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Chapter 841: The Authoritative Figure Behind Mo Fan

“Ai Jiangtu, Nanyu: one represented the military headquarters in the east, one represented the military headquarters in the west. I bet the guy from the headquarters in the south was disqualified. I met him before, a strong guy indeed! If it wasn’t because the national team can only have two students from the military academy, someone on our team might have been replaced,” said Zhao Manyan.

Mo Fan immediately thought of Zhan Kong at the mention of the military.

Zhan Kong was the army commander in Bo City under the control of the southern army. The massive southern army had more than fifty military districts. The man in charge of protecting Bo City was only a Commander of the south-east district of the southern army, the Commander of the Snowy Peak Mountain station.

It highlighted how massive the military was.

“How about that hussy Jiang Shaoxu?” Mo Fan asked in shock after hearing this information.

“I’m not sure about her yet. The girl is quite mysterious, but the fact that I can’t find any information about her simply means her background is surely formidable too!” Zhao Manyan told him.

“How about Nanrong Ni?” asked Mo Fan.

“The Nanrong Family is one of the oldest Magic renowned families in our country. The truth is, the Nanrong Family isn’t as competent as the rest of the factions. It’s slightly behind compared to the Zhao Family and Mu Family, but Nanrong Ni is a Healer, and that alone is enough to guarantee her spot. Healers are extremely rare in the whole country. There’s no way she would get replaced, unless they found a Healer who’s a lot more talented than her. The Nanrong Family is hoping that Nanrong Ni is their turning point for a comeback, to see if they can be promoted to a renowned clan after the World College Tournament,” said Zhao Manyan.

“What’s the difference between a renowned family and a renowned clan?” Mo Fan was like a curious little kid. He was determined to learn all about it now that the topic was on.

Zhao Manyan smacked his forehead. He was utterly impressed by Mo Fan. How did he manage to climb to the top among the young Magicians? He didn’t have an impressive background or supporter, not to mention how retarded he was, too!

“Tell you what... a renowned family normally refers to big families with great influence in a country. A renowned clan is a super family with great influence on the international level... Nanrong Family has been going downhill for the past few years. My Zhao Family has bought many of their properties, but Nanrong Ni is their chance of having a comeback. Therefore, you’re really something when you asked Nanrong Ni to quit the team and give her spot to Mu Ningxue. Even if she wasn’t a Healer, there’s no

way she would quit the team,” Zhao Manyan continued to inform Mo Fan of the truth of the national team.

“Fine, I admitted that I’ve thought everything was too simple,” Mo Fan admitted with a wry smile.

“To be really honest with you, you’re an idiot if you think you can underestimate them because you have an edge over the others on the team. The factions supporting them will spend more money as the training goes on, expending Galaxy Veins on them as if they are completely free. A full set of top-tier magic equipment and tools, or the best Soul Seeds available on the market... you’ll realize your so-called talents or cultivation are total nonsense. The guy just has to wear a Scorpio Magic Armor, and you won’t be to hurt even a single strand of his hair, even if you used up all your energy!” said Zhao Manyan.

“I have to say, I’m getting worried after hearing this from you,” said Mo Fan.

“As a matter of fact, someone as talented as you should really look for a patron. Just look for a faction that you’re interested in, stomp through the door like what you did to my room, and yell in their face that you have five Elements, and ask them to spend all their money on you to improve all your Elements to the Advanced Level, each with a top-tier Soul Seed, or get you a few sets of Magic Tools. You can get a full set of top-tier magic equipment too... I believe they are willing to spend whatever they need just to recruit you... oh, that being said, you can easily burn up all the money a family has at the Advanced Level. Once you reached the Super Level, I bet even the renowned families will have trouble supporting you. Only the renowned clans could clench their teeth and spend resources on you. I really don’t understand why you wasted your money on strengthening the Stars. You’ll have plenty of places to use your money soon,” Zhao Manyan said sincerely.

It was not like Mo Fan had any other options apart from strengthening his Stars. He could not sell the Soul Essences that Little Loach refined. Otherwise, he would have easily made a fortune, and had no problem raising a few Mu Ningxues.

“I’ve gotten used to doing it myself, searching for resources myself, earning equipment myself, killing the creatures myself... that’s how living is supposed to be. Besides, being supported by a faction means cultivating boringly every day, that’s surely not my cup of tea. My cultivation and my capabilities will be utterly meaningless,” said Mo Fan.

“You’re right, there’s no way you can get used to living a fuerdai’s life. Start from scratch and climb your way up yourself... the truth is, most Sacred Magicians that stand at the top of the world are people like you,” sighed Zhao Manyan.

“Now that’s more like it!” Mo Fan burst out laughing.

“Which is why the people behind you don’t really need to care about you. You managed to save them lots of money,” said Zhao Manyan.

“The people behind me?” Mo Fan was confused. Did he have people with formidable backgrounds supporting him too? Why wasn’t he aware?

“F**k me, did you forget how you ended up on the national team? You didn’t even finish the preliminaries, you’re basically disqualified. However, you were shoved into the team just like that after the selection ended! A team that normally has only two substitutes now has three because of you... I

already told you how much every faction needs to spend just to secure their candidates a spot, but when you were put on the team, they didn't even dare to release a single fart. The person who's supporting you must at least be able to hide half the sky with his hand!" Zhao Manyan was on the verge of screaming.

"Brother, I really don't know who's supporting me. I came because that old man Han Ji ordered me to. Han Ji is the President of the Clock Tower Magic Association. Is he authoritative enough?" Mo Fan asked.

"President of the Clock Tower Magic Association... he's definitely something, but still not powerful enough to ignore the other factions and put you on the team. Someone even more powerful must be pulling the strings behind him to clear you a path," Zhao Manyan judged.

"Then I guess I've never met the person. Of the people I know, Zhu Meng has the highest authority, and Han Ji is already slightly higher than him. I really don't know anyone else." Mo Fan could not remember anyone that could fit the description.

"I believe it should be someone comparable to the chief of the Royal Guards, Pang Lai; someone at the level of Protector of the Nation. Well, if they are pulling the strings behind, it means they have high hopes for you. They don't want to change your way of becoming stronger... maybe they have their eyes on you after what you did in the Ancient Capital? By the way, I heard someone mention that there was a fire demon fighting the Mountain Zombie during the calamity at the Ancient Capital. Did you see the fire demon? Was it a Magician, or something else?" Zhao Manyan asked eagerly.

"I didn't see anything like that in the Qin Emperor's Tomb," Mo Fan blurted out.

"Oh... wait, what Qin Emperor's Tomb?"

"Nothing, you won't believe it even if I told you." Mo Fan was too lazy to explain the series of events at the Ancient Capital.

The details of the calamity of the Ancient Capital were kept confidential. Zhao Manyan had lots of sources to provide him with information, but he still could not learn much about the calamity in the Ancient Capital.

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Chapter 842: The Day of Disqualification

"Screw you, I've told you so much, are you going to die if you tell me something about the Ancient Capital? The whole world is trying to learn the truth behind it. Who exactly drove the army of undead away? Is Salan really among the authorities that were held captive? How did Salan escape? How did the Black Vatican make the undead appear in the day? Was the fire demon a Summoned Beast or a human? I heard someone jumped into the Dark Abyss, did they manage to get out alive?... I heard Zhang Xiaohou spilling the beans once, he told me that you contributed enormously during the calamity in the Ancient Capital, so the people supporting you must have put you on the national team for what you've done... hey, don't leave yet, is this how you treat your brother? I've answered all your questions, but you didn't even say a word when I asked!" cursed Zhao Manyan.

It was not like Mo Fan did not believe Zhao Manyan, but he had never treated Zhao Manyan as someone he could trust. If he told Zhao Manyan everything about the Ancient Capital, the whole world would know the truth the next day!

