

## Versatile 2701

### Chapter 2701: The Commander is Furious

“Yes!” said Nanrong Xishan. “He also threatened to destroy all the Nanrong family. How can he say such things? Such an arrogant hot-headed devil rules over the Fan Xuexin City and the port in the North City! It is good that you are here, Commander Hua. I hope you take back the territory so that this devil doesn’t harm the local residents!”

“Commander Hua,” said Jiang Shuihan calmly. “We also want to mediate this dispute and end the battle. Many excellent mages lost their lives. Unfortunately, Lord Mo Fan seems too angry to come to a negotiation.”

“Old woman,” said Mo Fan, addressing Jiang Shuihan. “If someone tries to break into your house and then intends to kick you out of your own home, will you talk with the attackers very politely or try to defend your home?”

Jiang Shuihan’s face twitched. ‘Old Woman?!’

Granted she was over forty years of age, but Jiang Shuihan was still called beautiful by many. Some young mages in the Magic Association who did not know her position would sometimes treat her as their peer. Jiang Shuihan wanted to tear Mo Fan’s mouth when he called her an old woman!

“Since the Magic Association in our country allows the clan to own its own territory, run its own business, and cultivate its own mages, the territory becomes sacred and inviolable. Old He should be very clear about this.” Hua Zhanhong glanced at the old man.

Old He of the Clan Alliance nodded. “I haven’t seen you for such a long time, but you’re still the same as before, Commander Hua.”

“You flatter me. If I were younger, I would have arrived an hour ago.” Commander Hua turned to Mo Fan. “By the way, Mo Fan, I happened to encounter a rampant Chief Shark when I was passing by Lan Yang City, so I killed it. The body is still intact and fresh, and I want to give it to you as a gift. Let your subordinates use it for its valuable materials. I hope you accept it as my apology to you.”

The five officials were stunned. Commander Hua was apologizing to this brat?! Moreover, he had killed a Chief Shark which was threatening the Lan Yang City and was offering it to Mo Fan!

“Well, protecting the national treasure is my duty,” said Mo Fan. “Thank you.” He did not really want Commander Hua to apologize to him. He respected him very much.

Instead, he wanted the five old b\*stards in front of him to apologize. They had only stood by and watched as Lin Kang strode to slaughter Fanxue Mountain. They didn’t even try to stop him. They let it happen so that Lin Kang could tear Fanxue Mountain apart and they could share it among themselves.

They never intended to take accountability of their actions. They could always blame Lin Kang if he failed, and escape the consequences. How did they expect Mo Fan to not know about what was going on in their minds?

They wanted to destroy Fanxue Mountain, and expected Mo Fan to be polite about it.

“You’re as cool as always, Commander.” Zhao Manyan gave Commander Hua a thumbs up.

Mu Bai also looked at Commander Hua in disbelief.

The chief of the Shark Kingdom was as powerful as the Black Totem Snake. It was the ‘king’ who tried to occupy the West Lake in Hangzhou. Many masters in Hangzhou could do nothing about it, but it was killed by Hua Zhanhong who was just passing by. What realm was Hua Zhanhong at?

“It ran around like it lost a treasure, and other shark monsters were escorting it. It was... unlucky to meet me. Unfortunately, it was not the King of the Shark Kingdom. The coastline of 1,000 kilometers from north to south of Lan Yang City is safe now. A fortress city can be built there for the migrants to live in,” said Commander Hua.

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Mo Fan nodded. “Since Commander Hua is here in person, I’d better hand it over. I’m not comfortable handing it to people I can’t trust.” Mo Fan took out the Earth Fire Pistil and reluctantly put it on the table.

Earth Fire Pistil. This had been the sole reason for Fanxue Mountain’s catastrophe.

No matter how many enemies Fanxue Mountain had, they wouldn’t have dared to attack if it hadn’t for the coveted Earth Fire Pistil.

Fortunately, they had been able to hold the enemies off until Commander Hua arrived.

Hua Zhanhong had a very high status and an extraordinary position. If Zhao Jing had gotten the Earth Fire Pistil, he would have digested it in a day or two along with the Zhao family. It would then be too late to question them.

The Earth Fire Pistil was an important item needed to step into the Forbidden Curse. According to the International Mage Convention, whoever got to it first could own it.

If Zhao Jing had gotten it and ran abroad to seek protection from the International Mage Convention, even Commander Hua would not have been able to violate the law and snatch it back.

“Is this the national treasure that was hidden in Fanxue Mountain?” Nanrong Xishan said in awe.

Great General Li Shou glared at Nanrong Xishan.

“The Earth Fire Pistil. This is the biggest one. In the past, it could be used even by first-tier cities!” Jiang Shuihan exclaimed.

When Commander Hua saw the Earth Fire Pistil, even he couldn’t help getting excited. This was indeed a treasure. It had almost fallen into the hands of someone as greedy as Zhao Jing.

“You have worked very hard.” Commander Hua knew that Fanxue Mountain had suffered great losses to protect this treasure. He felt guilty and apologetic.

Fanxue Mountain could have handed over the Earth Fire Pistil and ended the war to save itself. Lin Kang wouldn’t have dared to attack Fanxue Mountain without a good enough reason after that.

To Commander Hua, Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Mu Bai and Mu Ningxue were still children but their resolve hadn't shaken even in the face of such danger.

Commander Hua looked at the five officials of the Flying Bird Base City and sighed. Some of them were not even comparable to the righteousness and passion of these young people from Fanxue Mountain.

"When the people of Fanxue Mountain got hold of the Earth Fire Pistil, they notified me immediately. The Earth Fire Pistil is important, so I instructed them to protect it and not to reveal it to anybody," said Commander Hua.

"Li Shou, Lin Kang was your subordinate," said Commander Hua, turning to the Great General. "I would like to ask who represented my authority when Lin Kang invaded Fanxue Mountain for the Earth Fire Pistil? Or, did you represent my authority to snatch it for yourself?"

Commander Hua was not as calm as he had been when he arrived. His eyes flashed dangerously as he glared at the Great General.

Great General Li Shou felt his whole body go numb. He fell to the floor on his knees. The ground beneath him began to crack.

"I... I was deceived by Lin Kang," stammered the Great General. "I couldn't tell right from wrong. I deserve your punishment, General Hua." The Great General Li Shou couldn't even raise his head. His clothes were soaked in cold sweat.

The other four officials did not even dare to squeak. It was no wonder Commander Hua had arrived in person. The Earth Fire Pistil was a national treasure that brought vitality to the city.

Chapter 2702: The Forbidden Curse Is Cancer

"You are all stupid!" thundered Commander Hua. "You are all stuck between the peak cultivation base and the semi-forbidden curse. With your lack of knowledge, you will never step into the Forbidden Curse your whole life." He glanced at the five officials.

"Commander Hua, you are correct! But the threshold of the Forbidden Curse is not something we can simply touch," Councilman Tang said.

"Do you know why there are so few Forbidden Mages in this world?" asked Commander Hua coldly.

The five of them were at a loss for words. They were top rankers, but they were still some distance away from the semi-forbidden curse, much less at the level of a real Forbidden Curse. Countless predecessors had claimed that the top positions were just one step away from the Forbidden Curse, but no one knew how to cross this step.

The five of them wanted to step into the Forbidden Curse. That was the pinnacle of magic. But even after many years, their cultivation did not improve further as if they had reached their limits.

Commander Hua Zhanhong was a real Forbidden Mage, and he was also one of the best among the Forbidden Mages. It was rare to hear a Forbidden Mage talk about this gap that they could not overcome.

“People have limits. The highest level of cultivation of any person is the peak of Super Level, and it is impossible to improve any further. The Forbidden Curse should never exist as it violates the laws of nature and destroys the vitality of everything. This is why it is a forbidden curse and not a magic curse,” said Commander Hua.

