

## Versatile 2941

### Chapter 2941: A Hidden Problem

“Sir, you still have a way to get out of this situation. As long as you don’t dabble in Forbidden Curses, the country and I will ensure your safety from the people of the Holy City. However, the moment you turn to Forbidden Curses, it will be equivalent to declaring a war on them,” said Sharjah to Mo Fan.

“Sharjah, which side are you on?” asked Mo Fan.

“I want to make up for the mistake of not protecting Mr. Feng Zhoulong,” said Sharjah solemnly.

“So, are you going to continue fighting?”

“Yes. This conflict will not be settled with ease,” said Sharjah.

“How can I let you fight the battle alone?”

Sharjah stared at Mo Fan, and life gradually returned to her eyes. She looked happy.

“That’s great! Mr. Mo, I can fight alongside you again! I like this. Whenever I’m with you, I feel as if I’m still alive, as if my heart is still beating and my blood is still warm.” Sharjah smiled radiantly. She no longer looked as if she had been shrouded by a layer of mystery and otherworldliness like before.

Mo Fan could not help but stretch out his hand to pat on Sharjah’s head. If it had not been for the fact that Sharjah was an Archangel, she would still be the naïve, energetic student he had taught.

“Speaking of which, many people saw you pick me up at the city gate. The Archangel who hasn’t returned to his position would be aware of this too. If that’s the case, he will see you as his enemy,” said Mo Fan.

“More than one of them have set their sights on you. People in the Holy City once held a special, secret meeting to discuss the incident involving the Azure Dragon and the demons. They summoned all the Archangels to the meeting, except for me. They knew about us from Dubai,” said Sharjah, calmly.

“When you’re alone in the Holy City, did they ostracize you?” Mo Fan could not help but ask with concern.

“Not everyone is our enemy. Of course, some of them pretend to be our friends. It’s complicated. The longer I stay in the Holy City, the more I miss my school days in Ojos Holy School. I miss how the students competed and were jealous of one another, I miss watching the eccentric teachers working on meaningless things...,” said Sharjah.

“Now that you mention it, I also miss my days at Pearl Institute.” Mo Fan chuckled.

Mo Fan missed Pearl Institute. However, the students there may not miss him. As soon as he joined the institute, he snatched all the resources. Most of the students hated him.

No matter how strained the relationship was between Mo Fan and the students, Pearl Institute was long gone. The Magic City had become part of the Ocean Demons’ lair.

Despite having the will to save the world, it rejected him.

“Sir, have you made up your mind about the path to the realm of the Forbidden Curse?” Sharjah inquired about Mo Fan’s cultivation issue.

“Not yet. Perhaps I can find some clues from the totem beasts,” said Mo Fan.

The clues lay on the Mysterious Feather Sacred Totem Beast. Mo Fan already had the Fiery Furnace in his heart. He believed his Fire Element magic would grow closer to the Mysterious Feather Sacred Totem Beast.

He had to find more totem beasts related to the Mysterious Feather Sacred Totem Beast for his Fire Element to grow stronger!

The Fire Element was Mo Fan’s strongest ability. It was also the one element that showed the greatest promise for him to dabble in Forbidden Curses.

“I found a clue here, but it’s not very clear. Sir, you may still have to dig out more information on your own. It’s about the birth of a demonic creature in East Guardian Tower in Japan. It’s on the verge of becoming a Wicked God.” Sharjah took out an item that resembled a pearl from the Space Bracelet.

The exterior of the pearl was clear and lustrous, but the inside was extremely murky, as if it had been injected with contaminated gas.

“What is this?” Mo Fan asked in puzzlement.

“Sir, I sensed a similar aura from you,” said Sharjah.

“It’s the Red Demon!” Mo Fan cried out.

“So, you’re aware of this, too. The quasi-Wicked God has obtained the Eight Souls from heaven and earth. It’s going to gather massive evil energy from every prison and jail in the world. It’ll become the Emperor of the Evil Temple in the next moonless night,” whispered Sharjah.

This was a confidential matter in the Holy City. It was also a hidden issue in Sharjah’s authority. Originally, Ramiel wanted to obtain the right to handle the issue. After Sharjah sensed the aura from the evil pearl that was similar to Mo Fan, she stopped him.

Sharjah had some of the priesthood personnel to follow up the matter before she finally learned about the quasi-Wicked God’s Evil Temple and the Ascension Ceremony.

“I’ve been tracking it for a long time. It has multiple identities, so it’s impossible to tell which of them is the true one,” said Mo Fan.

“The Red Demon has to use its true identity if it wants to become the emperor under the moonless night!” said Sharjah with great conviction.

“We can’t let it ascend to become an emperor. It’s an extremely dangerous creature,” said Mo Fan.

“Yes. Otherwise, it would not have been listed in the Holy City list. Sir, you can make good use of this opportunity,” said Sharjah.

“What do you mean?” Mo Fan did not quite understand what Sharjah was trying to say.

“Evil energy becomes evil when it is used by evil forces. Sir, you have a similar aura within you, yet you’re not affected by it. This shows that you can harness that energy. With your current level of cultivation, you’re qualified to enter the Forbidden Curse realm. So, this is a good opportunity for you to become a Forbidden Mage by using Red Demon as your cornerstone,” said Sharjah.

Sharjah needed Mo Fan to become a Forbidden Mage. Otherwise, how would he fight with the experts of the Holy City? Mo Fan’s Demon Element power was not stable, and the Azure Dragon was in deep slumber. Hence, he had to have the power to fight the battle!

The Magic Association would not give Mo Fan a chance to dabble in Forbidden Curses. He had to rely on himself to become a Forbidden Mage. He could use the totem beasts to become a Forbidden Mage for good. However, the path of searching for totem beasts was time-consuming. They did not have much time left. Mu Ningxue could not possibly stay in the Extreme South for long. Also, Xinxia’s election was around the corner.

Something big was about to happen soon. Since Mo Fan decided to fight the war, he had to dabble in Forbidden Curses this year!

“Thank you. This information is very useful to me!” Mo Fan nodded.

“There are many spies working for the Archangels among the priesthood. I’ll have the priesthood personnel withdraw from this issue. Sir, I suppose you can find the target, right?” asked Sharjah.

“No problem.”

“You have to be very careful. The problem is so serious that the Archangel decided to personally handle it. Any single mistake can make it the Red Demon and later, the Wicked God.”

“I’ve dealt with him for many years. Don’t worry,” said Mo Fan.

“There’s a compass inside the Holy City. It shows the direction of the energy that surpasses the level of the Forbidden Curse.”

“Regardless of whether you have become a Forbidden Mage, or whether the Red Devil has become the emperor by then, the compass in the Holy City will show the same direction. People in the Holy City are aware of it.”

“I’ll also submit a “failed” affirmation to the Holy City so that when you dabble in the Forbidden Curse realm, people in the Holy City will assume you’re the Red Demon. With that, you can hide yourself along the way,” Sharjah said with caution.

Mo Fan stared at Sharjah, he did not expect her to be so meticulous.

Fortunately, Sharjah was on his side. Otherwise, the road to the big confrontation would be even more challenging!

Chapter 2942: I’m An Adult

Mo Fan received a lot of important information from Sharjah. The feeling of being at a loss was horrible. Fortunately, he had figured out everything and knew what step to take next.

Mo Fan did not stay around in the Holy City for long. The longer he stayed in the city, the greater the pressure Sharjah would feel.

The next moonless night would be the Red Demon's Ascension Ceremony. Mo Fan looked at the calendar and realized it was less than a month before the full moon eclipse.

He had to look for Lingling regarding this matter.

Meanwhile, Sharjah let Yan Lan stay in the Holy City. After all, the most dangerous place was also the safest. Sharjah could protect Yan Lan if she stayed in the Holy City. It would be much safer than staying in the country.

The killer was a Forbidden Mage. Mo Fan could not think of any other person who could truly ensure Yan Lan's safety.

