

Versatile 521

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 521: The Undead Burial Moun

Mo Fan was a grass-roots Magician and had not joined any faction so far. As a result, when he learned from Dean Xiao that he had a spot in the World College Tournament, he did not show any reaction.

Later, as the selection for the World College Tournament began, he finally realized how incredible it was to be selected as a provisional candidate. The opportunity was priceless!

Mo Fan, who was still climbing his way up the ranking, suddenly found himself being flattered, yet he was feeling more worry than joy.

However, he was someone who took things as they came. Despite the noise around him, he continued to focus on his cultivation.

After defeating the tenth-ranked Ding Yumian, he now had the chance to cultivate for seven days in the Three Step Tower every month. His Summoning Element was still at the first level, so the energy available to feed the kid was nowhere enough. He had to improve it to the next level so the energy was sufficient to feed his little Flame Belle.

Once his little Flame Belle grew up, would Mo Fan still need to care about the envy and mockery of others?

He would simply let the little Flame Belle bite whoever doubted him. Those idiots, not focusing on their cultivation, but defaming him instead, were just jealous because he was making a living off his face!

Mo Fan did not care too much about the nonsense. He stayed well-behaved at school and focused on improving his cultivation.

There were many students in the school who had half their foot into the Advanced Level. Meanwhile, the threshold of the Advanced Level was still not within his reach. How long would it take for him to become an Advanced Magician, gaining him access to the stronger Advanced Spells?

As autumn arrived, the winds in the middle region of China began to chill. The area within a hundred kilometers of the Ancient Capital was covered in withered grass, the whole place looked dull over its vast area, with not a hint of color.

{TL Note: The Ancient Capital might be referring to Xi'an, once known as Chang'an}

The Ancient Capital was covered in a mix of grey, brown, and copper tones. Some of the brighter structures were glossed over.

The city had paths leading straight to the center, each widening as it approached the center of the place, radiating symmetrically from the clock tower.

The Magic Association of the Ancient Capital was established in the clock tower. The location of the Magic Association was always a landmark for each city, or more precisely, the landmarks were always

occupied by the Magic Association. As a result, the Ancient Capital still had a huge population crowding its streets.

The Hunter Union was located at the drum tower, only a thousand meters away from the Magic Association. The two towers stood by one another across the distance, like two giant statues guarding the city...

The military's camp was outside of the city. There were many threats in the vicinity of the Ancient Capital. The world famous Undead Burial Mount and the demon beasts in Qinling Mountains had kept the entire city on its toes for generations.

It was said that whether in the city or outside it, one would surely find corpses after digging a hundred meters into the ground.

Corpses were not a problem, since they were only the remains of warriors who had died in battles in ancient times. The problem were those clinging to the past despite having turned into skeletons.

The undead had no memory of their past, nor did they have consciences. They merely had savagery similar to beasts and a natural instinct to kill. They would lunge crazily at anything alive within a certain distance.

As such, the Hunter Union, Magic Association and army were entrusted with an eternal mission: to help the undead with their 'transgressions'.

Zhang Xiaohou left Shanghai in a hurry. As soon as he arrived at the headquarters in Lintong, he was immediately sent out on an annihilation mission.

It had been a while since Zhang Xiaohou was sent to the middle region for training. He was responsible for surveillance, learning from the experienced soldiers and focusing on improving his cultivation. Even though the army did send him on a few missions, none of them were particularly difficult.

Zhang Xiaohou received orders as soon as he landed. It was a rescue operation, to retrieve a scouting squad stranded in Xianchi.

The squad had departed around half a month ago, to investigate some restless recent activity in Xianchi. In addition to checking out the rate of growth of the undead, they were also ordered to evacuate the remaining villages around the area.

The people living in this region shared the same land as the undead. Even though they were not Magicians, they had their own traditional ways of avoiding contact with the undead. Some of the fearless tribes even relied on the Land of the Undead to keep their villages going.

It was not rare to find these tribes in the current era, some of which had existed for almost a thousand years. The undead was just like ordinary beasts to these tribes. With the right methods, even if the undead were extremely savage and killing anything in sight, the people were able to guarantee their own safety.

Lately, the odd behavior of the Drifting Sand River had somehow triggered a weird trend. The creatures sleeping under the ground had been quite active during the past month.

Being more active resulted in more killing. The weird behavior of the Drifting Sand River somehow made the Land of the Undead lose its usual calm. Many of the villages that had relied on their traditional methods to live among the undead had faced utter destruction. Four of them had been wiped off the map during this period.

The Magic Association and Hunter Union were treating the matter with extreme care. They immediately sent out people to investigate. Once they analyzed the situation and determined it to be dangerous, they would immediately evacuate the villages nearby!

However, the scouting squad had discovered a weird wind sweeping the area around Xianchi. Despite being sent to investigate the place and evacuate the villages, they suddenly went missing in action.

Even though Zhang Xiaohou was being sent on a rescue operation, the squad had already been missing for almost two months. Basically, the rescue team's job was to verify the cause of death of the squad, and retrieve their corpses, then report back to the Magic Association and Hunter Union.

"What are our superiors thinking, sending us off on an operation like this? We're asked to look for a scouting squad that's been missing over two months...what were they doing earlier?!" cursed the team's scout, Wang Tong.

Zhang Xiaohou's team consisted of nine people. Unlike the usual structure of a team led by a commander, it was more like a spec ops team. The team was formed by outstanding soldiers entrusted to carry out difficult missions, like special forces.

Everyone in the team was capable of being a commander. The team had two scouts responsible for scouting the path ahead, luring the demon beasts away and disrupting their enemy's groups. Zhang Xiaohou was one of the scouts, and Wang Tong was the other.

Wang Tong and Zhang Xiaohou were ahead of the rest of the team. Wang Tong was full of complaints. He had been swearing non-stop to Zhang Xiaohou since the team departed.

"Qin Hu is definitely enjoying himself on the Heavenly Eagle. He doesn't even need to talk," said Wang Tong, raising his head and glancing at the snowy-white Heavenly Eagle soaring above them.

Qin Hu was the team's captain and commander, who was also a Heavenly Eagle Battlemage. The others had no choice but to walk, while he was able to ride the Heavenly Eagle.

"Stop talking, or you can tell the superior that you want to quit and are willing to bear the punishment. Otherwise, you should just focus on completing the mission, instead of talking non-stop," Zhang Xiaohou was slightly more positive.

"I just like to grumble! If I don't grumble for a day, I'll feel extremely uncomfortable!" protested Wang Tong.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 522: Red Across the Map!

“Hello, Brother Fan...”

“You’re asking about Boss Zhan Kong? I don’t know either, I had completely forgotten about him if you hadn’t mentioned him. I haven’t heard from him for a long time!”

“I’m in the middle of a mission, so I won’t be able to contact him for some time, but I heard that he went missing after returning to Bo City with the Darkwing Wolf’s head.”

“Alright, I’ll call you immediately if I hear anything from him, but I will be on a mission for some time, I don’t know when I’ll be back at headquarters.”

“How’s the Flame Belle doing?”

“I’m fine, I’m the best at running in the whole team. How could I possibly not outrun my enemy if I can’t beat them in a fight? We’re all soldiers, so none of us will desert the others. Those who manage to make it back safely will report on the situation back to headquarters. Even if the others are dead, I’ll still be fine.”

Zhang Xiaohou was talking to Mo Fan with his earpiece. They had not arrived at the area around Xianchi yet, thus they were not required to stay on high alert.

After hanging up on the call, Wang Tong glanced at him with a gloomy look and blurted out unpleasantly, “Who were you cursing to be dead? I can guarantee that if someone’s going to lose their life on this mission, it will be you for sure!”

“Hehe, I was just using it as an example,” said Zhang Xiaohou, scratching his head.

“You can’t even use it as an example... who’s the guy on the phone, I heard you call him brother. Didn’t you say you’re an only child?” Wang Tong continued on with the conversation in boredom.

