

Versatile 931

Chapter 931: Killing Without Hesitation!

The team was overwhelmed with fatigue after making their way out of the canyon filled with the Forbidden Moon Rock Demons.

It was not from overusing their magic, but the sense of relief after being on edge for so long.

“Mo Fan, what the hell happened?” asked Zhao Manyan immediately.

Nanrong Ni helped Mo Fan clean up his wounds. Mo Fan was as strong as an ox, and had not suffered any serious injuries. He was back up on his feet and full of energy after being treated by Nanrong Ni.

As soon as Zhao Manyan mentioned it, Mo Fan’s eyes emitted a murderous flicker as he glared at Lu Yilin, who started to feel uneasy.

“It’s really him?” asked Zhao Manyan when he sensed the strange reaction from Mo Fan.

“Humph, I feel like killing someone. You guys better not stop me.” Mo Fan slowly approached Lu Yilin.

Lu Yilin was already backing away. He never thought Mo Fan would be able to get out of the canyon alive. The pale expression on his face had already betrayed him.

“Lu Yilin, how could you do something like that!?” snapped Nanyu furiously.

Lu Yilin had not only set Mo Fan up, he almost got the whole team killed too. If something went wrong, wouldn’t the whole team have been wiped out here?

“I...I...you have no proof, how dare you accuse me? Is it just because of what he said!?” Lu Yilin quickly gathered his confidence, like he was never going to admit his wrongdoing.

Ai Jiangtu came up to Lu Yilin and stared at him with a dark face.

Lu Yilin knew what the consequences were if he admitted anything. He had already thought it through. Even if the others were suspicious of him, he would not admit it. Besides, only he and Mo Fan were there. He could blame it on Mo Fan for being too careless, and tried to blame it on him instead.

“Do you think denying it is going to help now?” Mo Fan was not merciful against someone like him.

A silver glow encapsulated Mo Fan’s figure. He lifted Lu Yilin up from the ground with his will and pushed him hard onto the wall of the cliff.

Lu Yilin cried out in pain after ramming into the wall.

“What are you doing!?” yelled Lu Yilin.

“You want me dead, so I want you dead, it’s as simple as that!” said Mo Fan coldly.

“Mo Fan, calm yourself, it’s best to report it to the advisors and let them handle it. We aren’t allowed to fight one another. I believe the advisors are going to punish Lu Yilin seriously for hurting his teammate,”

Nanyu immediately stepped forward to intervene when she noticed Mo Fan was serious about killing Lu Yilin.

“Yeah, just let the advisors handle it. If you kill him now, the Lu Clan will trouble you instead. After all, even though he set you up, you managed to live, but if you kill him, everyone is only going to focus on what you’ve done,” Nanrong Ni also felt Mo Fan was being too impulsive.

Lu Yilin’s expression calmed down slightly when he heard the others trying to stop Mo Fan.

“Mo Fan, if you want to find yourself in huge trouble, just spare his petty life for now. Our Zhao Family will ask the Lu Clan to compensate you for what he has done. It’s better for you that way.” Even though Zhao Manyan was furious, he still told Mo Fan a more rational way of settling the dispute. It was unwise to kill Lu Yilin like this.

“Alright, I’m not going to kill him,” Mo Fan slowly let go.

Lu Yilin acted as if his life had just been spared. He quickly rose to his feet.

“If he can come out from the goddamned canyon like how I did, I’ll forgive him for what he did!” said Mo Fan coldly.

Lu Yilin had yet to look relieved when he was caught by a stronger force. The force struck his chest and knocked him flying instantly.

Lu Yilin happened to be flying into the orange-red canyon. Everyone was stunned when they saw it happen, as no one expected Mo Fan actually dare to do it!

“Mo Fan, please calm down!” Nanyu immediately tried to intervene when she realized that the situation was not right.

Zu Jiming and Li Kaifeng were fairly close to Lu Yilin, too. When they saw Mo Fan tossing Lu Yilin into the canyon, they immediately rushed forward with startled faces!

Mo Fan immediately set himself on fire. The pillars of fire soared into the sky as the whole place was set aflame by the Rose Flame and Calamity Fire. The intense heat stopped the three from moving any further ahead.

Mo Fan turned around and stared at Zu Jiming and Li Kaifeng, and Nanyu, who was more concerned about the general situation.

“If anyone dares to save him, I will treat them as my enemy. I won’t mind tossing you in there, too!” Mo Fan declared in an imperious voice, as he completely vented the anger stacked up inside his heart!

-What did they mean by “If he’s still alive, I shouldn’t be fussing about it?”-

He was only able to survive because of the experience he had from training, and situations of life and death. Otherwise, he would have died a horrible death in the canyon, and no one would have even care how he died!

Were they seriously asking him to forgive someone that tried to murder him?

-Sorry, I am no sacred man, nor am I tied to any faction!-

Mo Fan only understood one thing. He would never forgive anyone that tried to kill him!

The flames were so strong that Zu Jiming, Lu Yilin, and Nanyu couldn't move. They could see Lu Yilin flying into the canyon through the raging flames.

As soon as he landed, he immediately awakened a new batch of Forbidden Moon Rock Demons. The cold, expressionless faces poked out from the walls.

Lu Yilin sat on the ground in disbelief, staring at the teammates at the exit across the canyon.

"Save me, save me, please save me!" Lu Yilin's face was filled with terror. He used all his limbs to crawl toward the exit.

"Mo Fan, I was just joking with you, Mo Fan... you can't kill me, my clan will never forgive you!" Lu Yilin was both furious and terrified as he screamed at Mo Fan.

Mo Fan stood at the exit and glanced at Lu Yilin who was moving slowly. He replied, all smiles, "I wasn't trying to kill you. Didn't I already mention, if you manage to make it out, I will forget everything that happened between us..."

Everyone shivered in fear when they saw Mo Fan calmly answering Lu Yilin's despairing scream.

So this is how scary Mo Fan was when he was angry!

"AHHHH!!!!"

Not long after, a piercing cry of agony came out from the canyon. The team was not sure if his legs were being smashed, or his chest had been crushed after receiving a powerful blow. Either way, there was no chance Lu Yilin could survive in the canyon on his own.

Lu Yilin's cries echoed through the canyon and up to the team. Everyone fell silent.

They did not feel sorry for Lu Yilin, as the narrow-minded idiot was the one that had started it all. Mo Fan was only returning the favor. However, they did not feel pleasant after seeing how Mo Fan insisted on taking revenge by his own method, instead of letting the advisors handle it.

"It's going to feel great now, but once we go back to our country, you're going to suffer the consequences!" Guan Yu harrumphed coldly. He totally disagreed with Mo Fan's decision.

In his eyes, Mo Fan had made the dumbest decision. There were some people that he could not kill as he wished!

"You might think that a clan is absolutely enormous and terrifying, but it is nothing worth mentioning to me. You should be relieved that you didn't do something as retarded as Lu Yilin did," replied Mo Fan.

"If I was trying to set up you, you would be dead by now!" answered Guan Yu without backing off.

Guan Yu was a smart man. He would not do something so ridiculous when the team was still training. Speaking of which, how narrow-minded that Lu Yilin was, actually trying to kill someone on the team for something so insignificant between them! What an idiot, it might be better for the team now that he was dead, just so he would not do anything to put the team in danger again!

“Mo Fan, I’m really impressed, you seriously had the guts to kill him!” Zhao Manyan raised his thumb to Mo Fan.

If he was in Mo Fan’s shoes, he would surely demand lots of compensation from the Lu Clan. After all, as long as he was still alive, it was more important to get all the benefits he could from the Lu Clan. However, everyone had their own beliefs. Mo Fan was indeed impressive in his own way, having the guts to do the things that people normally would not do.

“I hope something like this won’t happen again on my team. Even if Mo Fan didn’t do it, I would not let someone like him stay on the team!” Captain Ai Jiangtu finally spoke up.

“Let’s move on, we’ve wasted too much time here,” said Jiang Shaoxu. She acted as if nothing had happened. She did not care about Lu Yilin’s death.

Even if a person like him did not die at Mo Fan’s hands, he would eventually die at someone else’s. Jiang Shaoxu did not understand why someone as retarded as Lu Yilin was able to join the national team!

Jiang Shaoxu moved closer to Mo Fan and asked him in a soft voice, “I was the reason that it all started. Should I help you take care of the Lu Clan?”

“No need. They are seriously out of their mind if they actually come and trouble me. I’m being very merciful by not going to their luxurious villas and demanding justice be served! What a shitty clan, raising a piece of trash like him!” replied Mo Fan.

Jiang Shaoxu smiled without saying anything further.

Lu Yilin was dead. Everyone had seen his corpse with their own eyes.

No one would go and retrieve his remains, since no one wanted to go back into the canyon.

Lu Yilin’s eyes were still wide open. Perhaps he was still troubled by how Mo Fan managed to come out of the canyon in one piece, and even more troubled about why he went and offended a violent devil who would simply kill without hesitation!

As the team proceeded on, the terrain became even flatter. Mo Fan discovered that the Essence Orb was showing a stronger reaction, implying that he was getting closer to the source of energy!

Nanyu held two devices in her hand and said to the team, “We should be able to see the ancient ruins after another four kilometers. The elemental reaction around here is getting stronger, especially the Wind and Lightning Elements...”

“Look, just ahead!” said Zhao Manyan, pointing forward.

The others immediately looked into the distance and saw a black tornado emerging from the ground and soaring into the clouds like a black dragon. Everyone subconsciously took a deep breath after witnessing the stunning sight!

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Chapter 932: Lightning Storm Circle

The tornado had a body like a dragon. Its silhouette was clear even from a great distance away. It had a strong and mighty waist, and a huge funnel after touching the sky. The team somehow had trouble breathing after seeing it...

More astonishingly, the black wind was surrounded by purple-golden lightning. The lightning bolts were as thick as serpents, flickering rapidly in the air!

This shocking phenomenon was happening here in the wilderness to the west of Peru. It was impossible to see the marvelous sight without crossing the canyon.

"My heavens... isn't this a bit too much? Why do I feel like an enemy Boss will jump out from it at any second?" Zhao Manyan blurted out.

"The tornado and lightning are right where the ancient ruins are," Nanyu estimated the location of the phenomenon.

"Oh my, it must be a place of misfortune. I'm getting a bit scared," murmured Jiang Yu.

"We've already come so far, how can we give up now? If it really is something incredible, we're going to be flying!" Mo Fan whooped excitedly.

If the cliffs were not hiding this place, it was very likely that other Hunters would have explored the place with such an extraordinary phenomenon, taking all the good loot with them.

However, it seemed no one had been to the area in a long time. The ancient ruins were still unexplored, meaning that there were lots of things waiting to be found. When Mo Fan thought of the chance of finding a Soul-grade Seed, his heart began to pound heavily.

It's a Soul-grade Seed they were speaking of. With a Soul-grade Seed, his strength would improve significantly once again. By then, he could easily conquer everything without relying on the Demon Element!

"By the way, after the mess that Lu Yilin stirred up, it feels like my Shadow Element Nebula is on the verge of expanding. Maybe I should find a chance to give it an upgrade, and see if I can reach the Advanced Level of the Shadow Element," mumbled Mo Fan to himself.

As a safety precaution, Mo Fan did ask for some Shadow Constellation Scrolls from Tangyue, as it would allow him to cast the Advanced Shadow Spell once his Shadow Element reached the Advanced Level.

Tangyue was a Shadow Magician herself, and did have a lot of the Shadow Constellation Scrolls with her. She did not mind giving Mo Fan some.

As a matter of fact, Mo Fan was looking forward to it, too. He was wondering what his Shadow Element was going to be like after the upgrade...