He returned to the country alone. It was already midnight, and a perfectly shaped crescent moon appeared in the pitch-black sky. If one were to look carefully at it, one could notice the slight curve in the middle of the crescent moon.

Mo Fan rushed back to the Imperial Capital overnight and found the Clearsky Hunter Agency franchise.

The Clearsky Hunter Agency in Magic City was a flagship store. Meanwhile, the franchise was set up by Old Bao's disciples. The Clearsky Hunter City was situated in one of the streets, just like the one in the Magic City. They received various bizarre, demonic cases in the urban city and worked closely with many official organizations.

Mo Fan had practiced his cultivation behind closed-door for more than a year. Lingling could not possibly stand guard over him all that time. Hence, she was transferred to the Imperial College and attended a school there.

The moment Mo Fan stepped into the Clearsky Hunter Agency, he saw Leng Qing at the bar. She sat on a high stool reading a stack of documents.

It was already late at night. The Clearsky Hunter Agency was not entirely a small cafeteria. Its decoration resembled a serene, small-scale bar. Mo Fan was about to greet Leng Qing when a man with slick black hair and leather jacket walked forward. The man stared at Mo Fan in disdain. He held a glass of wine and sat beside Leng Qing.

"I heard that you're the boss of this cafe?" The man in slicked back hairstyle and leather jacket said in a deep voice.

"Get lost," Leng Qing said indifferently.

The man's face changed instantly. The surrounding crowd burst into laughter. A hint of anger showed up in his eyes.

Mo Fan went over to them. He glared at the man who attempted to flirt with Leng Qing.

When the man met Mo Fan's eyes, fell onto the ground in fear. A small packet of white powder fell off from his back pant pockets.

A bulky man came out from the other end of the hall. He glanced at Leng Qing before giving another look at the man in the leather jacket on the ground.

“How dare you visit my bar with this kind of stuff?! Do you have a death wish?!” The next moment, the bulky man dragged the man out of the door.

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Leng Qing noticed Mo Fan. She gestured for him to sit in the chair next to her.

“You came at the right time,” said Leng Qing.

“A glass of iced Coke, please. I just flew back from Europe. I am almost a dried-up corpse because of the windy weather,” said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan felt refreshed after drinking the iced Coke with lemon slices. It was only then that he noticed that the documents Leng Qing had been reading were related to the Red Demon.

It looked like Leng Qing knew that the Red Demon would make some commotions soon.

“Take a look first. Lingling will come in a while. I need to attend the Enforcement Union’s mission tonight. You and Lingling have to handle the Red Demon’s ascension time carefully,” said Leng Qing.

Mo Fan nodded.

It was obvious to see that more than half of the documents had been placed aside for a very long time. It looked like Old Bao was the one who had been collecting the information. He had been tracking the Red Demon since the beginning.

The remaining documents were the latest updates since Mo Fan practiced his cultivation behind closed-door. Most of the clues were discovered overseas. The doppelganger of the Red Demon was found in a guard hill at Yunnam.

Since Mo Fan desired to take down the Red Demon, he had to study the documents carefully.

After studying the documents once, Mo Fan realized the Red Demon’s main target was the “prisons”. Regardless of whether the prisoners were ordinary people or vicious mages, they seemed to be the Red Demons’ favorite. He always found its presence at those places.

The Red Demon’s usual evil methods were to manipulate their minds, spread the plague, diseases, and naturally, death.

If they did not kill such a monster in time, it would only bring greater harm to the people and the world.

In the dimly lit place, Mo Fan focused on reading the information. He noticed a young lady with black, shoulder length hair sitting next to him.

Mo Fan was aware of his own charm. He knew he stood out like a sore thumb among men. Hence, he knew women liked to flirt around with him, just like how the man tried to flirt with Leng Qing. Even though the dim light had covered up his good looks, he knew the young ladies would be charmed by his aura and would take the initiative to make friends with him.

He felt excited. He also wished to talk to the pretty girl. Perhaps this could even lead to some unforgettable developments. Still, Mo Fan acted innocent by blurting out, "I'm sorry. I'm waiting for someone."

His voice was deep. The truth was that men shone best when they learned how to reject certain things.

"Do you have a few screws loose in your head?" said a silvery and melodious voice. The young lady blinked while staring at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan turned to her, and his jaw dropped.

How did "Lolita" with double ponytails whom he had been waiting for become as gorgeous as a celebrity overnight?

She looked simply stunning.

"Lingling, did you come for a beauty pageant contest?" Mo Fan finally closed his mouth feeling self-conscious.

As he was speaking, he reached out and flicked Lingling's earring. He pinched her cheeks. She was draped in a simple, lace scarf.

"I'm an adult now! I'm studying in college." Lingling slapped Mo Fan's hand away.

"Did you skip a grade?"

"Yes. It's pointless for me to study in high school, so I skipped a grade," said Lingling.

Mo Fan looked at her carefully. He felt complicated. He did not know how to put it in words.

Lingling looked good. In fact, if he were to compare her with Apas, both had their own unique beauty. Even though he had not met Lingling for more than a year, her transformation was truly shocking.

If he had to describe her in words, he would say he felt relieved to see her growing into a beautiful young lady, just as a father would for his daughter. However, he hoped she would never grow up. He wished she would still be the same cute and childish young girl with pink cheeks. The same young girl who drank milk tea and spoke like an adult.

Chapter 2943: The Bizarre Event In The Twin Guardian Towers

Lingling looked upset. However, a hint of joy appeared in her eyes.

Mo Fan had finally finished his cultivation. She did not have to attend school anymore.

She had learned everything there was to learn before she was fourteen years old. School was merely a rite of passage for her.

"I came back from the Holy City and received some news about the Red Demon." Mo Fan explained about the Red Demon he had learned from Sharjah

Mo Fan remembered Lingling had brought back the Sublimed Evil Bead filled with energy from the Magic City. The truth was that she and Mo Fan did not expect Old Bao to be investigating the Red Demon from the shadows all the while.

With the information obtained from the Holy City and Old Bao's clues, it would not be difficult to locate the Red Demon.

Mo Fan and Lingling could finally take down the Red Demon. It had always been a thorn in their side.

"Can you locate it?" Mo Fan asked Lingling.

Lingling compared the information obtained from the Holy City with Old Bao's. "Yes. But it's quite a troublesome place..."

"Where is it?" asked Mo Fan.

"Its birthplace is at the Twin Guardian Towers in Japan," said Lingling.

Mo Fan was puzzled. He did not expect the Red Demon to finish its journey at its birthplace.

Anyway, it would be good to start and end over there. After all, creatures like the Red Demon should not have existed in this world in the first place. It was a kind of obsession, like a haunting ghost.

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Since it had almost reached Japan, they had to react swiftly.

Mo Fan did not have time to gather other missing partners. They were very busy, after all.

Hence, Mo Fan went to Japan with Lingling. Considering that the Red Demons, Kazuaki, Mochizuki, and Fujikata were friends, Mo Fan naturally had to visit them before taking the main Red Demon down.

Mochizuki and Fujikata were the top management of the Twin Guardian Towers. When their National Institute came to Mo Fan's country, they had openly challenged the masters. When Mo Fan stepped into the Twin Guardian Towers, he could not help but recall the details of the fight with the students from the Japanese State House.

He missed those days.

Mo Fan stayed in a hotel near the Twin Guardian Towers. He hadn't had a proper rest these few days.

As soon as he finished practicing the cultivation behind closed-door, he went to the Magic City before flying to Europe. After that, he returned to Imperial Capital. Before he could even take a rest, he had to go to Japan. He felt a bit dizzy.

However, confronting the Red Demon Kazuaki was not a simple task. Mo Fan could not face it in his exhausted state.

"I have to sleep for a day. Lingling, you can visit the Twin Guardian Towers as a tourist," said Mo Fan to Lingling.

"Okay. Take a good rest, then." Lingling tidied her hair.