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Zhao Manyan grumbled after Mo Fan left his room.

He slammed the door heavily and sat on the chair, looking out of the window. He could see the ocean through the gaps between the buildings from his angle.

“Jiang Shaoxu’s identity is still a secret, Nanyu is from the army, so it’s pretty hard to pick her up. Forget about Mu Tingying, that chick is pretty ordinary... that only leaves Nanrong Ni, but doesn’t she have a man already? The Nanrong Family...” Zhao Manyan mumbled to himself, yet he suddenly paused with a startled look.

“The Nanrong Family, aren’t they supposed to be extremely familiar with sea monsters? Yet why couldn’t Nanrong Ni tell the cry of the White Sobbing Demon was fake?”

Zhao Manyan shook his head, assuming that he was overthinking it.

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A cold breeze entered from the window. Mu Tingying was wearing a simple halter top. Her eyes suddenly sprang open. The light from the rising sun in the east made her pupils vivid with colors.

“Advanced Level... I’ve finally reached the Advanced Level!”

She burst into laughter, as if she no longer cared about the annoying courtesy her family had taught her throughout her life. She wanted everyone to hear her laughter.

She had improved her Ice Element to the Advanced Level with just a single Galaxy Vein.

The difference in cultivation levels was too big a gap compared to the difference between talents. She could finally crush Mu Ningxue, and since the latter did not have a Galaxy Vein, she would be stuck in the Intermediate Level for a long time, enough time for her to further increase the distance between them.

It turned out that the Heavens had decided to bless her again. From today on, she would retake her position as the favorite of the whole clan. Her cousins and relatives who talked down to her would receive a great slap to their faces. The elders and seniors who once crowded around Mu Ningxue would now place their attention on her instead, as she was the true representative of the Mu Clan. She would enter the limelight in the World College Tournament and make a reputation for herself, earning fame and glory for her clan!

“It turns out that I’ve won in the end!” Mu Tingying opened her palm. Tiny ice crystals slid down her palm.

Magic no longer had its form restricted by Star Patterns or Star Orbits after reaching the Advanced Level. A Magician could modify the shape and form of their Magic at will. That being said, she still needed to master it with lots of practice.

Mu Ningxue already had the ability to do so, even though she was not an Advanced Magician. It granted her an absolute advantage over others, but it was no longer as significant as it used to be!

"I can't wait to see how different the others are going to treat her, too bad we still have to keep going on the training..." Mu Tingying rose to her feet, enjoying the sunlight of dawn. She took a deep breath, and her mood pleasant. The brilliance of her future was never this bright before, like the brilliance of the rising sun!

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The East Maritime Fortress went through a few tide rises after the first, yet none of them were close to the first one in terms of the scale. The firepower of the team improved significantly after many members on the team broke through to the Advanced Level. The team easily ranked up to four-star.

After completing their mission, it was soon time for the team to leave Japan. Most members on the team could feel victory within their grasp, as they were confident that they were not the ones going to be disqualified.

"Mo Fan, time to gather, the advisors are here!" Zhao Manyan woke Mo Fan, who was still snoring heavily.

Mo Fan was still feeling sleepy. He went out to the hall in his sleepwear.

Five advisors all above the age of forties were standing in a row with their backs to the team. They looked utterly serious.

Mo Fan glanced around and saw everyone on the team had gathered too. They looked quite excited. After all, it was also the day they would receive their resources.

However, it had nothing to do with Mo Fan. He was not that interested since he was only a substitute.

"Your performance is passable, nothing out of the blue," said Feng Li, whose face was full of wrinkles. He did not sound like he was too impressed by the team.

"They did alright. After all, they did survive a huge tide rise. According to Ai Jiangtu's report, Mu Ningxue had an outstanding performance?" Song He smiled.

Song He was the dean of Imperial College. He was feeling sorry for Mu Ningxue considering her situation, thus he only mentioned it hoping Feng Li would go easy on her.

However, Feng Li was simply an indifferent man. His eyes scanned the team and said calmly, "It looks like Mu Ningxue is the only person who has not reached the Advanced Level."

Mu Ningxue remained silent.

"Advisor, I believe Mu Ningxue played an important role on the team. Even though she didn't reach the Advanced Level, I believe if we share the resources with her, she can become an Advanced Magician too. After all, she had the best performance on the team," admitted Jiang Shaoxu.

Mu Tingying frowned upon hearing this.

Was this Jiang Shaoxu out of her mind? Every single Galaxy Vein was incredibly important to them, since they all had three Elements to improve to the Advanced Level. They were already running short on resources. Why would she speak up for Mu Ningxue!?

She normally had the sharpest tongue on the team. Why would she try to be a good person at a time like this!

"I know, but rules are rules. Your new teammate is already on a plane here, and will arrive tomorrow. Mu Ningxue, pack your stuff, you are going back with us," said Feng Li.

Song He had a helpless look.

The other three advisors did not say anything, either.

"I've already packed my stuff, but I have a few questions for the advisors," said Mu Ningxue.

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Chapter 843: Double Hit

"What more is there to ask? You're lucky to even stay on the team as a substitute. Who apart from you would shamelessly stay on the team when they are not qualified to?" interrupted Mu Tingying.

Mu Ningxue completely treated Mu Tingying like air.

Mu Tingying's eyes flickered furiously. However, she soon gloated over Mu Ningxue when she remembered that a piece of news would soon be delivered to her.

Mu Ningxue looked at the advisors and asked in a serious voice, "The people who perform well in the National Training Hall have a chance to be promoted to representatives of the national team. I want to ask if I may be appointed as a defender at the National Training Hall after I leave the team?"

The advisors were stunned by the question. Normally, the members who were disqualified would leave for good. After all, it was rather humiliating to stay around.

"Well..." Feng Li was troubled. He had never seen any member willing to become a defender at the National Training Hall after being disqualified from the team.

The defending team at the National Training Hall was basically the second team. To be blunt, they were the reserved substitutes for the national team. Their purpose was to allow some friendly matches between students of different countries prior to the final showdown in Venice. However, the national teams would not be dueling one another before Venice. Otherwise, the final battle in Venice would be meaningless!

Similar to Japan, China also had defenders at the National Training Hall. Whenever teams from other countries came to China for training, they would have to acquire the stamp from China's National Training Hall. Those who failed to acquire the stamps would receive fewer resources, and only the teams with a certain number of stamps could compete in the final round at Venice.

As such, many countries would be disqualified during the training phase.

However, achievements during the training phase were basically undisclosed. As such, most factions did not see any value in the defenders.

It was a surprise to everyone that Mu Ningxue wanted to be a defender.

“It seems like you’re quite determined!” Feng Li finally showed a hint of admiration.

“May I?” asked Mu Ningxue.

“Of course, you are more than qualified to be a defender, but you have to know that everyone on the team has reached the Advanced Level. Your chance of coming back will be grim if you are unable to overcome your current bottleneck. Also, everyone on the team will continue to improve, especially the official members on the national team. Do you really think you have a chance of coming back?” asked Feng Li.

Mu Ningxue did not answer. She had no idea if she could make it back to the team, but if she were to leave now, she would definitely be overtaken by the others.

As a matter of fact, she could leave the team with pride. She could easily become a reputable Magician in society. She would surely be able to live a freer, more comfortable life as she wished...

However, she knew she was going to regret it in a few years, and would be living in remorse forever.

Her goals were no longer the same. What she really wanted was to continue to overcome her limits and stand at the top of the Magic Society, not for her own sake, but for her declined and shattered family.

“Alright, I’m looking forward to seeing your impressive performance at the National Training Hall,” Feng Li nodded.

Everyone looked at Mu Ningxue. Most people felt sorry for her.