The team was still watching the lightning storm ahead in astonishment. The sky had started to get dark. The team decided to set up tents in the wilderness, and proceeded on with their journey early in the next morning.

Mo Fan was still feeling the thrill and excitement from the fight at the canyon. He immediately decided to use the time to improve his Shadow Element.

That night, when it was Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan's turn to stand guard, Mo Fan asked Zhao Manyan to keep an eye out on his behalf while he went to meditate and upgrade his Shadow Element Nebula!

There was no way Mo Fan would give up after failing his first attempt. He was not the kind to be intimidated by failure. He just needed to get his hands on another Galaxy Vein if he failed again. The crystals he had acquired from the walls in the canyon were worth quite a lot!

"Are you seriously going to attempt a breakthrough here?" asked Zhao Manyan curiously.

Mo Fan was planning for a breakthrough right after he had just killed a man. Did he have some kind of a strange method to improve the chance of having a breakthrough after killing someone?

"Mmm, I'm going to break down the barrier of my Shadow Element Nebula. Keep an eye out for me, don't let idiots like Guan Yu and Zu Jiming disturb me," said Mo Fan.

"Shadow Element? Aren't Fire and Lightning your main Elements? Don't you want to improve your Lightning Element first, since it's going to be easier?" asked Zhao Manyan in confusion.

Normally, people would focus on improving their main Elements, as the foundations of these Elements would be firmer.

"Lightning Element? My Lightning Element has already reached the Advanced Level. I can already draw more than two hundred and eighty Stars of the Star Constellation. I will complete the Advanced Spell soon," replied Mo Fan.

Zhao Manyan's face went blank after hearing that!

"Holy cow, this is your third Element going into the Advanced Level?!" spluttered Zhao Manyan.

"Exactly!" Mo Fan nodded.

Zhao Manyan simply felt a bolt of lightning striking down at him, despite the clear sky above. He had the urge to find a quiet corner and stay there alone...

He was about to tell Mo Fan a piece of good news, yet he had completely lost the mood. Despite having a financial group supporting him, he was being left far behind by Mo Fan. How unsatisfying!

"Go ahead and attempt your breakthrough, I'll keep an eye out for you," said Zhao Manyan helplessly.

Seeing Mo Fan sitting down on the ground, the beaten Zhao Manyan took out the special wooden clapper from his pocket and softly touched the runes that were glowing deep blue upon its surface...

The sky lit up fairly quickly in the desert. The blazing red sun was slowly rising up from the horizon, shining the light of dawn onto the orange-red land.

The cries of a strange bird woke the team up from their deep sleep.

Mo Fan was still sitting in the open. Zhao Manyan had already fallen asleep, resting his head on the rock nearby.

After opening their eyes, they suddenly felt the sunlight dimming slightly, as if a thick gray cloud was looming over them.

“What’s going on? Why is it dark here when other places are bright?” asked Jiang Yu in confusion.

Mo Fan’s lips curled upward. His eyes were filled with a thick darkness, as if he was being shrouded in a layer of shadow. He looked incredibly mysterious and evil.

He rose to his feet and slowly withdrew the black aura surrounding him. The area slowly turned bright, like everywhere else.

Zhao Manyan was muddle-headed when he woke up. His eyes immediately widened when he saw what was happening.

He was pretty excited, but he lowered his voice on purpose and asked, “Did your Shadow Element reach the Advanced Level?”

Mo Fan nodded.

“F**k me, your strength is going to be insane,” sighed Zhao Manyan.

Everyone on the team basically had at least one Element at the Advanced Level. A few on the team did have two Elements at the Advanced Level, and were able to cast Advanced Spells, yet they still needed time to get familiar with the process.

Meanwhile, Mo Fan was able to cast the Advanced Fire Spell adeptly, and was almost able to draw the Lightning Constellation. On top of that, his Shadow Element had reached the Advanced Level, too! Even without using Advanced Spells, his control of his three Advanced Elements was far beyond the ability of an Intermediate Magician!

“Do you have Magic Tools that can help me practice drawing the Stars quicker? Even though I’ve reached the Advanced Level, it’s still quite a headache that I can’t use the Advanced Spells. I want to learn the process faster,” asked Mo Fan.

“I can get them for you, but you’ll need to pay for them,” said Zhao Manyan.

“Oh, right, take a look at this, is it valuable?” Mo Fan took out the smooth crystal from his pocket and put it in front of Zhao Manyan.

Zhao Manyan was a businessman on top of his identity as a Magician. He would recognize anything that was worth money. As soon as Mo Fan took out the crystal, his face was immediately filled with joy!

“Where did you get this?” asked Zhao Manyan.

“Inside the canyon,” Mo Fan answered.

“It’s an important fusing material for refining Soul-grade Seeds!” Zhao Manyan explained.

“Fusing material?”

“Natural Soul-grade Seeds are too rare, so many Soul Seeds are refined artificially instead. Although their power isn’t comparable to the natural Soul Seeds, and they won’t necessarily provide the bearers

with a Domain, they can still multiply the damage of spells by four to six times. A Soul-grade Seed can be refined with a huge number of Spirit-grade Seeds, as long as there's enough supply of a fusing material: the Fundamental Crystals! The thing you have here is a high-quality Earth Element Fundamental Crystal! The important factor that decides if an artificially refined Soul-grade Seed has the power of Domain is the quality of the Fundamental Crystals!" Zhao Manyan told him excitedly.

"I see, so how much does this cost?" asked Mo Fan.

"It depends on the market price, but I can guarantee you a good price if you list it at our auction... how about this, sell it to me, and I'll get you the Magic Accelerator you need?" said Zhao Manyan.

"Sure, take it," Mo Fan tossed the Fundamental Crystal into Zhao Manyan's hands.

Zhao Manyan caught the crystal in a panic and cursed, "F**k me, this thing costs more than a Galaxy Vein; it's useless if it breaks!"

"I don't care, it was yours the moment I tossed it. It's your fault if you didn't catch it. Remember to get me the Magic Accelerator as soon as possible. I still have two Elements to improve! It's quite tiring to spend most of my time on Awakening the Stars," Mo Fan told him lazily.

Learning to control the Stars was an extremely boring, yet time-consuming task. Mo Fan remembered how he had spent an entire semester just learning to control seven Stars, and now, he needed to control three hundred and forty-three Stars to draw a Star Constellation. It was a lengthy process without a doubt, so he desperately needed a good Magic Accelerator to increase his efficiency!

Mo Fan was willing to hand the Fundamental Crystal to Zhao Manyan, as he believed Zhao Manyan would definitely get him a Magic Accelerator as valuable as the crystal. Once he received the Magic Accelerator, he could learn to cast the Lightning and Shadow Advanced Spells faster, and further master the Fire Advanced Spell, too!

"By the way, why do you need an Earth Element Fundamental Crystal?" asked Mo Fan.

"My f**king third Element is the Earth Element!" cursed Zhao Manyan.

Mo Fan almost burst out laughing when he heard that Zhao Manyan had Awakened the Earth Element!

A turtle-shell Magician, Zhao Manyan was very serious about his role as a turtle-shell Magician! Earth, Water, Light... these were all defensive and supportive Elements, and Zhao Manyan had Awakened all three of them!

Zhao Manyan felt unpleasant when he saw Mo Fan laughing. He straightened his chest and said, "Don't you laugh! I'll show you how strong I am when the time comes. You'll be surprised for sure!"

"Oh, it sounds like you've improved a lot, too. I was wondering why Zhou Xu was being disqualified instead of you!" Mo Fan raised his brows. Judging from Zhao Manyan's confident look, he must have something up his sleeves.

"Piss off!"

"What are you two mumbling about back there? We're entering the ancient ruins!" yelled Nanyu when she saw Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan falling behind.

“Aye, coming!” The two hurried to catch up with the team. They were heading right for the intimidating Lightning Storm Circle!

“Say, is there really a Soul-grade Seed, or something of the same level here?”

“There must be! A phenomenon of this scale isn’t something to fool around with!”

Chapter 933: Strange Birds Filling the Sky

The black storm had turned into an enormous object; it felt like it was right in front of the team.

After passing some run-down structures, Mo Fan saw that the ancient ruins merely consisted of a bunch of old rocks. There was nothing else, apart from the eye-catching tornado surrounded by lightning.

Yellow dust was blown into the air, carrying dried grass and rocks. It felt like the strong wind was dragging them toward the tornado at the center.

The wind’s force was around eight on the Beaufort scale. The team was still able to hold their ground.

Mo Fan took out the Essence Orb and saw the light pointing to the center of the storm.

“Is this thing trying to get me killed?” he cursed instantly.

The strength of the wind and lightning was comparable to that of a Super Spell! Trying to force his way into it was the same as killing himself! It did not make sense for Mo Fan to get himself killed just to fill up the Essence Orb!

“It doesn’t seem like there’s anything around, let’s leave this place,” Zu Jiming piped up in a terrified voice once again.

“I’m starting to wonder what’s the point of you having such a tough and plump body!” mocked Jiang Shaoxu.

The team did not dare get too close to the storm. However, there was simply nothing worth investigating apart from the spectacular tornado surrounded by lightning. No ancient treasure, no abnormal presence of Elements, not even a sign of demon creatures guarding the treasure.

Demon creatures were quite pragmatic when it came to treasures. It would be an utter disappointment if there was really nothing else in the area.

After searching around for half a day, the team confirmed that the ancient ruins only had a bunch of broken rocks. Nanyu did find some interesting runes on some stone pillars, but the others came back empty-handed.

“Damn it, not even a magic ore after spending so much effort to come here. Who was the one that said this place is an unexplored area?” cursed Zhao Manyan.

“Such a waste of time, I told you we shouldn’t have come here!” said Zu Jiming.

“Let’s take a rest and search again tomorrow. If there really isn’t anything, we’ll need to make our way back,” said Nanyu.

Mo Fan was not too bothered. He did find his loot for the adventure, a piece of Fundamental Crystal. As for the thing that the Essence Orb was pointing to inside the storm, Mo Fan simply pretended he had not seen it. The strong wind and scary lightning were like the claws of a demon, which would tear any person that came too close to pieces!

Mo Fan did not waste his time. He proceeded to cultivate as the team went to rest, and practice the control of his Shadow Element.

Three hundred and forty-three Stars were still waiting to be Awakened. Such a huge project was not something a lazy person could possibly complete. Time was of the essence here!

Keeping his eyes closed, Mo Fan leaned back against a huge rock. His focus entered the Shadow Element Galaxy. The dark Galaxy was not necessarily elegant, but full of mysteries, and definitely had lots of things waiting to be explored. The more familiar Mo Fan was with it, the better his control of the Shadow Element would become!

“I should enhance the Stars of the Shadow Element first; I think I have enough.”

The Little Loach Pendant had collected enough Soul Essences when he was killing the Forbidden Moon Rock Demons. Mo Fan was now able to enhance the forty-nine Stars of the Shadow Element to grant him access to the fourth-tier Giant Shadow Spike.

The process was fairly smooth. Mo Fan had the urge to try out the effects of the fourth-tier Giant Shadow Spike, if not for the fact that he could not find a single creature in the ancient ruins. Besides, his Shadow Element had also reached the Advanced Level recently. He still had not tried it out...

Suddenly, piercing cries like thunder came from high up in the sky. There were only a few at the start, but soon, a lot more peals joined in. It was so noisy that Mo Fan could not meditate any longer.

His eyes sprang open, and he looked up into the sky!

It was almost time for the sun to set. The orange light of the setting sun dyed the clean sky red. The sky to the west was a beautiful mix of layered orange and red.

The land and the walls were orange to begin with, so they perfectly matched the color of the sky as the sun was setting. However, with this vast painting of orange and red came lots of uninvited guests. They had green bodies as beautiful as jade, but wings that were totally blue. The feathers on their wings looked incredibly compact and elegant.