Mo Fan noticed Lingling paid more attention to grooming herself these days. This was a good thing. A pretty lady could bring life to a lifeless environment. No young ladies on earth should spend their days and nights just studying anatomy, slaughtering demons, and performing exorcisms...

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Early in the morning, Mo Fan was in a deep sleep. Most likely he would only get up at night.

After Lingling finished getting ready, she left the hotel. She had cut her hair to shoulder-length. She looked prettier with this haircut, like a young idol ready for a film set. She gave off a unique aura. Hence, she attracted the crowd's attention wherever she went.

She put on a pair of comfortable wedges and joined the tourists. For a moment, those young boys who had previously been focusing on the Twin Guardian Towers' majestic view lost interest in it.

"Are you alone?"

"Can I be friends with you?"

"Where did you come from?"

Many boys flirted around with Lingling. They asked too many questions. Those on the road and streets were inevitably attracted to her too.

Lingling decided to put on sunglasses to cover up her "innocent and friendly" look. With the sunglasses on, she exuded an air of arrogance and rejected those who offered to travel alongside her.

The Twin Guardian Towers was only open to the visitors at a specific time. During that time, it was crowded with tourists. Most of the tourists came from China. The Twin Guardian Towers was a must-visit destination to take photos.

When Lingling arrived at the ground below the Twin Guardian Towers, she noticed a group of young people in their twenties in the middle of training. She guessed those young people must have been from the State House. They were in the middle of preparation for the World College Tournament. It would not take long before the National Institutes from various countries came here and challenged them. Surprisingly, most of their strengths had exceeded Advanced level.

Linglin was surprised. Since the members of the State House had passed Advanced level, this showed that the overall strength of the new batch of Mages in Japan had progressed!

It seemed like the Ocean Demon season was around the corner. Thus, Japanese Mages' overall strength had improved by leaps and bounds.

"Are you a tourist?" asked Officer Ozawa.

"Yes, I am." Lingling passed him her passport.

"Are you alone?" Officer Ozawa asked again.

"Yes, I'm alone."

"Are you a hunter?" Officer Ozawa noticed Lingling's identity on her passport. He was surprised to find that Lingling was a Seven-Star Hunter Master.

"Is there any problem?" Lingling inquired.



“Don’t get me wrong. Truth is, we’re trying to contact the Hunter Union, because some bizarre events have happened in the Twin Guardian Towers. We need some experienced hunters to help us look at it. It’s only a small issue. If you’re willing, I’ll have the students show you around,” said Officer Ozawa with an apologetic smile.

“Okay. After all, I’m only taking a casual stroll.” Lingling agreed.

“Thank you very much. The situation by the sea is severe. Hunter Masters of higher rank do not care about these groundless issues. However, the State House’s students keep telling us about it. As such, we can’t leave the issue alone. Please wait here for a while. We’ll make arrangements for you. There are many places in the Twin Guardian Towers that forbid tourists from visiting. We can allow you access to them,” said Officer Ozawa.

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After a couple of minutes, a boy and a girl from the State House came to her. They were about the same age as Lingling.

The students from the State House and National Institute were basically below the age of twenty. Even though Lingling was a few years younger than them, she did not look childish or ignorant.

“May I know where your mentor is? We came here by the order of Officer Ozawa to show her around the Twin Guardian Towers,” said the female State House student as she walked over to Lingling.

“I am the one you were sent for.” Lingling pointed to herself.

“You?” The female State House student sized Lingling up.

Officer Ozawa had been handling other businesses at the side. He ran over to them and confirmed Lingling’s identity.

“She looks younger than me. How can she possibly be a Seven-Star Hunter Master?” said Ikuko Ishida.

Officer Ozawa scratched his head.

To be honest, when he first saw Lingling’s passport, he did not quite believe her identity either. However, when he was away, he had secretly checked the hunter’s information and found out that she was truly a Hunter Master. She had even helped in resolving the Drowning Curse in Japan!

#### Chapter 2944: The Red Demon’s Magnetic Field

A moat surrounded the West Guardian Towers. The moat contained various exotic species of fishes. Some of the fishes were as big as a crocodile, which were three or four meters long and swam in the pond. Some of them were very small in size and swam in groups. They were multicolored. When they swam in groups, they looked like small rainbows that swept across the water. In the sunlight, they appeared even more gorgeous.

After they passed by the moat, Ikuko Ishida made a quick introduction of the West Guardian Towers. Ikuko must have frequently received foreign visitors and leaders. She was very skilled in introducing and showing her around the towers, but Lingling noticed her impatience.

“Is it an easy feat to pass the Hunter Master examination in China?” Ikuko Ishida turned her head around and asked. She did not bother to continue memorizing the introduction lines.

“Ikuko, it’s very rude to ask that,” said the male student, Kaede Takahashi.

“She’s not rude. She is just ignorant. The registration process to become a hunter is standardized across every country. The main reference would be the hunter’s contribution point and bounty level,” answered Lingling.

“Hmph! I’m not interested in accompanying a young naïve girl wandering around. I still have many businesses to handle. Kaede, since you’re so eager to help, do accompany and show her around. After all, people like you don’t need much training. When the next batch of people replace you, you can travel around the world with the National Institute team,” Ikuko Ishida said furiously. She turned around and left.

Lingling stared at Ikuko Ishida’s fading silhouette with her head lowered. She was deep in her thoughts for a moment.

Kaede Takahashi was beside Lingling. He felt embarrassed and said apologetically, “Ikuko don’t usually behave like this. I suppose the competition in the State House has given her a lot of pressure. I hope you won’t take this to heart. I’ll do my best to show you around.”

“Are you a member of the National Institute?” asked Lingling.

“Not yet. It’s just that I perform slightly better in the State House with a bit of luck. I’ll replace another member of the National Institute in the next batch. I believe my hard work will pay off. I hope my family, friends, and teachers can watch my performance in the World College Tournament... Please accept my apology for engaging in a topic that you’re not interested in. Please come with me. This is the West Guardian Towers’ library,” said Kaede Takahashi.

The National Institute would occasionally replace one or two of their members. The students with outstanding performances in the State House would be transferred to the National Institute. The same rule applied to every country.

Kaede Takahashi was selected to be the next replacement member. Ikuko was either jealous of Kaede Takahashi, or Lingling, hence her unusual behavior.

“Actually, my performance pales in comparison to yours. Being a Seven-Star Hunter Master is truly remarkable. After all, some of the elders in my family are hunters, too. But they aren’t a Seven-Star Hunter Master,” Kaede Takahashi said politely and respectfully.

“Officer Ozawa mentioned some strange occurrences in the Twin Guardian Towers. Everything looks normal here.” Lingling had been keeping an eye on the surroundings throughout the journey.

The Twin Guardian Towers was a large building that consisted of a restaurant, library, hospital, hotel, museum, academy, and military fortress. The towers were very crowded during open days. It resembled a mini version of a kingdom.

It was not an easy feat to walk through the entire Twin Guardian Towers. Moreover, the “castle” was complete and filled with people of various professions. There would be a dark side to all of this.

“Actually, those are small issues. Look at the library. Some of the students and military officers stay until very late at night due to the examinations around the corner. They heard noises in the library at midnight, as if someone was whispering from behind the bookshelves. We invited Soul Mages to investigate the issue. Some of the students even claimed that they had seen figures under the moonlight. They were walking, arguing, and even flipping the bookshelves,” said Kaede Takahashi.

“Are there anything else aside from this incident?” asked Lingling.

“There are some basements under the West Guardian Towers. The basements serve as a place to interrogate the prisoners. Some of the military officers claimed that prisoners who had died unexpectedly haunt them and keep them awake at night.

“The next incident happened in the Mochizuki’s family. Some of the young people in the family are sleepwalking. They appeared in strange places and slept there until the next morning. They couldn’t recall what had happened the night before. In fact, some even more horrible incidents happened in the family before. However, the Mochizuki’s family didn’t spread the news. Perhaps it has something to do with the reputation of women in that family.”

