

Versatile 2201

Chapter 2201: Payback

"I'm going to skin you and use it to make a scarf."

"I like your eyes. They are orange. I've never seen their color before. Once I pry open these trees, I'll get to play with them."

"I'll hang you on the tree until your blood and meat are dried. I will store them for the winter."

"You smell nice, I can smell you from a few kilometers away. We like human girls the most. Come live with me when I find you. You will stay with me, my brothers, and my fathers in our caves. We'll eat you when you grow old."

Scary voices spoke in the ears of the students, each sending a chill down their spines. They could not stay calm when they imagined what the Mountain Men were going to do to them.

Some of the girls even crouched on the ground and burst into tears.

They were not fighters, nor had they been in the wild many times. Even experienced Hunters would be spooked by the voices, let alone them!

"Stay calm, they can't get in here!" Sharjah said.

"How are you so sure about it?"

"Yeah, you are the student union's president. You have lots of magic Equipment to guarantee your safety, but what about us? If we are really surrounded, we are all going to die except for you!"

"I didn't say anything. Write it down, don't talk. They can mimic our voices!" Sharjah wrote on the ground with her Earth Element.

"Did you say it or not? Didn't you say we are going to run?"

"I didn't speak at all. Stop talking you all!" Sharjah yelled when she noticed the others did not even bother reading what she wrote.

However, she had broken her own rule when she shouted. The students were even more lost about what to do.

Which sentences were from Sharjah, and which weren't?

They had to keep an eye on the surroundings. They did not have the time to watch her lips. Besides, none of them were calm enough to read her lips when there were so many voices bombarding their ears!

"Come with me!"

Sharjah realized the students would only lose their minds eventually if they stayed here. These Mountain Men's ability to inflict psychological fear was too terrifying. They could easily trick the students by feeding them false information!

Sharjah used the Earth Element to write a few lines in front of everyone. It was the only way to calm them down.

Going with her was better than slowly falling into the Mountain Men's traps!

Everyone, just read what I wrote and assume every voice you hear is from the Mountain Men!, Sharjah wrote.

Sunny, can you isolate their voices?

Sunny shook his head and explained the voices were coming too quickly. He could not isolate them all.

We'll go look for the lecturers!, Sharjah wrote.

Sharjah led the group out of the plantation. Boleyn was extremely worried. She wrote on Sharjah's hand, *Sharjah, we'll be falling right into the Mountain Men's trap if we leave here.*

Sharjah wrote in return, *Don't worry.*

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Mo Fan finally found the idiotic Zhao Manyan. To his relief, the rest of the students were still with the group.

The Mountain Men were extremely cruel. If someone had fallen behind from the group, the others would not have time to save them.

"Those voices of the Mountain Men are too horrifying. I wonder if the students at the plantation can hold their ground," Zhao Manyan mentioned with a hint of worry.

"I've wasted too much time looking for you. Let's hope they didn't leave the plantation. They are in deep trouble if they leave the plantation!" Mo Fan agreed.

Mo Fan was a little nervous when he returned to the plantation. The students might not know what to do when he was not around. They might decide to leave there!

Mo Fan's heart skipped a beat when he did not see the students as soon as he arrived at the place!

However, when he looked to the other side, he noticed the students had gathered on the other end, close to the outer circle of the plantation. They were walking back and forth behind the walls.

"Lecturer Mo Yifan!" Boleyn almost burst into tears when she saw Mo Fan return with the other students.

Sharjah let out a relieved sigh.

She was afraid that the students might see through her trick if Mo Fan had not come back in time.

"Huh? Why are we still inside?"

"Didn't we already leave this place?"

The students had finally regrouped, but Mu Bai, Miyamoto Shin, and the others were still missing. Mo Fan was not too worried about their safety, since they were a lot stronger than the students.

Mo Fan knew something must have happened, judging from the students' reaction. He asked Boleyn and Sharjah about it.

"Those Mountain Men are too scary. They kept frightening us by mimicking our voices to make us argue with one another," Boleyn looked at Sharjah and said with an impressed face, "Luckily, the president is very smart. She agreed to bring the students out of here, but she used an illusion to trap us in here so we were simply walking around in circles. The other students thought we had already left the place, but we were still protected by the trees!"

Mo Fan was shocked.

Those Mountain Men really knew how to attack their vulnerabilities. Mo Fan had already told them not to leave the place, and had assumed the students would follow his instructions. To his surprise, it almost ended up as a tragedy.

Luckily, Sharjah had remained calm and acted intelligently. She tricked the students into believing they had left the place, just to calm them down. If they had really stepped out of the walls, they would have been torn to pieces by the Mountain Men in seconds!

"I'm sorry, lecturer! I shouldn't have lost my calm," Sunny said apologetically.

"(Sigh), as a Sound Mage, you are supposed to remain calm. You are the commander and the core of the group. Try not to panic again next time, do you understand?" Mo Fan scolded him.

"Yes...yes, sir," Sunny lowered his head. He had never felt so useless until he came to the wilderness.

"Sunny, you are a Sound Mage. Can you think of a way to stop them from mimicking our voices?" Mo Fan asked him.

"That's a little tricky, but I think I can mimic their way of communicating with one another?" Sunny offered after a moment of thought.

Mo Fan raised his brows. This student was not as stupid as he thought. He was able to mimic the way the Mountain Men communicated. This was going to be interesting!

It was time for him to teach those vicious assh**** a lesson!

Chapter 2202: Seal of Lava, Firefall

"Is everyone alright? I couldn't find you at the previous spot, so I came here instead... I'm glad that everyone is here," Mu Bai called out.

Mo Fan went on alert as soon as he heard the voice. He quickly reacted by tossing a series of fireballs in the direction of the voice without any hesitation.

Those little pricks still dared to mimic Mu Bai's voice to trick him? Did they really take him for an idiot?

The students' eyes widened. How was their lecturer on Magic Theory able to Cast a volley of fireballs instantly, like a magic trick? Was he trying to raze the whole woods to the ground?

"Freezing Dust!" Mu Bai's came out of the woods.

A freezing breeze came out at Mo Fan's fireballs as they were about to explode. Their flames were put out before they touched the trees and the ground. The extinguished fireballs turned into white dust sprinkling across the canopy, before the wind swept them into the sky.

"A neat trick, I guess I'll have to be more serious. Heavenly Flames of the Burning Valley!..." Mo Fan was in a fit of anger when he saw the enemy nullify his Fire Spell with ease.

"Lecturer Mo Yifan, I don't think Mountain Men can use magic," Sharjah reminded him.

Mo Fan was constructing a Star Constellation. He was planning to turn it into a Star Palace, but the flames around him disappeared when he heard Sharjah's words.

Mu Bai came out of the woods with a dark expression. He glared at Mo Fan and snapped, "Are you out of your goddamn mind?"

"F**k me, can you come up to us first before talking next time? How would I know if the Mountain Men aren't mimicking your voice? Besides, where the Hells have you been? What took you so long just to take care of a single creature? You are supposed to be in charge of the class. Don't throw your responsibilities to me!" Mo Fan spluttered back indignantly.

"I saw them falling into the Mountain Men's trap in their den. It took me great efforts to save them!" Mu Bai pointed behind him.

Behind Mu Bai were Miyamoto Shin and three other security guards, who were all limping. They were covered in thick blood, both theirs and that of the enemy. It seemed like they had just experienced a tough fight.