As they were flying in flocks, it felt like green clouds and blue veils were covering the sky slowly. They were slowly approaching the team's location!

“Damn it, it's them again! There are even more of them this time!” Jiang Yu suddenly screamed.

“Are you kidding me? We've already come this far; did the other demon creatures simply let them fly across their territory just like that?!” Zhao Manyan protested at the top of his lungs.

“We're done for, we're finished, look at how spacious this place is. There's no cover at all, how are we going to fight them!” said Li Kaifeng began to panic.

Mo Fan was utterly confused after hearing their screams. -What the heck is going on? Why are there so many strange birds in the sky all of a sudden?-

Somehow, Mo Fan was not totally unfamiliar with the bird, as he had encountered one a lot bigger than the ones in the sky that had trespassed into the path of his flight, and almost caused a tragic flight accident!

“My Heavens, they are coming from this direction, too!”

“Same here! Crap, we’ve been surrounded!”

Mo Fan looked into the sky and saw every direction was full of the strange birds with green bodies and blue wings. If they were migrating as a group, Mo Fan would simply treat them as some color added to the sky. However, judging from their flight paths, the birds were obviously heading toward them!

“Damn it, why didn’t anyone tell me what happened?” cursed Mo Fan.

The numbers of the strange birds were utterly shocking. There were at least eight thousand of them, if not ten! It was as huge as an army of demon creatures! Even though Mo Fan had seen some great things before, he was not hoping to see something so epic so often, as it was too scary!

“Around a month ago, we had just arrived in Peru. We carelessly entered a place that was referred to as a forbidden land by the locals. Since then, these strange birds have kept ambushing us. There were only a few dozen of them at the start, so we managed to eliminate them with ease. The number then increased to a few hundred, and we managed to get rid of them too. After that, when we were in a city, the strange birds still came after us, and were eliminated by the city’s defenses. It did trigger an orange alert... after that, oh, it’s what is happening now!” Zhao Manyan explained to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan’s face fell dark after hearing the words.

What kind of tough luck did he have, the team had only encountered a few ten, a few hundred, a few thousand... and yet as soon as he joined the team, there were almost ten thousand of them! They were so far away from the city, it was impossible to rely on the city defenses to get rid of the birds!

There were almost ten thousand of them, and these strange birds did not seem weak, either. They only had around ten people, and one had just died not long ago. It would be a miracle if they could handle such a huge army of birds!

“Why didn’t any of you tell me before?!” demanded Mo Fan.

“You didn’t ask! Besides, we seriously thought the previous attack was the last one. Who would have thought...my Heavens, what did we do wrong to deserve being chased around by these things?!” wailed Zhao Manyan.

“What should we do now? Someone think of a plan!”

“Even if we dig into the ground, I bet they will dig us out. There isn’t any cover nearby, we are all going to die!” wailed Zu Jiming.

The strange birds gradually got closer. They were looming over the team like clouds.

Mo Fan felt incredibly annoyed, looking at the countless creatures in the sky. It was true that he had complained about not having any demon creatures nearby to try out his fourth-tier Giant Shadow Spike and Advanced Shadow Element, yet were the Heavens so crazy as to send an army of demon creatures after him?

Ai Jiangtu had a grim expression, as even he was not confident he could survive the ambush.

As a matter of fact, the team had no chance of defeating a thousand of the strange birds. They had only managed to survive with the help of the city's defense.

"What can we do now?" Nanyu had totally run out of ideas. She looked at Ai Jiangtu helplessly.

"If I let you choose between fighting the army of strange birds or entering the storm, which one will you choose?" asked Ai Jiangtu with a serious face.

"Captain, are you out of your mind? This storm and lightning are as powerful as a Super Spell. We're dead for sure if we go inside!" yelled Jiang Shaoxu.

"We won't be going too deep inside it. Frankly speaking, we have to reach a distance where we can still stand against the storm, but the birds can't... it's the only way I can think of now. If you don't want the birds to tear you to pieces in five minutes, just follow me into the storm," said Ai Jiangtu.

The others were left with no choice. As Ai Jiangtu had mentioned, the storm was full of uncertainties, but they would surely die if they decided to stay and fight the army of birds!

While making their way toward the storm, Jiang Yu noticed Mo Fan had a dull expression, as if he had been kicked while lying down. He could not help but ask, "Are you thinking that it was better for you to give up back in the canyon?"

"Screw you! It's the nest that you guys poked; why do I have to suffer together with you?" cursed Mo Fan.

"You can try telling the birds that you aren't with us, and see if they are kind enough to let you go..." Zhao Manyan added.

"..."

In the end, the team had no choice but to enter the storm. However, Mo Fan really hated the feeling of being forced to do something. He always thought that the point of getting stronger was to give him the power to choose. He could say no to something he thought was dangerous and was unwilling to do. He could fight the things he disagreed with bravely, instead of being chased around without any sense of dignity!

That being said, when his life was at risk, dignity was just like integrity, something he could throw away at any time!

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Chapter 934: Advanced Shadow Spell, Nyx Regime

Lightning arcs surged fiercely through the air less than twenty meters above Mo Fan's head and landed on the footprint that he had just left behind. The area around the footprint immediately turned scorched black, with blue smoke rising from it.

The wind was so strong that his face was hurting as if it was being sliced by knives. The wind even cut off the tips of his hair and blew them into the air!

Frankly speaking, Mo Fan had not thought going into the storm was a brilliant idea. They had come so deep that even if they stopped moving forward, the wind would still drag them forward now!

The only thing that he was grateful for was that the light of the Essence Orb was actually growing stronger, implying that he was getting closer to the source of energy that could fill it up.

The cries of the birds felt even closer. Even the roar of the strong wind could not hide their cries. As they ventured deeper into the blurry storm, Mo Fan noticed several green figures beating their wings hard to resist the wind while diving at them.

How deep was the grudge the birds had against them, that they were willing to enter the storm just to pursue them?

"Prepare for battle!" yelled Ai Jiangtu.

"Are these sons of bitches out of their minds?"

"The birds that are weaker won't be able to come this far, meaning that their numbers aren't as overwhelming!" claimed Jiang Yu.

However, even as Jiang Yu's voice was still spreading in the storm, a huge group of strange birds with green bodies were diving right at them. They were fierce and agile, and knew how to control the airflow, too. The creatures were a lot stronger than the team had imagined!

"Don't get separated, maintain the formation!" commanded Nanyu.

Visibility in the storm was extremely low. The communication devices were not working due to the interference of the lightning. The loud cries of the birds and the rumbling of the wind simply meant that the team could only communicate by shouting at the top of their lungs. That being said, Nanyu was a Sound Magician, and could easily transmit her voice to the team.

"Maintain the formation and go a bit deeper. There are simply too many of them, we don't stand a chance here," ordered Nanyu.

The team continued to move deeper into the storm, hoping that the storm would form a boundary and quarantine them from the birds...

Unfortunately, the strange birds were adept at controlling airflow. They continued to pursue the team relentlessly.

"Mo Fan, behind you, watch out!" Nanyu released her awareness and listened to the surroundings.

Visibility in the wind was simply too low. The team could not even see one another's faces. They could only rely on Nanyu's commands.

Mo Fan turned around and saw five strange birds with green bodies and blue wings flying close to the ground. They reached out their sharp claws as they were approaching Mo Fan, trying to lift him up into the air.

Many strange birds in the air had already placed their serviettes and were holding their knives and forks. They were prepared to enjoy a grand meal once the humans were lifted into the air.

"Choosing me as your target, have you asked my needles for permission?" Mo Fan spread out his fingers. The presence of the Shadow Element circled around his fingers...

Giant Shadow Spikes in the form of pocket-size swords appeared between Mo Fan's fingers. They were as thin as needles when they were between Mo Fan's fingers, but as they sprang forward, each sword immediately split into twelve in total, forming a dark star formation rapidly!

The five strange birds were too focused on their coming meal. They did not notice the trap of Giant Shadow Spikes on the ground. As they passed above the Giant Shadow Spike Star Formation, several Giant Shadow Spikes sprang up and nailed the shadows of the birds while unleashing a strong binding force to immobilize them right above the star formation!

"Fourth-tier Giant Shadow Spikes, brilliant!" Zhao Manyan could not help but exclaim after seeing Mo Fan's move.

As a fuerdai, Zhao Manyan was always embarrassed whenever he saw how resourceful Mo Fan was, despite being just a commoner. As he expected, the guy had enhanced all his Intermediate Spells, too!

Mo Fan smiled. He could feel that his Shadow Element was a lot more responsive than before.

"Help me attract the attention of the strange birds, I'll give them a big one!" Mo Fan told Zhao Manyan.

"Don't you play with fire!"

"Trust me!"

Zhao Manyan followed Mo Fan's instructions. He began to use all he had to attract the attention of the birds.

Zhao Manyan was stacked with defensive spells. Even when more than ten birds were surrounding him and attacking him for several rounds, he would still be perfectly unharmed.

"Plummeting Rays!"

Zhao Manyan controlled the light arrows and fired them in all directions fearlessly. There were lots of light arrows, so even if he was not aiming at the birds on purpose, he could still attract their attention of the birds.

As he thought, the Plummeting Rays were too dispersed, and he only killed some of them. However, a huge group of them began to fly toward him. Their wings almost filled up the entire sky.

"Did I attract a bit too many?" Zhao Manyan started to lose confidence.

The Plummeting Rays had immediately attracted over a hundred strange birds to him! Zhao Manyan suddenly felt like he had just poked a beehive.

“How are these enough?” Mo Fan was not satisfied.

Meanwhile, Jiang Shaoxu, who was closer to the two showed up. When she saw Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan trying to gather the attention of the birds, she immediately donned a cunning smile and said seductively, “Trying to get their attention? Isn’t that simple enough?”

Jiang Shaoxu closed her eyes and spread her spiritual wave rapidly. “Spirit Ripple: Enrage!”

In the Psychic Element, blue ripple meant pacifying, while red represented rage and anger!

As the red glow spread far away, the birds that were holding back in formation suddenly left their designated spots, their eyes dyed red by the Spirit Ripple. A massive number immediately dove at Zhao Manyan fiercely!

In just less than a minute, Zhao Manyan was surrounded by a tornado of strange birds with green bodies, blue wings, and yellow claws. Most surprisingly, these birds were like a school of fish. Despite how close they were, they never crashed into one another. They were attacking furiously, yet they managed to keep their places all the same!

“My Heavens, are you trying to get me killed, Jiang Shaoxu!” Zhao Manyan was stuck in place. The team could hear his voice coming from the communication device with lots of interference.

“Isn’t that what you wanted?” Jiang Shaoxu giggled.

She was the calmest on the team, as the Psychic Element allowed her to pacify the strange birds that were trying to attack her. To them, Jiang Shaoxu was just a harmless little creature. As long as Jiang Shaoxu did not take the initiative to attack them, they would simply leave her be.

“Mo Fan, help me!” Zhao Manyan was devoured by who-knew-how-many layers of strange birds.

One defensive spell after another was cast. The Light Protection, Water Barrier, and Light Scales Armor were enhanced by a blue seal, which made Zhao Manyan’s defensive spells even sturdier than other Magicians with Soul Seeds.

“I’m almost ready, just hold on a bit longer. It’s my first time using it, so I’m still not familiar with it,” said Mo Fan.

Zhao Manyan felt like crying.

-First time using it? Is that idiot seriously entrapping me? If you aren’t familiar, why didn’t you kill the birds one at a time instead?-

“Here it is, Nyx Regime!”

The black Star Constellation hovered around Mo Fan. His hands seemed to be lifting a small curtain. The pitch-black curtain rapidly surged toward Zhao Manyan’s position.