Lingling walked into the library and to the bookshelf that had been flipped over.

She randomly picked several books and checked the sides. She then looked at the order in which the books were arranged on the other shelves.

“Those who claimed to have seen supernatural visions in the library said the bookshelf had been flipped over. But I don’t see any signs of that. Besides, the books are placed in an orderly way. Did anyone rearrange anything?” Lingling asked for some details regarding the matter.

“No. They didn’t rearrange anything. In fact, the person who witnessed the bookshelf being flipped over is one of my juniors. She was so frightened that she rushed over and told me about it that night. After that, I informed Officer Ozawa,” said Kaede Takahashi.

“Oh, we can rule out the incident that happened in the library, then.” Lingling crossed out the supernatural incident that happened in the library from her handwritten record.

“I don’t get it.”

Lingling did not answer him, because that was a lame question.

Hunters required strong senses. They had to eliminate the seemingly strange incidents that had nothing to do with the case. The incident that happened in the library looked scary. However, Lingling thought otherwise. The incident was no more than a made-up supernatural story from Kaede Takahashi’s junior in order to approach him, to be protected by him, and to capture his attention.

Lingling could see through the tricks at a glance.

As for the young people’s sleepwalking and women’s reputation issues in the Mochizuki’s family, those were their private issues. Thus, Lingling was not interested to learn more about that.

However, Lingling would like to gain more understanding about the haunting prisoners. The Red Demon was made up of grievances. Its appearance could basically stir up a kind of “negative magnetic field” and affect emotionally unstable people.

'The Red Demon's magnetic field could be the cause for these incidents. Some people have kept their own desires close to their minds and hearts. They dare not take action. However, they did it because of the Red Demon.'

The thought sprang up in Lingling's mind!

Chapter 2945: The Twin Guardian Towers' Secret Matter

To verify her guess, Lingling specially requested to meet with Kaede Takahashi's junior. She also found his junior's life journey through the network in Japan.

'Kaede Takahashi's junior seldom participates in club activities. She likes flower arrangement. She was absent in the one and only debate exchange tournament. She has a high level of cultivation and a strong learning ability. She is an introvert, and she gets nervous easily. She stammers when speaking before the public... This is interesting.' Lingling took a quick glance at the junior's information.

Meanwhile, Kaede Takahashi sat beside Lingling and watched her reading the information from the notebook.

"Since you want to find out more about her, shall I ask her to come over?" asked Kaede Takahashi.

Lingling shook her head. If there was already something wrong with Kaede Takahashi's junior, all the information provided would basically be inaccurate. Lingling would rather trust the data and analysis than the junior's lies.

"Do you frequently meet up with her?" asked Lingling.

"Quite frequently. Speaking of which, I've been meeting her daily for the past half a month. I met her either by chance or due to some incident that has happened." Kaede was enlightened.

"Are you aware that she has a crush on you?" asked Lingling.

"Um... Aren't we supposed to be investigating the bizarre events that happened in the West Guardian Towers? Why are you asking about me?" said Kaede Takahashi, embarrassed.

"You're right. Perhaps I've been a little too gossipy. Do you know the two young people who have done the wrong things from the Mochizuki family? It would be good if I can meet up with them," said Lingling.

"Yes, I'm acquainted with them. They are from the State House. It's almost noon. I'll ask them out for lunch. Since we're in the middle of investigating sensitive issues, I won't tell them about your identity. We'll chat like normal friends. How does that sound?" asked Kaede Takahashi.

Lingling nodded.

If she interrogated them, they would not tell her the truth. Lingling had to obtain the information she wanted through casual talk.

Kaede Takahashi's junior was an introvert and lacked confidence. A couple of days ago, she became a "smart" girl all of a sudden and found various excuses to approach Kaede Takahashi. Hence, she won his attention and protection.

Of course, it was also likely that the girl had finally summoned up her courage to approach Kaede Takahashi. However, Lingling thought that his junior had most likely been influenced by the Red Demon's magnetic field. The magnetic field could amplify one's desire and will power to act on it, even if the desire was a crime.

They still had some days left before the moonless night. Hence, the Red Demon's magnetic field influence was not as strong. It was likely that its weak influence was the reason that led to the happening of the so-called "bizarre" events.

Lingling still had to gather more evidence to verify the Red Demon Kazuaki's magnetic field effect.

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They had their lunch at the cadet restaurant. There were many students around. Aside from the members of the State House, there was a prestigious school's branch located at the Twin Guardian Towers. Hence, the students often came for their further studies.

There were many students around. There were about four to five hundred of them. Most of them were in their twenties. There were several teachers too. They headed toward the teacher's restaurant on the second floor. It was less crowded compared to the West Guardian Towers.

"Hi, Kaede! I saw a hardworking "bee" around you a couple of days ago. It's a surprise to see that you've switched to a beautiful "butterfly" so soon. It's no wonder you're the famous guy in the State House. Talking to girls is a luxury to us." A man with an afro hairstyle grinned as he walked over to them. He sat beside Kaede Takahashi.

Lingling sat opposite Kaede Takahashi. She glanced at the man with the afro.

"Nagayama, don't be mistaken. She's Officer Ozawa's guest. I'm just showing her around the towers." Kaede Takahashi's face turned red as he quickly explained to Nagayama.

"Really? I thought you have a new girl and can't wait to show her off to us. After all, she's very lovely. Sinchino Mochizuki will arrive in a while. If she's not your new love, I can be bold enough to approach her. Otherwise, we won't have the chance once Sinchino is here." Nagayama chuckled.

He deliberately sat down next to Lingling. He made a one-eighty-degree change to his attitude and introduced himself solemnly. He expressed his interest to be friends with her.

"Nagayama, don't behave like this. I told you she's an honorable guest. Don't make her uncomfortable," said Kaede Takahashi to Nagayama who was showing too much enthusiasm for Lingling.

"Haha! Look at how nervous you are! Dare you say you don't have the slightest desire for her? Most people don't usually behave so disciplined and well-mannered, not unless they encounter a girl whom they fall in love with at first sight and make them feel extra self-conscious about their own actions. Why is your face reddening? Did I guess correctly?" Nagayama teased Kaede Takahashi.

"It's very rude of you to say that before a guest." Kaede Takahashi's face darkened.

Nagayama realized Kaede Takahashi was about to fly into a fit of rage and quickly stopped being playful. Just then, there came a man outside the restaurant with his hands in his pockets. The man's dashing, long hair covered his forehead. His somewhat lackadaisical gaze did not seem to show any interest in

anything around him. He was tall. He wore a neat, Western-style school uniform. He easily captured the people's attention around him.

He was a handsome man at a single glance. However, he was indifferent to everyone, including the girls who stared at him flatteringly.

"What's the matter? Why did you call me here?" Sinchino Mochizuki sat down. He was impatient.

He glanced at Lingling. She was a stranger to him, but he did not say anything.

"I haven't seen you for a couple of days. I wonder what you've been up to. Let me introduce her to you. She's Officer Ozawa's guest. She comes from China," said Kaede Takahashi.

"Oh, have fun here, then." said Sinchino Mochizuki indifferently.

"Sinchino, are you chemically castrated? How can you not show even the slightest joy when you meet with such a lovely Chinese girl? Why were you behaving so outrageously that day?" Nagayama asked in puzzlement.

Sinchino glared at him.

It was clear that Nagayama was someone who easily ran his mouth off. He could spew anything through his teeth.

Lingling sized Sinchino up. Sinchino was the type who was adored by many women. Besides, he looked like he had a high expectation in who he chose to be around. 'If he was the one who sleepwalked in the Mochizuki's family, what had he done that affected a woman's reputation? Did he even have to do that?'

"I'm not hungry. If there's nothing else, I'll leave first." Sinchino did not plan to stay around and chat with them.

"Sinchino, wait! We're just showing our concern because of your recent behavior," said Kaede.

