

Versatile 321

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Chapter 321: Battle Against the Razortail Drake

Bai Tingting slowly opened her eyes. She was expecting to see the disgusting stomach wall of the Razortail Drake, but it turned out to be sunlight, the blue sky, and clouds which had been set aflame.

Meanwhile, Zhao Manting and Mu Nujiao were staring at the person whose hair had almost reached his feet... He was definitely Mo Fan, but they could not believe he was the Mo Fan they knew!

His face was showing the signs of the wolf species, while his entire body had hereditary markings, like a curse.

His hands had turned into a pair of sharp claws, which were currently holding the net with ease.

His jumping ability was shocking. It felt like he was flying as he leapt between the buildings, despite them being more than a hundred meters apart. Any ordinary human would have totally broken their bones from the jump, but he was perfectly fine!

Mo Fan continued to jump between the roofs of the buildings as he made his way down to the ground, carrying the net firmly in his hand. If he weren't concerned that the four students would not be able to handle the impact of landing on the ground straightaway, he would be perfectly fine even if he were to land from his current height of three hundred meters.

Even Mo Fan could not describe his current status.

It was similar to the burst of power his legs received after activating the Blood Tabi, but he could feel an even greater burst of power pouring into every body part. The power seemed to be circulating in his body, and would not dissipate as easily as the power of the Blood Tabi.

The degree of his strength was absolutely outstanding. It was on a totally different level than a human's body. If it weren't for the fact that he still retained his human appearance, he would believe that he had turned into a demon beast with a fairly outstanding lineage!

Mo Fan could feel himself acting very impetuous.

He could still think, but he could not help but feel disgusted and treating it as a waste of effort. The savagery, lust to kill and anger in his bones were multiplied a significant amount of times by the Demon Element. It felt like there was nothing he could not resolve with his fists. Nothing would trouble him any longer, as long as he killed them all!

Now, Mo Fan felt like a demon who had been kept in captivity for too long, who had finally regained its freedom. The first thought that came to his mind was to bring chaos and utter destruction to the entire world.

Killing and destroying were the only rituals that could be tied to the body!

He could not even understand why he had saved the four humans. He was only aware of an obsessive thought occupying his mind. It felt like an instinct that had been implanted in his mind during the transformation. He would never allow anyone to touch them, not even a single hair!

A deafening roar burst out from the nest, which echoed throughout the entire city.

The Giant Lizards filling the streets were aware of their leader's fury. They shivered and lowered their heads, awaiting their leader's command.

A giant beast poked out from the top of the chopped-off nest. It was the Razortail Drake.

A part of its neck was dented in, which was obviously the reason why it was enraged. On top of that, its favorite nest was also destroyed!

The Razortail Drake glanced down at the demonized Mo Fan and bellowed out more deafening roars. Even the buildings began to shake violently...

Finally, the giant beast glided down from the height of the mound. Its enormous shadow loomed as its giant body slammed right into the tall buildings and toppled them like Lego blocks!

The demonized Mo Fan responded with a furious roar, too. Mu Nujiao, Zhao Manting, and Bai Tingting instantly covered their ears against the screeching pain.

Killing was his nature, too!

The demonized Mo Fan showed no intention of thinking for even for a second. He only wanted to follow his instincts, to tear the damned big fat lizard in front of him into pieces!

With an eerie whoosh, Mo Fan's figure vanished into thin air, and a wolf-shaped silhouette appeared in the shadow under the Razortail Drake!

The Wolf Shadow gradually materialized, before emerging as a Wolf Soul!

Under the Wolf Soul stood a man, none other than the demonized Mo Fan. His face was savage, with an eerie grin.

The power granted to him was rumbling inside his body, urging him to spread his arms wide and let out a roar into the sky!

He extended his arms and stared right into the Razortail Drake's eyes fearlessly.

He howled like a wild wolf. Even the air was vibrating. As he did, the Soul Shadow gradually enlarged, to the extent it felt like the surrounding buildings were being drawn into it...

The Wolf Shadow lunged forward, launching itself at the diving Razortail Drake and tearing ferociously at its throat!

The Razortail Drake was infuriated. It brawled with the Wolf Shadow with its giant claws as the two ferocious beasts collided with one another. One had great might due to its size, while the other was an irascible Soul Shadow displaying its wild nature.

The Razortail Drake turned out to be slightly stronger. It seemed to have discovered the Wolf Shadow's weakness. It blew out a strong gust of wind, which was capable of blowing the buildings apart right at the Wolf Shadow's half-illusionary body...

Part of the Wolf Shadow dispersed as if the wind were about to break it apart. Its claws had left some marks on the Razortail Drake's body, but they had failed to inflict any damage to the beast's thick skin.

"Come back!" the demonized Mo Fan called to the Wolf Shadow.

The Wolf Shadow rapidly returned to his body and attached itself to him like before. It did make him look even more sinister.

Chains of lightning stirred restlessly as the Razortail Drake charged in Mo Fan's direction.

The purple energy had already run out of patience. After all, it was the Element that symbolized destruction!

The demonized Mo Fan howled once again. His body was a human covered with bloody cursed lines, but his shadow was that of a dark werewolf!

The arcs of lightning crackled wildly over him. Some of them spread to the streets as they broke free from Mo Fan's control. The Giant Lizards roared loudly as they were electrocuted.

Mo Fan curled his hands into claws!

He leapt into the air and struck forward with a claw, followed by the whip of the arcing lightning.

The shockwave produced by the swipe tore the air apart and slammed right into the Razortail Drake's chest. Despite its scales being as strong as steel, the sharp claws still managed to pierce through its thick defense. Blood jetted out from the Razortail Drake's flesh along the path of the claw marks.

Meanwhile, the lightning arcs following the swipe drilled themselves into the wound and drove right into the Razortail Drake's flesh.

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Chapter 322: Massacring the Lizard Ocean!

The Razortail Drake had a violent temper, too. It totally ignored the lightning penetrating into it and bit at the demonized Mo Fan with its giant fangs.

The Razortail Drake's bite was not just the width of its mouth. The moment it opened its mouth wide, it also summoned a sinking black void, sucking in everything within a hundred meters, including the streets, the buildings, and the slow-to-react Giant Lizards.

The demonized Mo Fan was right in the middle of the black void, surrounded by the fangs of the Razortail Drake.

It turned out that the black void was actually linked to the Razortail Drake's esophagus. It was planning to swallow the entire area!

Mo Fan quickly leapt into the air, trying to escape the pulling force of the void. However, the void had produced a whirlwind, strong enough to drag the objects outside the reach of the void into the Razortail Drake's throat!

"So you like to swallow, try swallowing this!" Mo Fan sneered.

Raising his arms high up, a giant fireball appeared right above his head.

The fireball started at the size of a Fire Burst, but as soon as Mo Fan's body was engulfed in flames, it expanded in an insane manner!

The fireball continued to enlarge. Its size was enough to fill half of the street. It felt like Mo Fan was holding a burning asteroid right above him.

His muscles flexed as he hurled the giant fireball into the black void.

Since it led to the Razortail Drake's throat, he would not mind blowing it and the Razortail Drake's stomach up!

The fireball drove down into the void. Although the force of the void was strong enough to shatter the buildings nearby, it had no chance against the overwhelming burning force.

The Razortail Drake realized that it was stupid to continue swallowing. It tried to stop the effect, but it was unable to do so before the fireball made its way into the void.

There was a dull blast, and the enormous Razortail Drake's stomach rapidly expanded, reflecting the explosion of the fireball inside!

The Razortail Drake was in incredible pain. It immediately opened its mouth wide to let the heat escape from within it.

Luckily, its throat and stomach wall were even sturdier than its skin. Otherwise, any other Commander-level demon beast would have found their stomachs blasted apart by the explosion!

