fan, preparing to stab him to death.

“Enough!” Yassen snapped.

A strong pressure fell from the sky with fierce gusts of wind, surging at the area Xing Hui and Mo Fan were in.

The Ice Spears shattered into powder. The Ice Magic was blown away by the winds, making it difficult to use the Ice Element.

“Yassen!” Xing Hui yelled angrily. It seemed like he had known Yassen for some time.

“Rules are rules! I already made it clear before forming the alliance! You can settle your disputes after the alliance comes to an end, but before that, I don’t care who you are or what grudge you hold, I will stop you if you are going to place everyone in danger! Don’t force me!” Yassen declared grimly.

Xing Hui knew he was no match for Yassen, but he was infuriated when he saw the proud grin on Mo Fan’s face!

He had to withhold his anger when he was on the verge of exploding. How unbearable!

“You can’t win an argument against me, either. Just mind your mouth. I won’t be fussed about you either, since our fine leader has made it clear...” Mo Fan went on dismissively.

Chapter 2025: Scavengers

Mo Fan had not used his magic, so Yassen’s Aura did not target him. However, he had to admit that Yassen was strong. He had completely nullified their magic!

“You!...”

“You better think twice before you talk, or you’re only going to bring more shame to yourself,” Mo Fan did not mind giving Xing Hui another blow when he saw the man was so angry that he was struggling to speak properly.

Mo Fan turned around and wrapped his arm around Mu Ningxue’s slim waist before strutting away.

Scolding the wildest dog and hugging the prettiest woman. Nothing feels better than this!

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The campfire was set for another cold night.

The Scar of Tianshan Mountain was too cold. Those people with weaker cultivations were showing symptoms of frostbite.

The temperature of their bodies was too low, so their blood was having difficulties circulating. The symptoms were worse than altitude sickness. Many people had red patches on their bodies.

The patches often took up a large area, like the whole chest, an arm, or a leg. They would struggle to walk if their legs were frostbitten.

They found themselves in such a harsh environment after escaping from a deadly species. The Scar of Tianshan Mountain was indeed a no man’s land!

“Yassen, we are bringing a huge group to the Snow Heaven Gate. Are we really going to share the petals of the Tianshan Sacred Lotus equally with them?” Senior Hunter Klope said.

Yassen’s team had two Senior Hunters. The rest of the team were Seven Star Hunter Masters with a certain variance in strength.

Having an outstanding cultivation would not necessarily solve every problem in a harsh environment. A Senior Hunter was willing to bring a Healer with them, even if the Healer was only an Intermediate Mage. However, the Healer had to know how to defend themselves to a certain degree.

The others who were not Super Mages had special capabilities to help them overcome certain dangers. However, the two Senior Hunters were mainly focused on the fighting.

“We’ve already lost many men on the way here. We have a huge advantage in knowing the precise location of the Tianshan Sacred Lotus, but have you even thought of the possibility that we won’t even make it? If so, I would rather share it with them equally,” Yassen said.

“Sharing equally...

“You still don’t understand what I’m saying. Seriously, do I always have to explain everything? I’m telling you, it’s going to rain soon, and there’s a stall renting umbrellas nearby. You shouldn’t keep staring at the sky to see if it’s raining. You should rent the umbrellas, and at three times the price to the people who didn’t want their branded clothes getting wet,” Yassen said.

“What does that have anything to do with this?” Klope asked blankly.

“Seriously, your comprehension... forget it, no wonder you only fool around with hookers instead of finding an actual companion,” Yassen sighed.

“There is nothing wrong with hookers. They just leave after I pay them.”

“Knowing where to find a delicious cake isn’t enough. We can’t afford the huge cake ourselves. We should tell the others so we all chip in to buy it, and we all have a chance to taste it...” Yassen hinted.

“Just do whatever you want, then. You make the calls.”

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Yassen shared the location of the Tianshan Sacred Lotus with the alliance. Everyone was shocked.

“I was explaining it to Klope just now. To be honest with you, I don’t have a choice. It’s normal for us to keep something good to ourselves, but I know better than anyone else that not a single team here can claim it on their own, so I have decided to share its location with you. I hope we stop the meaningless infighting and focus on how we can acquire the Tianshan Sacred Lotus with the remaining manpower we have. I don’t care if you’re planning something or you have ulterior motives that you can’t share with others. Even if we do end up fighting one another for it in the end, you must remember one thing: no one will benefit from it if we don’t find the Tianshan Sacred Lotus first!” Yassen exclaimed.

Yassen had made it very clear. The groups were only allies on the surface, but tearing at one another before they found the treasure was the most stupid decision possible!