"We thought a student was in trouble, yet it turned out to be a trap. Luckily, Lecturer Mu Han came just in time, or we might have been stuck in their cave forever," Miyamoto Shin admitted.

"These Mountain Men are too cunning!" one of the security guards snarled.

His arm was heavily bent. The bones at the joint must have broken. It could no longer support his arm's motion.

"Did you save them from the Mountain Men's cave?" Mo Fan asked.

"Yeah, the creature we sensed must be their leader. Too bad I didn't manage to kill it," Mu Bai sighed.

Mo Fan grinned.

Things were a lot simpler if they knew where the Mountain Men's cave was!

It was time to get rid of these vicious Mountain Men once and for all!

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The Mountain Men of the Andes Mountains mostly lived in groups. They would stay in their groups most of the time.

There was a cave close to the Earthworm Gully, around five kilometers away from the plantation.

Around thirty Mountain Men lived in the cave. Their habits were similar to cavemen in primordial times. They lived in caves, fed on raw food they had obtained from hunting animals, and kept on reproducing.

Humans were like delicious deer in the eyes of the Mountain Men. They could eat their meat raw, cook them, or dry them. However, most humans who dared to cross the Earthworm Gully were Mages of a certain strength. They used to hunt humans with brute force, which resulted in a lot of casualties for them. There would not be not many members left in their cave, even if they managed to kill the humans.

They slowly adapted by learning how to split the work up and inflict fear on their prey.

It was similar to a pack of wolves when it was hunting a herd of cows. A herd of cows would easily outnumber a pack of wolves. If the cows worked together to fend off the wolves, the wolves would not stand a chance at all. However, the wolves would abuse the fear of the cows and drive them into a panic first. The cows would then focus on fleeing for their lives when the wolves showed up. They just needed to pick on the cows that were left behind.

The Mountain Men knew human Mages were strong when they were in their formations, and they would only get themselves killed if they faced the humans head-on. As such, they had learned to split a group of humans up and pick on those who had separated from the group.

They might not be as strong as the Mages, but they could still kidnap stray humans and drag them to their caves!

The leader of the Mountain Men was standing in the cave. He looked at his men who had returned excitedly in confusion.

What were these idiots up to? They had already returned with excitement even though they had yet to capture a single human. Did they catch a beautiful woman or something?

The leader of the Mountain Men yelled angrily when he saw his men were back.

He grabbed a Mountain Woman and slammed her head on the ground before asking them what was going on.

The Mountain Woman responded with a wronged face, "Didn't you tell us you had captured a bunch of humans and ask us to come back to the cave? You even said that whoever arrived first could enjoy the meal first!"

The leader of the Mountain Men spat on the Mountain Woman's face.

"Idiot, since when did I give you such an order?" He had yet to capture a single human, let alone holding a feast for his men!

The Mountain Woman was utterly confused. If their leader did not give the order, who was it that dared to send them a false message?

The leader of the Mountain Men and the Mountain Woman heard the voice of a human above the cave while they were still feeling puzzled!

"Seal of Lava: Firefall!"

Mo Fan had plenty of time to Cast his spell. He took his time to complete a Super Fire Spell!

A magnificent burning gate appeared above the cave as soon as the Star Palace was constructed. Its doors slowly swung open, followed by scorching lava pouring down at the Mountain Men!

It was like a huge waterfall hanging under the blue sky, over which tons of red liquid were pouring down. The lava fell heavily onto the ground, and huge waves of flames began surging wildly!

The Mountain Men were standing under an enormous firefall of lava!

Chapter 2203: Tough Skull

The firefall soon filled the cave, despite its size and accessibility, leaving the Mountain Men no escape.

Sunny had tricked the Mountain Men into believing it was time for them to go home and enjoy a meal!

They were taking revenge by playing the Mountain Men's game back at them. If the Mountain Men could mimic their voices and trick them, why couldn't they mimic the Mountain Men's voices to mislead them?

The Mountain Men were annoying because they would not dare to show themselves unless necessary. A violent Mage like Mo Fan would be wasting too much time on looking for the Mountain Men to eliminate them all.

He had asked Sunny to trick the Mountain Men into returning home while he followed Mu Bai and the others back to their cave.

A single Super Fire Spell was enough to send all the Mountain Men to Heaven. The whole family was able to reunite there!

Their cries of agony rose continuously, yet the students were only grinning pleasantly.

It was not like they had no compassion, but these Mountain Men were too vicious. They realized the Mountain Men were not just trying to scare them previously. They would have suffered miserably if they ended up falling into the Mountain Men's hands.

How could they not be pleased to see such a vicious species being annihilated?

On the other hand, the Super Spell totally surprised the students. They had thought the lecturer who was teaching the class on demon creatures or magic dueling would be doing the dirty work since they should be experienced fighters, yet they both took a step back and let the lecturer of magic theory handle the rest!

It was as spectacular as a physical education teacher solving a challenging International Mathematical Olympiad's question, or a math teacher doing a Thomas Flare on the ground!

Boleyn pulled Mo Fan's sleeve and asked softly, "Lecturer, do you really teach magic theory?"

The way Lecturer Mo Yifan had constructed a Fire Star Palace and summoned the shower of heavenly flames was too astonishing. It had wiped out the detestable Mountain Men, leaving not a single one alive!

“(Cough cough), I’m more like an all-rounder!” Mo Fan explained awkwardly.

“Lecturer Mo Yifan, when’s your next class? I’ll be there.”

“Mm, mm, me too. I’ll go even if you increase the price!”

The students had witnessed the strength of the lecturers in person. The Mountain Men they did not stand a chance against were like little chicks in front of their lecturers. It was obvious that the lecturers could easily handle an even bigger group of Mountain Men if they did not have to protect the students.

“I believe everyone has learned a lot from this trip. Remember to write a simple summary on what you’ve learned which you can revise later. Do you understand?” Mo Fan immediately gave advice like a teacher.

The students were very obedient after witnessing his strength. They promised they would not miss out on any of the trio’s classes!

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The trip was a little adventurous and risky. Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai also needed to learn from their mistakes in order to prepare for their next few excursions and prevent accidents from happening.

The group returned to the plantation to rest while Mo Fan stayed behind in the cave looking for valuables.

The Mountain Men of the Andes Mountains enjoyed collecting human valuables. They would treat anything shiny as precious and either wear them or hide them in their caves.

Unfortunately, the Heavenly Flames of the Burning Valley were too powerful. Normal jewelry could not withstand the heat, and had all melted in the flames.

“Seriously? There’s nothing left here. I should have gone easy on them. I could have sold the valuables for gold,” Mo Fan searched the cave helplessly.

Thud!

Something tripped Mo Fan out of nowhere. It sounded like a metallic artifact.

Rumors said the Mountain Men too had submitted themselves to the ancient gods and Totem beasts just like humans, but they eventually took the path of demon creatures instead of magic civilization. Most of the Totem Containers had fallen into their hands.

Therefore, the Mountain Men possessed a lot of valuable ancient artifacts. Mo Fan could tell the thing he had kicked was something precious.

He picked up the object from a pile of ashes. Little Flame Belle wanted to join in on the fun, and puffed up her cheeks and blew at the thing that resembled a container.

