

Versatile 2241

Chapter 2241: Magistrate Schierling

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“Awoo!!”

A wolf’s howl came from the distance. It sounded like Fourth Wolf, whose nose was more sensitive than the rest of the wolves.

Mo Fan immediately headed that way. He heard burbling after moving half a kilometer in that direction. It grew louder as he drew closer.

“Is it a waterfall?” Mo Fan followed Fourth Wolf.

Fourth Wolf led the way. They were very close to the waterfall.

It turned out that the Ninth Mound was located at the waterfall. Mo Fan looked around and saw a wide river which was partially cut off by a Mound. The water was falling into a deep lake below like a white dragon.

The Ninth Mound was located above the waterfall, right by the riverbank. It had been established on top of a huge rock, which served as its foundation. The rock was around the size of a basketball court, with the structure atop it.

“So this is the place?” Mo Fan stared at the building above the waterfall.

It did not look like a secret factory that belonged to the Black Vatican. He imagined the factory would have lots of chimneys and be on a spacious ground patrolled by armed guards.

“I don’t see anyone around...” Mo Fan crept closer. It felt like the rapid current of the river could knock the mound to the bottom of the waterfall at any second.

Mo Fan knocked on the wooden door after he reached the mound.

“Is anyone here? I’m a lecturer at the Aorus Sacred Institute. I lost my way while I was hunting in the woods. Can anyone show me the way back to the school? Hello? Is anyone in there?” Mo Fan shouted, but received no answer.

Mo Fan decided to break his way in instead of wasting his time.

Squeak! The door slowly swung open as Mo Fan was about to force his way in.

Mo Fan was greeted by hair dangling in front of a chubby face with a sleepy expression, followed by a pleasant scent.

A young woman?

Why would a young woman be taking a nap inside a Mound that served as an important security checkpoint so deep in the woods?

“It feels great taking a nap when it’s raining. Mister, do you want to take a nap with me?” the woman asked with a smile. Her alluring eyes enticed any man to strip her on the spot.

“(Cough cough), I just happened to lose my way in the woods. I’m not interested in taking a nap right now. I just want to ask if you have seen any strange people around here, like a plump middle-aged man who hides in the sewers and brews cooking oil with dead bodies,” Mo Fan replied blandly.

“Not really, but there’s a little witch that brews Potions in her pajamas. Does that intrigue you?” the woman who had referred to herself as a witch answered.

“What Potions? Can I take a look?” Mo Fan raised his eyebrows.

“Sure, I like to show people my work.” The little witch opened the door and invited Mo Fan in.

Mo Fan went inside without any hesitation. He immediately noticed the dead body on the dining table.

It was not a human corpse, but the dead body of a hairy Hillman. Its organs were exposed. A few spotlights were shining on it, so it was easier to observe it.

“It’s very interesting. It will go berserk when I feed it my Potion. It will attack anything that comes into view,” the witch explained happily.

“There must be a lot of Hillmen in the Andes Mountains,” Mo Fan murmured.

“I think so, so I was wondering whether the Aorus Sacred Institute would survive if I mixed my Potion with the rain,” the witch said with a charming smile.

“I bet it will end up as a burial ground,” Mo Fan judged.

“HAHA, Mo Fan, are you willing to witness that spectacular sight with me?” the witch asked lightly.

“I haven’t introduced myself,” Mo Fan frowned at her.

“You got the better of me... but you still owe me a favor. If I hadn’t killed the woman with the Cold Prince, you wouldn’t have been able to fight him with your full strength. It’s impressive that you were able to find this place. Why don’t you pretend you didn’t see a thing here to repay my favor?” the witch suggested.

“Blue Bat, it’s not the first time we have met. Your boring act isn’t going to work. How about this? If you hand over the Frenzy Liquid, I will go easy on you by leaving your corpse intact,” Mo Fan replied gravely.

“How bad of you, are you really not going to leave my corpse alone?” Blue Bat simpered.

Blue Bat was Salan’s proud student, but she had an unpredictable personality. She had been an expressionless woman when she was working for the Cold Prince. She had even come up with a pitiful background to trick him.

“Where’s your boss?” Mo Fan asked.

“Master has been busy lately, so I’m in charge here,” Blue Bat answered.

“Are you the mastermind behind the plan to raze the Aorus Sacred Institute to the ground?” Mo Fan blurted out in astonishment.

“How could you underestimate me? I’m the one who used you to get rid of the Cold Prince! I might not be comparable to a Red Cardinal after taking out the Cold Prince, but I’m at least at the same level as the Chief Extraditor,” Blue Bat complained to him.

“Who’s the Chief Extraditor?” Mo Fan bantered back.

“I’m not an idiot. I won’t answer your questions. I do like kids, so if you are willing to give me a son so I can raise him into a Red Cardinal to replace the Cold Prince, I’ll tell you who the Chief Extraditor is!” Blue Bat replied cheerfully.

“How did the Aorus Sacred Institute step on your tail?” Mo Fan continued, ignoring Blue Bat’s nonsense.

“I can tell you that for free,” Blue Bat sat on the table, completely ignoring the filthy dead body on it. She kicked her legs playfully and explaining to Mo Fan patiently, “Before master takes over the role of the Supreme Pontiff, she would like to settle the debts of her past life. As a result, those who voted with a black stone must die!”

“You mean the Magistrates who judged Wen Tai guilty?” Mo Fan was stunned.

Not too long ago, Schierling had told Mo Fan he used to be a Magistrate of the Holy Judgment Court. He had gotten that fire amber piece when he was still a Magistrate. Mo Fan did not expect him to be one of the Magistrates who were involved in Wen Tai’s case!

“So you weren’t aware of master’s motives even after so long... I mean, master’s path of redemption!” Blue Bat corrected herself.

Mo Fan suddenly noticed something odd. “You mentioned your master is planning to settle the debts of her past life. Is she dead, or is she an undead?”

“Idiot, master has claimed the title of the God of Death, so her identity before she became the God of Death is considered her past life. Wasn’t a son-in-law of master’s aware of her past life?” Blue Bat shot back.

Mo Fan’s face darkened. *What the heck!?*

Chapter 2242: Underground Factory

“You should just settle it with the person responsible. It was Schierling who voted with the Stone of Guilt. Just take him out. Why do you have to bring a bloodbath to the Aorus Sacred Institute? Won’t it just make your work harder?” Mo Fan protested.

“Killing one is a crime. Killing a bunch is a crime, too. What’s the difference?” Blue Bat answered easily.

Mo Fan scratched his head. He had been a teacher for a while. How could he convince Blue Bat to repent?

Forget it, it was meaningless to waste his time on her!

The look in Mo Fan’s eyes shifted. He was not going to fool around with Blue Bat anymore.

Blue Bat’s status had to be higher than a Blue Deacon. He could stop the operation by taking her out!

“Do you really think a delicate girl like me would stay in the wild by myself?” Blue Bat quickly realized Mo Fan’s intentions.

“It’s fine, I will kill every single one of you!” Mo Fan clenched his hands into claws. His eyes turned purple as sharp lightning flickered between his fingers.

The lightning did not dissipate or lunge at his enemy, remaining around Mo Fan’s fingers. When he swept his hands through a cross, the lightning tore at Blue Bat’s face like the claws of a demon.

Blue Bat remained smiling as her face was shattered by the lightning like a piece of glass. The pieces fell to the ground.