Mercenaries, Hunters, renowned clans, explorers; they had all come to make a profit. They all had to admit that Yassen had helped to raise their morale after sharing the location of the Tianshan Sacred Lotus with them.

They had been losing men along the way, but didn’t that mean that those who were alive were able to share more of the loot?

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The alliance was still very strong when they worked together, and the journey was a lot smoother. The species they encountered after the Frosty Ancient Eagles were not as united or so large in numbers.

The weakest creatures in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain were Commander-level creatures. On the other hand, the alliance mostly consisted of Mages in the Advanced Level and above. They had no problem getting rid of a small group of Commander-level creatures!

“Look out, three powerful creatures are heading our way. The scent of blood must have attracted them!” Nanyu was using her Sound Element to warn the alliance about any approaching danger.

“Are they coming at us?” Kuma asked.

“They should be observing us, but the people at the rear should be more careful. They will pick on those who are stranded and trapped first... I can’t tell how strong they are, but they are at least Great Commander-level creatures,” Nanyu informed them.

“I hate the kind of demon creatures that roam around the edges!”

“Even the weasels here know that when two dogs are fighting for a bone, the third is going to run away with it.”

There were two kinds of demon creatures in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain. The first kind would keep pursuing them recklessly once they trespassed into its territory. Those creatures mostly lived in packs. They had to ensure their status and reputation in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain, so other species would not dare to provoke them.

The second kind was the cunning type. They would not involve themselves in a battle easily. They liked to roam around the edges of a battlefield, and only made their moves when they were confident of winning the fight. Otherwise, they would keep watching until they finally gave up.

These scavengers were a huge threat. Humans were not welcome on Tianshan Mountain, so it was easy for blood to be shed, which would attract many roaming species to them.

They had cleared obstacles, killed countless demon creatures, and advanced by stepping on the remains of Commander-level creatures. They thought they had cleared a path. Little did they know that a huge number of scavengers had set their eyes on the group.

The scavengers were like the flies that kept flying around a person’s face in summer. You could not shake them off, and they would maintain a safe distance from you.

That being said, flies did not attack humans. It was more appropriate to describe the scavengers as vultures. They would circle in the sky and wait until the fights were close to an end or their prey were worn out before diving on them to clean up the mess!

Chapter 2026: Did I Panic?

The Scar of Tianshan Mountain had remained in its unspoiled state. Living creatures here would either eat or be eaten. There was no law of the jungle. It was all about survival!

The alliance was strong once the Mages came together. They kept advancing by killing the demon creatures, but their lives were at stake as they continued to attract more scavengers. These scavengers were good at teaming up against a common enemy. They were not as ignorant as the humans!

The beasts had found a huge piece of cake. A single scavenger could not possibly eat the entire cake. If it chose to wait for more scavengers...

"A Ruler-level Flying Snow Fox has appeared," Nanyu said softly.

"It feels like they are preparing a crusade against us," Jiang Yu said grimly.

"We've left a trail of blood and magic presence behind us, not to mention the noise of the battles... it is going to attract all the scavengers within a few kilometers," Ai Jiangtu warned them.

"When do you think they will make their moves?" Mo Fan asked Jiang Shaoxu.

"When we arrive at the next species' territory," Jiang Shaoxu surmised.

"We are screwed then; these scavengers are too united!" Zhao Manyan complained.

Most scavengers were solitary creatures. They would have long ended up as other creatures' food if they were not strong enough to protect themselves!

"Should we stop somewhere and deal with the things that are on our tail?" Bertan proposed.

"And how can we do that? They are maintaining their distance from us. If we attack them, they will just scatter and run!" Xing Hui said impatiently.

"We don't have the time to stop here. These scavengers are just like us. Their coalition will break easily. They are planning to take us out first before fighting among themselves. The first storm is on its way, so this hunt must make sure they have enough food supply to last until spring. They are very cautious, but they are determined too," Yassen declared.

"Are we really running out of time?"

"Yes, it will be a close call, and that's assuming our path back is clear and smooth!"

"Let's do it then. We have no choice but to force our way through the Ice Mountain Beasts ahead," Klope said.

"We have to be careful. The Ice Mountain Beasts aren't our only worry!" Yassen glanced at the walls nearby.

The figures moving in the shadows, the cunning grimaces of the demon creatures, the peeping eyes hidden in the blind spots, and the greedy intentions surrounding the alliance from all directions... those were the ones they should keep an eye on!

"We are getting closer to the Tianshan Sacred Lotus. This will be a very important battle!" Yassen said.