Darkness fell like a black waterfall. As it loomed over the place, the strange birds had no chance of escaping despite their overwhelming numbers. It was the same as trying to chase after the sun when night came...

The darkness devoured all sources of light in the area. Zhao Manyan had trouble seeing his own fingers in the dark. Meanwhile, the strange birds suddenly turned into headless flies crashing into one another.

The darkness not only blinded the creatures, it also inflicted great fear upon them. The birds uttered despairing cries, trying to fly away from the darkness.

However, the area was like a maze. No matter how fast or how accurate their sense of direction was, they were still trapped inside it...

“Nyx Giant Shadow Spikes, time to turn you all into samples!”

Mo Fan unleashed the dark energy once again. Countless Giant Shadow Spikes appeared around him and flew continuously into the area filled with darkness.

The Giant Shadow Spikes were not aiming for the strange birds. They simply entered the darkness and stayed in their position. It looked like the Giant Shadow Spikes were flying randomly, but they were actually constructing an enormous, three-dimensional Giant Shadow Spike Star Formation encapsulating all the birds.

Dark energy was surging wildly inside the area. It felt like the whole place was under the control of the God of the Night. Any creature that tried to move had to obtain permission from him!

This God of the Night was Mo Fan, who was casting the Advanced Shadow Spell!

The strange birds were all immobilized. Hundreds of Giant Shadow Spikes in the area landed accurately on them...

“Awesome!”

Zhao Manyan was the only one that could still move inside the formation. When he saw the strange birds all turning into spitted munchies in mid-air, he exclaimed in surprise.

The power of darkness!

He never thought the power of darkness would be so impressive. It was able to seal a whole bunch of demon creatures, as if it had built a cage of darkness around them!

“Nyx Regime is able to enhance the effects of any Shadow Spell. It’s similar to a Domain... However, my control is still too weak, I can’t keep them in place for too long. Hurry up and leave, I’ll kill them in one breath!” said Mo Fan.

As a matter of fact, Mo Fan found the power quite enjoyable. Before reaching the Intermediate Level, the only effective Shadow Spell Mo Fan had was the Fleeing Shadow. It was Mo Fan’s only measure to protect himself. He did not rely much on the Giant Shadow Spikes either, as he would normally kill his enemy if he was stronger, and run for his life if he could not defeat them...

However, after he reached the Advanced Level, the Nyx Regime and the fourth-tier Giant Shadow Spike were able to create an enormous, immobilizing formation directly. It was so powerful that even Mo Fan was left in awe!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 935: The Ward in the Storm

“Sky-Flame Funeral!”

Mo Fan held two puffs of swelling flames in his hands and delivered them into the Nyx Regime.

The fiery clouds loomed over the Nyx Regime, and fierce flames started pouring down from the clouds. The dense fireballs landed on the ground and carpeted the place in flame, which eventually combined into a scorching sea of fire.

Sea of flames on the ground, rain of fire in the air, and fiery clouds in the sky. The three layers of fire totally entrapped the immobilized birds.

It was like the strange birds had fallen into a giant furnace. Their beautiful feathers were burned into ashes. Their bodies were severely scorched...

The Sky-Flame Funeral was a spell with a wide coverage and long duration. Even though the strange birds were not low-level creatures, death was their only way out once they were trapped inside the combination of Nyx Regime and the Giant Shadow Spike Formation. The flames would slowly burn them all into ashes!

“It felt great killing so many of them in one breath! It’s time for Little Loach to enjoy a great meal...” Mo Fan looked at the strange birds dying inside the formation of darkness and fire. He could not help but wonder how many Soul Remnants he would collect from it.

Perhaps it was enough to strengthen the Space Element Stars!

“Strange, why isn’t Little Loach absorbing the Soul Remnants?”

Mo Fan suddenly realized something strange.

Normally, the Little Loach Pendant would automatically absorb the Soul Remnants of the creatures he killed. Mo Fan would also see green and blue souls like fireflies entering the pendant on his chest...

However, none of it was happening this time!

“Why is this happening?” It was Mo Fan’s first time encountering something like this. “Don’t tell me these things have no souls? That doesn’t make any sense. Even the undead need to have a soul, just so they can move. If these strange birds don’t have a soul, what is keeping them alive?”

Mo Fan initially thought he was about to enjoy a great harvest, yet he somehow ended up empty-handed. The Little Loach Pendant’s reaction was hinting to him that these creatures had no soul...

Mo Fan fell into deep thoughts. He immediately recalled the incident he encountered on the plane.

The air routes that human planes took were usually protected by barriers constructed by powerful Magicians. The barriers would drive demon creatures away, and if any demon creature broke through the barriers, it would alert the responsible party, too. They would send Air Space Magicians to handle the demon creatures. It was similar to highways. Even in the wild, demon creatures rarely trespassed onto the highways.

The air routes were incredibly safe. He had never heard of any tragic accidents, yet not long ago, a strange bird a lot bigger than the ones he was seeing in front of him had intercepted the plane. Mo Fan had not understood how the strange bird snuck into the barrier without alerting the Magicians?

And now, Mo Fan had found the answer to it. These strange birds had no soul!

A creature with no soul meant they were not even undead. The barriers could only detect living creatures. As a result, headquarters was totally unaware of the strange bird that had followed the plane for a long time...

“Damn it, what the heck are these things!?”

Mo Fan felt his head aching. The birds looked just like ordinary demon creatures, yet they happened to have no soul. If they had no soul, why were they insisting on attacking the team? Things without soul were just puppets, and leaving the ability to move aside, puppets usually had no goals in mind, no concept of attacking, defending, nor would they think or cry...

“What’s this?” Mo Fan walked in the formation covered in scorched corpses of the strange birds and surprisingly discovered a bright-colored crest.

Over a hundred strange birds had been burned to ashes by the Sky-Flame Funeral, yet a piece of its crest still retained its bright color after burning in fire for so long.

“Have any of you seen this before?” Mo Fan showed the bright-colored crest to Zhao Manyan and Jiang Shaoxu.

“I think so, I’m not too sure,” replied Jiang Shaoxu.

“Those strange birds are coming again...” Zhao Manyan did not even care about the colorful crest.

Mo Fan asked Jiang Shaoxu to repeat the same method, as it was a lot quicker at getting rid of the birds. He would worry about their lack of soul later.

Jiang Shaoxu unleashed the Spirit Ripple, while Mo Fan prepared to cast the Nyx Regime in order to grill the birds again with the furnace of dark and fire. Yet, it did not work this time!

Not only were the birds not enraged by Jiang Shaoxu’s Psychic Spell, they actually avoided Mo Fan’s spell when they noticed the powerful presence of the Shadow Element...

“Holy crap, did those birds just become smarter?” exclaimed Zhao Manyan.

Visibility in the storm was extremely low. It was impossible that the new batch of strange birds had witnessed how their comrades died, yet they acted as if they clearly knew how deadly their spells were.

They were circling in the air above Mo Fan, Jiang Shaoxu, and Zhao Manyan, as if they were waiting for more reinforcement!

“They are intelligent... no, no, this isn’t just about their intelligence!” said Mo Fan.

The previous batch of strange birds were all butchered inside the Nyx Regime. Even sound could not leave the formation, thus how did the new batch of strange birds know that it was a slaughterhouse, and they needed more comrades to overcome it?

“Retreat, retreat, there’s something strange about these birds!” Mo Fan immediately told Zhao Manyan and Jiang Shaoxu when he noticed the number of birds in the air growing rapidly.

The birds above them had almost turned into a giant tornado. Mo Fan’s Nyx Regime was unable to trap such an enormous number of strange birds. It was better to withdraw for the time being.

—

The team continued to move toward the center of the storm. The wind was now strong enough to tear Servant-class creatures into pieces. Their team of Advanced Magicians needed to cast a defensive spell on everyone just to venture deeper.

“It looks like the birds have stopped chasing us,” said Nanyu, listening to the noise coming from behind.

“They knew how to withdraw temporarily, too!” said Mo Fan.

The birds were only a bunch of puppets. Normally, they would brainlessly enter the storm like moths diving into a fire if they were following someone’s orders, but they stopped chasing...

“Are they waiting for us out there since we can’t stay in the storm for too long? The wind is just consuming our energy continuously. If a bolt of lightning sweeps past, we might even have to use our defensive equipment,” noted Jiang Yu.

The others were clueless about what to do too. They could only hide inside the storm and try to come up with a plan. Staying inside the storm was no permanent solution. No one knew how stable the storm and lightning was. If it somehow grew stronger all of a sudden, wouldn’t it simply drag the whole team toward the center?

“Are you seriously saying that now? If you didn’t bring the team wandering around to that place, why would we be chased around by those strange birds!” said Zu Jiming, pointing at Jiang Yu.

“Jiang Yu, you’re fully responsible for this!” Li Kaifeng and Mu Tingying complained too.

Jiang Yu fell silent.

Mo Fan rose to his feet and started walking around when he saw the members quarreling among themselves instead of trying to figure out a plan.

“Stop wandering around, you’re just going to bring us more trouble!” snapped Zu Jiming in annoyance.

“I’m really annoyed by your voice. Can you shut your birdy mouth up? Besides, these legs are mine, I can go wherever I want. How is that even your birdy business?” Mo Fan’s mind was fully occupied by the birds, and even his curse was full of them. After all, he was the one in the worst mood. He was dragged

into this mess out of nowhere, even though it was the team that poked the beehive, not to mention that they did not even bother telling him!

Zu Jiming remembered how Mo Fan had gotten rid of Lu Yilin. Despite being furious, he did not dare to quarrel further.

After seeing Zu Jiming quiet down, Mo Fan proceeded in the direction the light of the Essence Orb was pointing to...

Since he had already come this far, he did not want to go back empty-handed, right?

Zhao Manyan and Jiang Yu followed Mo Fan, worried about him. It was better to look after one another in the storm. Jiang Shaoxu seemed to be tired of seeing the dark expressions of Zu Jiming and the others, and decided to follow Mo Fan after a slight hesitation.

Ai Jiangtu knew everyone was in a bad mood after being trapped in the storm. He did not really care if the team was splitting up. He simply asked the relatively more reliable Nanyu to follow after the group, "We'll be waiting here. Keep us updated!"

—

The four members followed Mo Fan as he ventured deeper into the storm. The wind was now strong enough to hurt Warrior-level creatures.

The lightning flickered even more rapidly above them. A lightning bolt would land right in front of their feet at times, sending a chill down their spine.

"Say, are we still going deeper?" asked Jiang Yu softly.

"Why not, it's better than staying there yelling at each other!" answered Jiang Shaoxu.

Even though they were on the same team, there was not much teamwork between them. If it weren't for Ai Jiangtu's overwhelming strength and reputation, the team would be fighting one another by now. They would disband before they could reach Venice.

"The lightning is too rapid ahead," said Jiang Yu.

As they went deeper, the lightning started to increase. The dark yellow lightning flickered rapidly, tearing the wind apart and forming a net around the place, applying pressure to the group of people approaching it.

"Nanyu, do you feel that yellow lightning is somewhat familiar?" Mo Fan turned around and looked at Nanyu.

Nanyu suddenly remembered something after hearing his words. "It's a magic ward!" she exclaimed.

Most lightning from magic wards was yellow, and they had seen similar lightning before. It was at the Twin Guardian Towers in Japan.

"This lightning... is not from nature, but an artificial magic ward?" Jiang Shaoxu asked in surprise.

“Aren’t you curious what’s inside the magic ward?” Mo Fan turned around and looked at the group with a wide smile.

If someone had constructed a formation as a magic ward in the storm, wouldn’t it imply that someone was trying to hide the secret at the center of the storm? Why would anyone go so far as to hide it in a terrifying storm?