Flames could be seen sprouting from the Razortail Drake's body. It slammed into the buildings nearby wildly, feeling its insides burning. There was no way it could spit out all the flames within it in a short period of time.

The Giant Lizards and the Tyrant Lizards shrieked after seeing their leader in such a miserable state. They began to charge toward the demonized Mo Fan fearlessly.

The swarm of Giant Lizards stuck their necks forward in an endless tide, trying to defend their commander.

However, there was no way that Mo Fan, with the Demon Element under his control, would be intimidated by them. In fact, he actually had a strong desire to kill!

His hands still curled into claws, Mo Fan stood on the street, glaring at the tide of Giant Lizards swarming toward him.

"A bunch of rubbish!"

He tore the air apart with a fierce ripping motion. The Wolf Shadow attached to his body repeated the same action. The shadow of the claw swipe made its way across half of the street in less than a second!

The shadow cut right down the two-kilometer-long street!

Every Giant Lizard along that line was torn in half!

A lengthy fissure of unknown depth was left on the street, while countless corpses of the Giant Lizards that were slashed in half lay on both sides. The blood only started to spray out after a delay of a few seconds.

It was hard to tell how many Giant Lizards had died to the claw, but their blood eventually turned the fissure into a river.

As Mo Fan pulled his hand back, the Soul Shadow followed the same action. He locked his gaze on a particular Tyrant Earth Lizard, significantly bigger than the other Tyrant Lizards.

The Tyrant Earth Lizard was able to camouflage itself in its surroundings. It had been hiding in the corner, waiting for the perfect time to strike and eat him alive.

Unfortunately, as soon as it was made its move, Mo Fan had already noticed its existence.

A Tyrant Lizard close to evolving?

One that was considered the strongest among the Warrior-level demon beasts?

Did that make any difference?

The demonized Mo Fan nimbly dodged aside as the demon beast's stinking fangs swept past his face. He made his way to the beast's tail before it could turn around in time.

Mo Fan's hand was still the same size like a human's, but the Soul Shadow's hand was huge.

Clenching his hand, the Soul Shadow grabbed the long tail of the Advanced Tyrant Lizard.

The Tyrant Lizard, big enough to easily crush a building into pieces, was lifted into the air. It was launched sixty meters high into the sky with a random fling...like a toy being thrown around!

The Tyrant Lizard struggled to recover its balance, but as it reached the highest point, a bolt of thick purple-black lightning struck down on its head from above!

The merciless lightning bolt penetrated its skull smoothly, as if there was nothing in its path.

The Advanced Level Tyrant Lizard's body stiffened in the air. It was already dead before it landed on the ground...

"Instant...instant kill?"

Not far away, Zhao Manting was so shocked that he almost dropped his jaw to the ground.

The Tyrant Lizard was considered rather strong among the Warrior-level demon beasts, and it was still killed instantly by the demonized Mo Fan!

The military was not just doing an experiment, they were trying to make a demon!

...

The huge corpse of the Tyrant Earth Lizard landed in front of Mo Fan, but he did not waste a second looking at it. He jumped onto its corpse and glanced ahead at the Giant Lizards swarming in his direction.

The Razortail Drake's glowing eyes were full of anger.

Since when did Jinlin City have such an annoying creature, possessing such incredible strength despite his tiny size?!

The Razortail Drake uttered a roar, as if it were summoning all its Giant Lizard minions to it.

The number of Giant Lizards was still at a terrifying level. They had totally occupied the whole area. Their backs formed an ocean of scaled flesh in the street.

They had gathered here after being summoned by their leader.

The demon beasts had totally surrounded Mo Fan. They were trying to abuse their numbers to wear their enemy out.

Mo Fan just smirked.

The Little Loach Pendant on his neck shuddered all of a sudden.

"Don't worry, they are all yours!" the demonized Mo Fan growled, tapping the excited Little Loach Pendant. His tone revealed his desire to massacre all the beasts!

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Chapter 323: Chasing After the Commander-level Beast!

The Giant Lizards gathered from all directions, led by the Tyrant Lizards. Meanwhile, their highest commander, the Razortail Drake, was standing on top of a ruined shopping mall. Most of the structure had eroded away, and it could barely hold the weight of the Razortail Drake, certain parts of it already beginning to collapse.

Mo Fan's gaze at the Razortail Drake across an ocean of Giant Lizards and a ravaged street that used to be the liveliest section in the city was full of provocation.

It was obvious that the Razortail Drake had thick skin, but it was still fairly lively after swallowing the giant fireball. Was its stomach made of steel? No wonder it was bold enough to swallow everything!

That being said, it was rather naive trying to use its troops of Giant Lizards to buy some time!

"Vanishing Wolf Shadow!"

As he spread his arms, the Soul Shadow behind him began to contort as several Shadow Wolves jumped out the giant shadow.

With a point of his hand, the wolves dashed across the lengthy street!

The wolves crossed paths with flickering claws. The power of the Soul Shadow was transformed into sharp weapons, piercing through the Giant Lizards with ease.

The demon beasts were sliced in half from their heads to their tails. Some had clean cuts on their necks, some had their stomachs ripped open, while the others were torn to pieces instead. The Shadow Wolves

summoned by Mo Fan were like hungry ghouls. Their trails were fountains of bloody mist, the slow Giant Lizards butchered before they could react.

A huge bloody mist swallowed the street, amputated limbs scattered in the air. It was quite impossible to see any Giant Lizard still in one piece when looking ahead. The Shadow Wolves were like amputating experts. Every demon beast was turned into pieces of meat regardless of how sturdy they were.

The Servant-class Giant Lizards stood no chance at all. They could only use their numbers by stacking into a long meat shield. Their chances of surviving were completely dependent on whether the Shadow Wolves passed close to them!

Mo Fan clearly remembered the feeling he had when he first witnessed the savagery and cruelty of the demon beasts. He felt himself to be extravagantly tiny before them, and now, the tables had been turned. The demon beasts were petty and inferior as they were ordered around by the Tyrant Lizards. The entire pack of Giant Lizards could only be used as a sacrifice to protect their leader from a true expert's attack.

The Razortail Drake had no mercy and love for its minions. As a matter of fact, the growth of a demon beast to Commander-level was only made possible through the countless deaths of demon beasts of the same species. Even if the entire pack were to die here, it would be fine as long as the Razortail Drake lived!

The Giant Lizards continued to crawl in the demonized Mo Fan's direction. Mo Fan did not need to attack himself, as the Wolf Shadow on his back was enough of a nightmare for the Giant Lizards. Each time the sharp claws of the Shadow Wolves swiped through the air, a great chunk of blood and flesh would splatter out, while their Soul Remnants were sucked away by the pendant on Mo Fan's neck.

Today was definitely the most exciting day for the Little Loach Pendant ever. It continued to shiver on Mo Fan's neck, like a kid crying out in joy.

It continuously absorbed the Soul Remnants, as if it would never have enough. On top of that, it seemed to have a bigger appetite the more it ate!

The Little Loach Pendant refused nobody, be it the Soul Remnants of Servant-class demon beasts, the occasional Soul Essence that would pop up among the dead bodies, or the Soul Remnants of the Tyrant Lizards. It was happy to accept them all. The river inside the Pendant was densely packed with glowing green dots...

That being said, the Little Loach Pendant was still the most interested in the Razortail Drake's soul.

The Little Loach Pendant had never tasted the soul of a Commander-level demon beast before. Such a high-grade soul would be very useful in helping it to level up!

"A bunch of them are coming toward us!" Zhao Manting cried out in panic

There was no way he could handle these many Giant Lizards on his own. Currently, Zhao Manting was the only one who could use magic among the four of them.

Zhao Manting's scream immediately caught Mo Fan's attention. He turned around with a puzzled look.

He ran forward and jumped around a hundred meters away from Zhao Manting and landed right behind the group.

