

Versatile 981

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 981: The Betrayer of the Sacred Hall of Liberty

Mo Fan could not feel any joy, as the same number had just sent him a text just five seconds earlier. The message only had three letters, SOS, that combined into an international distress signal, basically meaning HELP!

However, before Mo Fan could collect his thoughts, he received a call from the number. The girl was asking him to come over with a calm, yet scared voice. Mo Fan was immediately on guard..

Mo Fan showed the text to the group. Zhao Manyan was about to say something and immediately thought better. "What's going on?"

"Mind Control, that guy is controlling Li Yu'e, he's using her to bait us into his trap!" Mo Fan said confidently.

Even though he had only known Li Yu'e for a few days, he could tell that she was a very optimistic and strong girl. Mo Fan could not imagine her saying those words.

That being said, if Mo Fan had not received the weird text from her, he would only be confused by it. However, when he linked the two together, he immediately thought about Philip. It must be Philip controlling her mind!

This Executioner of the Black Vatican was indeed extremely cunning and vicious!

"What do we do now? She might be in danger," Zhao Manyan asked.

"Don't panic yet, I don't think Philip is going to do anything to her. I told her that I'm going to call her when I reach the hospital, so she should be fine until I call her again," Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan had reacted quickly. If he had not emphasized it, there was a chance that Philip would have killed Li Yu'e straightaway after the call!

"Should we alert the Sacred Hall Mages?" Mu Ningxue asked.

Mage and Lingling shook their heads. It was obvious that they did not want the Sacred Hall Mages to be involved.

Philip was once close to the Sacred Hall of Liberty. He would surely flee for his life once the Sacred Hall Mages showed up.

However, they had to deal with the Executioner here in New York. Otherwise, it would only bring unending trouble to Mo Fan. The Sacred Hall Mages would only scare the enemy away.

"That guy thinks he's the hunter that's hiding in the dark to take my life, but I'm going to tell him who's the real Hunter!" Mo Fan swore coldly.

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Night had fallen, the main streets only had a few vehicles left. Occasionally, a sports car would drive past, leaving a trail of brilliant tail lights behind. The street racers thought the roars of their engines would attract some attention, yet they were only a nuisance, just like a pile of garbage.

Orange-yellow street lamps were lighting up the streets. A few nurses who were done with their shifts walked along the street. Their laughter was quite clear in the quiet night.

The light greatly extended out the shadow of a man. One of the nurses glanced at him, but discovered that he had vanished in the blind spot between the lamps in a mysterious and eerie manner.

The lights in the hospital were mainly white. Mo Fan stood at the entrance of the hospital. There were a lot fewer people present at night, and since the USA was not as densely populated as China, the hospital felt rather empty.

It was actually good news for Mo Fan, as it would not be as tricky to evacuate the hospital if a fight broke out.

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In the room on the fifth floor, Li Yu'e was lying on the white bed. Her eyes were staring at the ceiling.

Philip had changed his clothes and was standing by the window, peeking to the outside by lifting the curtains. He did not seem to be in a rush.

He was incredibly patient, since he could strike again if he missed out on the opportunity this time.

"Why must you kill him?" Li Yu'e asked.

"Little girl, you don't look afraid at all," Philip turned around. The smile on his face was quite spooky.

"I've fallen into your hands. It's useless being afraid," Li Yu'e said.

"You're quite special, aren't you? Oh, speaking of which, if you are tired of selling drinks, you might be able to become a Psychic Mage. You're almost twenty, aren't you aware of how talented you are?" Philip walked to the bed. He picked up an apple in boredom and started peeling its skin.

"I know, but I don't like it," Li Yu'e said.

"You're very interesting," Philip peeled the apple and cut it in half. He handed one half to Li Yu'e and shoved the other half into his mouth.

Li Yu'e ate the apple without showing any worry.

"I didn't have a grudge against the kid. I'm only following an order. He has offended someone that he never should have offended," Philip admitted casually.

"Who is it?" Li Yu'e asked.

"Oh, it's better if you don't know... knowing the person won't do you any good," Philip said.

"I'm about to die soon, so what difference does it make?" Li Yu'e replied.

Philip looked at the girl and burst out laughing.

“You know what? You are pretty amusing. But then, I have to remind you, dying isn’t the scariest thing. Many people who have offended the person kept begging her to kill them, just so they could die a comfortable death. They were willing to kill their close ones just to earn that wish. Are you sure you want to know a person like that?” Philip answered.

