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Chapter 351: The Astounding Figure

The strong wind blew past as the beast sprinted along. Unlike in the wild, riding the Swift Star Wolf as it sprinted in a developed city was a totally different experience. The tall buildings quickly swept past on the sides, the beast easily caught up to the running vehicles on the streets. Mo Fan also caught a glimpse of the terrified or jealous gazes of the pedestrians...

At a time like this, did Mo Fan care if he had a Summoned Beast Permit for Hangzhou City?

As a matter of fact, every city had clearly stated that Summoned beasts were not permitted to run freely on the streets, to avoid stirring unnecessary terror. The rule did not apply to Magicians on duty, as they were given special permits to do so.

Mo Fan could not care less about not having the permit, as he believed no one would dare to stop him. Besides, he was using the motorway, thus he would not bring any harm to the pedestrians!

However, when approaching the central area, Mo Fan did not dare to swagger. He withdrew the Swift Star Wolf and folded the wheelchair open before placing Xinxia on it. He could finally push Xinxia around as they went shopping...

The weather was fine. The sun was shrouded behind the clouds. Occasionally, a soothing breeze would fondle their faces. It was definitely the perfect weather to go shopping.

Mo Fan bought a hot drink for Xinxia. She held it with both her hands and took a small sip at times. Her eyes were scanning the shops nearby, the delicate display windows with dazzling items, and the things that she was fairly interested in. Due to her impaired movement, she rarely had a chance to go shopping in a busy district, nor would she have the chance to leap with joy after finding an ornament that she was extremely fond of. Xinxia had many friends, who were exceedingly kind to her. However, not just everyone would spend so much time hanging out with her at places like this. She seemed rather out of place among the walking pedestrians, the overhead bridges on the streets, and the escalators in the shopping malls.

It was easier when Xinxia was going shopping with Mo Fan.

Mo Fan would just carry her when there were stairs in the way. He was rather willing to do so, as it gave him the chance to take advantage of her at times. The guy would have a sense of achievement when he saw her blushing adorably.

After choosing a garment, Mo Fan pushed Xinxia into the dressing room.

"I can do it myself." Xinxia left Mo Fan outside and pulled the curtain.

"It's fine, I wouldn't mind it," said Mo Fan with a shameless grin.

For the past two years, they had both been busy at their respective schools. They did not meet often, thus it had been a while since he last checked on her puberty. He had not been fulfilling his role as a brother.

Unlike the shameless Mo Fan, Xinxia still had principles she would abide by. No matter how hard Mo Fan tried, she was determined not to let him help her change!

Xinxia did not have a problem standing up. Her straight yet thin legs were more attractive than most of the girls at her age. They were like a piece of art that had not received any damage...

She never needed anyone's help to change her clothing, including changing into a dress!

On a side note, Mo Fan definitely had no taste in choosing garments for a woman. He only saw a rather retro piece of clothing, and assumed that it fit Xinxia's personality in his imagination. As such, he immediately claimed that she would look good in it without even considering the price.

It was a long-sleeved gown similar to the design of the garments during the Han Dynasty, with a silk ribbon acting as a belt. It was suitable for autumn. Instead of a piece of vintage that looked like it had traveled across time, it had a mix of the current trend too. It did not stand out too much when Xinxia was wearing it. It felt natural, fresh and trendy, with a strong sense of Chinese culture.

Mo Fan satisfyingly swiped his card, seeing Xinxia's fresh look.

The full experience of going shopping surely included buying great food. Mo Fan soon arrived at a fairly tall restaurant with a spectacular view.

He could act willfully, as he was rather rich now. Similar to most of the rich people, Mo Fan enjoyed going to luxurious restaurants with glass windows. He would choose a spot close to one, and enjoy the view of the modern city. He would order a glass of coke...Uh, wine, and had an enjoyable time with a gorgeous beauty across the table. *Ah, what a pleasant life!*

Mo Fan did live like a caveman before. He had experienced a tense atmosphere where a grave danger would possibly lunge at him at any second in the wild. As such, he was treating the chance to live a calm, sweet life preciously.

Xinxia, who was feeling the moment in a similar manner, stared at Mo Fan's eyes as she grumbled, "Brother Mo Fan, can you please not leave the city again?"

"Don't worry about me, it wasn't that dangerous," Mo Fan said with a grin.

"Ningxue has already told me." Xinxia twisted her lips. She knew Mo Fan would try to comfort her and stop her from worrying.

"Oh, oh..." Mo Fan rubbed his head awkwardly.

Mu Ningxue and Xinxia had always been close. Therefore, it went without saying that Mu Ningxue would tell Xinxia the entire incident. Mo Fan suddenly realized that him trying to comfort Xinxia with a lie was a bad move.

He had to be more cautious. He had to consider the possibility of his first and second wives colluding before lying to them.

Mo Fan was not interested in continuing the topic. He glanced at the scenery outside, hoping to shift Xinxia's attention.

It was a very tall building. Although they were a few tall structures nearby, they were unable to block the perfect view that the restaurant had.

His gaze quickly skimmed through the buildings nearby, reflecting the colorful lights of the city, and saw the West Lake which had been relatively calm for centuries in the distance... For some reason, as he glanced at the reflection on the surface of the lake, Mo Fan's mind was occupied with the ugly Giant Lizards, possibly because he had been seeing too many swamps recently.

Slightly to the left was a tall building that belonged to a bank.

The building was polygon-shaped and had a pointy top. It had silver LEDs spread all across it, and was built mainly with refined glass. From Mo Fan's angle, he could see an outdoor swimming pool with a side glance.

The swimming pool was obviously not open to the public. There were only a few girls in their bikinis there...

Somewhere on his right stood a five-starred international hotel. It was surely one of the tallest buildings nearby. It was famous in Hangzhou due to its spectacular view across the West Lake.

From Mo Fan's angle, he could see the entire five-starred luxurious hotel.

"Strange, we just walked past there. What's that building?" Mo Fan finally found a potential topic to shift Xinxia's attention. He pointed at the tall black shadow between the skyscraper and the five-starred hotel.

Xinxia turned her head around with a confused look.

"It doesn't have any light. Is it new?" asked Mo Fan.

Xinxia shook her head, "I passed by the area recently, but I don't recall seeing the building..."

After taking a closer look, Xinxia suddenly acted strangely. She turned around and said with a weird expression, "Brother Mo Fan, I don't think it looks like a building."

"It doesn't look like a building?" Mo Fan was startled.

Mo Fan quickly took a closer look with his senses. He was shocked in the next second!

Mo Fan's face gradually filled with disbelief, which soon turned into fear as he got a closer view of the shadow. In the end, he was overwhelmed with fear!

The shadow that was standing in the busiest district in Hangzhou slowly turned around!

It was as if... It was turning around after being aware of someone looking at it.

It was literally turning around!

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Chapter 352: The Terrified City, the Skyscraping Snake

The black shadow was definitely not there before. It was currently standing between the silver skyscraper and the luxurious five-starred hotel!

It had its back against the restaurant that Mo Fan was at, and now it was turning around...

It had a gigantic face, even though the majority of it was flat.

Its two triangular-shaped eyes were glowing, like spotlights lighting a logo at the top of a skyscraper. Its flicker was not too bright, but it was eerily terrifying, as if it could penetrate deep into one's heart!

Its head and neck were almost the same width. The neck was slightly bloated, like it was wearing a giant cowl. It was entirely black in color, but one could barely see the scales on its skin under the illumination of the neighboring tower.

As for the rest, Mo Fan did not dare to look any further.