He had already told everyone where the Tianshan Sacred Lotus was. The opening in the two huge walls was already within their view. They should be able to see the light of the Sacred Lotus once they crossed

the Ice Mountain Beasts territory. Everyone was aware of the Sacred Lotus' value, even if it was not the reason they had come to Tianshan Mountain in the first place.

“Charge!”

“Charge!”

A few leaders took the initiative to charge at the Ice Mountain Beasts' den, riding their Wind and Ice Magic. The den was inside a spacious canyon full of ice pillars and spikes. They could see complicated bridges made up of irregular sculpted ice when they looked into the canyon. They were as thick as the branches in a forest.

The Ice Mountain Beasts resided in their little kingdom. They were a Commander-level species with a pure lineage, and most importantly, they lived in groups!

A Commander-level species that lived together was pretty rare outside the safe zone of any country, but it was very common in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain!

The scavengers stayed outside the Ice Mountain Beasts' territory. They did not dare set foot into it.

The scavengers had formed a weak coalition. Their strength might be comparable to the Ice Mountain Beasts, but they lacked synergy and teamwork. The Ice Mountain Beasts were willing to fight to their death to protect their territory, but that was not the case for the scavengers. They would leave right away when faced with such reckless creatures.

The humans had gone into the Ice Mountain beasts' den. The scavengers had no choice but to wait until the battle in the canyon came to an end. They would then take out whoever won the battle so they could survive the winter!

—

“Did they follow us inside?” Zhao Manyan looked behind him. The scavengers had vanished behind the ice pillars.

“Don't worry, they won't come inside. That would only provoke the Ice Mountain Beasts,” Nanyu said.

“It's usually us humans abusing the stupidity of the demon creatures and letting them fight one another, but they are doing the same thing to us now,” Zhao Manyan noticed.

“We don't have a choice. As a matter of fact, high-level demon creatures are intelligent too. Otherwise, we would have long conquered the world, instead of hiding in our safe zones and cities,” Nanyu pointed out.

“So who's familiar with the Ice Mountain Beasts? Can anyone tell me what their capabilities are before the fight?” Jiang Yu said.

“Jiang Yu, aren't you an expert when it comes to demon creatures, yet you're asking us now? Are you being serious?” Mo Fan had to ask.

“...I've never seen these creatures before, nor have I read about them. It's Tianshan Mountain. Not many people have been here,” Jiang Yu said awkwardly. He subconsciously looked at Lingling.

Lingling was weak. She had to rely on magic Equipment to survive in the harsh environment. She was currently in Mo Fan's arms, as she had to rely on Mo Fan's Fire Magic to fend off the cold.

Mo Fan was worried when he saw her struggling to stay awake.

He should not have brought Lingling along. Her fragile body was unable to withstand the cold.

"Be careful of the bones that grow out of their joints. Those bones can break through almost every defensive Equipment, so you shouldn't rely on your Equipment too much," Lingling said softly.

"Our defensive Equipment is useless?" The eyes of everyone on the team opened wide.

The truth was, their team had only managed to preserve its numbers because of their outstanding Equipment!

Their Equipment was far better than anyone else's in the alliance. Their factions were only worried about one thing, their safety, so their Equipment was capable of defending them from attacks far beyond what they could handle themselves.

Their hearts turned cold when they heard the Ice Mountain Beasts' attacks could penetrate their defenses!

"Look at you, you bunch of... (sigh), didn't I tell you not to rely on your magic Equipment so much? Look at me, did I panic?" Mo Fan grinned. He finally had a chance to school these rich second generations!

Chapter 2027: I'm Not Your Pikachu!

The Ice Mountain Beasts' faces were covered in long snow-white fur. Their dark red eyes were covered by thick brows, like evil orbs with a dangerous red glow hidden in deep caves.

Their arms were thick and muscular, like the Tianshan Snow Apes. Atop their distinctive muscles was a layer of armor made of frost, accumulated over a long period of time. The ice-blue armor extended from their head to their knees.

Usually, any creature covered in armor would have a weakness, and they would be clumsier. They would struggle to react when Wind Mages and Shadow Mages kept changing their positions.

However, the Ice Mountain Beasts' joints, like their neck, shoulders, elbows, waist, and knees, were only covered by thick fur instead of the armor.

Many people would assume these joints were the Ice Mountain Beasts' weakness when they first encountered the species. However, it was completely the opposite, as their joints had a kind of flexible bone that was firm enough to destroy any metal, rare bone, and rare skin!

They were materials that many magic shields and armor were made of. Therefore, they would fall right into a trap if they tried to attack the Ice Mountain Beasts' weak points!