"Haha! Showing your concern for me? I suppose you must have been laughing behind my back. May you shine brightly at the World's College Tournament. I'll rot in one of the dark corners," sneered Sinchino.

When Kaede Takahashi heard this, his face changed!

#### Chapter 2946: Accidental Killing

Lingling raised one of her eyebrows. 'So, it looks like they have a pretty complicated relationship!'

Lingling had briefly gone through some information a while ago.

Actually, Kaede Takahashi was not the one with the most outstanding performance in the State House. Sinchino was better than him.

Originally, Sinchino was most likely to be selected for the National Institute. However, not long ago, there was some major issue with his attitude. Even though the Mochizuki family had stopped the issue from spreading, Sinchino was disqualified from becoming a member of the National Institute.

After Sinchino was disqualified, Kaede Takahashi became the next in line.

Lingling was curious to know who Sinchino had lost his control for, and what was the outrageous thing that he had done. She also wondered if Kaede had done something to Sinchino that caused him to be disqualified.

Lingling sensed hostility among the trio.

She had to wait for Mo Fan to wake up from his sleep before she could find out what exactly had happened in the Mochizuki family. Otherwise, Lingling could not possibly find out the truth.

Kaede Takahashi, Nagayama, and Sinchino Mochizuki had been so close with one another. However, their relationship turned sour due to some recent issues. Lingling wondered if they had been affected by the Red Demon's magnetic field that caused them to reveal their dark sides, or if it had been a hidden issue within themselves.

"Sinchino, don't go overboard. You can't expect me to apologize for something like that happening to you!" Kaede Takahashi was angry. He did not expect Sinchino to say those words to him.

Sinchino turned his head around and glared at Kaede Takashi. He sneered and left the restaurant.

The restaurant was crowded. The two raised their voices. For a moment, the crowd stared at both Kaede Takahashi and Sinchino.

After some time, the crowd discussed the issue fervently. Kaede Takahashi felt uncomfortable in the tense atmosphere. But Linling was still eating her food, so he had no choice but to stay around.

"I'm truly sorry. I didn't mean to show you such an embarrassing scene. Actually, we are very close. We studied, trained, and played together. However, Sinchino was in a very bad mood ever since he was disqualified. It's only normal for him to put the blame on others. I shouldn't have said those words to him." Kaede Takahashi let out a sigh.

"That's right. They always bicker with each other. I bet Sinchino will come and send Kaede off on his departure day. There's nothing to be calculative about. Regardless of who gets chosen for the National Institute, both of them are making us proud!" Nagayama said with a smile.

"Nagayama, how's your uncle recently? Does he still have insomnia?" asked Kaede Takahashi.

Nagayama sighed. "I would rather not bring him up. At nighttime, he screams like a banshee, as if he has run into ghosts. We've hired Psychic Mages to check on him. One of them is certain that my uncle has a psychological issue," said Nagayama.

"Nagayama's uncle is a watchman at the East Guardian Towers," whispered Kaede Takahashi to Lingling.

She nodded.

The East Guardian Towers was the Red Demon's birthplace. It was a prison, and it held the most heinous criminals. These criminals were capable of casting extremely powerful and evil magic.

Nagayama's uncle had taken sick leave. However, his current state was no different from being possessed by a haunted spirit. The Psychic Mage and Light Mage had examined him. They did not find signs of any spirits wandering around him. The Mages considered him to be under some kind of curse but then came to the conclusion that it wasn't so.

In the end, the Mages confirmed that it was a psychological issue. Hence, his uncle had to solve the issue on his own. All the Psychic Mage did was to comfort him and let him have a good sleep that day.

Lingling asked detailed questions because Nagayama's uncle was a watchman of the East Guardian Towers. He could have been easily affected by the Red Demon's aura.

"This was how it happened. There was a commander who practiced evil spells. The commander spread his evil spells across the East Guardian Towers so that the prisoners became his congregation. The Chief of the Towers was unaware of the existence of the gang that practiced the evil spells. But he was unaware of their presence until the gang became so powerful that they threatened the prohibition of the East Guardian Towers. As such, the Chief of the Towers made up his mind and executed all the prisoners who were likely to be a member of the evil gang."

"Truth was that the number of the members were not as many as the Chief of the Towers thought. However, his fear caused him to kill many people. It was at that time that my uncle accidentally murdered a prisoner."

"Originally, prisoners held in the East Guardian Towers was more wicked than those sentenced to a death penalty. Even though these prisoners were killed, the killers did not feel that guilty."

"The prisoner that my uncle killed was found to be innocent. He was framed. But the crime for which he was held prisoner was still heinous. The prisoner died inside the East Guardian Towers. As a result, countless people sought explanations from the Chief of the East Guardian Towers. The Chief of the Guardian Towers dared not reveal the truth that he had killed so many prisoners out of his own fear of the evil gang. He made it appear as though the prisoners died of suicide and suppressed the news."

Nagayama was a chatterbox, and he could not hide anything from others. He easily spilled out the East Guardian Towers' past events. The past event was something that could severely damage the East Guardian Towers' reputation.

Lingling listened to his explanation attentively. She briefly understood why Nagayama's uncle was in a state that made him look as if he had been haunted by a ghost.

The moonless night was about to come. The Twin Guardian Towers looked like it had been shrouded by a bizarre aura. Those who had no one else to pour out their pain to, and the crimes that took place in the dark corners but were unattended, and the desperate screams seemed to have coalesced into a restless and terrifying aura. The aura gradually affected those who carried guilt and secrets close to their hearts.

And all this was likely to herald the arrival of the Red Demon Kazuaki!

...

"I can look around on my own. You still have training in the afternoon, so you don't have to accompany me anymore," said Lingling to Kaede Takahashi.

"I'll ask an officer to accompany you." Kaede Takahashi was worried about her.

"No need."

"Okay. Shall we meet again for dinner?" asked Kaede Takahashi.



“Okay.”

Lingling walked to the higher ground of the West Guardian Towers alone. The sturdy castle was built of large rocks. Most of the military forces were stationed in it. The West Guardian Towers military castle expanded following the Ocean Demons’ invasion.

Lingling got the pass, so she could stroll around the military area by herself. She walked toward the drawbridge.

Chapter 2947: Didn’t Cross Paths Last Time

“Kaede Takahashi, even though you lacked the skills, you have worked hard these days and have proven your strength to join the National Institute team. But is joining the National Institute team your only target? You have to stand out in the World College Tournament among the powerful Mages and geniuses. You have to reclaim the country’s glory. Hence, you have to pay full attention even though this is just training, understand?!” said the instructor, Shou Watani.

“Noted, Mr. Watani. Thank you for putting a painstaking effort on me!” Kaede Takahashi nodded and dared not to think of anything else.

Shou Watani’s training was harsh. He seemed to be tireless.

Outside the arena, when the crowd noticed Shou Watani’s figure, they talked about him.

“Isn’t that Shou Watani? He’s the leader of the Japanese team that won the last World College Tournament,” said a man in a kimono and slippers while taking a sip of iced beer.

“It’s him. Never thought he’s the instructor of the National Institute.”

“The members of the Twin Guardian Towers invited him to be the temporary instructor for the National Institute players. He’s even stronger than the experienced professors.”

“Shou Watani is upset with the fact that he hadn’t been able to achieve a better result in the last performance. It’s no wonder the players of the State House for this batch are so strong. They repeatedly defeated the teams from the National Institute!”

The training was mainly about the formation and cooperation among the members. They had to learn to keep calm in the face of a crisis.

Daylight faded. Before they even saw a sunset, it was already twilight. It seemed to arrive earlier than before.

Lingling sat there impatiently. She wondered when Mo Fan would wake up from his sleep!

She took out her phone and called him.

His phone rang a few meters away from him. Mo Fan yawned and took his phone. He did not answer it. Later he met her personally.

‘How’s it going?’ Mo Fan asked.