It was staring right at him. As a matter of fact, it made more sense for it to be staring at the building instead of the people in the window due to its wide vision. However, Mo Fan somehow had a strong feeling that it was looking right at him!

The stare made him feel extremely tiny and petty!

It stood at the busiest district of the developed city like an emperor. Despite the countless people on the streets and the tall highrises nearby, it was just standing there... It felt like it had been there for thousands of years instead of just appearing a few moments ago.

In the air, a helicopter circled the black shadow and directed its spotlight at it. In the darkness, Mo Fan could finally get a clear look at its appearance.

Snake, it was a snake!

It had its body upright like a statue. If it did not turn its head around, most of the people would assume it to be a freshly constructed skyscraper.

It was extremely huge. Mo Fan was confident that a beast like it could bring utter destruction to the city just by moving around.

However, it did not move. It maintained its posture after turning its head around. The only clue that proved it was not a statue was the tongue poking out from its mouth!

"Heavens, what... what is that?" Someone in the restaurant finally realized the astonishing sight and burst out screaming.

"Snake, it's a snake!"

"A snake, it's really a snake. Help!"

The restaurant that was filled with a romantic atmosphere a moment ago burst into an uproar. Everyone's eyes were filled with extreme terror, yet they felt so lowly that the Skyscraping Snake could not spare a glance for them.

The restaurant was filled with screams and cries. Even Magicians like Mo Fan could feel their hair standing on end, let alone the ordinary people who had never seen a demon beast before.

Even the Razortail Drake had not given Mo Fan such great soul-trembling fear.

Could anyone tell him what he was looking at?

He was currently in Hangzhou. The modern city was built up over thousands of years by human civilization, why would the Skyscraping Snake now right at its center come out of nowhere?!

"Xinxia, behind me!" Mo Fan bit his own tongue. Only that would help him to briefly overcome the fear that was filling his heart.

Standing behind the transparent window, Mo Fan did not flee for his life like the rest of the crowd. He clearly knew that with a human's speed, it would be no different than just standing there waiting for their death facing the Skyscraping Snake.

As Mo Fan sensed the Skyscraping Snake slowly reaching its head in his direction, Mo Fan subconsciously dragged Xinxia, whose mind had gone blank, behind him.

The Skyscraping Snake was extending its body. Its face slowly leaned forward as if it had seen something interesting. It slowly approached the restaurant's window. Its lantern-sized eyes were parallel to the restaurant located on the seventieth floor of the building!

A pair of human eyes, despite being filled with boundless terror, had a strong determination to live in them.

A pair of snake eyes, without any sign of anger or joy. It was rather impossible to tell what it was planning to do. Maybe it was just randomly casting its gaze at a spot, and somehow the pair just happened to be within its vision...

It might be a mindless act from the Skyscraping Snake, but it posed a threat that the man who was trying to protect the woman behind him had never felt before!

The dark clouds reflected the dazzling lights of the city. The closest layer to the clouds were the symbolic skyscrapers that stood like tall trees. They symbolized the modern and prosperous of the human race, but tonight, they were no longer the closest to the clouds. That was a legendary snake that was straightening its body!

The astonishing view served as a heavy slap to human civilization. The humiliation and tininess before the gigantic beast had fully toppled the understanding of humanity, who realized that they were only frogs living at the bottom of the well.

It was not moving, nor was it destroying anything, but it was already a great calamity to the place.

The crowd that looked like dense black dots from a great height ran in all directions. Vehicles had blocked all the crossroads. Many were rushing out from their cars and fleeing on foot...

A nightmare had just arrived, without any sign or any chance for humans to prepare themselves.

A few minutes later, a few people with wings on their backs appeared.

Magicians who were able to fly were highly respected among humans, as they were exceedingly powerful. However, they were like flies and mosquitoes circling around the Skyscraping Snake, not daring to move any closer.

The good news was, the towering snake had shifted its gaze, as if something else had attracted its attention.

It leaned sideways as its neck began to expand. It was as huge as a cloud.

Its eyes found a focus. They fixed onto a white-shirted man with long hair flying toward it from the south.

The man had long hair like a woman's, perfectly straight long hair.

The man landed on the pointy tip of the skyscraper nearby. Below him was the swimming pool, where the girls from wealthy background had already fainted, resulting in a rather intimate view.

The long-haired man raised his head and stared into the eyes of the towering snake. Among the thousands of people nearby, his eyes, sharp like the eyes of eagles, were the only ones that were not filled with fear.

"Even though the seal on you was nothing, it doesn't give you the right to stir such a scene on the streets!" the man yelled, as if he were talking to the Skyscraping Snake!

The Skyscraping Snake completely ignored the man. It slowly raised its head, staring at the closest dark clouds, and hissed...

Suddenly, a haze encapsulated the Skyscraping Snake's body. The haze was faint at the start, only partially shrouding the snake's astonishing size. It quickly became as dense as the dark clouds, fully hiding the Skyscraping Snake within.

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Chapter 353: The Haze of Fear

The haze grew thicker and soon covered the entire Skyscraping Snake. It slowly formed the shape of a snake connecting the ground to the clouds. It showed no sign of dissipating after a prolonged period...

As the wind blew in from the West Lake, the snake-shaped haze finally began to disappear, blowing away slowly. During the process, the people could no longer see the astonishing figure of the Skyscraping Snake.

As a matter of fact, the beast had already left by the time the haze wrapped around its body. However, the people still assumed that it was still there, since a slight movement from it was enough to bulldoze the streets.

To everyone's surprise, it had disappeared into thin air, just like that. It did not destroy a single building, nor did it utter a single cry. Nothing was left apart from the disappearing haze between the silver skyscraper and the five-starred hotel... Oh, that wasn't true. It did leave a haze of fear covering the whole of Hangzhou.

Inside the restaurant, Mo Fan's black shirt was already soaked with sweat. After confirming that the towering snake had left, Mo Fan could feel his limbs becoming weak.

Frankly speaking, he would rather believe he was having a nightmare, as such an unbelievable scene could only take place in dreams!

The only problem was, that alone was not enough to explain the fear that felt so real, which had resulted in him being soaked wet with cold sweat.

"Brother...Mo Fan." Xinxia opened her eyes and could only see Mo Fan's back. The soaked shirt was sticking to his back.

Mo Fan was standing still. His body subconsciously shivered tremendously as he took in more breaths.

Hearing Xinxia's call, Mo Fan tried his best to calm his thoughts and forced a smile, "Everything... everything is alright now."

"Did it disappear?" asked Xinxia in an intimidated tone.

"I think so."

"Do you know what it was?" she asked in a weak voice.

Mo Fan shook his head. He slowly took out his phone and browsed the Internet...

As he thought, the news soon spread widely. The topic of the Skyscraping Snake in Hangzhou City exploded on every social platform!

"The government will give us an explanation... Either way, let's...let's leave this place first," said Mo Fan.

"Mmm..." Xinxia nodded.

The district that was rather peaceful a few moments ago was in a total mess filled with horns, screams and cries...

The people were still running away. No one knew if the snake were going to appear again. Everyone was trying their best to leave the land of nightmare.

Mo Fan could not care less about the laws. He Summoned the Swift Star Wolf and quickly left the area.

He did not want to say a single word, nor was he in the mood to care about the discussions happening on the Internet. He solely wanted to bring Xinxia somewhere safe.

Mo Fan had no idea what would happen after this. He completely lost his curiosity due to fear.

He only wished that the thing would never appear in front of him, ever again!

"People of Hangzhou, do not be afraid. It's only a beast shadow that has been invented quite recently. The snake isn't real at all. It's only an illusion, which is the reason why it was able to appear and vanish without any sign. If it were a true demon beast, its size alone would bring utter destruction to the city!"

