

Versatile 2571

Chapter 2571: Counterattack of the Knights

There was plenty of magic on the chessboard, allowing everyone to use their spells.

However, those whom the black strings were attached to were weakened. Their spells, both for offensive and defensive purposes were affected. Even their Casting speed had slowed down too.

Normally, a thousand Mages would still stand a chance against a dozen Dreadful Curse Cerberi, but the restraints had made it easier for the Dreadful Curse Cerberi to tear through the wall of humans and break through their defense.

Blood, broken limbs, and organs were scattered across the tile. The Dreadful Curse Cerberi were extremely savage. They had a natural drive to tear their prey into pieces. Their three heads fought fiercely to claim their targets.

Some people's heads were on one side while their bodies were stuck under the Dreadful Curse Cerberi's claws. The heads of the Dreadful Curse Cerberi were munching the broken limbs. It was a terrifying sight.

The one-eyed old man's face turned pale. He had done everything he could to motivate the people. They were doing their best to fend off the Dreadful Curse Cerberi, but their defense was overwhelmed so easily.

It had turned into a one-sided massacre!

The mentality of humans was inferior to the Darkness Creatures, not to mention the restraint that had weakened the humans by thirty percent. The Dreadful Curse Cerberi could easily break through their defense and crush their morale by charging at them fiercely.

The restraint basically meant the defender was going to lose the battle. It was terrible.

The pawn did not have many people left, but only three Dreadful Curse Cerberi had died.

The other pawns began to lose their confidence. The Dreadful Curse Cerberi seemed a lot stronger than them!

In just a few rounds, Mu Bai lost two pawns. Both battles were close to a slaughter.

Two thousand corpses were littered across the ground. The strong smell of blood further set off the hellish sight.

"Knights, attack!" Mu Bai yelled. He was using his knights.

His knights were Asha'ruiya and her Dark Swordmaster.

The knights were the attackers. Asha'ruiya entered the tile that was littered with dead bodies.

The black strings soon stuck to the Dreadful Curse Cerberi. Their ferocious Aura after the bloodbath was weakened.

Counterattack!

Asha'ruiya drew out a black sword. A dark light wrapped around her alluring body and formed a suit of tight-fitting armor!

"One-Word Slash!"

Asha'ruiya was like an elegant but fierce sword empress. An icy flicker swept at a Dreadful Curse Cerberus as she took a step forward.

The arrogant Dreadful Curse Cerberus pounced at Asha'ruiya.

The slash went right through the creature's forehead.

It went from the Dreadful Curse Cerberus' neck to its tail and split it perfectly in half.

"That's...that's incredible, she killed it with a single slash!" The watching Mages were dumbfounded.

The Mages only realized how terrifying the Dreadful Curse Cerberi were after fighting them. A single Dreadful Curse Cerberus could easily slaughter a hundred Mages. Even the Advanced Mages among them had failed to survive.

However, the woman who was chosen to be a knight had killed a Dreadful Curse Cerberus with a single move!

"Shadow Moon Sword!"

The sword Asha'ruiya was using was no ordinary weapon. Mo Fan had already had a taste of it during the World College Tournament.

However, her skills had improved significantly over the years. It felt like her attacks were stronger than her Dark Swordmaster's.

She sliced off the heads of three Dreadful Curse Cerberi with ease. Nine heads rolled to the edge of the tile, close to another pawn.

The Mages were excited.

It turned out they had strong allies on their side, too! A dozen Dreadful Curse Cerberi did not live for more than a few minutes against Asha'ruiya's sword.

The Dark Ice Swordmaster was also slaughtering the Dreadful Curse Cerberi on the other side. He had also overwhelmed the Dreadful Curse Cerberi. His sword was not as elegant and thin as Asha'ruiya's, as he was using a heavy broadsword.

The broadsword slammed on the ground. It cracked open as a dark Aura surged at the Dreadful Curse Cerberi in ferocious waves.

The dark Aura soon turned into a tornado and blew six of the Dreadful Curse Cerberi into the air. The strong winds shredded them to pieces. Blood poured down from the sky like rain.

Both Asha'ruiya and the Dark Ice Swordmaster brutally slaughtered the Dreadful Curse Cerberi.

After all, knights were supposed to be stronger than pawns, especially when the Dreadful Curse Cerberi's strength was weakened by thirty percent while they were under attack.

The knights had a bigger range of movement, and were not limited to only moving forward.

Mu Bai had not sacrificed the two pawns so Asha'ruiya and the Dark Ice Swordmaster could take out the enemy pawns. He had already moved his pieces to the best spots, where they were protected by other pieces.

However, the unpredictable Lord of Darkness had insisted on attacking with the Dreadful Curse Cerberi, even though he already knew the risks. Both sides had suffered casualties as a result.

"I might need to use you aggressively for us to win the game," Mu Bai told his knights.

"Just move me as you please. You don't have to worry too much," Asha'ruiya responded.

"Alright, keep attacking. I want you to take out an enemy knight," Mu Bai said.

Knights were special among the pieces because of their special movement pattern. They were more useful than rooks and queens in certain situations, if they were used properly.

Mu Bai knew the Lord of Darkness would continue to trade pieces with him if he kept playing defense. It would be meaningless if he won the game while losing too many of the pieces.

It was not a fair game of chess. Not only did Mu Bai have to win the match, he also had to preserve as many pieces as he could!

He had to dominate the game, and outsmart his opponent.

Asha'ruiya and the Dark Ice Swordmaster might be orioles to the enemy pawns, but Mu Bai had also calculated his next move. He had moved the knights to advantageous positions after killing the enemy pawns.

Asha'ruiya and the Dark Swordmaster were out of range of the enemy's pieces, but they were still able to attack the enemy.

The Lord of Darkness was going to suffer the consequences of his reckless playstyle!

"I'm right behind you!" Sharjah told Asha'ruiya.

"Mm, I'll clear a path for you all," Asha'ruiya said.

She had regrouped with the Dark Swordmaster on the left side of the board. The two knights were taking care of one another with Sharjah, a rook, protecting their rear.

Mu Bai had to think carefully before making a move, and he had to predict the enemy's moves as well....

Chapter 2572: I Like It to be Fair

The Lord of Darkness regretted his approach.

He was trying to apply more mental pressure to Mu Bai by making him feel guilty over the deaths of the pawns, but it had cost him the initiative during the match.

Asha'ruiya had already reached the left side of his territory. She was posing a threat to three pawns, a knight, and a bishop.

The only piece that could kill Asha'ruiya instantly was his queen.

However, if he sent out the queen to kill Asha'ruiya, the enemy's rook Sharjah would be able to attack his queen.

The Saintess of Darkness was stronger than Sharjah when she no longer had the Power of Angel, but the outcome would be undecided if her strength was reduced by thirty percent while she was being attacked.

If Sharjah killed his queen, he would basically lose the match. The Lord of Darkness had only claimed the souls of the pawns. It was not his desired outcome.

The Lord of Darkness stopped his unconventional approach, and became more careful with his moves.

The Lord of Darkness enjoyed chess, but he was not that good at it!

"Red Spider Lily Queen, forward!"

After securing the initiative, Mu Bai immediately sent his crucial piece to the right side of the board.

As a matter of fact, Mu Bai was using Asha'ruiya to distract his opponent. If his opponent was being cautious and decided to take a more defensive approach, Mu Bai could flank the enemy from the right with his queen.