They were clearly aware of Mu Ningxue’s contributions to the team, either it be the fight against the Scarlet Rending Demon, or risking her life to save Jiang Shaoxu and Nanrong Ni. They had all seen her sincerity, and if she was not a substitute, the resources from the advisors would be hers, too.

Unfortunately, luck was not on her side.

Mu Ningxue had already packed her stuff. The rest of the meeting was no longer her concern. She returned to her room, and waited to return to her country with the advisors.

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Sitting at the edge of the bed, Mu Ningxue subconsciously lowered her gaze. She was able to stay calm just then, but when she was alone in her room, she felt miserable.

It had been ten years, she had earned the approval of the people in the Mu Clan through her hard work, and became the person with the highest chance of making it to the national team... but she never thought she would leave the team like this.

When she recalled how the members of her family had left or scattered to different places, she missed the little villa that was now destroyed in Bo City, the place where she was born, and how she could hide inside her room without any worry despite the terrifying storms and thunder outside.

Many things had changed over the past few years, and they had come too quick... Her cousin Cai Tang had died in the calamity of Bo City; Yu Ang was a member of the Black Vatican; and even her uncle Mu He was a leader in the Black Vatican. In just a night, all her family was brought into custody and interrogated. Even after they were proven innocent, they were still humiliated by people and society.

"Hello, Ningxue... I'm calling you because I heard..." Mu Zhuoyun's voice came from the phone.

"I was disqualified," answered Mu Ningxue softly.

"Oh, oh, don't feel too sad, it's within expectation... by the way, if you're coming back, make sure to go back with the advisors. If you're taking a plane yourself, you might have some problems with your identity," Mu Zhuoyun told her.

"I'm planning to go back with them. What happened?" asked Mu Ningxue when she realized something weird about Mu Zhuoyun's tone.

"Nothing, we'll talk when you're back."

"Tell me now," said Mu Ningxue.

"Well... you should use your mother's surname from now on, it's not bad," said Mu Zhuoyun, who was having a hard time spilling the beans.

Mu Ningxue was startled. She almost asked for the reason subconsciously, but she could not say a word after she realized the truth.

Have they really gone that far? To even force them to change their surnames?

"How about you?" Mu Ningxue withheld the stabbing pain in her heart.

"I...It's fine, I'll be Zhuoyun."

"How about the others?"

"Oh, they still have other relatives, so they will be seeking refuge from them. It's just changing our names, nothing too important. I was also furious at the start, but on second thought, changing our names might be a good thing for us. Otherwise, wherever we go... oh, it's not that serious either. Anyway... it's fine as it is," Mu Zhuoyun was talking incoherently.

The truth was, it was extremely humiliating for a man in his fifties to change his surname, not to mention he had to relay the message to his family himself.

Mu Zhuoyun had told the others, but he was struggling to tell Mu Ningxue. The sense of failure and helplessness simply urged him to jump from the tallest floor of the Mu Family's building and put an end to everything.

"I...I got it..." Mu Ningxue ended the call.

She took a deep breath. The air was sour. Her throat was stuck. She had the urge to tear it open with her hands!

Lowering her head, something was shaking vigorously in her eyes. The tears that she thought had completely dried up since the death of her mother flowed out.

However, she used the back of her hand to rub the tears when they were halfway down her cheeks, as if it was a disgrace to let the tears fall off her cheeks.

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Chapter 844: The Lingering Abomination

There was a knock on the door. Mu Ningxue quickly rubbed her face dry with the back of her hands.

For some reason, Mu Ningxue thought it was Mo Fan. She was going to speak as soon as the door was opened, but she realized it was Gong Yu and his spotless, clean face.

Guan Yu had a handsome face. His eyes were looking at Mu Ningxue sincerely, as if he was well-prepared with his speech.

Mu Ningxue looked at him silently. Her eyes were already asking Gong Yu the reason for coming to her room.

“What happened? Why did you cry?” Guan Yu panicked when he saw the abnormal behavior from Mu Ningxue’s eyes.

He never thought Mu Ningxue would hide in her room and cry. As a matter of fact, when Mu Ningxue asked to become a defender so she could make her way back to the team, he was utterly impressed by her determination. However, it turned out that Mu Ningxue was not as strong as she seemed. He happened to witness her weak side!

Mu Ningxue’s heart must be in the most fragile state now. Guan Yu felt like he should be doing something.

“We’ll depart for the next destination in a few days. I’ll try my best to convince my gramp before that... I believe they are extremely willing to support a talented Ice Magician like you, but you’ll have to join our family first, to let my gramp know that you’re indeed one of us. That way, they would be willing to support you. It’s just a formality, let your dad meet with the elders in my family and reach an agreement, but the ceremony can wait. After all, we should focus on the World College Tournament for the time being. If we perform well on the national team, there’s nothing you need to worry about,” Guan Yu immediately presented his invitation.

Guan Yu believed Mu Ningxue desperately needed a supporter, considering her current situation. He thought that if he sincerely invited her, he could easily convince her to join his family.

Many people were willing to bet their lives on a chance to join the national team, let alone a little marriage. Guan Yu believed he was not too bad, either. There was no reason why Mu Ningxue would reject him.

Basically, under her circumstances, she would accept his offer as long as she was neutral to him!

As for his family, even though it meant spending twice the resources, they could still afford the expense. Besides, the two of them would earn several times the benefits in return. He should not have any problem if he discussed it with his grandfather!

Mu Ningxue was actually not paying attention to Guan Yu when he was talking. Her mind was still preoccupied with her father's words. When she collected her thoughts, she saw a hint of joy on Guan Yu's face.

She was utterly confused.

"I'll make a call first, I'll go make a call now, wait for me," Guan Yu seemed a little excited.

Not answering meant she had tacitly accepted it. Every girl was reserved. She would surely struggle to say something along the lines of, "Fine, I'll marry you, and you will provide me with resources" out loud.

As such, before Mu Ningxue could react, Guan Yu had already left to make the phone call. The guy's speed was shocking. Mu Ningxue could not even tell where he went.

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The floor below, Guan Yu joyfully took out his phone. He even dialed the wrong number a few times.

"Hello, gramp?"

"Oh, Yu'er? Since when do you know to give your gramp a phone call?" an aged yet energetic voice came from the other end.

"Well, I have something to discuss with you," said Guan Yu.

"Don't tell me you failed the breakthrough! Can you please be more reliable, don't you know how much a Galaxy Vein costs..."

"No, no, I've already broken through to the Advanced Level. It's something else; the Ice Magician that the Mu Clan has invested a lot in training her, Mu Ningxue, do you know her?" Guan Yu cut straight to the topic. The truth was, he was worried that Mu Ningxue would regret her decision. Therefore, he had to convince his grandfather as soon as possible. After all, he was in charge of most decisions for their family.

"I know her, I also know that you're interested in her," said the old man calmly. His tone sounded a little strange.

"I know it's not the best time to talk about her now since I should be focusing on the national team, but I hope you can help me. Let her join our family and become one of us, and we will provide her with resources. That way, both of us will represent the national team. Isn't that great?" said Guan Yu.

“Oh, and also plan a wedding for you two to bind her with you, so you can focus on the World College Tournament, is that right?”

“Yes, yes, gramp, you know me well!” Guan Yu was enlightened.

“Are you out of your mind, or did your eyeball go into the woman’s belly button? Are you seriously that dumb to suggest that to me? I swear I’d give you two great slaps to the face if you were standing right in front of me!” snapped the old man furiously.

Guan Yu was dumbfounded. He had no idea why his grandfather was so angry.

“Well... I was just thinking for our family,” Guan Yu was discouraged like a flattened balloon.

“Think my ass, why do I have such a dumb grandson like you!?” the old man added.

“Gramp, I know the family only has limited resources to spend, but you don’t need to...” said Guan Yu.