Cough cough cough!, Mo Fan started hacking. Little Flame Belle mimicked her father and started coughing, too.

Mo Fan flicked Little Flame Belle on the forehead and rolled his eyes at her before inspecting the ancient artifact.

“A skull?” Mo Fan blurted out in disappointment when he realized what it was.

It was just a skull? What the heck? He had searched the entire cave and only found a skull in the end?

What the heck was a skull good for? Mo Fan threw it on the ground in a fit of anger.

“Ling!~” Little Flame Belle surprisingly picked the skull up and handed it back to Mo Fan.

“What now? You like playing with skulls too? What kind of fetish is that?” Mo Fan shunned it.

“Ling!~” Little Flame Belle tried her best to express her thoughts.

“You’re saying that your heavenly flames would have melted an ordinary skull, right? Fine, it’s a very tough skull. You can keep it as your toy. I don’t want it.” Mo Fan ignored Little Flame Belle.

Little Flame Belle actually kept the skull as her toy. It was strange seeing such an adorable little creature holding a skull with both hands.

Mo Fan touched the skull and wondered aloud, “Speaking of which, why does the skull feel a little cold in my hands? That’s not possible, especially after we just cooked it with our flames. Forget it, I’ll find someone to appraise it once we are back. We won’t know its secrets even if we inspect it here.”

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Little Flame Belle continued to play with the tough skull on their way back. She would burn it with her heavenly flames at times, but not only was the skull still intact, it did not even heat up! Little Flame Belle was amazed.

“Your daughter seems to have an odd interest,” Zhao Manyan laughed upon seeing that.

Mo Fan was getting a headache too. Perhaps Little Flame Belle had never seen something that her heavenly flames could not destroy, so she was stubbornly having a showdown with the skull.

Mo Fan felt sorry for the skull, too. It was already a skull, yet Little Flame Belle was still torturing it continuously with her flames. Couldn’t she let it rest in peace instead?

“Mu Bai, did you find anything suspicious at the plantation?” Mo Fan asked.

Mu Bai shook his head.

There was not a single trace of the Frenzy Poppies. It seemed like they were wrong about the place.

“It’s fine, we have plenty of time to investigate them all,” Mo Fan shrugged.

“Yes, we should be right on the track. It’s only a matter of time until we find them,” Mu Bai agreed.

“We are going to be rich once we get back. We now have the capital to bet on the magic duels!” Zhao Manyan seemed to have forgotten about the Black Vatican, and was caught up in the competition between the guest lecturers.

Chapter 2204: Mo Fan is my Student Too!

The lecturers would receive bonuses if the feedback from the students on an excursion was positive. Mo Fan's group had received a bonus of a thousand gold on top of the base payment of two thousand and five hundred gold. They now had a capital of three thousand and five hundred gold!

However, they were still ranked at the bottom, as they expected. After all, they were meant to profit from the classes on magic theory. It was almost a miracle that Mo Fan had lost money from his class.

The lecturers of other factions were already betting on magic duels. Brianca's faction had earned a fortune by abusing Brianca's reputation in her classes, but First Prince Beny's faction had reclaimed the first spot after winning bets on multiple magic duels in a row.

The faction in third place was the Institute of Liberty from New York. It had a reputable lecturer on magic duels, Nelson. Their other classes were not popular, but their classes on magic duels were always full. Not only did they earn a lot from these classes, they had been winning many magic duels too.

"Damn it, we worked so hard to organize a trip, yet we only earned twenty-five hundred gold from it. Meanwhile, these people are earning one or two thousand just from a single duel. How crazy were the bets?" Zhao Manyan grumbled.

How dangerous were the Mountain Men? They had only earned a few thousand gold, even with a hundred percent positive rating from their customers, yet if a duel managed to get a lot of attention from the students, the stakes could even go as high as ten thousand gold! The factions involved in these bets would then earn a few thousand gold. They no longer had any motivation to spend too much of their time on the excursions.

"Do we have any students that are good at fighting?" Mo Fan asked.

The other factions were earning crazy money with their students. The three of them could not afford to be left behind either. After all, having huge capital meant they could rent a bigger venue, more advanced equipment, and even set up a strong magic barrier. Sometimes, a big class in the Aorus Sacred Institute was crazier than the concert of a well-known celebrity!

"There's one. He's pretty strong. We can ask him to be our candidate," Zhao Manyan said.

"Are you familiar with him?"

"Didn't we split up after crossing the Earthworm Gully? I had around twenty students with me. We weren't just harassed by the Mountain Men, but we also stumbled into a bunch of Mountain Ridge Beasts that were drinking water nearby. Five of the students got lost when the Mountain Ridge Beasts showed up, but a student called Ritchie managed to clear a way and brought the other four back," Zhao Manyan said.

"By the way, Star Palaces aren't allowed in the duels, so even if our opponents have students at the Super Level, we still have a chance to win against them," Mu Bai reminded them.

Super Spells were too destructive to be used in magic duels. Most barriers could not withstand the power of a Star Palace, let alone the Mages who were involved in the duel. The duel between Mo Fan and Zu Xiangtian had been held far away from the spectators in an abandoned part of a city!

“That’s good news. There must be students at the Super Level in the student union. It’s a little unfair if they could use their Super Spells in the duels,” Mo Fan said.

“Ask Ritchie to meet us. We’ll also pick a few others who are reliable.”

A solo duel was more about how Elements countered one another, so it was not too exciting to watch compared to team battles, unless it was a duel between two reputable students. After all, not everyone in the world could reach Mo Fan or Zu Xiangtian’s level!

Zhao Manyan asked the student called Ritchie to meet them, but they were greeted by something unexpected.

“Lecturers, the Institute of Liberty has invited me to be their forward. They promised to give me five hundred gold for every match regardless of the outcome,” Ritchie informed them with a polite smile. He added, “As a matter of fact, I wasn’t planning to join your excursion in the first place, but my points for excursions aren’t enough, so I just randomly picked one.”

“Ritchie, it’s saddening to hear that,” Zhao Manyan sighed.

“Lecturer Zhao Yanzu, you are an outstanding lecturer. You managed to protect so many students while being attacked by so many demon creatures, but the results of the duels are important for our reputation. I want to join the main party of the student union, and once I make a name for myself, I would like to visit China...” Ritchie said.

“Why China?” Zhao Manyan was confused.

“Aren’t you from China? There’s a strong fighter in China called Mo Fan who won the World College Tournament. Many people consider him the strongest young Mage in the world, and he also beat a famous young Judicator in Europe, Zu Xiangtian, so I want to challenge him on behalf of the Aorus Sacred Institute’s student union. I heard he’s accepting anyone’s challenge at Fanxue Mountain!” Ritchie exclaimed.

“...”

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai were left speechless. It turned out that Mo Fan was the person Ritchie wanted to challenge the most!

Mo Fan’s head hurt. It seemed like his boast had spread all the way to the Americas!

However, if Ritchie was not on their team, their students would be like a sheet of loose sand. The three of them were not close with the student union, unlike most other factions.

Sharjah was supposed to be the strongest student since she was the president, but she had clearly told them not to ask for her help with the magic duels!

“Ritchie, you have no idea. That Mo Fan you want to beat is actually our disciple. We have taught him a lot about magic dueling. Wasn’t he on the national team? We are mentors of the national team too,” Zhao Manyan mentioned when he saw Ritchie was going to leave.