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Chapter 936: Heart-Warming Intelligence!

Mo Fan was intrigued!

The Essence Orb was clearly telling Mo Fan that there was a magical, ancient energy here, and now they had discovered an artificial magic ward...

“This is some ancient lightning magic! Come, let’s go deeper!” Nanyu seemed more excited than Mo Fan. She was now leading the way!

“Can you all stick closer to me if you’re planning to go deeper? I won’t be able to save you if you’re blown away by the wind!” exclaimed Zhao Manyan.

Zhao Manyan was the only Magician with defensive spells in the group. His defensive spells had turned him into a sturdy turtle shell protecting the others as they continued on...

“Don’t leave the coverage of my spells. The wind is as strong as an Intermediate Spell now!” Zhao Manyan reminded them.

“It’s just an Intermediate Spell...” Mo Fan began arrogantly.

“You try being hit by an Intermediate Spell every second,” Zhao Manyan cut him off.

Mo Fan hesitated for a moment, and decisively shut his mouth.

A wind with the strength of an Intermediate Spell did not necessarily mean its damage was the same as being struck by an Intermediate Spell, but being blasted by a team of Intermediate Magicians non-stop. That concept was rather shocking!

“Can we go any further?” asked Nanyu in a serious voice.

“Yes,” Zhao Manyan nodded.

“You’ve grown a lot stronger!” complimented Mo Fan.

“Hehe!” Zhao Manyan smiled as if he had been waiting for Mo Fan to say that for a long time. Even though he was a shameless person on the surface, what was more satisfying than being complimented by a close friend he had gone through lots of battles with?

—

Under the turtle shell... ahem, Zhao Manyan's protection, the group successfully arrived at the area protected by the yellow lightning.

From the outside, the pitch-black storm had concealed the color of the lightning bolts, only giving off a sense of destruction. However, as they went into the storm, they were shocked to discover that the wild and dense lightning was a part of the yellow magic ward.

"Can you crack the Ward open?" Mo Fan asked grimly.

The magic ward was a wall of aggressive magical energy. It could only be destroyed by an energy several times stronger. However, the ward also had its designated keyhole and key. If they could find the keyhole and the key, the magic ward was not really that terrifying or impassable.

"I can, the broken walls at the ruins provided me with some tips. I just need some time," answered Nanyu firmly.

"Hurry up; Zhao Manyan can't hold on for much longer," said Mo Fan.

Jiang Yu and Jiang Shaoxu were excited, too. It seemed like the real treasure of the ancient ruins was hidden inside the magic ward!

"I will let you know if I can't hold it much longer. Just hurry up, the wind is really strong here," Zhao Manyan told them all.

—

The others did not dare say a word as they patiently watched Nanyu crack the magic ward of yellow lightning open.

That being said, as a Magician specialized in cracking Magic Wards, Nanyu did not just take out a little wire and twist it around to crack the Ward. Her hand was hovering in front of the fierce lightning as she listened carefully to the rhythm of the magic ward with her heart, learning how it was operating and where its energy came from; was it repeating the same loop, or was its sequence random? If it was in a loop, when was its weakest period...

—

Time gradually passed. Zhao Manyan's face was slowly covered in sweat, as if he was struggling.

He never stopped casting spells; Water Barrier, Rock Barrier, Light Protection, Plummeting Rays, the rate of his energy consumption was rather shocking. If it weren't for the blue seals strengthening the defensive spells, he would have given up ten minutes ago.

"Nanyu, are you done yet?" Zhao Manyan finally asked.

"It's a bit tricky, if you can't hold on for much longer, let's go back first... mmm, why is your face so pale?" said Nanyu.

"My energy is almost depleted, why do you think my face is pale?" replied Zhao Manyan in an unpleasant voice.

Initially, no one realized there was something wrong with Zhao Manyan's sentence. However, Nanyu's question immediately froze the team.

"Didn't you preserve enough energy to go back?"

Didn't you preserve enough energy to go back!?

They had consumed a huge amount of energy as they ventured deeper into the storm. The journey was not short, either. Even though on the journey back, the wind would gradually weaken, they still needed the same amount of energy they consumed to come this far into the storm. Otherwise, the team would not last for more than half a minute in the storm!

Oh! My! Heavens!

This was nuts, everyone was about to go crazy!

Zhao Manyan was the only Magician with defensive spells on the team. The others would surely be killed within ten seconds judging how strong the wind was, but the idiotic Zhao Manyan did not preserve energy for their return journey, meaning that the group would simply be wiped out halfway!

"What the heck is wrong with you, Zhao Manyan?!" Jiang Shaoxu was the first to scream.

"Me? Didn't you all ask me to tell you when I'm about to run out of energy... I thought we could surely crack the Ward open!" Zhao Manyan was stunned.

Mo Fan felt like crying. It was his first time discovering that Zhao Manyan's intelligence was so heart-warming!

"What...what...what...what can...can we do...do!" Jiang Yu was so nervous that he was stammering.

This was no time for a joke. They were currently at the spot where the wind was the strongest. Even Advanced Magicians would be torn to pieces in seconds, and even their Magic Equipment would not last for long!

"What other choice do we have? Nanyu, open the Ward, hurry up and open the Ward! Going back now is only going to get us killed!" said Mo Fan.

Nanyu could feel cold sweat running down her face. She could not even understand the structure of the magic ward before when she was perfectly calm, let alone with the pressure she was feeling now when the death timer started to tick.

However, Nanyu was clearly aware that she had to crack the magic ward. Otherwise, they were all going to die here!

Nanyu did not waste any more time. She gathered all her focus on the magic ward.

"Let's not preserve our strength any longer. Hurry up and take out anything that can protect us, to buy Nanyu some time," Mo Fan ordered the others.

The trump cards that everyone had could mostly last for a little longer. It was surely not enough to protect them on their way back. Their only hope was to see if Nanyu could crack open the magic ward...

"I...I can last a little longer, but the rest is up to you all," said Zhao Manyan with a twisted expression.

The group consisted of rational people. It was meaningless to blame one another in a situation like this. The only thing they could do was to try their best to buy some time!

"I have a Triangular Water Mirror here, the energy of every Element can be used to support it, but the problem is, the rate of conversion isn't as effective. If we pour all our energy of non-defensive Elements into it, it might buy us another minute," said Jiang Yu.

"Two minutes," said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan had many Elements, and three of them had reached the Advanced Level. His supply of energy was enough to buy them another minute.

"No no no, Mo Fan, you should preserve your energy first. Once Nanyu cracks open the magic ward, there might still be danger inside. If we all use up all our energy, we'll be dead too. You should only pour your energy into it if we've emptied our energy..." said Jiang Shaoxu.

"Ugh, you're right, your intelligence is completely the opposite of Zhao Manyan's," Mo Fan nodded.

Zhao Manyan was on the verge of bursting into tears. He seriously thought Nanyu would crack the magic ward open, so he only gave his promise to hold on because of that...

"Take my spot for a while, I'll try replenish my energy, we'll take turns," Zhao Manyan quickly sat on the ground and activated a Magic Tool capable of replenishing his energy. He had to try his best to recover as much energy as he could. Otherwise, the others on the team would not even bother being his friends if they ended up in Hell.

—

Sweat poured down like rain. The sense of danger gradually grew stronger as the energy in their bodies slowly depleted.

However, none of them dared to say a word, as they were afraid that it would disturb Nanyu. They were staring at each other with wide-open eyes, and could see the nervous look and uneasiness in one another's eyes.

Mo Fan began to panic, too. -Hasn't Nanyu cracked the Ward yet?- Even if he poured all his energy into the Triangular Water Mirror, it would only buy the team another minute. The others were basically at their limit. Their faces had turned extremely pale.

Jiang Yu already had a sad face. He never thought he would die a horrible death in a place like this at such a young age...

"Follow behind me!" Nanyu realized time was of the essence. She ordered the others behind her without caring if the magic ward had been cracked open.

The others immediately followed Nanyu and stuck closely to her.

The group was surrounded by yellow lightning, sweeping past their skin by inches. Some just missed them above their heads. Their hearts immediately pounded heavily.

The yellow lightning was stronger than the wind. It would blast them into pieces of meat in seconds...

A yellow, fierce lightning bolt struck on the ground before Nanyu's feet, forcing her to pause in her tracks.

"It doesn't seem to be this way..." murmured Mo Fan.

The group was currently inside the area protected by yellow lightning. They could see lightning flickering everywhere around them. Their minds had gone blank from being worried about being turned into ashes at any second. They were purely following Nanyu on instinct.

"It should be this way," Nanyu turned to a specific direction and started moving that way.

"Should?" the four blurted out simultaneously.

"I haven't solved the ward yet. Instead of waiting for our death outside, we should just come in here and take it a step at a time. Just stick close to me, and follow my steps," said Nanyu grimly.

Mo Fan's face was as dark as it could possibly be. Why did he keep finding himself in crappy situations like this!?

—

"It looks like we've taken the right path. There won't be any problem from here onward," Nanyu's words were like gospel in the nervous atmosphere. Everyone immediately uttered a relieved sigh.

As they continued to follow Nanyu, the number of lightning arcs slowly decreased. The group suddenly felt like they had walked through a waterfall. The scene ahead cleared up after they overcame a slight resistance...

The place was green, and covered in flowers. A scenery that looked like one from a painting was in front of them. The group was stunned by the sight of it.

"Look, there's a city!" exclaimed Zhao Manyan, pointing further ahead.

At the end of the field of flowers stood a brightly colored small city. It did not look ancient even the slightest. It resembled a magical city inside a painting!

"How is this possible? We've clearly entered the eye of the storm. How did we end up in such a spacious place that looks like a paradise?" Jiang Shaoxu blurted out in disbelief.

"This must be a separated space. I believe... we've found the real ancient ruins!" exclaimed Mo Fan.

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Chapter 937: Time Liquid

As they entered the city located in the foreign space, Mo Fan found it hard to believe that the city was sealed off for a very long time when he noticed the pleasant scent of flowers lingering in the air. There

was not even the slightest sense of decay. The enormous black storm was like a wall of time, freezing the time in the confined space.

“I’m afraid this is one of the earliest cities in South America. Look at the ancient flower crest on the entrance!” said the observant Jiang Shaoxu, pointing at the symbol at the entrance.

“Are you familiar with South America’s history?” Mo Fan was surprised at how knowledgeable Jiang Shaoxu was.

“How would I know that? I only know a thing or two about the flower. It’s called Li Fan, an extremely rare species that went extinct around thirty years ago in South America. When they were still around, these rare flowers were used to produce wine. My grandpa has a bottle of Li Fan wine. He said that he will only open it when I find my Mr. Right. In addition to that, these Li Fan flowers were very unique. Back when there weren’t many Psychic Magicians around, it was used as anesthesia, just like poppies can. It was able to pacify and calm a person down. Poppies are rather harmful and addictive, but a Li Fan flower doesn’t have any of its side effects. It is said that the origin of the Psychic Element is somehow related to this flower,” Jiang Shaoxu explained in one breath.

A flower that could be used like a Psychic Spell? It was the first time Mo Fan had heard of it. He found it quite interesting.

“Can you tell how old this city is?” asked Nanyu.

“Not really. The flower was rare and valuable, but I have no idea when mankind started using it. However, I believe there might be records of cities or families that used the flower as their crest in Peru’s history. We can easily find out once we left this place. Besides, I’m not really interested in its history, I’m just curious if there are more Li Fan flowers here that have already gone extinct in the outside world...” replied Jiang Shaoxu.

It was obvious that Jiang Shaoxu was quite interested in the Li Fan flower. She had already started searching around the ancient city. The city was not that big. It looked calm and peaceful, not like there was danger anywhere.