The Wolf Blood Lines on his legs began to glow brightly, as if the runes of a curse were freshly painted on him. They even started to pulsate.

The glow from the bloody lines transformed into a murderous flicker as Mo Fan's legs began to accumulate an overwhelming dark energy...

Mo Fan fired the crimson glow off with a kick, which slashed forward in a crescent shape. The giant slash sped forward at a crazy pace while staying parallel to the ground!

"Brother, why are you kicking at the building?" Zhao Manting was left speechless. Mo Fan's attack was fairly shocking, but the problem, was, it was aiming at a building beside the street.

However, halfway through Zhao Manting's grumble, Mo Fan kicked in another direction, firing another crimson crescent-shaped projectile at another building on the other side of the street.

The two thirty-meter crescents swept across the bases of the two buildings, cutting the cement walls and the supporting pillars in their paths...

Without the support of the base, the two buildings slowly collapsed toward the street. They even collided into one another halfway during the fall and were smashed into debris before hitting the ground.

The remains of the buildings crashed onto the street wildly, blowing the dust into the air. The debris stacked up and blocked the path of the Giant Lizards. It had formed a wall of steel and cement in front of the group, preventing the Giant Lizards from reaching Zhao Manting and the others!

The wall had formed a protective barrier around the group, although Zhao Manting could not help but think that Mo Fan had gone a little bit overboard with his violent method.

"It looks like the Razortail Drake is leaving." Zhao Manting suddenly pointed at the giant beast, which was flapping its wings.

Mo Fan refocused his gaze on the Razortail Drake, which did happen to be rising into the sky while flapping its wings...

A strong aura burst out from Mo Fan's body. He had no intention of letting the fat piece of meat go. He instantly disappeared with a flicker of motion. As Zhao Manting looked into the distance, he could see the demonized Mo Fan jumping continuously between the buildings, chasing after the Razortail Drake!

"Why the hell are you chasing it?" Zhao Manting was on the verge of breaking down.

Did he seriously need to be that violent, chasing after a Commander-level demon beast?

Why can't we just leave this bloody place as soon as possible!?!

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Chapter 324: The Retreat of the Lizards

Mo Fan was utterly furious when he learned that the Razortail Drake was flying away. He had to find a way to release the savagery in his bones.

He was running at a crazy speed. He could even use his hands as claws while sprinting vertically up the tallest building, just like how he ran on the ground. At that moment, he was no different than a demon beast!

As he reached the top of the building, Mo Fan finally caught a glance of the Razortail Drake, which had already risen around seventy meters higher into the sky.

He stooped slightly on the building, the exact same stance he used before. The burst of power launched him over a hundred meters into the sky. His jumping ability was crazier than that of the Swift Star Wolf, as the Blood Sarira had strengthened the lineage of the Swift Star Wolf a few times over!

Wrapped around by the Wolf Shadow, Mo Fan sprang into the sky. He was propelling himself straight at the Razortail Drake.

The Razortail Drake flapped its wings wildly, as if it had just seen a ghost.

Normally, the Razortail Drake would never allow anyone to trespass into its territory, but as soon as it realized how bizarre the intruder's strength was, it had decided not to fight against him again before having a clear understanding of what he was.

To its surprise, the man was reluctant to give up. He was still chasing after it even though it had taken the initiative to withdraw from its territory!

Was there something wrong with his mind?!

The Razortail Drake was infuriated. It rapidly sucked the air around it into its stomach...

The Razortail Drake's body bloated. It resembled a giant balloon with wings from afar.

"ROAR~!"

The Razortail Drake unleashed all the air in its stomach at the rapidly approaching Mo Fan. A shocking tornado spun through the sky.

The tip of the tornado extended down right at the demonized Mo Fan who was still rising like a rocket...

Mo Fan was unable to control his body in the air. As a result, the Razortail Drake's breath struck him heavily before trapping him inside the tornado.

As the tornado fell from the sky, Mo Fan, who had lost his balance, was flung wildly toward an abandoned residential area overgrown with weeds.

The entire area was smashed into pieces from the collision. A huge cloud of dust lingered in the air. Mo Fan, who was right in the center of the tornado, slammed hard into the pit the collision created. His body was covered in wounds, like he had been flogged a whip.

The wounds were not too deep, mere scratches on his skin. The tornado was still spinning above the residential area. Mo Fan rose to his feet as if he were perfectly unharmed. His extraordinary eyes stared at the Razortail Drake flying up in the sky through the thick layer of dust!

At the same time, the Razortail Drake stared down at him in the sky.

When it figured that he had only suffered a little scratch, it exhaled a furious breath from its nose.

Where did this monster come from? He was tiny as humans, but the blood and bones in his body could match that of a Commander-level demon beast!

Why would I bother fighting against such a monster?

The Razortail Drake raised its head and uttered a commanding roar to the Giant Lizards on the streets.

It flapped its wings and flew in the direction of Dongting Lake without turning its head back.

The Razortail Drake had already planned to move its territory. It was time for it to bring its minions back to their real nest.

Following that command, the Giant Lizards withdrew like a tide. The previously rumbling streets quickly fell silent. Their tails and scaled backs disappeared into the distance as they followed their commander, the Razortail Drake, into the horizon.

The carpet of flesh swept through a certain direction in Jinlin City. The Giant Lizards had no instinct to protect the property. They trampled up the streets of the abandoned city and bulldozed the ruined buildings in their path. It was a spectacular view!

It was true that the demonized Mo Fan killed the Giant Lizards like cutting vegetables, but there were just too many of them. It would take him more than a day and a night to totally wipe them out...

Besides, it was only a small pack led by a Commander-level Razortail Drake. It was impossible to imagine how terrifying the scale of the entire Giant Lizard Horde at the Dongting Lake would be...

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Another zone of the city was also destroyed beyond recognition due to the highly destructive Advanced Magic being cast upon it.

It was the location where the battle between Zhan Kong and the devil Lu Nian was taking place. Neither had managed to gain an upper hand in the battle so far.

Lu Nian might be stronger than Zhan Kong, but the later was incredibly agile due to his Wind Element. He knew how to dodge Lu Nian's powerful attacks. The two had fought in the air and on the ground. More than a hundred demon beasts had died from the fallout of the spells they had cast.

They were both keeping an eye on the situation taking place at the center of the city, but they could not afford to lose their focus in a battle against a worthy opponent too...

"You're still weak as heck. If this is all you've got, you should just die and accompany her in hell. She must be missing you a lot down there!" Lu Nian said with a cold grin.

At the same time, he twisted the military bracer on his wrist.

The bracer began to emit a brown magical glow, which rapidly wrapped around Lu Nian's body.

"This thing is called the Petrifying Bracer. It can boost the power of my Petrifying Eyes significantly. Your defensive equipment is no longer usable, and the protection of your Wind Wings alone won't be enough to nullify my attack. Zhan Kong, do you like the petrifying funeral that I have specifically arranged for you?" Lu Nian burst into laughter.

A Petrifying Equipment!

This kind of equipment was extremely rare to find. It was specifically made for certain unique Magic. Lu Nian had spent a great fortune just to acquire it.

Initially, he thought he would only use it in war, but he never thought the first tester would be his old comrade Zhan Kong. What a perfect timing!

Zhan Kong frowned as he swiftly backed off.

The equipment on Lu Nian's arm was unleashing a shocking energy. It was surely nothing ordinary. It would most likely be able to petrify a fourth of the city. He should keep a certain distance away...

"You're running away? Do you really think you have enough time for that?" Lu Nian was accumulating his energy. It might seem like he would be channeling the cast for quite some time, but there was no way Zhan Kong could make his way out of range in time.

He did enjoy watching Zhan Kong fleeing for his life, like a hunt between an eagle and a hare. The hare would assume it could make it to its burrow in time. However, the eagle had already calculated its speed and the distance from the burrow. The moment it dove from the sky, it had already decided the outcome of the hunt.