“We grew up on the same street. He’s just like my brother, looking after me since I was little, even now,” said Zhang Xiaohou.

“You’re a soldier, talented among the Intermediate Magicians. Why do you sound like you’re still a kid, being looked after?” said Wang Tong.

“He’s a lot stronger than me.”

“Alright, alright, we’ve got plenty of those talented maniacs in the army, yet none of them were able to clean up these filthy things...”

The nine-man team gradually made their way toward Xianchi.

Xianchi was merely the name of a place where there were rarely any plants on the surface. The soil was soft, and usually covered in thin white sand...

The white sand was in fact the dust from corpses that had undergone long exposure to the sun and wind. It looked exactly the same as salt sprinkled over the ground. The locals did not call it salt literally, but referred to the place as the salty land.

{TL Note: Xianchi in Chinese means ‘salty pond’. Apparently, in some Chinese poems, it refers to a pond where beautiful girls bathed during ancient times.}

Xianchi was the land between the Qinling Mountains and Xi'an Territory. Since the place was slightly sunken, it looked like a pond on the map, hence it was called Xianchi (Salty Pond).

A lengthy safe zone was constructed along the northeast border of Xianchi. Usually, the safe zone mostly consisted of boundaries set up with fortresses, depots, watchtowers, and supply stations, with cooperation between the army, Hunters, and Magic Association guarding the boundary.

However, the demon beasts in the vicinity of the Ancient Capital were fairly different, so the safe zone of the Ancient Capital was not very stable, only consisting of a long wall around the boundary area.

The wall, constructed by Earth Magicians, served as a layer of defense. As the walls were moved around quite often according to the activity of the undead, some of the villages that were initially within the safe zone would suddenly be excluded from it at times.

If a village was located along the coastline in the south or north, it was extremely dangerous to be outside of the safe zone. The village would be trampled to ashes within a few years, leaving not a single survivor behind.

Meanwhile, the villages located on the edge around the Ancient Capital had their unique methods of avoiding the undead. Hence, there were still villages outside of the safe zone... quite a lot of them, actually. These villages were commonly referred to as the Villages of Miracles by the Magic Associations in other countries, since the villagers were utterly fearless, living outside of the safe zone!

"Our first destination is here, the Sunny Goat Village. It's located around the foothills of the Qinling Mountains, with around thirty villagers." Captain Qin Hu had come down from the sky holding a seemingly new map in his hand.

It was extremely important to get their hands on the latest maps if possible, as only the new maps contained information about the recent changes to the landscape in the area. As for old maps... eleven out of ten would result in a trap!

"The name of the village sounds quite cheerful," said the 'naughty kid' in the team, Lu Hongjing.

"Enough with the nonsense," Qin Hu straightened his face, not giving the others a chance to express their comments.

"The Sunny Goat Village is around four kilometers away from here. The sun is setting soon; shouldn't we think of a plan?" proposed the female Battlemage in the team, Shi Shaoju.

"Let's go straight to the village. I don't think it's that complicated. Are you telling me we can't handle a bunch of weaklings? We'll just kill every single one of them when they appear!" said Lu Hongjing.

"Don't be naive! Did you forget that this place has already been inspected before, it's categorized as an orange zone!" Qin Hu was obviously a cautious leader, and immediately spoke up sternly when he saw his team dropping their guard.

"It's just orange zone, I spent lots of time roaming the red zones..." interrupted Wang Tong.

The people of the Hunter Union were in charge of discovering the distribution of the demon beasts in the area, and tagged the areas with different colors to represent the density of demon beasts.

The higher the density of demon beasts in the area, the stronger the color used to tag it. The colors started from white to orange, then red, and finally black, correlating to the color of alerts.

Green was used to tag the areas in a safe zone.

White meant there were only a few demon beasts roaming in the area.

An orange zone implied that there were packs of demon beasts residing in the area, so it belonged to a dangerous zone. Only experienced Hunters, special squads and powerful Magicians were allowed to enter the area.

Red, or simply a blood-colored zone, represented death. It was extremely easy to be flanked by packs of demon beasts, as the number of demon beasts in the area was like a surging tide.

There was still purple between red and black. A red zone referred to a kingdom of demon beasts. Even Super Magicians had no chance of making it back alive from a purple zone.

As for a black zone, any life form was forbidden within it. No one had ever gone to a black zone before, and it seemed like even the demon beasts did not dare to enter one, either.

Green, white, orange, red, purple, black. There were six colors in total, and the last four correlated to the four types of alerts.

The red alert that Bo City was placed under was the second level alert for a city.

The Ancient Capital was located near the Kingdom of Undead, hence it was the city with the most alerts raised in the entire country. The alert was so common to the residents of the city that it was simply treated as an alarm to wake them up every morning. Those who were drinking tea continued to enjoy their tea, those gossiping continued to gossip, and those who were responsible for protecting the city made their way to the battlefield!

That being said, due to the unique traits of the region, when the sun was high up in the sky, the electronic map only displayed green and white zones, and occasionally an orange zone when the beasts from Qinling Mountains got lost and trespassed into the zone...

However, as soon as the sun set into the horizon, when the light protecting the land was withdrawn, all the zones across the map, apart from the safe zone of the Ancient Capital, were turned entirely red!

Once night fell, humans no longer reigned across the land...

Currently, the special team from Lintong headquarters was outside of the safe zone. The final glimpse of sunlight had disappeared, leaving the scent of death lingering in the air nearby...

A strange noise was heard coming from under the white-covered ground. It sounded like someone munching on something, or something beating...

Zhang Xiaohou was the first person to step into the Land of the Undead. He was extremely nervous, his alert scanning his surroundings...

All of a sudden, pairs of dried, rotten, arms poked out from the ground and began to wave and grab wildly in the air less than five meters away from him!

Versatile Mage

Chapter 523: Ambushed by the Walking Dead!

"My leg, my leg!" someone began to scream suddenly. The cry of agony echoed in the darkness which had just descended upon the place.

Zhang Xiaohou turned around and discovered Lu Hongjing standing right on top of a pile of rotten arms, which were holding tightly onto his legs. The hands grabbing onto Lu Hongjing's feet were as strong as steel, totally impairing his movement.

The rotten hands and claws were scratching and tearing at Lu Hongjing's legs. One of the corpses that was seriously starving sprang out from the ground and stuck its head onto Lu Hongjing's hamstring and bit it...

The group was unable to react in time. When they finally realized they should be saving the poor lad, all that remained under Lu Hongjing's knees were bloody white bones. He was falling backward in extreme pain!

"Don't fall!" yelled the captain Qin Hu.

Once Lu Hongjing fell to the ground, he would turn into a pile of bones. The bites and scratches of the corpses were faster than a school of piranhas!

"Earth Wave!"

Zhang Xiaohou was the first to react. He quickly cast the Spell.

He manipulated the soil in the area and utilized the second characteristic of the Flowing Mud to turn the soft soil into solid rock.

The Flowing Mud was able to turn soil into swamp or quicksand to entrap his targets and impair their movement. When reversed, it was able to harden the soil into rocks, too! Zhang Xiaohou forcibly turned the ground Lu Hongjing was standing on into solid rocks, trapping the claws of the corpses and stopping them from moving freely!

His Earth Seed was extremely effective in a situation like this. The claws stopped attacking Lu Hongjing and started smashing the suddenly-solid soil instead. Lu Hongjing finally hit his limit and fell to the ground. Luckily, he was lying on the hardened soil. Otherwise, he would have instantly lost his life!

"Save him," said Qin Hu ordered Wang Tong.

Wang Tong was stunned for a second, before he quickly dashing toward Lu Hongjing.

The bones below Lu Hongjing's knees no longer had any flesh. Wang Tong straightaway carried him back to the team...

The cries of the undead, which sounded like their mouths were filled with soil, rose once again as their eerie heads poked out from the ground. Their bloodshot eyes were glaring at the nine living humans. The scent of blood had driven them berserk, and they could not wait to break out from the ground and enjoy their meal.