The group split up to explore the city. Mo Fan followed the guidance of the Essence Orb and searched for the energy source that he was desperately in need of.

The city was well-preserved. It looked like it had remained the same as it was in ancient times. The streets were free of dust, and the houses were not even slightly damaged. It felt like they had entered an elegant and beautiful foreign city, except there was not a single person inside. It felt calm and peaceful.

—

After crossing the wide streets, Mo Fan discovered a spectacular fountain at a crossroads.

It was spectacular because it had a statue of a glamorous woman on it. The curvy waist and smooth stomach were rather eye-catching.

Her body ratio was slightly different than Asian people. She had a longer upper body, and a stunning bust. Her slender figure and impressive bust were things that most Eastern women lacked.

The light emitted by the Essence Orb had reached its strongest level. Mo Fan lowered his head and looked into the clear water in the fountain, before glancing at the statue of the glamorous woman with a veil on her face.

“Is the water something similar to the Underground Holy Spring?” conjectured Mo Fan.

He placed the Essence Orb into the fountain. However, there was nothing special about it apart from being a little bit cold. The Essence Orb did not seem to be absorbing any energy.

“This...this is just normal water!” Mo Fan cupped the water with his hands and took a sip of it. It was tasteless!

Mo Fan was confused. If the water was not the source he was looking for, why the heck did the Essence Orb brought him here?

Did Old Bao trick him? Was the Orb broken?

After spending some time pondering, Mo Fan still could not figure out where the energy source was. He lifted his gaze and stared at the statue that looked very alive.

“Maybe it’s inside the statue?” Mo Fan jumped to the center of the fountain and probed inside the statue with his will.

After inspecting the statue closely from her head all the way to her toes, Mo Fan still did not found anything. However, the Essence Orb was clearly brighter when he was standing closer to the statue. It almost felt like the Orb was about to fly onto her.

To Mo Fan’s astonishment, Little Loach Pendant was showing a reaction too, as if it was drooling over some food.

Mo Fan was utterly speechless. Why were they suddenly interested in a statue of a woman instead of showing some interest in a female Orb or a female loach?

Was the statue hiding something inside it?

Mo Fan knocked on the statue. It felt like it was hollow inside.

As he knocked on the statue harder, the statue began to break into pieces. It seemed to be made of sand.

Mo Fan did not mean to destroy the historical relic. He watched the statue crumble to the ground, revealing a crystal cup inside it. The cup was holding a kind of clear, glowing liquid.

The Little Loach Pendant immediately emitted a bright glow. If one was to describe its reaction based on a human, it was like a person’s eyes were about to fall out from their sockets. The Little Loach Pendant wanted to drink the liquid in the cup in one eager gulp!

Meanwhile, the Essence Orb was flickering brightly too, as if it was yelling at Little Loach to let go of the liquid, it’s mine!

“What the heck is this thing? Well, it must be something good..” Mo Fan concluded.

Anything that the Little Loach Pendant was excited about was surely something precious. However, considering that he needed to fill up the Essence Orb the most, he placed the Essence Orb inside the cup to absorb the energy.

However, he soon had a headache, as the Essence Orb had only absorbed a third of the liquid before it acted as if it could not absorb any more. The level of the shiny liquid stayed the same.

Mo Fan then gave the liquid to the Little Loach Pendant, yet it could not absorb the liquid at all. It was only swimming around inside the cup.

“Why the hell are you so excited about if you can’t absorb it!?” cursed Mo Fan.

He had never seen such a senseless pendant. Did it seriously just want to join the fun after seeing the Essence Orb’s reaction?

There was still two-thirds of the liquid left inside the cup, but the Essence Orb could not absorb anymore. Mo Fan had no choice but to put the liquid away. He would worry about what it was and its uses later.

The Essence Orb had absorbed a third of it. It was definitely good news for Mo Fan. If he was able to fill it, he no longer had to worry about paying the debt of using the Demon Element.

—

Everyone seemed to find something useful in the city. Mo Fan immediately regrouped with the others after he found what he came for.

Jiang Shaoxu found the Li Fan flower she was interested in. She was smiling like a little girl who had found a small stalk of red flower.

Mo Fan had no idea what the others had found, yet looking at the time, they were meant to head back soon. The city was not big, so it was meaningless to stay any longer since there was nothing valuable left.

—

After waiting for Zhao Manyan to replenish his energy, the group left the non-aging city.

The moment they stepped out of the magic aura protecting the city, a pair of yellow eyes suddenly sprang open in the storm above it.

The eyes were staring at the group. The eyes watched the group leave, and slowly closed up as the group left the area protected by the yellow lightning.

Little Flame Belle was lying on Mo Fan’s shoulder, and did notice the strange eyes. She waved her arms around, trying to tell Mo Fan she saw a pair of eyes in the sky. However, Mo Fan was not too bothered by it, as he did not see anything when he looked up.

—

“How’s the situation? Are the birds still out there?” Nanyu asked Ai Jiangtu, who was still in the same spot.

“It looks like they’re gone,” answered Ai Jiangtu.

“It took you guys long enough; we almost thought you have all been torn into pieces by the storm. Seriously, stop wasting our time,” said Zu Jiming.

“If everyone’s here, let’s hurry back to the city. It’s not safe staying in the wild,” said Mu Tingying timidly.

They still could not believe how relentless the strange birds were. Most members on the team only wanted to go back to the city, just so the team could ask for help when needed!

Everyone started heading back along the same route. The team did not encounter any accidents when they were crossing the canyon, since Lu Yilin was no longer there to fool around.

—

Everyone immediately went to bed after the team returned to Hanmi City. Although they were quite nervous when crossing the canyon, the journey was not too dangerous without Lu Yilin’s silly deeds. The team was actually more worried about the strange birds, as no one knew when they would appear and ambush them again.

Mo Fan stayed in his room and started inspecting the unique liquid he had found. However, he was obviously not the expert when it came to identifying rare loot. He was utterly clueless about what it could possibly be. He almost mistook it as mineral water and drank it.

Little Flame Belle was still complaining about the eyes she saw. Mo Fan was quite worried now. If Little Flame Belle actually saw the eyes, he could not help but wonder what the eyes in the storm were from...

Why were the eyes watching them above the ancient city?

“Forget it, it’s meaningless to overthink it. Anyway, I’ve filled up a third of the Essence Orb. it’s a great profit for me!” Mo Fan stopped thinking about all the nonsense and went to bed.

A lot of strange things happened, yet they could just mind their own business. Mo Fan was not interested in them at all!

—

Mo Fan was just about to fall asleep when he received a response from Lingling.

Mo Fan had immediately told Lingling about the liquid when he returned to Hanmi City, hoping that Lingling could tell him its uses. Lingling was pretty efficient too. Mo Fan had only taken a hot shower and closed his eyes for a quick rest before she responded.

“Mo Fan, where did you find it?” asked Lingling.

“In an ancient city inside a storm. It was hidden inside a statue,” said Mo Fan.

“It’s Time Liquid! You should be grateful that my grandpa’s library has information about it. Unfortunately, it did not mention its uses. It only has a name, and a brief description of its origin. It is refined with some kind of ancient herb; the procedures were extremely complicated, and were lost to the world,” said Lingling.

“Time Liquid? It sounds like it has something to do with time. Speaking of which, the city stood quietly inside the storm, as if time didn’t flow in it. Are the two related in any way?” Mo Fan asked.

Chapter 938: Disaster, Horde of Strange Birds

“They aren’t related,” Lingling immediately answered Mo Fan’s question confidently.

“Why?”

“Time is always flowing, so time can’t freeze or flow backward. No magic can alter the flow of time, either. The Time Liquid is likely just a name. Perhaps its uses are somewhat related to time, like making a plant grow faster, or letting a woman keep her youth...” explained Lingling seriously.

She was basically telling Mo Fan to trust in science and stop having fancy thoughts!

Mo Fan did not learn any useful information about the Time Liquid. He put it aside and went back to sleep.

The team did not stay too long in Hanmi City. They soon headed for Peru’s Training Hall, the Royal Felipe Castle.

The team took a plane to Lima. They were not in the mood to visit the attractions or go shopping. They immediately hired some cabs and headed for the Royal Felipe Castle, located along the Callao Shore.

The Royal Felipe Castle was located by the sea, facing the vast Pacific Ocean. Mo Fan remembered seeing the magnificent, giant castle when he was looking down from the plane.

The castle had the shape of a pentagram, but instead of sharp vertexes like a triangle, they were like the bow of a ship made of thick walls. A huge castle was standing in the middle of the pentagram.

Peru was just like Japan, a country often ambushed by the sea monsters. The Royal Felipe Castle was also the command center of the army defending Peru’s Western Shoreline. After all, it was fairly close to Peru’s capital, Lima!

It was a relatively peaceful season, and Peru’s West Shoreline was rather calm. The local news did not mention sea monsters at all. It was definitely something to be cheerful about for the people living in Peru. After all, unlike Japan, who had developed the attacks into a source of income through the resources provided by the sea monsters, to the people of Peru, the sea monsters were a natural disaster, threatening their fishermen, their city, and also the growth of their crops...

The team arrived at the Royal Felipe Castle. After clarifying who they were, the guards at the entrance politely led them into the castle.

“Welcome, I am a Royal Magician here, Ariosto. Glad to have you visiting our country, Peru,” a tanned man came up to the team and greeted everyone politely with a smile.

“Hi, we are the representatives of the Chinese national team. We are here for the approval stamp,” Ai Jiangtu cut straight to the topic.

“Isn’t your team going to rest up first?” asked the Royal Magician Ariosto.

“It’s fine, we already rested before coming here,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“Very well, I’ll make arrangements for the challenge. Come with me.”

Ariosto led the team outside. The team had already seen the spacious dueling ground in front of the castle before they went inside it. Ariosto sent someone to activate the barrier. The dueling ground was separated by a water curtain barrier. It looked like an enormous water fountain.

The defenders of Peru’s Training Hall soon arrived. There were eight of them, each one either very tanned, or with snowy-white skin.

“They are young and talented Magicians from the East. I hope you do your best,” Ariosto smiled.

The duel was fairly simple. Both sides would send out three candidates for a team battle. Ai Jiangtu sent Li Kaifeng, Mu Tingying, and Guan Yu to represent the team.

The Peruvian team was rather average. None of their three candidates had reached the Advanced Level. Even though some were quite talented, it did not make any difference...

Since the Chinese team was stronger in terms of cultivation, they easily won the duels, as expected.

“Your team is very strong indeed. However, please don’t leave yet. We are interested in organizing more matches with your team,” Ariosto was not bothered by the loss. He proposed the extra fights in a friendly manner.

“Sure, our members need to train as well,” replied Ai Jiangtu.

“Of course, it’s meaningless for our defenders to fight your members directly. I’m hoping that you can choose a few people from your team, we’ll choose some from our side, and mix them into two teams.”

“Not a problem.”

A mixed battle of six versus six. Each team had three Magicians from the Peruvian team.

Everyone was already in their position. As the duel was about to begin, a dark-skinned man in a military outfit walked out from the palace, followed by five or six people. Judging from their appearances, they seemed to be some kind of authorities.

“He looks like a general!” whispered Jiang Shaoxu when she saw the badges on the man’s chest.

“Oh, General Mott, are you interested in watching the duel between these young Magicians?” Ariosto immediately walked up to the man respectfully.

“I’m not interested,” replied General Mott coldly.

Ariosto looked awkward. He had no idea how to continue the conversation.

General Mott ignored him. His eyes looked sharply at the group of yellow-skinned Asians and said, “Are you representatives of a national team?”

“Yeah, they are indeed representatives of the Chinese national team,” Ariosto answered on behalf of the team.