"Mm? Giving up already?" The petrifying energy was unleashed from Lu Nian's body. None of the plants nearby were able to escape their fate, and were covered in a layer of grey-white substances. A soft touch alone would shatter them into pieces.

Lu Nian suddenly realized that Zhan Kong had stopped flying away. He was just standing there with a complicated expression, as if he had just seen something unbelievable.

"You better look behind you," Zhan Kong said.

"Do you think this is a kid's game!" Lu Nian snapped.

"Well, I did try to tell you..."

The astonishment on Zhan Kong's face slowly disappeared. His eyes were fixed on Lu Nian, and the black shadow that was approaching him at an insane speed!

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Chapter 325: Go to Hell

Lu Nian was suddenly aware of something behind him when he felt a cold breath with a beastly presence.

A demon beast?

Impossible, his Petrify would turn everything nearby into statues, no demon beast would be able to get close to him.

Seeing the weird grin on Zhan Kong's face, Lu Nian finally had no choice but to turn his head around.

Within a blink, a face rapidly approached him with the speed of the wind, leaving him dumbfounded.

Who, who's this?

Why would the face be covered in crimson lines full of dark energy? The flicker from its eyes was utterly intimidating!

"Mo...Mo Fan?" Lu Nian stared at the person in front of him in disbelief.

"It's me!" Mo Fan wore a savage grin, to an extent that it revealed the cruelty in his bones. His voice was completely different than before, although his words sounded extremely familiar to him. "I did say that the next time you saw me, I'd send a mongrel like you to hell!"

Mo Fan was unable to think clearly in his demonized state. However, the hatred he bore before turning into a demon was ineradicable. The rage in his heart finally found a way out, that being to crush this disgusting, loathsome devil commander, soul and all, into pieces!

Lu Nian was still lost in his thoughts. He could not actually tell if the person was still Mo Fan himself, or a total demon.

He had seen many test subjects in person, and none of them were able to speak like a human after the transformation, as they had completely turned into monsters. They could not even retain their human appearance. On the other hand, apart from the bloody lines and the long white hair, Mo Fan had managed to keep his usual appearance.

If he had yet to demonize completely, why would he have such a horrendous, deadly aura? Why would he have such eerie power?

"I can't let you die too quick... Why don't you give me a kowtow first?" Mo Fan grinned and revealed his sharp fangs!

As he finished the sentence, he grabbed the back of Lu Nian's head.

"To you? Do you think you can still move standing so close to me...AH!!!" Lu Nian was hurled to the ground by Mo Fan with brute force before he could even finish his sentence.

Lu Nian slammed on the ground with his face down. He did not have the time to defend himself. He was thrown to the ground like a dog with a great blow to his head!

The ground used to be muddy, but it had turned solid as a rock from Lu Nian's Petrify. Lu Nian was planning to use his power to turn his opponent into a dead statue, but he ended up testing the sturdiness of the rock with his own face!

The rock shattered into a pile of dust. Lu Nian's head sank into the ground below like an ostrich, leaving him in incredible pain.

As Lu Nian was an Advanced Magician, his flesh was significantly stronger than that of an ordinary human. If he were some Servant-class demon beast, his head would have burst open, just like a watermelon dropped from a great height. On the other hand, his face was only slightly sunken, with blood smeared across it.

"I...I will never... forgive you!" Lu Nian's body quickly unleashed a golden glow, turning into a flexible armor wrapping around him.

The armor was rather advanced, even providing protection to his head. As Mo Fan threw a punch right at his face, the golden armor had already covered it up.

Mo Fan was not too bothered by the sudden-appearing armor. He held Lu Nian up and clenched his right hand into a flaming fist.

The fist that burned like a meteor was thrown right at Lu Nian's face. He did not even care about the protection of the golden armor!

There was a fiery explosion as the punch landed on Lu Nian's face. The armor managed to resist most of the damage from the fire, preventing his skull from burning into ashes instantly. However, the impact from the punch still knocked out all his teeth and broke his nose...

The golden armor shattered as it could not withhold the violent fist, revealing Lu Nian's distorted face, covered in blood.

"Pe...Pe...Petrify..." Lu Nian was indeed an Advanced Magician. He still managed to cast an Advanced Magic despite the injury he was suffering from.

His Magic, strengthened by the bracer he wore, burst out from Lu Nian's eyes in the direction he was looking. A grey-white energy spread rapidly in that direction.

Lu Nian was extremely furious. All he could think of was to turn the kid into a rock and smash him into pieces with a kick!

The demonized Mo Fan totally ignored the approaching threat. As he dashed toward Lu Nian, the grey-white substance covered his legs and rooted him to the rock under his feet.

Mo Fan smashed his fist at the ground, which instantly burst out with a flame pillar that devoured the petrifying energy crawling up his legs!

The grey-white substance had just spread across the area within a hundred meters of Mo Fan when the flames surging up from the ground cracked them open. The two forces collided with one another, the area petrifying and cracking open in an endless loop. It felt like a rose-red army and a grey-white army were having a stand-off with one another.

Commander Lu Nian's eyes widened. The energy had originated from his eyes. His trembling body clearly indicated the strain he was enduring.

His energy was usually strong enough to petrify the body of a Commander-level demon beast. How could Mo Fan possibly stand a chance against it?

Since Mo Fan had turned into a demon, why was it that he could still retain his thoughts, and still remember to get his revenge?

"You piece of scum! You...you should be thankful to me, as I... gave you such power!" Lu Nian blurted out resentfully.

Mo Fan had demonized on his own, thus Lu Nian did not even have the chance to place him under his control. Furthermore, Lu Nian had never thought Mo Fan would be able to demonize so perfectly, even retaining his human appearance. He was able to speak and retain memories of the past while also being granted overwhelming strength.

If this kid had such terrifying strength after demonizing while he was only an Intermediate Magician, if he could survive the aftereffects and further improve his cultivation, he could easily become a demon that would shock the entire world!

He could easily trample the Supreme Magicians, the Commander-level demon beasts, even the Ruler-level demon beasts under his feet!

"I should thank you, indeed..." The demonized Mo Fan displayed his anger and savagery as he laughed grimly and exposed his sharp fangs. "Which is why I'm sending you to Hell now!"

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Chapter 326: Tearing Lu Nian Apar

Violent lightning arcs revolved around Mo Fan. The writhing purple-black energy swiftly formed a long spear made of countless lightning arcs in front of him!

Mo Fan grabbed the lightning spear and drove forward with a burst of speed, as if he had merged with the lightning!

The spear thrust right at Lu Nian's chest. The lightning had already displayed its overwhelming penetrating force when it punctured an Advanced-level Tyrant Lizard's brain!

The purple lightning twisted in the air. The tip of the lightning spear made contact with Lu Nian's chest.

Lu Nian could feel the force of the lightning lunging at him.

The lightning did not have any paralyzing effect. It was purely destructive, and there was no need to mention how overwhelming it would be when so many lightning arcs were gathered together into a thick spear.

His golden armor was the first thing to meet the lightning spear. The advanced armor had no chance against the penetrating power. The spear instantly burned a black hole through it, piercing through the armor and striking Lu Nian's chest, producing a wild, ear-piercing screech!

The lightning arcs did slow down by a very small margin as they touched Lu Nian's skin, rib cage and back, before punching through with brute force.

The lightning tore his back open, leaving a huge bloody hole. The lightning spear was stuck into his chest, the tendrils continued to crackle in the air.

Lu Nian's body stiffened, his eyes widened. He tried to touch the hole in his chest, but his hand was instantly scorched black by the lightning.

He could not feel any pain from his hand, as his life force was draining away at a lethal pace. Pain was not the scariest thing to humans, it was the moment when they could no longer feel pain, indicating that death was knocking on their door.