In less than an hour, the official party had commented on the shocking incident.

"So it was only an illusion, they said it was made of mist, but it looked so real."

"Yeah, the eyes were like a pair of spotlights. I was more than ten streets away, but it felt like that thing was right in front of me."

"There's no way that's an illusion. They are hiding something. I was right in the hotel when it happened. I could clearly see its head from my angle. It's definitely not some illusion made of some magic!"

Within a day, the people of the entire nation had their eyes on the astonishing news. Many people who were present when the incident took place accused the government of hiding something.

However, just like every other epic incident, it would slowly be forgotten when there was no news following it up, as the people's attention was grabbed by other incidents happening across the nation.

On the second day, the people were still listing the evidence on the Internet, demanding the official party give an explanation.

On the third day, most of the people were leaning towards believing the official statement. No matter how real the Skyscraping Snake looked, no one could explain how it appeared and vanished like a piece of cloud.

The demon beasts were savage in nature. If such a towering beast actually appeared, the whole district would be in ruins.

A week later, fewer people were discussing the topic. The public had shifted their attention to the new species of demon beast that had appeared along the coast...

Mo Fan had stayed at Hangzhou during the week. It took a whole week for the haze of fear in his heart to clear up.

An illusion? Some sort of formation constructed with the Shadow Element?

As a Magician who had spent quite some time surviving in the wild, Mo Fan could guarantee with everything he had as a man that it was definitely not just an illusion!

The Skyscraping Snake was real, and Mo Fan had a strong feeling that it would show itself again!

Mo Fan spent most of his time in the apartment that he had rented. He could not even focus on his cultivation. Every time he closed his eyes, his mind would be filled with the giant face of the snake and its deadly, cold eyes!

What exactly was it?

No government in this world would try to hide information about a demon beast. Why would the officials claim it was an illusion in their statement?

How did such a gigantic snake appear in the middle of the busiest streets, and disappear without causing any destruction?...

What category would the beast belong to?! It was definitely not Commander-level! Mo Fan had seen quite a number of Commander-level demon beasts, and yet he had never been so terrified by one before.

Mo Fan did not want anything to do with the snake. However, he realized that he could not focus on his cultivation after seeing it. He could not help but feel uneasy if the doubts and fear continued to occupy his mind.

"I guess there's someone I can ask if I want to learn more about it."

Mo Fan made up his mind. He wanted to at least know what it was, and found out what it had done to him, to make his mind overwhelmed with fear whenever he closed his eyes.

"Miss Tangyue, are you free? I'm in Hangzhou," said Mo Fan.

"What the hell are you doing there instead of resting in the army?" Tangyue scolded him.

"I'm well-rested. Actually, I've been in Hangzhou since a week ago..." said Mo Fan.

Tangyue paused for a moment, before asking in a solemn tone, "Did you see it?"

"Yes."

"Come to my place."

"I'm quite scared to go closer to the West Lake area now..."

"Hah!~" Tangyue uttered a pleasant giggle before asking with a hint of mockery, "Even a guy as fearless as you feels scared for once?"

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Chapter 354: Tangyue's Secre

Mo Fan was thinking of taking a rest in Tangyue's apartment when the mature, gorgeous teacher walked toward him in loose cotton knitwear. Her long legs above a pair of high heels were absolutely stunning.

Tsk tsk, her sexiness and charm were definitely something that many young girls were jealous of, and yet something that they could not mimic with makeup...

"What are you staring at!" The charming teacher rolled her eyes at Mo Fan.

She had yet to meet any guy who was more impolite than Mo Fan. It felt like he desperately wanted to stick his eyes onto her body. Did he know what a peeper was? Did he have any face?

"Miss Tangyue, I believe if we had more teachers like you in the middle schools, the parents would never have to worry their kids would somehow become unstraight during their growth," blabbed Mo Fan.

Tangyue could feel her cheeks burning. She uttered a harrumph before leading the way. She was not in the mood to waste her time with this little jerk!

Mo Fan quickly followed behind and asked, "Where are we going?"

"Nowhere in particular." Tangyue stretched like a noble cat that had just woken up from a nap.

Mo Fan cast a glance in the direction of the district Tangyue was heading to. He took a deep breath before catching up to her.

When Tangyue saw Mo Fan was half-a-step slower than her, she could not help but giggle, "Was it really that scary?"

Mo Fan nodded. He believed that even in his demonized form, the Skyscraping Snake would still kill him instantly.

"Let me tell you a story." Tangyue reduced her pace and walked side-by-side with Mo Fan.

"Is it something to do with the snake?" asked Mo Fan.

"It's something to do with me." Tangyue wore a charming smile.

"Mm. Should we start with 'once upon a time'?"

"Of course!" Tangyue glared at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan obediently shut his mouth, no longer trying to disrupt the atmosphere.

Tangyue was walking at a slow pace. Her high heels tapped on the ground in a slow rhythm, which was fairly pleasant to the ears.

A pleasing scent from her hair, mixed with her favorite perfume, would come whenever a breeze swept past them. It was fairly attractive, giving any man the urge to dive into her mature, alluring body and sniff it all out.

Mo Fan was quite fond of Hangzhou, as he would always be accompanied by beautiful women here... at least, that was what he thought a week ago.

"My hometown is a small village surrounded by small lakes. The village is actually scattered by the lakes. If the sections were joined together, it would be the size of a town..." Tangyue's eyes flickered with a nostalgic gaze. It did seem like she actually lived in a village surrounded by lakes.

"My village was surrounded by mountains," said Mo Fan.

"Hey, stop interrupting me!" Tangyue glared at Mo Fan. Mo Fan shrugged and shut his mouth.

"In addition to that, our village is also located outside of the safe zone. Most people in the village are Magicians. Even the girls who seemed they could not even stand a gust of wind would be an outstanding

hunter here..." Tangyue paused for a moment and purposely glanced at Mo Fan with a grin. "Why didn't you ask me why?"

"Err..." Mo Fan was speechless. Aren't you the one that warned me about interrupting you? He quickly joined the play and asked, "So, why was that?"

As he asked the question, he suddenly realized that the village did sound weird. It was still reasonable for the entire village to be powerful Magicians, as they were certain places that had more talented people.

However, since the village was not located in the safe zone, it also meant that it was in the demon beasts' territory. Even a city would be overrun with demon beasts fairly quickly if it were located outside the safe zone, let alone a small village without outstanding defense!

"It's because our village is under the protection of a god," Tangyue smiled. Her eyes were like crescents.

"Under the protection of a god?" Mo Fan was confused.

"That's right, we're never worried about being infiltrated by demon beasts. Due to the presence of the god, you wouldn't find a single demon beast within ten kilometers of the village," said Tangyue.

"Can a god actually do that? I thought they could only comfort one's soul," said Mo Fan.

"Not the god that we worship."

"Then tell me who the god you worship is, maybe I should pay him a visit soon, so he would look after my hometown too," Mo Fan joked.

"You already met," Tangyue winked at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was dumbfounded. Since when did he visit their god...

However, for some reason, Mo Fan's mind was instantly filled with the face of the Skyscraping Snake. He recalled its deep eyes. If he were to describe it, that beast did stand there like a deity!

Mo Fan shuddered. He looked at the smiling Tangyue in disbelief. He subconsciously took a few steps back with a stiff expression, not knowing what to say for a long moment.

Tangyue continued to stare at Mo Fan, smiling.

Mo Fan was always being indifferent toward spiritual stuff. Frankly speaking, he was simple-minded when it came to things like religion. He was far from a sentimental person.