The buried undead mostly looked like humans. The Ancient Capital had gone through lots of dynasties and huge wars between humans and demon beasts. The number of humans who died here significantly surpassed that of demon beasts. With all the deaths in the area, the ground was no longer made of ordinary soil, but filled with a deathly aura that nurtured the dead. Once the sun disappeared, the undead would poke out from the ground like the shoots of fertilized plants. Even if they were destroyed, they would rise again after the next season arrived!

Due to some unknown curse that the land was under, both the demon beasts and the humans that died here would resemble humans after they turned into the undead...

Even though they had bones of the demon beasts, the bones would somehow be structured into a weird-looking skeleton giant. Their head was still the same head of the demon beast that was half-rotting under the ground, but their bones would be rearranged into the shape of a human.

Some looked like a beast with a rotten body and four limbs standing on the ground, yet the head was a rotting human head...

Either way, the undead would do all they could to assemble their dead body parts into a human figure, be it half-human, half-beast, or the combination of a few dead bodies, or a giant human corpse made purely from the bones of demon beasts!

The undead that the group of nine had bumped into so far all had the appearance of humans. It was most likely due to the villagers that had died here lately, the nutrients in the ground had stacked up, so as soon as their new bodies were constructed, they immediately burst out from the ground and attacked their prey.

"Kid, nice reaction speed, you managed to save this overconfident guy!" Qin Hu said to Zhang Xiaohou.

Zhang Xiaohou forced a smile on his face. It was all possible because of the Earth Seed he acquired at Xizhao Valley, the Flowing Mud. Zhang Xiaohou was able to suppress anything coming out from the ground with it.

"Let's move forward. We'll be safer once we reached the Sunny Goat Village. These things took us by surprise by showing up before the place was completely dark. Perhaps the thick aura of death has blocked off the remaining sunlight," said the female Battlemage, Shi Shaoju.

The team did not have a Healer, hence the others could only wrap his legs up to stop the bleeding.

Lu Hongjing lost a significant amount of blood, so it was important to treat his wounds as soon as possible. The serums they had brought with them could merely help him last a little longer. If they dragged the time out, not only would Lu Hongjing die due to excessive loss of blood, he would simply be killed by the poison from the undead!

"I'll lead the way!" volunteered Zhang Xiaohou bravely.

"Alright, your Soul Seed is able to slow them down when they try to come out from the ground."

"Holy crap, lots of undead are heading toward us..."

"Why are they so many? Even a red zone would not have this many undead when night has just arrived."

"It's most likely that lots of people died nearby recently."

The team took some time to prepare themselves. Although the ambush had taken them by surprise, everyone quickly calmed down and started drawing various Star Patterns under their feet. The energies of the Ice, Fire, Lightning, and Wind Elements lunged at the filthy creatures and utterly destroyed them!

"Forest of Kun!"

The female Battlemage Shi Shaoju was a Plant Magician. As the path ahead was blocked by a pack of a dozen walking corpses, Shi Shaoju quickly cast the Intermediate Plant Spell to entrap them.

The branches from the Forest of Kun immediately wrapped around the undead and formed a thick cage. The undead had a limited level of intelligence. They simply tried to bite anything that they came across, resulting in a weird scene similar to the game Plant versus Zombies, where the zombies were biting through the wall-nuts...

The only difference was, the zombies were not as lost and adorable as those in the game. The appearance of the savage creatures was, well, ghastly. They would simply chew any person nearby into bones, something that Lu Hongjing had already experienced first-hand!

"Let's go, it's impossible to kill them all!" yelled Shi Shaoju when she saw the team was still trying to eliminate the creatures.

The team quickly withdrew their Spells and followed behind Zhang Xiaohou.

As Zhang Xiaohou led the way, the soil of the area he walked on would simply harden instantly, preventing someone from being dragged into the soil again.

It was still four kilometers away from the village. They should be able to arrive safely if they moved at full speed.

The villagers had their ways of avoiding contact with the undead. Once they arrived at the village, they would be able to escape being surrounded by the creatures.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 524: Hatchet Corpse General

"Magic Vine: Entangle!"

Shi Shaoju's hands were agile as she waved them around; flexible vines were summoned instantly around her, turning into sturdy ropes entangling the legs of the giant creature before her!

They were nowhere near the village, and the Zombies had managed to surround them. Now, the squad of nine was fighting for their lives!

The enormous creature leading the Zombies had a body similar to a giant ox. The rotten flesh on its body was falling to the ground, from which wriggling worms burst out. Plague-bearing worms crawled toward the soldiers.

The Magic Vines had trapped the creature's legs, but its hatchet-like arms hacked down wildly. The impact almost broke the ground open!

Brown Rock Barriers were established around the soldiers in an arc to protect them, but the situation did not look favorable. Lots of undead were breaking their way through the barrier to reach their prey on the other side!

Their sharp claws were able to slice through the stone like it was mud. They almost broke through the Rock Barrier. The rotting corpses had no sense of pain; some even slammed their skulls into the Rock Barrier, resulting in their heads falling apart and their brains splattering everywhere. However, their claws continued to dig through the stone!

Zhang Xiaohou's forehead was covered in sweat. He had encountered many kinds of demon beasts before, savage, cunning, and cold-blooded, but this was his first time encountering a demented horde like these walking corpses.

The corpses had no sense of pain, no consciousness, no fear. They were merely chasing and tearing apart any living things nearby. Their only weakness was sunlight, but the day had fallen dark a few moments ago. By the time the sunlight came, their group would have turned into more undead...

"What should we do? Once these things break through our defense, we'll simply be slaughtered by that giant corpse!" yelled Wang Tong.

Similar to demon beasts, the Undead were also categorized into Servant-class, Warrior-level, Commander-level, and Ruler-level...

The Undead attacking them were only the common Zombie Undead. They were most likely dead for less than ten years. Their buried bodies had not fully rotted yet.

The rank of the Zombie Undead was the lowest, the Servant-class, yet their numbers were overwhelming. They always attacked their prey in groups, so it was extremely dangerous to stumble into them in the wild.

Within the groups of Zombies, those that were buried longer and had absorbed more essence of death would evolve into generals among the walking corpses.

The huge creature with a body of a strong ox, a tiny head and limbs like hatchets was an infamous Corpse General. It was categorized as a Warrior-level creature, yet it was definitely stronger than an ordinary Warrior-level demon beast.

Normally, it was possible to inflict damage on demon beasts. When their legs were attacked, it would affect their speed and movement. If their limbs were attacked, it would weaken their attack. If their critical parts were damaged, their body would become weak and force them to retreat.

However, there was no such thing as being injured for these corpses. Even when destructive Spells penetrated their abdomens or blasted their limbs apart, they were still mobile as long as there was still energy in the body parts. Even a broken arm on the ground would still rise on its own and grab onto its prey.

A Corpse General was able to take on three Warrior-level demon beasts because of this!

Most importantly, this particular one they had stumbled into turned out to be a superior Corpse General, which had been nurtured in this land for more than ten years!

Trying to fight against it was no different than asking for death. Even if they managed to kill the Corpse General by teaming up, they would still be bitten to death by the horde of hundreds of Zombies surrounding them.

They had no choice but to run... there was slightly over a kilometer left until they reached Sunny Goat Village. They were able to see the wooden fences around the village once they crossed the little hill before them. They had to escape from these filthy creatures.

“Sink, you bastards!”

“Flowing Mud: Earth Wave!”

Zhang Xiaohou’s hands glowed brown. He channeled the Spell for quite some time, stacking up a few Earth Spells on top of one another, before slamming the energy into the ground!

The nine of them were all in the same area. Everywhere apart from the ground they were standing on suddenly became slimy. They could easily tell that the soft soil had turned into mud, and some even had the shape of a whirlpool...