"How...how could...how could you..." Lu Nian stared at Mo Fan with a contorted expression.

The demonized Mo Fan was standing right in front of him, lightning flickering wildly around him. He was like a God of Lightning who had just descended to the mundane world.

Mo Fan grinned sinisterly, before bursting into great laughter.

His wild laughter and Lu Nian's distorted face formed a great contrast. Perhaps Lu Nian, who had just slaughtered innocent lives a short time ago, never thought he would fall into this kid's hands.

Such an outstanding force should be under his control instead. Why would...why would he treat him as his first target, instead?

The Demon Element, he had tried so hard just to find a suitable candidate for the experiment, but he had accidentally made someone who ended up as his nightmare, who just impaled him with lightning...

Not a single drop of blood was visible. The scorched hole on his chest resulted in an extremely shocking view as his body slowly fell backward. In the final moment of his life, he realized just how beautiful the sky was, like a giant blue gem. However, he could see a face in the sky, a sinister-looking one covered in crimson lines. It belonged to a young man, the perfect test subject of the new Element.

He just couldn't accept it!

He was so close to having the perfect demon under his control, which he could abuse to finally do anything he desired...

"AHHHHH!"

As his life approached its final moment, the claws of countless Shadow Wolves lunged at his nearly dead body.

Lu Nian initially thought his life would simply end soon, but he still suffered unimaginable pain at the final second. The pain was inflicted right on his soul, after leaving its physical container!

The claws were able to attack his soul directly. Mo Fan had done it on purpose, using the claws to tear his soul into pieces, not giving the commander a chance to turn into a deceased spirit...

The soul of a human was utterly fragile. It would vanish from the world after receiving any direct attack, as if the soul were repeating its death countless times over. The reason why Hell was so terrifying was because it was said to be torturing the souls of those who were dead!

Lu Nian did not even have time to show remorse as he was torn into pieces by Mo Fan's shadow claws.

Mo Fan did not even allow the pieces to drift away with the wind. They were absorbed into a strange river.

It seemed like the Underworld River, with countless souls of demon beasts lingering on its surface. They were utterly terrifying to Lu Nian's fragmented soul.

Was this actually Hell? Did he really end up in Hell?

The pendant let out a soft buzz. Mo Fan could even hear Lu Nian's scream of agony from inside it.

Either way, the souls being drawn into the Little Loach Pendant would eventually be refined. It was impossible to tell if the pain from being refined was comparable to the inhumane experiments. At least, it definitely would not feel good, as anything related to the Soul Element was tightly related to pain, torture, and death.

After killing Lu Nian with his own hands, Mo Fan suddenly felt his mind going blank, as if he had lost purpose.

Zhan Kong looked at him from a safe distance away, not daring to get any closer.

From what Zhan Kong knew, the strength that the demonized Mo Fan had displayed was still not his full potential. He wanted to help Mo Fan recover from his current state, but he was clueless about how to approach him.

Not many test subjects were able to survive this long after the transformation. Zhan Kong was not involved in the inhumane experiment either, so he had no idea what to do.

He decided to try communicating with Mo Fan, since he appeared to still have a slight hint of his own personality compared to those who had demonized in the past.

"Mo Fan..." Zhan Kong fixed his eyes on Mo Fan.

The demonized Mo Fan turned his head around. His eyes were filled with rage that was on the verge of bursting out.

He did not attack Zhan Kong straight away, as he could still barely recognize the Chief Military Instructor from Bo City.

However, a tearing pain spread across his brain, so intense that he felt like tearing his head half with his bare hands.

It was an overwhelming and wild spiritual impact, most likely the after-effects of using the Blood Sarira. It was strong enough to drive a person crazy, and even thoroughly shatter a person's soul!

Mo Fan let out a beastly scream. His Fire Element and Lightning Element spread out wildly into his surroundings after he lost control over them.

"Listen, listen to me, Mo Fan... The Demon Element has never been considered a real Magic Element due to its insane after-effects! It is the same as overdrawing the hidden potential of a human's soul in exchange for a temporary burst of extraordinary power. However, it's possible that your soul will be

shattered during the process!" Zhan Kong blurted out when he saw Mo Fan trying to resist the spiritual breakdown.

"Tell...tell me...what I...should do!..." Mo Fan, who had managed to retain his final hint of rational thinking, responded to him!

Chapter 327: Soul Breakdown

"Soul Essence, you need a large amount of it. You should try your best to control the power, so I can bring you back to the military. They have enough Soul Essence to prevent your soul from breaking down due to the aftereffects. The Demon Element is indeed a demon. It's like signing a contract with a demon, which can grant you its power, before coming back to claim your soul," Zhan Kong said to Mo Fan.

Although Mo Fan possessed four Elements, the more power he used, the stronger the aftereffects he would have to bear.

The only way to protect his soul was by using a large amount of Soul Essence!

Soul Essence was useful in strengthening a Magician's soul. If the demon that had granted Mo Fan the power was drawing his soul away, he could neutralize it by using a sufficient amount of Soul Essence.

As such, the amount of Soul Essence required was huge. Zhan Kong had no idea if the military was willing to let Mo Fan take all he needed, since there was no way to tell just how much he needed to overcome the situation. However, Zhan Kong wanted to save Mo Fan's life at all costs!

"Control yourself, I'll bring you to the military now..." Zhan Kong said.

"ROAR~!" Mo Fan uttered a savage roar into the sky as if he had totally lost his last remaining shred of reason.

Suddenly, he leapt to his feet and sprang into the distance like an arrow, rapidly disappearing from Zhan Kong's sight.

Zhan Kong was taken by surprise. He tried to activate his Wind Wings to chase after Mo fan, but the airflow quickly dissipated just as it appeared. Zhan Kong realized that he was in quite injured himself too, and there was no way he could use the Wind Wings, which required a significant amount of energy.

"Mo Fan!" Zhan Kong screamed at the ghostly figure sprinting across Jinlin City.

The figure did not stop. He ran wildly in a certain direction and soon left the boundary of Jinlin City.

The problem was, if he continued to run aimlessly in the wild, his soul would end up being sucked dry.

Zhan Kong stared at the disappearing figure with an indescribable pain in his heart.

As a matter of fact, since the calamity of Bo City, Zhan Kong had always kept an eye on Mo Fan. He had even asked Dean Xiao to specifically look after him.

Zhan Kong knew it was only a matter of time until Mo Fan's Double Innate Elements was made known to the public. After learning about the shocking experiment on the Demon Element that the military was performing behind the scenes, he had been keeping an eye on Lu Nian for quite some time. As he expected, he did make his move.

However, Zhan Kong had underestimated the devil's madness. He had surprisingly asked his loyal subordinates to forfeit their positions in order to carry out his demented operation.

More than half of the students were killed. Even Mo Fan had disappeared due to the aftereffects, with no way of telling if he would survive in the end. Zhan Kong was so mad that he kept punching the ground with his fists. Why didn't he act earlier to prevent this from happening!?

It was no longer possible to chase after Mo Fan. Zhan Kong had run out of the energy to do so. He had just flown all the way here without stopping, using up quite a huge chunk of his Wind Energy. Even with the Wind Wings, it would be rather difficult for him to catch up with the demonized Mo Fan's ridiculous speed in the wild.

Rising to his feet, Zhan Kong headed back to the center of the city.

He soon found the four students and the rest of Lu Nian's subordinates.

"If you were planning to resist, I don't mind executing you on the spot." Zhan Kong cast a cold glance at Jiang Yi and her crew.

Jiang Yi shook her head in surrender. "We won't be doing that, but could you please tell us what happened to the commander?"

"He's dead, torn apart by the demon you all made," Zhan Kong replied.

Jiang Yi and the soldiers were stunned. They were unwilling to believe it before seeing the corpse in person.