Ritchie halted in his tracks. “Is that true?” Ritchie’s eyes glittered.

“Every single word of it!” Zhao Manyan quickly signaled Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was still absent-minded, but he reacted quickly when Ritchie looked at him. He inquired thoughtfully, “How much do you know about Mo Fan?”

“I know a lot about him. I even watched the World College Tournament. His Lightning and Fire Elements are very impressive!” Ritchie smiled.

“Oh, so you’ve watched the World College Tournament. That’s great... Ritchie, you should know that the Sky Lightning Claw is one of Mo Fan’s strongest moves. Check out my Sky Lightning Claw: Descent of the Demons!” Mo Fan curled his finger.

Mo Fan flipped his hand. His fingers were emitting dark lightning even though he did not construct a Star Constellation. Instantly claws of lightning were flickering across the sky around fifty meters above the training ground, as if enraged demons were trying to tear the sky apart!

Chapter 2205: Recruiting Student Fighters

Ritchie stared at the Sky Lightning Claw in the sky blankly. It was exactly the same as he had seen during the World College Tournament, except it was even stronger! It felt like the claws could easily tear anything to pieces!

“What do you think?” Mo Fan put his hands behind him and turned his face slightly in case the student might recognize him.

“That’s it, that’s the one, Lecturer Mo Yifan! Is that Mo Fan really your student? Did he learn this move from you?” Ritchie blurted out excitedly.

Making a name for oneself by dueling and winning the World College Tournament were things most fighters were envious of. Ritchie was an outstanding Mage in the Aorus Sacred Institute, but he was nowhere close to reaching Mo Fan’s reputation.

Therefore, the man who won the World College Tournament had become Ritchie’s idol, and the person he wanted to defeat the most!

To Ritchie’s surprise, these three lecturers from China turned out to be Mo Fan’s mentors! He was obviously going to choose them!

Mo Fan was getting into his role. He patted Ritchie on the shoulder and said with great motivation, “Ritchie, if you join the Institute of Liberty, you will only be a forward at most, which means you are only playing a supporting role. But if you join us, you will be the main protagonist, the soul of the team. Mo Fan was also the core of the Chinese team, so if you join us, we can definitely make you famous across the world, just like Mo Fan!”

Ritchie nodded. He was obviously the simple-minded kind. He was easily convinced when someone promised to help him fulfill his ambitions!

“Very well, we’ll start training you tomorrow!” Mo Fan smiled.

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Each team in the World College Tournament had five students, a standard format for team battles.

However, this open tournament was asking for teams of nine. It was a popular format in the Americas. The spectators also enjoyed it greatly.

Normally, these team battles with nine Mages on one team were only open for Intermediate Mages, as the power of Intermediate Mages was relatively limited. It was easier to choose the venue and handle safety measures for the spectators. The Magic Association had banned duels at the Advanced Level or above, so it was almost impossible to see an official battle between Advanced Mages or higher.

Most students at the Aorus Sacred Institute were Advanced Mages. They were like an independent country with their own rules, so the Magic Association had no right to interfere with their tournament. The Magic Association did not have a branch nearby, either.

The Aorus Sacred Institute WAS their Magic Association. They could just hold any tournament they pleased as long as they were able to handle the safety measures.

A battle at the Advanced Level had a higher requirement on the venue and the protective barrier. Only a place with deep reserves, like the Aorus Sacred Institute, could afford to hold such a high-level tournament. A venue suitable for holding such a high-level tournament would cost a hundred thousand every second!

A battle that lasted for ten minutes would cost sixty million!

A battle made up of nine-man teams would normally last for two to three hours, so the cost of a match alone was a huge fortune!

The teams of nine were the finale of the open tournament. The lecturers could recruit their students for their team in their classes. Before the teams were formed, the solo duels were only treated as a platform for the students to showcase their strength and the lecturers to show off how good they were at teaching, while earning extra income through betting.

If Zhao Manyan insisted on recruiting Ritchie, he had to be quite outstanding. He would become their money-earning machine after they trained him!

In addition, with Ritchie on the team, it would be easier to recruit the remaining teammates for the team.

“Boleyn, are you sure you want to join our team?” Mo Fan looked at the girl in surprise.

“Mm, I feel like I can learn a lot from you. Didn’t Ritchie already join your team? I believe we have a chance to win the tournament if he’s on the team!” Boleyn confirmed brightly.

“That’s great. Healers are the hardest to recruit,” Zhao Manyan smiled. He kept glancing at Boleyn’s bust too. Impressive volumes!

“Err... lecturers, I would like to join your team too, but I’m not as impressive as Ritchie and Boleyn,” Sunny said softly.

Even though Sunny was a high-achiever, Boleyn and Ritchie were two of the most brilliant students in the school. Sunny was not as capable as them in terms of dueling.

“That’s fine, a Sound Mage also plays an important role in a team battle. You just need to learn from us, follow orders, and practice how to work together as a team. It’s fine if you are not that good at fighting,” Mo Fan agreed.

A Sound Mage would greatly restrict the opponent team’s Destructive Mages. Mo Fan had been wariest of the Sound Mages during the World College Tournament!

“That means we now have three students on our team: Ritchie, Boleyn, and Sunny. We still have to recruit six more students for the team,” Mu Bai murmured.

“Each team has nine members, which means there will be eighteen Mages in one match. It’s going to be thrilling. Even I have the urge to join the tournament!” Mo Fan sighed.

“We won’t have to recruit anyone else if you are in it. You can easily defeat nine people on your own,” Zhao Manyan pointed out.

“You’re exaggerating it, but the three of us can easily take on nine people,” Mo Fan agreed.

“You can just let Little Flame Belle handle them all.”

“Ugh, I almost forgot!” Mo Fan turned around and saw Little Flame Belle raising the skull above her head. She was trying to see through the skull under the sun.

Little Flame Belle had become ridiculously strong after she reached the Adult Phase. Mo Fan did not even dare to fight her now. He only had a slim chance of winning despite having so many Elements!

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Ritchie was indeed impressive. Mo Fan thought he was only a peak Advanced Mage, but he was actually a Super Lightning Mage.

He had only achieved the Super Level recently, and still lacked control over the Super Lightning Spell, but he had no problem winning duels against students of other factions.

He won five duels in a row after signing up for them, making him one of the elites.

Zhao Manyan used their capital of two thousand and five hundred gold to set up bets and earned a significant amount of money from them. Their capital had now increased to five thousand gold.

Their capital had doubled in no time!

“Ritchie, if you can win seven in a row, we’ll sponsor you a Soul-grade Wind Seed. The Wind Element might only be your Secondary Element, but it’s impressive how you kept using a Spirit-grade Seed before now,” Zhao Manyan offered generously.

Ritchie had won a lot of money for Zhao Manyan. Zhao Manyan was treating the student like his own son!

Chapter 2206: Lightning Pentagons

“Lecturer, I did gain a Soul-grade Seed which is perfect for my Innate Talent, but I keep failing to merge it for some reason,” Ritchie said sadly.

“Failing to merge a Soul-grade Seed is most likely a problem of your body’s constitution. Are you using a Lightning Cultivation Tool?” Mo Fan asked him.

“Yes, how did you know?” Ritchie blurted out in astonishment.