Tangyue thought there was nothing he would be afraid of. Even if there were anything that scared him, he would still try to overcome it with his signature black humor. However, the Skyscraping Snake had somehow gotten into Mo Fan's nerves, thus Tangyue could not help but have the urge to tease him further.

"Miss...Miss Tangyue, please don't joke with me like that." It took Mo Fan quite some time to utter the words.

"I'm not joking." Tangyue was still wearing the same smile.

"...Your village...is everyone a snake-person?" asked Mo Fan.

Tangyue rolled her eyes and blurted out, "Please, we're all humans!"

"Humans, but you're worshipping a snake as a god?" Mo Fan failed to comprehend it.

"Did you even study history!?" Tangyue was speechless at how lazy Mo Fan was in his studies.

"Not really, please enlighten me." Mo Fan could feel his conception of the world crumbling.

"The history classes in school should have mentioned it, but not much. It's also a secret of our village, and we don't usually tell outsiders about it, unless..." Tangyue paused.

"Unless I become a son-in-law?" interjected Mo Fan.

"Humph, who wants scum like you!" snapped Tangyue.

"I didn't say you. I would think that your village still has other girls," replied the garrulous Mo Fan.

"Come with me, I'll take you somewhere!" ordered Tangyue.

"Not a chance. A strange village like yours would surely do something crazy, like offering living sacrifices. I'm not interested in your secret, and I'm not going." Mo Fan shook his head heavily.

"...I think you've been watching too many movies!" Tangyue felt like crying and laughing at the same time.

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Chapter 355: We Call It A God

Finally, Mo Fan compromised.

Tangyue had told Mo Fan the reason why he was constantly having fear in his heart, why he kept seeing the Skyscraping Snake's face when he closed his eyes, seeing it hissing at him...

It was because the Skyscraping Snake had chosen its prey. When the time came, it would appear out of nowhere like before and swallow him alive into its stomach.

"Oh, if you aren't aware, snakes like to eat their prey alive. You won't die straight away once you get swallowed. You will be digested slowly instead." Tangyue further clarified the details, leaving Mo Fan shivering in fear.

"Sis, please say no more. I've already promised to go with you!" Mo Fan put on a long face.

Mo Fan followed Tangyue to the West Lake. As they arrived, they straight away went up to a boat and rowed it out to the center of the lake.

The water was clear and calm. White clouds could be seen from the reflection surrounding the little boat.

Normally, Mo Fan would start having lewd imaginings, being alone with Tangyue on a little boat. He would imagine what sort of bad things he could do to her, being on an isolated boat. However, he could not do it this time.

His mind was indeed implanted with fear, making him feel uneasy at all times.

To an extent, when Mo Fan was staring into the clear water, he could somehow see a gigantic coiled-up body deep inside the water, right under the boat. The boat was only floating on the lake like a leaf, while the body under it was only the tip of an iceberg.

The water suddenly turned darker, as a snake's face suddenly approached him from the darkness. He suddenly found himself in a deep abyss, lost in fear.

What was happening to him? Mo Fan had never felt so disconcerted. Could it be that Tangyue was actually speaking the truth? He was a prey that had been marked, which the beast would just come and enjoy whenever it wished?

The boat slowly rowed out to a small island at the center of the lake.

The shape of the island resembled a No Entry sign, with a circle on the outside, and a big cross inside the circle. The rest of it was filled with water.

As the boat arrived at the shore, Mo Fan immediately saw a man in a blue outfit keeping an eye out at the area. His eyes flickered when he saw Tangyue, but his excitement was replaced with a frown when he saw Mo Fan.

"Tangyue, we don't allow outsiders here," said the man.

"Dasheng, he's not an outsider." Tangyue urged Mo Fan to go onshore as she docked the boat.

"Does that mean, you two have already-?" The man called Dasheng was astounded. If he were only rejecting him because he was an outsider, it had now turned into pure hostility!

Tangyue blushed when she came to a realization. She blurted out, "What the hell were you thinking, he's my student!"

"Oh, oh, a student, well I guess you won't be considered an outsider then," Dasheng chuckled. His hostility toward Mo Fan quickly vanished.

"So you guys are in charge of this island. I initially thought it was open to visitors." Mo Fan was surprised when he found out that the island did not have any visitors.

In the past, the place used to be a famous attraction due to its scenery. The island was not huge. You would find yourself at the same place after barely taking any steps, but it was surrounded by the lake, and decorated with trees and plants.

"Dasheng, you can go back now. Leave it to me," said Tangyue.

"Oh, sure thing." Dasheng took the boat and left without hesitation.

Mo Fan was intrigued when he saw Dasheng leaving without any worry.

Isn't this island empty? Anything could happen when a man and a woman are left alone on it. Does he really believe we are only teacher and student?

The thoughts filled Mo Fan's mind, but as he expected, it was soon replaced with the snake's face. Goddamnit!

"Well, it's my turn to be on duty today, but since you're here too, it won't be too boring." Tangyue smiled. She did not seem too vigilant with Mo Fan around.

Mo Fan could not help but admit that his mind was filled with lewd thoughts. An isolated island, a man and a woman left alone. A beautiful scenery, and a taboo relationship between a teacher and a student, even though they no longer were student and teacher... Even the fear from the snake could no longer hold him back!

Tangyue placed her hands behind her. She was like a cheerful teenage girl bringing a friend to somewhere she was familiar with.

Her walking pace was slow and relaxed, and she looked amiable and gentle, unlike her breathtaking and imposing aura as a teacher when he first met her.

Mo Fan followed Tangyue and arrived before a building at the center of the cross made of green tiles and red pillars. It thoroughly displayed the signature building style around the area.

The building was decorated with antiques. As Mo Fan went inside, not only was the table filled with aged objects, even the walls had paintings of ancient legends...

The wall paintings consisted of humans, and an ambiguous demon beast.

They also depicted a village, lakes, and some weird-looking creatures surrounding the village in a circle.

Normally, Mo Fan would not pay too much attention to stuff like this. Even if he did, he would never understand what the paintings were illustrating. However, Mo Fan understood bits of the drawings when he recalled the story that Tangyue had told him!

The ambiguous demon beast was wrapped around the village. Without taking a closer look, they looked like two sets of walls protecting the boundaries of the village... But it was actually a snake!

The snake was coiling around the village like a ring. The demon beasts were scattered around the village in a circle. They were running away, implying that they were scared of the village.

The truth was, they were not scared of the village, but the snake protecting it!

The ancient drawing did not have too much detail. Without hearing the story, one would not see the ring around the village as a snake.

"Were you telling me the truth?" Mo Fan glanced at the aged walls, before looking at Tangyue.

Tangyue nodded sternly, indicating that she was not joking.

"The snake is actually protecting your village?" asked Mo Fan in disbelief.

"Mm, that's why we call it a god. This island is depicting the same tale, too," said Tangyue.

Mo Fan was stunned. He recalled the shape of the island... A ring!

It turned out that this specific island on the West Lake that had existed for centuries was already a sign!

Who knew that it would be hiding such an astonishing secret? Unfortunately, his Miss Tangyue was the guardian of the secret!...

Versatile Mage

Chapter 356: Totem Beas

"Is that why it appeared, but didn't destroy a single building, nor did it cause any casualties?" asked Mo Fan.

The news was already public. The Skyscraping Snake did not trample a single building, nor did it kill a single person. As a matter of fact, for a gigantic beast like it, it would have to specifically position itself to avoid trampling on the ant-like humans.

Tangyue nodded.

"The government knows about your village, and knows it's your god, so they have decided to hide the truth?" asked Mo Fan.

Tangyue continued nodding.