Anything standing on mud would naturally sink, and together with the spinning and sinking motion, it was similar to quicksand; a huge number of Zombies were now half-sunken into the ground!

When Zhang Xiaohou had arrived at the Ancient Capital, he immediately sold the diamond he found at the Burning Valley and bought himself an Earth Element Magic Tool. It allowed him to stack up his Basic Earth Spell to a certain degree before releasing it, multiplying the effects of Earth Wave!

Although it would take a longer time to channel, it was more effective than casting the same spell many times!

The Earth Wave cast with the Earth Seed Flowing Mud had a shocking outcome. As lots of the Zombies sank into the mud, Zhang Xiaohou immediately hardened the ground to stop them from coming back up!

In the end, the Zombies were stuck in the ground with half their bodies on the surface and half below. They could neither rise to the surface nor sink into the ground!

The group was overjoyed. As they were about to give some compliments, Shi Shaoju screamed, “Run, quick!”

The Corpse General had already broken through the last line of defense. Due to its enormous size, the muck produced by the Flowing Mud Seed could barely cover its ankles. Even when the mud turned as hard as concrete, it was nowhere enough to hinder its movement!

Blood splattered as its hatchets swung wildly. It was impossible to tell who was injured in the midst of the chaos. They could only take hold of the chance to run down the hill.

The furious roar of the Hatchet Corpse General rose behind them. The soldiers felt a chill running down their spines as they felt the gust of it sweeping across their back!

However, no one dared to turn around; they could only run with all their might. Under the icy brilliance of the moon, they could vaguely see black shadows charging in their direction while uttering hungry cries!

Unlike the slow-moving Zombies in the movies, both the Corpse General and the Zombies were extremely fast while their legs were still intact. A Magician running at full speed would still be easily caught by them without relying on movement Spells or Boots Equipment...

In addition to that, their jumping ability was shocking. They could easily leap over ten meters, even the Servant-class Zombies. As such, the Undeads chasing after the group were not slowly dragging their legs, but sprinting and leaping like wild beasts!

“AHHHHHH!”

A painful screech came from behind. It seemed like someone was caught by the Undead, resulting in a cry for help.

“Forget them! If not, our whole squad will be wiped out!” ordered captain Qin Hu mercilessly.

The group did not dare to turn around. They could only hope that the one caught was not a friend.

“She’s not dead yet!” Zhang Xiaohou turned around and saw the person to be the other Battlemaga in their group, Jia Xi!

The Battlemaga Jia Xi was entangled by the long tongue of the Corpse General. She was an Ice Magician, hence she barely sealed off the Corpse General’s movement with Ice Lock. Otherwise, the Corpse General would simply have swallowed her with one bite!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 525: The Strange Village

"Idiot, don't go!" Wang Tong yelled at Zhang Xiaohou.

However, Zhang Xiaohou had already stepped on the emergency brake and turned around to save Jia Xi.

The Battlemaga struggled to break free. The Corpse General had shattered her ice chains to pieces. As the ice was still scattering in the air, the Corpse General dashed toward the Battlemaga like a runaway car.

Jia Xi uttered a prayer. When she saw Zhang Xiaohou turning around to save her, she barely showed a change of expression. As she reached out her hand for Zhang Xiaohou to pull her away, the enormous creature withdrew its tongue and dragged her through the air, right toward its murderous mouth!

The Corpse General bit down greedily, as if it were munching on a juicy fruit, bright red liquid sprayed through the air.

A few drops of the blood landed on Zhang Xiaohou's face. His eyes widened as his face filled with disbelief.

"Run, you idiot!"

Wang Tong's voice entered Zhang Xiaohou's ears. As he collected his thoughts, he saw the Corpse General's bloodshot eyes fixed on him.

"Sor...sorry," mumbled Zhang Xiaohou softly as he summoned a gust of wind under his feet, carrying him into the distance like an arrow being fired.

Zhang Xiaohou was extremely fast. The Hatchet Corpse General had no chance of catching him. Meanwhile, the Zombies flanking him from other directions were unable to predict his path. Before the walking corpses could totally surround him, Zhang Xiaohou had already broken through with Wind Track and caught up to the team.

"Wipe it off," Shi Shaoju handed a handkerchief to Zhang Xiaohou.

Zhang Xiaohou did not receive it. He wiped his face with his sleeves. The fresh blood of Jia Xi was all over them; Zhang Xiaohou had never even had the chance to talk to her.

"I thought you'd already gotten used to this, based on your outstanding performance. I assumed you would abandon those that are impossible to save. It was very likely that you would pay with your life by turning around there. The squads here are different from the squads from other places. You should abandon those who are trapped by the Undead. Turn around, and you'll put the entire squad in danger!" the captain Qin Hu came over and glanced down at Zhang Xiaohou, who was taking his rest on the ground.

Zhang Xiaohou remained silent. He was indeed a 'transfer student' from the south to the middle region, the Ancient Capital...

"Don't do something stupid like that next time, and don't disobey the orders given to you," said Qin Hu.

Zhang Xiaohou was still silent, still not reconciled to the death of his comrade... If he could have acted quicker, he might have had a chance of saving her before she was dragged away by the Corpse General.

"There's no sign of the Undead nearby. Sunny Goat Village is just ahead, I can see their fences..." said Wang Tong.

"Alright, let's head to the village at once."

Sunny Goat Village was only a few kilometers away from the Qinling Mountains, located in the foothills of the infamous mountain range.

The village was not big, constructed along a river flowing down from the mountain. The structures were basically made of wood. It felt like the squad had gone back in time the moment they set foot into the village. There was no sign of Magic Technology that had been developed in the past century. No streetlights, no electrical wires, even the mobile reception here was close to zero.

"Demon beasts are quite sensitive toward our technology. Perhaps the village has banned it so they won't attract the demon beasts and Undead here," the observant Shi Shaoju quickly conjectured as they entered the village.

The village was extraordinarily quiet at night. Not a single lamp was lit. The only source of light was the dull yellow moon hanging high up in the sky.

The group could hear the sound of the river clearly. The village was deadly silent, it did not look like someone lived here.

"You guys... remove everything you shouldn't be bringing with you before entering the village, that includes any trace of blood on you..." said an aged voice from the guard tower at the entrance of the village.

The guard tower was manned every night, as a safety precaution.

"Old man, we're soldiers from Lintong headquarters. We were ambushed by the Undead along the way here. We've already got casualties and injured with us. Please let us enter the village, so we can attend to our comrades," said Shi Shaoju to the old man guarding the village.

"Which is why I say, throw away everything you shouldn't be bringing in. It will bring bad luck and disaster to our village," insisted the old man.

The group looked at one another. They had no choice but to comply.

"That thing too."

"It's the only communication device for us to contact the headquarters. It's specially designed, it won't attract the attention of demon beasts," said Qin Hu.

"No way; otherwise, you won't be entering the village."

"Just follow his instructions. There's a reason they are able to live among the Undead for so many years..." said Shi Shaoju.

The group immediately removed all their communication devices. The old man simply set the pile on fire, leaving the group with dull looks on their faces. Now that they had lost their communication devices, no one would know if the entire squad was wiped out in the end...

It seemed like the scouting squad was told to come to this village too. If their communication devices were destroyed too, it would be a miracle if they did not go missing!

"Alright, come in. The journey here looked tough, judging from your looks and injuries. Clean yourself up at the river...oh, try not to go upstream, we still want to drink the water," said the old man.

The old man brought the group of eight to the back of the village.

The village was not huge, possibly smaller than a villa owned by a wealthy person. It only took them ten minutes to reach the back of the village.

The village was quiet, and they had yet to see anyone apart from the old man. They began to feel uneasy.

"The whole area is occupied by the Undead, yet the village is located right in the center of it. On top of that, I haven't seen anything alive in this place. Is this actually a ghost town? It makes sense that the Undead are not interested in the dead..." whispered Wang Tong to Zhang Xiaohou.