They did manage to find the corpse, whose chest was punched clean through and blackened.

His face was greatly contorted, as if he had suffered incredible pain right up until the very last moment of his life. According to Zhan Kong, Mo Fan had torn his soul apart.

Jiang Yi and the soldiers burst out crying. On the other hand, Zhao Manting, Bai Tingting and Mu Nujiao were pleased, knowing that they were avenged. Their hatred toward the devil who had killed their friends so inhumanely despite calling himself a Battlemage was indescribable. What wrong had the students who were here for training done? Why did they have to suffer just because of his wild ambition?

"Where... where's Mo Fan? Is he hurt? I'll treat his wounds." Bai Tingting blurted out.

"We'll talk about it later." Zhan Kong was unwilling to talk about it.

"Please tell us." Mu Nujiao said firmly.

"I'll notify his family." Zhan Kong said in a soft tone. He was glaring at Jiang Yi and her crew with bloodshot eyes.

Zhan Kong was furious. He was angry at these cold-blooded killers who were as mad as Lu Nian. They had turned a rising talent who could possibly be the greatest Magician of all time into a demon!

Just like what he had said before...

Even without the Demon Element, his Double Innate Elements could easily have let the whole world know his name. It was totally unnecessary!

No one had higher hopes for Mo Fan than him!

Lu Nian's corpse was brought back to the safe zone.

The students who had initially gone to investigate Jinlin City for their training had returned to Imperial College with the lowest survival rate in history. No one had expected this to happen.

The military had sent someone over to collect Lu Nian's corpse and Jiang Yi, who was willing to testify at the court-martial.

The army headquarters which Lu Nian belonged to tried to keep the news down to avoid unnecessary consequences, but the schools demanded otherwise.

At Zhan Kong's request, the information about the Demon Element was not made public by the military and the schools. They were only describing it as some evil experiment. No one knew that Mo Fan had been demonized too. The only people who were aware of it were Zhan Kong, Dean Song He, Dean Xiao, Qiu Yuhua, and the four friends who Mo Fan had rescued.

Jiang Yi and the soldiers who knew the truth were all sentenced to death. Out of Jiang Yi's final hint of kindness, she told everyone that Mo Fan was a hero who had sacrificed himself to save his classmates, instead of a demonized human who was lost somewhere in the wild.

The familiar chirps of birds were heard. It seemed like the little creatures living on the trees in the garden had grown up. Their voices sounded more mature.

Opening her eyes, the first thing that came into her vision was the potted plant by the window, which provided a delicate fragrance throughout the night. It appeared that some maids had remembered to keep it watered while she was away, allowing it to grow healthily.

The room was filled with a familiar scent, the scent of the blanket from the perfume satchel placed beside the pillows...

"She's awake, Young Mistress is awake!"

As soon as Mu Ningxue regained consciousness, she could hear the maid screaming at the top of her lungs.

It was followed by the sound of someone rushing down the stairs. Mu Zhuoyun, who looked slightly haggard, dashed into the room excitedly.

"She's awake, my good daughter, you're finally awake." Mu Zhuoyun said in a deeply concerned manner.

"Father..." Mu Ningxue's lips curled slightly.

“I’ll never let you go on a training mission again, never!” Mu Zhuoyun snapped.

Mu Ningxue slowly recalled the events before she passed out. She could remember the evil faces of the Battlemages, and her freezing them using all her energy.

Did she manage to escape?

But, it wouldn’t be that simple. While she was half-awake, she heard people crying beside her, someone trying to tell her something, and it seemed to be related to Mo Fan...

Chapter 328: Forcing into Marriage

Mu Zhuoyun knew her daughter was unaware of the things that had taken place after she fell unconscious. He immediately told her what he knew.

“Sigh, who would have thought that the kid would sacrifice himself as a bait to lure the Razortail Drake out. In the end, the Razortail Drake and Lu Nian ended up killing one another, while you guys were saved. Mo Jiaxin did come to visit you a few days ago. I’ve comforted him, and offered him a job with high pay. Unfortunately, he declined the offer,” Mu Zhuoyun said with a hint of sadness.

Mu Zhuoyun was never too fond of the little jerk Mo Fan, but who knew he would sacrifice himself for his daughter. It totally revised his point of view on him. He had asked his people to take extra care of his family, as a way to express his gratitude.

“Is...is he really dead?” Mu Ningxue asked sternly.

“Mm, Zhan Kong has said it himself. I don’t think he would be lying. Don’t get too emotional about it...To be honest, I didn’t know he liked you so much, to be willing to sacrifice his life for you...If I knew...I won’t have treated him like that before...ah, forget it,” Mu Zhuoyun uttered with a sigh.

Mu Ningxue hugged her knees while staring blankly out of the window. She subconsciously recalled the words that Mo Fan had said to her at the church.

Did he really mean what he had said?

Either way, she had no way to verify it. It had somehow become his last words to her.

The last remaining anticipation inside her heart thoroughly dissipated.

“Ningxue, you shouldn’t use the Ice Crystal Bow again for the next year. Even though I’m eager to see you establish yourself in the massive Mu Clan, I’m more inclined to see you well and healthy. Our little Mu Family is already in such bad shape that we have to live under the Clan’s roof here in the capital. If you fall, it will be the end for our family,” Mu Zhuoyun said with a stern face.

“Mm, I’ll be more careful,” Mu Ningxue nodded. She was still occupied with past memories that made her feel slightly embarrassed.

Mu Zhuoyun stopped disturbing her rest. He understood that her daughter’s mind was still occupied with the boy who had brought her away from a giant cage...

Leaving the room, Mu Zhuoyun sank into the sofa and let out a deep breath.

As he was just about to start planning his next step, the butler led a young man with a silver necklace and a middle-aged man whose hair was combed back from his forehead from the entrance.

Both of them were appropriately dressed, with a fair amount of accessories, including jades, pendants, and rings. It was hard to tell if they were mere decorations, or valuable magic equipment.

“Why hello, Mr. Zhou and You Hong. Xiao Ling, please bring me my best tea leaves.” Mu Zhuoyun rose to his feet and greeted them warmly.

“Don’t worry about the tea, we’re just here to visit Mu Ningxue regarding her injury,” the middle-aged man with the surname Zhou said.

“She’s currently resting. Please, take a seat. I do want to discuss with Mr. Zhou our business of acquiring rare bones from all sources in the market. I’m well-prepared to present the proposal. Should we invite the presidents of the various auctions for a team meeting sometime soon?” Mu Zhuoyun asked with a smile.

“Shouldn’t you be asking the people from your Clan? Most of the auctions and trading markets are tagged with the surname Mu. I don’t see any reason to ask me about that,” Mr. Zhou raised his brows and said, pretending to be clueless about what he had heard.

“Dad, you can’t say that, you know that Uncle Zhuoyun here is in quite a tough position. We should help him as much as we can.”

“I don’t see any need to do that. First, we aren’t related at all. Our Zhou Family might be quite powerful in the capital, but we do follow the rules among the renowned families,” Mr. Zhou said.

“This...” Mu Zhuoyun wore an awkward face, not knowing how to respond.

Mu Zhuoyun disliked the feeling of asking for people’s favor, but he was left with no choice. He had a giant family to look after. Most of the family members were completely useless, and only knew how to waste money. He had already told them many times that their status was not as comfortable as it used to be in Bo City, but his advice was totally in vain.

Zhou Youhong ran out of patience, seeing Mu Zhuoyun hesitating as usual. “Uncle Zhuoyun, you know that I’m sincere toward Mu Ningxue. I believe we should proceed with our wedding as soon as possible, then we will have a reason to help you all we can. We do feel pity for your family after what had happened to Bo City, and we are aware that you’re currently living under the Clan’s roof. They are pretty much treating you all as outsiders.