"But...don't you think...it's...it's..."

"It's terrifying, and if it were to lose control, it would bring utter destruction?" Tangyue giggled.

"Mm, it's able to appear and disappear in the busiest district without anyone noticing. I believe if it were made public, the people of Hangzhou City, or even the entire nation, would go mad. After all, your village might be familiar with your god because it's protecting you, but the others would only be overwhelmed with fear of unknown. This fear is enough to drive people to do some crazy shit..." said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was a Magician who had been through a lot recently, and it was fairly rare for him to be afraid of something.

Even he was left with a great shadow looming over his heart after seeing it, let alone the ordinary people who did too. Surely many were admitted into the hospital after for traumatic shock?"

"We're rather confused, too. The situation seven days ago was, in fact, the first in many years. We have no idea why it would appear out of nowhere. Normally, it would only do so when it sensed a huge threat in the city. I've brought you here because I want to know more details from you. Yo were present when it all happened. Did you notice anything out of place, like what it was looking at..."

Mo Fan recalled the scene, but he could not remember anything out of place, because the entire situation was extremely weird to him!

If there were anything in particular, he could only think of how the snake was staring at the building he was in. It looked like it was staring at his floor, right at him.

"I feel like it was watching me," said Mo Fan honestly.

"Are you sure?"

"Not really, its eyes were so huge. Maybe something in the building was making it feel uneasy. I couldn't really tell," said Mo Fan.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan was wondering if it had anything to do with the Demon Element.

The power granted to him when he demonized was outstanding. If the Skyscraping Snake were a guardian, could it be that it had appeared after detecting the restless demon blood in his body, but left straight away when it realized that he did not pose any threat?

But, it still did not make any sense to Mo Fan. Even when he demonized, his strength would only be comparable to a Commander-level demon beast.

The Skyscraping Snake's level was surely higher than the Commander-level. It was not necessary for it to show itself.

Maybe, there was, in fact, something in the building that he was in?

Tangyue fell into deep thought. She was not worried about how the Skyscraping Snake had shown itself in front of the public, but rather the reason why it had appeared!

"So, is the snake like a guardian?" asked Mo Fan in a serious voice.

"Mm. It used to look after a village, but that was thousands of years ago. Now it looks after a city, and the city is called Hangzhou," said Tangyue.

Mo Fan opened his mouth wide. It stayed open for quite some time, as he could not find a word!

Who would have thought that such a gigantic beast that had brought such fear to the people, turned out to be the guardian of the city? It was definitely the most unbelievable secret he had come across so far!

"Why haven't I heard of it before?" said Mo Fan.

"You must have heard of totems, right?" Tangyue went up to another wall and pointed at the painting on it.

"Totems... it sounds rather familiar. A long time ago, human tribes had their own flags, and the flags were drawn with Totem Guardian Beasts... Are you telling me that the snake is one of them?" Mo Fan immediately came to a realization.

The textbooks of his History classes did mention the term totem before. In ancient times, humans worshiped these totem beasts in exchange for the peace of their habitat. These totem beasts were not real demon beasts, nor were they Summoned beasts. They were rather a unique existence, one that did not have the lust to kill humans, but were willing to coexist, or even protect them.

Unfortunately, these Totem Beasts had only existed in legends thousands of years ago. With Magic becoming a part of humans' daily lives, they had learned to protect themselves. They only had contact with Summoned Beasts instead of Totem Beasts...

"It's an ancient Totem Beast. Our people have been protecting it, while it protects the city. Many of the Magic Associations are still rejecting them, as they were afraid of their overwhelming power. Besides, most of the Totem Beasts are now history, thus the remaining few will rarely show themselves. Humans no longer accept them. I believe only a few people like us are protecting the Totem Beasts," Tangyue sighed softly.

"A Totem Guardian, I didn't know Miss Tangyue also held such a special identity. How about your role in the Magic Court?"

"The two don't conflict with one another. The Magic Court is well aware of its presence. By the way, the Head of the Magic Court is my eldest uncle..."

"..." Mo Fan was left speechless. It appeared that his Miss Tangyue was even more extraordinary than he thought. Putting her identity of a Totem Guardian aside, her identity as the niece of the Head of the Magic Court was enough for every renowned family, association or the military to treat her with due respect.

"On that note, why were you at Bo City?" Mo Fan recalled an important question.

With her rather formidable background, it did not make sense to send her to a small place like Bo City.

"It's because there might have been a group of Totem Guardians like us hiding in Bo City, too," said Tangyue.

A thought crossed Mo Fan's mind when he heard the words.

If he remembered correctly... Xinxia did mention to him that the people of Bo City were the descendants of some guardians appointed by an ancient emperor. But, weren't they protecting the Underground Holy Spring? Why would the Underground Holy Spring have anything to do with the Totem Beasts?

"So does that mean, the Black Vatican didn't choose Bo City as the victim of their calamity randomly just to get their revenge from the society?" Mo Fan finally grasped the true intention behind the Black Vatican's attack.

"We did suspect that they were targeting the Totem Beast that had been lost, but we eventually found out their other goals... unfortunately, I wasn't told to keep going with the investigation."

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 357: Ecdysis

Mo Fan fell into deep thought.

Zhan Kong had decided not to reveal to the public that he was still alive, as a precaution against the Black Vatican.

However, if the Black Vatican were trying hard to get rid of him, it would only be a matter of time until they found out the truth.

Mo Fan was bewildered. What did those assholes from the Black Vatican want? Was it the Underground Holy Spring, or the secret of the Totem Beast?

Having this thought, Mo Fan discovered a lovely painting on the wall. It had a gigantic snake that was tall enough to reach the roughly drawn layer of clouds...

Under the gigantic snake was a little creature. It was tiny like an earthworm comparing to the snake. Mo Fan could not help but crack out, "So, this Skyscraping Snake has a little baby, too. It looks rather cute."

Tangyue followed his finger and said with a smile, "The baby you're mentioning is the Skyscraping Snake itself."

"F**k me, what is the thing above it then?" Mo Fan almost wet his pants.

The Skyscraping Snake definitely had the most shocking size that Mo Fan had ever seen before. If it were cloudy, it could easily connect the ground to the sky.

Meanwhile, in the wall painting, the snake in it was more than ten times bigger! Wouldn't it be shrouding the Heavens!?

"I don't know either. It was drawn by people in ancient times. Maybe it's just a wild imagination, that there exists some god that the Skyscraping Snake worships. It lives up above in the sky, and its size is even crazier..." answered Tangyue.

Even their tribe possessed lots of the ancient legends that they could not explain today. After all, it was rather common for the knowledge being passed on to be lost somewhere.

Mo Fan also agreed that it was a mere imagination. Otherwise, if such a gigantic beast were real, he should go to Mars instead. Earth was too dangerous for him.

Suddenly, he heard a deep roar that could penetrate into one's soul, extremely close to the lake!

Mo Fan began to tremble. He stared at his Miss Tangyue in disbelief.

"Dont...don't tell me... it's right here!" Mo Fan's expression became weird.

Mo Fan now believed Tangyue's words. Things like totem beasts were discussed in their History textbooks. However, whenever Mo Fan recalled how it could appear out of nowhere, he could still remember the overwhelming fear. The next thing he knew, he was soaked in cold sweat.

"Mm, it's right there." Tangyue pointed outside.

"Miss Tangyue, why don't we discuss this somewhere else, let's go to your place," said Mo Fan.

"Hehe, you don't need to be so scared of it, it doesn't bite. Should I bring you closer so you can befriend it?" Tangyue could not stop giggling.

"No, no thanks. I'll let you worship your own god. I'm an outsider, I'm sure that your god doesn't like my accent," said Mo Fan sternly.