"Enough, the villagers are most likely asleep. This place has no television, no phones, no Internet, what can they possibly do apart from sleeping?" said Zhang Xiaohou.

"Oh, you're right about that. By the way, the old man has just burned my Kidney Six too. I should have sent my missus a message before entering the village, so she won't think that I'm dead here...what a pity."

{TL Note: Kidney Six here is referring to the iPhone Six. The reason why it's kidney, well, there are actual cases in China where people sold one of their kidneys just to buy a new iPhone, and it has somehow turned into a meme.}

Zhang Xiaohou rolled his eyes, not wanting to waste his time talking to Wang Tong. He proceeded to study the village.

Speaking of which, Sunny Goat Village looked just like a normal village with a primitive lifestyle. However, he did discover a strange sight; each of the wooden huts was decorated with a stalk of Dog's Paw.

Dog's Paw was its common name, its real name was the Ash Plum Flower.

Zhang Xiaohou had only learned about the Ash Plum Flower after he came to the Ancient Capital. For some reason, he felt like he had seen the Ash Plum Flower before.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 526: The Trick to Avoid the Undead

"Use this to cleanse the poison away, but without a Healer, it's not possible for his legs to recover," the old man sitting on a wooden stool and smoking a cigar told them.

Wang Tong handed him an automatic lighter and a Chunghwa cigar, but the old man shook his head. The villagers were neither stubborn nor behind in technology, but they had to rely on the traditional lifestyle to maintain the serenity of the village.

The old man told the group that there was no empty hut for them. They had no choice but to stay in a shed for the night.

They were all soldiers who had endured tough training, hence the shed was very comfortable as long as they didn't have to worry about the Undead.

"We'll talk in the day. Just a reminder, don't simply run off anywhere, especially leaving the village. I'll tell the chief that you're here..." the old man said, before leaving the group.

The soldiers laid down on the slightly damp ground of the shed. They were too worn out to chat with one another. They spread out their clothes on the ground and went to sleep.

Most of them had gotten used to witnessing blood and death. It was a close call tonight, but it did not stop them from falling asleep.

Everyone fell asleep without appointing anyone to stand guard.

Zhang Xiaohou woke up a few times throughout the night because of the cold. The first time he woke up, the moon was still high up in the sky. The second time, the moon was slightly slanted. The third time, his surroundings were in complete darkness, so quiet that it was kind of scary, yet his fatigue immediately dragged him back into a deep sleep.

When his eyes next sprang open, it was already daytime.

"Come over here you son of a bitch, who told you to wash your feet in the upstream, I'll skin you alive!"

"Going to do the laundry? Let me tag along, my husband is lazy, but somehow he's very active at changing his clothes."

The beating of a gong woke the group up. As they opened their eyes, they could see kids running around, women busy with their chores and old folks taking a stroll around the village...

The village was deadly quiet last night, but it was rather lively in the day, just like an ordinary village.

When everyone woke up, some of the kids with runny noses gathered around the shed and observed the soldiers like they were foreigners.

"You're all awake, head to the village hall. The chief wants to see you," The old man who was standing guard last night seemed fairly energetic still. He brought the group to eat breakfast before going to the village hall.

The hall was not big. It had a small front yard, with a huge pond filled with clear water. The bottom of the pond had lots of pebbles. If one were to take a closer look, they would discover red letters engraved on the surface of the pebbles, which looked like names.

"In our village, either the youngsters or old folks, those who are leaving would write their names on the pebbles and throw them into the pond. It prevents them from turning into those things outside," explained the old man indifferently.

They arrived at the village hall after they crossed the yard.

A few old men sat on the wooden chairs with carefree looks. None of them seem afraid, despite living among the Undead.

A middle-aged man was seated in the leading position. His forehead was filled with wrinkles. He looked rather old, even with his smile. Even his good skincare was unable to hide his age.

"I'm the chief of this village. You can call me Fang Gu," said the man who called himself Fang Gu.

"Our chief is impressive, he's a Magician," complimented the old man who had stood guard.

"I'm nothing compared to the experts from the army," replied Fang Gu with a smile, sounding quite humble.

"Experts? One dead and one severely injured before they arrived," blurted out the old man.

Fang Gu gave the old man a stare. The old man was aware that he had said something unpleasant to the ears. He immediately excused himself, most likely heading home to take a rest.

"Sorry about that; the old man is just being talkative. It's been dull lately, as the Undead appear even before the sky turns completely dark. The creatures are extremely savage, too. You must be very careful no matter what mission you're on." Fang Gu advised in a friendly manner.

"Thanks for the reminder. The truth is, we're here to rescue a scouting squad. We're told to report back if we found any news, if you happen to know something..." said the captain Qin Hu.

"Oh, them... they came to the village before, and left after giving us some warnings. They did not stay for long. They must have headed for the other villages," answered Fang Gu immediately, remembering the squad.

"Were they fine when they came here?" asked Shi Shaoju.

"Yeah, there were nine of them, none of them were missing."

"They must have gotten rid of their communication devices when they came into your village. We lost contact with them around this area, please tell us if you know where they went," said Qin Hu.

"You can't bring your communication devices into the village, it's the same for the other villages, too. As for where they went...it should be Hua Village in the west. I heard someone mention it," said the chief.

"Oh, thanks."

After the conversation with the chief came to an end, a balding old man sitting beside him spoke up slowly, "Since you're here, just let you know that we don't want the army to send another squad to look for you here too...by the way, it will take at least two days to reach Hua Village from here,"

"We're Magicians."

"That applies to Magicians," emphasized the balding old man.

Qin Hu and Shi Shaoju frowned immediately. It meant that they had no choice but to spend a night in the wild if they decided to go to Hua Village!

Initially, they thought they would not have any problem staying a night in the wild, but after what happened last night, they had no intention of taking that risk.

"Chief, the Undead have been restless lately, we probably won't stand any chance against them, but we have to complete the mission entrusted to us. Please tell us the trick to avoid the Undead... it's clear that your village is safe in the Land of the Undead, and I even heard rumors about villagers journeying in the wild safely at night. I believe you must have some special trick passed down for generations..." asked Shi Shaoju sternly.

"No, it's the secret of our village. We can't tell outsiders," the old man declined instantly.

"Besides, even if we told you the trick, you can't use it, anyway. You have to think of some other way," said another old man.

Fang Gu seemed eager to help, but he was wearing a helpful look too.

After a while, he suddenly spoke, " We can't tell you the village's secret, but there's another way you can try... the only thing is, if anything goes wrong, you'll end up being surrounded by the walking corpses."

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 527: Critical Breathing!

Prior to this, Zhang Xiaohou never thought nightfall would be so dreadful. As the sun slowly set on the horizon, the remaining peace in his heart was dissipating at the same rate/ A great fear loomed over the vast land...

"It's...it's dark again," someone among the group had to say. Everyone felt their legs weakening for a second, as if countless filthy claws had suddenly grabbed onto them.

"Let's hope that we were just unlucky last time, finding ourselves close to a burial pit," murmured Shi Shaoju.

"Brace yourselves; I don't want us to be ambushed again like last time," warned Qin Hu.

The mountains in the south were very tall, like a giant black dragon lying across the land on their left, covering a distance of a few kilometers...

The group departed straight to the west. The sun was like the hour hand of a clock, serving as a timer. Its brilliance was red, like the color of blood, scattered across the mountains in the distance, and on the black soil the group was stepping on.

Darkness had already filled the place behind them, as if there was no turning back from this point onward. The smell of rotting flesh and the dead lingered in the air.

The group still remembered when they first set foot onto this land, they were still joking around and laughing, not treating the Undead seriously. However, none of them were speaking along the way now. Their footsteps felt heavier, and their hearts began to race all of a sudden.

"Will the trick that the chief told us actually work?" Wang Tong asked uneasily.

The chief had told the group that the Undead did not rely on their vision to track their prey. Some of the zombies' heads were completely smashed, leaving them with no eyes. However, they could capture the scent of any living thing...