There were two pawns of the Dreadful Curse Cerberi on the right side. The Red Spider Lily Queen had no trouble killing them off.

Nobody even saw the Red Spider Lily Queen's actions clearly. The two Dreadful Curse Cerberi pawns quickly turned into dried bodies, wilted up like plants.

Mu Bai did not mind moving the Red Spider Lily Queen to a dangerous position. His opponent would not dare to challenge his queen with a knight or a bishop.

The Queen was still a Queen, even if her strength was reduced by thirty percent. Challenging her was suicidal!

This game of chess was not really the same as normal chess. The players had to take the strength of their pieces into consideration. Not all pieces were able to eat any enemy piece as they pleased!

Mu Bai had understood those rules very quickly. He had used his knights to distract the enemy's king and queen, allowing the Red Spider Lily Queen to take out the enemy pieces freely on the right side of the board.

"Nice move!" Sharjah complimented him.

The pieces on Mo Fan's side were mostly humans who had been dragged into Hell by the mad Su Lu. They managed to smile when they saw Mu Bai had secured a huge advantage in just a few rounds.

"Lord of Darkness, you still have the edge because of the rules. If you want someone dead, you can just sacrifice some of your pieces, while my goal is to save as many travelers as I can," Mu Bai pointed out.

"What do you suggest then? You have the advantage now. Aren't you satisfied with it?" the Lord of Darkness asked.

"Even if I win the match, those who died in the match still belong to you..." Mu Bai observed.

"I like a fair game. If a game isn't fair, there's no fun playing it. I will kill whoever offends me and claim their souls, but when I'm playing a game, I have always been a fair player. I will never break the rules or go back on my promises. What you said makes sense, but I can't revive those who have died," the Lord of Darkness said calmly.

Dying in the match would mean eternal death. The Lord of Darkness only knew how to kill, not bring someone back to life. Was he supposed to stick a dead person back together?

"Can we not overdo it?" Mu Bai asked.

"The game will be pretty boring without deaths," the Lord of Darkness sniffed.

Mu Bai tried different suggestions, but he could not convince the Lord of Darkness to compensate.

"How about this? If you win, I will release the travelers who are still alive in the Black Forest," the Lord of Darkness suggested.

The people who were chosen as chess pieces were all Mages. There were still a lot of ordinary people who did not know magic in the Dark Plane. Their only ending would be eternal death.

The Lord of Darkness had offered the lives of those innocent people as compensation. They now had a chance to leave this place. Their numbers included those travelers who had fallen into the Dark Plane from across the world and who had desperately been looking for a way out.

The Lord of Darkness had agreed to set them free as a reward.

It was unlikely Mu Bai could change the Lord of Darkness' mind further after he made his decision. If he could save the innocent people, he could make up for the pawns who had died. After all, many of their friends, families, and relatives had been dragged into this mess.

"My son is still in the forest. If he can make it out alive, I'm willing to fight a stronger piece just so we can win this match!" a middle-aged Mage burst into tears.

He did not have to save himself. He just wanted his seventeen-year-old son to make it out alive.

His boy was still so young. He had yet to see how wonderful the world was. How could he allow his son to be stuck forever in Hell?

His son had a bright future ahead. He had always admired the residents of the Dubai Magician Tower, but Su Lu's inhumane actions had destroyed his life.

"Don't worry, I'll try my best to save everyone. I'm also asking everyone not to give up when you are facing the enemy. The piece being attacked isn't necessarily going to die!" Mu Bai told the pawns.

"He's right. We shouldn't give up until the very end!"

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Mu Bai had no idea if his motivations were of any use.

Each of his pawns was made up of around a thousand Mages. Would all of them be willing to fight with everything they had?

Mu Bai did not think so, but he was satisfied if his words could motivate some of them who had a strong will to live.

People were inclined to conform slavishly to orders. However, if they lost their morale, they were nothing but lambs waiting to be slaughtered by a wolf!

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"Mu Bai, do you want me to stay here?" Mo Fan asked suddenly.

"For now..." Mu Bai replied.

"But if I'm right, either Sharjah or Asha'ruiya will have to face the enemy's queen after three rounds, and they will be the ones under attack!" Mo Fan said grimly.

Mo Fan had been observing the situation throughout the game. He knew how to play chess.

He was only too lazy to use his brain most of the time. However, his mind was currently spinning rapidly!

Chapter 2573: Adding Rules

Mu Bai did not say a word, since Mo Fan's speculation was right on point. Asha'ruiya and Sharjah might end up fighting the enemy queen.

The Lord of Darkness' goal was obvious, too. If the Red Spider Lily Queen was already massacring his pieces on the right side, he had to take care of Mu Bai's pieces on the left!

He was pressing forward so Asha'ruiya and Sharjah did not have a chance to retreat. His pieces were surrounding them and limiting their movements, like a pack of starving wolves.

“Is there a way to help them?” Mo Fan asked.

He did not want either of them to die. He had to try everything he could to save them, even if he was up against the Lord of Darkness.

Mu Bai was a little hesitant.

He had to make the decisions of who to save and who to abandon himself. As a matter of fact, he had already made up his mind.

The match was very straightforward. If everything went according to his plan, he could even secure the victory.

The most he could do was preserve half of his pieces.

“It’s too difficult to save all the pieces,” Mu Bai sighed.

“It’s difficult, but there’s a way, right?” Mo Fan asked.

Mo Fan always hated choosing one life over the other. He would not abandon anyone until he tried his best!

Sharjah must not die, the same with Asha’ruiya!

“If we choose that approach, we might lose more pieces than we have to,” Mu Bai warned him.

“Don’t think about failing. If it succeeds, everyone’s going to live. That’s good enough for me!” Mo Fan said.

Mu Bai looked at Mo Fan.

He was a little hesitant, but when he saw the look in Mo Fan’s eyes, he felt like he was back in Bo City. Mo Fan was the same back then. Even after they made it to safety, Mo Fan was willing to risk his life just to look for Xinxia.

Perhaps he had never conceded to his fate or destiny. It was something Mu Bai had always lacked.

Mu Bai would choose a safer approach most of the time, trying to minimize losses.

Being cautious and safe was a good thing, but it might be a bad thing to overthink sometimes.

Mo Fan was not willing to choose between the lives of his friends. Why would Mu Bai be willing to choose to save only one person between Asha’ruiya and Sharjah?

“Alright!” Mu Bai let out a deep breath.

He was not going to choose one life over the other anymore. It might be a game of chess, but no one could ever control their fate.

“I’m going to use an extreme measure. Either we kill every piece of the Lord of Darkness, or we will be wiped out!” Mu Bai said.

Mu Bai had lots of ways to win the match.

He had chosen the way with the highest possibility of winning the match and preserving the most pieces.

Mu Bai believed it was the best he could do. It was not the most desirable outcome, but it was good enough for him.

However, when he thought about the sacrifices some of the pieces had to make, he realized it felt worse than if he was going to die himself!

He would rather look for a way that could save all the pieces, even though their chance of winning was extremely low.

“King and rook, switch places!”

Mu Bai activated a special move called castling. A king and their rooks were able to switch positions.

The Black Dragon Emperor switched positions with Sharjah. The creatures nearby were startled by his overwhelming presence. Emperors were terrifying, after all. Even the Saintess of Darkness would not dare to challenge him!

