

Versatile 2561

Chapter 2561: Land of Ashes and Bones

Who would survive in the end?

Su Lu was the Chairman of the Asia Magic Association. He had dragged everyone into Hell as he lost the fight. No one knew what was going to happen, and not many people would be able to leave the place alive.

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They were first greeted by a vast sea of blood, followed by a boundless desert of ashes and bones, holding mountains of rotting corpses giving off a foul odor!

Mo Fan felt like his soul was traveling rapidly across the place just so he could witness the scariest sights in the Dark Plane, but everything faded away like a dream.

Mo Fan's head was spinning a little. He came to his senses after a brief moment of unconsciousness.

The energy in the Essence Orb had depleted. Mo Fan subconsciously touched his chest.

The power of the Demon Element was gone!

The side effects were not serious because of the Essence Orb. He just felt a slight headache, like having a hangover.

Mo Fan looked around him. He had a feeling that he had yet to fully wake up from a nightmare when he saw an ocean of blood right in front of him.

The thick blood had come from countless creatures. Its hideous Aura was suffocating.

The area was wide-open. The land of ashes and bones was dark, but Mo Fan was able to see a black forest in one direction when he looked into the distance.

Mo Fan did not know how big the forest was, but it seemed to be surrounding the land of ashes and bones.

A sea of blood, a land of ashes and bones, and a black forest. Each of the places was brimming with the sense of death, sending chills down his spine.

"Is this really the Dark Plane?" Mo Fan murmured.

He discovered a few bodies nearby. Something must have bitten them to pieces while they were falling to this place. They were beyond recognition.

Several people were walking further away. They were dressed in ordinary clothes, which were quite incompatible with their dark and sinister surroundings.

“Asha’ruiya?” Mo Fan suddenly noticed a woman lying on the ground close to him.

Mo Fan quickly ran over to her. He let out a relieved sigh when he saw she was unharmed.

They had not encountered just the low-level black insects in enormous numbers on their way here. There were Undead Rulers like Hayla, too. The power of the Demon Element had slowly faded away during the fall. He had also lost consciousness briefly, so he had no clue what had happened.

Asha’ruiya was still unconscious.

Mo Fan wanted to splash some water on her face to wake her up, but he decided against it when he saw the water was as red as tomato soup.

(Smack) “Hey, wake up.” (Smack)

Asha’ruiya quickly regained consciousness. She shoved Mo Fan away angrily when she saw him slapping her face.

“Couldn’t you do that more gently?” Asha’ruiya snarled like an angry kitten.

“Should I kiss you, then? First, we aren’t in a romantic forest. There are dead bodies around us instead of little dwarves. Second, you are lying on ashes and bones instead of a crystal bed,” Mo Fan informed her.

“No way. You woke up first. Did you do anything vulgar, on top of slapping a Saintess’ face without her permission?” Asha’ruiya asked with a serious expression.

“I didn’t,” Mo Fan answered righteously.

“And you call yourself a man?”

“...” Mo Fan wondered if Asha’ruiya had landed on her head first. How was she still in the mood to tease him? Did she not realize the shocking sea of blood and desert of ashes and bones was so close to her?

“You seem very calm,” Mo Fan noticed.

Asha’ruiya was tidying up her appearance, starting from her hair to the corners of her trousers. What was the point of keeping up her appearance in a nightmarish place like this?

“This is the Dark Plane,” Asha’ruiya informed him.

“I know. Su Lu went mad and dragged a lot of people into here,” Mo Fan confirmed.

He did not think it would end up like this, that he was back in Hell again. He wondered if he could still be all mighty and powerful here.

“Screw that prick, but he’s going to pay for this, too. Let’s see who’s going to leave this place alive!” Asha’ruiya snarled.

“We can leave this place?” Mo Fan raised his brows.

“I’m pretty sure someone here once opened the gate to the Underworld. Khufu opens a gate to the Dark Plane when he points his compass at the Red Sea. The Underworld is also a part of the Dark Plane. Why

would you think you can't leave this place if you've already opened the door here before?" Asha'ruiya reminded him.

Mo Fan nodded. That's right, he had opened the gate to the Underworld once before!

If he could find the Underworld and the door connected to the pyramids in Egypt, he could find his way back to the Red Sea!

He had thought he was dead for sure. Little did he know, the door he had opened before was his path to resurrection!

"So, where's the Underworld?" Mo Fan looked around him. He had no idea where to go.

Did he have to cross the sea of blood, the land of ashes and bones, or the black forest? There was no sense of direction!

"The Dark Plane only has one way you can go. Just wait patiently. Outsiders like us must follow the King of the Dark Plane's rules if we don't want to be eaten until nothing is left!" Asha'ruiya sat down on the ground like she was having a vacation on a sandy shore.

"You've been here before?" Mo Fan asked, having a sudden thought.

Asha'ruiya was just too calm. She seemed familiar with this place, since she did not look worried at all.

"No," Asha'ruiya smiled. She said, "But I have had a lot of contact with Darkness Creatures before. Besides, did you forget? I have a special knight."

Asha'ruiya looked into the distance.

The ashes suddenly rose as a knight on a black mount in heavy armor approached them!

Chapter 2562: The Game of the Lord of Darkness

Mo Fan found the imperious figure with a slight hint of an evil Aura quite familiar. He remembered the same type of cold-blooded Undead Ruler riding a dark horse and holding a greatsword when he encountered the mirages in Egypt.

"A Dark Swordmaster!" Mo Fan blurted out in surprise.

The Dark Swordmaster was not holding its greatsword, it was still in its sheath on its back. Its steed was leaving a dark icy trail behind it.

The horse it was riding was unusual. It was fully covered in dark icy armor, including its hooves. The ashes and bones it stepped on were covered in frost.

It was obvious that the Dark Swordmaster was a loyal servant of the Lord of Darkness, with great status and strength. The Dark Swordmasters had lofty stations in the Dark Plane.

The Dark Swordmasters that had appeared in Egypt and the Great Pyramid of Giza were roughly as strong as Lesser Rulers or Ruler-inferior creatures, but Dark Swordmasters were stronger in the Dark Plane. There were different levels between the Dark Swordmasters, too!

Mo Fan did not dare lower his guard. After all, he no longer had the Demon Element active or available, and he was extremely tired, too. The Dark Plane was not a friendly place at all. They had even stumbled into such a powerful creature after they had just arrived!

“What are you doing!?” Asha’ruiya asked when she saw Mo Fan’s reaction.

“I’m going to beat him. I can’t let him hurt you,” Mo Fan replied.

Asha’ruiya was amused. She looked quite adorable when she giggled. Her reactions were always more expressive than Asian women, as she always showed her true feelings instead of acting reservedly.

“He’s my servant, don’t you remember?” Asha’ruiya reminded him.

“Your servant?” Mo Fan was puzzled.

The Dark Swordmaster stopped fifty meters away and came down off his horse. He walked up to Asha’ruiya slowly.