“I wasn’t asking you!” General Mott seemed to be in a bad mood.

Ariosto was left speechless again. What had happened to General Mott today?

“We are representatives of the Chinese national team. Is something wrong?” Ai Jiangtu’s tone did not sound friendly, as the man was not being friendly to them, either.

“You must have done something ridiculous after coming to our country. Follow me to the observation tower!” said General Mott in a heavy voice.

The team was utterly confused. They did not recall having a beef with the general. Why was he being so rude to them?

“Please head over to the observation tower as the general asked,” Ariosto smiled, remaining as polite as ever.

The team followed the general to the observation tower.

The observation tower was very tall, allowing the guards to see far across the ocean. They could also see the end of the shoreline on both sides... and the blue sky without a single trace of clouds.

General Mott still bore a dark face. When the team arrived, he pointed at the shoreline in the north connected to the sky and said furiously, “Look at what you did! If the soldiers in Hanmi City hadn’t updated me with your whereabouts, I won’t even know who to look for! You have no idea how much trouble you have brought to our country!”

Mo Fan was infuriated. What the heck is wrong with this general, scolding their team all of a sudden? What did he want?

His wild temper could not stand being treated arrogantly by others. As he was about to shoot his mouth off, Zhao Manyan grabbed his shoulder and pointed to the sky with a stunned look...

Mo Fan followed his finger and saw a huge cloud appearing in the northern sky.

The blue sky was clear, just like the ocean, thus the cloud that appeared all of a sudden was rather eye-catching. However, the cloud was not white, but a mix of blue and green!

The color of the sky did not attract anyone’s attention at the start. However, as it clustered into a huge cloud and shrouded the sky, the people finally realized something strange about it.

“My heavens, it’s them again!” screamed Jiang Yu.

The strange birds! The same strange birds from before!

An army of them had already come after them when they were in the desert. To their surprise, these strange birds were still chasing after them relentlessly, even after they arrived in Peru’s capital!

What more shocking was, judging from the size of the cloud, their number was at least ten times the size of the flock in the desert!

The cloud was a lot bigger than the flock in the desert. Even the clear sky was completely shrouded by the strange birds. Despite being over a hundred kilometers away, they could still hear their cries, like blasts of thunder. Their cries were gradually turning clearer and sharper!

“A horde, it’s a horde of flying demon creatures!”

“Too many, there are too many of them!”

Ariosto was stunned. Even the others that came with him were screaming in panic. They kept yelling something like “Oh my God!”

Ai Jiangtu, Jiang Yu, Mu Tingying, Zu Jiming, Nanyu, and the others were dumbfounded!

How did it end up like this? Why was this happening?

It started from a few ten to a few hundred, then to a few thousand, and a few tens of thousands, and now, an entire horde was coming after them! Where did these strange birds come from? What exactly are they? How was it possible for them to keep increasing their numbers endlessly?

The team was already having trouble describing their shock when they were ambushed by the strange birds in the desert. Now, all their minds had gone blank, staring at the horde.

A horde, an entire horde, A hundred thousand demon creatures!

“What heartless deeds have you all done that the strange birds would send an entire horde after you?” asked Mo Fan.

This was seriously no joke at all. The size of the horde was easily a disaster. Lima was about to be attacked by a hundred thousand demon creatures. They had to sound the alarm!

“We...we didn’t do anything!” said Jiang Yu.

“I don’t care what you did, you have to leave this city right now, and I mean right away!” yelled General Mott.

“What did you say? You’re asking us to leave?” Mu Tingying could not believe the general’s words.

“General, these kids are going to die for sure out there,” said Ariosto.

General Mott’s eyes turned cold and stared at Ariosto. The latter immediately fell silent.

“Are you telling me to sacrifice the soldiers of my country? Do you have any idea how many soldiers these strange birds can kill!?” snapped Mott.

Ariosto was speechless. However, he strongly believed that it was inhumane to throw the Chinese team out of their country. It was the same as tying them to a wooden stand on a cliff to feed the bald eagles in the sky!

“I won’t repeat it again! If you don’t leave, I will have no choice but to kill you and toss your bodies out!” General Mott glared at the team murderously!

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Chapter 939: The Ancient Castle on the Cliff

Everyone felt flames of anger bursting out from their chests when they heard General Mott's words.

The man was forcing them to kill themselves!

A horde of strange birds... even a whole army would have trouble eliminating them, let alone a team of young Magicians!

Their only chance to survive was to rely on the city's defense!

They did not expect General Mott to be so cruel and cold-blooded. He was insisting that the team must die!

"Your country has failed to keep the demon creatures at bay. Why do we have to be responsible for it?" said Nanyu angrily.

"Humph, we are not obliged to sacrifice our soldiers to protect you. I'll give you one last minute to leave our city at once!" said General Mott.

"You!"

"Nanyu, forget it, it's useless wasting our precious time with someone like him," said Ai Jiangtu.

"I'm not going out, there's no way I'm going out! We're dead for sure if we go out. It's all your fault that we had to step inside that place. I have nothing to do with it!" Zu Jiming started screaming.

"If you don't leave, I'll put an end to your lives myself!" said General Mott murderously.

Jiang Shaoxu was infuriated. She pointed at General Mott and said, "I dare you to kill us all right now! Every person you kill here, our factions in China will annihilate a tribe of your people in return. I'm eager to see how many authorities you have behind you that are going to die when they take their revenge!"

Jiang Shaoxu was very aggressive, too. Her words immediately highlighted the fact that General Mott was most worried about.

Anyone that could become a representative of the national team surely had a formidable background. Each faction supporting them basically had great influence in the running of their country.

If the general actually killed them all, the government would have a hard time calming all the factions, since they each had their own way of doing things. Even though the factions would not do anything too extreme on the surface, who knew what kind of things they would do behind the scenes to take revenge?

"Do you think threatening me here is going to save your life? You're the ones that the strange birds are after!" Mott did not show his emotion through his expression. His face remained stern and cold.

"What proof do you have?" asked Jiang Shaoxu.

"Nothing, but you know the truth yourself!" said Mott.

“Everyone, let’s stop arguing among ourselves. I believe General Mott is concerned about the safety of the city. After all, it’s a horde of flying creatures we are speaking of. Lima can easily defend against sea monsters, but it’s going to have a hard time dealing with flying creatures. Lots of people are going to die. Since we still have some time, your team should run to the south along the shoreline. You will find an ancient castle. It might buy you some time for you to recall what you’ve done that offended these ancient creatures from Nazca. It’s your only chance to live,” said Ariosto.

Mo Fan agreed that it was meaningless to argue with the general here. His advisors had obviously told him the only options. Either they forced the team to leave the city, or killed them all and tossed their bodies out. Staying in the city would only have one outcome!

As for being avenged by their factions, they were already dead, what was the point of getting revenge? They would have ceased to exist in this world!

Ai Jiangtu shared the same thought. They had to leave right away. General Mott was determined to kill them. If they were thinking of getting their revenge, they had to make sure they could survive the horde of strange birds first!

--

“(sigh), General Mott, I really think what we did was wrong. Besides, we weren’t even sure they are the cause, either!” protested Ariosto.

“I don’t care about them. I only care about the safety of the city I’m in charge of!” Mott stared after the Chinese team that had left the Royal Felipe Castle without any hint of regret.

“But that doesn’t mean we can ignore the problem. If it’s our people instead, are we going to toss them out too? Why do we have to live in fear of Nazca instead of trying to solve the problem?” said Ariosto.

“It’s easy to say, do you know how many people are going to die?” responded Mott.

“I know you’ve made the right call, but I’m just worried about something even scarier,” replied Ariosto.

General Mott fell silent. He raised his head, staring at the terrifying curtain of strange birds looming over the city...

The well-lit city gradually turned dark. The calm ocean was invaded by loud noise. The people of Lima were astounded by the sight in the sky. Their faces were filled with disbelief.

The creatures flew past the shoreline, ignoring the city and the people...

They were on the chase. They had passed the Royal Felipe Castle. Shadows that urged Magicians to flee for their lives were looming over the place.

--

The shoreline was quite long. The team had yet to find the castle that Ariosto mentioned. As the horde of strange birds gradually approached, no one had the mood to talk. Their only thought was to get rid of the birds as quickly as possible.

Not long after arriving in the country, it was like they had been placed under a curse. The strange birds would follow them wherever they went. They always thought it was the last time, but the birds would return when they had almost forgotten about them.

“It’s right ahead, I can see it!” yelled Li Kaifeng who was at the front.

The team finally saw a castle by the shore. It was an ancient structure located on a cliff. A few parts of it had fallen into the sea. Ariosto did not lie to them. The ancient castle had an ideal terrain for setting up their defense. It could definitely buy them some time!

The team rushed into the ancient castle. The place was completely empty. The style of the castle was Spanish, and well-preserved.

“Let’s head inside!” Ai Jiangtu led the team into the ancient castle on the cliff.

The materials used to build the castle was quite sturdy. The strange birds would have trouble destroying the castle in a short amount of time. However, they could not just stand and watch the strange birds pecking at the castle non-stop, as once they destroyed the ancient castle, they would have nowhere else to hide!

--

“There’s a Barrier, the castle has a Barrier! Give me some time, I can reactivate the barrier. It can buy us more time!” As soon as Nanyu entered the castle, she immediately realized something useful.

A Barrier was incredibly important to the team, considering the situation they were in!

Everyone clenched their teeth and persevered when they learned they had a chance to live. Ai Jiangtu immediately distributed the team across the castle.

Their back was the cliff, and the sea below it. The two sides of the castle made for a sturdy defense, thus the team only needed to stop the enemy coming in from the front. The situation was not as grim as they thought.

“Split into two teams. Otherwise, our energy is going to deplete very quickly!” said Ai Jiangtu.

“We’ll defend the place first. Go inside and search around, and see if you can find anything useful,” said Mo Fan.

Mo Fan, Jiang Shaoxu, Zhao Manyan, Jiang Yu, and Nanrong Ni were grouped into one team. They guarded at the entrance while the others preserved their strength.

Ai Jiangtu swiftly led the others into the ancient castle. The castle was once used as a defensive fortress, thus there might be something else that was useful apart from the Barrier.

They had to use everything they had. It went without saying that everyone would give their best when their lives were at stake.

--

“There are too many of them, they won’t be able to hold much longer. Damn it, damn it, what the heck are these creatures?” snapped Guan Yu furiously.

“Who knows, I’m sure that they aren’t after me. Maybe they won’t even chase me if I leave,” said Zu Jiming.

“Go ahead and try,” Ai Jiangtu offered coldly when they heard the two complaining.

Zu Jiming immediately shut his mouth. As a matter of fact, he did not even dare to try. Even though he would eventually be killed by the strange birds if he stuck to the team, he was hoping that he would die last...

“There are some magic ores here. The Barrier needs energy, these magic ores might come in handy,” said Li Kaifeng.

“Mmm, take as many as you can. The Barrier is protecting the whole castle. It’s going to consume quite a lot of energy,” said Ai Jiangtu.

“Hurry up, the five of them won’t be able to hold much longer.”

“They can only hold on for twenty minutes max, how much energy can we even replenish in twenty minutes? That asshole General Mott... if I die here, I’ll leave a message asking my family to kill his whole family!” cursed Guan Yu.

“It’s still better than dying instantly out there.”

—

“Mo Fan, these strange birds are after us, you should have stayed in the city,” Jiang Yu was feeling guilty when he saw Mo Fan following the team to the ancient castle.