A Cultivation Tool was every Mage’s secret. Ritchie had never shown it to anyone. He was surprised that Mo Fan could see through him so easily.

Mo Fan only had a thoughtful grin.

How do I know? You have no idea how many times I’ve stopped Little Loach from swallowing your Cultivation Tool!

Little Loach had the urge to swallow every Magic Tool it came across, let alone a Cultivation Tool imbued with the Lightning Element. It would be a great supplement to Mo Fan and Little Loach!

Mo Fan thought Little Loach would remain in a satisfied state for some time after absorbing Zhan Kong’s Soul Essence. To his surprise, Little Loach had shown a great appetite lately. It was showing a temptation to swallow all the things it used to ignore, let alone the highest-quality ‘food’!

Ritchie owned a very expensive Cultivation Tool, which was the most likely reason he had achieved the Super Level at such a young age. Little Loach had long had its eyes on Ritchie’s Cultivation Tool. Ritchie would most likely lose his mind if Little Loach took away His Precious!

“The Lightning Element is an overbearing Element, and has a dominating presence over other Elements. Your body constitution and soul are influenced by it, since you have been cultivating with it for a long time. Didn’t I already explain this in my classes? Different Elements are incompatible with one another. The reason why Soul Seeds are called Soul Seeds is because they have their own conscience! They will protect themselves subconsciously, so it’s likely that the Soul-grade Seed you have isn’t willing to merge with you because of the strong presence of the Lightning Element,” Mo Fan informed him.

Ritchie fell into deep thought and eventually realized something.

“Lecturer, you are so knowledgeable. Why have I never thought of it before? My Cultivation Tool is made from a Lightning Pentagon from the Sun-Gathering Peak. It utilizes the imperious nature of the Lightning Element to refine a demon creature’s Soul Essence, which helps me cultivate a lot quicker than others. However, whenever I cultivate, my body is in great pain, like I’m being struck by lightning... I’ve

never told anyone about it. Lecturer, you are so impressive!” Ritchie was amazed by Mo Fan’s explanation.

“The Sun-Gathering Peak? Where is that?” Mo Fan had to ask.

“It’s located at the highest region of the Andes Mountains. A few seniors of my clan brought me there once. The strange thing is, I can still remember the way to it roughly, but I can’t recall the things that happened on it. Anyway, we managed to find a rare Lightning Pentagon and forge it into the Cultivation Tool I’m using. I was able to overtake a lot of students with it!” Ritchie was very simple-minded. He believed there was no reason to hide his secret from such a knowledgeable lecturer.

“Lightning Pentagons...” Mo Fan murmured.

Little Loach was most likely interested in these Lightning Pentagons!

Forging a Cultivation Tool was a challenging task, let alone forging a high-level Cultivation Tool. Most clans would treat a high-level Cultivation Tool as an heirloom treasure!

A Mage’s cultivation level was extremely important, making Cultivation Tools extremely valuable.

Mo Fan initially thought he could buy Cultivation Tools on the market so Little Loach would keep growing by devouring them, but he quickly realized the market did not have any high-quality Cultivation Tools.

Even a normal Cultivation Tool was treated as being quite precious by the smaller clans!

Mo Fan recalled how the students had to take turns to rent the Magic Tools from the school when he was younger. He should have known Magic Tools were not something he could easily buy on the market, regardless of their quality!

“Lecturer, do you have any idea how to solve my problem? My Secondary Element is Wind, Tertiary Element is Plant, and Quaternary is Ice. I can’t just stop merging Soul-grade Seeds for my other Elements because of my Cultivation Tool,” Ritchie said gloomily.

It was impossible to win duels with a single Element. The Lightning Element was completely useless against the Psychic Element and the Sound Element, and Earth Mages could easily defend themselves against it, too!

“Mo Fan, do you have a way to solve his problem?” Zhao Manyan asked.

“I can give it a try,” Mo Fan said.

“How?”

“I have a Cultivation Tool that likes to absorb the impurities of different Elements. If I can absorb the impurities of Ritchie’s Cultivation Tool, he shouldn’t have the problem again,” Mo Fan said.

“Ah? Does something so magical really exist in this world?” Ritchie blurted out.

“Give me your Cultivation Tool.”

“Ugh... alright,” Ritchie nodded, choosing to believe Mo Fan.

It was the benefit of being a teacher. Most students would choose to believe their teachers. If it was anyone else, Ritchie would most likely fight to the death rather than give his Cultivation Tool away!

“You two should stay further away. I’m scared of hurting you by accident,” Mo Fan directed them.

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Once Zhao Manyan and Ritchie left the training ground, Mo Fan placed his hand on the Cultivation Tool. Little Loach immediately pounced at it like a starving dog before Mo Fan could even do anything.

“Little Loach, why are you hungry when you devoured a Ruler-level Soul Essence not long ago? You better behave yourself. It’s my student’s lifeblood. Don’t you swallow it!” Mo Fan smacked the greedy Pendant.

Little Loach shuddered and quickly behaved itself.

“It has a lot of impurities of the Lightning Element. You can only eat them, instead of anything else. Do you understand?” Mo Fan chided it.

Little Loach cautiously stretched out to the Lightning Elements in the Cultivation Tool.

The impurities of the Lightning Element floated out of the Cultivation Tool in the form of purple gas. Mo Fan eyed Little Loach carefully, in case it tried to cross the line.

“Little Loach, do you like this? Ritchie told me it’s made from a Lightning Pentagon on the Sun-Gathering Peak. I wonder if there are more like it on the Sun-Gathering Peak. If you like it, I’ll find a chance to visit it and treat you to a feast!” Mo Fan promised.

Chapter 2207: The Andes Federal Union

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Mo Fan returned the Cultivation Tool to Ritchie after getting rid of its impurities.

Ritchie sat down and started Cultivating. He quickly noticed he was no longer feeling any pain from the Lightning Element, and smiled like a little kid.

In the past, he felt like he was being hit by ten thousand volts every time he Cultivated. He had no choice but to endure the pain every day. He was more confident in himself now that he no longer had to endure the pain!

“Lecturer Mo Yifan, you are seriously the best teacher I have ever had. My family asked countless Forgemasters to solve the problem for me, yet none of them could do it. I could only Cultivate by enduring the pain...” Ritchie actually burst into tears of gratitude.

A Chinese lecturer had solved the problem that had troubled him for such a long time with ease. Ritchie felt like he had found his true mentor. He was utterly grateful!

“It’s nothing worth mentioning. I’m quite interested in the Sun-Gathering Peak you mentioned before. You can bring us there when we have the chance,” Mo Fan suggested.

“Not a problem!” Ritchie would not blink even if Mo Fan asked him to jump into a volcano now!

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Mo Fan left in a hurry, finding a deserted corner.

Normally, Little Loach would collect Soul Remnants and refine them into Soul Essences, but Mo Fan had learned something new about it today.

Not only did Little Loach absorb the impurities of the Cultivation Tool, it further refined the impurities into pure Lightning energy, filling Mo Fan’s Galaxy!

The Galaxy of his Lightning Element had expanded slightly because of it. It even had the urge to reach the second-tier!

“Just a little more, if only there were slightly more impurities in the Lightning Pentagon, I could have reached the second-tier today!” Mo Fan felt it was a pity.