Lingling's reminder helped the team avoid unnecessary casualties!

—

"Mo Fan, I can't hold on for any longer. Hurry up and drive these things away!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

Three Ice Mountain Beasts were throwing punches at a thin Water Barrier. They were crazily pounding Zhao Manyan's defense, knocking the ice around them everywhere.

Zhao Manyan was struggling to fend them off. He wondered if the Ice Mountain Beasts were out of their minds. Why did they keep attacking his barrier when there were others around? Zhao Manyan's defense was difficult to break when they were going up against Warrior-level creatures, but these Ice Mountain beasts were Commander-level creatures, stronger than ordinary species. His defense was too weak against them!

"I feel like their bones do more than just penetrate magic Equipment. They are effective against our barriers too!" Jiang Shaoxu saw how much Zhao Manyan was struggling, but she was not showing any intention of lending a hand.

Zhao Manyan did not place any hopes in Jiang Shaoxu. There was nothing a Psychic Mage could do against stronger demon creatures, especially since they were the ones that had trespassed into the demon creatures' territory.

—

Mo Fan jumped over an Ice Mountain Beast. He landed behind their back and cast an Earth Spell.

Pieces of Bright Rock grew out from Mo Fan's shoulders to his fists. The sturdy rock amplified Mo Fan's strength significantly as he threw a punch out!

BANG!

The Bright Rocks shattered into pieces. However, the Ice Mountain Beast was knocked flying after vomiting a mouthful of blood. Its armor was broken into pieces as well.

"Trying to see who has the bigger fist?" Mo Fan said disdainfully, looking at the Ice Mountain Beast that was still on the ground.

"Mo Fan, four Ice Mountain Beasts are approaching you from above!" Nanyu warned him.

"Behind! Behind us! Mo Fan, take out the ones behind us first!" Jiang Yu yelled.

Mo Fan looked up before glancing to the back of the team.

Damn it, was he the only damage output for the team? Why did he have to take care of everything!

"I'll take care of those that are approaching from above. You guys will handle the ones at the back!" Mo Fan shouted.

He was not a superhero. There was no way he could put out the fires that were happening all over the place. He had to take care of one side before he could catch his breath.

BANG!

There were interconnected bridges above the team. Four Ice Mountain Beasts were running rapidly across them. They were so quick that the Mages could only see their white afterimages.

Mo Fan had no idea when the little cub had jumped onto his hat. She was waving her paws around excitedly, like she was commanding the battle.

“I’m not your Pikachu, go away!” Mo Fan tried to pull the little cub down, but she was stuck to his head like a patch of ointment. He could not even take off his hat.

1

The four Ice Mountain Beasts were already approaching. Mo Fan did not have the time to mess around with the little cub. He quickly turned into a shadow and glided below the ice bridge to reach a spot more favorable to him.

The four Ice Mountain Beasts had great synergy. They quickly split up into four directions when they saw Mo Fan’s shadow. They were waiting for Mo Fan to come out of the shadow so they could attack him when he could no longer escape!

Mo Fan quickly came out of the shadow. He was unable to use other spells while he was in shadow form.

He had glided under the ice bridge. When he showed himself, he half-clenched his fists and placed them close to his waist.

Wild lightning coiled around his hands in layers. More than ten layers accumulated in less than a second.

Mo Fan clenched his fists like he was releasing something.

The lightning flickered with more energy, while spreading into its surroundings with great force!

The four leaping Ice Mountain Beasts were paralyzed briefly in mid-air when they made contact with the lightning, before they were sent flying.

“Soul-Hunting Giant Shadow Spike!”

Mo Fan switched between his Elements rapidly. The Dark Vein was already surging inside his body when he released the Lightning Magic. Four Giant Shadow Spikes flew at the four Ice Mountain Beasts that had been knocked flying.

The Ice Mountain Beasts slammed into a wall. The Giant Shadow Spikes penetrated them and nailed them to the wall, not giving them any chance to resist.

“Shadow Execution!”

The Giant Shadow Spikes contained strong Dark Material. It spread rapidly and turned into Soldiers of the Shadow Tribe before the Ice Mountain Beasts could break free.

The Soldiers of the Shadow Tribe were like twisted executioners. They wrapped the dark chains they were holding around the Ice Mountain Beasts’ necks and choked them to death.

The Ice Mountain Beasts tried their best to escape from the Shadow Execution. They even broke the wall apart with brute force, yet the Shadow Tribesmen would not allow their targets to escape so easily.