“I don’t have definite clues yet, but many bizarre incidents have happened in the Twin Guardian Towers,” said Lingling.

She did not gather much information. Fortunately, they still had a couple of days left before the moonless night. Thus, they could take their time to find more clues.

They had to learn about the cunning Red Demon Kazuaki’s purpose and his aura. They had to make early preparations before taking it down.

Sharjah had mentioned that the Red Demon Kazuaki was going to hold its Ascension Ceremony in this place. There must be something like an altar that stored massive evil energy. After all, it was impossible for the Red Demon Kazuaki to become an emperor in a single swoosh as soon as it reached the Twin Guardian Towers!

Since it chose to ascend and transform in the Twin Guardian Towers, the towers must contain something that it needed. It was either that the environment played a part in assisting him during the ascension and transformation, or the towers contained certain substances that it required.

It would be good if Lingling and Mo Fan could sort things out. Otherwise, how could they stop the Red Demon Kazuaki? How could Mo Fan become a Forbidden Mage in the process?

“Never mind. Take your time. Lingling, are you still a kid? How can you still leave the grains on the side of your mouth when eating a rice ball?” Mo Fan noticed some grains near her lips.

Lingling did not bother about it. She was still facing the laptop.

Mo Fan reached out and scraped the grains from her cheeks roughly.

“Oh gosh! I just applied powder on my face!” Lingling was angry.

“You’re still young. Why do you even have to apply face powder? Your skin is good without it,” said Mo Fan with a huff.

“I recently developed a fondness for black, metal rebellious look. I prefer those with nose rings, earrings, Ghana braids, and so on!” Lingling complained.

“Fine. You look good anyway.”

...

Meanwhile, on the training ground, Nagayama rushed over to Kaede Takahashi’s side with a great sense of urgency when the instructor was not paying attention to them.

“Your love rival is here! I saw a dashing man with the new girl whom you have been hanging out with! Why are you still training here? You might even lose your dinner date later!” Nagayama said.

Kaede turned his head around and saw Lingling with Mo Fan.

Judging from the way they interacted with each other, he could easily guess that the two were lovebirds. Lingling interacted intimately with the man who appeared out of nowhere. When they chatted, they looked accustomed to each other.

“Kaede Takahashi! Wind Disc!” Ikuko Ishida’s voice rose on the training ground.

Kaede Takahashi was lost in his own thoughts when the Wind Disc struck him. Fortunately, he had a solid foundation and was able to form a Light Wall using Light Element magic to hold back the attack.

After the Wind Disc dispersed, Shao Watani went over to him. Kaede Takahashi looked down. Shao Watani glared at him before turning to look at Linling in the corner.

Shao Watani noticed where Kaede Takahashi’s gaze was a while ago.

“The tournament is around the corner, but your mind is somewhere else. You disappoint me,” said Shao Watani.

Kaede Takahashi was aware of the problem.

He also wondered why his heart was captured by the Chinese girl whom he met just a while ago. He was curious if he was attracted by her beauty or her mysterious identity as a Seven-Star Hunter Master.

“Sir, I’m sorry. I...,” Kaede Takahashi apologized to Shao Watani earnestly.

Even before he could finish his words, Shao Watani walked to Lingling!

Kaede Takahashi was petrified! ‘Was Shao Watani about to scold her?’

Kaede Takahashi quickly caught up with Shao Watani. However, his teacher increased his pace and reached Lingling.

“I recognized you,” said Shao Watani.

Kaede Takahashi caught up with him. He was about to stop him when he noticed that Shao Watani wasn’t looking at Lingling but at the man beside her. The man looked like a scatterbrain.

“Me?” Mo Fan pointed to himself.

“You’re Mo Fan,” said Shao Watani.

“Who are you?” Mo Fan stared at Shao Watani. He looked familiar but Mo Fan couldn’t recall where he had seen him.

Shao Watani looked a little unhappy. He was the strongest player in the Japanese team. Even though Mo Fan took the first place in the World College Tournament and was known as the strongest young Mage, he had expected Mo fan to at least remember him.

Shao Watani sucked in a deep breath. “You and I haven’t crossed paths, so you might not remember me.”

Mo Fan tried his best to recall Shao Watani. Still, he could not remember who he was.

Just then, a familiar lady walked over to them.

“Mo Fan, he’s Shao Watani. He’s the leader of the Japanese National Institute. When the Chinese team competed with our team in Venice, you didn’t play the game,” Chihaya said with a warm smile.

“Oh, now I remember! Shao Watani, we’ve seen each other in the Caribbean Sea, right?” Mo Fan finally recalled.

#### Chapter 2948: Sparring

It was only then that Shao Watani appeared less stern. They had seen each other before when the National Institute team joined forces to wipe up the Red Ornaments Guild.

When they were in the City of Canals in Venice, Mu Ningxue demonstrated her powerful strength in the competition between the Chinese team and Japanese team. At that moment, Shao Watani was stuck with Ai Jiangtu, hence he did not have the chance to change the outcome of the competition.

“You’re Mo Fan?!” Kaede Takahashi cried out in shock.

Nagayama, Ikuko Ishida, and the other members from the State House surrounded them. The crowd turned to them when they noticed the commotion.

“He’s Mo Fan. He’s the one who took first place in the World College Tournament.”

“He looks normal.”

“He may have gained first place in the tournament, but that doesn’t mean he might still be as good now.”

Mo Fan was embarrassed. He did not expect himself to be recognized by so many people in Japan. He did not expect his good looks to leave such an indelible impression to others to the extent of being recognized even among the crowd.

“What is he doing here? Is he here to spy on the National Institute team’s tactics?” Ikuko Ishida said rudely. This was especially after she saw him with Lingling.

“The Mochizuki family invited them to come over to be our guests. Don’t be rude.” Chihaya glared at Ikuko Ishida.

“So, you’re our guests. Speaking of which, the World College Tournament seems to have happened only yesterday. I didn’t even have the chance to congratulate you and your team for winning the championship,” said Shao Watani to Mo Fan politely.

“You care more about the tournament than I do. I didn’t feel anything special about the game. After all, it’s been a long time since the tournament was over,” said Mo Fan.

The corners of Shao Watani’s lips twitched.

He wondered why every single word that came from Mo Fan carried a certain arrogance!

“I’ve been invited over to provide one-month training for the players of the State House. I suppose Japan is the first station for China. I wonder where your team is now?” asked Shao Watani.

“I thought the new season had ended. Isn’t the event held once every four years?”

“This season has been postponed. After all, the Ocean Demon and the cold hit many countries,” said Chihaya.

“Mo Fan, since you are here, shall we take the opportunity to spar with each other? After all, we used to take part in the World College Tournament, and it’s difficult to pass on practical combat skills to the students. If we spar with each other, the students can gain better understanding. Of course, it’s also the biggest regret in my life for not being able to fight with you back in Venice then,” Shao Watani offered.

“I don’t think that’s necessary,” said Mo Fan.

“We’re their seniors. It’s a hard chance to come by to meet with the champion. I believe they also wish to learn something from you.” Shao Watani turned his head around and asked the students from the State House, “Am I right?”

“Yes, we’re looking forward to it!”

“It’s so unfair. As a former champion, you’ve been guiding the students from the National Institute and State House in China. Meanwhile, we only have a rare opportunity by chance. We hope you can show us your skills. We’ll appreciate your effort.”

“We hope you can fulfill Mr. Shao Watani’s wish,” Kaede Takahashi said earnestly while bowing to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan scratched his head. Kaede Takahashi bowed before him.

Reasonably speaking, it was difficult to reject a Japanese who bowed to him.

“Fine. My only concern is that your biggest wish might end as your biggest regret.” Mo Fan had no choice but to accept Shao Watani’s invitation.

Shao Watani smiled.

As long as Mo Fan accepted his challenge, Shao Watani did not mind his words.

Shao Watani held a grudge against the outcome of the World College Tournament even after all these years. He was accused of not being able to achieve a better result for Japan.