The king’s movement was very limited, as it could only move one tile at a time. Therefore, despite the Black Dragon Emperor’s outstanding strength, he was unable to move around and kill the enemy like the Red Spider Lily Queen.

Due to his restricted movements, if Mi Bai played the king too aggressively, he might be taken out by the enemy.

Su Lu’s eyes glittered when he saw the Black Dragon Emperor going into the front line.

If the Black Dragon Emperor’s strength was reduced by thirty percent, Su Lu would have a good chance of killing him!

Once the Black Dragon Emperor died, no one could possibly stand a chance against Su Lu.

Su Lu did not care about other people. His only concern was leaving this place alive so he could make a comeback.

The Lord of Darkness laughed.

His opponent had finally run out of patience, making such a huge mistake!

“I’m sorry, It’s easy for me to forget important things. I haven’t explained another rule clearly...” the Lord of Darkness suddenly spoke.

“Shouldn’t we agree on the rules before the match?” Mu Bai asked.

“That’s how it is in your world, but in my world, I will alter the rules according to the situation. After all, many games have exploits and bugs that the game designers overlooked when they were released. They will fix the game with patches to balance the game. Am I right?” the Lord of Darkness said.

The Lord of Darkness wanted to add more rules. There was nothing they could do to change his mind.

He only claimed he was not going to destroy the balance of the game, but he never said he was not going to add more rules. After all, he had arranged the game itself. He still had control over everyone's life.

"Say it then, but I hope you are not doing it for your own advantage," Mu Bai was familiar with the Lord of Darkness. He knew the Lord of Darkness was a man of his word, at least toward people who did not pose a threat to him.

"The queen, the king, rooks, and bishops are powerful pieces. If the king was sent into the enemy's lines, even a three-year-old kid could win the match by using it to kill all the other pieces while avoiding the enemy king," the Lord of Darkness fondled his chin.

The Lord of Darkness had ignored something important because he was too focused on the other pieces' strengths while he was assigning the pieces.

Both the Black Dragon Emperor and Su Lu were too strong compared to the others. Even if their strength was reduced by thirty percent, the Red Spider Lily Queen and the Saintess of Darkness were still no match for them.

It would destroy the balance of the game, thus he had to add a rule to fix it!

"You are thinking of restraining the kings?" Mu Bai asked him quickly.

"No, the rule won't be targeting a certain piece. How about this? Whenever a piece kills an enemy piece, its strength will be increased by fifty percent. With that, if we use the pawns wisely and eliminate a few pieces, they will be strong enough to challenge the stronger pieces," the Lord of Darkness said.

Mu Bai shook his head and replied, "Lord of Darkness, that still isn't fair. The high-level pieces could just eliminate the low-level pieces to keep growing stronger. The game would lose its meaning."

"Oh, you are right. Do you have a better idea on top of my suggestion?" the Lord of Darkness asked.

Mu Bai quickly came up with a more reliable rule. "The low-level pieces need a fair rule, otherwise, they are basically useless in the game. I suggest that when a piece fights a piece of the same level, the piece that survives will have its strength increase by fifty percent.. If a piece takes out another piece that is higher level than it, the piece would obtain a two hundred percent increase in strength. However, when a piece takes out a piece with a lower level, nothing would change!"

Chapter 2574: Stumbling into the White Widow

The Lord of Darkness thought about it.

It was true that the low-level pieces were not that useful. They did not have any real influence in the outcome of the match.

However, a real game of chess was different. Every piece had its uses, including the pawns. They could eat the king if they were in the right positions!

However, a normal game of chess was boring. It was more interesting when real fighting was involved!

“Sure, I like your suggestion. It will make the game more interesting,” the Lord of Darkness agreed with a nod.

Mu Bai smiled faintly.

He had been taken by surprise when the Lord of Darkness said he wanted to add more rules. He thought the Ruler of the Dark Plane was going to add a rule that would benefit himself. Either way, no one could stop him from doing what he wanted.

To Mu Bai’s relief, the Lord of Darkness was an honorable player. He did not act shamelessly or regret his moves, nor did he add some unfair rules.

Mo Fan and Mu Bai exchanged glances.

Even if Mu Bai did not say anything, Mo Fan knew the new rule had greatly improved Mu Bai’s odds of winning the match.

The new rule had also added a lot of flexibility to the pieces. There were more unpredictable possibilities about how the match was going to turn out. Mu Bai was also suddenly unable to rely on his old strategies.

Staying on defense was meaningless, and the odds of winning with a defensive approach were even lower with the new rule. It was time for them to give it their all!

“Mo Fan, follow the Red Spider Lily Queen to the right side of the board. I want you to grow stronger,” Mu Bai told Mo Fan after he roughly figured out a new plan.

“Got it!” Mo Fan nodded.

Mo Fan had only voiced his concerns to Mu Bai because he had a feeling Mu Bai was trying to protect him.

Mo Fan was grateful for that, but even if he did survive in the end, he would never get over the pain of losing his friends.

He could not use the excuse of having tried his best to justify the undesirable outcome. Not only was he going to try his best, he would risk his life and soul to achieve his goal!

Hiding behind the others just to survive was never Mo Fan’s way!

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“Asha’ruiya, the enemy queen has her eyes on you. She’s going to attack you within two rounds. I can only send Sharjah to protect you, but she will end up as a defender, meaning that she has to fight the Saintess of Darkness under a restriction that will reduce her strength by thirty percent,” Mu Bai explained the current situation of the match.

The Lord of Darkness was not terrible at chess. He was not going to let Asha'ruiya and her Dark Swordmaster kill all his pawns in his territory!

Either Sharjah or Asha'ruiya had to pay for their actions. They were both irreplaceable.

"Send me to B6," Asha'ruiya told him.

"B6?" Mu Bai was stunned.

Mu Bai was well aware of the positions of every piece on the board. He already knew the White Widow was on B6 without having to look at the board.

That was the enemy bishop! The Lord of Darkness believed her strength was on par with Mo Fan's!

Even though the Lord of Darkness' assignments were not perfectly balanced, the difference in strength between the bishops was not going to be huge!

"Does that affect your plan?" Asha'ruiya asked.

"It does," Mu Bai said.

"In a good or bad way?"

"Good, it's perfect, but if you die..." Mu Bai was hesitant to finish the sentence.

"Is my death worse than Sharjah dying to the enemy queen?" Asha'ruiya asked him.

"Of course not," Mu Bai replied quickly.

Even with Mu Bai's change of plan, there was a high chance that either Asha'ruiya or Sharjah was going to die. The Lord of Darkness was pretty good at the game. He would not let both of them escape to safety.

Even if Asha'ruiya died on B6, Mu Bai would still have the advantage since she had cleared a path for Sharjah to charge right into the enemy's territory.

Mu Bai had castled and exchanged the Black Dragon Emperor and Sharjah's positions. It was a valid move by the Lord of Darkness' rules.

Sharjah was a rook, and could move across the board with ease. If she could swiftly regroup with the Black Dragon Emperor, the two of them could inflict a lot of damage on the enemy.

If the enemy queen took out Asha'ruiya, she would be blocking Sharjah's path. Mu Bai would have to waste an extra turn to relocate Sharjah.