“Forget it then, but I saw a big scar on the back of your hand, with lots of scratches on it. I believe the cuts were meant to cover it up, but I can tell it’s the symbol of the Sacred Hall Mages. Were you a Sacred Hall Mage once?” Li Yu’e asked.

Philip raised his right hand and looked at the back of it.

He hated the symbol. He was willing to cut up the skin of his hand just to get rid of it. Even though it was beyond recognition, the girl was still able to recognize it. If the girl was willing to become a Mage, she would surely be an outstanding Psychic Mage. She was already this observant before Awakening her magic!

“It’s my greatest shame.” Philip raised his head and stared at the ceiling.

“Many people think of becoming a Sacred Hall Mage as the greatest glory,” Li Yu’e observed.

“That’s why the people in this world are dumb... unfortunately, I was one of them, too. I never doubted their beliefs, and even wasted half my life fulfilling responsibilities that did not belong to me. I only wanted them to take care of my daughter, but they couldn’t do it. The marvelous Sacred Hall of Liberty, where the strongest Mages of the world gathered, yet they couldn’t even protect a little girl around your age.” Philip smiled bitterly. He did not seem to be in pain when he was recalling the past. Even his tone remained the same.

However, Li Yu’e knew it was not that the man was extremely calm. It was his way of expressing his hatred!

“What happened?” Li Yu’e asked.

“I had a daughter, I was willing to sacrifice everything to protect her, to watch her grow up. The day when she was chosen to join the Hall of the Goddess of the Parthenon Temple, I was actually happier and prouder than when I was chosen to join the Sacred Hall of Liberty. I once had a superior, he made a mistake, but the Sacred Hall of Liberty was hoping that they wouldn’t have to punish him. In the end, I volunteered to take the blame for him, since he was like an elder brother to me. I was expelled by the Sacred Hall of Liberty, and forced to forfeit my cultivation as the punishment. My superior promised me that he would make sure my daughter become one of the greatest Mages of all time, better than a little Sacred Hall Mage that I was. I believed in him, I was willing to live an ordinary life, I didn’t even mind working as a cleaner on the streets. I thought it was all worth it.

“But one day, something wanted my daughter dead, it dragged her into the Abyss of Death, and wouldn’t even spare her soul. I begged my superior to save her, but he didn’t do it! I fought the thing with my life at stake, but I didn’t have any magic. Do you understand how desperately I hoped that I still had my magic? I was on the ground like a useless dog watching it all happen while hearing the cries of

agony of my precious daughter...” Philip’s expression did not shift by much. It was strangely calm in a terrifying way.

Li Yu’e fell silent. She was clueless about the World of Magic, but she could sense a cruelty like nothing she had heard before from Philip’s description!

“But the person I mentioned to you helped me regain my magic, and she even helped me to become stronger, so do you think I will reject a little request as simple as killing a kid?” Philip asked.

Li Yu’e was about to say something when her phone started ringing.

Li Yu’e accepted the call at her quickest speed and was about to scream into the phone. However, Philip was quicker than her. She was unable to let out a scream in time. Her eyes lost their usual glow, and were replaced by a blank expression.

“Are you here?” Li Yu’e asked.

“Yeah, which room are you in?” Mo Fan asked.

“On the fifth floor, the room at the end of the corridor. Did you come alone?”

“Yeah, do you seriously want me to bring a light bulb around?” Mo Fan smiled.

{TL Note: Being a light bulb here means someone else that spoils the atmosphere between a couple trying to have some intimacy.}

“Mmm, there isn’t anyone in the hospital at this time, I’ll be hanging up...”

“Wait, I don’t know where you are still. I’m on the fifth floor, which room at the end of the corridor is yours? Is it the one on the left or the one on the right? There are two rooms here, I don’t want to take the wrong one,” Mo Fan said.

“There’s only one, it’s the one with the lights,” Li Yu’e replied.

“Oh, but weren’t you in the room all this time? How did you know there’s only one room?” Mo Fan responded.

Philip was still controlling Li Yu’e’s mind, and was stunned. He immediately turned around as he realized something.

Several black spikes flew at him. He was completely unaware that Mo Fan had arrived even though he was still on the phone...

The Giant Shadow Spikes were incredibly powerful. Even with his cultivation, the Giant Shadow Spikes would still paralyze him if they landed on him. He would not be able to cast a single spell!