However, Mo Fan could still hear her laughter coming from a corner in the room. The laughter was discontinuous, like she was moving around.

“Are you so impatient, my little man?” Blue Bat was still inside the room, yet Mo Fan was struggling to find her.

“Lightning Rending Claws!”

Mo Fan stuck his fingers into a few spots where the presence of Lightning was the strongest and tore them apart.

Thick Lightning Rending Claws swept across the structure and destroyed it like popping a bubble. The disintegrated walls collapsed and fell into their surroundings.

Even the foundation was left with lots of gouges all over it. The flowing river was temporarily cut off. Mo Fan jumped out from the debris and fixed his eyes on a shadow in the river.

The shadow was like a thin piece of clothing that had fallen into the river accidentally. People would assume it was just a piece of plastic if they were not looking closely. Mo Fan gathered the lightning around him without any hesitation.

He combined the arcs of lightning into a lightning spear and threw it at the shadow in the water.

BANG!

The lightning spear exploded after landing on the top of the river. The lightning arcs surged like wild and sharp blades in the water.

“Seriously, you’ve torn my favorite shirt to pieces...” Blue Bat taunted him. She was weaving through the lightning arcs like a water snake. Mo Fan’s Lightning had failed to restrain her.

Blue Bat suddenly rose from the water as she reached the waterfall. Countless water droplets were circling her.

Blue Bat waved her hands as she was hanging in the air above the waterfall. The water droplets began to fire at Mo Fan like a chain of bullets!

Mo Fan felt like a dozen automatic rifles were firing at him. He did not expect the water droplets to be so terrifying.

The shore and the river's surface were soon peppered with bullet holes. Mo Fan tried covering himself behind a boulder, but the ten-meter-thick boulder quickly ended up looking like a beehive.

"Don't you want to save the Aorus Sacred Institute? Try your best to stop me!" Blue Bat stopped floating in the air. She hugged her knees and somersaulted into the lake under the waterfall like a professional diver!

Mo Fan was not going to let her escape. He quickly went to the edge and summoned an enormous meteorite of Hellish Flames!

He was going to destroy the entire waterfall so Blue Bat had nowhere to escape to!

Sparkles were flickering amid the gray rain. The light was getting brighter.

The meteorite of Hellish Flames fell from the sky with a loud howl. The raindrops nearby evaporated. The meteor's flames were going to burn the woods to ashes!

The meteorite followed the curtain of water down and slammed heavily into the lake. White steam immediately rose from the lake as its water blew into steam instantly.

The lake turned into a huge pit after it was dried out by the Hellish Flames. The raindrops falling from the sky struggled to put out the remaining Hellish Flames.

Flames were dancing wildly amid the white mist. Even the river above the waterfall had dried up. For the moment, the waterfall had ceased to exist!

Mo Fan searched around him. If Blue Bat was in the lake, she would have sustained serious injuries from the flames. However, he did not see Blue Bat anywhere.

The woman's ability to hide and run away was unmatched. Mo Fan had no way to predict where she would go next.

Mo Fan soon discovered a cave that had been behind the curtain of water. He only saw it after the waterfall had disappeared. "Damn it, she tricked me!"

As the rain kept pouring down, the river began filling up again. The cave was gradually filling with water.

Mo Fan was a little hesitant, as he was not a good swimmer. If he chased after Blue Bat, he would have a hard time retreating once the water covered the cave.

If Blue Bat ran away, the Aorus Sacred Institute would have no chance of survival. The rain of Frenzy Liquid was going to provoke every Hillman in the Andes Mountains to attack the school. No defense could possibly stop the attack. Not only would the Aorus Sacred Institute be destroyed, the villages and towns that were working for the Aorus Sacred Institute would fall victim to the attack too!

Mo Fan clenched his teeth. He had no choice but to chase after Blue Bat. He had to keep going, whether it was a dragon swamp or a den of tigers!

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Mo Fan turned into a shadow sparrow and flew into the pitch-black cave behind the waterfall.

There were torches in the cave. It seemed the people of the Black Vatican were active here.

Mo Fan followed the path through the damp cave and discovered a flight of stairs.

Mo Fan's footsteps were loud and clear on the stairs, but the enemy already knew he was coming. It was meaningless to hide his presence now.

The cave slowly became spacious, with more torches lighting up his surroundings.

Mo Fan found himself in a spacious cavern. He was wondering how the Black Vatican produced the Frenzy Liquid in the small mound. It did not suit these evil people who were planning to destroy the world. He immediately smiled wryly when he saw the cavern ahead.

The place was full of rusted steel plates. There were pipes, hoses, cans, and containers everywhere. The chimneys were lined up in straight rows like stalactites.

The bottom of the stairs was a junkyard!

Chapter 2243: Head Priest Wu Ku

Flames were burning wildly. The junkyard was piled with the Frenzy Poppies Mo Fan and his group were looking for. It was obvious that the Frenzy Poppies had already been refined into the Frenzy Liquid. They were only burning the remains of the flowers. The strange smell in the air made Mo Fan feel like he had set foot into an opium hall in the eighteen-hundreds. His throat actually felt sticky from the smoke!

Sounds were approaching Mo Fan rapidly from every direction. Mo Fan looked around and noticed six people in brown kasayas [*classic Buddhist monk-style robe*] standing not far from him. Their faces were hidden under the hoods of their robes, revealing only painted blue lips and scarred chins.

Standing behind them, Blue Bat had changed into a different outfit. Her dark red and tight-fitting clothing with snake stripes made her look like a venomous snake. Her eyes emitted a toying glow at her prey.

"I wonder how much your Cultivation has improved lately. I can test your skills with a few of my Executioners, who I'm very proud of," Blue Bat informed him gleefully.

Mo Fan did not answer her question. He was focusing on the other person standing beside Blue Bat.

The person standing there beside her was wearing a kasaya too, but its color had already faded away. His face was covered by a piece of cloth, leaving only his eyes visible.

The man was staring at Mo Fan. Mo Fan's Dark Vein became restless at that instant. Its ability to predict danger was active!

The Dark Vein burst out of Mo Fan's pores and sent a shiver down his spine.

However, Mo Fan found both the man's eyes and his temperament very familiar, including the alert from the Dark Vein.

"It's him!"

Mo Fan soon recalled who the man was. He had met him before!

He had seen him in the Sacred City of Lhasa when he and Mu Ningxue were strolling through the streets. It was the worshiper who had given him an uneasy feeling!

Mo Fan thought he was the Heretic the Sacred Palace Mage and Heresy Judgment Court were after. Even though they were looking for Qin Yu'er, Mo Fan somehow had a feeling the man was a Heretic, too.

Why is the man here? He remembered Lily mentioning that they had invited a master from China. Was she referring to this man?

"Let's hope you enjoy yourself here. Wu Ku, time for us to leave. We have something more important to handle," Blue Bat told the monk beside her.

Mo Fan pointed at Wu Ku and yelled, "Don't go yet! Shouldn't you be delivering all living creatures from suffering as a monk? Why are you taking the side of the evildoers instead?!"

"Seeing the world suffering will deliver me from my own sufferings," Wu Ku removed the cloth on his face, revealing a sincere yet twisted grin.

"Damn it, another lunatic again!" Mo Fan cursed aloud.

"Mo Fan, how amusing are you, treating Wu Ku as a real monk! He's the mastermind behind the tragedy that took place in your Bo City!" Blue Bat laughed at him.