Once Sharjah left the piece she was currently on, Mu Bai's plan would fail. The Black Dragon Emperor would be left alone with zero backup. The Lord of Darkness could easily use the rules of the extra boost of strength to the winning pieces and the thirty percent strength reduction to take out the Black Dragon Emperor.

Once the Black Dragon Emperor was taken out, it meant Mu Bai had lost the match!

Asha'ruiya's next step was crucial to the outcome. Mu Bai even wished he could take Asha'ruiya's spot and let her be the player, but he was unable to break the rules.

"Asha'ruiya..." Mo Fan was going to say something.

Asha'ruiya put on a calm smile and said, "I'm happy that you two are doing everything to protect me. I've not felt this way in a very long time, but I don't understand why you think you have to protect me. As a matter of fact, I'm going to protect you two. I, Asha'ruiya, will bring you both out of here alive!"

Asha'ruiya carried a sword on her back. She was imposing, yet alluring. Her eyes were brimming with determination.

The Asha'ruiya Mo Fan knew always had two sides to her. She was cold but seductive, attractive but sacred, casual but elegant.

She was like a white Persian cat. She had a natural noble aura, but she still retained her savagery.

Attack!

Asha'ruiya glided into the White Widow's tile.

The White Widow was being attacked, thus her strength had been reduced by thirty percent. However, the White Widow was a bishop!

"I forgot to mention another thing, too. Since the Dark Swordmaster was trying to help some travelers escape, I have removed the power Asha'ruiya received from the Dark Swordmaster as punishment," the Lord of Darkness proclaimed.

In other words, Asha'ruiya had already been punished by the Lord of Darkness before she even set foot on the board.

"It's true that nothing can ever escape your eyes, but don't you worry. It's better to spend my youth somewhere else than being stuck in the Dark Plane forever. I'm sorry that my soul won't belong to you for now, Your Highness Lord of Darkness," Asha'ruiya exclaimed, grinning faintly.

The Lord of Darkness did not respond, remaining unmoved with a playful look in his eyes. He was looking forward to the upcoming duel.

The White Widow!

It was a ghastly Ruler-level creature in the Dark Plane.. It had the body of a spider, and was able to move nimbly in the air or even hang upside down behind its prey and stare at it for a long time without alerting it.

Chapter 2575: Sword and Shadow

The Lord of Darkness suddenly exhaled when Asha'ruiya set foot on the White Widow's tile.

The tile that was covered in grass started shaking. Cracks began to appear in the air above the tile.

A light hint of blue was added to the green field. It was not obvious at first sight. It was like applying a filter to an image, but Asha'ruiya felt a strange coldness and humidity as she was walking on it.

Asha'ruiya looked down and realized she had walked onto a lake. The clear water was almost unnoticeable. She could even see pebbles, seaweed, and colorful sand at the bottom of the waters.

She looked up and noticed a few hills rising up from the lake.

Asha'ruiya had been to many places in China. Among them, Guilin had left her with a strong impression. The lake and the islands that had appeared out of nowhere were reminding her of Guilin. She felt like she had walked into a dazzling painting.

"A dazzling woman like you deserves a dazzling battlefield, even if you are going to end up bloody, don't you think?" the Lord of Darkness chuckled.

He was not just referring to Asha'ruiya. It sounded like the White Widow was a dazzling woman to him, too!

The White Widow was walking on the surface of the lake. She was light enough to remain above the surface of the lake. Small ripples were spreading across the lake from the tiny vibrations of the hairs on her legs.

Certain creatures had poor vision. They mainly relied on their hearing.

A spider normally 'listened' with its legs. The Widow's legs were vibrating rapidly while she was moving across the water. The ripples were so tiny that they were barely visible.

Asha'ruiya advanced while the White Widow remained still. She was eerily quiet.

"Thunderclap Shadow!"

Asha'ruiya had mainly focused on improving her Shadow Element. She had perfectly merged her magic and her sword mastery. She had further improved it after she Awakened her Super Power after becoming a Super Mage.

She pointed her sword forward, and a dark bolt of lightning sliced at the White Widow.

The White Widow did not show any intention to move away at first, but just as the lightning was about to reach her, she moved sideways and dodged the unexpected lightning bolt!

"Shadow Weave Sword!"

Shadows in the shape of swords swept across the lake, leaving gaps that took an unnaturally long time to be filled by the water.

The White Widow moved nimbly between the slashes. She covered just enough distance to dodge the slashes, despite their numbers and speed. Somehow, she managed to evade them all perfectly.

The others were dumbfounded by the sight.

Asha'ruiya's attacks were quite powerful. Most enemies would have been shredded by them, yet the White Widow had dodged them perfectly even after her strength was reduced by thirty percent. It felt like her limbs were able to predict where Asha'ruiya's attacks were coming from in advance.

Asha'ruiya was soon covered in sweat. Her attacks were not just for display. Every slash could easily tear through the defense of a Ruler-level creature. She had once killed a Dark Swordmaster with the same slash when she was fighting the enemy knight.

The White Widow's body was still perfectly white. Her skin did not look sturdy, but the outcome of the battle was pretty obvious if Asha'ruiya could not land a single blow on her.

The White Widow continued to move agilely across the water, but soon took to the air. Asha'ruiya assumed the creature was walking on invisible spider silk, but her slashes did not hit anything when she aimed them at the air. The White Widow continued to walk toward Asha'ruiya 'elegantly'.

The spider's pale head was covered in strange runes. Her eyes were bloodshot, and she had a long tongue.

Her human face was on its spider-like body.

The White Widow was not very large, her body sized similarly to a human's. Her eyes had remained fixed on Asha'ruiya, even when she was dodging the slashes, never shifting her gaze away.

"I have to endure terrible pain every time I change my skin. It feels like a scalpel is cutting through my skin, but I don't mind going through the pain if I can have your pretty face. Don't you worry, I won't damage your face. After all, who would want to leave scars on their own face?" The White Widow surprisingly spoke a human language. She sounded arrogant and crazy.

When she burst out laughing, her spooky voice echoed in everyone's ears.

She was planning to claim Asha'ruiya's face!

No wonder the Lord of Darkness had referred to her as a dazzling woman. The White Widow was crazy about her beauty, but her way of making herself prettier was by taking someone else's face!

There were women among the pawns. They shivered when they heard the White Widow's words.

They would rather destroy their own face and body than let a monster claim them!

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The White Widow's piercing laughter was hurting everyone's ears and making their scalps turn numb.

There was no prior warning before she began attacking.

Most creatures would slightly lean backward or bend their knees when they were attacking, but there was no sign of that when the White Widow began her attack.

However, her speed and power were ridiculous. Her movement was followed by a huge blast of wind. Asha'ruiya backed away instinctively, but the White Widow's deadly claws were already within inches of her!

Her throat, heart, eyes, and stomach were her vital parts!

The people could barely see the White Widow's movement and attacks. Similarly, Asha'ruiya was also moving so quickly that they could only see her shadows as she was dodging the White Widow's claws.

The two exchanged countless blows in just a few seconds. Sparks and slashes were flying across the place. In the end, Asha'ruiya distanced herself from the White Widow with Blink and withdrew to a hill in the distance.

Her shoulders, legs, elbows, and back were covered in wounds. Mo Fan was relieved when he saw the cuts were shallow.