The students of the State House, on the other hand, were over the moon. They did not expect the boring training would turn into a sparring session between two experts from the previous World College Tournament.

Before the new season of the World College Tournament was over, Mo Fan was frequently mentioned among the members of the State House and National Institute. Kaede Takahashi, Nagayama, Sinchiro, and Ikuko Ishida heard about him and the Chinese team many times.

“At that time, Mr. Shao Watani was the team leader. Even though Mo Fan won the championship, the difference in strengths was just slight. The key was team cooperation and luck. It would be a mirror match if Mr. Shao Watani fought one-on-one with Mo Fan,” said Nagayama.

“I guess the same too. After all, both of them are the greatest experts at that moment.”

Kaede Takahashi did not say anything. He focused all his attention at the battleground.

“Sinchiro is here!” Ikuko Ishida shouted.

At the edge of the arena was a slender figure with both of his hands inside the pocket. He watched the sparring match from afar. He had no intention of approaching the battleground.

It was clear that everyone looked forward to the sparring session, this was especially so for the Japanese players.

The spectators on the stand stirred up after knowing their identities.

...

"We're not sealing our super-level power because the Twin Guardian Towers have a powerful forbidden barrier to absorb the overflowing energy," said Shao Watani to Mo Fan.

"I'm fine with it," said Mo Fan.

"I hope you can bring out your full strength so that I can see how you earned the world's number one title." Shao Watani began a fighting stance.

Chihaya was the referee. She signaled the students to turn on the energy ban and enclose the fighting arena.

Kaede Takahashi sat beside Lingling. He hesitated for some time before asking, "Did you come here with Mo Fan?"

"Yes," said Lingling.

"If that's how it is, I'll surpass him sooner or later," Kaede Takahashi said in a low voice.

Lingling glanced at Kaede Takahashi in confusion.

He did not say anything. He watched the competition intently, as if he did not want to miss out anything from their sparring.

...

"Let the game begin!" said Chihaya.

Shao Watani was the most outstanding student in Japan in the past. Today, his strength grew even more powerful. His first spell was a super-level magic.

He did not intend to gauge Mo Fan's strength. He straight away summoned the majestic power of the Star Palace.

The Star Palace was magnificent. It surrounded Shao Watani. It was pure silver. It was the power of space.

...

When Shao Watani cast his magic spell, Mo Fan remained motionless.

There was no corresponding energy around him. However, he stretched out his right hand. His middle finger and thumb were ringed together.

Shao Watani was about to strike with his Space Element power. One could feel that the entire arena was shaking, as if an earthquake was incoming!

Even so, Mo Fan still had not cast any magic spell. He merely flicked his middle finger from his thumb.

At that instant, an overwhelming destructive force swept over to Shao Watani!

His silver Star Palace collapsed and turned into shattered starlight. The boulder in the arena was overturned, and a hole appeared!

Shao Watani stared at him in horror. He was still in a daze and wondered how he got swept away like a straw in the wind!

The energy of the forbidden barrier around the arena which was used to absorb the overflowing power was crushed into pieces.

The barren mountain in the east of the Twin Guardian Towers was razed to the ground by the subsequent surge of the force!

Everything collapsed with just one snap of his finger!

Chapter 2949: Have Shown Some Mercy

Kaede Takahashi's entire body shuddered, and he froze.

From his side, he saw a fan-shaped area in the east where Mo Fan had unleashed his radiation power. The arena, wall mountain, and distant barren mountain in that area were reduced to a land of ashes!

Shao Watani was supposed to be an even match with Mo Fan. He floated in midair and landed on the ground after everything was destroyed. By the time he returned to the ground, his legs were weak, and he was drenched in sweat. He had to rely on his willpower to keep himself from falling down in a heap!

Chihaya was equally baffled. She had not expected the sparring session that had begun seconds ago to end this way. She stared at Mo Fan. She did not seem to know him anymore. Even though it was still the same Mo Fan, he was so different from before. He gave them a lazy smile.

The crowd remained on the stand. They all looked panicked. Thankfully Mo Fan had his back to them. The direction in which he had flicked his finger was a barren land. Otherwise, they would all have perished.

They wondered how powerful Mo Fan must be if he could just cause this amount of destruction with a snap of his finger. He was once the champion of the World College Tournament, which was already rare in all fields in the world.

"I'm sorry. I've just finished practicing my cultivation, so I'm still not very familiar with my own power," Mo Fan glanced at Shao Watani apologetically.

Shao Watani just stood there. A while ago, he had been full of fighting spirit just like old times in Venice. He finally had the chance to spar with the strongest man for that year and wanted to fulfill his wish.

However, at that moment, he seemed to have fallen into an abyss of despair. The light surrounding him faded rapidly as soon as he closed his heart from everything else, leaving only an aura of darkness that seemed to be whipping at him.

‘Why was their gap so big?’

Even though Mo Fan was undoubtedly the world’s number one, he could not possibly have become who he was today in just a few years’ time.

He could not even hold back one of Mo Fan’s attacks. Mo Fan was showing him mercy. Otherwise, Shao Watani would have been destroyed, just like the barren mountain.

“Shall we continue?” asked Mo Fan.

“I’m willing to admit defeat.” Shao Watani was aware of his own inferiority compared to Mo Fan. Therefore, there was no need to continue the sparring match.

The gap between the two could no longer be made up by another game. They were no longer in the same level of cultivation. They did not even share a similar level of realms.

Shao Watani thought he had been working very hard over the years. He had achieved super-level in three of his elements. He was the best among the young generations. However, he realized the small gap between him and Mo Fan during the World College Tournament only meant that he would be left farther behind in the future. He could not possibly surpass Mo Fan in this life.

Shao Watani lost all his fighting spirit. He felt doom.

It was not an easy feat to accept such a harsh reality.

...

The showdown ended unexpectedly.

They had their meals in the restaurant. The atmosphere was slightly awkward.

On the contrary, Mo Fan ate his food very happily. He could not resist tasty food.

“I’m at least an instructor in the Twin Guardian Towers. Since you’ve achieved that level of realm, why don’t you make a show and fight a few more rounds with me? Otherwise, it would be very difficult for me to carry on with the lessons later,” Shao Watani could not help but whisper to Mo Fan.

“I’ve told you that I’ve just finished practicing my cultivation behind the closed-door. Besides, I’ve already shown you some mercy,” said Mo Fan.

Shao Watani laughed and did not say anything more.

Meanwhile, the students on the other table saw Mo Fan wolf down his food. They stared at him as if he was a monster. This was especially so for Kaede Takahashi and Chihaya.

They suffered a huge blow after witnessing Mo Fan’s powerful strength. ‘How were they supposed to surpass him in the future?’

“Sinchino, come over here,” Chihaya called him.



Shao Watani also waved his hand at Kaded Takahashi, signaling him to sit with them.

Nagayama joined them shamelessly.

“Let me introduce you. He’s Mo Fan. I suppose you’ve seen him in the fighting arena just now. Mo Fan, he’s my younger brother, Sinchiro Mochizuki. He’s still immature. I’ll appreciate it if you could provide him with some guidance in these few days,” said Chihaya.

“I’m far from being a mentor for him. Moreover, I’m here to accompany her on a trip to Japan. She just started college and is very eager.” Mo Fan pointed at Lingling.

Mo Fan did not mention his true purpose of visiting Japan. There were still many things that he was unsure of. Hence, he used Lingling’s trip to Japan as an excuse.

“No matter what, I hope you could share your experience with them since they haven’t gone out of town.” Chihaya behaved like an elder sister to them. It was clear that she cared a lot for Sinchino and hoped he could grow more mature.

After Chihaya arranged accommodation for Mo Fan and Lingling, she stayed in the West Guardian Towers.

Mo Fan frowned as soon as he entered the house. Lingling was just about to go take a shower, when he stopped her.

“What’s wrong?” asked Lingling.