The Undead had extremely bad vision, especially the low-grade ones, but whenever something alive walked past, every Undead within a few hundred meters would be attracted. It was because they were able to capture the scent of the living.

Places filled with the Undead lingered with a deathly aura. Even their breath held the scent of death.

The breath blown out by a living thing was alive. Science said the majority of it consisted of carbon dioxide.

The Undead had bad vision and average hearing, yet due to the scent of death, they could easily smell any living thing within a few hundred meters. The scent of something alive was like a plate of delicacies to them. They could smell it from a great distance away...

The Undead were always starving, and a living thing always needed to breathe. As a result, the Undead nearby would simply follow the 'pleasant aroma' to their next meal.

The only way to avoid the Undead was to deal with the problem of breathing.

Servant-class Undead lacked intelligence, hence as long as a human concealed their breathing or slightly modified it, it was difficult for the Undead to locate them.

As for the Warrior-level Undead, their senses of smell and hearing were a lot stronger, with average vision. Therefore, if they stumbled into a Warrior-level creature, not only would they have to deal with their breathing, they had to be extremely still, too...

"This thing looks just like garlic. I wonder how bad it's going to taste," said one of the soldiers, Bi Lu.

"It's turning dark. Eat it, one each!" ordered Captain Qin Hu.

The group followed the captain's order. They quickly took out something with a shape similar to garlic, but pitch-black in color, out from their bags.

The thing was called Ash Garlic, one of the few crops that would grow in the Land of the Undead.

Its taste was a lot worse than garlic. Once they ate it, the breath they exhaled was extremely foul. However, the locals carried a few with them at all times, as a safety precaution...

Once they ate the Ash Garlic, their breath would turn foul, strong enough to cover their scent. The Undead would simply mistake them as their own kind who forgot to brush their teeth at night, and would not chase after them.

In ancient times, there was a saying that garlic was able to keep devils away. It was most likely because the devils would not want to get close to you after smelling the garlic...

As soon as night fell, everyone ate an Ash Garlic each, and immediately came the sound of retching.

"F**k, it's worse than eating poop!"

"You sound like you've tried poop before."

"It's disgusting... allow me to puke for a while."

Everyone was a soldier in the group, who had eaten all kinds of things when surviving in the wild, yet they all still felt like vomiting after eating the Ash Garlic, showing how bad it tasted!

"Hang in there, if you don't want to die..."

"Captain, please don't face me when you talk."

"Shh, quiet!"

Shi Shaoju suddenly urged the group with an alert look.

Everyone immediately paled and held their breaths.

The ground began to loosen up, like someone trying to crawl out from their grave. They could clearly hear the sound of something knocking on a coffin.

Everyone glanced at one another, before staring at the ground under their feet.

Suddenly, a head covered in worms poked out from the soil!

Its hair was dry, and only half of the scalp remained, exposing a shiny skull, an eerie sight...

The head appeared right beside a Battlemaga, Xiao Jing, her face as pale as a sheet of paper. She subconsciously wanted to draw a Star Pattern to blast the disgusting head away, yet Shi Shaoju quickly grabbed her and stopped her from doing so.

Shi Shaoju had made a wise choice, as a few other heads with half-exposed skulls crawled out from the ground...

In just a few minutes, more zombies rose up from the soil. They were enjoying the 'darkbath' and breathing the dead air. If their eyes looked slightly more alive, they could be mistaken as a pack of creatures coming out to enjoy some fresh air!

The group of eight turned into statues. They could feel their hearts pounding, like they would pop out at any second.

Two zombies had crawled out of the ground close to Zhang Xiaohou, right in front of and behind Wang Tong...

Zhang Xiaohou was so close that he could see the empty hole at the back of the zombie's skull. It was obvious that the person had died when his brain was punctured by something sharp.

He did not dare to move, nor breathe.

However, it was impossible for anyone to not breathe. Even if he could hold his breath for a minute, he would simply die from suffocating if he held it any longer.

Finally, Zhang Xiaohou reached his limit. He started to exhale some air through his nose...

As soon as he exhaled, the zombie in front of him turned around instantly. Its bloodshot eyes were staring right at Zhang Xiaohou, and it raised the rusted saber it was holding, too!

Zhang Xiaohou's heart skipped a beat!

The two zombies were not enough to pose any threat to him. A simple Wind Disc would blast them into the sky...

The problem was, there were at least a hundred zombies around them. If he attacked, the zombies would simply sense the energy from his Magic, and completely surround them!

Zhang Xiaohou did not dare to move, but he was already at his limit. He had no idea if the Ash Garlic was working effectively. No one could possibly stay calm under the circumstances; surrounded by the Undead, the filthy creatures could easily strip them to the bones in seconds!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 528: Why Did You Leave Me?

Zhang Xiaohou's face turned blue from holding his breath too long.

He finally exhaled a mouthful, as he would lose consciousness if he did not breathe.

The zombie in front glanced at Zhang Xiaohou confusingly, as if it was completely unaware of the guy that had somehow appeared behind it.

The zombie lowered the rusty saber, and did not attack Zhang Xiaohou.

Meanwhile, the zombie behind Zhang Xiaohou completely ignored him, and continued to roam aimlessly. It would glance into the distance at times, or lower its head, trying to find the arm it lost yesterday.

"Phew~!"

Zhang Xiaohou let out a relieved sigh. The others could feel their legs cramping because of the tension, and they almost fell to the ground.

The trick worked!

Neither the skeletons nor the zombies attacked them. They were simply glancing at the humans who were uttering the foul breath in confusion. However, these Undead did not possess any intelligence. As long as the thing was not alive, it was meaningless to attack them. Maybe they were just stinky?

Captain Qin Hu raised his head without saying a word, signaling the group to continue forward in formation.

The group quickly gathered. They were still alert at the start, afraid that something would go wrong. However, as they walked past the Undead at very close range, the zombies would only groan at them in warning for straying too close, without lunging at them. As such, they began to lower their guard.

"If we knew about this trick all along, why would we still be afraid of the Undead?" Wang Tong seemed elated from the success.

"These Ash Garlics are extremely rare. You might find them on the black market, but there won't be many. The chief has spared us some of their stock they had saved up..." said Shi Shaoju.

"Either way, it's good that we don't have to fight those things. Once we locate the bodies of the scouting squad, we'll go back at once," said Bi Lu.

"It seems like us talking won't attract their attention, either..."

The group realized that it was fine talking in front of the Undead. As long as their breath was covered by the foul scent of the Ash Garlic, the Undead would not notice their presence.

However, everyone began to panic slightly as they continued along the journey across the vast land. Every few steps would lead them to a few more Undead...

The density of the Undead had completely surpassed their estimation. Every one hundred square meters would have one or two Undead roaming around. By that standard, the whole area would be showing as bloody red on the electronic map!

As they proceeded, they suddenly saw a group of several dozens zombies ahead...

The zombies were stacked together like a wall, standing right in the path they were heading in. The zombies slowly dragged their bodies along, uttering unpleasant cries.

Before any living thing captured their attention, the zombies would simply roam around aimlessly, like walking corpses.

"Let's just walk past them. They won't attack us anyway," Wang Tong led the way with a smile.

However, when Wang Tong was less than twenty meters away, the group of zombies suddenly turned around and stared at Wang Tong with bloodshot eyes...

Wang Tong was stunned!

The zombies began to scream and charged in Wang Tong's direction.

As the zombies sprinted across the land, it swept a huge cloud of dust into the air!

"Quick, the Ash Garlic!" yelled Shi Shaoju.

Luckily, Wang Tong reacted fairly quickly. He took out an Ash Garlic and munched it.

The effects worked fairly quickly. Wang Tong was almost knocked out by his own foul breath.

The zombies were right in front of Wang Tong, yet they suddenly lost their target and came to a stop. They simply stared at one another in a foolish manner.

A moment later, the zombies returned to their aimless roaming as if they had forgotten why they were running in the first place.