He approached Asha’ruiya and knelt on the ground. He took off his helmet... head, and put it on his waist as he bowed!

Mo Fan almost dropped his jaw.

Normally, a knight would take his helmet off. Was he trying to spook them by taking his head off instead?!

“Put your head back on,” Asha’ruiya directed the Dark Swordmaster.

“Yes, master.” The Dark Ice Swordmaster respectfully put his head back, but he accidentally put it on in the wrong direction. His helm was looking backward, while his body was facing forward.

Mo Fan almost burst out laughing.

It was that Dark Knight!

Mo Fan remembered Asha’ruiya did indeed have a Dark Knight she Summoned from the Dark Plane, but she was using some ancient Contract instead of the Summoning Element. It had given her a guardian from the Dark Plane.

The Dark Knight had been quite reliable when they were visiting the villages around the Ancient Capital, back when they were not very strong.

To his surprise, the Dark Knight had ranked up to a Dark Swordmaster, but he was just as clumsy as he used to be.

“Does that mean we have a local to guide us around?” Mo Fan wondered aloud.

“Mm, Hamura is familiar with this place. We could avoid some traps with him guiding us. However, we still have to follow rules of the Lord of Darkness’ game,” Asha’ruiya nodded.

“Game rules? What kind of rules?!” Mo Fan exclaimed.

“The Lord of Darkness is a weird Emperor. He’s as generous as a heavenly deity sometimes, but he can also be as cruel and merciless as a devil. However, he’s more like a playful kid most of the time. He establishes strange rules for outsiders and grants them special powers in exchange for their souls,” Asha’ruiya informed him.

Mo Fan immediately recalled he had made a deal with the Lord of Darkness before, but it was only one of the being’s little clones back then.

They had gone to Tianshan Mountain to find the Night Amethyst to trade to get Mu Bai’s soul back from the Lord of Darkness. Apparently, the Night Amethyst was one of the Lord of Darkness’ favorite gems.

Was the Night Amethyst of any use to the Lord of Darkness? Mo Fan doubted it. He could easily obtain plenty of them with his power, but the rumors of the ability to trade a soul from the Lord of Darkness with a Night Amethyst continued to spread out from Greece.

“The Dark Plane is powerful and rich in resources, thus many creatures from other planes want to borrow its power, including the Shadow Mages of our world. We are offering our energy in exchange for the Dark Plane’s power. Meanwhile, the Dark Plane is closely connected to many planes, thus living creatures occasionally end up here, including living humans like us. These creatures are referred to as travelers.

“The Lord of Darkness could trap travelers in the Dark Plane forever, but he enjoys playing games with travelers and giving them a chance to return to their own worlds on the condition that we must obey the rules he comes up with for the game. If the travelers win, they can leave the Dark Plane freely. If they lose, they will be stuck here forever, their flesh and souls will belong to the Lord of Darkness. They won’t be alive, but they can still have a colorful life here,” Asha’ruiya said.

She was more familiar with the Dark Plane than most people. Greece had conducted a great deal of research on the Dark Plane. Many ancient records had information about it, and the Greeks could also communicate directly with Darkness Creatures.

The Dark Plane was not just a kingdom of a different world. As a matter of fact, the Dark Plane might be bigger than the human world!

The Dark Magic of humanity, such as the Curse, Shadow, Undead, and Poison Elements, had all originated from the Lord of Darkness.

In simple words, if one day the Lord of Darkness was in a bad mood and decided to sever his connection with humans, they would lose access to four Elements!

The Lord of Darkness was easily the strongest existence anyone had come upon. So far, humans had yet to find anything that was superior to the Lord of Darkness.

“What are the rules, then? Will all the travelers be playing the game?” Mo Fan asked.

Many of the surviving civilians of Dubai City were wandering hopelessly nearby. They were dressed in professional attire and beautiful clothes. However, their lives were now in the hands of the mysterious ruler of the Dark Plane after they were forcibly dragged here.

“They are travelers too, so they have to follow the rules,” Asha’ruiya sighed.

“Su Lu is such an assh****.. I wonder how many of them are going to make it back alive...” Mo Fan wondered helplessly.

Chapter 2563: Rules of the God of Death

The land of ashes and bones started shaking. Tiny particles were being knocked into the air.

The sand under them began moving. The people on it were moving forward uncontrollably, as if someone was pulling the corner of a carpet they were standing on.

Mo Fan and Asha’ruiya exchanged glances. They had no idea whether a terrifying creature was responsible for this, or it was just how the Dark Plane worked.

They tried walking in the opposite direction, but a strange power stopped them.

Whenever they tried to move in the opposite direction, their bodies would freeze, but they did not feel any resistance when they were moving with the flow.

“The game has begun. The restriction we felt is part of the rules,” Asha’ruiya deduced.

They were not allowed to move backward or leave the place with Fleeing Shadow or Blink. The strange force had restricted them from using their magic despite their current cultivation levels, a clear indication that the one who was in full control of the land was involved.

“It seems like we can only go toward wherever it’s bringing us to,” Mo Fan agreed with a wry smile.

The land of ashes and bones was not moving straight forward. It was like a horizontal funnel, forcing the people there to gather in a specific direction.

The further they went, the bigger the crowd became. Most people had fear on their faces, but they could only follow their survival instincts and obey the will of the Lord of Darkness.

Mo Fan could not help but feel helpless when he saw more people gathering around them.

He was having trouble explaining a lot of things after coming here, especially the strange restriction that was stopping them from going anywhere else. Everyone was under the same restriction, regardless of their strength. They had no choice but to follow the rules here!

“Our Parthenon Temple has a similar restriction. Didn’t you have a taste of it when you broke your way in? That being said, only the Lord of Darkness could establish one strong enough to restrict several tens of thousands of people,” Asha’ruiya remarked softly.

A Magic Formation that could target everyone inside it was the strongest form of magic, but the Lord of Darkness was using it to set up a game!

“The people are being split into three groups,” Asha’ruiya observed.

She was watching everything carefully. She had read a lot of ancient records and learned about the Lord of Darkness’ strange nature. He would set up the travelers and lead them toward despair, but he would also provide them with interesting clues along the way, which could help them escape.

Asha’ruiya had called it a game since they had ended up here. Travelers had to use all kinds of methods to pass and the game, but the main problem was that there was no second chance after losing the game, their souls would be trapped here forever! Winning the game did not necessarily mean they had earned their escape. They might have to play a more intense game next. The Lord of Darkness had plenty of time to spare, after all!

“I bet the three groups are going to end up in three different places,” Mo Fan guessed.

Mo Fan was quite intrigued by the strange power. How did the Lord of Darkness make sure everything was done according to his will?

The ability to move the land of ashes and bones and the Magic Formation that was preventing them from escaping. How strong exactly was the Lord of Darkness that the black dragon, Sharjah, Su Lu, the possessor of the Demon Element, and the others were forced to be his test subjects?

How powerful was the Lord of Darkness that he could create a space that was completely unreasonable compared to the outside world?