As time passed, the Ice Mountain Beasts gradually lost their strength as they were being choked to death.

Chapter 2028: Making Matters Worse

“The Dark Moon Crystal is the best!” Mo Fan exclaimed, staring at the four Ice Mountain Beasts that had been executed.

Mo Fan had once acquired a powerful Dark Material from Feng Zhoulong, which granted his Shadow Element a powerful Curse effect and increased its capabilities. The Dark Moon Crystal had further strengthened his Shadow Element and granted him the Dark Vein that now flowed inside his body.

The Dark Vein’s power was the ability to generate Dark Material continuously, so that even a little Giant Shadow Spike that Mo Fan fired contained an enormous amount of Dark Energy. It could grow rapidly, and was large enough to turn into a creature of the Shadow Tribe within a short period of time!

The Shadow Tribe was able to kill the Ice Mountain Beasts, even though they were Commander-level creatures. Mo Fan still remembered how envious he was of Bei Jiang’s outstanding mix of the Shadow and Chaos Elements. It had felt like the assassin could do whatever he wanted to in the dark. However, Mo Fan knew his Shadow Element had now surpassed Bei Jiang’s after he obtained the Dark Vein.

Ai Jiangtu suddenly appeared behind Mo Fan and asked, “Why aren’t you using your Fire Element?”

“Damn it, can you not Blink behind me out of nowhere? It scared the crap out of me!” Mo Fan shouted.

“I thought you knew. I’ve taken out the Ice Mountain Beasts behind the team. I was thinking of lending you a hand, but it seems like you don’t need it,” Ai Jiangtu answered calmly.

“The Fire Element isn’t effective in a place like this. Besides, Little Flame Belle is with her mother now. Without her, my Fire Element is too weak,” Mo Fan sighed.

He had relied too much on Little Flame Belle’s power. The Fire Element he had abused in the past became a supportive Element when she was not around!

“The Shadow Element should be your strongest Element now then, right?” Ai Jiangtu said.

“More or less, but I am close to learning the Shadow Element’s Star Palace...” Mo Fan admitted.

“You haven’t learned the Shadow Star Palace? Are you saying that these spells were cast with Star Constellations?” Ai Jiangtu was stunned.

The spells of Super Mages had many forms, but they still relied on the energy provided by Star Palaces. Only a Star Palace could provide a large enough amount of energy. Ai Jiangtu did not expect Mo Fan's Shadow Element to be so powerful when he still had not learned the Star Palace!

The little cub scratched Mo Fan's head impatiently when Mo Fan stopped.

"Stop waving your tail in my face!" Mo Fan moved the little cub's tail away.

The little cub growled excitedly at a group of Ice Mountain Beasts around three hundred meters ahead. She could not wait for Mo Fan to charge into them and kill them all!

"Stop crying and go ahead if you want. I just need to mind my own business... can you stop waving your tail!?" Mo Fan was almost at his limit.

Since when would a Summoned Beast order its Summoner around in a fight, not to mention the little cub was not even his Summoned Beast!

The little cub used all her might to growl and provoke the Ice Mountain Beasts, trying to grab their attention.

Mo Fan quickly covered the little cub's mouth and snarled, "If you keep this up, I'll send you back to your parents. You can keep the Night Amethyst."

The little cub immediately shut her mouth when she heard Mo Fan was going to send her back. However, her eyes were still rolling around impatiently.

"I think you two are a perfect match," Ai Jiangtu observed.

"Why so?"

"You both don't care how messy things are. I'll go help Zhao Manyan. I'm leaving this side to you," Ai Jiangtu said.

"It's not your first day with Zhao Manyan. If he's screaming and yelling like a sissy, it means he can still handle it. I think Kuma and the others are in a pinch. You should consider helping them," Mo Fan said.

1

"Why are you interested in helping them now?" Ai Jiangtu was confused.

"We have no idea what's going to happen after we find the Tianshan Sacred Lotus, but the Mailong Private Military Group will most likely take our side," Mo Fan hinted.

"You're right. We should keep an eye on them."

—

When the group reached the middle section of the Ice Mountain Beasts' den, they saw a huge shadow like a mountain standing in the path they were heading into. It was far bigger than the normal Ice Mountain Beasts. It did not engage them when they pressed forward. It remained still and stared at the intruders coldly. The humans were as good as dead in its dark red eyes, which were almost unseen under its fur!

“The big one over there...” Mu Ningxue said with a hint of fear.

Mu Ningxue had already sensed the creature glaring at her a few times. She wondered if she had gotten the Ice Mountain Ruler’s attention because she had killed the most Ice Mountain Beasts, or perhaps the others were feeling the same thing too!