Most importantly, Philip was focused on his conversation with Li Yu’e as he was recalling his ugly past. He did not notice the light in the room dimming all of a sudden, nor did he notice the dark aura lingering in the building and the room!

Nyx Regime!

The Giant Shadow Spikes were able to construct a Dark Formation in the Nyx Regime. Philip did not dare stay in the room a second further. He immediately smashed his way out through the window!

Chapter 982: New Calamity Fire, Possess!

“You’re here!” Li Yu’e looked at Mo Fan in surprise after she recovered.

“You’re the strongest non-Mage I know, I won’t let him escape this time!” Mo Fan said to Li Yu’e confidently.

He had asked Jiang Yu to take care of Li Yu’e, and the people around the hospital. Jiang Yu and the others would evacuate the place in the shortest time possible.

The Nyx Regime did not cover just the building they were in. The whole hospital was covered by Mo Fan’s darkness, looming over the place like Nyx’s mantle, big enough to cover a vast area.

Philip jumped out of the window and landed on the outdoor car park behind the hospital.

He was quite agitated, not understanding why Mo Fan knew it was a trap. It was obvious that his plan was flawless.

The only possibility was the smart girl had recognized him as soon as he stepped into the room, and was able to alert Mo Fan in time!

-Damn it!-

How could he allow an ordinary girl to set him up?!

Philip closed his eyes and sensed his surroundings with the Psychic Element.

The Psychic Element was not affected by the Nyx Regime, so he could sense the presence of Sacred Hall Mages within a few kilometers. He still had the symbol of the Sacred Hall Mages on the back of his hand, allowing him to detect the movements of the Sacred Hall Mages with ease!

“Mmm? There’s no Sacred Hall Mage nearby?” Philip was confused.

It was impossible that his Psychic Element would be wrong. The pattern on the hand of every Sacred Hall Mage was somehow linked to one another with the Psychic Element, so not a single Sacred Hall Mage could hide from him. As such, he was confident that not a single Sacred Hall Mage was within a few kilometers from him!

In other words, Mo Fan had come on his own!

If that was the case, why was he even running away for? The kid was like a sheep going into a lion’s mouth!

Philip slowly turned around and saw Mo Fan turning into a purple-black lightning bolt as he jumped down from the fifth floor. He landed heavily on the ground and constructed a fierce Lightning Disaster.

Philip was not bothered by it. He could easily nullify an attack of that level with a single wave.

He grinned at Mo Fan, "I was almost tricked by you. There isn't a single Sacred Hall Mage nearby. Are you surprised? I know the movements of the Sacred Hall Mages better than anyone else!"

"I've come to take your life!" Mo Fan said.

"HAHAHA, don't you forget, I was chasing you around like a stray dog just a few days ago! You would have been a corpse by now if the Sacred Hall Mages hadn't made it in time!" Philip burst out laughing. He had no reason to leave if it was only Mo Fan here!

"Do you really think you're strong?" Mo Fan said.

"At least I don't think I'll have any trouble killing you. Actually, I'm quite curious; how did you arrive at the hospital without me knowing? And how did you manage to lay down the Nyx Regime without alerting me? You must have some impressive Shadow-type equipment on you... Mmm, Once I kill you, I'll tear it off from your soul. Even if it's damaged, I believe it's still quite precious!" replied Philip savagely.

Mo Fan indeed had a piece of Shadow-type equipment on him. It was the Dark Noble Mantle he had only received not long ago after defeating the Red Ornaments Guild!

The Dark Noble Mantle had a passive ability. It was able to conceal its wearer's presence, preventing anyone from detecting Mo Fan's aura even when their cultivation was a lot stronger. Similarly, the Nyx Regime was laid out with the help of the Dark Noble Mantle, too. Otherwise, Philip would have immediately noticed the slightest presence of the Shadow Element as soon as it pervaded the hospital!

The Dark Noble Mantle was truly a treasure, and it was only Mo Fan's first time using it!

"Unfortunately, your little Dark Formation isn't going to make much of a difference; it's time to show you what a real Domain can do!" Philip burst out laughing.

The temperature of the surroundings dropped rapidly. The wind blowing at them was starting to have some icy frost in it, as the Ice Element within ten kilometers started to gather toward him...

He closed his eyes, trying to use his Ice Domain to drive Mo Fan's Nyx Regime away.

However, Philip soon noticed that something was not right.

The Ice Elements in the area had been depleted!

There was not much of the Ice Element nearby, as if someone had drawn them away in advance to prevent his Domain from being established.