Compared to Zu Jiming who kept scolding him, Mo Fan was more than ten thousand times better than those scum that kept complaining. Jiang Shaoxu, Nanrong Ni, and Zhao Manyan clearly knew that Mo Fan was the only person that could live, since he did not enter the forbidden land in Nazca. To their surprise, he did not abandon the team. They were actually quite touched by his decision. Anyone else would have left without hesitation... a hundred thousand creatures were more than enough to destroy an entire city! Anyone would feel extremely tiny in front of them. Friendship, family, or love were simply too fragile in front of the formidable surging tide of demon creatures!

“Don’t be touched yet, I’ve already tried. I can’t run away, either. They already remembered me back from in the storm. Hurry up and use everything you have. Otherwise, we are seriously going to die here. I can’t believe how unlucky I am to be stuck with teammates like you!” said Mo Fan, while he was busy drawing the Shadow Star Constellation.

“...”

Mo Fan did not have time to waste on being all emotional. Luckily, he had broken through the walls of his Shadow Element Nebula, allowing him to cast the Shadow Advanced Spell, Nyx Regime!

Nyx Regime was fairly effective against the strange birds that were flying in the sky, since it could disrupt their order and bring chaos and fear to them...

Nyx Regime had a terrorizing effect. It would work on any creature that was not related to the Shadow Element. On top of that, the creatures caught inside it would lose twenty percent of their strength.

Although these strange birds were stronger than Servant-class creatures, they were not as strong as Warrior-level creatures. It was tricky to fight them due to their massive numbers, but once they entered Mo Fan's Nyx Regime, their strength was equivalent to Great Servant-class creatures.

That being said, there were still quite a number of high-level creatures among the strange birds, both Warrior-level or even Great Warrior-level creatures. Since they were facing an army of a hundred thousand strange birds this time, it was likely that there were even Commander-level creatures in the horde. However, it was something they would worry about later. Their main focus was to hold on for as long as possible. They had a chance to live once Nanyu reactivated the Barrier!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 940: Bird Corpses Filling the Ocean

"Nyx Regime!"

Mo Fan finished setting up the Dark Formation. This time, he did not place the Giant Shadow Spikes inside it. He only covered the entrance of the ancient castle with darkness.

The darkness loomed over the ancient castle. The sky was already occupied by the strange birds, preventing sunlight from coming in. Now, the whole place was pitch-black, making it difficult to identify directions...

"Blessing: Enhance!" Nanrong Ni cast a spell that Mo Fan had never seen before.

Mo Fan's Nyx Regime only managed to cover two-thirds of the entrance. Its coverage was not wide enough to encapsulate the whole place. After all, Mo Fan was still familiarizing himself with the Advanced Shadow Spell. However, after Nanrong Ni murmured a few soft chants, Mo Fan noticed the coverage of his Nyx Regime expanding. Its aura had grown stronger, too!

The darkness spread across the entrance of the ancient castle. Mo Fan could easily sense the strange birds that went into the darkness crying out in panic. They were struggling fiercely, as if they had fallen into a black mud pool.

"Is that the Blessing Element?" Mo Fan looked at Nanrong Ni in astonishment.

Jiang Shaoxu, Jiang Yu, and Zhao Manyan were looking at Nanrong Ni in shock, too.

The Blessing Element was a kind of White Magic. However, it was rare to find a Magician with it in their country. As a matter of fact, the Blessing Element was rare in other countries too. It was almost exclusive to the Parthenon Temple. Only the Magicians there could Awaken the Blessing Element through special guidance...

No one expected Nanrong Ni's third Element to be the special Blessing Element!

Mo Fan had only learned about the existence of the Element from Xinxia. She once said that she was hoping to Awaken the Blessing Element as her third Element. However, Mo Fan strongly advised against it after he learned more about the Element.

Xinxia would simply become a pure supporting character, meaning that she had no means to protect herself. As such, Mo Fan decisively told her not to Awaken the Blessing Element.

He was very surprised that Nanrong Ni was able to Awaken the Blessing Element!

“The Nanrong Clan has seriously invested in her...” Zhao Manyan whispered to Mo Fan.

“Too bad we won’t live for long,” added Jiang Shaoxu.

Nanrong Ni glared at Jiang Shaoxu. Would she die if she didn’t mention it!

The Blessing Spell greatly enhanced Mo Fan’s Nyx Regime. Its efficiency had increased by at least thirty percent. Its terrorizing effect was strong enough to stir up panic among the low-level strange birds.

As their flying patterns and discipline were disrupted, the team actually had a chance of defeating the creatures, despite their overwhelming numbers.

“Zhao Manyan, remember to keep an eye on me, I’m going to slaughter them all!” said Mo Fan when he saw the strange birds colliding into one another inside the darkness.

“It’s all you now!”

Mo Fan was protected by three layers of spells. The extra defense was like adding wings to a tiger for Mo Fan.

“Come, I’ll crush you all! Lightning Disaster!”

Mo Fan waved his hands in the air. Lightning claws swung wildly and combined into a giant net of lightning, tearing through the bodies of the strange birds. Their feathers began to fall rapidly as the scorched corpses with a burned scent fell to the ground in front of Mo Fan’s feet.

“Nanrong Ni, can you enhance my Fire Spell?” asked Mo Fan.

“Sure!” replied Nanrong Ni.

“Alright, Jiang Shaoxu, use your Spirit Ripple to aggravate their fear and drive them to where I’m going to cast the Sky-Flame Funeral!” said Mo Fan.

Jiang Shaoxu nodded. She used all her focus to extend the range of Spirit Ripple to its limit. Since Mo Fan’s Nyx Regime already had a strong fear effect, Jiang Shaoxu only needed to intensify the fear in the hearts of the creatures. It was the expertise of a Psychic Magician!

Fear spread through the creatures like a plague, carried at the speed of lightning. The strange birds that entered the Nyx Regime immediately panicked and attacked one another aimlessly, like a herd of cows and goats running wildly in panic and trampling one another...

The birds crashed into one another in the crowded space. They were desperately looking for a sense of security, as if the darkness was full of demons that could tear them into pieces. They would be safe once they managed to hide among their comrades...

“Time to bury you all!”

Fierce flames ignited and turned into fiery clouds after they were tossed in the air. The ground below was a scorching sea of flames. The Sky-Flame Funeral had become a joint funeral for the strange birds, swiftly burning them to ashes!

The fire continued to grow while burning the birds, yet Mo Fan did not receive a single Soul Remnant. The only loot he found was a piece or two of bright-colored, colorful crests.

Mo Fan stored the crests away. They might turn out to be one of the key items to solving the mystery of the strange birds!

The strange birds were intelligent. They knew Mo Fan's Dark Formation was their burial ground. After Mo Fan had killed over a thousand strange birds using the same method, an army of higher-level birds showed up.

The low-level creatures needed powerful creatures to lead them. A thousand strange birds were too insignificant compared to the entire horde. However, Mo Fan's Nyx Regime was almost at its limit.

The strange birds started pouring down like raindrops, using their bodies as weapons. They kept charging into Mo Fan's Nyx Regime. The darkness was actually driven away. As the strange birds fearlessly dove into the Dark Formation and rammed into the ancient castle with blood splattering in the air, the Nyx Regime was greatly affected too...

"Mo Fan, can you hold your ground?" the worried Jiang Shaoxu asked.

"Of course, I can kill more than ten thousand of these assholes!" said Mo Fan.

It was not Mo Fan's first time being surrounded by an army of demon creatures. The situation in the Death Space was a lot worse than this. He did not have an ideal terrain back then, nor was he as strong as he currently was!

"Space Rhythm: Compress!"

A rhomboid appeared above Mo Fan, entrapping more than ten strange birds in an instant. With a buzz, the strange birds were compressed into minced meat, with blood spraying in the air.

"Demon Tree Hand!" Nanrong Ni controlled her Demon Tree to swiftly scatter around the group of five.

The Demon Tree had lots of branches, each with an awareness, who attacked the strange birds that came close. The sharp branches sprang forward and pierced through their bodies.

Feathers were stacking on the water of the ocean below the castle. Fresh blood was smeared on the cliff. However, the number of strange birds that were queuing up while spiraling in the air showed no signs of decreasing.

"Damn it, there are too many of them. We can't possibly kill them all!" Nanrong Ni gasped with a pale face.

They had already tried their best. Even with the violent Magician Mo Fan and his Little Flame Belle's help, they were unable to hold their ground. As more high-level birds showed up, the number of wounds and bruises on everyone's body gradually increased...

“We’ve been holding on for almost an hour, time to switch,” said Zhao Manyan.

“Switch, switch!”

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Ai Jiangtu and the others were not far away from the entrance of the ancient castle. They managed to find some magic ores to be used as the energy source for the Barrier, yet they did not find anything else useful.

The scariest thing was not just holding the entrance of the ancient castle. The strange birds kept on ramming into the cliff. There was a chance that the whole place would collapse at any second. The team would eventually fall into the water, together with the castle!

They could not help but admit that a horde of strange birds was indeed capable of destroying everything!

“If we don’t set up the Barrier soon, the cliff is going to collapse. There’s no escape for us.”

“Stop talking and help us to guard the entrance!” Ai Jiangtu led the others and switched with Mo Fan’s group.

Previously, Guan Yu and the others had estimated that Mo Fan and his group could at most hold the entrance for twenty minutes. To their surprise, they had defended the entrance for an hour. The corpses of the strange birds were already stacking up in piles above the reefs!

They could not help but admit that Mo Fan’s strength was rather ridiculous...

Nanyu finally came with good news. The Barrier would be repaired in another half an hour, meaning that Ai Jiangtu, Guan Yu, Zu Jiming, and the rest only needed to hold on for another thirty minutes before they could catch a breather. That being said, no one knew how long the Barrier would last for. Nevertheless, every second counted!

Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Jiang Shaoxu, Jiang Yu, and Nanrong Ni went into the castle to rest. They were totally exhausted. Even a troop of soldiers would have had trouble eliminating the horde of strange birds. It was quite impressive that a few students could survive for so long!

“What do we do now? If the strange birds don’t leave after the Barrier is activated, we are still going to die eventually. No one can save us now,” said Jiang Yu.

“Damn it, what the heck are those things!” cursed Mo Fan.

The lack of soul was clearly the strangest thing about the birds.

It was clearly an emergency, and everyone’s life was in danger. The Demon Element might be able to save their lives, but the problem was, these birds did not have souls. If the Little Loach Pendant could not collect Soul Remnants to pay the debt of using the Demon Element, he had no idea what terrible things he would do when he lost control of himself.

The Essence Orb had only filled up by a third. It was obviously not enough to pay the price.

Besides, after using the Demon Element, his cultivation would drop, too...

Anyway, if the Demon Element was not an option, there was nothing he could do, apart from waiting for their death.

"I don't know either: we only went to a place called the Nazca Lines by accident..." said Jiang Yu.

"Is the communication device working?" asked Mo Fan.

"Ours isn't, but there should be computers in the castle, and a generator, too. The only uncertainty is the signal," said Jiang Shaoxu.

Mo Fan rushed to the command center and found a computer that still worked.

It was obvious that the place was not fully abandoned. Even the network was still working. However, if the strange birds destroyed the whole cliff, the castle would still lose its power.

"Lingling, Lingling, quick, I need your help!" Mo Fan sent an SOS message to Lingling.

Lingling always carried her laptop with her. She immediately started a video call. Mo Fan could see the classroom of a middle school in her background.

"Where are you? It looks like a military base," asked Lingling with a confused look when she saw Mo Fan's surroundings.

"I'll send you the location. Help me investigate this kind of strange bird, and this colorful crest that these birds are carrying. They don't have a soul, but they are intelligent. We're trapped inside a castle surrounded by a horde of these birds. We can't hold on for too long..." Mo Fan briefly described his situation.

It was like giving medicine to a dead horse. Mo Fan only hoped that the all-knowing Lingling was able to help them!