“Mo Fan!” Asha’ruiya suddenly pointed ahead.

Mo Fan was lost in thought. He immediately came back to his senses and looked ahead after hearing Asha’ruiya’s shout.

There was a rotating wheel around the height of a skyscraper, rising from the land of ashes and bones!

The wheel had rings of various-sized blades on it. The blades on the outermost circle were like towering trees, while the smaller ones in the center were like the fangs of some monsters!

The blades made up three different layers on the wheel. Mo Fan saw the people ahead were being dragged into the wheel. Their blood was oozing out of the gaps between the blades.

It was like an enormous juicer, but it was not making juice out of fruits, but the travelers who had ended up in the Dark Plane!

Mo Fan gasped.

Everything was calm and peaceful just a second ago, but a huge killing machine had appeared all of a sudden. Cries and screams filled up the place. The people who were being dragged toward the wheel were bursting into tears!

“Damn it, I can’t sense any magic,” Mo Fan cursed.

There was no presence of magic around him!

Mo Fan had not noticed it at first, since he was completely worn out. He subconsciously tried to accumulate magic when he sensed he was in danger, but the whole place was like a vacuum.

He could not Cast even a Basic Spell without magic!

Mo Fan wanted to destroy the spinning wheel, but quickly realized it was impossible.

The Lord of Darkness... he was not allowing the travelers to use magic!

“Mo Fan, I think we are fine...” Asha’ruiya said.

Mo Fan frowned. He immediately followed Asha’ruiya’s gaze.

The crowd was being split into three groups and brought along three parallel paths. They were all heading in the same direction.

The rotating wheel had appeared on the leftmost path. Mo Fan and Asha’ruiya were in the middle.

The two paths were around three hundred meters apart. The people on the path in the middle could just barely squeeze past the blades!

In other words, two-thirds of the crowd was safe, while the remainder had to suffer the tortures of the spinning blades!

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A strong smell of blood lingered in the air. As the blood permeated the ground, the ocean of blood behind them seemed to glow a little brighter.

Mo Fan turned around. If he had been on the leftmost path, would he have been shredded by the blades too, since he was unable to use his magic?

“Was that part of the rules too?” Mo Fan had to ask.

“I think the rules of the game have something to do with our luck.”

The crowd was randomly split into three groups without any specific order.

No one knew where the wheel was going to show up. Therefore, those who were unlucky had to die in the first stage.

Mo Fan was scared to even imagine what was going to happen next!

The God of Death had already claimed the lives of one-third of the travelers in such a casual manner!

Chapter 2564: The Chessboard of the Lord of Darkness

Mo Fan felt a great chill running down his spine whenever he thought about the things that were waiting ahead for them.

He finally understood why the Dark Plane was often referred to as Hell. It did not matter how strong and powerful they used to be in their world. They were nothing but wandering souls here!

They were walking feebly through the land of death with respect, fear, and only a little hope.

There were a lot of wanderers, but not many of them were willing to speak. This new world had surprised them so much that it had rendered them speechless. They could only follow the black tide toward the next abyss with their heads lowered.

The land of ashes and bones was left behind.

They were approaching a dark and gloomy forest. For some reason, the trees looked like huge deities and demons stuck in the ground, with only their curly or straight hair exposed above the surface.

The people subconsciously stuck closer together as they moved into the forest.

People were more united when they were in despair, but the first round had already made it clear that their numbers were not going to change the outcome of the game. The outcome would remain the same regardless of their numbers.

They had entered the Lord of Darkness' territory. He had full control here. Their only chance to leave the place alive was to follow his rules.

The people were only looking for comfort from one another.

After all, they were still enjoying their fortunes and lives in a luxurious city a few moments ago, but they had suddenly become criminals on their way to their executions.

They were allowed to move freely after entering the forest. Mo Fan and Asha'ruiya did not stay with the crowd.

Mo Fan was already having trouble looking after himself. The others would have to rely on themselves to make it out alive. After all, the man who they worshiped was the one who had brought them here!

"I wonder how Sharjah is doing," Mo Fan remarked.

"I doubt she's having a good time. Even the Archangel is just a three-year-old kid to the Lord of Darkness," Asha'ruiya replied.

"Do we have to find the way out from the forest? I can't tell where I'm going." Mo Fan looked around them.

They were surrounded by gray twisted trunks and roots that had intertwined like snake nests. Vines were dangling off the trees like hanging ropes. The rest of the area was filled with a thick dark substance.

The dark substance here was a hundred times stronger than the presence of dark magic from the Land of Darkness in their world. The darkness had a natural ability to suppress other Elements, thus it was unlikely for other Elements to exist here.

“Don’t worry, Hamora will bring us out of here,” Asha’ruiya said confidently.

“That’s good to know...” Mo Fan was utterly helpless in the unknown territory.

Speaking of which, Asha’ruiya had a loyal Dark Swordmaster bound to her by a Contract. He had come to her immediately after she was brought to the Dark Plane.

Didn’t Mo Fan also have someone in the Dark Plane?

The Elder of the Shadow Tribe!

Didn’t he have a superior status in the Dark Plane, too? He was like a general under the command of the Lord of Darkness. Why didn’t he show himself and come greet Mo Fan after Mo Fan came to his territory?

The Elder of the Shadow Tribe also had a Contract with Mo Fan, so his absence was an utter disappointment to Mo Fan!

The Dark Swordmaster was familiar with the woods. He led Mo Fan and Asha’ruiya in what seemed to be circles, but the plants around them had somehow lessened. They were obviously going the right way.

Mo Fan also noticed an aggressive dark substance trying to penetrate his body and alter his traits while he was in the forest.

He voiced his concerns to Asha’ruiya, who communicated briefly with her knight.

After leaving the forest, Asha’ruiya turned around and sighed, “I’m afraid only twenty percent of the people will make it out alive.”

“Is the forest really that dangerous?” Mo Fan asked.

“Doesn’t your country like to marinate meat before cooking it?” Asha’ruiya asked him.

“Do you really have to bring that up now? I’m starving,” Mo Fan grunted.

“You felt the dark substance trying to corrupt your body inside the forest. It changes the qualities of our flesh to suit the taste of the locals inside the dark forest,” Asha’ruiya informed him.

“Ugh...” Mo Fan no longer felt hungry.

“We didn’t encounter any dangers in the forest. We also managed to leave the forest without encountering anything terrifying, but the people who are still in there are being slowly ‘marinated’ by the dark substance. Terrifying creatures will soon crawl out of their nests to enjoy a feast,” Asha’ruiya went on.

Mo Fan looked at the Dark Swordmaster gratefully. Luckily, they had a local as their guide. Otherwise...

“AHHHH!!!”

Loud cries of agony soon rang out of the forest from different directions.

Mo Fan and Asha’ruiya continued forward as the screams continued. They did not look back.

Every traveler had their own destiny. There was no place for mercy or redemption here. Mo Fan’s only focus was to leave this place as soon as possible.