“A Ruler-level creature!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

A real Ruler-level creature was able to take on five to ten Super Mages. The Super Mages in the alliance were not outstanding, except Yassen and Klope. The others only had one Element in the Super Level.

Therefore, when a Ruler-level creature appeared, the Super Mages of different teams had to immediately come together. Otherwise, the teams would suffer huge casualties.

“I’ll handle it, you keep an eye on the scavengers,” Klope said.

“Sure!”

The Senior Hunter asked the other teams to send a Super Mage over to take on the Ice Mountain Ruler together.

The Mailong Private Military Group was in a terrible spot. They were struggling, as their average strength was weaker than the Ice Mountain Beasts, and kept losing their men. Kuma and Lu Xiu had tried their best to protect their troops, since they might not survive if they lost all their men.

“Team nine, send someone over, we...” Kuma was covered in blood. Most of it belonged to her men.

The Scar of Tianshan Mountain was like Hell to them. The odds of survival were too low for the Mailong Private Military Group. They only had around twenty people left.

“It’s fine, leave it to us, just look after your men,” Ai Jiangtu said.

“Thank you,” Kuma replied sincerely.

“Old Ai... that Ruler-level Flying Snow Fox seems to be ambushing our squad from behind,” Nanyu said.

“Damn it, why does it have to be us!?” Kuma snapped.

The scavengers were most likely targeting them because they were too weak. The Mailong Private Military Group did not have many people left, yet they were still being ambushed by the scavengers.

It was making matters worse!

Chapter 2029: No Escape

The Flying Snow Fox Ruler was the most cunning of the scavengers. It kept roaming around the edge of the battlefield and picking off the Mages who were weaker, stranded, or severely injured.

It blended into the fight between the Ice Mountain Beasts and the humans. Those fighting were completely unaware of its existence most of the time. No one would have realized it was responsible for the death of their comrades if the Sound Mages had not heard its breathing and the unusual cries of agony uttered by its victims.

“That son of a b**ch, I’m going to skin it and spread it across my floor!” Lu Xiu was enraged.

The leaders were furious when they saw their members disappearing one by one. Lu Xiu fixed his eyes on the Flying Snow Fox Ruler’s position and constructed a brilliant Star Palace. The golden Star Palace was established rapidly, releasing a formidable energy of the Light Element.

“Demon Judgment Sword!”

Following Lu Xiu’s roar, an enormous light sword with a formidable power descended from the blue sky. Golden ripples kept appearing in the air while it was falling, driving away the frosty aura lingering across the place.

The Demon Judgment Sword landed in the direction that the Flying Snow Fox Ruler was fleeing into. The creature was dragging one of their captains in its mouth. It squinted when it saw the Demon Judgment Sword locking onto it. It shook its head indifferently and tossed the dying captain into the air!

The scorching Demon Judgment Sword burned the captain into ashes before even touching him.

The Flying Snow Fox Ruler spread its limbs. It could turn itself into a glider when it fully extended its limbs.

A gust of wind lifted the Flying Snow Fox Ruler into the sky like a kite.

The Flying Snow Fox Ruler rode the wind into the sky as the Demon Judgment Sword reached the ground. The creature soon disappeared behind the glaciers.

Walls of ice collapsed to the ground. An eerie laughing bark came from the distance. Lu Xiu was breathing heavily while staring in the direction that the Flying Snow Fox Ruler had fled into.

He was fooled! The Flying Snow Fox Ruler was playing him like a fiddle!

“I thought it was impossible to dodge the Demon Judgment Sword once it locked onto its target?” Guan Yu was astounded.

The Demon Judgment Sword was the strongest single-target Super Spell. It would emit a strong light like the sun before it took form. The light would fill the sky, making it impossible for the target to see where the Demon Judgment Sword was falling from. As such, it was difficult to dodge the Demon Judgment Sword.

It was not that surprising if the Flying Snow Fox Ruler dodged the attack right away, but the irony was, it purposely threw the mercenary captain into the path of the falling Demon Judgment Sword. Lu Xiu ended up killing his own man instead!

The speed of Super Spells was extremely high, like a flicker in the sky to normal people. The next thing they knew, the glowing figure of a sacred sword had struck the ground with a terrifying impact.

However, the Flying Snow Fox Ruler was showing Lu Xiu how slow his spell was, as it still had time to dance around before running away!

“Night Rakshasa, keep an eye on the Flying Snow Fox Ruler. It will be back. Don’t let it pick on the people of the Mailong Private Military Group again,” Jiang Yu said.