Mo Fan's face darkened. He glared at Wu Ku, who was obviously neither a monk nor a Daoist!

"Blue Bat, are you seriously giving up on your soul too?" Mo Fan said coldly.

"My soul has always belonged to another person... You never really understood us, even though you've been on our tail for such a long time, have you?" Blue Bat scoffed.

Mo Fan did not respond, waiting for Blue Bat to finish her performance.

"Master has three reliable right hands: the Chief Extraditor, the Head Priest, and the Evil Herbalist. This bald man here is the Head Priest serving under master. My master was never involved in the incident of Bo City. It was the Head Priest and Great Deacon Hu Jin's work," Blue Bat informed him.

"Work?" Mo Fan's smile turned even icier.

"Yeah, my three seniors each have an impressive portfolio. People know who they are at the mention of their work, unlike me. Even though I killed the Cold Prince, it was you who took all the merits. I have yet to do something where I can make a name for myself, so the Aorus Sacred Institute will be my final project before I graduate. The Aorus Sacred Institute is none of your concern. Why do you have to interfere with my business?" Blue Bat complained plaintively, pausing briefly to observe Mo Fan's reaction.

She had obviously noticed Mo Fan was about to lose his temper. Bo City was his reverse scale. Most people still had no idea who was responsible for the tragedy of Bo City.

Bo City was only a small city. Destroying it did not bring Salan any benefits, since she was usually responsible for incidents at the scale of a calamity, like the one that had occurred at the Ancient Capital.

Bo City was only a testing ground for the real calamity in the Ancient Capital. However, Salan was not in charge of the test. Head Priest Wu Ku had been!

“Mo Fan, how about this... if you promise me not to interfere with my business with the Aorus Sacred Institute, I can swear an oath with my soul that I won’t trouble your country for the next ten years. My work must be perfect to be approved by master,” Blue Bat teased a negotiation at him.

“You will have plenty of time to negotiate once you are in Hell!” Mo Fan started emitting a black gas. It did not appear like a mist, but more like the steam from an engine!

The Elder of the Shadow Tribe, carrying chains from Hell, slowly appeared from the black steam. It glared at Blue Bat and Wu Ku, as if they were priorities on its wanted list.

“Do you really have to interfere with my business?” Blue Bat’s expression darkened when she saw Mo Fan was not planning to waste any more time.

“Don’t you think you can negotiate with me just because we have talked a little before. Your petty acting is like a centipede which isn’t going to feast on humans for the moment. It’s disgusting!” The black steam Mo Fan was emitting thickened.

Blue Bat’s expression grew even darker. She was a completely different person compared to when she was wearing a smile. The look in her eyes alone was brimming with evil, not to mention the cheerful fake smile she had been wearing most of the time. Only those who had lost their mind would have such a strange expression.

None of the people in the Black Vatican were normal. Blue Bat might disguise herself as an approachable woman at first, but she had the same expression when she was skinning her victims and drinking their blood. Her emotions had already gone haywire!

If she was smiling when she was killing people, she could no longer be considered a human. What was the point of negotiating with a person like her?

“Are you going to fool around with him here?” Wu Ku asked her.

“Just for a while, you may leave first,” Blue Bat replied.

“Just make sure everything is fine.” Wu Ku obviously did not want to stick around.

“He’s going to ruin our plan if we don’t take care of him,” Blue Bat warned him.

“Mm, but make sure you capture him alive. I think the Red Cardinal will like it.”

“I can’t give you my promise.”

Chapter 2244: The Evil Monk Executioners

“Spider Scorpion Formation!” Blue Bat ordered coldly.

The six monks immediately spread out in a strange formation. They were crawling up on the pipes and chimney flues like spiders and scorpions instead of walking on their feet.

They had all four limbs on the surfaces, and were surprisingly quick when they were crawling. Mo Fan might even have assumed they were spiders and scorpions under their kasayas if he could not see their faces.

These people were like Mages, yet their Auras were different from the usual Auras of Mages. If Mo Fan had to describe them as something, he believed Dark Beast Monsters was the most appropriate.

Dark Beast Monsters disguised as humans!

The six monks spread in different directions around Mo Fan, linked by dark green strings. The strings wove rapidly around Mo Fan as they kept changing positions.

Mo Fan tried to relocate himself too, but the six monks followed him as a group. The strange strings soon surrounded him.

Mo Fan tried burning the strings with his flames, but they were surprisingly tough. He could only destroy the strings by refining his flames.

However, even if he spent some time focusing his flames, he was slower at destroying the strings than the monks were at forming them!

The underground factory was soon filled with strings. It looked like the place was crawling with a few hundred enormous spiders that had entrapped their prey!

“A bunch of monsters,” Mo Fan snarled.

The strings were obviously resistant to Elemental Magic. If Mo Fan did not focus on destroying the strings, he would be assaulted by the six monks!

Mo Fan tried attacking the monks to stop them from constructing the Formation, but they were oddly quick as they maintained a safe distance from him. They were like a bunch of annoying flies Mo Fan was struggling to drive away.

“Scorpion Strike!” Blue Bat ordered, acting as the mastermind behind the six monks.

Mo Fan was completely surrounded by the strings now. Some were as thick as pieces of cloth a few hundred meters long. They dangled above the ground and hung horizontally in front of him, covering up the monks’ movements.

The evil monks were able to crawl on the strings without making a sound, and were a lot quicker when crawling on them. Not only was Mo Fan’s vision hindered by the strings, his movements were restricted. It was like he had gone into the Cave of the Silken Web in Journey to the West!

The evil monks’ arms also bore black gauntlets with segments that resembled the tail of a scorpion!

When the first one swung his arms, a terrifying flicker swept at Mo Fan’s throat. The sharp scorpion tails were not showing him any mercy!

Mo Fan quickly jumped away and split into six shadow sparrows flying in different directions inside the surrounding strings.

He was in a very bad position. Not only was his vision hindered, he was surrounded by his enemies. He could not even tell if his enemies were within ten meters of him.

The scorpion tail struck with another icy flash, hitting a shadow sparrow on the back.

The shadow sparrow puffed and dispersed in a cloud of thick black smoke. It was only a decoy.

The same sound came from other directions, as the remaining shadow sparrows were taken down by the other monks. Their movements were in sync even when they were scattered across the area. It was difficult for Mo Fan to do anything.

Mo Fan had not moved at all. All six shadow sparrows were mere decoys. He was only testing if he could escape from the strange formation with his Shadow Element.

However, judging from how quickly the shadow sparrows had fallen, he knew the evil monks would intercept him before he flew two hundred meters.

The venomous scorpion tails were not the biggest problem. Mo Fan could not even figure out where the evil monks were. These things that looked like Mages were more mysterious than the demon creatures he had encountered. He knew they were nearby, yet his magic was having a hard time locating them.

They would just disappear amid the strings with a single step. It was like a fight between Martial Artists in a workshop of dyes where pieces of cloth were hung up to dry. They would suddenly appear from the cloth behind him and ambush him!

"I wonder if this will work," Mo Fan closed his eyes and established the Domain of his Earth Element.

Star Dust!

He was making sure his enemies could not ambush him by defending himself with the energy of the Domain, but it was not his true goal.

Mo Fan's defense was nowhere near as sturdy as Zhao Manyan's. His Star Dust required a continuous intake of energy to replenish the barrier. It was not very effective if the six evil monks were not attacking him with magic.