“Something’s wrong. I sensed a strong aura the moment I entered the West Guardian Towers. The Sublimed Evil Bead also warned me about a massive evil energy in this place. However, after we had our dinner, the strange aura was gone, and the Sublimed Evil Bead showed no more response,” said Mo Fan.

“Do you mean the Red Demon Kazuaki sensed your presence?” Lingling guessed.

“It’s possible. But we haven’t truly contacted the Red Demon Kazuaki. We’ve mostly interacted with its doppelgangers,” said Mo Fan.

“It has scruples about you. You have to keep your aura in check. It could be that your strength has alerted it,” said Lingling.

“Even if that’s the case, I don’t think it will leave this place. The Ascension Ceremony is around the corner. The Red Demon is an evil spirit that must possess someone else’s body. I think it is possessing someone at the moment. Whose role is it currently playing? You remember how it pretended to be one of the Lu family members...”

“I have the same thought too. It’s most likely among the crowd in the West Guardian Towers, but who could it be?” Lingling thought about the issue.

They had knowledge of the Red Demon’s nature. It was not purely an evil spirit. It had to rely on someone else to survive, much like a parasite. It had to take control of the person’s mind and steal their memories. It could even perfectly impersonate the person it possessed.

Chapter 2950: Impersonating Together

The next day, Mo Fan walked around the West Guardian Towers alone. Lingling had mentioned earlier that the Red Demon's magnetic field seemed to be influencing people's minds subconsciously and making the people in the Twin Guardian Towers behave strangely.

However, Mo Fan did not encounter even a single event like what she had described. There was once an elderly woman who lost her way in the West Guardian Towers, and he saw someone was kind enough to show her the direction. A person accidentally spilled his drink on someone else's shoes. They looked like they were about to fight each other. However, to Mo Fan's surprise, the duo apologized to each other. Mo Fan felt uneasy with how friendly both were to each other.

It was a fruitless day.

Mo Fan initially thought he could figure out the Red Demon Kazuaki's method of doing things before the arrival of the moonless night. It would be ideal if he could locate a part of the population where it could potentially thrive so that he could effectively stop it.

Not finding any clues was frustrating, to say the least. Even the Red Demon's magnetic field seemed to have vanished.

"I sense that the Red Demon is wary of me. I'll take a walk in the city. How does that sound?" asked Mo Fan.

She nodded. Ever since Mo Fan appeared in the Twin Guardian Towers, the Red Demon's magnetic field had disappeared. The West Guardian Towers were originally filled with a strange and hostile atmosphere. However, its culture had improved so much that it surpassed the level of civilization. There was not even a single person spotted spitting!

Mo Fan felt helpless. If he had known that the Red Demon Kazuaki had parasitized somewhere nearby, he would have avoided Shao Watani's invitation.

Lingling drew close to Mo Fan and whispered in his ears.

Mo Fan's eyes lit up. He thought Lingling's idea was brilliant. He immediately packed up his things and pretended to look for some fun in the city.

...

Lingling suggested a very simple idea.

The Red Demon could parasitize and disguise itself. The moment it noticed the appearance of a person who could threaten its plan, it would hide itself and wait quietly for the moonless night.

If so, why couldn't Mo Fan disguise himself, too?

Mo Fan had a disguise artifact called The Eagle Witch Medusa's Eye of Deception. The artifact would allow Mo Fan to blend into the heavily guarded place.

Lingling asked Mo Fan to impersonate a certain person. It would be best if he impersonated a person related to the East Guardian Towers. By doing so, Mo Fan could observe the presence of the Red Demon from the shadows.

For safety purposes, Lingling had no intention of asking who Mo Fan intended to impersonate. After all, the Red Demon was a creature that could manipulate one's mind and steal one's memories. If Lingling knew about it, the Red Demon Kazuaki could locate Mo Fan through her subconscious.

Hence, Mo Fan was the only person who was aware of the person he impersonated.

Likewise, the Red Demon Kazuaki was the only one that was aware of the person it impersonated.

Since it liked to play such a bizarre game, Mo Fan would play the same game with it.

[The Red Demon Kazuaki has misgivings about Mo Fan. Even if it knows that he is hiding among the crowd, it will try to dig him out lest he obstruct its ascension. The moment it takes action, it will certainly expose its flaws.]

Lingling quickly typed into her notebook.

[The Archangel Sharjah mentioned evil energy. It's a massive energy. The overflow of the energy could affect its surroundings as well as the people around. They are possibly close to the mass of evil energy.]

Before Lingling came here, she had read up a lot about the Red Demon.

Apas also came from the Evil Temple. It had a good understanding about the Evil Temple, especially the Eight Souls Wicked God's ascension method.

If the evil energy were to cast its effect on the moonless night, it must first be placed somewhere inside the Twin Guardian Towers, so that it could adapt to its surrounding environment, like creating a bacterial breeding ground for the Red Demon Kazuaki.

Since the evil energy had to be placed somewhere, the Red Demon Kazuaki had to stand guard over the mass of evil energy before the arrival of the moonless night. Hence, impersonating someone inside the Twin Guardian Towers would be the best way to not draw people's attention. It could behave normally despite knowing that the Twin Guardian Towers would be severely affected. Just like a demon waiting quietly for its evil fruit to ripen.

At that moment, it was waiting calmly.

...

There were still seven days until the moonless night.

Regardless of whether the Red Demon Kazuaki was aware of Mo Fan's deliberate interruption, the energy emitted from the evil magnetic field became increasingly hard to conceal.

Lingling witnessed an army being scared out of their wits by an enormous horned-fin Ocean Demon before being dragged into the ocean. Truth was, it was just a commander-level Ocean Demon. The army was capable of killing it. However, they were intimidated because of the previous appearance of a similar ruler-level enormous horned-fin Ocean Demon.

Meanwhile, in the West Guardian Towers, the National Institute's final name list became extremely complicated.

Originally, Kaede Takahashi was almost certain of being selected as the State House player. However, one night, he mistakenly touched the East Guardian Towers' forbidden barrier suddenly. Not only was he injured, but his injury also hampered his final stage of training. A rumor spread among the State House students that someone wanted to usurp Kaede Takahashi's title.

The East Guardian Towers once fell into a chaotic situation. Lingling did not have the chance to find out what exactly had happened. She was only aware that a new batch of guards took over the place the next day.

Officer Ozawa handed the issue over to Lingling, so she went to take a look. However, the outcome of her investigation was disappointing.

Nagayama's uncle, the same guard who had accidentally killed an innocent prisoner, was mentally unsound. Lingling initially thought she could dig out some useful information from him, only to end up receiving little to no clue.

"I wonder if Mo Fan is able to obtain some useful information. Everything seems trivial for now. The issues look like they have long been deposited in the West Guardian Towers and have been accidentally triggered just recently." Lingling sat in the beverage area of a restaurant while holding a cup of matcha drink.

"Clank!" A stack of plates fell next to Lingling. She was startled. She took off her headphone to see a waitress pointing and scolding the restaurant manager!

"What exactly do you want me to do?! Do you want me to stack the plates or wipe the tables? Or is it just because I refuse to watch a movie with you or play along with any of your attempts that you avenge me with all sorts of menial labor?!" shouted the waitress.

Although it was nighttime and there were not many people in the restaurant, several diners could not help but stare at the commotion.

The restaurant manager stood motionless. "If you feel tired, let me know. It's not like I refuse to let you take a break," he said. "Why do you need to say something like that? I have no ulterior motives. I just wish to keep the restaurant clean. Isn't that part of my duty as the manager of the restaurant?"

Lingling glanced at the two people arguing in public. Things like that rarely happen in Japan, at least not in public. The Japanese valued their dignity.

However, as the moonless night approached closer, this kind of phenomenon happened around Lingling many times.

It seemed like the Red Demon Kazuaki and its evil fruits could stir people up and express their frustrations and their anger. As a result, the adults behaved like children, and they caused trouble wherever they went.