He was aware of the amount of resources needed for a representative of the national team, but with Mu Ningxue’s talents, as long as she could break through to the Advanced Level, it would stop her from being left too far behind from the others.

“You still dare to talk back after I call you dumb? First of all, do you think your teammates are poor peasants? Our family should be burning incense and thanking the gods if we managed to secure you a spot on the national team, and you’re still bringing a woman into the mess?”

“Fine, even if it’s as you said, the benefits will multiply if we have two representatives on the national team, but don’t you know what kind of mess that woman is in?! Do you really think a renowned clan like the Mu Clan would kick her out for no reason? The Mu Clan has been running amok for many years. There’s nothing they could not handle, they always got what they wanted, but even they have no choice but to kick the woman out, as they are scared to burn their own finger. And you are thinking of recruiting her to our family? Do you think our family is doing too well lately?”

“From today onwards, you’ll stay as far away from her as possible, and if I hear anything between you and her, not only will I beat you up into a cripple, I’ll beat your father too! Just give me a break, the overwhelming hatred from the calamity of the Ancient Capital hasn’t calmed down yet, but you...you are really something; are you trying to make me mad so I’ll die from an excess of anger!?” cursed the old man.

Guan Yu stood still in the spot, as if he had turned to ice.

He knew Mu Ningxue was no longer the genius of the Mu Clan, yet he never thought the influence against her would be so bizarre!

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Chapter 845: I’m Leaving the Team, Too

The old man's voice was incredibly loud, and felt like it was coming out of the phone and strangling Guan Yu.

Guan Yu stood blankly. He saw Mu Ningxue standing behind him as soon as the call ended. He was completely at a loss for a second.

"I...I..." Guan Yu never thought it would turn out like this. He had no idea how to face Mu Ningxue. He assumed he could settle her problem easily, yet it turned out like this.

"I only came to tell you that it's a misunderstanding; I don't need anyone's help," Mu Ningxue said calmly.

She did not want Guan Yu to misunderstand her. Besides, she was not interested in Guan Yu and his suggestion. However, her expression had turned slightly unpleasant after she heard the harsh words from the other end.

"Mu Ningxue, it's not what you think, my gramp must have heard some rumors spreading around... trust me, I...I'm going to help you. Once I make a name for myself at Venice, I will prove that you're innocent. But, for now, please bear with it, you can wait for me back in our country," said Guan Yu.

"Don't worry, I can handle it myself."

"You can't... the influence is bigger than you thought, unless you can actually draw the attention of the world," said Guan Yu.

"Which is why I'm coming back; I will!" said Mu Ningxue sternly.

She was not saying it to Guan Yu, but to herself!

She did not want her little family to always carry a bad name, to be accused by the whole country. She did not want her people to live like despicable rats, forcing them to hide from the public for the rest of their lives...

Her surname would always be Mu, not because she had anything to do with the Mu Clan, but because it was her right to own it. There was no need, and no reason to change it!

She would prove it, and prove her innocence to the whole world!

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That afternoon, a cold rain started pouring. The East Maritime Fortress was soon drenched in it.

The advisors were planning to leave in the evening after they were done briefing the team. The members gathered at the entrance to send the advisors off.

It was necessary for the team to be respectful. After all, the advisors were reputable Magicians in their country. Their experience and cultivation level would provide these young and inexperienced students with great help.

Mu Ningxue stood with the advisors. She did not bid farewell to the team. She was not particularly close to any of them.

“Wait, hold up!”

They were about to leave when Mo Fan’s voice came from behind.

“Mo Fan, what do you want?” Song He raised his eyebrows when he saw Mo Fan running toward them with a bag.

Mo Fan put the bag over his shoulder and said, “I’m going back, too,”

“Why are you going back? The team will be leaving in a few days; just stay here and behave yourself!” ordered Feng Li, immediately giving Mo Fan a death stare.

“Find another person to take my spot, I’m quitting,” said Mo Fan.

Everyone almost went crazy when Mo Fan said that.

-He is quitting!?

-Is that really something a sane person would say?-

Apart from Ai Jiangtu, whose strength completely outmatched everyone else, the others only managed to secure a spot because of the people supporting behind them. The chance was utterly precious, they were basically the hope of their people. Even the slightest urge to quit the team would be considered the most detestable offense, let alone actually asking to quit the team!

Mo Fan was definitely out of his mind, asking to quit the team!

-What kind of international joke was this!- “Kid, I dare you to say it again!” Feng Li’s eyes widened. Even his mustache had curled upward.

“I’m quitting the team. By the way, there’s still a team of defenders, right? I’ll join the team with Mu Ningxue to have some fun,” said Mo Fan.

Feng Li almost exploded in rage.

Where the hell did this little asshole come from? Did he seriously treat the national team as his home, a place he could come and go as he wished!

He was forced into the team without getting permission from any advisor, and they had decided to let it go, yet the guy was demanding to quit the team without their permission. Where was his respect for the national team!?

“Mo Fan, I’m telling you; take your words back, and we’ll think of it as a joke! Otherwise, I will never see you again!” Feng Li’s chest heaved in anger. His face was flushing, too.

“Why are you being so worked up for? I didn’t say I’m not coming back. My thoughts are the same as Mu Ningxue’s. I’ll leave the team first, then come back later. You mentioned that if we perform well as defenders, there’s a chance for us to be promoted. It’s as easy as that,” said Mo Fan.

The group felt like their view of the world had been toppled after hearing Mo Fan’s ridiculous statement.

-Is he dumb or mentally retarded? Everyone in the team of defenders is extremely talented too, but their chance of being promoted to the national team is still dependent on whether anyone on the national team is disqualified!-

As a matter of fact, the members of the national team would have access to lots of resources. Even if two people started with comparable strength, but one was on the national team while the other was only a defender, they would gradually find the difference in their strength growing apart.

“Mo Fan, stop playing with fire, this isn’t a joke! Go apologize to the advisors, and they will let you go!” Zhao Manyan had the urge to kneel down before Mo Fan and beg him.

-Oh Mo Fan, just stay on the team. Once you come back gloriously from the World College Tournament, you can marry whoever you want. Besides, Mu Ningxue has nowhere to run to, apart from staying in our country. Even if she’s married and has kids, with your status by then, you can easily win her back! This is seriously not something to joke with!-

“I’ve already packed my stuff. Guys, until next time! Nanyu, Jiang Shaoxu, I’m going to miss you,” Mo Fan was utterly clueless as usual. He walked over to Dean Song He and placed his hand over the man’s shoulder as if he was extremely close to him.

Song He was left speechless. If he wasn’t told by his superiors to treat the kid nicely, he simply had the urge to whip him.

Song He had no choice but to be the good guy. He immediately advised Feng Li, “Feng Li, calm down, let’s...”

“Why would I be angry? I should be happy now that someone is willing to quit the team voluntarily. The national team doesn’t need people who lack resolution, not to mention that he joined the team through unofficial methods. Piss off, get out of my sight, I feel annoyed the more I see you, be gone!” cursed Feng Li.

“Advisor Feng Li, why would I do that, I’m going back on the same flight with you. Can you get me a ticket, and unfreeze my identity, too?” said Mo Fan.

Feng Li’s eyes were about to spit fire, but he quickly calmed his rage and ordered the plump advisor beside him, “Take this idiot with us!”

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 846: I’m Afraid that I’ll Tear Him into Pieces

The rain poured heavily. The silhouettes of the seven people in the rain gradually turned blurry. Only Mo Fan teasing Mu Ningxue could be heard clearly, and most importantly, Mu Ningxue was actually responding to his teasing.

Guan Yu’s teeth were rubbing against one another. He almost felt like he was about to explode!

“What is there to feel angry about?” said Jiang Shaoxu.