Not only would his supply of Lightning energy double after his Galaxy expanded to the second-tier, the strength of his Lightning Spells would rise. Mo Fan did not expect to receive such benefits just by lending Ritchie a hand!

“It seems the Lightning Pentagons are something extraordinary. Not only did it feed Little Loach, it also improved my Lightning Element...”

Mo Fan swore to pay the Sun-Gathering Peak a visit. If he could find one or two Lightning Pentagons, his Lightning Element could easily reach the second-tier Super Level, not to mention the increase in his Cultivation rate!

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Mo Fan meditated until midnight, trying to break through to the second-tier Super Level.

He was so close to it! It gave Mo Fan a great headache, like he was unable to ejaculate despite trying all kinds of postures.

Mo Fan found himself starving. The dried food in his Space Bracelet was gone. He had no choice but to walk around the streets to see if there were any convenience stores still open to get a quick bite.

Cultivation was a long journey. It was important to accumulate experience. He might only be a step away from reaching the second-tier Super Level of his Lightning Element, but he would only produce the opposite of the desired outcome if he tried to force it.

“Why aren’t any of the shops still open? Don’t they have a McDonald’s, at least?” Mo Fan noticed only a few shops were still open.

He found a café that was still operating toward the end of the street. It was most likely open for students who had the habit of studying at night.

The café was almost empty when Mo Fan walked into it. He was wondering if the kitchen was still open and if he should just give up and head back when he saw a glamorous blonde sitting in a corner. The

weary look on her face gave Mo Fan an urge to approach her to understand her inner clothes... ah, inner thoughts!

It was Brianca!

What a coincidence, he had stumbled into Miss Brianca from the Alps just as he was trying to find a quick bite. He would waste the opportunity that fate had brought him if he did not do something age-restricted to her.

Unfortunately, his rational side managed to overcome his inner desires. He immediately turned and headed for the door, as he did not want Brianca to recognize him.

"Are you Lecturer Mo Yifan?" Brianca called out, catching a glimpse of Mo Fan's back.

"Ugh, I guess I am," Mo Fan answered awkwardly.

"You are having insomnia too?" Brianca asked politely.

"I just finished my meditation. I was thinking of finding a quick bite before going to bed..." Mo Fan said.

"I happened to order the last serving of steak. I can give it to you if you want," Brianca said with a gentle smile. Her eyes were glittering cunningly, like a smart snow deer.

Mo Fan had no choice but to take the seat across from her. It was obvious Brianca had seen through his disguise.

"You have my thanks." Mo Fan scratched his head.

"Time flies. A certain someone has already become a Lecturer of the Aorus Sacred Institute," Brianca smiled at him.

"Miss Brianca, why did you only expose me now if you knew who I was?" Mo Fan asked with a confused face.

"I was interested to see what you all are up to," Brianca replied.

"Does our disguise suck that badly?" Mo Fan asked regretfully.

"Not at all, it's pretty good. But the three of you came together, so it was pretty easy for me to guess," Brianca pointed out.

Mo Fan realized Brianca did not see through his disguise. She had only guessed their identities by observing their habits!

It made a lot of sense. After all, Brianca was quite familiar with them!

"We are here for a secret operation, so it's better for us to remain undercover. May I ask Miss Brianca to keep our identities a secret?" Mo Fan said.

"Sure, I won't inquire any further," Brianca gave Mo Fan her steak and said, "Here you go, you must be starving."

“I’ll gladly take it... by the way, Miss Brianca, I can tell you are worried. Is something bothering you? Your classes in the Aorus Sacred Institute have been successful so far. The students can’t even buy a spot for your classes. Unlike us amateurs, we are losing money from our classes.” Mo Fan started feasting on the well-done steak.

“We didn’t come here to compete. The Alps Institute has branches across the world which mainly accept orphans who are victims of natural disasters,” Brianca answered.

“Mm, it’s why I’m very impressed by your school,” Mo Fan nodded.

“The safe zones have shrunk significantly because of the sea monsters. Many villages and towns are being abandoned. A few countries close to the Andes Mountains will soon establish the Andes Federal Union,” Brianca said.

“Isn’t that great? Everyone is joining hands to prepare themselves for the upcoming disaster!” Mo Fan said brightly.

The action of forming a federal union was similar to China’s approach of establishing headquarters cities. The military was short on hands when the cities, towns, and villages were too scattered. They would not be able to protect the places that were located in the more remote areas.

Chapter 2208: The Quick-Footed Climb up First

Mo Fan had learned to pay attention to the important news across the world. He had heard about the plan to establish the Andes Federal Union.

A few days after they arrived at the Aorus Sacred Institute, a few countries, including Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, and Chile, decided to form a federal union in South America to fend off the sea monsters of the Pacific Ocean together. It was named after the Andes Mountains.

The Andes Federal Union!

Many countries along the shore were taking appropriate measures to prepare themselves. China had decided to establish headquarters cities, like Feiniao Headquarters City, Magic City (Shanghai) Headquarters City, and Beast Capital (Guangzhou) Headquarters City. The people of the cities and towns along the shoreline had been moved to the headquarters cities, making it easier for the government to defend the people while fending off the sea monsters.

Countries like Peru, Columbia, Venezuela, and Chile in South America were also targets of the Calamity of Sea Monsters. They could not afford to build a dam tens of thousands of kilometers long. Even the most resourceful country would struggle to build a dam that long!

These countries had no choice but to form a federal union to share their resources and information on the sea monsters, helping one another to overcome the calamity together.

“The establishment of the federal union will strengthen the defense along the coastline, but it also means the efforts our seniors have put in over the past few dozen years are in vain. The orphanages scattered across different regions will be abandoned, but the new federal union doesn’t want to allocate a place for the orphans. Around fifty-four hundred orphans will be homeless... The Alps Institute is in

Europe, and the laws of Europe and Switzerland do not allow us to take these orphans to the Alps Institute. Besides, we don't even have the resources to shelter so many orphans," Brianca said.

More children would be left homeless as the invasion of sea monsters continued. These children did not have proper identities. Meanwhile, the countries in the Americas were having political instabilities. They did not have a proper organization to handle the issue regarding the orphans victimized by the war.

The Alps Institute used to have many orphanages to shelter these children, but they would be abandoned when the federal union was established as they were mostly located in dangerous areas. The orphans would have nowhere to go!

Brianca was deeply troubled by this.

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"So the reason you came to the Aorus Sacred Institute is to help those children?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mm, the Aorus Sacred Institute has great influence. I was hoping they could discuss the issue with the leaders of the federal union and allocate a place in the safe zone for the Alps Institute so we could shelter the orphans," Brianca said.

"But the Aorus Sacred Institute didn't agree with you?" Mo Fan asked.

"I wouldn't feel so troubled if they had," Brianca confirmed helplessly.

"Why didn't they agree with you?" Mo Fan wondered.

"They claim they won't interfere with other countries' politics," Brianca sighed.

"How is that even politics?"

"All I can do is help my students win in the open tournament and use my influence to get the local governments' attention. What happens next is beyond my control," Brianca shook her head.

Mo Fan was lost for words.

It was not like he could blame the countries for losing their humanity. Even adults were struggling to find themselves shelter during the invasion of sea monsters. No one would bother caring about orphans who were not going to contribute to the war.