"Elemental Accumulation!"

Mo Fan dodged a surprise attack from behind. He quickly gathered his magic around the figure that had attacked him.

Elemental Seal!

It was indeed the same technique Nelson had demonstrated in his class. Nelson might be scum, but his technique was oddly useful in certain situations.

Mo Fan closed his eyes, sensing the density of the Earth Magic around him. He noticed the evil monk backing over a hundred meters away after the attack. It silently crawled up to a pipe above him.

Mo Fan was able to detect a glowing outline of his enemies through the density of his Earth Magic. He could roughly see the evil monk hanging above him.

However, the evil monk that was tagged did not attack Mo Fan right away. It was watching Mo Fan as closely as a spider.

It was waiting for the other five monks to attack Mo Fan so it could deliver the killing blow at the right time!

Mo Fan grinned.

I can see you now. Just wait up there. I'll deal with you after I've tagged your friends too!

Mo Fan had to wait for the evil monks to attack him before he could tag them with his Earth Magic. He did not take out the evil monk above him, since he did not want the rest to notice he was able to see them now!

He would lay low for now by pretending he was unable to attack them back. He was roaming around aimlessly like a blind man in the maze of strings.

Second Seal!

Third Seal!

Fourth Seal, and fifth Seal!

There was only one left. He wondered when it was going to attack him...

Chapter 2245: Camper

The Star Dust floated down to Mo Fan's feet and formed a pair of fine boots.

Mo Fan had stopped using his Magic Boots ages ago. He had never had the chance to upgrade his magic Equipment since he was short on funds, but he recently discovered he could attach the Star Dust to his feet like a pair of high-quality Magic Boots, granting his feet enormous strength!

When he stepped forward with his left foot, a great impact deformed the ground, shattering the wet rocks under his foot before propelling him to the side like an arrow, evading the scorpion tails lashing at him from three different directions.

"How strange, aren't they at least two hundred meters away from me?" Mo Fan nailed his feet to a chimney, hanging sideways on the wall.

The three attacks were obviously from three different evil monks, but the five evil monks he had tagged were on the other side.

Shouldn't there only be one evil monk he had yet to tag?

Did they see through my trick?, Mo Fan wondered.

"That's not possible, they shouldn't know I've Marked them..." he muttered. "Damn it, I almost fell for it. There are more than six of them!"

Mo Fan heard a strange noise from the chimney just as he arrived at that conclusion.

PA! A huge scorpion tail smashed through the inside of the chimney and stabbed straight at Mo Fan's chest.

Mo Fan could not react in time. He forcibly turned in the air to dodge the attack, but lost his balance and started falling from the chimney because of it.

The chimney was a few dozen meters high. As Mo Fan was falling with the debris, several figures sprang at him simultaneously and attacked him with their spider claws before he could regain his balance!

Their claws were several meters long, another transformation of the gauntlets that the evil monks had. They were oddly sharp, and ordinary Magic Equipment had no chance of stopping them. The gauntlets were a type of Deathstrike Magic Equipment!

Mo Fan's Star Dust had not accumulated enough energy to defend him from the claws. He quickly constructed a Space Star Constellation.

"Blink!"

It felt like a few spiders were fighting over food in midair. They were going to tear Mo Fan into pieces in the blink of an eye!

Mo Fan fell into a silver polygon before the claws struck him, and disappeared into it.

Mo Fan fell onto some jars a few hundred meters away. The evil monks who were in the air turned around. They did not understand how Mo Fan had moved from one spot to the other.

Mo Fan clambered back to his feet and looked at the chimney. He cursed under his breath while tagging the five evil monks who had attacked him!

"There are eleven of them!"

Mo Fan had only seen six evil monks at first, so he had focused on tracking down the six evil monks after they surrounded him in the formation. He only realized there were more than six of them after he began marking them with his Elemental Magic.

In other words, there were only six evil monks when they were preparing the formation. Once the area was covered with strings, five more evil monks had emerged from cover. They had backed away after their attacks with great speed so Mo Fan would think there were still only six of them!

It turned out Nelson's technique of marking the enemies with Elemental Magic was more useful than it seemed. Not only was Mo Fan able to track down his enemies in complicated terrain, he could also confirm their numbers to prevent himself from being ambushed.

Mo Fan had marked eleven enemies, yet he was still not sure if there were even more of them.

The evil monks were using magic Equipment, thus the Circle of Crystal Teeth did not have a lot of Shards, and it was unlikely he could rely on the Star Dust to defend himself.

Besides, being defensive was not Mo Fan's style either. He had only taken a defensive stance first so he could study his enemies!

Mo Fan started repositioning himself. When he went back to his initial spot, he noticed the monk that was hanging above him was still in the same spot. It had only moved a little.

“It’s waiting for an opportunity!” Mo Fan grinned.

The evil monk had not moved because it did not want Mo Fan to notice it. It would strike when the evil monks drove Mo Fan back to this spot, trying to take him out with a deadly blow.

“I’ll deal with you first!” Mo Fan threw a punch above himself.

The flames spread like a swamp; a fiery serpent emerged from it and soared into the air!

The evil monk was sporting a sinister grin as it waited for Mo Fan to fall into the trap. To its surprise, it was greeted by a ferocious burning serpent coming right at it. The serpent had already rammed its head into the creature by the time it tried to scuttle away. It was slammed back into the solid ceiling above it!

BANG!

The blast blew a crater open and filled it with flames. The evil monk quickly turned into charcoal after it was smashed into the hole.

It still did not understand how Mo Fan knew where it was as it died. Even if Mo Fan had eyes above its head, the strings would still block his sight!

“F**king camper!” Mo Fan cursed. “And you, do you think I don’t know you are hiding under the ground? If you like the ground so much, you can stay in it forever!”

Mo Fan suddenly slammed his palm on the ground. Rocks erupted in the shape of a circle, followed by strong vibrations deeper in the ground.

The rocks in the area were condensing rapidly. The soil hardened with a higher density and loosened with a lower density. The evil monk was hiding in loose soil, allowing it to move around freely, like a scorpion under the ground.

Mo Fan compressed the soil with Earth Wave, filling up the gaps between the sand to harden the ground.

The evil monk was crushed to death before it had time to burst out of the ground. Its remains were stuck between the rocks. He had even saved it the cost of a funeral!

“Trying to ambush me from behind? Why don’t you look around first?” Mo Fan turned around and saw an icy flicker approaching.

Mo Fan had also spread the Aura of his Dark Vein out as he was Marking his enemies.

The evil monk assumed Mo Fan was trying to trick it, and completely ignored his warning.

However, a black arm wrapped around its neck and clenched tightly even as it approached Mo Fan. The grip was so strong that it suffocated instantly.

The evil monk struggled fiercely to break free from the grip, but an icy dagger stabbed deeply into its right eye!

Chapter 2246: If You're Really Students...

"AHHHHH!" the evil monk whose right eye had been pierced shrieked in pain. They were specifically trained by the Black Vatican to kill, so they were already numb to pain, but the Shadow Demon's strike was so brutal and painful that it fainted right away.

The Shadow Demon wrapped its long arm around the monk's neck and strangled it to death after it lost consciousness.

"Holy crap, who taught you that? Shouldn't you give it some face?" Mo Fan grumbled after witnessing the monk's death.