It had been a while since he felt so uneasy, like a petty little shrimp in a river, especially after he became a Super Mage.

The Lord of Darkness was utterly terrifying!

If he could leave this place alive, he would focus on learning more Dark Magic to offer his insignificant energy to the Lord of Darkness.

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Asha’ruiya and Mo Fan reached a flat and barren land after leaving the forest.

The land had a layer of sturdy perfectly cut crystals spread out upon it.

If Mo Fan could not see the sky above him and the forest behind him, he might even have assumed he had walked into a vast palace.

There was something strange about the place. The crystals were set up like tiles of two different contrasting colors, black and white.

The tiles were lined up in perfect squares, but every tile was the size of ten soccer fields!

Asha’ruiya’s face paled as soon as she saw the place. She had realized what it was, but she was too shocked to say anything.

Mo Fan glanced at Asha’ruiya. He could see her eyes were filled with anxiety and fear!

“This....this is the Lord of Darkness’ chessboard!”

Chapter 2565: A Bloody Game of Chess

A chessboard?

Mo Fan immediately looked around as far as he could see.

The huge tiles did resemble a chessboard laid into the ground.

If it is a chessboard, where are the pieces?

An eerie red light shone down on Mo Fan and Asha'ruiya while he was confused.

Mo Fan exchanged glances with Asha'ruiya. Asha'ruiya seemed to know what Mo Fan was going to ask. She announced with a grim smile, "We...we are the pieces!"

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"This is the Chessboard of Slaughter. I now understand why we are not allowed to move backward." Asha'ruiya's face remained pale.

"What does it have anything to do with the chessboard?" Mo Fan asked her.

"Pawns, knights, bishops, rooks, queen, and king. These are the pieces in a game of chess. Pawns are like soldiers in your Chinese chess. I'm pretty sure you are aware of their movements," Asha'ruiya told him.

Mo Fan nodded.

Soldiers were the pieces that could only move forward in Chinese chess!

Thus, they were pawns, and could only move forward!

A strange power had been restricting them since they set foot in the land of ashes and bones, forcing them to only move forward!

"Then... what's the black forest about?" Mo Fan asked.

"If I'm not mistaken, it's a selection point. We are going to be some chess pieces of the game. It's assigning us as pawns, knights, bishops, rooks, the queen, or the king," Asha'ruiya guessed.

The red light slowly expanded. Mo Fan and Asha'ruiya remained unmoving, but the chess tiles under their feet were moving on their own!

They were shuffling around like a puzzle. Mo Fan, Asha'ruiya, and the Dark Swordmaster were being relocated.

Mo Fan was moved a little to the left from the center at the border of the chessboard. He was the only one in the tile.

Asha'ruiya and the Dark Swordmaster were moved to other places!

Mo Fan and Asha'ruiya ended up two tiles apart. She was not too far away from him.

The Dark Swordmaster was on the other end, around six kilometers away. He had turned into a tiny dot.

Mo Fan was able to move around, but he was unable to leave the tile. When he tested the edge, the red light would force him back.

"Mo Fan, you are a bishop!" Asha'ruiya yelled at him.

Mo Fan was puzzled. Ever since he had come to the Dark Plane, nothing had been logical to him. His brain was having trouble reacting.

“What bishop?” Mo Fan yelled back.

“You are a bishop piece in a game of chess. Look above you!” Asha’ruiya pointed.

Mo Fan looked up and saw a faint light forming a symbol above him. It bore some resemblance to the symbol of a bishop from a chess game!

Mo Fan looked above Asha’ruiya and saw the symbol of a knight taking shape.

“You are a knight?” Mo Fan asked.

“Mm, my Dark Swordmaster is a knight too, but he’s on the other side. There is one king, one queen, two rooks, two bishops, two knights, and eight pawns in total!” Asha’ruiya said.

Mo Fan frowned.

The chessboard was quite empty for now. Only he, Asha’ruiya, and the Dark Swordmaster were on it.

If the black forest was indeed a selection place that would assign the people who found their way out as different chess pieces, he should see other chess pieces soon.

The selection was still happening. They had left the black forest too early, so they were the only ones on the chessboard.

“Mo Fan, you should get some rest and recover your strength. It’s going to be a tough battle after the rest of the chess pieces are here!” Asha’ruiya said.

“Alright, I can’t go to you, so you should be careful too,” Mo Fan said.

“Don’t worry, I’m not as weak as you think!” Asha’ruiya’s gaze sharpened.

The selection process was taking a long time. They were still the only pieces on the board after some time.

They suddenly heard a terrifying cry.

Mo Fan opened his eyes and saw a creature with three heads and hot steam rising from its body in front of him. It was roughly six tiles away.

“It’s a Dreadful Curse Cerberus!” Mo Fan had read about the creature from some ancient records in Greece. It was a high-level species with insane numbers in the Dark Plane.

Was the creature the enemy bishop?

Hang on, something did not seem right. Their strength was not equally matched.

The Dreadful Curse Cerberus was nowhere close to Mo Fan’s current strength. He could easily beat a bunch of them by himself!

“It’s a pawn!” Asha’ruiya was startled by the Dreadful Curse Cerberus’ cry too.

The same red light appeared multiple times and teleported one Dreadful Curse Cerberus after another onto the chessboard.

“So they are the enemy pawns? If the enemy has eight pawns too...” Mo Fan was doing some calculations.

He assumed a tile would only hold a Dreadful Curse Cerberus, similar to his side. Asha’ruiya, the Dark Swordmaster, and he were occupying one tile each. However, he was shocked to see a group of Dreadful Curse Cerberi occupying the same tile!

More Dreadful Curse Cerberi appeared. Their numbers were like an army.

A group of Dreadful Curse Cerberi was equivalent to a single pawn?! The pawns were the weakest piece in chess!

The Dreadful Curse Cerberi were not allowed to leave their tiles either, so they were only glaring at Mo Fan angrily.

They looked like they were going to lunge straight at Mo Fan once the chains broke.

“New pieces are coming,” Asha’ruiya called out.

Mo Fan looked past the Dreadful Curse Cerberi and noticed several strange huge creatures on the same tiles as Asha’ruiya and the Dark Swordmaster on the opposite side.

Black armor, heavy swords, and battle horses with dark blue flames on them.

They were Dark Swordmasters! The enemy knights were Ruler-level Dark Swordmasters!

Four Dark Swordmasters were a knight piece!

Two knight pieces meant eight Dark Swordmasters in total!

Eight Dark Swordmasters... How terrifying was that?

There were still bishops, rooks, the queen, and the king left.

If the knights were already eight Dark Swordmasters, how terrifying would the rest of the pieces be?

Chapter 2566: The Queens!

Time gradually passed. Mo Fan was doing his best to recover his strength, especially after he saw how strong the enemy pieces were. He realized the game was not as simple as he had thought.

People were now walking out of the black forest behind him.

They also stepped onto the chessboard, but their situation was different from Mo Fan. Most of them were being moved to the tiles where the pawns were.

It seemed like the new people were all Mages.