Wang Tong stood in the middle of the zombies, having almost wet his pants in fear.

As everything returned to normal, Wang Tong finally burst out cursing, "This stinky thing only lasts for such a short time?"

"We don't have a lot of the Ash Garlics, and it seems like they don't last long either. We have to make use of the time," said Shi Shaoju with a frown.

Since the effect of the Ash Garlic ended for Wang Tong, it would be the same for everyone. The others quickly took out an Ash Garlic and ate it...

The cold moon hanging high up in the sky shone down, observing the moving dead.

The land was cold but restless, as the Undead who had overslept would rise from the ground and roam aimlessly like a homeless scavenger.

When there was nothing alive for them to feed on, the Undead would pick up stuff or dig things up from the ground. The broken limbs they found would always come in handy. Occasionally, they would dig up a burial pit and found themselves a nutritional habitat. Spend a few years there, and they might even evolve into stronger Undead...

Along the journey, the group had witnessed the vicissitudes of life. They had no idea why these things would even exist in their world.

A tide suddenly erupted ahead, sweeping the black soil into the air, fairly shocking under the moonlight.

The tide was dragging dead bodies, torn clothes, and zombies that happened to be in the area forward.

The whole ground began to vibrate, as an Undead with a body as strong as an ox crawled out from the hole...

The Undead poked out of the soil, revealing sturdy muscles as impenetrable as armor plates.

Its limbs were thick and sturdy. It had four limbs in total, and somehow two of them had were fused with hatchets stained with blood. The other two were like long sabers. It was no different than a meat mincer when it started to swing the weapons!

"It's the Hatchet Corpse General!" blurted out Wang Tong in shock.

"Has it been following us around?"

"Or perhaps we were still inside its territory all along!"

The group of eight subconsciously backed off when they saw it. The Corpse General was the actual reason they almost got wiped out in the first place, and now, the giant creature had appeared once again.

"Don't panic, we've eaten the Ash Garlic, it won't notice us... right, don't move, stay right where you are. The chief has mentioned that the Warrior-level Undead have good hearing, they can tell if we are Undead based on our movements. So don't move, and you'll be fine," said Shi Shaoju.

The group clearly remembered the chief's warning. They turned into statues, staring at the Hatchet Corpse General in astonishment.

Zhang Xiaohou did not move his gaze. He realized that the Undead's head was gone, but as he took a closer look, it did not seem like it was beheaded.

The others were aware that the Hatchet Corpse General looked slightly different than before, but none of them made a noise. God knew if talking would attract the Hatchet Corpse General's attention.

The sound of something digging its way up from its flesh was heard.

An out of proportion head slowly stuck out from the neck of the Corpse General.

Disgusting black hair stained with blood appeared first, clumping on the Corpse General's neck.

A head appeared after, which looked the same as a human's.

Finally...

The head turned one hundred and eighty degrees, revealing a face covered in blood and ichor, but most importantly full of gall and hatred!

"Why...why...why did you leave me!?" its mouth opened, shrieking hateful words.

The group could feel their scalps exploding on seeing this. The head that had popped out from the Hatchet Corpse General's body was the dead Battlemaga, Jia Xi!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 529: Dark Abyss, Ten Thousand Corpses Pit, Part One

There were two ways for the Undead to evolve. First, using the presence of death to nurture themselves, like the fermentation of alcohol, allowing their strength to grow as time went by.

Second, by merging with and devouring others!

Combining the body parts of dead corpses to their own bodies with brute force would grant them the capabilities of the corpses when they were alive to a certain degree!

The Corpse General had used Jia Xi's head to grant itself a human's vision. Since she had only died recently, her hatred still remained, hence she had come looking for the team as night arrived.

Ash Garlic, staying still, none of them were effective against a Corpse General consumed by strong hatred, as she could still recognize their faces within a day of her death!

"Come...stay with me! I want you all to come stay with me!" the head on the Corpse General screeched at them with terrifying hatred.

The Corpse General had the ability to command the Undead. Following the scream, the zombies within a few hundred meters away obeyed its summon, sharing the same target as the Corpse General!

The zombies too began to scream, their rotten legs that were initially dragged around like puppets suddenly received a strong burst of energy, turning them into the most savage beasts, which charged toward the humans and surrounded them...

Countless black figures were running at them. The density of the Undead in the area was high to begin with. The entire place trembled as the summoning took place. The Undead had gone totally mad. The eight soldiers that were hiding in the middle of the Undead suddenly became the freshest meat available!

"Run, quick!" yelled Qin Hu.

There was more Undead around them than previously, including a Corpse General driven by hatred. They had no chance of fighting them whatsoever...

The eight soldiers quickly fled into the distance, casting Magic continuously as they ran, summoning wild fiery fists and erupting tornadoes. Despite the bodies scattering in the air together with the splatter of blood and liquid, the zombies were still chasing them relentlessly!

"AHHHH~!"

As the group was running, no one had time to look after Lu Hongjing, whose legs no longer had any flesh.

Lu Hongjing was a Water Magician. He barely had a Water Barrier protecting him from the Undead...

However, there were simply too many crashing onto him, like rugby players stacking on top of one another as they fought for the ball. More zombies desperately tried to squeeze themselves between the gaps.

Lu Hongjing's cries were completely blocked off. The group could only see a pile of zombies where he was. They saw parts of his flesh being thrown out from the pile, which were immediately taken away by the zombies nearby. Not a single drop of blood was left, as the zombies even fell to their knees to suck it all up.

"Don't look back!" Shi Shaoju snapped at Zhang Xiaohou.

The greatest taboo in the Land of the Undead was turning back.

Even if their blood-related brothers had fallen, they were not allowed to turn back and rescue them. The most they could do was to simply come back and retrieve their corpses during the day, just so they would not turn into more Undead...

"There's no such thing as rescuing in this land. The rescue team is basically the corpse retrieving team!" emphasized Shi Shaoju.

Zhang Xiaohou bit his lips and continued to run.

The zombies showed no sign of decreasing. There were always new ones blocking the path ahead.

The Undead seemed to have unlimited energy. Even those that were left a long ways behind were still chasing after them.

"I...I've got you... come... stay with me!"

A terrifying voice was heard. Zhang Xiaohou turned around and realized that Captain Qin Hu had somehow been left behind...

Two zombies were grabbing onto his legs. A moment later, one of the Hatchet Corpse General's arms stabbed through his body.

The arm slowly raised into the air. Impaled by the arm, Qin Hu was lifted into the air, hanging right in front of Jia Xi's face.

Jia Xi burst into an eerie laughter, as if she were going to tear Qin Hu apart with her own mouth.

Qin Hu turned around. The captain glanced at Zhang Xiaohou with his final breath.

His mouth was filled with blood. Despite the great pain, he was still trying to tell Zhang Xiaohou something.

"Don't... turn... back!" Qin Hu used his remaining breath to tell Zhang Xiaohou.

The following second, Qin Hu was torn apart by Hatchet Corpse General's three other limbs. Only the head was left in good condition, and set aside by the Corpse General.

"Damn it, damn it!"

Zhang Xiaohou lowered his head and kept on running...

His face was hurting from the wind slapping his face. Zhang Xiaohou had no idea how fast he was going. Either way, the zombies were merely puppets blocking his path.

The zombies could not stop him, even the Warrior-level Corpse General had no chance to catch him...

However, his only attack was Wind Disc. He was unable to save anyone, let alone blasting the zombies surrounding his comrades away.

He initially thought he had grown stronger, that he was able to face tougher challenges and able to save the people he wanted to save. In the end, he was still the same, so tiny that running was the only thing he could do.

It would be great if Mo Fan was here. He would simply use his strongest destructive Spells to kill all the zombies. He would find a way to eliminate even the powerful Corpse General!

Two Elements were nowhere enough to deal with the Undead.

Zhang Xiaohou had never had such a strong urge to become an Advanced Magician.