“However, it would be completely different after the wedding. You will be directly related to our Zhou Family, and the Mu Clan will be friendlier to you as a way to express their respect toward us. I was going to give Mu Ningxue some expensive herbs for her recovery, but our Patriarch has made it clear that it’s not allowed since Mu Ningxue is still not one of the Zhou Family. In addition to that, without our Zhou Family’s support, the advantage that Mu Ningxue has due to her talents will soon be irrelevant against the rest of the geniuses in the Imperial College.”

Zhou Youhong had no intention to drag things on further. Since she was already engaged to him, he preferred to get it done as soon as possible.

Mu Ningxue's outstanding physique, smooth skin, and glamorous face... Zhou Youhong had long coveted her. Knowing that he would obtain her once the marriage was done, he tried even harder to persuade Mu Zhuoyun.

"Well...about this..." Mu Zhuoyun was unable to make up his mind. He clearly knew that with the marriage, his family that was on the verge of going bankrupt would finally have hopes of recovering.

But...

When he remembered that Mo Fan had just saved Mu Ningxue's life, if he were to agree to the wedding now, he would feel guilty toward the deceased kid.

"Why don't we decide this sometime later? Mu Ningxue is still incredibly weak, I don't want her to be bothered by it..." Mu Zhuoyun said.

"Exactly, we should just proceed with the wedding to cleanse her from her recent bad luck." Mr. Zhou blurted out impatiently.

"It's fine, her well being is more important. If that's the case, we shall let Mu Ningxue rest well. We will come to visit her again." Zhou Youhong knew that there was no need to push any further. It would not look good if he were forcing an injured woman who was still lying in bed to marry him.

It was just a matter of time until he claimed the beauty as his!

"Please excuse us. As for the auctions, you will need to come up with a plan yourself." Mr. Zhou said bluntly.

Zhou Youhong still showed his politeness as a future son-in-law by saying goodbye before taking his leave.

Mu Zhuoyun let out a deep sigh, watching the figures of the father and son of the Zhou Family from leaving.

Family, Clan, and House were three completely different levels.

The Mu Family Mu Zhuoyun was in charge of was only a small emperor controlling Bo City. In the eyes of the real Mu Clan, they were like insignificant family members who had been exiled to a small city in the south.

Now that Bo City was gone, Mu Zhuoyun was forced to bring his half-broken Mu Family back to the capitol. However, apart from Mu Ningxue, who could still earn the respect of the ancient Ice Element Mu House due to her outstanding talent among those in her age group, Mu Zhuoyun and Mu He were like higher servants obliged to listen to the orders of other family members who had more resources than them.

They were considered fairly old, and their cultivation would no longer be able to improve any further. As a result, they had no chance of expanding their power and circle of influence. They could only place their

hopes in the younger generation. Otherwise, they would never be able to raise their heads as long as they were surnamed Mu.

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Chapter 329: Dongting Lake's Strange Occurrence

Biyi City was located to the southeast of Dongting Lake. The entire city was managed by the military, and the residents here were mostly involved in jobs that could fulfill the needs of the army.

A large amount of Battlemages was stationed at Biyi City's headquarters. They were primarily here to form a military defense with the Giant Lizard Horde at Dongting Lake. The city could be described as a defensive barrier between the Dongting Lake and the cities in the east.

In the clear sky outside of the safe zones, a group of white figures was flying toward Biyi City rapidly. They landed directly on a platform located on a military fortress.

The group consisted of twenty people. They made their way to the main meeting hall in the fortress after handing the Heavenly Eagles to the Beastmasters.

Nine commanders were already seated inside the hall. Their eyes were fixed on the map of Dongting Lake being projected on the wall.

"Permission to speak!"

"Granted." The commander standing in front of the projected map said to the captain of the investigation team who had just returned.

"We've verified the findings. We've found a large number of Giant Lizard's corpses west of Dongting Lake. We've brought back some samples. The results should be out fairly soon." the leader spoke after saluting.

"I say, Great Commander Qiu Xin, who cares if the Giant Lizards are dead. Why are we wasting our time on them? Maybe a new Razortail Drake has just been born, and they were fighting one another in order to claim their territories. It's not like there hasn't been any infighting within the Giant Lizards Horde in the past. Why do we need to be here?" An indolent-looking man with a Commander badge said.

Great Commander Qiu Xin had a fierce face, but he had always been extremely cautious in everything he was in charge of. As long as the soldiers detected anything that was slightly out of place, he would demand it be investigated. Knowing that there were millions of lives behind Biyi City, if they failed to react and prepare themselves in time against a possible attack from the horde of Dongting Lake, the casualties would be absolutely terrifying!

The Commanders waited patiently in the meeting hall. Soon, a military surgeon came into the hall and presented the result.

"From the data we've acquired from the samples, it turned out that the majority of the Giant Lizards died in three different ways. Firstly, being burned to death. I believe most of them were burned into ashes. Secondly, being shocked by lightning. A clean, instant death. Last, being torn apart by brute force. It seems like the killer has quite a strong claw grip and great strength!" the fairly aged military surgeon said with a cough.

"Fire, lightning, and physical force?" Great Commander Qiu Xin fell into deep thought. He was trying to filter out the demon beast using the three important clues.

However, from what he knew, there was no demon beast like that around Dongting Lake.

"Is there anything else?" Great Commander Qiu Xin asked.

"Oh, the team did say that the area was absolutely clean."

"Clean?"

"It means that there was no sign of dead souls. Normally, when an area has a strong presence of death, ghosts would begin to appear, not to mention the insane amount of corpses there. However, not a single dead soul was seen. This means that after the demon beasts were killed, their souls were either shattered, or being collected straight away," the old military surgeon explained.

"Isn't...isn't this a little bit too bizarre? The Giant Lizards were getting slaughtered for no reason, and even their souls are gone too..." a female Commander, Li Man, said.

"Who cares, we should be happy that something is helping us wipe out the Giant Lizards. I hope it would kill another hundred thousand of them. It will make our lives easier for the next few years," the indolent Commander Zhao Mang said with a smile.

"We should keep an eye on it still. I'll spread the news and see if anyone knows the truth behind it," Great Commander Qiu Xin said.

The meeting was over soon. Great Commander Qiu Xin proceeded to contact the other headquarters and see if someone from the public domain knew anything about it.

The Hunter Union was the best place to ask for information about something weird like this, since their members were pretty much everywhere. They would even go to places that the military would avoid at all costs.

"What do you think it was? Corpses of the Giant Lizards started appearing a week ago. Is it something that would threaten the entire horde?"

"Who knows, it must be some extremely powerful beast. Just from the number of corpses alone, it's only possible to kill that many beasts by sending an entire army."

Commander Li Man was wearing a frown. Her attractive face was filled with a hint of worry.

She never liked strange phenomena like this, as it was normally a sign of an approaching disaster.

She rose from her seat and ordered sternly, "Captain, give me the location. I'll investigate it myself!"

"Well, maybe we should wait..."

"I don't like to wait!" Li Man snapped.

As Commander Li Man finished her sentence, she was already dragging the captain out of the meeting hall. The rest of the people subconsciously shook their heads.

This empress in the army was as hot-tempered as usual. She insisted on investigating the matter herself even though it was most likely due to infighting within the beast horde. Or maybe she was just wilder and more violent than men, and preferred to go out on an exciting adventure instead of rotting here in Biyi City...

Tsk tsk, a woman who loved exciting adventures!

Communication between army headquarters was fairly transparent among the military. The information that Great Commander Qiu Xin had made public soon made its way to the headquarters in the south.

The army in the south was mainly in charge of the Demon Wolves Horde. Normally, the Dongting Lake's Giant Lizard Horde was not their concern, but their Commander Zhan Kong had been keeping an eye on them recently.

Zhan Kong had just received the news when someone knocked heavily on the door.

"Who's that?" Zhan Kong asked.