Couldn't the shade just slice its throat and give it a quick death? Why did it have to strangle the evil monk to death with its arm? The monk struggled so fiercely, but the shade had knocked the monk unconscious first before strangling it to death. Mo Fan had never seen a Shadow Demon with such a twisted personality!

Shadow Demons were Darkness Creatures that appeared after the Dark Material had absorbed a victim's energy. They were the creatures from the Dark Plane most frequently Summoned by a Black Mage.

Most Shadow Demons had their own ways of killing. Slicing a victim's throat was the most common way. Stabbing in the heart was quite common too, but a few arrogant Shadow Demons had certain preferences when it came to killing their prey.

However, those arrogant Shadow Demons were usually close to evolving to their next form. Once they mastered different killing techniques, it would not be long until they evolved into an Elder of the Shadow Tribe. So far, Mo Fan had not seen any of the Elders of the Shadow Tribe killing their prey with the same techniques!

—

The rest of the evil monks stopped attacking after Mo Fan took out three of them.

The creatures were obviously intelligent, and realized that Mo Fan was able to sense where they were hiding. They would only end up like their dead comrades if they kept attacking recklessly!

"Do you think I can't find you after you stop attacking?" Mo Fan had already marked eleven of the monks. He could sense their whereabouts perfectly. "Giant Shadow Spikes!"

Mo Fan waved his hand and fired the upgraded version of the Shadow Spikes at the creature that had tried to ambush him from behind the chimney.

The chimney had smoke coming out of it. Mo Fan simply ignited it and set the chimney on fire.

The evil monk was nailed to the chimney. Flames started rising under its feet, like it was waiting for a death sentence after being nailed to a wooden post. It could only beg the flames to burn a little slower or grant it a quick death!

“Didn’t you guys want to dismember me? I shall give you the same treatment!” Mo Fan stared at the monks that had shown up later.

“Awoo!”

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf suddenly lunged forward out of nowhere and bit a monk that was hiding behind the jars.

The Wolf was not in a rush to snap the monk’s neck. He sprinted along while dragging the evil monk with him and stomped onto the back of another monk, knocking it into the junkyard that was now in flames.

The Wolf broke the first monk’s neck and dug his claws into its body. Its blood and flesh soon scattered through the air.

The Flying Creek Snow Wolf was very excited, as it had been a long time since Mo Fan Summoned him to fight on his behalf. He showed the evil monks no mercy!

The evil monks were taken out one by one. Blue Bat remained at the side throughout the fight. Her subordinates were as worthless as a pack of wild dogs to her. She did not think it was a pity to lose them.

The evil monks were not strong individually, but they were a nuisance when they had the number advantage. Unfortunately, they were not much of a threat to Mo Fan. It was a one-sided fight after Mo Fan saw through their trick.

—

The Sixth Mound...

Zhao Manyan felt like he was a qualified engineer after he managed to fix the path across the river. He managed to find the source of the river through the complicated terrain.

“We have to go, Mo Fan must have come into contact with people of the Black Vatican by now,” Mu Bai said urgently.

Mu Bai had placed a few flea-like insects on Mo Fan before he left. Most of them had died when Mo Fan took the Teleportation Portal, but the last one had died not long ago, conveying the impression that Mo Fan was involved in a fight.

“I know that too, but we have to find our way to the Seventh Mound first, because of the stupid design of these Mounds!” Zhao Manyan swore.

—

They followed the path and found their way to the Seventh Mound.

The Seventh Mound was located near a dam. The water in the dam was about to spill over due to the recent heavy downpours.

They found a group of soaked students on the dam, resting under a little booth. They seemed injured.

“They must be the students who lost their way,” Zhao Manyan murmured.

“Mm, let’s go and ask them,” Mu Bai nodded.

The two ran to the booth. The rain was getting heavier. The mountains were getting chillier too, making them feel uncomfortable.

“Students, have you seen any outsiders in the mountains?” Mu Bai asked them.

“Are you a teacher? Didn’t you come to rescue us? Why are you asking us such a strange question?” one of the students answered.

“We have something more important to attend to. By the way, where is your teacher?” Mu Bai asked.

“We don’t know. We were separated. It’s only us here...”

“Aren’t you the guest lecturers from China? Didn’t you come to bring us back to school?”

Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan were getting headaches. These students only wanted to go back to the Aorus Sacred Institute. They were not going to learn anything useful from them.

However, it seemed like they had not encountered the Black Vatican. The Seventh Mound should be safe now, since they had repaired the path. The people of the Aorus Sacred Institute would soon come and escort the students back to school.

“We have to go to the Eighth Mound for something important. Just keep an eye on the surroundings and don’t go around alone,” Mu Bai warned them.

“Don’t go, our teacher is already missing. It’s dangerous for us to stay here!” a tall student spoke up.

“It’s fine, you are safe here. We are really in a hurry...”

“What is more important than our lives? Aren’t you teachers?”

Mu Bai frowned. He was already tired of looking after these students, yet their teacher was not with them?

“So why are you keeping us here?” Zhao Manyan went up to the tall student watching them coldly.

“I was hoping you could protect us,” the student stated uncertainly.

“Is that so? I don’t mind protecting you... if you are really students,” Zhao Manyan said agreeably.

Mu Bai glanced at Zhao Manyan in surprise. *They are not students?*

What are they, then?

Chapter 2247: Venomous Insect Shamans

“What...what are you talking about?” The tall student began to panic.

“Humph, Hansen is already compromised. He has already given me the names of his associates. There’s no point in putting up a disguise any further!” Zhao Manyan sneered.

The tall student’s expression changed instantly.

Hansen was compromised?

Didn't he do a good job with his cover? He was staying close to Sancha. He was supposed to be the last person among them to blow his cover!

However, the guy had mentioned Hansen's name right away. It meant he knew everything!

"We don't know what you are talking about..." the tall student took a step back with a fake smile.

"Perhaps you are tired of living!"

His eyes suddenly emitted a ghastly light, like a ghost.

He had a huge build already, but his body continued to expand after his eyes started glowing. His muscles were wriggling like there were bugs under his skin.

The wriggling bugs were enlarging his body!

Green ooze poured out of the student's body as ten huge maggots wrapped around him and turned him into a monster!

"Don't even bother using these petty tricks in front of your Grandpa Zhao!" Zhao Manyan scoffed at him.

The glow in the student's eyes obviously belonged to Curse or Psychic Magic. It was inflicting fear on Zhao Manyan, trying to make him hallucinate!

There was no way a living human could turn into a monster crawling with bugs in an instant. He was not the f**king Hulk!

The monster let out a cry!

Centipedes, spiders, scorpions, and poisonous maggots came out of his throat and flew at Zhao Manyan and Mu Bai like a sandstorm.

Zhao Manyan chuckled. *Trying to trick us with an illusion?*

It was just a breath attack at most. Even if the student did turn into a monster, how could there be so many venomous insects in his body?

Zhao Manyan casually cast a defensive spell. He totally assumed the student was tricking them with an illusion.

The centipedes were as long as human arms, the spiders were as big as human heads, and the maggots were half a meter long. They fell upon Zhao Manyan in great numbers.

Zhao Manyan was like a retard standing on a deck. Not only was he soaked from the splashes of the waves, he was soon going to be buried by the rolling waves!

Mu Bai was shocked when he saw what was going on with Zhao Manyan.

Those insects are real!

In other words, the tall student was not using an illusion. He had turned into a monster for real!

Mu Bai had no idea what kind of magic the student was using, but there were indeed ways to turn into a monster. He took a step back cautiously.