After becoming an Advanced Magician, he would have access to three Elements. He would at least have some Spells he could use to fight the zombies!

He would be able to cast the Advanced Spells, either the Eyes of the Rock Demon: Petrify, and the Wind Wings of the Wind Element would help a great deal, at least he would not be running like a coward...

"Zhang Xiaohou, don't go that way!" yelled Shi Shaoju.

Zhang Xiaohou quickly collected his thoughts and realized that the ground in front of him was collapsing...

First, the soil loosened up. Next, the ground began to sink. It felt like the ground was hollow underneath, and as the surface began to vibrate, the thin layer suddenly collapsed, revealing a pitch-black abyss right in front of him!

There were several zombies on the ground, but as the abyss appeared, they all dropped into it.

The angled moonlight was barely shining upon the walls of the deep abyss. Half of it was visible, while the other half was completely dark. The only sound was the cries of the zombies as they fell into darkness...

Loud cries of the Undead suddenly rose in the pit, as the ground began to tremble wildly.

"What...what's this?"

Zhang Xiaohou halted right in front of the abyss, sliding right to the edge of the pit as his speed was too high.

He glanced down in astonishment, and saw the most terrifying sight he ever saw in his life...

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 530: Dark Abyss, Ten Thousand Corpses Pit, Part Two

The red eyes below were packed together densely. They were not a dazzling sight like the stars in the sky, but so crowded together that one could simply feel goosebumps across their body and their heart being penetrated by the extremely greedy and savage gazes!

The abyss was very dark, but Zhang Xiaohou could still see countless bodies and limbs squirming down in the pit. They were stacked together, layer after layer, the zombies were climbing on top of one another like moving mountains...

The abyss was huge, yet he could not see even the slightest sign of the soil. All of it was filled with zombies, numbing his scalp!

The few zombies that were initially on the surface before it collapsed had dropped into the pit like raindrops falling into the ocean, lost completely among the rest of the Undead...

Thousands!

Tens of thousands!

With so many Undead gathered in a single pit, it was like lifting up the lid of a burning pot, resembling the eighteenth-floor of Hell, where countless souls were being tortured. The dreadful scene was thrown open to the mundane world, displaying the torture and pain that the souls were suffering. Their tremendous hatred had materialized into a giant fountain of black vapor rising into the sky!

Zhang Xiaohou was completely stunned in place. He was the closest to the abyss. Just a few more steps, he would have fallen into it...

Now, he realized that he would prefer to be butchered by the Hatchet Corpse General rather than falling into this pit filled with zombies. It was no different than finding himself in Hell!

Zhang Xiaohou had nowhere to run with the Hatchet Corpse General chasing behind him. He would not make it in time running around the edge of the pit.

Jia Xi's dark face was approaching him with her long tongue writhing the air, as if she was going to suck his blood dry.

The hatchets swung wildly. Zhang Xiaohou clenched his teeth. With his back against the pit of zombies, he had no choice but to have a final showdown with the Hatchet Corpse General.

However, as he had just prepared to fight to his death, the Hatchet Corpse General suddenly moved into a different direction and chased after Shi Shaoju...

An eerie laugh burst into his ears. Zhang Xiaohou had never experienced the feeling of unable to move his feet due to overwhelming fear before. It was not just because the deadly Hatchet Corpse General had just spared his life, but the fact that a Hell on Earth was right behind him, the burning pot with countless zombies!

He fell to his knees weakly. It took him some time to gather his strength again and rose to his feet.

He could sense the tremendous aura of death right behind him, which would most likely drag any living thing nearby into it. Zhang Xiaohou did not want to die in this place...

Without the Hatchet Corpse General chasing after him, Zhang Xiaohou was finally able to run back in the direction they had just come from.

He could not see where the others were, or tell if they were dead or had actually managed to escape. The elites specifically picked to form the special team had collapsed at the first blow from the Undead. They were merely prey in the end!

The Magic Association, in the clock tower...

In a rather old-style office, a young woman on monitoring duty rushed toward the meeting room with an electronic screen on her hand.

“Black! Black!” screamed the woman as she barged into the room.

“Calm down, what is this about?” said the Vice Chairman of the Ancient Capital’s Magic Association.

“Black, there are black dots in this area... it’s a Dark Abyss!” said the woman as she pointed at the electronic screen.

The screen was an electronic map, showing the vicinity of the Ancient Capital and the areas nearby...

It was now midnight, the areas outside of the Ancient Capital were displaying as blood red on the map. The color was bright and astonishing, implying that the Undead was a lot more restless than usual.

On top of that, in the middle of the red areas, a black dot suddenly flickered.

Black implied that it was a forbidden land for humans!

A purple area was already considered a kingdom of demon beasts, where even the Supreme Magicians had little chance of surviving. Above that, a black area meant that any living thing had zero chance of surviving.

Somehow, in the midst of the red, a black dot had appeared!

It was a sign that the most terrifying thing in the Land of the Undead had appeared.

“Is there something wrong with the device? Why would there be black? It literally means the Undead are stacking up into mountains,” a young member of the Magic Association scoffed with a smile, before looking at the Vice Chairman Peng Yu. He quickly withdrew the smile on his face when he saw the stern look on the Vice Chairman’s face.

“You know nothing! This means that the Dark Abyss has appeared!” the woman shot back, her voice rising as her control wavered.

“Dark Abyss? I’ve been here for quite some time, but I’ve never heard of that...,” replied the young man uncertainly.

Vice Chairman Peng Yu exhaled deeply after some time and said, “Did you say that the area would only be black when the zombies are stacking up into mountains?”

“Yeah, no matter how dense the zombies are, there’s no way it would reach that level,” said the young man.

“The truth is, that’s exactly what the Dark Abyss looks like. It’s also known as the Ten Thousand Corpses Pit, or the Abyss of Hell. The device won’t make a mistake, a Dark Abyss has indeed appeared to the west of Sunny Goat Village...”

“No...no way?” the young man’s face stiffened.

“Tell the other factions that a Dark Abyss has appeared! Even this thing has shown itself in the Land of the Undead. If we can’t find the reason behind it, this whole place is going to turn into Hell!” said Vice Chairman Peng Yu sternly.

It was common for the Undead to roam around the Ancient Capital. For thousands of years, humans here had learned how to co-exist with the Undead.

However, since the extraordinary behavior of the Drifting Sand River, this land had gone out of control as well. More Undead began to appear before nightfall, and high-level creatures were spotted in human territories. Even this pit, the closest thing to what Hell, looked like it had appeared. Wasn’t all this enough to imply that something big was about to happen?

The Ancient Capital had stood firmly for thousands of years despite the Undead having their eyes on the city all along. The people here had learned how to defend themselves and fight against the Undead in a never-ending war that had lasted for a few thousand years...

Undead appearing in the daytime, the restless zombies, the appearance of the Dark Abyss... there had to be a reason behind it all!

It was said that the river flowing from the mountain close to the Sunny Goat Village was the cleanest around dawn, perfect for brewing tea.

Su Xiaoluo would rise from her bed when the sun had just risen to fetch water from the river. She would carry buckets of it back and pour them into the tanks at her house. Not only did her dad need the water to brew some nice tea, the water was crucial for bathing, too.

On this day, she had gone to retrieve some water as usual. Even though she could hear the cries of zombies in the distance, she was not afraid.

She scooped the water up and immediately discovered the water was red when she was about to pour it into the bucket.

The water had the smell of blood. Su Xiaoluo frowned in annoyance, assuming that a stupid zombie had ended up in the upstream again...

She glanced upward at the upstream and saw a man covered in blood lying on the ground. Half of his body was in the water.

The blood continued to flow from his body. The man had died a terrible death!

Su Xiaoluo was rather daring, having lived so close to the undead all her life. She walked up to the body and flipped it over.

“He’s still breathing... someone, help!” Su Xiaoluo immediately called for the villagers when she discovered that the man was still barely breathing.