When he talked, Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai sat up straighter. Someone was actually openly talking about the Forbidden Curse. In the book, the Forbidden Curse was akin to a legend. It was very rare to meet someone who had actually achieved it. They could not even mention the names of the Forbidden Curse of some elements.

“Forbidden Mages exist because some people use something or other to break through the laws of nature and become the kind of existence that can bring natural destruction. Forbidden Mages are equivalent to cancer cells. When there are enough of them, the world faces the danger of collapse,” continued Commander Hua.

Every country was not allowed to use the Forbidden Curse without authorization.

Su Lu, who used the Forbidden Curse in Dubai, brought terrible destruction to the city. Tens of thousands of people fell into the Darkness Plane, and not many of them escaped.

“It is the Earth Pistil that can help people break through the laws of nature and become Forbidden Mages,” said Commander Hua pointing to the Earth Fire Pistil on the table.

Councilman Tang, Old He, Li Shou, Jiang Shuihan, and Nanrong Xishan stared at the Earth Fire Pistil in surprise. Even Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Zhao Manyan seemed perplexed.

“It is the key to unlock the door of the Forbidden Curse. There are not many Forbidden Mages in our country because we used the Earth Pistil we obtained to build cities instead. Although Chairman Shao Zheng has resigned, he was a good leader. It is true that our country needs Forbidden Mages to guard important areas, but the Earth Pistil is needed more importantly to build cities so that more people can have their own homes,” said Commander Hua.

The Earth Pistil was a choice. It could be used to master the Forbidden Curse at the expense of people’s homes.

“So, the Forbidden Mage in our country doesn’t represent power. They represent responsibility! Zhao Jing didn’t want the responsibility. He was greedy for power. He wanted to take away the vitality of a city and use the Earth Fire Pistil for his selfish needs,” explained Commander Hua. “For that matter, I would like to thank the Fanxue Mountain and everything they have sacrificed to protect the Earth Fire Pistil on behalf of the National Army. For everyone from the Fanxue Mountain who fell in the battle, I will personally request for the National Warrior burial ceremony.” Commander Hua directed a military salute.

When the five officials saw the commander expressing gratitude to the Fanxue Mountain, they bowed down respectfully to show their stand as well. If they appeared ungrateful now, they were not far from being made to resign from their posts.

Mu Linsheng stood at the side and watched the six great officials bow in gratitude. He did not know how to react. It was the first time he had received such gratitude and respect from none other than Commander Hua, for that matter. It felt sacred. He could boast about it for a lifetime.

“Commander, you don’t have to do that. We all hope that the country will get through this catastrophe by making concerted efforts,” Mo Fan said.

Commander Hua approached Mo Fan. The other five officials still had their heads lowered in a bow. They didn’t want to anger Commander Hua so they were desperate to prove that they felt sincerely apologetic and grateful.

“Mo Fan, could we talk in private?” asked Commander Hua.

“Of course,” said Mo Fan and turned to the others. “Mu Linsheng, you can continue with the negotiations. I don’t think here will be any more problems.”

“Of course.” Mu Linsheng nodded.

Commander Hua was almost at the door when he turned back and glanced at Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan. “You two can join us, too. I almost underestimated your cultivation.”

Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan followed behind. They were surprised to be noticed and curious to find out what the Commander was going to say to them. Although it was not their first time meeting him, they still felt nervous.

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On the street, Commander Hua talked to them very casually. Although he was still in his military attire, he did not don his badges. He looked like an ordinary soldier who had returned home to rest and relax.

“What I said inside wasn’t meant for those old dogs,” said Commander Hua. Hearing that made Mo Fan, Mu Bai, and Zhao Manyan happy. It was satisfying to see them scolded like that.

“They won’t be able to step into the Forbidden Curse even if they tried for a lifetime. Even if they had ten Earth Fire Pistils, they still won’t be able to reach that level,” said Commander Hua. “Those words were meant for you.”

“Commander, you are indeed very wise and considerate. We thought we accidentally fell upon some great secret of cultivation,” said Mo Fan. “Oh... do you want grilled squids? You can get some tasty squids here. I always try some when I have time to visit.”

Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan were embarrassed. How could Mo Fan so casually offer the commander grilled squid?

“Really? Well... I will try some non-spicy ones. I guess a little spicy would be okay, too.” Commander Hua seemed to be torn between the two choices.

Mu Bai and Zhao Manyan were speechless.

The squid was grilled quickly. The owner of the shop actually recognized Mo Fan. He offered an extra skewer to Mo Fan for free. They all sat down by a small coffee shop.

The coffee table was really small. It barely had room for four grown men to sit together.

“Some people are consumed by greed and thirst for power when they become a Forbidden Mage, but some give it their all to protect their country and their people,” explained Commander Hua. “We need the Earth Fire Pistil urgently for now. If everything goes well, it will be used to establish the Forbidden Curse cultivation base for a Fire Mage. Soon, I will be fighting against the Monstrous Claw Emperor that has appeared in the Magic City, so I need a Fire Element Forbidden Mage by my side.”

Chapter 2703: At the Stage of Being Ripped Apart

The Monstrous Claw Emperor was the mastermind who controlled the ocean King Skeleton and took three apex-grade mages from the Oriental Pearl Tower. Mo Fan still remembered that powerful strike. If the Monstrous Claw Emperor appeared again, it would wipe out everyone in the Pudong ocean area.

Mo Fan was terrified as he remembered there were creatures in this world which could easily kill him. However, his terror was also his source of motivation to keep moving forward. The world, the country, and the city were not as peaceful as they appeared to be. His greatest source of comfort would always come from his own strength.

“Are you ready to take down the monster?” Zhao Manyan asked excitedly.

“Take down? I’m not strong enough to do that yet. I want to force it to reveal itself and gauge its strength. Taking on the emperor is not the same as taking on other demons. It requires a meticulous plan. The emperor is extremely cautious. It sends the prophets of the Godly Horde to hide among humans in order to acquire the mages’ reserves and find out the number of Forbidden Mages that are present. Meanwhile, it uses Ruler-level Ocean Demons as vanguards to lure out all the powerful mages and wipe them out. It slowly kills all powerful mages...

“Once they learn that we are no longer capable of defeating the Ocean Demons and Godly Horde, they will take the initiative to launch their attack.”

“They’re like a school of sharks; they will not swarm toward their prey when they see it. The ocean contains a variety of venomous creatures, stingers, and electric monsters. Although their victory is certain, their prey will fight back ferociously. The prey then deals a fatal blow to the sharks in its struggle.”

“Therefore, the sharks will opt for the most secure method. They surround and wander around their prey. They look for opportunities to take a bite before swimming away. They exhaust their prey and then swarm up to attack.”

“We’re at that stage now. We are surrounded and ripped apart one by one.”

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, and Mu Bai ate the squid skewers while listening attentively.

“So that means, the Ocean Demons’ real attack hasn’t started yet?” asked Mo Fan.

Base City was the only livable city within 20,000 km. The Ocean Demons had forced the humans into a corner, but it seemed as if that wasn’t their strongest offense yet. How long had the Ocean Demons been plotting this for? How much strength did they keep hidden?

“We have to drag this stage out,” said Commander Hua.

“How do we do that?”

“By killing one of the emperors of the Ocean Demons so that the Ocean Godly Horde is aware of the humans’ power in launching counterattacks,” explained Commander Hua.

“So, you have to kill Eastern Ocean’s Monstrous Claw Emperor?” Mo Fan asked.

“Not exactly. If we go out into the ocean and find the demon stronger than expected, we will need to find another target. Unfortunately, we haven’t received any information about the Emperor of the South Ocean. The Ocean Demons are highly intelligent. I suspect that there is a hidden civilization under the ocean that is comparable to humans. I’ve never been this frustrated when fighting other emperors in the past.” Commander Hua nibbled on a squid, as if venting his dissatisfaction out on this poor delicacy.