The rest of the students did not run after they saw the tall student turning into a monster. They were obviously on its side.

The uniforms that three of the students were wearing burst open as different insects began emerging from their pores.

The tanned body of one of the female students was crawling with beetles. It looked like a bunch of savage beetles were eating her flesh.

The beetles were only thumb-sized, but their numbers were so great that they were crawling on one another's shells.

They had no idea how many layers the beetles had stacked up into. They seemed to be moving around randomly, yet they were crawling in the same direction as the female student.

"A Wriggling Insect Monster, and a Beetle Monster!"

Mu Bai was sure that these people were using Poison Magic. However, it would take a person's entire life to raise enough venomous insects to cover them up and turn them into a monster.

They even had to feed the insects with their own flesh, so they would be compatible with them!

That being said, the strange magic was not a symbol of the Black Vatican, but of the Venomous Insects Shamans, which were quite common in the Andes Mountains.

The Andes Mountains had the safest insects in the world. Mages had been using them to turn themselves into Venomous Insect Shamans for several centuries.

The infamous shamans in Peru were of the same tradition as these Venomous Insect Shamans.

Mu Bai glanced at Zhao Manyan as he crawled to his feet after being fed a banquet of seafood. His whole body was swelling up from being stung by the insects.

His eyelids were so swollen that he looked like Ultraman!

Mu Bai let out a sigh.

Zhao Manyan had learned a great lesson from being ignorant.

He should have realized those people were a bunch of Venomous Insects Shamans when he saw their bodies were covered in insects.

Their sweat pores could attract venomous mosquitoes. Their saliva contained the eggs of insects. Their flesh was a breeding ground for the bugs!

"Old Zhao, keep going forward and make your way to the Eighth Mound. I'll handle these Venomous Insects Shamans," Mu Bai told him.

Mu Bai had experimented a lot on insects. He always wanted to meet a Venomous Insect Shaman in the Andes Mountains. He was fine with fighting a Venomous Insect Shaman, if he could not befriend one.

“Take care of yourself. Have you been keeping a journal lately? Why don’t you tell me where I can find it before we split up,” Zhao Manyan managed to reply.

“Just go!”

“Oh...”

Zhao Manyan tried his best to keep his eyes open. His eyes were so swollen that he could only see straight ahead.

He wondered if rubbing the stings with a boiled egg was going to help. It would be tricky to look for the Eighth Mound under his circumstances...

Zhao Manyan looked behind him with a worried expression after running a hundred meters away from the dam.

Those students were obviously members of the Black Vatican. They had pretended to go on an excursion to destroy the path between the Sixth and Seventh Mounds. They were guarding the Seventh Mound to stop people from going to the Ninth Mound.

The Black Vatican was clearly up to something!

Luckily, he had been smart enough to trick the students into exposing themselves.

The truth was, he had not known for sure that the students were hiding something. It was impossible to identify a member of the Black Vatican unless they took their masks off themselves.

Zhao Manyan quickly came up with the idea of claiming Hansen, who had disguised himself as Sancha’s bodyguard, was compromised.

Hansen was stronger than most of the students in the school. Zhao Manyan guessed he might be leading the spies in the school.

He just had to give it a try to find out the answer!

Zhao Manyan was quite pleased with himself. He had been getting smarter lately.

A deafening roar shook the woods while Zhao Manyan was still immersed in self-admiration. He saw a giant creature rising from the water.

The creature was an insect too, yet it was as imperious as a dragon and as menacing as a snake!

The bulging wings on its back were made of sharp scales. It looked like a futuristic battleship when it spread its wings!

Its horns, wings, and bones were intimidating to look at. Anyone would feel like they were suffocating under its pressure!

“Holy crap, what a powerful monster! Mu Bai, please don’t die...” Zhao Manyan gasped.

Hang on...

Why is the creature attacking the members of the Black Vatican?

Seriously? Is it Mu Bai's pet?

*That's f**king insane!*

Chapter 2248: It's All a Misunderstanding

—

Since Mu Bai had Summoned the Ruler-level Insect he had raised, Zhao Manyan believed the fight would only last for a few minutes.

Zhao Manyan put on a suit of Concealing Armor as he made his way to the Eighth Mound. It was not very useful in fights, but it could help him avoid demon creatures when he was in their territory.

Most demon creatures were carnivores. They would attack humans at first sight, and those with a sharp sense of smell could pick up a human scent from several kilometers away. It was unlikely that human Mages who ventured too deep into the woods would leave in one piece.

This expensive magic Equipment was useful in situations like this, like an invisible hack. Zhao Manyan did not have to worry about attracting demon creatures as he ventured deep into their territories.

They would only treat him like a common hare in the woods, which they would not bother wasting their time on.

Zhao Manyan kept hearing roars of demon creatures between the Seventh and Eighth Mounds. He was not as strong as Mo Fan, and could not just clear a path with force. He would find himself at a standstill if he was surrounded by demon creatures!

“Strange, where is the Mound?”

“It’s supposed to be here, but why is there nothing but a muddy swamp?”

“These mud statues look very real, but why are they in such weird postures?”

“So it’s here, I was almost buried alive under the mud! Why did they build the Eighth Mound in a pit?”

Zhao Manyan looked around and discovered a structure in the mud pit. It had almost blended in with the surroundings.

He was merely following the guidance of the green stones. He was about to set out for the Ninth Mound when a filthy man crawled out of a half-collapsed structure.

The man was wearing a kasaya. He smelled like mud, too.

“Brother, what happened here? Are you alright?” Zhao Manyan quickly went over and helped the man up.

“I’m fine!” The man was a little alert, yet pretended to be grateful.

“Someone is trying to break through the Seventh Mound, so Hansen told me to deliver a message, but I didn’t find anyone here. I was about to go to the Ninth Mound,” Zhao Manyan told the man.

"I'm not sure what happened here either. I'm just a little Deacon," the monk answered.

"That's a little troublesome," Zhao Manyan wiped off the rain on his face. His expression suddenly changed, "A little Deacon will do!"

Zhao Manyan suddenly slammed his right fist into his left palm. A brown light burst out of his hands and spread rapidly into their surroundings.

The brown light swept across the mud nearby. A huge boulder with jagged edges emerged from the swamp. It was as heavy and thick as a bridge pier!

More bridge piers emerged from the swamp and surrounded the area like a wrestling ring.

The monk was trapped in the ring together with Zhao Manyan, who had a grin on his face.

He really was getting smarter. He was able to expose a Deacon of the Black Vatican so easily!

A Deacon's status was quite high in the Black Vatican. Even though they were after the Evil Herbalist, it was likely that the Deacon might know where the Evil Herbalist was!

"Brother, what are you doing? I didn't do anything to you," the monk protested with a confused face.

"I'm just building a shelter from the rain. Don't take it seriously," Zhao Manyan replied lightly.

A shelter from the rain? The monk felt an urge to spit on Zhao Manyan's face. The ring was completely enclosed. There was no gap for even sunlight to pass through!

On top of that, the ring was slowly shrinking. It was obvious that only one of them could leave the ring alive!

"Brother, you should think twice about this. I'm just a pilgrim. I'm not a fan of killing and fighting. I don't care which faction you are from. Let's just treat it as a simple meet and greet," the monk offered quickly.

"Why are you so oily-mouthed as a monk? Isn't your job delivering all living creatures from suffering?" Zhao Manyan scolded him.