The Flying Snow Fox Ruler’s moves were unpredictable, and its agility was outstanding. Other spells would not stand a chance if even the Demon Judgment Sword failed to take it out. Their only choice was to let the Night Rakshasa keep it at bay.

The Night Rakshasa was extremely proud. She was not interested in fighting weak enemies, so the Flying Snow Fox Ruler was a worthy opponent for her.

The little cub’s voice suddenly came from behind them.

The Night Rakshasa’s hair stood on its end when she heard it. She jumped up and flipped in the air. She spread her limbs and entered a cautious state as she landed on the ground.

The little cub’s eyes widened. She was supposed to be an imperious tiger, yet her charm outweighed that of a kitten. The Night Rakshasa was more like the bad guy compared to her!

The Night Rakshasa was about to go mad. She had never seen such a shameless tiger. Wasn’t she supposed to be more like a cat?

“Little cub, I was giving Night Rakshasa the order instead of you. Just stay put!” Jiang Yu was left speechless.

What was wrong with the little cub? The order was meant for the Night Rakshasa, but the little cub seemed more eager than the Night Rakshasa.

“Stop causing more trouble, you might be fast, but you are no match against the cunning Flying Snow Fox Ruler,” Apas finally found the little cub that was wandering around aimlessly. She quickly scooped her up in her arms.

The little cub struggled fiercely in Apas’ arms. She was rubbing her head in Apas’ bust, like the act of a lustful man.

“Damn it!” Zhao Manyan cursed when he saw what the little cub was doing from the corner of his eye.

—

The fight between the Ice Mountain Beasts and the humans slowly came to an end. The Ice Mountain Ruler fled after killing a member of the team of explorers from the Sacred Hall of Liberty.

The other Ice Mountain Beasts stopped defending their den after the Ice Mountain Ruler fled.

However, the scavengers were not going to let the losers of the battle go. They immediately went after the Ice Mountain Beasts who were fleeing for their lives.

Each Ice Mountain Beast was a Commander-level creature. It was easier to kill them when they were running away injured.

“Did you see that? If we run away, we would end up as the prey of the scavengers instead. There’s no turning back now!” Yassen said.

“But we lost too much,” Bertan glanced at the dead bodies scattered across the ground helplessly.

The man who had died was Bertan’s old comrade. He felt horrible when he saw his friend being smashed into the ground.

“It’s better than us all dying here,” Yassen replied.

The scavengers were disgusting. They always picked on the weaker prey!

The humans had destroyed the Ice Mountain Beasts’ den, so the scavengers targeted the Ice Mountain Beasts who were running for their lives. The scavengers had already surrounded the place, so the Ice Mountain Beasts were running to their deaths after losing their will to fight.

“They...they aren’t leaving,” Klope said.

“They won’t as long as we are still alive. We all saw what happened to the Ice Mountain Beasts, so no matter what happens, we can’t show them we have lost our ability to fight. We must pretend we can still fight back so they won’t dare to do anything recklessly!” Yassen declared.

Chapter 2030: Infighting

They could not afford to rest in this area. The smell of blood lingering in the air might attract more Ruler-level creatures to them. They had to keep moving, despite the fatigue they were feeling.

The land was littered with dead bodies, adding hints of bright redness and trails of red footsteps to the world of snow.

Ghastly cries kept echoing around them, inflicting a sense of hopelessness on the people on Tianshan Mountain. They were forced to close their eyes because of the extreme cold, yet they did not dare to sleep, as they were afraid they might not wake up again.

They had won the battle, yet they were like cattle trapped inside fences. The predators would lunge at them when the fences fell!

The alliance was a lot weaker after the battle. Only a few lucky Advanced Mages had survived. Their odds of survival solely depended on whether the scavengers had targeted them or not. Being above the Advanced Level did not necessarily guarantee their safety, either. Normally, in the cities or territories of demon creatures, the Advanced Level was enough for humans to be nigh-fearless, but they were currently in the Scar of Tianshan Mountain. Every creature here was stronger than an Advanced Mage. They were dead for sure if they were left alone!

The alliance had many Super Mages, but they too were tense and nervous. Both the demon creatures they were going to stumble into ahead and the scavengers behind had cunning Ruler-level creatures among them. Those creatures were capable of killing Super Mages with a single blow. They were

experienced at hunting and were gradually applying pressure to the Mages, making them uneasy and scared so they would lose their calm.

“It’s so cold...”

“Can we use our magic?”

The frostbite was still happening. As time went by, their skin and muscles were being injured by the cold.