Su Lu had summoned the river of darkness close to the Asia Magic Association, so there was a higher ratio of Mages than would be normal.

It was also obvious that the people who were not Mages had almost zero chance of walking out of the black forest, unless they were extremely lucky.

The black forest was a filter for travelers who were fit for battle. Those travelers all became pawns in the game of chess.

Each pawn was made up of over a thousand people.

Eight pawns meant there were nearly ten thousand travelers altogether, forming a wall of humans across the chessboard, facing more than a hundred Dreadful Curse Cerberi.

Even though the humans had the numbers advantage, it did not convince Mo Fan that the two sides were equally matched.

The travelers were not equally strong. Mo Fan did notice something unusual. The travelers were not only the residents in Dubai City who were caught up in Su Lu's river of darkness. There were people from other places across the world. They had somehow ended up in the Dark Plane, too!

There were knowledgeable people among those who had become pawns. They immediately told the rules of chess to the others so they could make it out alive together.

The people were confused at first, but they soon began discussing their tactics against the Dreadful Curse Cerberi. They were all strangers who had fallen into Hell, but they were oddly united.

Someone eventually noticed Mo Fan. "Why is that man alone on a tile?"

The tiles were extremely huge, around the size of ten soccer fields, so the fact that Mo Fan was alone on a tile had caught the others' attention.

"There's no one else?"

"It's real, he's alone!"

"He's the bishop?"

"This is unfair. We need a thousand people just to be assigned as a pawn. Why was he assigned to be a bishop all by himself? Is he reliable?"

The people started talking about Mo Fan, but they were respectful to him, too.

If a single man had been made the bishop, he must have the strength to fight thousands of enemies by himself!

A single-eyed old man walked to the edge of his tile and told Mo Fan, "Kid, do you know that different pieces have different types of movement? We are the pawns, so we can only move forward and fight the Dreadful Curse Cerberi!"

"I know, but who's going to control us?" Mo Fan asked.

"The Lord of Darkness, obviously," the old man said.

"Something still doesn't make sense," Mo Fan shook his head.

"Let's try our best in order to make it out alive," the old man could only sigh.

Mo Fan did not respond. He pointed at the enemy side instead.

A new piece had appeared on the enemy side, corresponding to Mo Fan's tile. In other words, it was an enemy bishop!

It had a red body with smooth scales. The Dreadful Curse Cerberi only reached its legs, which were as sharp as scythes.

A Crimson Scorpion Medusa! It was the strongest species in Egypt!

The travelers gasped when they saw the enemy bishop was a Crimson Scorpion Medusa.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusae were only a level lower than the Scorpion Lord Medusae. They were capable of destroying an entire city in Egypt!

The old man looked at the hideous Crimson Scorpion Medusa. His legs were trembling after he sensed its cruel and ferocious Aura. Meanwhile, the bishop on his side was only a young man!

How could the strength of the two sides differ by so much if they were playing a game of chess?

The old man let out a sigh. The rest of the people who were pawns were crying in despair too.

Hundreds of Dreadful Curse Cerberi, and Eight Dark Swordmasters!

A Crimson Scorpion Medusa from the Evil Temple!

It felt like they were heading straight to death before the board was even filled with pieces.

"Almighty Lord of Darkness, please give us some powerful pieces too!" many people started begging.

No one assumed they could take it easy after coming here. They did not mind fighting their way to survival. All they asked for was a little glimpse of hope.

The difference in strength between the two sides was simply too huge!

However, it might be acceptable if their rooks, queen, and king were something stronger.

The other enemy bishop soon appeared. It was a white spider with huge poisonous glands and slender legs!

There were rumors about these White Widows in places that were marked as black zones, but people were not familiar with them, as most people who encountered them ended up as lunch in dark caves full of spider silk.

A Medusa and a White Widow. They were the two bishops on the enemy side!

Mo Fan subconsciously looked to his right. He wanted to know who the other bishop on his side was.

It was most likely a powerful human Mage. The person had either been caught by the river of darkness, or he had long been stuck in the Dark Plane.

It was indeed a man. He was dressed in a ragged shirt, and his hair was long enough to be tied up. He had a European face and a pointy nose.

“It seems like my only way out is to take part in this game...” The long-haired European seemed a little haggard. He turned to Mo Fan after noticing his gaze.

There were several tiles between them, but they had no trouble talking to one another.

“Hey, kid, can you tell me why the Dark Plane is lively all of a sudden? Did they steal something that belonged to an Elder of the Shadow Tribe, like me?” the man asked.

“The Chairman of Asia Magic Association committed a suicidal act and dragged everyone here with an evil spell,” Mo Fan explained.

“Is that possible?... but it’s fine. The Lord of Darkness will have an enjoyable time with so many people here. We have a chance to leave this place as long as he’s happy,” the European answered.

Another red light appeared between Mo Fan and the European, catching both of their attention. They were looking at the tile that belonged to the queen!

Chapter 2567: Saintess of Darkness

It was a cluster of red spider lilies. Their petals were blossoming like little umbrellas. Their stems started growing and filled the tile with a sea of flowers in just a few seconds.

The red flowers would have continued to spread if it weren’t for the restrictions of the tile.

The red spider lilies spread across the tile. People would not have eye fatigue looking at them for a long time. It was like a drawing invoking countless thoughts. The longer they stared at the flowers, the harder it was for them to come to their senses.

The flowers were not just for admiration. As their petals swayed, these flowers that were known as the blossoms of the realm of death were giving off a strange icy Aura that resembled death!

A breeze swept across the tile and raised a black veil among the flowers. A figure slowly took form inside it.

It was wearing a black dress. It remained unmoving, like a red spider lily that was upside down, elegant and slender.

“It’s the Red Spider Lily Queen!”

The European was the first to break the silence. He had a complicated expression on his face. It went from respectful and scared to joyful and excited.

The red spider lilies scattered across the tile like a sea, the Red Spider Lily Queen’s black dress standing out among them.

She was tall, with a cold and noble Aura. Most importantly, her body was not solid. The hair that was spreading down her shoulders was part of a shadowy Aura that was accumulating and dissipating on its own.

Mo Fan was greatly shocked. He was not familiar with Darkness Creatures, but he had read about the Shadow Tribe to a certain degree.

He also had ties with the Shadow Tribe, as the Shadow Guards and Shadow Elders were part of the Shadow Tribe.

The Red Spider Lily Queen was the Queen of the Shadow Tribe! She was superior to the Elders of the Shadow Tribe, a true empress ruling over the Shadow Tribe!

Why would such a powerful and mysterious royal of the Shadow Tribe be on the chessboard?

Most importantly, she was supposed to be representing the Lord of Darkness. Why was she on their side, instead of their enemy’s side?

“This is great. We might make it out alive!” the European blurted out in excitement.

He had lingered in the Dark Plane for some time. He only became aware of how powerful the Darkness Creatures were after coming into contact with them. The things he had learned during his stay here had completely undermined his understanding of the world.