Asha'ruiya knew the White Widow's claws were poisonous. She had taken the necessary precautions.

"It seems like I must take this more seriously," Asha'ruiya murmured as she checked her wounds.

She could still tolerate the minor injuries. It was better than being stabbed and torn apart.

Asha'ruiya closed her eyes, as if she did not need to rely on her eyes to see the enemy.

The Aura of darkness around her suddenly enlarged and spread like a storm while she was standing still!

### **Chapter 2576: Extraordinary Senses**

The White Widow did not want to give Asha'ruiya the chance to catch her breath. She rose into the sky and suddenly vanished into thin air.

The surface of the lake was as calm as a mirror, but a strange white shadow suddenly appeared from the water. It was sneaking up to Asha'ruiya from behind like a vengeful spirit, her glittering eyes staring at the human above it.

The shadow under the water turned out to be the White Widow's reflection. She was falling from the sky out of nowhere. She hung upside down behind Asha'ruiya and swung her claws ferociously at the human.

The whole sequence happened very quickly. It only took the White Widow a second to appear out of nowhere and launch her attacks. It was unlikely anyone would see her coming under normal circumstances.

Asha'ruiya's body was shredded by the claws.

Her body did not scatter across the place in a spray of blood and flesh. It dispersed like a cloud of smoke into the water!

The White Widow was shocked. She immediately turned around and fired the poisonous spikes on her back in all directions!

Poisonous spikes poured down as rapidly as rain. The whole lake was stirred up by the spikes. Some of the islands were even knocked to pieces.

Asha'ruiya was gone like a cloud of dust. The spikes failed to hurt her.

The dark smoke floated above the White Widow. A black sword suddenly extended out of it and slashed at the White Widow.

The White Widow quickly moved away, but the sword still hit one of her legs. The severed leg sank slowly into the water.

The White Widow let out a furious screech. She raised her other front limb.

A piercing wind sliced across the lake like an enormous scythe, like it was going to cut Asha'ruiya in half.

Asha'ruiya's body did split in half. However, her body was replaced with two black petals as it was falling toward the water. The petals were carried away by the ripples on the lake.

A dazzling rose bearing many sharp thorns blossomed under the White Widow's legs.

The petals of the rose were all made up of black swords. They were packed together like a gorgeous piece of art, but they were also giving off a menacing Aura!

Sword Rose!

The thrusting swords poked several holes into the White Widow's stomach. Blue blood began pouring out of the wounds.

The injured White Widow quickly climbed a hundred meters into the air.

The hairs on her legs were vibrating madly. It was the Widow's way of sensing her surroundings. Even the slightest breeze could not escape her senses.

She was searching for Asha'ruiya. The Widow could no longer predict Asha'ruiya's movements after her Aura had grown stronger.

Asha'ruiya's movements and attacks had become unpredictable. The White Widow felt humiliated after being hit twice by Asha'ruiya's attacks.

She was no longer in the mood to preserve Asha'ruiya's appearance. She had decided to take a more brutal approach.

The White Widow closed her eyes, pausing in mid-air.

She was surrounded by stationary droplets in the air all about her. Her enemy's movements would turn the droplets into ripples, allowing the White Widow to track her enemy's position. She would also learn the enemy's intentions faster than using the naked eye.

That was the reason why Asha'ruiya had so much trouble hitting the White Widow previously.

The ripples had shown the White Widow the angles Asha'ruiya's attacks were coming from as she was swinging her sword, hence the White Widow was able to dodge all her attacks perfectly.



“I’m going to find you... Nothing can escape from my hearing.

“Flaws are a part of life sometimes, like Venus, who lost her limbs. She was still considered the prettiest woman in the world, even after she lost her limbs.

“Therefore, people should be able to accept a woman with a huge hole and a missing heart in her chest, even if her body is a white spider.”

The White Widow was verbally provoking Asha’ruiya, while conveying her greed for the woman’s beauty.

The White Widow did not necessarily have to hear Asha’ruiya’s movements. Every living creature had a deadly weakness: their heartbeat!

The White Widow could pick up the change of a mouse’s heartbeat within five kilometers!

It was easy to miss a creature’s heartbeat when it was stable, but the change in its frequency was very obvious. The White Widow just needed to pick up the change of her enemy’s heartbeats to track them down.

No one had ever escaped from her hearing!

*No one!*

*There is no way...*

The White Widow grew anxious.

She could not find Asha’ruiya. Somehow, Asha’ruiya was the only exception!

A human could remain still and hold their breath, but how could they possibly stop their heart from beating?

*Where exactly did she go?*

The White Widow started panicking. She even opened her eyes to search for Asha’ruiya.

Her surroundings were empty. The lake was so calm that she could see her reflection perfectly, but there was still no sign of Asha’ruiya.

She wondered if her enemy had left the tile. However, no one could possibly break the Lord of Darkness’ rules. If the human could leave the tile, why would she bother fighting for so long?

The White Widow continued searching for Asha’ruiya. She slowly glided down from the sky. Somehow, she no longer felt safe in the air.

There was nothing around her, except for her reflection in the water...

The White Widow suddenly realized something when she saw her reflection. She desperately swung her front limb along her back.

A petite figure nimbly dodged the claw.

Asha'ruiya did a backflip before thrusting out. A dazzling shower of swords punched through the White Widow, leaving countless holes in her body!

The White Widow cried out in pain, her body shredded by the swords. She finally realized why she had failed to track down Asha'ruiya.. The woman was hiding on her back all along. She had been mimicking the Widow's heartbeat by tapping her sword!

## **Chapter 2577: Sent to Death**

The White Widow could sense her surroundings through ripples, but that did not include her own body.

The White Widow's body was a perfect blind spot. Asha'ruiya hid on her back and waited for the perfect opportunity to stab the spider with her rain of swords!

The creature's body fell into the lake. Her human face and half of its body were still intact.

She swam to the shore and gave the Lord of Darkness a pleading look.

The Lord of Darkness was her only hope. She was hoping the Lord of Darkness would give her another chance, since she had served him for so many years.

"Either way, it's just a game," the Lord of Darkness spoke up.

A smile blossomed on the White Widow's ugly face.

"Therefore, the characters in the game don't deserve any pity," the Lord of Darkness added.

The White Widow's expression immediately shifted.

It would have been better if the Lord of Darkness had kept a cold face.

The Lord of Darkness had to humiliate the White Widow right before her death. She completely lost her mind in despair. She was going to take Asha'ruiya down with her!

Asha'ruiya abruptly stabbed the White Widow through her forehead. The Widow's body twitched while her face was full of hatred. However, she still could not escape her death.

Asha'ruiya drew out her sword and took a deep breath before looking at the Lord of Darkness.

The Lord of Darkness laughed.

"It seems like I evaluated your strength wrongly. You are more than just a knight," the Lord of Darkness conceded.

Asha'ruiya bowed deeply to the Lord of Darkness. She said, "You can't be right all the time!"

“I’ve always made mistakes. I often regret it as soon as I lift my hand off a piece, but I enjoy the game. Every mistake is helping me realize my shortcomings,” the Lord of Darkness said. It was strange to hear a philosophical statement from the Lord of Darkness.

The White Widow was dead!

Asha’ruiya had taken it down!

Mo Fan suddenly recalled the mysterious dark power bursting out of Asha’ruiya’s body during the World College Tournament when she had faced Mu Ningxue.