“It’s none of your business!” snapped Guan Yu.

“Then Mu Ningxue isn’t your business, either. That guy Mo Fan dares to throw away his precious title and be a defender just to stay with her, and yet you didn’t dare to do anything apart from feeling angry here,” mocked Jiang Shaoxu.

“You...” Guan Yu was about to talk back, yet he realized he could not say a word.

Would he dare to do the same thing?

No chance, the thought never even crossed his mind!

When his grandfather was scolding him, he did not have the slightest courage to fight back. He had grown up under the old man’s authority. He had no courage to reason with him, as he clearly knew that he would lose all his brilliance if he did so.

But Mo Fan was different; he was willing to leave the team just like that! Mu Ningxue chose a difficult path to walk, yet he still chose to stay with her!

Guan Yu was not stupid. He understood that even the icy Mu Ningxue would be touched by Mo Fan.

The rain grew heavier as the group walked into the distance. The rage in Guan Yu’s heart slowly dissipated, replaced by a sense of helplessness, a sense of defeat that he could not even find words to comfort himself about.

“Guan Yu, what are you scared of? You’re a representative of the national team. Once you make a name for yourself in Venice, you can get any girl you want, including Mu Ningxue! That Mo Fan is just a piece of trash. You can easily deal with him with a single wave. People only admire the strong, it’s the same for women. Mu Ningxue is the kind that likes to stand at the top, and you can give her that,” Zu Jiming comforted Guan Yu, as he had a different view on the matter.

Guan Yu had the same thought too, but he knew Mu Ningxue was not anything like that. He believed if he gave up on his spot and stayed with her as a defender, she would be touched, too. Unfortunately, the person who could do that was not him!

“There really is someone like him in this world...” Nanrong Ni whispered, staring into the distance.

“It’s true love!” Zhao Manyan was soaked in tears.

He always thought he was experienced at flirting with girls. He was a master of all techniques when it came to picking up ladies, but it was nothing compared to Mo Fan’s decision!

After all, he could never do what Mo Fan had done!

—

The cold rain was still pouring at the airport. The plane was moving on the runway. Mu Ningxue sat beside a window, but her thoughts seemed to have wandered away.

It went without saying that the person sitting behind her was none other than Mo Fan. Even if the seat did not belong to him, he would shamelessly exchange the seat with the person who was supposed to be sitting beside her. She was too familiar with the idiot.

The truth was, Mu Ningxue had yet to recover from the shock. She never thought Mo Fan would give up his spot.

“Are you touched?” asked Mo Fan as he moved closer and nudged Mu Ningxue.

“Not at all,” said Mu Ningxue.

“But your heart thinks otherwise, as usual!” Mo Fan smiled.

“You really didn’t have to do that. Besides, you should stay away from me, or you’ll only get into trouble,” said Mu Ningxue seriously.

“Do you know? There’s an advantage for people who solely rely on themselves like me; the fact that we don’t have to act according to other people’s wishes. On top of that, if any asshole dares to say you’re one of the Black Vatican, I’ll smack them to death with my shoe! A bunch of self-righteous people who acted like they have personally encountered the Black Vatican before!” cursed Mo Fan.

“What about the families of the victims?” asked Mu Ningxue.

“Oh, that’s even easier to settle.”

“Why?” Mu Ningxue could not follow Mo Fan’s thoughts.

“Because they will definitely recognize me,” answered Mo Fan.

“You’re talking as if you are the person that saved the Ancient Capital. Forget it... there’s no turning back after all,” Mu Ningxue already knew what her goals were. It was scarier for a person to feel lost in difficult times!

“I’m serious, come to the Ancient Capital with me if you have the chance. You’ll find that the people will treat me like their own son... ugh, like a hero!”

“What does it have to do with me?” Mu Ningxue would never believe Mo Fan. She simply assumed Mo Fan was teasing her. She did appreciate Mo Fan livening up the mood, considering the difficult time she was having.

“You’re my first wife.”

“...”

As a matter of fact, if Mo Fan could leave out the word ‘first’, she would be more touched and more willing to trust him.

She had never seen anyone as shameless as him!

—

On the other hand, it was not like Mo Fan was not sensible, but he was unwilling to lie to anyone.

—

A pot of green tea, two cups, and a bamboo grove...

Lingyin Enforcement Union's backyard always had a sense of peace and calm that separated it from the noisy city.

The person brewing tea was Tang Zhong. He poured the tea into the cups to seventy percent full. The tea reflected the black hair and mustache of the man drinking the tea. He had an aged, but handsome face.

"Speaking of Mo Fan, I'm curious. Feng Li is famous for being unreasonable. How did you convince him to let Mo Fan join the team?" Tang Zhong smiled.

"Please don't mention it, my heart aches whenever I think about it," said the man with a black mustache.

"I bet it's something significant if losing it can make your heart ache?" Tang Zhong raised his brows. He was so intrigued that he forgot he was pouring the tea.

"Ain't that right? I wasn't even that nice to my daughter, to give that thing away without blinking... Hopefully that kid won't let me down. Let's enjoy the tea, I don't want to talk about it now, I just want to enjoy my tea," said the man with a black mustache.

Tang Zhong wanted to ask more questions, but his phone started beeping. Someone had sent him a text.

Tang Zhong took a look at the screen. His face immediately wore an indescribable expression. It was a mix of astonishment, confusion, surprise, and awkwardness!

"What is it, something serious happened?" said the man with a black mustache.

"Err... well... Mo Fan left the team," said Tang Zhong in a strange tone.

"F**k, who dares to kick him out? Ask Feng Li and those four advisors to come see me, right now!" the man rose to his feet.

"He quit the team himself."

The man was instantly left speechless.

"What exactly did you give them?" asked Tang Zhong again.

The man's face was already twitching!

"Do you want to see him now?" asked Tang Zhong.

"It's fine," the man with a black mustache took a deep breath, before forcing the words out between the gaps of his teeth. "I'm afraid that I'll tear him to pieces!"

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 847: Accepting A Big Job!

Mo Fan felt rejuvenated as he arrived in Shanghai and inhaled the fresh haze.

A familiar scent; the dust particles floating in the air were like a visible scent or cloud of pollen surrounding him. The men and women in this city had a natural temperament that easily outclassed the people from smaller cities!

Luckily, China's National Training Hall was located in the Magic City of Shanghai. Mu Ningxue had gone back to the capital to handle some matters. She would be back in Shanghai soon to report to the team, and they could enjoy shameless days together as much as they wanted!

After returning to his nice-smelling apartment, Mo Fan was imagining himself stumbling into Mu Nujiao or Ai Tutu while unlocking the door, his two beloved concubines coming out of their shower, or they would simply be naked in the living room since they knew he was not around.

Unfortunately, the scene that would only happen in novels did not occur. Mo Fan only saw an empty living room as he walked through the door.

Taking a deep breath, neither Ai Tutu's mature scent nor Mu Nujiao's elegant fragrance was as strong as Mo Fan had imagined. It seemed like the two girls had not come back for days.

"Where did they go? Why didn't they come and receive me? I even brought them gifts," Mo Fan took off his shoes and put them on the shelf, before heading upstairs in a sulk.

He knocked on the girls' doors, but realized that they were not closed. The rooms were empty, despite some alluring pieces of garments scattered on the beds. Mo Fan immediately felt his blood boiling.

-I didn't mean it, I didn't mean it!

-Can such a tiny undergarment cover Mu Nujiao's entire bottom?-

There were too many things worth investigating. Mo Fan did not check all of them out, since he was not a pervert who had never been to a girl's room. He did a quick look around, opening up the wardrobe to see if the girls were hiding inside them...