An existence like the Red Spider Lily Queen controlled the right to exist of many creatures of the Dark Plane. If the Red Spider Lily Queen was on their side, she could easily slaughter the Dreadful Curse Cerberi and Dark Swordmasters.

Even the Crimson Scorpion Medusa and White Widow were no match for the Red Spider Lily Queen.

“Mo Fan, look at the enemy’s queen!” Asha’ruiya called out. She was not too far from Mo Fan. She had also focused on the Red Spider Lily Queen at first.

Mo Fan immediately looked to the other side. To his surprise, the enemy’s queen was also a human!

It was a woman dressed in a silver-gray robe. Mo Fan had a feeling he had seen a similar outfit before.

The sincere disciples in the Parthenon Temple’s Hall of Faith dressed in the same type of robe. Their hair was wrapped in a wimple, while part of their faces was covered with a veil.

The Parthenon Temple was a feminist kingdom. It did not necessarily forbid women from wearing revealing clothes, but it was respectful to wear plain clothes when praying for blessings on the Mountain of the Goddess. 1

A disciple of the Parthenon Temple had turned out to be the enemy queen. She was giving off a strong Aura from the Parthenon Temple.

Mo Fan looked at Asha'ruiya with a puzzled expression. He wondered if she knew who the woman was.

Why would a disciple of the Parthenon Temple be assigned the enemy's queen, a position higher than the Crimson Scorpion Medusa and the White Widow?

"She's indeed from the Parthenon Temple, but I don't remember her at all." Asha'ruiya was puzzled, too.

The enemy queen was obviously human. She was not a living dead, nor was she an Undead. She was a living woman!

In other words, the game was not about humans versus Darkness Creatures. The Lord of Darkness was assigning different species to both sides randomly.

They had Darkness Creatures on their side, while the enemy had humans, too!

"Isn't that the Saintess of Darkness?" an old woman screamed.

The voice had come from the crowd of pawns. Asha'ruiya and the long-haired European had not recognized who the enemy queen was.

However, if the enemy queen was human, someone would know her, since the enemy queen would not be an ordinary person. She had to be on par with the Red Spider Lily Queen!

"Saintess of Darkness!" Asha'ruiya finally realized who the enemy queen was.

Mo Fan and the European both looked at Asha'ruiya, waiting for her explanation.

The important pieces were already placed on the board. The game of chess was about to begin. They had to learn every piece of information about their enemy.

"She's from the same time as my father. She was a Saintess like Izisha, but there aren't any records of her name in the Parthenon Temple. I only know she was called the Saintess of Darkness. She had a fierce competition with Izisha, and even managed to outwit her at one time. She used a Forbidden Art in order to gain more power.

"I believe you are familiar with the Cold Prince. The Saintess is the one who invented the Evil Faith that the Cold Prince abused. She broke her Contract with the Lord of Darkness to steal his power, so the Lord of Darkness sent his clone to drag her into Hell."

Evil Faith?

If a god became more powerful when more people worshiped them and swore their loyalty to them, an evil existence could also obtain more evil power from people's hatred and negative emotions and grow stronger!

The Cold Prince had become a ghastly monster because of the Evil Faith.. Mo Fan would not have stood a chance against him without being able to rely on the Demon Element.

Chapter 2568: The Kings!

The Saintess of Darkness was the one who had invented the Evil Faith that the Cold Prince was relying on?

Did that mean she was a Red Cardinal, too?

“She killed many people when she was involved in the election, it was a huge scandal for the Parthenon Temple. She’s also the reason why the Soul of the Parthenon Temple despised the Saintesses and was reluctant to fall on anyone, and why the Spell of Resurrection was lost for almost twenty years,” Asha’ruiya went on.

“Is she strong?” the European asked directly.

“At least I think she won’t be weaker than the Red Spider Lily Queen. Her own strength is on par with a captain of the Golden Sun Knights. If she uses the Evil Faith, she could kill us all by herself,” Asha’ruiya replied shortly.

It was a dark time for the Parthenon Temple, where blood was shed and betrayals happened often. If it wasn’t for Holy Saint Wen Tai, the Parthenon Temple would have fallen. The Saintess of Darkness would have been responsible for the Parthenon Temple’s fall. Even Izisha was inferior to her!

“Both queens are pretty strong!”

“The queen has always been the most important piece in chess. Usually the king isn’t as useful as the queen,” Asha’ruiya reminded them.

The king had a lot of restrictions. It could only move one tile at a time.

Meanwhile, the queen was able to move the furthest, with the only restriction of not being able to go past another piece. It was also the strongest piece for offense. The king was only a piece of decoration most of the time, that the players had to protect.

The rooks on both sides soon appeared.

The rooks were very powerful, too. To Mo Fan’s relief, one of the rooks on his side was Sharjah.

Sharjah was severely injured. Her angelic armor had disappeared.

The Sacred City was also called the City of Light, and it opposed darkness, thus Sharjah was not able to use her power as an Angel in the Dark Plane.

Her purple eyes were filled with fatigue. She put on a faint smile when she saw Mo Fan.

“I’m sorry, I’ve dragged you into this,” Sharjah said guiltily.

“We are lucky to have you on our side. Don’t worry, we’ll make it out alive,” Mo Fan answered calmly.

“But... my power is limited,” Sharjah said helplessly.

Without the power of the Angel, she could only rely on the evil book in her hand. She was as strong as the Preacher, but the creatures in the Dark Plane were not weak, either!

The other rook on Mo Fan’s side was a Wind Dragon. It was strong enough to tear the enemy to pieces with brute force.

The enemy’s rooks had appeared. They were surprisingly more humans.

“Two groups of High Seaters?”

Mo Fan noticed the enemy rooks were dressed in similar outfits. They were obviously from Dubai Tower.

“It’s the Mages who were maintaining the Skybound Cloud Battlefield. They must have been caught by Su Lu’s spell,” Asha’ruiya deduced.

They were dressed in white clothes with thin stripes, resembling clouds.

If they were High Seaters from Dubai Tower, their combined strength should be equivalent to a Top Seater.

The High Seaters were split into two groups and assigned as the enemy’s rooks.

Sharjah and the Wind Dragon were the rooks on Mo Fan’s side.

They were matched against two groups of Skycloud Mages selected from the High Seaters of Dubai Tower. They were one of the strongest groups in Asia Magic Association, with even greater power than the Dubai Mages!

Only the kings were left.

Mo Fan was feeling a little nervous.

—

The kings on both sides appeared simultaneously.

There were humans on both sides.

The Lord of Darkness was unpredictable, but there was one thing everyone was sure about him: he did not have any mercy for anything. He was purely treating this as a game. The winners were spared, while the losers would be trapped forever in Hell!

Everyone’s life was at stake!

Most importantly, their deaths were not going to be the end, but the beginning of a painful and torturous stay in the Dark Plane.

Even though there were humans on both sides, no one was going to show any mercy to the enemy. They were in Hell now!