In the end, she conceded instead of lifting the Seal on her terrifying power.

Mo Fan had no idea what her secret power was, but he was sure that her abilities and her strength had improved significantly after she became a Super Mage and Awakened her Super Power. She was no longer just a Mage. She was more like an unpredictable assassin!

Asha’ruiya stood beside the Black Dragon Emperor. She turned around and looked at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan could see the smug look on her face. Even though she did not open her mouth, he could imagine her saying, “Do you now realize how strong I am?”

Mo Fan generously raised his thumb to Asha’ruiya.

As expected of the woman who had fought Mu Ningxue to a draw! Mu Ningxue had become a powerful Mage, but Asha’ruiya was not to be underestimated, either!

“Lord of Darkness, a lower-level piece has won. I hope you didn’t forget the rule,” Mu Bai reminded him.

“Of course, I shall grant her the Spring of Darkness that will temporarily boost her strength,” the Lord of Darkness agreed.

It would increase Asha’ruiya’s strength by fifty percent, which would give Asha’ruiya a better chance of winning against the enemy knights and bishops.

Most importantly, Asha’ruiya had gone from being in a dangerous position to becoming a sharp sword stabbing at the enemy’s backline by the Black Dragon Emperor’s side. If Mu Bai could move Sharjah deeper into the enemy’s territory, he might be able to take down the enemy queen!

The queen was an important piece in a game of chess. The king’s movements were extremely limited, but the queen could move freely across the board.

While the pieces on the left side of the board were in a stare-down, the Red Spider Lily Queen had taken out three enemy pieces.

“Bishop, cross the border and attack the enemy bishop!” Mu Bai ordered the European man.

The man was a bishop, like Mo Fan. He was on the right side of the board, close to the Red Spider Lily Queen.

Mu Bai was a better player than the Lord of Darkness. He was not going to waste any of his pieces, nor was he going to send others to death just to save himself.

His goal was to save every piece!

Mo Fan was still on standby, but he had a feeling Mu Bai was planning to send him after an important enemy piece soon.

The European was soon fighting the Crimson Scorpion Medusa. As the defender, the Crimson Scorpion Medusa's strength was reduced by thirty percent, giving the European an advantage.

Unfortunately, the outcome was undesirable.

The Lord of Darkness' restraints on the defending piece slowly wore away over time. The Crimson Scorpion Medusa managed to buy itself enough time with its Petrifying magic and its hypnotizing eyes.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa won the fight in the end. It also grew stronger from the Spring of Darkness.

The Lord of Darkness immediately launched his counterattack. He ended up taking out a few of Mu Bai's pieces, including Asha'ruiya's Dark Swordmaster.

Asha'ruiya stared at her Dark Swordmaster's dead body expressionlessly.

Sacrifices were inevitable in the match. Asha'ruiya did not blame Mu Bai for using her Dark Swordmaster to stop the enemy queen's attack. She directed all her hatred at Su Lu.

The crazy man was the one that had dragged all of them into this mess. He deserved to die the most in this battle!

"Mo Fan, Su Lu is targeting you," Mu Bai told him.

"Let me fight him fair and square, since running away isn't an option," Mo Fan said.

"I'm very sorry that not everything goes according to plan..." Mu Bai said.

Mu Bai moved the only pawn he had left to the tile in front of Mo Fan to block Su Lu's path.

The group of a thousand Mages was forced to face Su Lu!

"Are you crazy?"

"You son of a b\*\*ch!"

"Why did you send us to die!?"

The Mages immediately cursed Mu Bai.

Su Lu was able to move diagonally. He was amused when he saw Mu Bai using his pawn to protect Mo Fan.

It was part of human nature. The Mages had completely forgotten who was responsible for dragging them into Hell in the first place. However, they would surely remember the person who had taken away their hope!

"Mu Bai, I never wanted to be a Saint. I can choose to run away myself!" Mo Fan watched the Mages being massacred by Su Lu helplessly.

“Where there is light, there are always shadows.. I always thought I was the light and you were the shadow, but I now realize you are more suitable to be the light,” Mu Bai answered.

## **Chapter 2578: Medusa Queen**

Mu Bai did not regret his move. He accepted being hated by the people who had died.

The middle-aged man who claimed he wanted to save his son in the black forest was cursing Mu Bai now. Mu Bai understood his change of heart.

“Go left diagonally!” Mu Bai immediately moved Mo Fan to run away from Su Lu.

The tile was empty. There were only the remains of several pieces that had fought there, including the European man who had been a bishop.

It was far from a safe place. It would also take away Mu Bai’s initiative.

However, it was the only way to shake off Su Lu. Su Lu could not wait to tear Mo Fan into pieces. If Su Lu cornered Mo Fan, he would have no chance of escaping, nor was he going to receive any help.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa hissed and slowly approached Mo Fan. It was obvious that the Lord of Darkness was persisting in trying to kill Mo Fan.

“He’s still going to die no matter how hard you are trying to protect him,” the Lord of Darkness promised.

Mu Bai did not say a word back.

The tile Mo Fan stood on began to change. It was covered by brown-yellow soil and lots of sharp rocks jutting out. Huge boulders were rising like mountains around him.

Sand and dust lingered in the air and occasionally took the shape of yellow dragons soaring into the sky with formidable auras.

It was a barren land. Even the things that resembled plants were all made of rocks, sand, and soil, as if everything was made of the same elements.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa crawled across the barren land. Her scorpion body was surprisingly flexible, allowing her to glide forward like a snake even though her body was a scorpion. It looked very strange.

“I’m sorry that I must forbid one of your Contracted Summonings. Too bad,” the Lord of Darkness looked at Mo Fan thoughtfully and waved his hand. A dark ray of light flew at Mo Fan’s forehead like an insect.

Mo Fan did not try to dodge it. Even the Black Dragon Emperor and Su Lu were treated like mere chess pieces by the Lord of Darkness. It was meaningless for Mo Fan to even struggle against him.

“It doesn’t matter to me. It’s true that the fight would be meaningless if I used the Contracted Summoning,” Mo Fan said honestly.

“Let’s begin. Since you are the defender, your strength will be reduced by thirty percent,” the Lord of Darkness said.

A black illusionary string fell from the sky and attached to Mo Fan. It did not affect his actions or movements, but it would reduce the strength of every spell he used.

“Lord of Darkness, do you think I’m no match for him? Did you forget I’ve already killed a bishop, causing my strength to grow by fifty percent? Besides, his strength is reduced thirty percent too,” The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was able to speak in a human language. Her face was like a human’s, but around five times bigger.

Mo Fan was in a terrible spot.

The European man had died to the Crimson Scorpion Medusa, and since he had been a bishop, the Crimson Scorpion Medusa’s strength had increased by fifty percent.

It was as the Crimson Scorpion Medusa said. The battle was already to her favor, especially when she was the attacker!

Why was it necessary for the Lord of Darkness to forbid the enemy’s Contracted Summoning? How could his Contracted Summoning possibly stand a chance against her?

The Lord of Darkness smiled.

Mo Fan smiled, too. The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was seriously asking for trouble!

“You may Summon your little maid then,” the Lord of Darkness conceded.

Mo Fan opened the rift of the Contract Summoning.

A gorgeous young woman walked out of the rift. She was dressed in ordinary clothes, but they were enough to highlight her outstanding beauty.