“Ha... if only all ocean creatures were as harmless as squids, crayfishes, and hairy crabs, we’d be able to eat them all to extinction, considering the large population in our country.” Mo Fan heaved a sigh.

The situation was dire. According to Commander Hua’s description, people were forced into a corner in those areas. Some had to migrate to the west.

But the west was freezing cold. The supply of food and heat was a serious issue. The South King of Ocean was actually cutting off the humans’ last resort and forcing them to fight the Ocean Demons.

“I believe we won’t be of any help, will we, Commander Hua?” asked Zhao Manyan cautiously. “What made you reveal such information to us today?”

Zhao Manyan had a hunch that Commander Hua was going to ask them to fulfill a secret mission related to testing the waters for the emperor of the Ocean Demons. If that was true, Zhao Manyan was reluctant to join in. He did not even have children! He didn’t want to die so soon!

“Based on your progress in your respective cultivations, I believe all will fully master your powers in a couple of years. By then, you will be facing Forbidden Curse Tianhong. The Earth Fire Pistil is the key to unlock the Forbidden Curse Tianhong, and you are the ones who stand a chance to enter the realm of the Forbidden Curse. When you need this key, the Forbidden Curse Association will figure out how to get it for you, just like how I acquired the Earth Fire Pistil for the Fire Element mage who assisted me. You will also be given a Tianhong certificate,” Commander Hua said.

“Do you mean that if we donate an Earth Fire Pistil, our country will help us collect the Earth Fire Pistil when we need it to advance to the level of Forbidden Curse? The Tianhong certificate is equivalent to a blood donation certificate, if I am not mistaken. It is the sacred oath that if we help others, we will be given priority when we need help in the future. Am I right?” asked Mo Fan.

“That’s right. The Forbidden Curse involves many parties. The government won’t disappoint you.” Commander Hua nodded.

“What a relief! In fact, I used to think of plundering it.” Mo Fan breathed out a sigh of relief.

“The squid skewers taste really good. I will definitely try this again if I visit here.”

“Commander Hua, people who say that don’t actually get to eat the squids from here again! There’s a possibility that we might have to grill the squid skewer before your tomb,” said Mo Fan.

Commander Hua smiled. "There's no way I'm going to die that soon. Don't worry."

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"You can't be so sure about it."

Commander Hua kept smiling. He stood up.

The trio quickly rose to their feet, too. No matter how easy-going Commander Hua was, he was still the most respectable soldier in the country. And he was going to face the most terrifying enemy in the Ocean Godly Horde. If he fell, the coastal defense would collapse...

After the trio bid farewell to Commander Hua, they finally heaved a sigh of relief. There was always a feeling of pressure especially when talking to such an infamous superior, especially when talking about life and death situations.

Commander Hua's strength and support was the reason everyone lived a life of peace in the city, after all.

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When they returned to Fanxue Mountain, they were greeted by a corpse as big as a mountain. The body hadn't decayed yet so there was no stench. It looked so majestic that it would wake up any minute and devour the Xuexin City.

It was the Chief Shark!

Its zircon shark skin was exceptional. It was as solid and tough as alloy. It contained indefinite power to overturn the vast ocean itself.

Zhao Jing was afraid of the Chief Shark. Mo Fan and the rest of his group were no match for it either.

The huge body of the Chief Shark sank behind Fanxue Mountain. It was dead. Commander Hua had killed it alone.

It was unimaginable how powerful he must be! Yet, someone as powerful as him had an enemy that he felt he could not subdue alone.

Chapter 2704: Grill the Shark

That night when everyone worked, Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan took a little time off. They rarely ever stayed at Fanxue Mountain so they did not have a very good understanding of where they could offer their assistance.

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan discussed among themselves, instead. They decided to summon Little Blae Belle, Moon Moth Phoenix, Royal Pattern Wolf, Wind Flame Lightning Vulture, and Little Green Kraken to handle Chief Shark's huge carcass.

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Little Flame Belle was an expert on roasting meat. Nobody could beat her at roasting in the whole of Fanxue Mountain.



“Moon Moth Phoenix, you’ll sprinkle the spices. Make sure to sprinkle evenly. The body is too big,” Mo Fan instructed them.

“Royal Pattern Wolf, summon your eldest, second, and third brothers. Before roasting the wings, we have to slice several areas with a knife to roast the flesh inside. What? You can’t rip Chief Shark’s flesh apart? Useless bunch! Chief Shark is dead! Fine, get a plate and wait for the food.”

Some of Chief Shark’s valuable parts had been taken away by the professionals of Fanxue Mountain to study. Considering that Fanxue Mountain had suffered many losses, Mo Fan offered them Chief Shark’s treasures to auction them off for some gold. He distributed them among the Fanxue Mountain elites. Even though Commander Hua would take care of those who fell in the battle field, Fanxue Mountain made certain that their families were provided for.

Still, a large carcass of flesh was left. If the flesh was left as it was, it would rot and pollute the Fanxue Mountain’s clean air. They didn’t know if it would release toxins. They had grilled various types of Ocean Demons before but this was their first time grilling a Chief Shark.

“Little Green Kraken, enough of eating raw flesh! Eat something cooked, okay?” Zhao Manyan smacked Little Green Kraken’s head with a large iron spoon.

Little Green Kraken came from Lan Yang City. It had stopped growing uncontrollably but the amount of food it ate remained the same. Chief Shark’s flesh was barely sufficient to satiate its appetite. Little Green Kraken drooled all over the ground.

“Shrink yourself, will you? Look at you, you’re so huge, do you want to drown us in your saliva?!” Zhao Manyan scolded.

Little Green Kraken wriggled its round body reluctantly. Its enormous body gradually shrank and soon it transformed into a palm-sized green fish that surrounded Zhao Manyan.

“We’re done! Call everyone so we can begin eating!” Mo Fan shouted.

Little Flame Belle flew out of the hearth and stretched out its tiny flaming hand to high five with Mo Fan’s. They looked like a pair of merry five-star chef and his assistant.

“Let’s eat now!”

Zhao Manyan was the first to use his large iron spoon to dig up a hefty scoop of the roasted meat.

A dozen of staggering light and shadow appeared before Little Green Kraken, and Zhao Manyan’s large scoop of shark meat fell into ‘a pool of piranhas’. It was gone in the blink of an eye.

Zhao Manyan’s face turned dark. He swore to throw Little Green Kraken into the wilderness someday. ‘It has such a huge appetite!’ thought Zhao Manyan. ‘When it eats, it could care less about its father even!’

Zhao Manyan was prepared. He prepared another plate with piles of shark meat and sat down to eat. He placed the plate on his knees, and opened a bottle of beer.

He took a bite of the meat. He found it delicious in the beginning, but as he continued chewing, his face changed slowly.

“Mo Fan, isn’t the taste of this meat a little strange?” he asked.

“What? Are you sure? Maybe you got a bad batch. I mean look at them. They are practically devouring every bit,” said Mo Fan as he gestured to Old Wolf, Eldest Wolf Second Wolf, and the others.

Zhao Manyan took a few more bites. The meat and its aroma were different. He felt that the shark meat wasn’t as good as the sea fishes. Could the Chief Shark’s meat be poorer in quality than the sea bass?

“What are you doing?” Mu Bai returned late at night. He looked tired. He must have been solving the issues with North City and the South Wing Mage Group. He had been very preoccupied lately. He even stayed in Fanxue Mountain most times. He had far less time to relax when compared to Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan.

“We’re eating grilled shark meat. Do you want to give it a try? Get a beer and join us. It tastes better with ice-cold beer,” said Zhao Manyan.