Normally, his hailstones could easily smash the hospital into debris in less than five seconds, and the streets would also be covered in thick layers of ice. However, even after ten seconds, apart from the frost floating in the air, nothing happened!

Philip was infuriated. He immediately unleashed his Psychic Element and soon noticed an Ice Mage drawing all the Ice magic to her on a building not far away from the hospital!

Philip was quite familiar with that person's aura. She seemed to be the silver-haired woman that was with Mo Fan during the first attack. However, her cultivation was simply too weak to alter the tide of the battle.

"Damn it, she managed to secure the upper hand!" he cursed.

It was obvious that the woman had drawn all the Ice Elements within ten kilometers to her. The Nyx Regime must have sealed off his senses, too. Otherwise, he would easily have noticed that the Ice magic was being drawn away from the hospital.

"Do you really think you stand a chance with these petty tricks? How naive! Even without my Domain, I can still kill you easily!" Philip snapped coldly.

Despite what Philip said, he did not give up trying to lay down his Domain.

The woman's cultivation was clearly weaker than his, which meant that his Domain was stronger and was able to draw in the Ice Element from further away. He could still establish a dominating Domain of Hailstones, but it might take him a long time.

Mo Fan was well aware of the situation too!

Mu Ningxue told Mo Fan that she could only temporarily disable the Ice Domain, but with Philip's cultivation, he only needed around ten minutes to fill up the place with enough Ice mana.

In other words, he had to defeat Philip within ten minutes. Otherwise, no matter how many people they had, they were no match against Philip once he constructed his Domain!

Mo Fan was not the kind that liked to leave a threat lying around. In order to ensure his journey ahead was smooth, he had to slay Philip within ten minutes, and gave that bitch Salan a great favor in return!

"Icebound Coffin!"

Philip was still a powerful Ice Mage without relying on his Domain. His speed at drawing a complicated Star Constellation was quite shocking. The brilliance of the icy-white Star Constellation set him off, and together with his outstanding Soul-grade Seed, his Advanced Ice Spell was several times stronger than an ordinary Advanced Ice Mage!

A Soul-grade Seed was stronger than a Spirit-grade Seed. What Philip had was a real Soul-grade Ice Seed. Even after losing his Domain, his dominating strength was still there!

An eerie ice coffin fell from the pitch-black sky. An overwhelming freezing energy and an ice coffin as sturdy as a crystal loomed over Mo Fan. The lightning of his Qianjun was crushed instantly by the overwhelming presence. He was having trouble unleashing the flames of his Rose Flame, too!

It was simply too fast. Mo Fan did not even finish a third of his Lightning Constellation when the enemy's powerful Ice Spell was already falling above him. It instantly froze Mo Fan inside an Icebound Coffin the size of a hill.

The ice was transparent. Philip could see Mo Fan's face filled with fear inside it.

“That’s for being too overconfident!” Philip mocked. He was quite confused about why a stupid kid like him was able to ‘win the favor’ of Salan. She specifically mentioned that she wanted the kid dead!

Inside the ice, Mo Fan’s face stuck closely to the bone-chilling ice. The frost was penetrating into his body at a terrifying pace, and would soon freeze his blood!

Little Flame Belle cried out in a panic inside the Contracted Space.

“I didn’t expect I would need your help so soon. I thought I can take him for a while by myself. Come, let’s see how strong we are, when we combined into one!” Mo Fan said to Little Flame Belle mentally.

Little Flame Belle cried out excitedly. The little creature inside the Contracted Space flew into Mo Fan’s soul.

Mo Fan was pretty much an explosive. He erupted instantly when Little Flame Belle ignited the fuse!

The Calamity Fire that was several times stronger than before instantly filled Mo Fan’s body. It immediately got rid of the frost that had penetrated into him.

The Calamity Fire burst out of Mo Fan’s skin and set his surroundings aflame impatiently. Even the thick layer of ice as huge as a hill was unable to stop the flames from overrunning the dam!

Calamity Fire!

Mo Fan remembered the first time he saw the dark-brown flames at the North Burning Valley, how the tide of flames was surging at him from the horizon like the Apocalypse, burning everything into ashes.

Currently, Little Flame Belle’s Calamity Fire had attained the basic appearance of the natural Fire Calamity. It did not matter if it was up against fire, water, or sand, it was going to devour it all imperiously!

The Icebound Coffin started to melt. The thick body of ice cracked open rapidly, unable to endure the pressure within it.