He pulled the drawers open and was dazzled by the variety of colors. Rose blue, almond red, pink-purple, beige, white... it seemed like the girls were not hiding in the wardrobe. He should look somewhere else, maybe they were hiding under the blankets...

—

A while later, Mo Fan left in satisfaction after confirming that the girls were indeed away.

"I should just buy this unit, a perfect place to raise those two canaries," Mo Fan laid down on the couch as he was planning his wonderful future.

The doorbell rang as soon as he started enjoying some peace of mind.

Mo Fan was stunned. It was extremely rare to have visitors. If it was the girls, they would have unlocked the door with their keys instead.

Mo Fan looked through the peephole but did not see anyone outside the door. He was utterly confused.

Did he really stumble onto a ghost? The doorbell was still ringing, yet there was no one standing outside!

Who dared to spook the greatest Hunter in the Magic City in bright daylight? Did they really take Mo Fan as a three-year-old kid?

Mo Fan opened the door and saw a short girl with braids on both sides standing there. Her wide eyes glittered, yet they looked a bit too mature for her age. "Ugh... it's you..." he said as she walked right past him.

"My laptop notified me that you were back," Lingling took off her shoes and went over to the fridge to get herself a frozen yogurt. She continued after opening it up to enjoy, "The boredom of learning useless stuff in school was killing me after you left. My sister forced me to go to school and study with those retarded middle schoolers. I skipped class today, so I guess I should come and visit you."

Mo Fan could already imagine how uneasy a highly-intelligent person like Lingling would feel when stuck among idiotic people.

Mo Fan realized that Lingling was rather considerate. She also took out another serving of frozen yogurt for him. Her bored and depressed expression was just asking Mo Fan to down the frozen yogurt with her to kill some time!

"I'm glad that you're going to school like a normal kid; by the way, are you in the seventh grade?" asked Mo Fan.

"Mm, but I normally go for half a day," Lingling reached out her tongue and licked the frozen yogurt clean, as if she was not willing to waste any of it. There were some yogurt stains on her cheek, she looked incredibly adorable.

"I was thinking of visiting you too..." Mo Fan recalled the evil Essence Orb.

Mo Fan had brought the Essence Orb back. That annoying Mochizuki Ken simply asked him to find a way to deal with the Essence Orb in China. After all, the orb was not supposed to be harmful as long as it was wrapped inside the silver cloth.

However, if Mochizuki Ken was around, Mo Fan would directly spit a mouthful of carbonated fizz on his face.

Who the heck said that the orb would behave itself? It had already tried to bewitch him when he was fighting the Blue Valley Ferocious Beast!

An orb that tried to bewitch him like a woman. Was that even normal?

Mo Fan was in a rush to come back with Mu Ningxue, too. Otherwise, he would have gone back to Osaka and argued with that old man!

However, Mo Fan decided to bring the orb back, considering it might be the answer that Lingling was seeking for.

However, when he saw Lingling's tsundere attitude as she complained about her boring life as a middle schooler, he decided it was not time to discuss the orb with the little girl. He should ask Old Bao and Leng Qing for their opinions first. After all, Lingling was still young; if she knew the truth, she might do something stupid.

“Oh, I was going to ask if you have any big jobs on the line. I’m running short on money,” Mo Fan changed his mind. He decided to tell Lingling about the Red Demon some other time.

“I do have some, but it depends on if you have the guts to accept them!” Lingling’s eyes glittered when she heard Mo Fan asking for jobs. Her eyes were like those of a little girl who had heard her brother suggesting they go shopping and to the amusement park after she spent days doing her homework. She was radiating joy and excitement.

“I’m not talking about jobs in the range of millions, but at least ten million and above. I’m really poor now. I have two wives and a daughter to raise... I also have a few Elements to train,” Mo Fan informed her sincerely.

“There’s actually a job with a higher reward than what you’re looking for. I already had my eyes on it for some time. However, a job like this would normally need a whole team. If it’s only the two of us...” said Lingling.

“What if Mu Ningxue comes with us? Her fighting prowess is off the charts. We should be fine if she comes with us, even if it’s a bit riskier,” said Mo Fan.

“I know about her... alright, I’ll make the preparations and see if we can take the job... by the way, you should go rank up, improve your title from an Advanced Hunter to a Hunter Master. You already have enough points,” said Lingling.

“Sure, I’ll go now,” Mo Fan nodded.

It was difficult to accept the higher-level jobs without the Hunter Master title. Many clients would not have time to verify how capable they were, and most of them were unwilling to waste their time on a kid who was not even a Hunter Master.

The higher the title, the higher the level of quests he could accept!

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Chapter 848: The Advancement of Little Loach

Mo Fan did not slack further after Lingling left. He went back to his room and started meditating.

He still had a Galaxy Vein. Since Mu Ningxue was unwilling to accept his gift, he would use it to upgrade his Lightning Element.

Mo Fan once directed lightning strikes onto himself when he was fighting the Blue Valley Ferocious Beast. It was, in fact, a dangerous move. The spells that a Magician cast were like a sword, with the sharp edge facing outward. As such, it was rare for Magicians to hurt themselves with their spells. However, if the sharp edge was facing them, they could possibly hurt themselves too! Mo Fan was in a panic when he saw Mu Ningxue injured. As such, he decisively conducted the lightning strikes through his own body just to make sure that he could deal enough damage to the Blue Valley Ferocious Beast.

However, he realized that if he could perfectly utilize the move and control the power of lightning, it would help him to synchronize better with his spells.

Casting a spell was always inflexible for Basic and Intermediate Magicians, since they were forced to follow the fixed Star Orbits and Star Patterns of the spells. However, after reaching the Advanced Level, they were able to modify the forms of their magic with their will, which significantly improved their capabilities as a Magician.

Conducting lightning through oneself... Mo Fan believed it was necessary for him to spend some time mastering the move. It felt like when he conducted the lightning with his body, he was wearing an aggressive lightning armor that would counterattack when the demon creatures got too close to him.

That being said, Mo Fan was not excited because he had found a new trick, but because the risky move had allowed him to touch the barrier surrounding the Lightning Nebula.

The size and brilliance of a Nebula in the Spiritual World were fixed. Only by breaking through the barrier could a Nebula expand further into a brighter and bigger Galaxy.

Currently, the Fire Galaxy was like a fiery river flowing through Mo Fan's Spiritual World. The Lightning Element, Summoning Element, and Shadow Element were still in the form of Nebulas. A Nebula was indeed a lot weaker than a Galaxy when he actually compared them. The light each emitted was on completely different levels. Casting a Basic Fire Spell would now only consume a low amount of mana, which he could easily recover after walking a few steps. It clearly highlighted the strength of a Galaxy!

Normally, the Lightning Element was stronger than the Fire Element in straightforward fights. If he could improve the Lightning Element to the Advanced Level, he would not be in a tight spot when fighting a Commander-level creature like the Blue Valley Ferocious Beast!

—

Mo Fan calmed his thoughts and entered the Spiritual World.

Fiery red, purple-black, lunar-white, dark gray, silver, and dark blood-red...

There were six Elements in total. Whenever Mo Fan remembered that only his Fire Element had improved to the Advanced Level, and the fact that a single Galaxy Vein would cost around a hundred million, he strongly felt that the money he currently had was only a small allowance.

He could only afford the Galaxy Vein because the Scarlet Rending Demon had dropped a Commander-level Soul Essence when it died. How long would it take him to improve all his Elements to the Advanced Level?

As he moved closer to the Lightning Nebula, he realized that the wild Lightning Stars were eager to break through the barrier and go stay in a bigger, more luxurious estate.

A Nebula was only a house a few hundred square meters in size. The forty-nine brothers and sisters were planning to expand their family to three hundred and forty-three members. How could they possibly fit everyone without a huge villa?