"Boss, it's me, Zhang Xiaohou!" his excited voice replied from behind the door.

"I knew you would come. Come in." Zhan Kong said laughingly.

Zhang Xiaohou rushed into the room and blurted out excitedly, "Is there any information about Brother Fan? I've heard that there's something strange happening at Dongting Lake. I recall what you told me before, and I think it's highly possible that it's actually Brother Fan himself..."

"Not sure yet, I'll send someone to investigate it. Don't panic." Zhan Kong said.

"How can I not panic, he's my only brother!"

"I know, now off you go and wait patiently. I'll let you know when I learn something new."

"No, boss, please let me go to Dongting Lake. I've finally had a glimpse of hope. I will bring Brother Fan back at all costs," Zhang Xiaohou said with a stern face.

"It's not your business. Besides, with your current strength, you'll just be feeding yourself to the Giant Lizards."

"It's definitely my business...Boss, I can take care of myself," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Idiot, with your capabilities, even if you trained ten more years, you will still die right away." Zhan Kong booted the annoying kid out of his room.

What did he think Dongting Lake was?

Even he, Zhan Kong, had no confidence that he could return from there in one piece. An Intermediate Magician like that kid would definitely get himself killed if he went there!

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Chapter 330: A Set-up

Zhan Kong was still occupied by the strange discovery at Dongting Lake after he went to bed, overwhelmed with fatigue.

He was dying to know if the demonized Mo Fan was responsible for it. If so, it would mean that he was still alive, but how did he manage to retain rational thought? Why was he killing the Giant Lizards endlessly?

Failing to get any peaceful sleep, Zhan Kong woke up early in the morning and summoned his old comrade. He was planning to have him investigate Dongting Lake with a few men.

"Commander, Zhang Xiaohou left the army before daybreak. Judging from the things he has taken, it seems like he has planned to leave for quite a long time," the old comrade said.

"That stupid kid!" Zhan Kong cursed.

"Should I send someone after him? He shouldn't be too far away. Leaving without permission is a serious offense," his old friend said.

"Help him fill in the document saying that he's out on a mission, and take the chop in my room and sign it on my behalf. He might be dumb, but he's a good sapling," Zhan Kong sighed.

"Yes, sir."

"The demon wolves have been restless recently. I'll have to deal with them first. Send a letter to the headquarters in Biyi. Qiu Xin is my Senior Brother. He will know how to deal with the strange phenomenon at Dongting Lake. By the way, if you see that idiot Zhang Xiaohou along the way, have someone drag him back here. I don't want him to die in the wild," Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Affirmative, I'll do it right away."

Biyi City, Zhang Xiaohou, who had dressed up like a hunter, stopped a passerby and asked about the location of the trading marketplace.

"Do you know if any place here is selling Soul Essence?" Zhang Xiaohou lifted his cap, revealing his eyes.

"Of course, where do you think this is? Biyi City, the closest fortress to Dongting Lake. You can even describe it as a city established right outside the demon beasts' den. Both the military and the hunters are always fighting against the demon beasts from Dongting Lake. The number of the Giant Lizard's corpses every month is enough to wrap around the Earth's perimeter twice. Soul Essence might be rare still, but there's definitely someone selling it, almost every day. Some of them are still fresh too," the man explained.

"Alright, thanks for the tip." Zhang Xiaohou nodded.

"Kid, I see that you're looking for Soul Essence? I do have a source here. If you're keen, I can give you a good discount. After all, once the Soul Essence is sold at the marketplace, the price will be marked up further," the man said.

"Are you serious?" Zhang Xiaohou blurted out with joy. He was so lucky to grab someone selling Soul Essence right away, as expected of Biyi City. Normally, Soul Essence would only be found at auctions in smaller cities.

"Of course, but do you have the money?" the man asked.

"Yes, I definitely have enough. I have nine million here..."

"Nine... nine million?" The man was startled. He revalued the kid who seemed honest and upright with a first glance.

"That's right. I was planning to buy three, but I heard that even an ordinary Soul Essence would cost at least three to four million. Those that are slightly better are around five million each...I only have nine million, which is all I have after selling my equipment. Is it possible for you to sell me three for three million each?" Zhang Xiaohou asked.

It took the man some time to collect his thoughts. He did not expect an ordinary, humble looking man like Zhang Xiaohou to have so much money on him!

"Three...three it is then. It's not the best price, but since you seem to be in a hurry, I'll try contacting the seller for you," the man said.

"Thank you. By the way, what should I call you?" Zhang Xiaohou said.

"I... err, calling me Da Jin is fine."

"Alright, thanks, Brother Da Jin! You have quite some connections! I don't think three Soul Essences is easy to get."

"No doubt about that, HAHAAH!" the man burst out laughing.

Zhang Xiaohou followed Da Jin to a magic shop. The plate hanging above was completely covered in dust.

Apart from the magic marketplace and auctions, there were also private magic shops. Most of the items in these magic shops were acquired from Magicians whom the owner personally knew. Their prices would be slightly cheaper than the marketplace and auctions. Many hunters liked to try their luck at shops like this, as the sellers would not necessarily know the true values of the items being sold. Besides, it was easier to negotiate the price.

Da Jin wore a smile as he brought the customer to the magic shop. He asked him to wait at the lobby at the front.

The shop did not have any customers. It looked rather deserted, although the shelves were decorated with magical items and equipment, and some magic ores.

Da Jin proceeded to the back of the store and discussed things with the owner, whose weight had almost reached two hundred kilos.

"Sell him those fake Soul Essences you bought after spending more than two hundred thousand. Judging from his looks, I don't think he's able to tell the difference. Besides, even if he does... hehe!" Da Jin whispered.

"It doesn't even help if he were to call the people of the Magic Association here. We'll just blame him for not handling the Soul Essences appropriately, resulting in the leak of energy. It's not our problem either, HAHAHA!" The plump owner burst into laughter too, before adding, "Make sure you bring all the stupid outsiders you've bumped into to me."

"No worries, not a problem. We're so familiar with one another."

The owner went to take out the three fake Soul Essences after a brief discussion.

The fake Soul Essences were still Soul Essences, but because of the inappropriate collecting method or the lack of a suitable container, they had lost the majority of their energy. They were still usable, but their effects were far from the real Soul Essences. The marketplace usually would not sell them, but that was not the case for magic shops.

"I've got the stuff here. Show us your money. Our shop is quite small. It would be troublesome if you lied to us and took the stuff without paying us," the plump owner said arrogantly.

"The money is on this diamond card."

"Diamond card? Is this the one you can withdraw money from at the Magic Association or the Hunter Union without a password?" Da Jin squinted.

The diamond card was usually used for big transactions people would not want tied to their identities. It was similar to cheques, and it was the best method to do illegal trading, too!

"Take the stuff, I'll see if the card is real." the owner said.

Zhang Xiaohou did not overthink it. He handed him the diamond card so he could verify it, while he received the three containers with the Soul Essences and began inspecting them.

However, as soon as he directed his will into them, he immediately discovered something wrong.

"Something isn't right with the Soul Essences!" Zhang Xiaohou said with a frown.

"What do you mean? You didn't handle them correctly, so their energy has leaked out." The plump owner exclaimed with a surprised look.

"Give me back my diamond card." Zhang Xiaohou handed the three containers back.

"What diamond card? Don't you know the rules of trading in magic shops? The buyer would always verify the validity of the item before paying the money. Why would I take your card before you've checked the item?" the owner said.

Zhang Xiaohou pulled a long face.

They had teamed up to set him up!

Both the owner and Da Jin were wearing an evil grin. A man like Da Jin who had spent a great time dealing with different kinds of people could easily tell that this kid was a novice. However, he never thought he would be so rich. Speaking of a big fish.

It was pretty difficult to stumble into someone who could be so easily tricked nowadays!