The Alps Institute was basically doing some charity work, but it was not going to stop the invasion of sea monsters. There would only be more orphans as the war continued. The Alps Institute was only an educational institute, not a profitable organization. Their resources were mainly from the donations and sponsorship from the clans and factions in Europe. It was difficult for them to handle such a costly and strenuous task on their own.

The rich had so much meat and wine that they would never eat it all before their expiry dates, while the poor were starving to death on the streets. Whoever managed to enroll in the Aorus Sacred Institute would live in paradise without having to worry about necessities, but those who were not qualified could only live in the slums, under the bridges, and in junkyards. Their wellbeing was none of the school's concern!

“If the Aorus Sacred Institute isn’t going to help, why don’t you contact the Parthenon Temple? They are concerned about the orphans too,” Mo Fan told her.

“The Parthenon Temple?” Brianca shook her head. “You are well aware of the conflict between our school and the Parthenon Temple. They will only hit us when we are down instead of cooperating with us.”

“Have you tried?” Mo Fan pressed.

“No, but the outcome is pretty obvious,” Brianca sighed.

“So you would rather worry about it, suffer from insomnia, and try to win the open tournament than put the past between you and the Parthenon Temple behind?” Mo Fan reiterated.

Brianca was startled, and stared at Mo Fan. She did not know what to say.

Mo Fan had heard the same thing from Xinxia, who was also troubled by this issue.

However, the Parthenon Temple had yet to establish its influence in South America. Most people here were supporters of the Alps Institute.

The Alps Institute had put a lot more focus on helping ordinary people, but they lacked the resources to do this job.

The Parthenon Temple had plenty of resources, but the people in South America only listened to the Alps Institute. They were hostile to the Parthenon Temple.

Xinxia was from China, and did not hold a grudge against the Alps Institute, unlike the people of the Parthenon Temple. Mo Fan had already hinted to the Alps Institute to contact Xinxia before, yet they had not taken the first step.

Mo Fan had no intention to interfere with the decisions of the authorities on both sides, yet he was annoyed by the fact that they were not getting anything done just because of some conflict in the past.

In the end, it was just some charitable work. Getting it done or not did not really matter to either side. However, if it was about their own survival, they would easily leave the past behind.

“I think, it’s already too late now, isn’t it?” Brianca sighed, feeling ashamed.

“Give it a try, perhaps there’s still a chance,” Mo Fan encouraged her.

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Despite everything Mo Fan said, he was still unsure if the Alps Institute was willing to work with the Parthenon Temple. After all, Brianca was not her school’s leader, either.

However, while eagerly getting ready to pay the Sun-Gathering Peak a visit, Mo Fan received a piece of bad news. The federal union’s military had already occupied the Sun-Gathering Peak to mine it!

“Damn it, we were a little late!” Mo Fan grumbled.

“The Lightning Pentagons are the raw materials for Cultivation Tools... we should have gone earlier. It’s pretty much a gold mine. We could have earned a lot there!” Zhao Manyan said in self-pity.

Mo Fan was only planning to find a few Lightning Pentagons on the Sun-Gathering Peak, yet it turned out to be a mine of Lightning Pentagons. If he had secured it first, he might have been able to become a Forbidden Lightning Mage!

Chapter 2209: New Clues

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Mo Fan’s classes did a lot better after the excursion. He was finally profiting from them. Since the classes were about magic theory, Mo Fan could just teach anything he liked, as the school did not have restrictions on the topics. Mo Fan simply shared a manipulated version of his experiences on Mount Kunyu and the bizarre encounter with the Giant Purple Linden with his students.

Every student dreamt of going on adventures. The things that Mo Fan shared were nothing like they had heard before. Even books with records of bizarre events did not have anything like them. Mo Fan somehow turned the class on magic theory into his autobiography.

Mo Fan was not necessarily teaching new knowledge in his class, but many students were interested in his tales. After all, he had encountered a lot of strange things while he was still a student, very different from the typical students who spent most of their time at school. He could easily talk for the whole morning just by sharing one of his adventures.

It was one good thing about being a lecturer in the Aorus Sacred Institute. The lecturers had total freedom on the topics they wanted to teach, as long as the lecturers were not breaking the rules and the students were willing to attend their classes!

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“Old Zhao, where’s Mu Bai?” Mo Fan went back to his room and saw Zhao Manyan lying on the couch and watching dramas in boredom, as if the sacred task of being a teacher had greatly hindered his progress of spreading his seed across the world.

“He must be studying the plant distribution of the Andes Mountains in the study downstairs. I’m not sure why he’s so stubborn about the Black Vatican,” Zhao Manyan yawned.

“Tell him to come back here. I have a new discovery,” Mo Fan said.

Zhao Manyan rose to his feet unwillingly. He only remembered there was a great invention called the cellphone after he reached the door. He glared at Mo Fan before dialing Mu Bai’s number.

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“Hey, come up here... why do I hear a girl’s voice beside you? You ass****, you told me you were going to look for information, but you are hooking up with students instead? I f****king despise hypocrites like you!” Zhao Manyan cursed.

Mu Bai soon came into the room with a long face.

“Oh, it was the cleaner. Why were you having such a pleasant chat with her?” Zhao Manyan mentioned.

“I can’t be bothered talking to an idiot like you. Why did you call me?” Mu Bai demanded.

“Sit down, one of my students reminded me of something in my class today...” Mo Fan began in a serious voice.

The two immediately sat on the couch, eager to hear what Mo Fan had discovered.

“I did some checking. There are lots of farms and plantations close to the edge of the mountain range along the shore, and there are lots of farmers, workers, and gardeners living there. Even though they aren’t people of the Aorus Sacred Institute, they are working for the school. They are usually referred to as laborers,” Mo Fan explained.

Mu Bai was expecting Mo Fan to tell them a big secret since he immediately gathered them after he was done with his class. “Laborers?” he asked narrowly.

“The Aorus Sacred Institute is like a little palace. There have to be a lot of laborers helping with logistics and stuff considering the luxurious lifestyle here. We have completely overlooked them,” Mo Fan said.

“What about the farms and plantations you mentioned?” Mu Bai asked.

“In addition to the school’s plantations in the Andes Mountains, there are over a dozen villages along the shoreline where the laborers of the school live. Not only do they provide the school with necessities, they also plant herbs and provide smithing of magic ores, and refinement of magic pendants...”

Mu Bai smacked his leg when he heard Mo Fan’s words.

That’s right, why did I keep focusing on the people in the Aorus Sacred Institute? He had not found a single trace of the Black Vatican after so long!

The Black Vatican did not have to be students, lecturers, or personnel of the school. They might also hide among the laborers who were working for the little kingdom!

These laborers might not be considered the Aorus Sacred Institute’s citizens, but they were still protected by the school. They were free to enter its territory!

“One of the students in my class used to be a laborer. He told me a lot about them. I think it’s likely the Black Vatican is hiding among them, especially if they are planting the Frenzy Poppies. They can help plant what the school wants while planting what they want as well!” Mo Fan ventured.

“That makes a lot of sense. I was too focused on the people in the Aorus Sacred Institute. I completely ignored the possibility!” Mu Bai finally realized what went wrong.

The Aorus Sacred Institute did not allow laborers to stay at the school, so Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai, who spent most of their time on the school grounds, had no chance of meeting them. A huge machine consisted of thousands of wheels and parts. They kept focusing on the shiny surface of the machine, instead of looking at the parts inside it!