"Alright, I had my fun. It indeed lives here at the West Lake, but you won't find it even if you dug three meters deep into the bottom," said Tangyue.

"Why is that?"

"It has been hibernating in the seal of the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon, but probably around the time when the Black Vatican went to Shanghai to trouble you, the seal of the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon became unstable, allowing it to appear in Hangzhou or the lake as it wished." Tangyue brought Mo Fan out to a place where they could see the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon.

With a glance, Mo Fan could see three stone statues that looked like cauldrons standing on the surface of the water. It was likely that they were supported by extremely long beams under the water.

They were positioned in a special triangular formation, with equal distance between them. The cauldrons had a small flame flickering inside them, which appeared as a reflection on the surface of the water.

"It has the Eyes of Terror, which plant a Seed of Terror in living things that are weaker than it. The seed will grow deep within the soul, and the prey won't know that it has grown into a giant tree. When the prey sees the snake again, it will drop to its knees subconsciously, overwhelmed with fear. Its prey would not have the courage to oppose it," Tangyue explained his condition to him.

"I think so too. Only a woman like Miss Tangyue is able to stop me from sleeping. Any other demon beast won't be able to do that," Mo Fan chuckled to pretend that he was relaxed.

"Smooth tongue!" Tangyue rolled her eyes at Mo Fan.

Tangyue had taught Mo Fan the way to overcome the fear. It was fairly simple. As he meditated, when the snake's face appeared, he would have to insist on staring at it without altering his gaze. As long as he overcame the fear once, the Seed of Fear would no longer sprout. Otherwise, he would be trapped in the nightmare forever, losing his inner peace.

Mo Fan went off to make his attempt. It sounded fairly simple from Tangyue's explanation, but it was not the case when trying to do it. Even though he was only confronting the fear in his Spiritual World, he was still soaked with cold sweat.

However, the effect was instantaneous. The fear soon disappeared, just like the sweat that had evaporated on the wind.

As the fear disappeared, Mo Fan felt like paying the so-called 'god' a visit now.

On second thought, he decided not to take the risk. Maybe it was actually not fond of outsiders. It would be a disaster to him if it ended up implanting some spiritual haze in his soul.

"I thought I could find out the reason why it showed itself in the city from you, so we could take some precautions. It turned out that you're as lost as we are," said Tangyue as she was taking a walk.

"Please, I don't think I can be any help for things at that level," said Mo Fan.

"Why, don't you want to help me?" Tangyue blinked her eyes.

"It's not that I don't want... wait, since when did I say I'm helping you?" Mo Fan was startled.

"When you agreed to come. I tell you the secret, and you'll help me with something that has been a headache to me for quite some time." Tangyue opened her eyes wide. It was a mature, glamorous face, but yet she pretended to be naive.

"..." Mo Fan was left speechless.

As a matter of fact, he felt like he was being tricked here! It felt like Tangyue was already planning her trick when she asked him here and decided to tell him the secret...

"Tell me then, what is it that you need?" asked Mo Fan with a wry smile.

"The god needs to go through ecdysis every ten years, and the next cycle will be happening fairly soon. The Head of the Magic Court and Heiyu has made me responsible for it, and asked me to choose a few outstanding candidates. During the ecdysis, the god will be extremely weak. It's the only weakness that the god has, thus its natural enemy or those with evil thoughts will try to make use of this opportunity to target it. Prior to the ecdysis, it will be fairly sensitive. It will go berserk as long as it detects a slight threat, which is the main reason why it appeared in the center of the city. Normally, if we don't open the seal, it wouldn't show itself," said Tangyue.

Chapter 358: A Vicious Plot

"So what does it..." Mo Fan was trying to say, what did he have anything to do with it?

"Frankly speaking, we suspect that someone in our tribe is colluding with the enemies. Therefore, no matter how secretive we are being, there's still a chance that the enemy will know about our plan. I've proposed to the Head of the Magic Court that we'll be using some outsider that we could trust," said Tangyue.

"So I'm the outsider that you could trust?" Mo Fan pointed at his nose with a blank face. Why did he even bother calling Tangyue in the first place? If he didn't he wouldn't be in this mess right now.

Tangyue let out a charming smile. Her glamorous eyes were staring right at Mo Fan.

I was just having a headache trying to think about what to do when you've volunteered yourself. I'm more than happy to take you onboard!

Mo Fan felt that Tangyue's current look was like a seductive snake hissing at him, as if she would eat him alive anytime.

"I trust you, hence why I'm willing to tell you the secret. Besides, you're not one of us, neither are you bound to any organization. A decently clean background. In addition to that, you're smart, you know

how to react swiftly to the situation. I believe that you would surely be a great help to your teacher!” Tangyue was so happy that she felt like giving Mo Fan a kiss on his cheeks.

She had been troubled by the matter for quite some time.

The ecdysis every ten years was extremely important. Other people might think that the existence of the god would pose a great threat to mankind, but after succeeding the role of a guardian and getting along with the god for so many years, Tangyue had more confidence than anyone else that it was truly a guardian that cared about the city more than the humans living in it.

Humans built the city, the city nurtured the god, and the god protected the humans, while the humans worshiped the god. If the humans could interact with the god like her, they would know how gentle and kind the god was.

Tangyue was one of the rare ones in the tribe that could communicate with the god. Knowing that the god would be fairly hot-tempered during his ecdysis, and would be extremely hostile toward powerful humans or living things, that the Head of the Magic Court and Heiyu had decided to place her in charge of the important task.

The tribe had many experts, but none of them had the chance to interact with the god on a daily basis.

Besides, since the god was rather hot-tempered during his ecdysis, it was better not to let the experts appear close to him. She was surely the best candidate for the job.

It was a heavy task, and yet they had learned from reliable sources that there was a traitor in their tribe. It further increased the weight on Tangyue’s shoulders.

Coincidentally, Mo Fan had somehow found her. To avoid leaking the information about where the god would be placed during his ecdysis, Mo Fan was the best person to be entrusted with the protection task.

Therefore, Tangyue had told Mo Fan the secret straight away after receiving his call. In other words, she was trying to drag him onboard!

In terms of the people she could trust, Mo Fan was definitely one of them.

“Don’t forget, you still owe me a favor,” Tangyue said with squinted eyes.

“I saved your life.”

“Humph, you’ve already taken advantage of me!” said Tangyue with a blush.

“Wasn’t the favor about a mere Stardust Magic Tool, I’ll give you two in return.” Mo Fan was now a rich guy, too.

“That was before!” Tangyue blurted out. How unreliable could this man be, he even promised it himself!

Meanwhile, Mo Fan was cursing in his heart, trying to find an explanation for how he ended up in such a great mess.

“Allow me to consider,” said Mo Fan.

“Alright.” Tangyue did not force him. After all, it was not just a small favor to ask. “If you’re not willing, please forget what I’ve told you. It’s better that fewer people know about the existence of the god.”

The god was not accepted by the people. He would bring extreme fear to them. The government and Enforcement Union here in Hangzhou might be willing to protect the succession of the ancient totem beasts, but it did not imply that the greater authority governing the nation would allow it.

The god’s recent appearance in the city had already attracted the attention of the people from the Oriental Pearl Tower and the Magic Palace. They were expecting lots of Magicians to come visit them and ask them questions. If they insisted on executing the god, he would not even stand a chance during the ecdysis.

Tangyue bit her lips. Her eyes were fixated on the burning cauldrons on the surface of the water that had existed for a very long time.

She only hoped the god could survive the incoming crisis.