Mu Bai frowned. He looked repulsed. Zhao Manyan was confused.

“Since you are all so free, maybe read a book or two?” said Mu Bai. “Sharks urinate through their skin. Hence, their flesh is filled with urea. Those who live near the sea are aware that shark meat is neither edible nor tasty.” Mu Bai sighed and continued walking up the mountain.

Mo Fan had been holding his own plate of meat. He had almost taken a bite. Zhao Manyan and Little Green Kraken headed into the woods, as did the others. The air was filled with the sound of people gagging.

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Mo Fan then turned to Old Wolf, Eldest Wolf, Second Wolf, Wind Flame Lightning Vulture, and the rest of their group. They ate the meat happily. They even fought for extra shares.

“Fine. I’ll just drink the beer. Let’s drink!” Mo Fan raised the bottle and gulped the beer down. He tossed the shark meat towards the wolf pack.

Old Wolf, Second Wolf, Eldest Wolf, and other wolves jumped at the food and devoured it. Their eyes shone in excitement. They regarded Mo Fan as their master for life.

“Why hasn’t Little White Tiger returned? I miss it,” Mo Fan lamented.

It had been quite a while since Little White Tiger had returned to Tian Sheng. The last time he had met Little White Tiger was in Japan. Little White Tiger had grown up and accepted Heaven Scar’s challenge. It had not returned to Fanxue Mountain since.

Since the Little White Tiger had left, the atmosphere in Yu Shishi’s kindergarten had been a little less lively. Little Flame Belle and Moon Moth Phoenix were ladies. They were far more well-behaved than Little White Tiger.

However, Little Green Kraken was the latest member at Yu Shishi’s kindergarten. Little Green Kraken was fearless, and its presence brought a lot of fun to Maple Mountain and Fanxue Mountain.

“We have once again dragged the issue surrounding the totem,” Mo Fan said, staring at Totem Kindergarten.

“Jiang Shaoxu and Lingling have found some clues. Didn’t you notice they’ve been disappearing occasionally for a couple days now?” Zhao Manyan said. He had finally gotten rid of that awful taste.

He had rinsed his mouth and now was chewing two gums to get rid of the aftertaste. As a flirt, he felt that it was okay if he did not often carry condoms, but he had to always keep his breath fresh.

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Meanwhile, Little Green Kraken swung its large tail to request a gum from Zhao Manyan.

“Take it, take it... chew, don’t swallow,” said Zhao Manyan as he threw two chewing gums at Little Green Kraken.

Even before he had finished his words, Little Green Kraken had already caught the gums in its mouth and swallowed.

Zhao Manyan sighed and patted its head. Why bother to tell the truth? There was nothing that the Little Green Kraken wouldn’t eat.

Chapter 2705: Legend of Purple Feather

Ye Xinxia’s holiday was over. Mo Fan wanted to escort her back to Greece, but Ye Xinxia shook her head. The domestic situation was dire. Fanxue Mountain had recently been through a major war. Mo Fan was there for leisure but he played a significant role in protecting it. Even now, his presence was enough even if he wasn’t able to actively contribute in the aftereffects of war.

A private plane landed on Fanxue Mountain which had almost been raved to the ground. A group of people in golden knights walked out of the plane. When the time came, the Parthenon Temple required the goddess nominees to return. The way the people at Parthenon Temple functioned was extravagant and high-profile even if they were poor and underdeveloped. They did this because they wanted more people to notice and visit the Parthenon Temple.

“It’s the Goddess of Parthenon Temple!” The Fanxue Mountain elites were shocked. But it made sense. Because of Xinxia, Fanxue Mountain did not suffer as much in the battle. Otherwise, more than a thousand people would have died.

Many Super Level Healing Mages who were on the verge of death were saved and regained their health in only a couple of days. While most people had forgotten how Mo Fan had looked, they still remembered Xinxia.

“The election day is around the corner. When that day comes, I will visit.” Mo Fan stroked Ye Xinxia’s soft hair.

The goddess election sounded like a grand event. In truth, it would be another round of bloodbath.

But Ye Xinxia could not retreat from it, especially after she found out she was Salan’s daughter. Because of that identity, she was destined to be a sinner from birth. She was also the Holy Saint, Wen Tai’s

daughter. The souls which played a significant part at the Parthenon Temple were within her. It was her destiny that she would never be able to live a normal life. So, she thought she might as well fight for it.

“Thank you, Big Brother Mo Fan. I would like that. Don’t worry. I can take good care of myself.” Ye Xinxia nodded.

The present Xinxia was not the frail and meek highschool girl from Bo City who could do nothing but sit and suffer while gangsters robbed her of her wheelchair.

Mo Fan placed a kiss on Ye Xinxia’s cheek, bidding her farewell. Ye Xinxia also gave him a peck on his cheek. The knights then formed a human shield around her. It was time to leave.

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The airplane took off. The rest of the golden knights patrolled around the airport. A female knight, Hua Lisi, stayed in the cabin.

The sky was overcast. The airplane flew further into the sky and appeared smaller and smaller, until it vanished from sight completely.

The approaching election day made Mo Fan anxious. Only a mage with the power as high as the Forbidden Curse would be able to make changes during the competition. It made him wonder when he would reach the Forbidden Curse level.

“Are you worried that Ye Xinxia will be mistreated?” Jiang Shaoxu asked.

“I used to worry about her. But now, not so much,” Mo Fan said.

“What do you mean?” Jiang Shaoxu asked.

“In the past, whenever we got close, the arrogant knights would berate us to maintain decorum. This time, they didn’t...” Mo Fan noticed the knights who watched them but dared not disrespect her.

“Does that make a difference?”

“It does. It tells a lot about how they see her now.”

When Jiang Shaoxu had arrived, he had seen Mo Fan bidding farewell to Xinxia. He had come to talk about the totem’s issue with Mo Fan. As a person from a military family, he understood what Mo Fan meant when he said the knights hadn’t dared to disrespect Xinxia this time.

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“Have you found the new totem?” Mo Fan asked.

“Yes. Lan Yang City’s feathers gave us a lot of clues. The feathers are colorful. After Lingling and I made an analysis from the feathers, we realized that Chongming Divine Bird represents one color, Moon Moth Phoenix represents another color, and purple represents something else entirely. Therefore, we began our search with the purple phantom color. We found out about some ancient legends.”

“There’s a legend about Lightning Forbidden Place from Mingwu Ancient City. It’s a place where the sea meets the cliff. It is also the habitat for a certain purple divine bird. When it flies, its old feather falls as

the sea breeze blows. Whenever its feather touches humid air, rain, or fog, it produces powerful lightning. A lightning storm will appear in that particular area.”

“The legend seems to be real. So, Lingling and I plan to take a trip down there. There’s a possibility that it could be one of the totems that we’re looking for.”

“If it is a Lightning Element, it will be very helpful to me.” Mo Fan said happily.

Since Chongming Divine Bird turned into the heart divine furnace, Mo Fan was bonded with this mysteriously feathered holy totem. Totem was the world’s Holy Spirit, endowed with powerful attributes.

Zhao Jing was the first mage Mo Fan encountered who had a much higher level of Lightning Element than him. Mo Fan wanted to improve his own Lightning Element, otherwise, he would waste the special effect from the Blessing of the God’s Seal.

Of course, he had to ensure that the rest of the elements were able to keep up with one another. But first, he had to enrich his Lightning Element and Fire Element further.

“That’s right. If you could absorb the totem’s power, you won’t need to find any Heaven Seed. You can fully master the Heaven Seed by just relying on the totem and advance to Super Level!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

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“We cannot waste any time, then. Call the others!” said Mo Fan in excitement.

“I believe Mu Bai would prefer to cultivate. He took Lin Kang’s iron ink pen and plans to refine his snow pen,” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“Call Zhao Manyan then,” Mo Fan said.