"Are you saying I don't have work ethics? After what happened last time, I went to Potala Palace and prayed for every life that was lost. I've already prayed thirty-four thousand six hundred and seventy times," the monk said righteously.

The monk purposely took off his hood to reveal his forehead and face.

He was surprisingly tanned. There were obvious scars on his forehead, which looked like his third eye.

"After what happened? What do you mean?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"Bo City! I prayed the same times as the number of casualties. How can you say I have no virtue? It's rare to find a considerate monk like me!" the monk Wu Ku stated proudly.

"F**k me!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

What the heck? Wasn't he just a little Deacon? How is he even related to Bo City?

Wasn't Bo City Mo Fan's hometown? There were a lot of casualties during the calamity, but Zhao Manyan had no idea of the exact number. How could this monk know the number by heart?

"Who? Who are you!?" Zhao Manyan demanded.

"Why are you trapping me here if you don't know who I am?" Wu Ku's eyes widened.

Wu Ku thought the man already knew he was a Head Priest in the Black Vatican, and that was why he had trapped him in the ring.

Wu Ku even panicked a little. He had thought Zhao Manyan was an authority of the Holy Judgment Court, or one of the Angels of the Sacred City.

It turned out to be a false alarm!

"You told me you were only a little Deacon, so I was planning to take you down in return for some prize money!" Zhao Manyan replied quickly.

"I was lying to you when I found out you weren't telling the truth... it seems there's a little misunderstanding between us," Wu Ku answered.

"Yeah, it's a misunderstanding," Zhao Manyan felt his head hurting.

The guy was not just a little Deacon! He was actually someone important in the Black Vatican, based on what he knew about Bo City!

Zhao Manyan was well aware of his own strength. It was impossible for him to take on a core member of the Black Vatican, since he was just a defensive Mage!

"Actually, I don't like killing and fighting either..." Zhao Manyan lost his confidence.

The monk was a little too strong for him. He had no chance of defeating him. He had to drag the fight out until Mo Fan or Mu Bai came along!

"So why don't we part ways without any hard feelings? I can tell you have a bright future ahead based on your looks. You shouldn't be risking your life on a petty monk like me, right?" Wu Ku proposed.

Wu Ku was also unsure of Zhao Manyan's strength, and he was not a great fighter. He just had some tricks to preserve his life.

Mo Fan's sudden appearance had disrupted their plans. Wu Ku had decided to run away on his own to protect his cover. He did not expect to stumble into a guy and get trapped in a ring as soon as he left the underground.

Chapter 2249: Convincing the Head Priest to do Good

"Sir, it's not like I don't want to part ways, but this ring is pretty disgusting. Only one of us is allowed to leave it," Zhao Manyan admitted in a helpless manner.

Great, the guy doesn't want to fight either! It was very rare to meet an evil person who did not want to fight him!

If Zhao Manyan did not find the monk incompatible because he was a member of the Black Vatican, he might even consider having a few drinks with him!

Speaking of which, was the monk telling the truth? The things he said about Bo City?

He had never heard of Salan having a monk under her...

"Your ring doesn't last forever, right?" Wu Ku inquired.

"It will disappear on its own after two hours," Zhao Manyan apologized.

"Then let's talk for two hours. It's been a while...a while since I have had a pleasant conversation with anyone. I find you quite approachable too. I won't feel bored talking to you for a time," Wu Ku offered.

"Yeah, sure. I'm not confident enough to beat you, and you aren't a fan of fighting either. Why don't we talk nicely? Perhaps I can convince you to do good. After all, there is salvation in repentance. Sir, you should turn yourself in when you still can instead of obstinately persisting in doing things the wrong way. You might be able to accumulate some merit for your next life," Zhao Manyan nodded.

"(Cough cough), mister, why are you stealing my words? However, you aren't wrong to say it from your perspective," Wu Ku agreed.

"You think so, too? We should live with a clear conscience. Look at the lives you have taken. How can you sleep peacefully? If you can, you won't have to walk all the way to Lhasa and knock your head on the ground until you have those scars on your forehead," Zhao Manyan leaned back against the wall of the ring.

The Wrestling Ring of Rocks was one of Zhao Manyan's trump cards. He only used it because he did not want the man to escape, but he did not expect that he would end up fighting a life-and-death duel with the monk.

Zhao Manyan had sensed a powerful Aura from Wu Ku when he was about to make his move previously. The monk seemed to be answering his questions calmly, yet he was on alert and ready to kill Zhao Manyan at all times.

Zhao Manyan knew the monk was stronger than him. If a fight did break out, he would end up dead.

Wu Ku seemed to realize Zhao Manyan was a defensive Mage. Unless Zhao Manyan was reckless enough to attack him, he would have trouble breaking through Zhao Manyan's defenses, even if he expended all his energy.

Wu Ku was pretty much trapped inside the ring with a turtle! He could just slice the turtle's head off, but if it insisted on hiding in its shell, he would have no chance of breaking the shell, even if he smashed it until his hand was broken.

If they already knew the outcome of the battle, why would they bother wasting their energy?

Magic was not the only way to defeat an enemy. As the Head Priest of the Black Vatican, his main role was to spread the Black Vatican's teachings and corrupt people's minds.

Was this guy seriously trying to convince him to do good?

Does this guy believe he can convince me to join the Black Vatican instead in less than an hour?, Zhao Manyan was thinking in return.

The monk could tell this guy was more of an emotional person. He could start from his close ones!

“Human flesh can only last for a hundred years at most, but a soul exists forever. Have you ever thought of the possibility that humans are actually trapped in their flesh? Billions of people are trapped in their flesh in this world!” Wu Ku began his teachings.

“I can think of this world as a virtual world. The real us are actually playing a game or fighting a dungeon in these bodies. Is that what you are saying?” Zhao Manyan said.

“Exactly, you are very wise. The truth is, Master Salan is only trying to free the people of this world from their cages, so they can achieve real freedom,” Wu Ku preached.

“Is this how you justify yourself?” Zhao Manyan smirked.

“No, it’s real. If you are a sincere believer and devoted to our church, you can see the real you instead of your physical body. Our world is just one cage inside another. The bonds from our family, work, school... Think about it, a prisoner who has forgotten about the outside world might think they belong in the cage, but they will only realize what they want when they are truly free!” Wu Ku pontificated.

“So the people who died should thank you for freeing them?” Zhao Manyan said.

“They don’t have to thank us, as we are family in the afterworld. Our efforts are worth it if we can free our brothers and sisters from their cages!” Wu Ku said piously.

“Do you have a brochure or something for me to refer to? I’m struggling to understand what you are telling me all at once,” Zhao Manyan went on.

“We don’t have a brochure. It might be hard to digest. I can explain it to you in a different way. Brother, you have a family, right? If I read your face and palm correctly... you must have a brother. Your father... mm, something bad must have happened to him,” Wu Ku said.

“Say, aren’t you a monk? Since when did you become a fortune-teller? And how are you so accurate?” Zhao Manyan blurted out in surprise.

“Monks do fortune-telling too! Since you have a brother, there’s a strong bond by blood between you two, since he’s part of your family. Therefore, you are willing to do a lot of things for him without any reason,” Wu Ku said.

“I had sex with my brother’s fiancée recently,” Zhao Manyan admitted calmly.

Wu Ku was stunned. How reckless were young people nowadays? How could he lay his hands on his sister-in-law...