“Mu Bai, try filtering out the villages where we might find the Black Vatican. We’ll check them out,” Mo Fan suggested.

"I don't think that's a good idea. It's unreasonable for lecturers to visit the villages, but I remember there are field trips where we can bring the students to patrol the coastline. Besides, we aren't done forming our team of nine," Zhao Manyan interjected.

"Fine! Mu Bai, you will filter out the potential places, while Old Zhao and I handle the field trip. You will decide on the route for the field trip. The Black Vatican won't react in time once we find the right place," Mu Bai said.

"Mm, but even if we found the Black Vatican, we shouldn't do anything reckless. The students might end up as victims," Mu Bai warned them both.

"Don't worry, we'll make sure they are safe."

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Mu Bai did not take long to filter out the potential locations. The Frenzy Poppies had strict requirements. He could easily eliminate the places that lacked suitable soil conditions, temperature, and availability of sunlight. In the end, there were only four villages left on the list.

"This one here that is closer to the sea is a plantation of aloe vera. It mainly provides the school with aloe vera and cacti. It has around seven hundred registered workers," Mu Bai drew a circle on a map and continued, "This one over here is the Rock Coral Village that handles vegetation on wet ground close to the sea. It's also perfect for planting the Frenzy Poppies. The other two are an olive grove and a cherry orchard, respectively."

The Frenzy Poppies had to be looked after at all times. They were more difficult to plant than orchids, so the Black Vatican would need a lot of workers to plant them. They were indeed looking in the wrong direction when they tried to find the Black Vatican in the Andes Mountains.

Mu Bai was very sure that the Black Vatican was in one of these villages!

Chapter 2210: Patrol

Mo Fan and his group immediately registered for a patrol class. Mo Fan could have also registered it as a class on Magic Theory since they had plenty of funds now. They could easily afford to hold an outdoor class of Magic Theory that would cost a lot more.

A patrol class was different from a class on demon creatures. A patrol class was a practical class where the students patrolled the border of the school and exterminated nests of sea monsters and demon creatures to control their population.

It was impossible to kill every demon creature around. They were like weeds that kept on reproducing in the corners where humans could not see, especially the lower-level creatures who only needed a few months to mature.

However, if they allowed weeds to grow indefinitely, there would be serious consequences over time. Therefore, the school assigned people to exterminate demon creatures at times. Students could also volunteer to earn some quick gold.

A patrol was similar to a cleaning activity held by the school, but the students were not going to be bringing hoes, brooms, or sickles. They were toting full kits of magic ammunition instead!

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The request for the class was processed smoothly. The school welcomed teachers who were willing to help with the school's affairs and not merely their own benefits. Not many lecturers were willing to lead students on manual tasks like this.

The classes on demon creatures mostly focused on dangerous species. Many lecturers would not bother holding a class if it was not related to exciting Commander-level creatures.

The patrol class mainly focused on lesser creatures in great numbers. They were mostly Servant-class or Warrior-level creatures, so it was not a dangerous job. The students in the Aorus Sacred Institute were proud and aloof, and believed they should let the poor Mages who were looking for jobs outside of the school to handle such things. They were not willing to waste their time on such tasks.

"Why do we only have thirty students?" Mo Fan asked, feeling disappointed.

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"It's just a patrol class. It's the least favorite class of the students. They consider it a waste of time, since they won't benefit a lot from it," Zhao Manyan replied.

The students had to pay for all classes, but the patrol classes were different. Even though they had to pay the lecturers first, they would get double the gold back from the school in the end. The students would still earn gold from them.

"Such arrogant pricks, why would they assume our class is going to be boring? They will learn a great deal from it!" Mo Fan grumbled.

"Lecturer, it's just how the school is. Most people are selfish. They won't bother wasting their time on things that won't benefit them. The ones who are willing to join this class either lack a formidable background or they are just trying to earn some quick money," Ritchie informed him.

Mo Fan looked at the students and noticed they were less impressive than those who had joined the excursion. Even their pride as students of the Aorus Sacred Institute was significantly weaker than those from the student union.

"Lecturer, the truth is that most students who join patrol classes used to be laborers themselves. On one hand, they are trying to earn a little extra income, while on the other they are helping provide the villagers with a safer environment," Fan Ding told them.

Fan Ding was the latest student Mo Fan had recruited for the tournament. He was also the student who had told Mo Fan about the laborers.

"Alright, in simpler words, you are grassroots without any background... but don't you worry, I was also a grassroots Mage, but I'm now a lecturer of the Aorus Sacred Institute after putting in a lot of hard work. You shouldn't be disheartened by that. Lecturer Zhao, on the other hand, comes from a wealthy family. He's so rich that he can fill the ocean with his money, yet he's just a pitiful lecturer now too." Mo Fan patted Zhao Manyan's shoulder.

“Why do you sound so glorious, while I’m just a pitiful one, even though we are both lecturers?” Zhao Manyan shot back.

“Don’t mind the details, I’m just trying to encourage the students!”

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Some of the students might have come from poor families, but there were also students with wealthy backgrounds who treated the class as an outing. Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai treated the job very seriously. They did not spare a single demon creature, but the students differed greatly. Half of them were treating the class seriously, while the other half were treating it as a casual day out.

The villages around the Aorus Sacred Institute had great scenery. The students were used to the luxurious halls and shiny floors in the school. It was refreshing to see the beautiful villages and green plants on the outskirts.

“These students are quite undisciplined,” Mo Fan noticed.

“They are all high-level players paying the Rookie Village a visit. The demon creatures are too weak for them,” Zhao Manyan said helplessly.

“Why are two of the students missing?” Mu Bai frowned.

“It’s fine.”

“What do you mean it’s fine? We can’t afford to let our guard down even if the demon creatures are weak!” Mu Bai said.

“They are shaking the trees in those woods. They should be gone for at least half an hour,” Mo Fan smiled.

“What’s shaking the trees?” Boleyn asked naively.

Mo Fan raised his brows. He wondered if Boleyn was only pretending to be innocent. He was about to explain to her when he saw the two students returning from the woods. The boy looked satisfied while the girl was smiling too, but her lips twisted when she looked in a different direction.

Zhao Manyan looked at the girl, who was quite attractive. He looked at his watch and felt sorry for her.

That boy was such a disappointment. If he had been doing it, he would have let the hour hand spin half a circle longer!

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As they reached a wet field, three students ran back to the group and told Mo Fan proudly, “Lecturer, we noticed a few demon creatures damaging the crops in the field, so we got rid of them and saved the villagers!”

The three students had been a long way ahead of the group. Mo Fan had let them be since there was not any danger nearby.

“Well done, I’ll write it down and give you bonus marks for the class.” Mo Fan took out a notebook and marked the students’ names with a plus sign.

He was just about to highlight the students’ names when he saw a group of farmers heading their way.

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“We already told the farmers there’s no need to thank us, yet they still came to express their gratitude,” one of the students said.

Around eight villagers came up to them. They yelled when they recognized the three students.

“You little ass****, you killed the Plowing Beasts that our village recently bought after saving up for a long time. How could you do that to us? We are just mere farmers!” an old farmer scolded them, tears coming down his face.

The smiles on the three students’ faces vanished.

Mo Fan’s expression stiffened too.