Mo Fan understood their eagerness to stay in a bigger house, yet he was unsure if now was the best time for him to upgrade the Lightning Element.

A Galaxy Vein was incredibly expensive, thus most Magicians would let their Element precipitate a little longer by meditating, before breaking through the barrier with the help of a Galaxy Vein when the Nebula was on the verge of exploding from over-saturation...

If the Lightning Nebula was only bloated slightly, it was likely that the process would fail even with the help of a Galaxy Vein... which meant the hundred million would go to waste!

"I guess it's about to explode. My Lightning Element reached saturation a long time ago. On top of that, as the elder brother, the Lightning Element is surely feeling unpleasant now that the Fire Element is now in the Advanced Level..." Mo Fan considered.

Only the Magicians knew the condition of their Elements. They would have to make the call if it was the right time for attempting a breakthrough themselves.

Mo Fan was overthinking it, since he was worried that the hundred million would go to waste once he failed the process.

"Forget it, I should just try it. Little Loach, please lend me a hand. Do you still have some stored energy left from eating the Eternal Lotus? Can you give me a little push on the back to help me overcome the barrier when I'm about to fail?" Mo Fan sighed and asked the Little Loach Pendant.

The Little Loach Pendant was omnipotent. It provided him with great help at crucial times, especially when it had something to do with his cultivation.

The Little Loach Pendant was able to understand Mo Fan's thoughts. It shuddered and waved its tail softly. Mo Fan almost thought it was alive. He found it hard to believe that a pendant could move like that.

Mo Fan felt troubled. He could feel that the Little Loach Pendant was trying to stop him. He directed his thoughts into the world inside the Little Loach Pendant and immediately saw the change to the Nether River inside it...

The size of the river was closer to a stream before, but it had enlarged significantly. Its width was simply astounding at first sight!

"Did you evolve?" blurted out Mo Fan in surprise.

The Nether River had doubled its width! Mo Fan did not expect the change at all!

Little Loach had eaten the Eternal Lotus in the Qin Emperor's tomb. Even though Mo Fan was able to break through to the Advanced Level with the overflowing energy and become an Advanced Magician, the Eternal Lotus was not as digestible as the Underground Holy Spring. Little Loach had been having a hard time refining it all along. Mo Fan initially thought Little Loach had missed the opportunity to evolve, yet to his surprise, the Nether River had significantly expanded!

Mo Fan took a closer look and discovered that the Nether River was still expanding slowly. In other words, the process had not ended. The Nether River would still enlarge further!

"Are you telling me that I should proceed with the breakthrough after you're done evolving, to further increase the odds?" Mo Fan speculated on Little Loach's intentions.

Little Loach soon responded affirmatively!

“Alright, I’ll listen to you... holy crap, doesn’t this mean my cultivation speed will also increase after you evolve? It would be great if the Space Element can grow into a Nebula too, so I can start learning the Intermediate Spells of the Space Element!” Mo Fan was overwhelmed with excitement.

The Qin Emperor would never expect that the godly object he had placed to stop intruders to his tomb would end up as food for Little Loach!

It was perfectly reasonable; it would not make sense if the Eternal Lotus that even Super Spells could not destroy only possessed the same amount of energy as a Galaxy Vein. Little Loach must have stored the energy away, and was still digesting it slowly...

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Chapter 849: The Legend of the Totem Beasts

If Little Loach asked Mo Fan to be more patient, there was no reason he should rush the process. Once Mu Ningxue arrived, they could then report in at the National Training Hall.

Mo Fan had not heard anything from Lingling yet. He went to Hangzhou to pay his cute, sexy, mature, and gorgeous Miss Tangyue and the charming, exceptional, upright Black Totem Snake a visit. Besides, he still had questions about the wooden clapper currently in Zhao Manyan’s possession.

—

After arriving at Hangzhou, Tangyue happened to be on the island at the center of the lake. Mo Fan simply took a boat out there. Her people knew Mo Fan, and just let him pass.

Tangyue was reading a book while keeping the Black Totem Snake company. She would visit once in a while, as if she was reporting how she had been lately to the elderly.

“It’s rare to see Miss Tangyue enjoying some leisure time. Every time I give you a call or send you a text, I always end up in the voicemail,” Mo Fan walked up and conveniently poured himself some face-nourishing tea. He sat with one leg over the other, not treating himself as an outsider.

“Your teacher is an official member of the Enforcement Union; don’t compare me to a free man like you, strolling everywhere as you wish... mmm, aren’t you on the national team? Shouldn’t you be on training now?” Tangyue smiled.

“Just back for a visit.”

“Alright, tell me what you’ve been up to, I can feel that your aura has grown a lot stronger,” Tangyue stared at Mo Fan with glittering eyes.

“Advanced Fire; almost Advanced Lightning; Summoning Element the same as usual; Shadow Element at the peak of Intermediate Level; Space Element still at the Basic Level...” Mo Fan reported honestly.

Tangyue clearly knew all his secrets, including his Demon Element. Tang Zhong and Leng Qing must have told her everything. They were all trustworthy people, so Mo Fan did not bother holding back the truth.

“Your Lightning Element should be improving at the same rate as your Fire Element, seems like it’s falling behind?” said Tangyue.

“Which is why I’ve come to ask Miss Tangyue some tips to breaking through to the Advanced Level. It was a coincidence that my Fire Element broke through to the Advanced Level, so I actually don’t have any experience,” said Mo Fan.

“Is that all?” Tangyue slightly raised her eyebrows. Somehow, she could tell that Mo Fan had other thoughts in mind.

“I’m mainly here to visit my beloved Miss Tangyue. It’s been a while, Miss Tangyue has grown prettier again.”

“As expected.”

“You’re seriously not modest at all.”

“Stop changing the topic,” Tangyue believed Mo Fan would not visit her for no particular reason.

“To be honest, I wanted to ask if you still have those scrolls you gave to me before, the magic scrolls that are consumed after casting a spell. Do you have any scrolls with Advanced Lightning Spells?” Mo Fan rubbed his hands and asked with a smile.

“Those are our Lingyin Enforcement Union’s treasure. We don’t usually give them away. Besides, it’s not wise to rely on them, either. A Magician should master the Star Patterns and Star Constellations of all their Elements. Relying on the scrolls would eventually result in bad habits...” Miss Tangyue had indeed played the teacher role before. She started giving Mo Fan advise as soon as she began to speak.

“Isn’t old man Tang Zhong the president? He can easily give some of them to me with a single sentence. I only need around eighty of them...” said Mo Fan smilingly.

Tangyue’s eyes widened!

Eighty scrolls? Did this guy seriously think those scrolls were as easy to acquire as A4 papers that only cost a few cents each!

“Three, I can only give you three at most!” snapped Tangyue.

The Lingyin Enforcement Union would never give the Star Constellation Scrolls to anyone if it wasn’t for Mo Fan’s contributions to Hangzhou.

“Five! I desperately need them.”

“Four, that’s my limit!” Tangyue retorted, clenching her jaw.

“Fine, four it is...” Mo Fan chuckled, like a cunning old fox.

“I knew you’re up to something,” mumbled Tangyue.

“Oh, by the way, I have something to show you. See if you can understand them,” Mo Fan recalled something. He took out his phone and opened the gallery.

Mo Fan had taken pictures of the messy writings on the wooden clapper, just to show them to Tangyue once he came back. The shapes drawn on the wooden clapper was extremely similar to those he saw on the walls on the island’s pavilion.

Tangyue thought Mo Fan was going to set her up again. She took a peek with a side glance, but her attention was soon drawn to the ancient writings. She quickly grabbed Mo Fan’s phone and took a closer look.

“Where did you find this?” Tangyue finally raised her head and asked excitedly after some time.

“A temple in Japan. I heard someone on the team mention that it’s a high-level container. It has its own world inside, and is able to accommodate spirits,” said Mo Fan.