“Let’s talk about your father. I believe your father is the person whom you respect the most...” Wu Ku quickly switched the topic.

“I last met my father in the hospital. He passed away because I removed his oxygen mask,” Zhao Manyan cut him off.

Wu Ku immediately swallowed the words he had just come up with.

Killing his father and hooking up with his sister-in-law! Yet the man was trying to convince him to do good!

He just needed to give the man a form to fill in his name, and he would already be qualified as a member of the Black Vatican in two hours!

“What I was trying to say is, your family is only bound to you by flesh, yet you are obliged to respect and treat them kindly. What about the others in the Black Vatican who will forever be your family after death? Shouldn’t you treat them better? Ugh, your situation is a little unique. You might have crossed the line with your family in your current life, so you shouldn’t treat your brothers and sisters in the next life the same way. It’s not too late for you to repent. There is salvation in repentance, young man!” Wu Ku berated him.

“Speaking of which, I have something to ask you. My brother and I are enemies of life and death now. It’s either he dies, or I die. However, if I kill him, my mother will be overwhelmed by grief. After all, she’s the only family member I have. It doesn’t matter what my brother did to me; if I kill him, I’m responsible for taking his life. My mother might follow my father’s path when she finds out about it. Do you think I should kill my brother or not?” Zhao Manyan asked sincerely.

“Why is your family so complicated? That’s a really tough question. Please give me some time to think about it,” Wu Ku answered, scratching his bald head.

Chapter 2250: Wily Old Fox

“It’s not that complicated. My brother did something wrong to me, so I can no longer treat him as my brother. If I don’t kill him, he will do everything to kill me,” Zhao Manyan informed the monk.

“If I was your brother, I’d also do everything to kill you after what you did,” Wu Ku said.

“It’s not what you think it is. It’s true love between my brother’s fiancée and me,” Zhao Manyan stated righteously.

“Do you hear what you are saying? Brother, I can’t really give you good advice considering what I’ve done, but when it comes to the relationship between a man and a woman, as a dedicated believer of Buddhism, I must warn you about the consequences. You should have heard of the phrase ‘three knives and six holes’...” Wu Ku said delicately.

“Monk, you’re surprisingly experienced, but I ain’t Chan Ho-Nam,” Zhao Manyan chided him.

{TL Note: Chan Ho-Nam is a fictional character in ‘Young and Dangerous’.}

“Chan Ho-Nam did it under the influence of drugs, but you weren’t. You didn’t use force on her, either. You have completely abandoned your basic virtue as a family member for your own pleasure. Forget it, I’m not going to convince you to join us. You might lay your hands on our brothers and sisters too!” Wu Ku placed his palms together and murmured “*Amitabha*” repeatedly under his breath.

Zhao Manyan blushed angrily. Why did no one believe in him?

He and Sancha were compatible soulmates. He resonated greatly with her interests, hobbies, and even the tiniest things. Why couldn't they be together?

"Let's not stray from the topic. Aren't you supposed to give me guidance if you are a monk? Tell me, should I kill my brother, or should I spare his life and continue living like a fugitive?" Zhao Manyan demanded.

Wu Ku rubbed his sleeves and answered, "From your perspective, if you insist on stealing your brother's lover, you should get rid of your brother, too. It's in line with our teachings in the Black Vatican too, every man for himself."

"Didn't you say the Black Vatican's mission is to free people?" Zhao Manyan pointed out.

"We are discussing your family now. Don't be distracted," Wu Ku rebuked him.

"Mm, actually, I've never told anyone these things. I'm not sure who I could discuss them with," Zhao Manyan smiled wryly.

"That's the nature of it. There are a lot of things we can't talk about to our close ones, since they might be worried. We can't tell our friends, either, as they won't be able to relate what they have been through to your situation. You can only share your vicissitudes of life with strangers. Why do you think people like visiting temples and burning joss sticks so much?" Wu Ku exclaimed.

"Monk, I can tell you are an expert in this field. Why do you insist on sticking to the salvation plan when you don't even believe it yourself? Why don't you open a temple? I'll invest in you. You can just give people advice everyday. It's better than being a Head Priest in the Black Vatican. You're not earning much from doing illegal stuff," Zhao Manyan suggested.

"If I had met you earlier, I might be satisfied being a little monk in a temple. I could do a little fortune-telling and listen to people's troubles..." Wu Ku admitted.

"It's not too late now. You can save a lot of lives without doing anything. I can talk to Mo Fan and Mu Bai on your behalf too, so they can forgive what you did and let you be a proper monk," Zhao Manyan said.

"It's a little difficult," Wu Ku sighed and shook his head.

"Why is it difficult? Just listen to my advice and lay down your knife to repent and be absolved of your crimes," Zhao Manyan said.

"Fate has brought us together. I'll read some scriptures to help your soul find peace in a moment," Wu Ku said.

"Help my soul find peace? I'm not dead," Zhao Manyan grumbled.

The rocks surrounding them turned into sand as soon as Zhao Manyan finished his sentence, blown away by the wind.

Sand drifted in the rain as the ring collapsed. Two men dressed in dark red and blue raincoats stood beside Wu Ku.

The men in raincoats were emitting an icy Aura, and glaring at Zhao Manyan as menacingly as leopards.

“My men are here. I’m afraid you won’t be alive for long. That being said, I’m a man of my word, so I will still read the scriptures for you,” Wu Ku smiled like a wily old fox.

“Bald donkey, how dare you set me up when I’m being honest with you!” Zhao Manyan snarled.

“It’s very simple to resolve your problems. If you die here, your mother won’t be sad, and your brother will never know you have slept with his fiancée. He can still marry her happily and you will be able to serve your father in Hell. Isn’t it perfect?” Wu Ku grinned like a mad monk.

Zhao Manyan backed away nervously.

“Farewell,” Wu Ku called out. He was only talking to Zhao Manyan to buy time until his men arrived to back him up.

He was not that good at fighting. He would let his men handle the killing instead!

“Likewise,” Zhao Manyan replied generously.

Wu Ku did not understand what Zhao Manyan said. He thought Zhao Manyan was only saying that after accepting his fate, when he suddenly sensed something deadly approaching from behind.

Wu Ku quickly dodged to the side and used the man in a dark red raincoat as cover.

The man in the dark red raincoat could not react in time, and the incoming lightning bolt blew a hole through his chest. His blood splattered across the ground.

“Asshole!” the other guy yelled angrily. He turned around and glared at the young Mage who was standing there soaked in the rain.

“You have no right to yell in front of me!” Mo Fan switched to the Shadow Element.

A black chain lunged at the man in the dark blue raincoat and wrapped around his neck. The hook at the end of the chain extended as the chain was pulled!

The front of the chain was covered by black spikes, which penetrated the man’s body without any resistance. His neck, chest, arms, and waist were impaled by the spikes, like a criminal undergoing trial.

The hook was stuck into the man’s body. Mo Fan whipped the chain and tossed the man to the side like he was just a piece of trash.

“I’m afraid you weren’t the only one waiting for backup. I might not be able to kill you, but my brother can!” Zhao Manyan grinned like a wily old fox too!

They were both adults. They were not naïve enough to think they could convince the other to change their beliefs in just a few sentences.

They were also both waiting for backup. Zhao Manyan was extremely confident he could trap the Head Priest of the Black Vatican for two hours!

Wu Ku began to panic. He could sense the demon inside Mo Fan was waking up!