“You look like you really care a lot about it?” asked Mo Fan when he saw Tangyue praying for the Skyscraping Snake.

“A long time ago, my father died in a war against the demon beasts. I was living here alone at a very young age. Once, I went to the Lingyin Mountain for a little adventure, and stumbled into a beast with sharp fangs that had deserted its tribe. There wasn’t anyone nearby, and the beast was starving. I thought I would die there, but after a very long time, when I opened my eyes, I realized that the beast was running away in fear. I turned around and glanced at the West Lake in the dark from the mountain. As the moonlight shone upon it, a gigantic snake shadow faintly appeared... It was my first time seeing it.” Tangyue’s lips curled slightly upward before she continued, “It was incredibly huge, but I wasn’t afraid. It was more like an elder living next door, watching me grow up. As long as I’m here at the West Lake, it will protect me.”

Mo Fan did not interrupt as he saw Tangyue telling the tale with a stern look.

The reason why humans needed a home was so they could just be themselves, without worrying about anything once they stepped into the door.

Most of the kids had grown up peacefully under the protection of their parent and elders. For Tangyue, the Skyscraping Snake that had brought terror to the humans of the city had played that important role in her life. It was quite extraordinary.

“I heard that the skin after the ecdysis is a great material for forging outstanding armor. If I help, you will give me a piece of that guy’s skin in return,” said Mo Fan.

With the Skyscraping Snake’s size, its skin was more than enough to forge thousands of pieces of armor. However, the material had to be refined before it could be forged into a piece of equipment. Rather than the size, the extraordinary power that the bones, blood, skin or flesh of a demon beast contained mattered more. Therefore, even if it were only enough to forge a few dozen sets of armor, he was not demanding too much to take one of them.

“So that’s what you are thinking of, humph!” Tangyue harrumphed.

“Not entirely, since you’ve told me that he is like your elder, then he’s an elder to me, too, as we’re one family. There’s no way I would be a bystander,” replied Mo Fan in a stern tone.

“Who told you that we’re one family, do you have any shame!” Tangyue blushed.

Mo Fan burst into laughter when he saw his Miss Tangyue feeling embarrassed.

Tangyue quickened her pace in a fit of pique. She had no intention to speak any further to her bad student. As a way to conceal her embarrassment, she took out her phone, pretending to be checking the news.

However, the embarrassment on her face quickly dissipated. Her face was now flushing red with anger as her eyes stared right on her phone’s screen.

“Ridiculous, this is ridiculous!” Tangyue yelled furiously.

“What is it?”

“They are setting up a plot to frame the big guy...” Tangyue handed her phone to Mo Fan, which was showing the latest news.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 359: The Enforcement Union

"We've found casualties from the incident with the giant snake. The two Hunters were thoroughly corroded by some poison, destroying their appearance beyond recognition. No one was able to tell they were human corpses, but their identities have just been verified. It was confirmed that they had died to the snake's poison after it appeared," Mo Fan read the news out loud.

Mo Fan was confused, looking at the news. Didn't they already release an official statement saying that no one had died in the incident? Why would they suddenly find two casualties, after such a long time?

"It's a frame-up, someone is trying to make false charges against the Skyscraping Snake!" Tangyue's face turned furiously red.

"Why would you assume that it's a setup... Miss Tangyue, your phone is ringing," said Mo Fan.

Tangyue received the call with a frown. From her stern expression, the call was probably from her superior.

"Come with me." Tangyue hung up the phone and dragged Mo Fan to the boat.

"Where are we going?"

"The Enforcement Union's meeting room."

Following Tangyue, Mo Fan arrived with her at Hangzhou's Magic Association Building.

They took the elevator straight up to the highest floor. It was a meeting room with a clear, spectacular view over the entire city.

The entrance of the room was guarded by a group of men in uniforms. Each of them possessed rather outstanding cultivation. Mo Fan could not help but exclaim in his heart, as the guards defending the entrance were all Advanced Magicians!

They waited for a short time outside of the room before a man with black long hair came out. His eagle-like eyes glanced at Tangyue, then at Mo Fan.

"My student, Mo Fan," introduced Tangyue.

The man nodded slightly before inviting the two into the room with a gesture.

The room consisted of a standard, huge round table. Several appropriately-dressed men and women were seated across the table. There were seven or eight of them.

The remaining twenty-some people stood at the side. They were all from the Magic Court, judging from their outfits.

Those outside of the room were already Advanced Magicians, but the ones in the room were even more shocking. Was there anyone on the same level as him?

These people were the authoritative figures among Magicians!

Mo Fan could recall the man with the long black hair. He was the one standing on the silver skyscraper while staring the Skyscraping Snake in the eyes. His strength significantly outmatched Zhan Kong's, but even he was standing on the side instead of sitting down.

"He's my eldest Senior Brother, Heiyu. He's also the Vice Head of the Magic Court," said Tangyue in a soft tone to Mo Fan, who was standing beside her.

Mo Fan nodded. He was just trying to figure out what level the man's cultivation was, when a middle-aged man with a thick beard slammed his hand hard on the table and snapped, "There are people dying, and yet you're still protecting that poisonous snake! The Magic Palace didn't send me here to negotiate. I'm here to eliminate the threat in the West Lake, returning peace to Hangzhou. You better hand over the Skyscraping Snake to us!"

Tangyue glared at the man while cursing under her breath.

Mo Fan whispered when he saw her teacher on the verge of losing her temper, "Who's that?"

"Zhu Meng, a senator of the Enforcement Union," said Tangyue, while clenching her teeth.

"It seems like he has been getting on your nerves?" said Mo Fan.

Tangyue told Mo Fan the entire sequence of events without holding any information back.

It turned out that the Enforcement Union was well aware of the existence of the Skyscraping Snake. The governing body in Hangzhou tacitly consented to the Totem Tribe inheriting their succession. However, a whole faction in the Magic Palace, under Zhu Meng's lead, greatly opposed it.

Zhu Meng's faction in the Magic Association and the Enforcement Union was an untiring advocate of eliminating hidden threats. They proposed that everything that could possibly bring disasters to cities or mankind be eliminated at all cost.

As a result, the totem beast living in West Lake was treated as the highest priority to be eliminated in Zhu Meng's faction. They had always kept an eye on the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon, and tirelessly proposed to the highest authorities to eliminate the threat of the city. Frankly speaking, they would not allow the snake to stay inside the city, as no one knew when it would be enraged and bring a great disaster to Hangzhou City.

Zhu Meng's proposal had earned support from many senators, thus there was already an operation being planned to eliminate the threat. However, some of the old members strongly advocated that the Totem Beast was considered a great magical heritage of their nation since ancient times. Furthermore, the Skyscraping Snake had yet to harm anyone's life, thus as long as Hangzhou's government did not request an order of expulsion, they had no right to chase the Skyscraping Snake away from West Lake.

"In simple words, this Zhu Meng is your god's greatest enemy," Mo Fan whispered back, as he glanced at the man with the beard.

"Mm, he has come straight here to make a punitive charge against us just when the casualties were found... as if he had been waiting long enough," said Tangyue.

"But, why are you so confident that the Skyscraping Snake is being framed?" Mo Fan was confused.

As a matter of fact, Mo Fan did agree that it was too dangerous to let such a gigantic beast reside in the city. If Tangyue had not told him about the inheritance of their tribe, he would actually lean toward Zhu Meng's proposal.

"The big guy is poisonous, but he doesn't spread it randomly, nor would he use it against humans. If he were releasing his poison, you won't find a single thing alive in the vicinity of West Lake. A week ago, we sent someone to investigate. The place where he appeared was a construction area where a skyscraper is being built. No one was there when it appeared. Its gigantic size didn't even crush anyone there, let alone poisoning anyone!" Tangyue blurted out angrily.