The kings were most likely the strongest piece in the game. Both sides were hoping their kings to be something powerful enough to crush their enemy!

The king finally appeared. Mo Fan had a guess of who it was going to be, but he was still surprised to see the Black Dragon Emperor.

The Black Dragon Emperor's roar stunned the crowd and almost knocked the people and Darkness Creatures on the other side to the ground.

Mo Fan, Asha'ruiya, and Sharjah were overjoyed when they saw the Black Dragon Emperor was on their side.

Mo Fan was not afraid of the upcoming battle. He was only worried that he had to fight the familiar people he was trying to protect, like Sharjah and the black dragon.

He let out a relieved sigh, glad that all his friends were on his side.

They were going to join hands to defeat the enemy!

The Black Dragon Emperor was injured, and nowhere as strong as his peak. His soul had also sustained serious damage, which meant his strength had dropped significantly.

Even so, he was still the Black Dragon Emperor. He could easily crush every enemy piece, including the Saintess of Darkness!

"It's Su Lu!"

The enemy king had finally appeared. It was Chairman Su Lu.

Su Lu's face was extremely pale. He was standing on the king's tile, emanating a ghastly Aura. He did not even look human.

"How dare you treat me as a chess piece! How dare you!?" Su Lu yelled angrily.

He was supposed to be the real king. Anyone that disobeyed his will had to perish. He did not expect to end up as a mere chess piece to the ruler of the Dark Plane!

Even the Black Dragon Emperor and one of the strongest human Mages in the world could not escape the control of the God of Death.

Su Lu was like a trapped beast. He growled fiercely at the others outside the tile he was on before observing the other creatures that were trapped, just like him.

Su Lu soon grinned after he saw Mo Fan, Sharjah, and the Black Dragon Emperor!

"You all are going to die. I'll be the one who walks out of here alive. Lord of Darkness, I'm going to challenge you one day!" Su Lu did not show the Lord of Darkness any respect.

The Lord of Darkness did not need his respect. He only cared if he was going to enjoy the game!

He could not care less about what Su Lu had said. The outcome of the game would decide who was going to leave this place alive!

Chapter 2569: The Players!

The chessboard was now set up, but Mo Fan suddenly had a question.

If it was a game of chess, who was the Lord of Darkness going to play it with?

Was he going to play with himself? Play with (ahem!) his clone?

A dark figure soon appeared behind the enemy pieces. He had a cloak the size of a mountain draped over his shoulders. His half-transparent body was drifting in the wind.

Mo Fan could not see his face, but his glowing blue eyes were looking at the chessboard with excitement.

Is that the Lord of Darkness?

The chess pieces were in place. It was time for the players to take their seats.

Mo Fan did not feel any pressure from the figure. It was more like a phantom. Although he felt spooked, as if the figure could see right through him, he did not sense any hostility from it.

It felt like he was only here to play the game of chess, nothing else.

“That should be one of the Lord of Darkness’ clones,” Asha’ruiya remarked.

“Does anyone ever see his actual self?” Mo Fan asked her.

Asha’ruiya shook her head.

The Lord of Darkness had plenty of clones, and some of them could even visit the living world. He had always behaved strangely. He was not greedy, invasive, or ambitious, yet all Dark Magic was related to him.

He would occasionally grant people that were pleasing to his eyes some powerful Forbidden magic. He would also accept the offerings of Dark Mages. Sometimes he would cause some disasters, plagues, and wars in smaller countries.

He was totally unpredictable. People both respected and feared him.

The Lord of Darkness’ clone stood behind the enemy forces. He was a serious and focused player.

His eyes were fixed on the pieces, as if he was analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of his pieces, trying to figure out how he was going to play the game.

“The Lord of Darkness is on our side. What a relief!” The Skycloud Mages were overjoyed.

If the Lord of Darkness was controlling them, it meant he would do anything to win the match.

“Lucky, we are blessed by the Lord of Darkness!” The others smiled, too.

“But who is his opponent? Let’s hope he’s an idiot so we can all make it out alive.”

—

Mo Fan was keeping a close eye on the player on his side.

The chess pieces mattered because of their strength, but the player would play the most important role, as he would be controlling the pieces. If the player happened to be retarded and sent their king to the enemy, it would not matter if their king was the Black Dragon Emperor.

Mo Fan turned around, waiting for the player to show up.

Finally, dark blue light dots gathered behind the chessboard. It was another enormous half-transparent figure. Judging from its outline, it was most likely a human.

Mo Fan could only tell that the Chaos Element was involved, making the figure look quite massive. It was like he was projected to be the opposite of the Lord of Darkness.

However, Mo Fan almost dropped his jaw when he took a closer look at the player’s face.

How is he the player? Why would he be playing a game of chess with the Lord of Darkness? What’s going on?

Mo Fan was dumbfounded. His eyes were fixed on the player for a long time.

The player seemed to notice Mo Fan’s gaze. He waved his hand at Mo Fan with a wry smile and said, “I tried my best to group you all on the same side, but it’s up to us now whether we will all live.”

—

The Magic City...

A little garden close to the apartment that was allocated for the South Wing Platoon.

A path covered in pebbles led to a little kiosk. A man with a pale face was seated on a stone stool, staring at the stone table in front of him.

The stone table was oddly smooth, like the surface of a mirror. However, he was not looking at his own reflection, but a chessboard. The chessboard was crowded with people and Darkness Creatures that had shrunk down to a tithe of their size.

It was like a board game with humans, monsters, and demons, but the pieces were alive instead of some models. They had all shrunk to the size of little pieces.

The man coughed. He seemed a little feeble.

“Mu Bai, what are you doing? Shouldn’t you be resting so you can recover from your injuries?” a member of the South Wing Platoon who happened to pass by the garden asked him.

“Nothing, I’m just playing chess!” Mu Bai waved his hand and sent the man away.

A half-transparent shadow was sitting opposite Mu Bai. He looked like an old man in his sixties who was obsessed with chess, staring at the chessboard sternly.

“You have picked your pieces, so I’ll be taking the first move. Are you fine with that?” the half-transparent figure asked.

Mu Bai agreed with a gesture.

—

The Dark Plane...

Mo Fan’s head was spinning.

The person playing a game of chess with the lord of Darkness was Mu Bai!

What is going on? Why would Mu Bai have ties with the Lord of Darkness?

“You should explain yourself before the game starts,” Mo Fan said.

“Didn’t I already die once? The Lord of Darkness took my soul. He asked me to play chess with him. If he wins, he will keep my soul, but if I win, he will release my soul,” Mu Bai replied.

“Hang on! Didn’t we trade your soul with the Night Amethyst?” Mo Fan protested.

“I lost,” Mu Bai said. He added after a brief pause, “The Lord of Darkness didn’t want to release me, since I lost the match. However, he was happy when you gave him the Night Amethyst, so I told him we didn’t set the rules clearly before we played the game, whether it was a best of one or a best of three. We Chinese prefer it to be best of three, in case the players lose their edge because they are nervous.”