“That’s right, a container of this kind can accommodate spirits. Furthermore, the spirits will become very powerful after living in the container for a certain period. The ancient writings are similar to those left by our ancestors on this island. It’s a record of another totem beast!” said Tangyue.

“Another totem beast?” Mo Fan was startled.

“Right, it dates back to the extinction of the totem beasts. The big guy is the only totem beast that our country has managed to preserve. Without the unique environment of the West Lake which provides him with the perfect cover, and the protection of our people every time he goes through ecdysis, he would have had trouble surviving until today.

“However, in the ancient times, when China still had many different races, there were once lots of totem beasts in this land, they were referred to as gods back then! Humans were too weak back then, and weren’t as civilized. However, the totem beasts were different from the other demon creatures. They can coexist with humans in peace and were even protecting the human tribes,” explained Tangyue in a serious voice.

“But didn’t the totem beasts go extinct? Isn’t the big guy the only one left? Does that mean the wooden clapper I found is useless too, since it’s nothing but some ancient literature?” said Mo Fan.

“No no no, this thing is extremely important! It’s not just the history that matters, but it also relates to a legend that we Totem Guardians strongly believe,” said Totem Guardian.

A legend?

Mo Fan was anticipating a thrilling tale as soon as he heard the word. He immediately paid closer attention!

“Legend says the totem beasts are immortal,” said Tangyue sternly.

“Im...immortal... that’s insane, I believe they have long lifespans, since even the big guy has been around for thousands of years, but saying they are immortal is going against science!” exclaimed Mo Fan.

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Chapter 850: Little Loach Is Fully Responsible

"It's real; our ancestors also mentioned it in some records. The big guy actually died roughly two thousand years ago. Our ancestors even drew the details of his death. His body fell apart like dust, as if the flesh was corroding. His skeleton was exposed for all to see, before slowly sinking into the sand..." Tangyue did not seem to be joking.

From her description, Mo Fan could imagine the scene of the dead Black Totem Snake that her ancestors had passed down.

"But isn't he perfectly well and fine?" Mo Fan pointed at the water and saw the Black Totem Snake's nostrils surfacing and blowing water out like a whale.

As a matter of fact, the Black Totem Snake's head was a lot bigger than a whale. The sight was marvelous. Luckily, the lake was big enough to hold the creature's enormous body.

"The totem beasts die in a certain way, but if the conditions are met, they can be revived," said Tangyue.

"If the conditions are met... like collecting seven dragon orbs?" Mo Fan asked with a vivid imagination.

"Mmm, something like that!" Tangyue nodded.

Mo Fan almost dropped his jaw to the ground. He was simply telling a joke, yet Tangyue actually nodded.

"So what you mean is, the wooden clapper is something like a dragon orb, and once we found the other six, we can summon or revive the missing totem beast?" asked Mo Fan.

Tangyue was amused when she heard Mo Fan mention the wooden clappers. Surely he didn't think it's the same as an anime?

"Not quite. I don't really know the exact way to summon or revive the totem beasts, but I know the totem containers are the key. Only those with containers can proceed to the next step, and by doing certain things or rituals, they can wake or revive the totem beasts," explained Tangyue.

"So Zhao Manyan was really lucky? That thing seems to have accepted him as its owner," said Mo Fan.

"Totem containers are usually passed down along generations or lost in some corners of the world. It will be pretty tough to meet the conditions to summon the totem beasts. I believe that thing can at best be used as an Advanced Magic Tool by your friend. It's unlikely to summon a totem beast... at least, it's not possible for a single person," said Tangyue.

"But there's still a chance, if we found the right methods?" asked Mo Fan.

Mo Fan could not help but look at the West Lake. He could feel a surge of excitement when he recalled the Black Totem Snake's overwhelming strength.

Any person who could control a creature of that level would surely stand at the top of the world!

The Mountain Zombie almost destroyed the Ancient Capital. If anyone could summon a totem beast to fight the Mountain Zombie off, the Ancient Capital would not have gone through such a great crisis!

Similarly, the Silver Skyruler had posed a great threat to Hangzhou during the plague. The Silver Skyruler was leading the airborne White Magic Falcons, and the air defenses had collapsed due to the Silver Skyruler ruling over the Heavenly Eagles' lineage. Despite that, the Black Totem Snake managed to hold the Silver Skyruler and its entire clan off. Mo Fan would never forget that scene!

Zhao Manyan had coincidentally found a totem container. With the finances of his family, perhaps he would have a chance of learning its secrets and summoning the totem beast. At that time, the Zhao Family would easily dominate the scene!

"The totem containers are their cores?" asked Mo Fan.

"Right, and only the totem containers know how to awaken the totem beasts. Mmm, the truth is, if big guy didn't survive back then and was killed when he is the weakest during ecdysis, he might turn into a vessel too... unfortunately, the records didn't really mention how he came back to life after his death. Otherwise, it might be a great help for your friend," mused Tangyue.

"It's a pity indeed..." agreed Mo Fan with a sigh.

"Forget it, it's beyond our reach for now. Think about it; no totem beast has shown up for thousands of years, even though people have found the totem containers. It implies that awakening the totem beasts is truly a difficult task. Tell your friend not to be too greedy. It's good enough if he manages to master the totem container's special ability," said Tangyue.

"Mmm, I'll pass the message to him."

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After playing with the Black Totem Snake for a while, Mo Fan departed from Hangzhou.

He had received four Lightning Star Constellation Scrolls from Tangyue. He remembered how much effort he made at Mount Hua just to learn the Sky-Flame Funeral.

While Mo Fan was on the train, he took the Little Loach Pendant out and observed it closely.

The Little Loach Pendant was startled, not sure why its master would be staring at it all of a sudden. It felt strange, even the Nether River was shaking anxiously...

"Screw it, there's no point in thinking about it," Mo Fan tucked the Little Loach Pendant back into his clothes and rested his head on his hands as he laid down comfortably.

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The Little Loach Pendant did keep its word. It actually finished evolving after a few days.

As Mo Fan thought, the pendant was now a Galaxy Magic Tool. Mo Fan's rate of cultivation was now around eight times the normal rate.

That being said, Mo Fan had double the number of Elements of everyone else. Otherwise, if he only had two or three Elements just like the others, his cultivation would improve at the speed of a rocket.

Dean Xiao was quite kind to Mo Fan, too. He knew Mo Fan was planning to improve his Lightning Element to the Advanced Level, thus he generously offered Mo Fan a chance to enter the Three Step Tower, so he could attempt the breakthrough under the strong elemental presence in the tower!

Since all preparations were made, it was time to proceed with the attempt. Mo Fan was not the kind to waste his time sitting around.

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The Lightning Element was ready to break through to the next level.

The Galaxy Vein was the main support, followed by the Little Loach Pendant's power and a small portion of the remaining energy from refining the Eternal Lotus. In addition, the pressure of the Three Step Tower would further compress the Lightning Element around him, providing similar effects to a Lightning Domain. It was unlikely that he would fail in his attempt.

On top of that, Mo Fan was already an Advanced Magician, and already had the mental strength of an Advanced Magician. It would be easier for him to improve his other Elements to the Advanced Level.

Sitting in the fourth-floor of the Three Step Tower, Mo Fan could feel a strong presence of the Lightning Element around him. It felt like he could cast a spell with a single flick of his fingers.

He took a deep breath to calm his thoughts.

He would be lying if he said he was not nervous, since failing the attempt would mean losing a hundred million.

-By the way, which god should I be beseeching to provide me with good luck during the breakthrough?-

-Forget it, I should just pray to Little Loach...-

It had brought him to this fascinating world of magic, so it should be fully responsible for looking after him during this crazy magical adventure!