Her eyes were sparkling and golden, unlike normal human eyes.

She was petite when she stood in front of Mo Fan, but when she lifted her gaze to look at the Crimson Scorpion Medusa, an overwhelming Aura froze the barren land in a terrifying manner.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa instantly turned from a proud tyrant to a petty little scorpion. She was trembling in fear. She almost slammed into a rock when she turned around and ran for her life.

A Medusa Queen!

The creatures in the Evil Temples greatly respected one another’s lineage. The ones with a purer lineage would possess the great power of the Evil Temple. The Evil Temple was a part of the Dark Plane, but it existed in the human world.

The Medusa Queens were obviously the highest rulers of the Evil Temple. The Crimson Scorpion Medusa could never have guessed that the Contracted Summoning was going to bring forth a Medusa Queen!

“Third...Third Highness!” The Crimson Scorpion Medusa fell to her knees. There was no sign of her proud and aloof manner. She almost buried her head into the sand.

“You win, you die. You lose, you die, too!” Apas stated coldly.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was left speechless.

Just a moment ago, she was relieved that she had another chance to take out an enemy bishop. Her strength would soon be increased by another fifty percent, thus she might stand a chance against pieces that were higher-level than her.

She did not expect the situation to turn out like this! The Crimson Scorpion Medusa had an urge to kill herself!

If the Medusa Queen had a Contract with the young man, the Medusa Queen would definitely kill her for killing the young man!

If she lost the battle, she was going to die, too. The Lord of Darkness would never spare the life of a loser in his game of chess. The outcome of the battle would decide their fate!

“Are you satisfied now?” the Lord of Darkness asked.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa felt like crying. Why couldn't she control her own mouth?

“However, there's no need to worry. Since there's a Contract between them, once you kill the man, the Medusa Queen will sustain a serious blow to her soul. You have plenty of time to look for a place to hide and enjoy how good it is to be alive until she recovers from her injuries,” the Lord of Darkness went on.

“Please... say no more...” The Crimson Scorpion Medusa felt like she had been stabbed in the heart.

She had thought the Lord of Darkness would provide her protection, but instead, he was just pointing out the obvious.

What difference was it going to make? She was still going to die either way!

The Lord of Darkness did not care about the fate of his pieces. His only goal was to win the game. He just needed to give the Crimson Scorpion Medusa a glimpse of hope, and she would know what she was supposed to do.

Mo Fan sent the Medusa Queen back to her Contracted Space. He knew the Lord of Darkness would not allow Apas to be involved in the fight.

The Lord of Darkness' rules were actually quite simple. He would remove the factors that would severely affect the balance of a battle.

However, Mo Fan did not think the Lord of Darkness was omnipotent.. At least his evaluation of the strengths of different pieces had not been very accurate so far.

## Chapter 2579: Crimson Scorpion Lice

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa glared at Mo Fan. She had reclaimed her initial savage and vicious appearance as soon as Apas was gone.

She had an idea. She would be free once she won the fight!

She would immediately run to the Evil Temple. She had heard that Euryale and Apas had long fallen out with one another. She would submit herself to Euryale while Apas was still recovering from her injuries. She would be safe once Euryale killed Apas in the end!

She did not have to die. She still had a chance to live!

The first step was to kill the man before her!

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa had an advantage, even though they were both bishops.

The more she found herself in a pinch, the fiercer she was. The Crimson Scorpion Medusa threw herself at Mo Fan and stabbed at him with the stinger she had been hiding under her body.

The sting flew horizontally like a flickering star. It did not make any noise, nor did it shake the Heavens and Earth. It was heading straight for Mo Fan's throat from several kilometers away.

Mo Fan had been on his guard all along. He had encountered several creatures of her species, and he knew what they were capable of.

A silver light wrapped around Mo Fan. It shrank into a tiny dot as the stinger was thrown at him.

The point of light vanished, together with Mo Fan.

Mo Fan had to use Blink. A Mage's speed was nowhere enough to dodge the scorpion's tail.

Mo Fan moved seven hundred meters away. He saw a hole punched through the rocks behind his initial location.

A dark flicker suddenly swept at Mo Fan's head.

It was targeting the spot where Mo Fan had landed with Blink. The Crimson Scorpion Medusa had already seen through his intentions. She was able to attack twice with her stinger after her strength had temporarily increased by fifty percent with the Spring of Darkness.

Mo Fan leaned backward.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was grinning confidently, but her expression froze when she noticed Mo Fan's body turning into a black mantle as he fell to the ground.

*Such a cunning human!*



The Crimson Scorpion Medusa had stronger senses than a human. Even her reactions were faster.

She quickly turned around and swung her claws at a lightning claw that was approaching her.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa did not sustain any damage from the clash. Her claws tore through Mo Fan's Lightning Spell with ease. The lightning claw turned into a bunch of lightning arcs and scattered across the ground.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa's speed was insane.

It felt like her scorpion legs were driven by powerful engines while her body was gliding around like a snake. She was moving around like a shadow.

*BANG!*

She pounced at Mo Fan and swung her claws at his head.

Mo Fan jumped several dozen meters back. His body slammed into the ground like a javelin falling from a great height.

"Hillock Whale!"

He slammed his fist on the ground. It immediately cracked apart, and enormous whales emerged from the ground and rammed into the Crimson Scorpion Medusa.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa glided nimbly about and dodged their attacks with unexpected movements.

She suddenly jumped onto the stomach of one of the whales and skittered across it.

Mo Fan did not expect his enemy to weave through the whales. He stopped running away when he saw the Crimson Scorpion Medusa closing in, and raised his right hand.

A puff of liquid red fire appeared on his hand. The fire poured down and ignited across his body.

Mo Fan was rapidly engulfed in flames, like he had put on burning armor.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa obviously had the advantage in the battle. She was putting Mo Fan under enormous pressure, so he had no choice but to transform into the King of Hell and take out the Crimson Scorpion Medusa with his Fiery Dragon Breath.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was blasted into the sky by the flames. She had barely recovered her footing when she noticed fiery birds diving at her in great numbers.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was set ablaze, even with the thick snake scales protecting her. She did not overstay her welcome in the fiery birds' territory, and quickly propelled herself into the distance by rocketing off a jutting stony hill.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa tugged on her hair, which was as stiff and gnarled as the roots of an old tree, dragging it in front of her and fixing it to the ground with one of her legs.

After tightening her hair, the Crimson Scorpion Medusa suddenly reached out two hands with eerily long fingers that had appeared out of nowhere, and adeptly plucked at her hair.

*Treating her hair like the strings of a harp?*

Mo Fan had never seen this before. He did not press forward recklessly in case his opponent was using the Sound Element, which was his greatest weakness.

There was no sound. Every time the Crimson Scorpion Medusa plucked her hair, tiny black lice-like insects crawled out of the hair and dug into the ground.

Mo Fan was dumbfounded.

She was not playing a harp. She was shaking out the lice in the hair!

The problem was, were the lice even a threat?

*Did the Crimson Scorpion Medusa not wash her hair for several hundred years? How are so many lice coming out of her hair?*

If Mo Fan was going to die, he believed he would die of disgust.

“Earth Flame!”

Mo Fan slowly opened his right hand. Lava was flowing out of the gaps between his fingers. The scorching red liquid permeated the ground under his feet.