“He can’t go with us either. Zhao Jing’s dead. There is certainly a lot going on with the Zhao family for now. He plans to take a trip to the Zhao family house. He wants to calm them and he doesn’t want to hide from them anymore.”

“So, I suppose I’m the only one left in this totem search team who’s capable of fighting the totem?” Mo Fan asked.

“Lingling and I can’t go with you either. The mysterious totem feather is closely related to the enormous snake. We have to crack our heads to research it these days. I came here to tell you that you might have to take the trip down to Mingwu Ancient City by yourself,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

‘So, he wants me to be his errand boy...’ thought Mo Fan.

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“It’s fine even if you don’t want to go. You can spend some money and hire a hunter. There are a lot of things going on at Mingwu Ancient City lately, so there are quite a number of forces there. Furthermore, there is a fortress stationed nearby. You can gain some information there,” Jiang Shaoxu continued.

“Forget it. I don’t have a lot of contribution points left. I’ll go myself,” Mo Fan said. Everyone seemed busy with their own work.

He decided to take the trip by himself. It was not as though he couldn’t do anything without their help, anyway. He didn’t need them to go with him.

Chapter 2706: A Seductress in the Temple

Mo Fan had to admit something. He did not have a sense of direction at all!

The coastal landscape had vastly changed in the years because of rising sea levels. It would be difficult to find lost cities in the way he did before.

“Tencent map will continue to navigate for you. The speed limit ahead is 70km/h, and your current speed is 680km/h. You’ve exceeded the speed limit! You’ve exceeded the speed limit!”

The highway into the city had been abandoned for some years now. Mo Fan rode the Royal Pattern Wolf while navigating the map on his phone. The Royal Pattern Wolf sped up, and the notification from his phone repeated its warnings.

“Do not go uphill. Stick to your left and continue moving forward. You’ve exceeded the speed limit! The speed limit for this highway is 70km/h.”

Mo Fan looked up and saw the road ahead of him sinking into the sea. He then looked at the map on his phone again.

‘Sigh, smart technology is not really reliably smart. It’s best to just rely on myself,’ decided Mo Fan.

“Old Wolf, you go back first. I believe it should be somewhere here. I’ll fly to the sky and take a look.” Mo Fan called the Royal Pattern Wolf back to a different dimension.

The Royal Pattern Wolf howled, looking majestic.

“You want to walk around and take back some fresh to the horde?” said Mo Fan. “Suit yourself. I will go to the fortress over there for now.”

The Royal Pattern Wolf spread its limbs as if it had finally regained its freedom before running toward the barren coastal plain. Mo Fan wondered what it had smelled that had gotten it so excited.

Mo Fan had achieved a decent level of Summoning Element cultivation. So, the Royal Pattern Wolf could take its own sweet time for now. After all, there were not many people staying in the city. It had basically become a hotspot for the Ocean Demons and other demon hordes. The Royal Pattern Wolf could roam around and help the remaining citizens get rid of some of the demons.

Mo Fan switched off his phone. He summoned his Black Dragon Wings and flew to the sky.

Ocean Demons liked to cast fog spells to obscure human vision. Sometimes, it would be so foggy that anyone flying into the sky would lose track of the intended destination. But this time, when Mo Fan flew up into the sky to conduct his investigation, it was clear. The weather was good.

When he flew higher, he saw purple ripples in the sky. The purple aurora folded, twisted and spiraled continuously. It was breathtaking.

Boom! Boom!

There was a distant lightning strike. The weather did improve but the lightning grew even louder as though a team of soldiers from heaven had gathered on a cloud and played the lightning drums.

Dots of lightning flashed in purple. It looked like a purple crack across the sky. More snake-like electric cracks spread over the clear sky. Powerful lightning boomed, illuminating the earth and the sky entirely in purple. Mo Fan now stood on a vast coastal plain, watching the dirt and mud splattered all over the land and the plants and trees simply destroyed.

Bam! Suddenly a lightning bolt appeared in the sky and hit the dirt on the flat highway. The sparks were astonishing. The bolt struck in Mo Fan's direction. He crossed his fists and took up a defensive stance. The moment the lightning hit him, it sent him flying a hundred miles away. The impact was just too powerful.

Mo Fan's clothes were in tatters. His hair was singed. When he looked down at his arm, he could see a fresh wound open up. Mo Fan was truly at a loss for words. He was stunned.

He was amazed that these lightning bolts were powerful enough to cause him damage. He could see that there were thousands of lightning bolts snaking down from the sky, each equally, if not more powerful, than the lightning bolt which had struck him.

The sky was clear and yet lightning struck. It was an incredible sight. For a while, Mo Fan felt as though he had fallen into another ethereal and surreal world.

But the scene did not last long. The lightning disappeared from the sky before Mo Fan had the time to find the source of this heavenly electrifying phenomenon.

The sky began to turn dark. The ground was in shambles. The surrounding area had grown extremely quiet.

"It's incredible!" Mo Fan used his senses to scan his surroundings. The Lightning Element in the surrounding had already begun to thin out as though that one powerful incident had exhausted all resources.

He continued to travel some distance away. That phenomenon did not occur again. The Lightning Element resumed its normalcy. But the air was filled with burnt smell and the aroma of meat. Perhaps some living creatures nearby were struck and burnt.

Mo Fan took out a Great Return Pill from the divine temple. He generously applied the medicine to his wound. He recovered fast, thanks to his demonically powerful physique and to the miracle pill. His wounds had completely healed within half an hour.

'Why is there a temple in the middle of this wilderness?' wondered Mo Fan. He had passed an overgrown forest and come across a sacrificial temple. It was deserted. There was nothing else except overgrown thorns and bushes. No sign of any houses, or buildings.

'I think I smell a person.' Mo Fan walked over to where the smell came from. He was glad that he had finally found somebody in this abandoned place, outside the fortress and the city. Finally, someone who could give him directions.

...

"Who's there?" came a nervous female voice from within the temple. Her voice sounded cold.

Mo Fan was puzzled. He wondered why a lady was alone in this dilapidated temple in the middle of this vast wilderness. He thought that she might be a fox or a snake hiding in the temple to entice a passing man.

Mo Fan felt a little excited. He strode inside the temple. "Fairy Sister, I was just passing by and saw this temple. I have suffered a minor injury from the lightning. Could I stay inside this temple to avoid another lightning strike?" asked Mo Fan courteously.

"Fairy Sister? What even is that? I am here to worship my ancestors." The woman was draped in a colorful headscarf. He wore a delicate conical hat. She was in a slanted-waist blouse and wide-legged pants.

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Her attire was unique to say the least. Her headscarf covered her cheeks, revealing only thin, curved eyebrows and a pair of beautiful eyes. Her nose and lips looked delicate. He was stunningly beautiful.

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From her attire, she looked reserved and introverted. Despite being mostly covered, her demure beauty stood out.

Mo Fan was a practical man. There was this common saying that a demon would be present whenever something unusual happens in a place. Otherwise, there was no reason for a temple to appear in this kind of wilderness. Why was it that it was always a woman who appeared in this kind of situation? The lightning was so powerful, every demon within the vicinity was fried by it, so how was it that someone who looked demure and meek like her was still alive in this temple?

'She must be a seductress intending to find her next victim,' thought Mo Fan. 'And I happened to bump into her!'

Chapter 2707: Came to the Right Place

The woman stared at Mo Fan. She found him suspicious. She remained on her guard.

"There's no lightning storm outside anymore. You can continue your journey," she said politely.

"Continue my journey?" Mo Fan was stunned.

He wondered why the seductress was letting him go. As far as Mo Fan knew, a seductress usually invited a passing man into the temple. She would then proceed to tell him of her woes so that the man would feel protective towards her. And as she seduced him, her distorted demon form would flash in the lightning.