Tangyue was more familiar with the Skyscraping Snake than anyone else. He would never kill without a reason, especially humans that worshiped him.

The Skyscraping Snake was definitely not responsible for the corpses that were found a week later!

"Most importantly, the Skyscraping Snake excretes a fluid that helps with his ecdysis during this period, thus it wouldn't be poisonous throughout this period. Therefore, someone must have framed up the big guy with the two corpses that had appeared out of nowhere." Tangyue was extremely confident.

"I see," Mo Fan nodded.

The Skyscraping Snake was not poisonous during the ecdysis, but two people had been killed by poison. Mo Fan did not think that Tangyue would come up with a lie that could be validated very easily.

It turned out that someone was indeed purposely framing up the Skyscraping Snake.

Meanwhile, the incident that had lost the public's attention was revived once again due to the casualties. Many people demanded the government to explain themselves. Some even accused the government of hiding the truth.

"So, you think he's behind it?" Mo Fan glanced at the senator called Zhu Meng and whispered.

"It must be him!" said Tangyue confidently.

The Skyscraping Snake was considered a huge thorn in Zhu Meng's eyes, as its existence alone was a great slap to his face. He had earned his reputation solely from championing his threat-elimination strategy!

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Chapter 360: Threat-Elimination Strategy

"Relax, Senator Zhu Meng, I believe that you're well aware of the Skyscraping Snake's capabilities. The situation would be a lot worse if you were to trouble him with such a strong murderous intent. We have to take it slowly," said an aged elder of the Magic Court with a smile.

"Enough with the nonsense, you won't be able to make excuses for him this time!" Zhu Meng demanded.

"Make excuses, why would we need to do that? The Black Totem Snake has been living in this city for God knows how many years. It's his habitat. I seriously don't understand what right we have to drive him away?" An elder who was obviously on the side of protecting the Totem Beast said in a righteous tone.

"It's your Totem. It has nothing to do with us. All I care about is whether this beast will pose a threat to us!" said Zhu Meng.

"I think you're not worried about the Black Totem Snake disrupting peace. You're just concerned that as long as he's still here, your threat-elimination strategy would never be in full swing, thus it won't be able to get you more supporters, which means you will never become the President of the Magic Palace!"

Zhu Meng glanced at the old man with a goatee and burst out laughing.

The elder with the goatee harrumphed coldly in return. No one in the meeting dared to offend this senator from the Enforcement Union, but he, Luo Mian, was never afraid of him.

Luo Mian was also a senator himself, but he would never allow the Black Totem Snake to be sacrificed as a stepping stone for someone pursuing power!

"I'll make this clear, Senator Luo Mian. The demon god that they worshipped is harming humans. If you think I'm purposely picking on him, go ahead and try calming the public after the terror that arose recently. Comfort the people living in this city. I bet you can publicly admit that you're worshipping a gigantic snake, and see what they would think!" said Zhu Meng.

The guardian of the Totem Beast, Tangyue finally ran out of patience and blurted out, "The Black Totem Snake would never harm anyone. How do you prove that the two corpses were his doing?"

"Where did this brat come from? Do you have the right to speak here!" a Palace Guard standing beside Senator Zhu Meng snapped.

Zhu Meng cast a glance at Tangyue and immediately recognized her. He waved his hand, signaling the Royal Guard to stand down.

"Everything has to come with the evidence. Don't you think it's hilarious accusing the Black Totem Snake for the deaths of two random corpses you found?" snapped Tangyue.

"Tangyue, enough with that, back off." The Head of the Magic Court, Tang Zhong rose to his feet and glanced at Zhu Meng, "My niece is right. The accusation needs to be backed up with evidence. If our Totem Beast truly wants to kill, I don't think he would leave the corpses behind, either. Why would there be two rotten corpses that were only discovered a week after the incident... Or maybe you think you can treat us like retards and just falsely accuse our Totem Beast of being responsible for the deaths of the two corpses!"

"That's right, we have to investigate the matter further," said a mediator.

"Investigations aren't my specialty. My job is to eliminate any possible threats. The fact that he had shown himself in the busy city is enough to list him as our highest priority target. You have two days to hand over the Black Totem Snake, or I'll deal with him myself!" Zhu Meng pointed with two fingers in a fairly strong attitude.

"You're unbelievable. Stop using your bullshit threat-elimination strategy to condemn our Totem Beast!" the old man with the goatee roared furiously.

"I'm a senator. I have the highest authority granted by the Oriental Pearl Tower and the Magic Palace. Now, if I say he's a threat, he is a threat!" Zhu Meng had no intention to waste his time further with the stubborn people defending their Totem Beast.

The Black Totem Snake had posed a threat to the city with its sudden appearance. There were casualties being discovered. The people would demand an explanation from the government. Be it a decree or the will of the people, the Black Totem Snake would be eliminated!

Zhu Meng brought his Royal Guards and left, leaving the room of people speechless.

Those who were neutral and leaning toward the Oriental Pearl Tower and Magic Palace took their leave.

The outcome was basically decided. Zhu Meng had come with a strong statement and evidence. The Black Totem Snake would not be able to escape this time.

Most of the people attending the meeting had left, with only the Head of the Magic Court, Tang Zhong; the old man with the goatee, Luo Mian; the man with the long black hair, Heiyu; Tangyue, and Mo Fan left.

"I didn't expect it to turn out like this, when we've been extremely cautious protecting it," Tang Zhong sighed. He looked rather tired.

"What should we do now? Zhu Meng is resolved to deal with the Totem Beast. He has the upper hand this time. Even if we were to submit a written statement to a higher authority, we won't be able to calm the crowd," said Heiyu.

"I think that Zhu Meng is just trying to act tough. If he wants to take on the Totem Beast, just let him do it. If he could outmatch the Black Totem Snake, he would have already done so ages ago, why would he

wait until today... he's just scared of the Totem Beast's strength," said Senator Luo Mian, while stroking his goatee.

"Senator Luo, you might not know this... the Totem Beast undergoes ecdysis every ten years. He only showed himself in the city because he is rather hot-tempered during this period. His strength would be significantly weaker during ecdysis," said Tang Zhong.

"Are you implying that he will be having his ecdysis soon?" Luo Mian was stunned.

"Absolutely."

"That's troublesome. This Zhu Meng knew how to pick the right time..."

"We think there's a traitor among us," said Heiyu in a soft voice.

It was too much of a coincidence. Zhu Meng had been demanding because he was well prepared.

It was most likely that the traitor had told Zhu Meng about the ecdysis.

"Tangyue, I want you to bring the Totem Beast away in advance, and find a safe place for him to finish his ecdysis," said Tang Zhong.

"Mm, got it," Tangyue nodded.

"I'll be responsible for their safety, then," said Heiyu.

Tang Zhong shook his head and said, "The Totem Beast is very sensitive during this period. He will be hostile toward any Commander-level demon beast or Advanced Magicians within twenty li of him. Tang Zhong is the only person he will allow within this distance..."

Tang Zhong specifically glanced at Mo Fan and immediately saw his cultivation without asking. "This young Magician isn't Advanced Level yet, so it shouldn't be a problem for him."

"Him? How could we let an outsider be in charge of something so important? Besides, would an Intermediate Magician be any use to us? The Royal Guards that Zhu Meng brought are all experts." Heiyu immediately opposed the suggestion.

"Heiyu, you're wrong about that. This young Magician might actually be a great use to us," stated Tang Zhong.

Mo Fan, naturally, was utterly confused as he listened to the conversation.