“I won the last two matches. That’s why I came back to life,” Mu Bai explained.

Mo Fan opened his mouth. He never knew Mu Bai’s soul had been through something so thrilling while his body was lying in a coffin.

“What’s happening now, then?” Mo Fan asked.

“Obviously, he has found a bargaining chip to challenge me again. He wants to take some revenge after losing to me last time!” Mu Bai declared.

“What bargaining chip?” Mo Fan was puzzled.

However, he soon realized what the answer was.

What bargaining chip? It was his life!

He had ended up in the Dark Plane. The Lord of Darkness was all-knowing. He had obviously told Mu Bai what had happened and asked if Mu Bai was willing to have a rematch with him.

The Lord of Darkness did not like to bargain. He preferred exchanging his chips for the things he wanted. It had always been his standard of conduct!

“Hehehe, I’m delighted by your friendship. However, if you lose the game, all your souls will be mine!” the Lord of Darkness proclaimed.. His voice sounded strange, like a synthesizer.

Chapter 2570: The Scuffle on the Chessboard

“Did you use your soul as another bargaining chip?” Mo Fan asked Mi Bai.

“Mm, I convinced him to let me choose the pieces so you, Sharjah, the Black Dragon Emperor, and Asha’ruiya were on the same side. Asha’ruiya and the Black Dragon Emperor were supposed to be on the other side, while Su Lu was on yours,” Mu Bai said.

In other words, Mu Bai had risked his soul just to make sure Mo Fan’s friends were on his side. If he lost, he would also be going to Hell!

Mo Fan did not know what to say. After a long silence, he finally said, “Sorry for dragging you into this mess.”

Mu Bai had used his soul as a bargaining chip!

It would not be just a simple death. If Mu Bai lost, he would be tortured in Hell too. He had already been to the Dark Plane once. He knew how terrifying it was.

Even death was better than giving his soul to the Lord of Darkness!

Even though Mu Bai was describing the best of three matches calmly, Mo Fan could imagine how difficult it was for him to escape from the Lord of Darkness.

It was like playing chess under a guillotine. A wrong step meant his head would be chopped off. The process was already a torture, not to mention having to win two matches after losing the first.

Mu Bai had agreed to play chess with the Lord of Darkness again in order to save Mo Fan’s life. He had even offered his soul to prevent Mo Fan from having to fight his friends.

Mu Bai had bet everything he had. How could Mo Fan not feel touched or sorry?

“Don’t even feel sorry for me. Old Zhao and you found the Night Amethyst on Tianshan Mountain, giving me a second chance. It’s just a game of chess. If I could beat him twice, I can beat him again this time. Besides, even if there’s only a ten percent chance you are going to win, I’d still stand on your side and put you, Sharjah, the Black Dragon Emperor, and Asha’ruiya together. You went to Dubai alone. Everything you did has earned our respect... don’t worry, you are not fighting this battle alone,” Mu Bai replied.

Mu Bai was unable to go to Dubai with Mo Fan, but he would do everything to save Mo Fan when he was in trouble!

It was not just Mo Fan’s battle. They were obliged to overthrow a dictator like Su Lu!

Mu Bai did not feel like he had been dragged into the mess out of nowhere. He was honored to be involved.

He was able to help by playing chess with the Lord of Darkness. Mo Fan was willing to give his everything to serve justice for his country. Why would Mu Bai not dare to accept the Lord of Darkness' challenge?

The game of chess would decide the fate of almost ten thousand travelers. It would decide the fates of Mo Fan, Sharjah, the Black Dragon Emperor, and Mi Bai, too.

It was tied to a corrupted kingdom ruled over by Su Lu, something even filthier than the Dark Plane.

He was honored to be the player who had a say in the outcome. If he did not step forward now, when would he ever become a reliable man?

—

Mo Fan nodded grimly. He understood Mu Bai's feelings.

Everyone who played chess knew the pawns were just as important as the king, as they might decide the outcome of the game if they were used properly.

Mu Bai was good at studying and a fan of strategy games. Mo Fan had faith in him.

The chess pieces and players had to give their best. They would be sharing the glory of winning and the humiliation of defeat together!

—

The game had begun.

The Lord of Darkness' rules were strictly applied to every creature on the chessboard.

Mu Bai breathed calmly. Not only was his soul at stake, the souls of many people who were important to him were in danger here.

Su Lu had so much power. If Mo Fan, Sharjah, and the Black Dragon Emperor all ended up in Hell after challenging him, who would ever go up against the Asia Magic Association again?

Su Lu would continue with his rampage and pose a threat to many countries!

"It's your turn, Mu Bai. You better think carefully before making every move. Those who die in a battle will not be revived," the Lord of Darkness reminded him in a mocking tone.

Mu Bai was not bothered by it. He looked at the pawns.

The Lord of Darkness was very aggressive. He had sent the Dreadful Curse Cerberi forward. He clearly wanted to kill all of Mu Bai's pieces.

"Sawtooth Formation!"

Mu Bai aligned the pawns diagonally and moved the knights and rooks to protect his pawns.

His intention was clear. If the enemy pieces ate his pawns, he would eat the pieces in return.

The mantis stalked the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind!

Mu Bai was not going to waste any of his pieces. He even added an extra layer of safety to his pawns with the rooks and the knights.

“Unfortunately, I do not want the game to last for too long,” the Lord of Darkness remarked.

He suddenly ordered the Dreadful Curse Cerberi to attack Mu Bai’s pawns.

The game of chess was strictly following the rules, but the clash between the humans and the Dreadful Curse Cerberi was like a real battle!

“Focus, we are in this together. Even if there’s only a slim chance of making it out alive, we shouldn’t give up. The terrifying rumors you have heard about Hell are true, and the real thing is definitely scarier than the rumors you have heard!” the single-eyed old man yelled.

He had been motivating the people ever since they were placed on the chessboard.

He was most likely an old general from some country. The way he was motivating others to fight with everything they had showed he was determined to make it out alive!

“The Dreadful Curse Cerberi are coming.

“Stay in position and don’t panic. They are pawns just like us, so we should be able to match their strength. We can still survive, even if they are the attackers!” the old man yelled.

Each pawn was made up of around a thousand people. They immediately lined up in a Formation under the old man’s command.

Plants emerged from the ground and formed a thick wall with their trunks. The outer layer was covered in thorns too, turning the wall into a special trench.

“Oh, I forgot to mention a rule...” the Lord of Darkness grinned coldly.

A huge black cloth appeared above the tile as the Dreadful Curse Cerberi stepped into it.

Illusionary strings fell from the black cloth and attached to the human Mages. Every Mage in the tile was tied to the strings like a puppet.

The people were confused. They had no idea what the strings were.

“The strength of the piece that is being attacked will be reduced by thirty percent, but the strings will disappear over time,” the Lord of Darkness informed them.

The strength of the chess pieces would decide the outcome of the clash.

However, the skill of the players still mattered a lot!

The thirty percent strength reduction was critical to the outcome of every battle!