"Yes. The lightning storm will not appear again for quite a while. You can continue with your journey." She did not really want to invite him into the temple.



“Oh... The last lightning strike was truly severe. I got injured. I don't want to die in this wilderness, The temple seems to be safest for now. It is still intact even in the middle of such fierce lightning. God must have really blessed this place. Please allow me to stay for a while.” Mo Fan was determined to enter the temple.

The woman with the colorful headscarf stood at the door of the temple. She turned her head and gave the altar inside the temple one last look before she walked out of the temple giving Mo Fan a wary look. She refused to share the temple with Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was speechless. Did he really look like a thug that this woman felt so unsafe that she couldn't stand being in the same temple as him?

“Miss!” he called. “Aren't you afraid of the wilderness and demons that might be roaming about? Do you need me to escort you?”

“No need,” she said. “Please use the temple. Do not follow me.” The woman deliberately kept a distance between them as she walked past.

“Okay. If you aren't afraid of the lightning, fine by me. May I ask for directions to Mingwu Ancient City before you leave?” Mo Fan asked.

“Why are you going there?” She looked alarmed.

“I'm a hunter. I received a bounty and want to earn money to pay for my house deposit at Mingwu Ancient City. I believe you're aware that the coast has only a few base cities and fortresses left. As a result, land and house prices are high. So, I have to frequently travel without a roof over my head...”

“Please stop,” she said. “It's in that direction.” She pointed her slender finger at the road ahead of him where Mo Fan's navigation system had warned not to go. She didn't bother to listen to any more of his story.

“Oh, thank you. Where are you going, if I may ask?” asked Mo Fan, as she turned in the opposite direction.

She ignored his question. She did not entertain him any further. She turned around and walked away.

Mo Fan let out a weary sigh as he saw her receding back. He wondered why she had appeared so alarmed when he mentioned the Mingwu Ancient City. He also wondered what he had done for her to be so suspicious and afraid of him.

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Mo Fan walked in the direction the woman had pointed at. Soon, he reached a fortress.

It turned out that the fortress was located on the west of the city and was obscured by a cloud of fog.

The south area always looked like this in this season. It was drizzling, and the moisture in the air had condensed into water drops. The city was enveloped in a fog-like haze. It was so humid that it felt like the place was a large steamer without heat.

The fortress was huge. This was one of the largest fortresses between Flying Bird Base City and Yaodu Base City. A large army was stationed at the fortress, and there were very few residents. Most of them were mages.

When he entered the fortress, rows of stalls lined both sides of the street, like a crowded bazaar.

Of course, the stalls in the fortress did not sell the usual food, drinks, etc. Instead, they sold magical items. Magical defense equipment was the most common among them. Owning a magical defense equipment could actually save one's life more times than expected. So, it was every traveler's first choice. Those who had money to spare usually bought one for themselves.

Pharmaceutical products were the next most common selling item. They provided both branded and non-branded products. Some people who studied pharmacology sold the drugs they were still refining. Mo Fan noticed a stall that was similar to those selling fried dough sticks and kompyang.

Most of them offered pharmaceutical refinement and blending on the spot. These sellers were knowledgeable individuals. They did not look like drug dealers, or con men who had no knowledge about botany or toxicology yet lied about their medicine's ability to bring the dead back to life.

There were many travelers in the fortress. Most of them came in groups such as mages and hunters. Others were students, herbalists, miners, treasure diggers, exorcists, etc. There were people from various professions and backgrounds.

The fortress was more prosperous than Mo Fan expected. Since the fall of most cities on the coast, only base cities could afford such a scale of business. Mo Fan never thought there was a fortress this famous near Mingwu Ancient City.

A fortress and a base city were different. Aside from those assigned to ensure basic necessities, this fortress was inhabited mostly by mages. If anything were to happen in the fortress, the mages had no obligation to protect the commoners who lacked magical power.

Those who traveled outside for training purposes did not want to stay in the city and let the peace dull their senses. But if they did not want to roam around without a roof over their heads, they stayed in fortresses like these.

Mo Fan was relieved to find a fortress like this. At the very least, he could find some clues. Otherwise, he might go crazy wandering around the wilderness by himself.

There was a large square in front of the entrance. A scrolling LCD screen in the middle of the square gleamed and showed four directions in golden color. The message included information on bounty, recruitment and sale of expensive magical tools.

Zhao Manyan told him that the majority of the treasure came from fortresses like these. Most times individuals and groups purchased from places like these and sold them at auctions.

...

Mo Fan had no idea where Mingwu Ancient City was. It had taken him a lot of time to find the city. With his sense of direction, it was akin to finding an elusive demon in its lair. He remained at the fortress for a

while to see if anyone had come here with the same goal as him. If he could join them, it would save a lot of his time.

Mo Fan had dropped by the Hunter Union in Flying Bird Base City, but he did not receive any information about Mingwu Ancient City.

He realized that there were a lot of people in this fortress who were heading in the same direction. There were at least two out of ten people who were going to the Mingwu Ancient City. He had arrived at exactly the right place!

Chapter 2708: The Most Powerful Mage in The Fortress

[Recruiting: Pharmacists needed to solve Fengyi Centipede's venom issue at Mingwu Ancient City.]

"Well, I can't choose this because I don't know anything about pharmacology," mumbled Mo Fan.

[Recruiting: Pathfinder for route planning. Best at luring the ruthless demons away. Veteran scouts are preferred.]

Mo Fan stroked his chin and considered the job posting. On second thoughts, he had no sense of direction. So, he could not choose this either.

[Recruiting: Water Element mage. The mage has to be at the Super Level for at least two elements. Those who are interested may schedule an interview. Commissions will be paid first.]

"Seriously? I've worked very hard to get here. Why don't they give me a chance?" muttered Mo Fan. He was at a loss. Most recruitments were for those with special and specific talents. He was a combatant but it did not seem to put him in any advantageous positions.

He wondered if most mages here were combat mages, otherwise it would have been super difficult to open up a wasteland for trade. Mo Fan read the messages on the screen only to find out that he didn't meet the requirements and had a very difficult time getting a job despite being a famous Super Level powerful mage.

"Forget it," he muttered. "Instead of looking for others, might as well let them come and find me."

...

The square was very crowded. Most of the people were in groups. Some were having a great time. They often chatted leisurely among themselves. But everyone paid attention to the notification and messages on the screen in the center of the square.

Most hunters and mercenaries preferred lucrative jobs. But these jobs were gone very soon. The employers rarely cared about selecting a good team. The hunters would be well-prepared after all.

Some bounties were distributed to other groups because there were so many of them. A person was even assigned to take charge of acquiring information from these groups. Not every hunter and group had the financial resources to assign such a person. So, they went to Hunter Hall to get the jobs. Usually for one-time service they went to the Hunter Hall to hire female hunters who were rather good at finding things.

[The most powerful combat mage in the fortress. Seeking a team to head to Mingwu Ancient City in order to gain a deeper understanding about the city...]

“Wow! Look at this fledgling idiot! Even if he wants to bluff, how could he claim to be the most powerful combat mage? Who published the message? I want to challenge him!”

“How dare he say such a thing? He’s truly an idiot. It’s a miracle that he can find a team.” A tanned man with sunglasses snorted.

“Big Brother, we lack a fighter in our team. That man seemed to be quite strong. Shall we ask him to join us?”

“Are you stupid? There’s a good chance he won’t be able to find a team at all. He’s unwanted. That’s why he used such lame marketing strategy to market himself.”

“That makes sense...”

...

Mo Fan sat on a long bench. He looked solemn. As an expert, he had to look the part. He could not be seen to cross his legs and smoke a cigarette casually. He noticed mages who were women from the corner of his eyes.