Their bodies were getting stiffer. The cold felt like something was rubbing against their bones. Even those with a strong will could not withstand it.

“We can’t use our magic!” Yassen said.

“I can no longer feel my body. If we don’t use our magic...” a Hunter Master complained.

“If we use our magic, the scavengers will know we are getting weaker. Do you think they don’t suspect we are just putting up a front? Once it’s exposed, none of us will survive!” Yassen declared.

“It’s better than freezing to death!”

“Yeah, we can no longer sense our bodies. If we don’t use our magic to protect us from the cold...”

“Hang in there, we still have a glimpse of hope! But if our energy depletes, we are as good as dead!” Yassen stated coldly.

“Do you think we care about that now? You asked us to form an alliance and tell us the location of the Tianshan Sacred Lotus so we could be your cannon fodder. We’ve been dying along the way, yet none of you have been fighting with your full strength... we don’t want to waste our magic just to warm ourselves, but we might die to the cold at any second now?! Why should we keep putting up a front just so you are safe from the scavengers?” Zhuang Qi from the Savage Raptor Hunter Group cursed harshly.

“That’s right! You Super Mages never treated us seriously! In the end, only you are going to survive, meaning that the Tianshan Sacred Lotus is yours too!” someone added.

“How can you think like that? You volunteered to enter the Scar of Tianshan Mountain in the first place. We did tell you how dangerous it’s going to be...” Yassen spat back.

“Since you keep saying we are one group now, shouldn’t you Super Mages sacrifice some of your energy to set up a barrier for those who are dying to the cold?” Zhuang Qi retorted.

“Ugh... if we waste our energy, how are we supposed to fight the Ruler-level creatures?” Yassen pointed out.

“Humph, I know you have been preserving your strength. We are all ants on the same string. We risked our lives to clear a path for you, so it’s your turn to step forward now that we can’t hold on for any longer!”

“Yeah, the Super Mages should step forward!”

The leaders of the alliance were hesitant as more people began to doubt them.

It was the truth that the rate of casualties had increased significantly after they entered the Scar of Tianshan Mountain. They claimed they had to work together, but only the Super Mages could survive in the end.

More people were protesting. Yassen, Xing Hui, Zhao Kang, and the others were struggling to keep the situation under control.

They could not afford to lose the Advanced Mages, as they still made up the majority. If they left, the scavengers were going to attack them.

It did not mean they were no match for the scavengers, but it did mean they would be worn out and injured after fighting them. They might not return from the mountain safely!

In the end, Yassen and the others chose to compromise. The Super Mages had to establish barriers to protect the Advanced Mages from the cold.

— —

“They are not idiots. There must be a limit, even if they are treated as cannon fodder,” Mo Fan commented.

“We are Super Mages too. Does that mean we need to set up barriers for them? We didn’t get to rest at all. We are running out of energy,” Zhao Manyan replied quietly.

“Nanyu, Jiang Shaoxu, and Guan Yu are still in the Advanced Level. Besides, the Mailong Private Military Group has indeed cleared a path for us. We should protect them,” Ai Jiangtu spoke up.

“It’s not like I know how to set up a barrier. You all can make the call,” Mo Fan said.

“And you have the most energy left!” Zhao Manyan complained.

Mo Fan had many Elements, and kept switching between them during the battle. If anyone had managed to preserve most of their strength, it was Mo Fan.

Mu Ningxue was very strong too, but she was facing a huge problem, as her energy was almost depleted!

She only had the Ice Element and Wind Element. Even if she had only used Basic and Intermediate Spells, she still could not fight a long battle.

“That Nanrong Ni might be a b**ch, but her Blessing Element could easily help us recover our energy in less than a day. We weren’t fully prepared before coming to Tianshan Mountain. We didn’t have a Healer or someone with the Blessing Element...” Zhao Manyan sighed.

They were no longer on the national team. It was difficult to have every Element available!

They might be able to find a Healer, but it was almost impossible to find someone with the Blessing Element. It was the Parthenon Temple’s specialty, the foundation of their outstanding status in the world.

“Old Zhao, you haven’t Awakened your Fourth Element, right? I might be able to arrange it with Xinxia. You want to try to see if you can Awaken the Blessing Element?” Mo Fan suggested.

“Screw you, why do I have to be the support? I was determined to become the coolest destructive Mage when I was sixteen. I’ll toss my Forbidden Spell at whoever looks at me in the wrong way. However, I ended up Awakening the Light Element, the Water Element, and the Earth Element instead. If I don’t get a good offensive Element as my fourth Element, I should just uninstall myself!” Zhao Manyan exclaimed indignantly.