The ground swiftly reddened.

The others might not see it, but Mo Fan could feel the ground being filled up by the lice. The soil and rocks under his feet were crawling with lice. Only the thin layer of the surface remained intact.

The Crimson Scorpion Lice were able to multiply on their own, and were doing so at a shocking rate under the ground. If Mo Fan did not use the Earth Flame to establish a boundary, he would soon find himself inside a nest of lice!

The Crimson Scorpion Lice were oddly terrifying, and eventually even infested the surface. Even the rocky hills around them had turned into mountains of lice.

Mo Fan’s Ardent Sunset was supposed to be effective against enemies in great numbers, but the lice were highly resistant to fire after the Crimson Scorpion Medusa was strengthened by the Spring of Darkness. They were multiplying quicker than Mo Fan’s flames could devour them.

Mo Fan had established a fiery swamp, but it was soon devoured by a black tide in the form of the lice. Mo Fan no longer had a place to stand.

The army of Crimson Scorpion Lice was following the Crimson Scorpion Medusa’s orders. They continued to pile up into a Crimson Scorpion Louse King the size of a mountain!

## **Chapter 2580: Mutual Destruction**

Black lice were falling off the Crimson Scorpion Louse King's body like dead skin. More of them fell out of its mouth whenever it was opened. Mo Fan's scalp tingled when he saw the lice.

The waves of lice kept knocking Mo Fan into the air. He could not afford to fight the Crimson Scorpion Louse King directly.

He had to admit that the combination of the thirty percent reduction of his strength and the fifty percent increase to the Crimson Scorpion Medusa's strength after she killed the European had made the battle extremely difficult.

He had to avoid the territory she'd taken over.

Mo Fan moved toward the edge of the tile. The barren land that had previously been covered in rocks and sand had turned into a nest of lice.

Mo Fan frowned when he noticed the space getting smaller.

How did the Crimson Scorpion Medusa store so many lice in her hair? If the lice were able to multiply endlessly through fragmentation, wouldn't the Crimson Scorpion Medusa be carrying an army with her?

Mo Fan tried to recall the battle in Bejiang. There was a Crimson Scorpion Medusa in the battle between the armies of Undead there, but Mo Fan had never seen it use such a powerful ability.

Mo Fan used his Will to form a defensive wall, but the Crimson Scorpion Louse King simply broke through it with brute force.

The Ardent Sunset was supposed to be effective against swarming insects, too, but it was not proving that useful against the lice.

*Is the Crimson Scorpion Medusa really this powerful?*

Mo Fan was forced to the edge of the tile. The army of lice was everywhere. Mo Fan could not even see his surroundings.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa stood above the waves of lice, like she was surfing on them. Her eyes were constantly fixed on Mo Fan, as if she was keen to see Mo Fan being smashed into mincemeat by the Crimson Scorpion Louse King.

"That monster, she could have stayed behind the lice in safety... Her eyes, that's right, she's a Medusa!" Mo Fan felt an urge to hit himself on the head.

Apas was worried sick in the Contracted Space.

Mo Fan was pretty smart most of the time. How could he screw up in a situation like this?

He was going up against a Medusa!

Wasn't a Medusa's eyes their strongest ability? Not only were they able to petrify their enemy, they were also good at tricking their enemies with illusions!

The Lord of Darkness had forbidden Apas from taking part in the battle. He had also blocked the connection between her and Mo Fan, thus she was unable to warn him of this.

Luckily, Mo Fan had realized the truth before it was too late!

The Crimson Scorpion Louse King and the fireproof lice that were multiplying endlessly... They were only part of the Crimson Scorpion Medusa's illusion!

Her eyes had never left Mo Fan.

She was indeed releasing black lice from her hair, but their numbers were nowhere close to what Mo Fan was seeing.

The Crimson Scorpion Louse King was only scary when Mo Fan was being tricked by the Crimson Scorpion Medusa's eyes.

The Crimson Scorpion Medusa was targeting Mo Fan's mind while sending out her lice. She was going to break down Mo Fan's mind and then take him out with the lice.

Mo Fan eventually calmed down.

He had already strengthened his Will after fighting several Medusae in the past. He did not have trouble waking himself up from the illusion. He just had to find its weak point!

Mo Fan stopped moving backward.

The Ardent Sunset was spiraling under his feet, but the lice quickly lunged at the flames to put them out.

However, Mo Fan did not stop gathering the flames this time. After all, it was just an illusion!

The Ardent Sunset was not put out. The enemy had only been stamping out the will to fight in his heart.

Mo Fan kept releasing the flames. The furnace burning in his body was receiving endless fuel, filling the area with scorching flames.

The Ardent Sunset grew rapidly and swiftly burned the black lice to ashes.

It was like a little spark carried by a gust of wind to a dry paddy field. The whole field would be consumed by fire, as long as the wind did not put out the embers!

The Medusa's eyes were the strong wind that had made Mo Fan believe his fire could not ignite the paddy field!

The Ardent Sunset was naturally still effective after Mo Fan broke free from the illusion. The flames were spreading even quicker than he thought. They had already reached the Crimson Scorpion Louse King.

The hill-sized Crimson Scorpion Louse King was set aflame. It burned into ashes before it even had a chance to attack Mo Fan.

The fire was unstoppable, the lice had now become its fuel. The Ardent Sunset soon spread to the Crimson Scorpion Medusa.

Not only did the Crimson Scorpion Medusa's plan fail, it had even provided Mo Fan with a perfect environment!

The stronger the fire was, the stronger Mo Fan was in his King of Hell form. On top of that, Mo Fan was basically unkillable in the fire because of the Phoenix Flame. His wounds had healed in mere seconds.

He was grateful to the Crimson Scorpion Medusa for providing his flames with the cleanest fuel. Otherwise, he would not have been able to recover from his injuries!

Not only did he recover his strength, the fire had made him stronger! On the other hand, the Crimson Scorpion Medusa was now fleeing for her life. She was searching for a spot where the fire was weaker, but Mo Fan had already caught up to her.

"There's no way you can beat me!" The Crimson Scorpion Medusa lunged at Mo Fan after she realized she had nowhere to go.

She had turned herself into a stinger. It was the deadliest attack that she would only use as a last resort. The stinger hidden between her stomach and tail was actually part of her organs!

Mo Fan was fearless. He dove at his enemy like a blazing sun and burned everything into ashes!

*Whoosh!*

The stinger went right through Mo Fan's chest.

At the same time, blazing lava burst out of Mo Fan's chest and sprayed over the Crimson Scorpion Medusa.

"Ahhhhh!" the Crimson Scorpion Medusa screamed in agony as the lava covered her. Her scales, body, blood, and organs were melting rapidly in the merciless flames.

The King of Hell's flames were incredibly powerful. Even the Crimson Scorpion Medusa could not survive them!

Su Lu burst out laughing. "HAHAHA, well done, she has taken him down with her! It's a satisfactory outcome!"

It was a pity that he could not kill Mo Fan himself, but he was pleased to see Mo Fan was dead.

He would not be here in the first place if Mo Fan had not ruined his plans. Su Lu wanted Mo Fan to die the most!

Mo Fan's fire had burned the Crimson Scorpion Medusa to death, but the Crimson Scorpion Medusa had also stabbed Mo Fan through the chest with her deadliest move!