Mo Fan was the one who published the message about being the most powerful mage in the fortress. He had kept himself humble by claiming to be the most powerful mage in the fortress. He was, in fact, the most powerful man in the Flying Bird Base City. A Forbidden Mage was bound by magic convention. As a mage below the level of Forbidden Curse, Mo Fan believed not many could defeat him. Even if there were people who could defeat him, he would not let it be an easy fight.

‘That’s weird. I’ve sent out the message, but none have approached me yet,’ thought Mo Fan looking up at the screen.

He waited for a while longer. Nobody came. He wondered if the people in this fortress were idiots. He had offered his aid at a cheap rate, still no one had come to group up with him.

“Big Sister Ying, we’ve been in the fortress for some days now. Why aren’t we starting our journey yet? The lightning rainbow will appear tomorrow morning. It’s a rare chance to miss,” said a girl of sixteen or seventeen.

The young girl was a few miles away from Mo Fan. He could smell the flowery fragrance wafting through the air.

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“Don’t act recklessly. Our mentor warned us to prioritize our safety. Before we find a strong hunter union to be our guardian, we cannot enter Mingwu Ancient City.” The woman who had been addressed as Big Sister Ying was equally young. She was beautiful and elegant. However, she pretended as if she had more experience about the ways of the world.

Although Mo Fan was not particularly observant, he guessed that Big Sister Ying, too, did not often venture outside the fortress. She pretended to act coolly and kept her distance from strangers.

“But we can’t possibly find a hunter union composed entirely of ladies. If we continue to stay, I don’t think we’ll be leaving for another month.” The young girl pouted her lips sulkily.

“Alternatively, we can look for a powerful independent female hunter. Our mentor cautioned us to look for only a female as our guardian.”

“Ha... That’s annoying. This is not our first time traveling. We are able to discern between a good and a bad person.”

“Then tell me, who are the good and the bad people in this square?” Big Sister Ying asked impatiently.

The young girl’s eyes lit up. She immediately pointed at a man with a scar on his face approaching from a mile away. “He’s a bad guy. Look at his scar, he looks fierce and wicked!”

The young girl saw a gentleman. A young man of fair face. He was handsome and had long, unruly hair. However, it was neat. He wore a standard huntsman uniform and exuded an aristocratic aura.

“Look, he has to be a good man,” said the young girl. She blushed and looked at the young man.

Big Sister Ying was angry. She raised her hand and struck the young girl across her forehead with a flick of her fingers. “You are hopeless!”

Mo Fan had been observing the two young women. Their attire was the same as the woman he had met before at the temple. It made him curious.

The two ladies wore colorful head scarves and delicate conical hats. Their cheeks were covered by draping headscarves, thus revealing only their eyes, lips, and noses. It was difficult to see them clearly. He realized that they might have dressed in such a way to avoid creepy men.

Men acted like creeps almost all the time. They made women the subject of their dirty fantasies if they showed a little skin. But sometimes, despicable men became titillated even when they were covered with headscarves and conical hats.

Chapter 2709: Young Gullible Women

Mo Fan fell into the category of those despicable men. He was deceitful and he needed to get to the Mingwu Ancient City. He pondered for a while and returned to the office to post another message.

Within half an hour, the two girls, who had previously chatted beside him, walked in his direction. Mo fan crossed his arms and pretended to look cool and unaffected in every way.

“Why is the person a man?” Big Sister Ying immediately expressed her dissatisfaction when she saw Mo Fan. She turned around, ready to walk away.

But the active young girl looked happy. “Are you really the Seven-star Hunter Master? I heard from my Big Sister that the Seven-star Hunter Master is very powerful. He can slaughter Commander-level Ocean Demons by himself.”

“Perhaps there’s some error in the message. But trust me, I’m the Seven-star Hunter Master. Look at my badge.” Mo Fan showed a seemingly genuine badge.

The young girl must have never seen a Seven-star Hunter Master badge before. She took it from Mo Fan excitedly and flipped it over to study it. She even took her phone out and snapped a photo of it.

“Shu Xiaohua, what are you doing? Why aren’t you following the things that our mentor had warned us about?” Big Sister Ying pulled the young girl away.

“Big Sister Ying, he’s a genuine Seven-star Hunter Master. He’s been verified. If we continue to drag this out, I don’t know how much longer we will have to wait,” Shu Xiaohua said.

“We need a female hunter,” Big Sister Ying replied.

“He’s a Seven-star Hunter Master. How can he possibly harm us? His badge is worth a trunk of ladies like us,” Shu Xiaohua insisted.

“Shu Xiaohua, what are you talking about?! Why are you comparing us to the commercial items that can be traded off?!” Big Sister Ying was so angry that her entire body trembled in rage.

“Are you going to Mingwu Ancient City, too? I’m heading there to look for some clues about an ancient living creature. But I’m not familiar with that place, so I’m hoping I can join a team which can guide me. It’s best if the team has a good understanding about that place. As a reward, I can ensure your safety throughout the journey.” Mo Fan gave them a gentle smile.

“So, that’s how it is! Big Sister Ying, we’ve found a winner!” Shu Xiaohua said in excitement.

“Don’t trust a stranger so readily!” Big Sister Ying rebuked her.

“The World’s Hunter Association has verified my message. If you think I’m an imposter, you may seek verification from Hunter Hall. But if you insist on a female hunter, I regret to say that I have to search for another team soon,” Mo Fan said.

“Big Sister Ying, it’s him! Time waits for no man. If we miss the lightning storm once again, we don’t know how much longer we have to wait for the next trip. I heard that a large group of Ocean Demons are already in the sea. We don’t know how much longer the fortress can hold them back, and who knows how soon Mingwu Ancient City will become the Ocean Demons’ habitat. By that time, we will never find it...” Shu Xiaohua rambled. She trailed off as Big Sister Ying glared at her.

Big Sister Ying hesitated. They had stayed in the fortress for many days now. There were not many independent female hunters present. Besides, even if there were, the female hunters rarely accepted the job to be someone else’s guardian, unless the pay was high.

Big Sister Ying looked up at the humid and foggy sky. “I will have to discuss it with others.”

“I’m sorry. I received invitations from other teams as well. After all, with my strength and cultivation, it’s fairly simple for me to follow a team to Mingwu Ancient City. If not for the fact that the person at office registered my gender wrongly, we wouldn’t even be taking up each other’s time. If you’re willing, I’ll tag along with you because you seem to understand Mingwu Ancient City well. If not, I can accept another team’s invitation.” Mo Fan smiled at them politely as he relayed his decision to them.

Big Sister Ying was reluctant. But Shu Xiaohua was anxious. They didn’t dare say anything more for fear of forcing the expert away.

“We have some special requests. If you’re willing to obey our team’s instructions, perhaps we can come to an agreement,” said Big Sister Ying. She was not very good at negotiation. She felt like she would give in any minute.

“Of course,” said Mo Fan. “I am a hunter, after all. Once I receive a mission, I strictly execute it. Don’t worry about it.”

“Good. We’ll see you at the fortress entrance tomorrow morning,” Big Sister Ying nodded her approval. She still felt doubtful letting this man join their team.

“Great. The Hunter Hall will take over the procedure in a while. I have other things to take care of for now. See you tomorrow.” Mo Fan bid them farewell.

As he turned around, his smile turned into a smirk. He thought that these young women were truly gullible. If not for him, some other cunning hunter would have taken advantage of them...

...

Mo Fan had nothing to take care of. He was idle. He had said that to appear profound and busy. Since he was going to depart tomorrow, he settled in a decent hunter’s inn and stayed there for the night.

After Mo Fan cultivated through the night, he felt his Summoning Element was about to break through the barrier of cultivation. He concentrated Little Loach’s special pushing force on his Summoning Element.

“Eh, it’s a breakthrough! I’m not used to being so relaxed.” Mo Fan opened his eyes in the middle of the night, delighted, as if he had bumped into a fair aristocratic lady in the middle of the wilderness.

“Why is my head filled with these weird thoughts whenever I am alone?” Mo Fan reflected on his thoughts and actions and recalled the vision he had seen in the Divine Wood Well last time.

Mo Fan’s Summoning Element had achieved a breakthrough. His Galaxia had transformed into Star Sea. He wondered how much his magical energy had increased.

Mo Fan remembered breaking through Advanced Level and Super Level for the first time with the help of a rare totem power. As his overall realm was advanced, his Summoning Element became unequal to the rest of the elements, hence a strong urge to break through without expending much energy.

Of course, Mo Fan was aware that most of the credit went to Little Loach.

Little Loach’s standard continued to improve and cast a significant warming effect on his Star Sea and of course, Galaxia, too. It felt like the flow of a mountain stream that continued to converge and expand. Even if it met the dam, it could still rush through it and continue to run wild...

Chapter 2710: Truly An Expert

Little Loach always guaranteed Mo Fan’s improvement in his cultivation. Mo Fan hadn’t inspected Little Loach’s small world for a while now. He decided to enter Little Loach’s Pendant though his mind before dawn. As he did, a whole new world appeared in front of him.

The Nether River was no longer how it used to be. Ever since Mo Fan absorbed the Ancient King's soul essences, the Nether River within Little Loach's world had grown madly. It had gradually transformed into a vast ocean.

Beneath the ink-colored Nether Ocean, different grades of soul essences and soul remnants wandered about like plankton in water. They glowed faintly.

'The number of soul essences and soul remnants has reduced. Could I have used some of them to help me to upgrade my cultivation realm?' Mo Fan thought, as he made his round of inspection into Little Loach's world.

Mo Fan had accumulated a lot of soul essences and soul remnants. He intended to use them to strengthen Old Wolf and the rest of its wolf pack so that they could form an elite wolf gang to rob the rich and save the poor. But he had exhausted his resources in such little time.

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"The accumulation of soul essences and soul remnants contribute to breaking through the barrier of cultivation. Little Loach, you've upgraded a lot this time!" Mo Fan said happily.

The soul essences and soul remnants served as Little Loach's daily food. Meanwhile, the rare resources and totem's energy would be a feast. Little Loach had upgraded to a level where it could convert the soul essences and soul remnants into cultivated pushing energy for Mo Fan.

But his Chaos Element and Earth Element had not reached Super Level yet. Mo Fan had to increase his power by leaps and bounds if he was to bring these two elements up to par with the rest. Mo Fan possessed fusion magic, thus he had to ensure each of the elements were equally powerful in order to push his fusion magic to an ultimate level.

During the Fanxue Mountain battle, Mo Fan had not used fusion magic. Truth was, his Black Dragon Suit, Flame Demon King, and the fusion magic were three of his greatest powers. If not for the fact that the elders kept a close eye on him from the shadows, Mo Fan would have ended the battle earlier with the use of fusion magic.

Mo Fan did not have the intention to hide his power. Zhao Jing, after all, had been the heir to the Zhao family. But if Mo Fan had used his fusion power, Fanxue Mountain would have been destroyed. Besides, it was always best to keep one power hidden from enemies until truly needed.

Mo Fan had continuously cultivated his Earth and Chaos Elements for some time now. These two elements were almost at the stage of a breakthrough. Little Loach had advanced to the level where it could use the soul essences and soul remnants to help Mo Fan to break through the barrier. As long as the amount of soul essences and soul remnants were sufficient, the two elements could advance to Super Level soon.

While the rest of the mages had fully cultivated the four elements, Mo Fan had Super Level in all eight. That should be considered another type of greatness in itself.

A small team happened to enter the fortress these few days. He might get a chance to summon his Earth and Chaos Elements. After that, he would try out his Summoning Element so that he could take turns to improve other elements.



In order to improve magic power, one had to cultivate it internally, as well as to exercise it externally.

“I suppose Mingwu Ancient City is not an extremely dangerous place. If nothing special happens, I believe I can temporarily forgo Fire Element, Shadow Element, Lightning Element, and Space Element. The summoning of Super Level Earth and Chaos Elements should be sufficient to take on the demons.”

Mo Fan treated each of the elements as his children. So, he had to take turns training them equally. If he only relied on the Fire and Lightning elements, the growth of other elements would be stunted.

Mo Fan had too many magic elements. Whenever he confronted powerful enemies, the other elements played auxiliary roles. It was not a good thing. He should be able to summon all elements if he wanted them to grow equally powerful.

‘I must stop myself from using Fire, Lightning, Shadow, and Space Elements!’ Mo Fan reminded himself.

He had no other choice. If he wanted to fully cultivate all eight elements and become the world’s greatest mage, he needed to grow all of them. The same theory applied to the martial arts experts where they had to often train themselves in multiple moves.

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The roosters crowed. When Mo Fan opened his eyes, he saw that the sky was bright. He fixed his drowsy gaze outside the window. After a while, the drowsiness left and he felt fresh again.

Mo Fan stretched. He had to admit that the outside air was different from big and bustling cities. The air here was more refreshing and cooling.

The base city required huge expansion. Most of the time, the views were blocked by the large frames of industrial megalopolis. The sky in base cities was always dusty and hazy. It was a rare sight to behold a clear sky.

The tidal fog had vanished, as if it had been sucked away by God. The sky was clear and windy, the dark purple hue from dawn gradually faded and turned bright blue as the sun began to rise and illuminate the sky.

Mo Fan enjoyed the weather. He imagined Bo City entering the rainy season which would then turn warm for the spring season. The place would be filled with women in mini dresses and light clothing. Mo Fan remained in these happy thoughts.

‘D\*mn the accursed Ocean Demons, evil and wicked Emperor of the South Ocean. They had covered all the beauty with a layer of cloud, like a claw choking a human’s throat!’ Mo Fan cursed.

As Mo Fan headed toward the city entrance, he realized most of the mages had risen early, and the morning market was already crowded.

“Brother, I notice that your temple has darkened and your eyes are dull. I’m afraid this trip will end in bloodshed. I have an Eight Treasure Armor that I can give you because I have faith in you. Please feel free to contribute some joss stick money.” A scruffy man in a monk’s robe smiled as he approached Mo Fan.

Mo Fan ignored him. People spewed all kinds of nonsense, including omens from Buddhism and fate and destiny, just to sell their wares.

If they were paid less money, they would say fate was against whoever was buying. If one happened to pay a lot, then fate would suddenly be by their side. Mo Fan wasn't a fool, he knew about these silly tricks.

When he arrived at the entrance, it was very crowded. The people were already in groups at the square. They were well-equipped and ready to depart. Groups of people walked out of the fortress one after another.

Demons roamed around the fortress. Once they left the fortress, danger awaited them. The veterans talked and laughed along the way, as if they were on a vacation. The novices, on the other hand, looked like they were about to face their deaths.

When Mo Fan reached the entrance, he saw the two girls from yesterday. Big Sister Ying dressed up the same. She was mostly dressed in sky blue with hints of orange and red. She looked slightly more mature.

Meanwhile, Shu Xiaohua wore a headscarf and conical hat. She dressed vibrantly, mainly in bright yellow. She had a silvery voice and looked adorable like an Oriole bird, lively and full of vigor.

"Expert, you've arrived! Come, I've gotten some treasures. If it hadn't been for my destiny with a monk, I wouldn't be able to obtain so much stuff. I've bought one for each of my sisters and one for you. Put it on." Shu Xiaohua was all smiles.

"Is this Eight Treasure Armor?" Mo Fan raised one of his eyebrows.

"Yes. What a good sense of judgment you have! You're truly an expert!" Shu Xiaohua smiled radiantly.