Only a few tiny sprouts of flames were leaking out from the cracks at the start, followed by fierce tongues of flames surging across the place. A few seconds later, the whole Icebound Coffin was burning fiercely, and Mo Fan, right in the center, was engulfed in unstoppable, brown flames!

Fiery fangs swept around him!

His skin was perfectly refined with lava!

A pair of glowing, crimson-red eyes!

The flames engulfing him were unstoppable even when they were surrounded in ice...

It was like Mo Fan had put on a battle armor refined by the natural fire of the Heavens and Earth. His temperament completely differed from any other Mage, every inch of his body was covered in an intimidating, explosive aura!

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Chapter 983: Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix

“Isn’t...isn’t this...” Philip was astounded, staring at Mo Fan, who had transformed into a fiery demon!

It was rare to see anyone in his current state, unless his control of the Fire Element had reached an extremely outstanding level!

Philip took a closer look and sensed a different life form from Mo Fan.

“An Elemental Summoned Beast with the ability to possess the Summoner!” Philip realized. His face immediately turned cold.

The flames engulfing Mo Fan had smashed the ice around him into pieces. The strong flames immediately spread out and took the shape of bright, blazing-red feathers!

The feathers formed a pair of wings. The flames jetting out from the wings thrust Mo Fan forward. A Meteorite Fist brimming with strength swept across the darkness and took the shape of a fiery dragon, ramming into Philip’s body!

Philip was planning to back away, but Mo Fan’s speed was simply too shocking. Philip had to use both hands to reactively summon several hills of ice before himself.

The ice hills were almost as tall as the five-story hospital. Their thickness when stacked together was as wide as a building. However, when the Meteorite Fist slammed into the ice hills, they instantly turned into white smoke and dispersed!

The shockwave from the punch knocked Philip flying!

Philip landed on an empty street. He quickly stabilized himself as he fixed his eyes on Mo Fan.

The kid was like a completely different person compared to the other day. Philip did admit that he had slightly underestimated Mo Fan’s strength.

Even so, the kid still did not stand a chance against him!

“Ice Phoenix!”

At Philip’s shout, countless tiny ice crystals combined into an Ice Phoenix with clear edges above him. The four icy wings of the phoenix could cover the entire street when they were fully spread out!

The buildings on both sides of the street froze instantly as soon as the Ice Phoenix showed up. The freezing white energy turned everything it came into contact with into ice statues!

The Ice Phoenix beat its wings and flew at Mo Fan with great force. Mo Fan could sense an overwhelmingly destructive Ice energy from the phoenix!

Seeing the Ice Phoenix coming right at him, the wings on Mo Fan’s back immediately spat out flames and launched him into the sky. However, the Ice Phoenix also beat its wings and chased after him, as if it was alive.

Mo Fan's wings did not grant him the ability to fly. It only served as a temporary speed boost by driving him forward. When he saw the Ice Phoenix flying away from the street and rising into the sky, he immediately gathered the flames on him to protect himself with the Calamity Fire and the Rose Flame!

BANG!

The Ice Phoenix broke into pieces when it caught up to Mo Fan. The white Ice Element were spreading in an arc across the night sky!

Countless icicles scattered across the sky. It looked like a giant cloud of ice looming over the residential area, reflecting the colorful neon lights of the city in sparkles...

Mo Fan was currently at the center of the cloud of icicles. His imperious flames barely prevented the icicles from penetrating his body. However, he was currently in a pinch, like he had fallen into a lake of ice. The icicles would crush him into pieces if he tried to move around!

"Break, break, break!"

Mo Fan threw his fists around, smashing the icicles surrounding him. The broken pieces fell from the sky and turned into water before they reached the streets and houses below.

Finally, Mo Fan managed to break a huge hole in the cloud of ice. The melted ice started pouring down at the streets like a waterfall.

Mo Fan escaped from the icicles and landed on the roof of a burger shop. He immediately sensed icicles flying at him from all directions before he could warm himself back up!

Each of the icicles was around six meters long and was sharp as a blade, sealing off every possible escape route he had.

Mo Fan quickly unleashed the scorching flames in his body upon seeing this. A blazing pillar of flame rose into the sky.

The icicles melted instantly after colliding with Mo Fan's fiery pillar. It was so hot that even the cloud of ice in the sky was slowly turning into water vapor...

"Still trying to use magic?" Mo Fan glanced at Philip and shoved his palm at him!

A huge billboard from a building nearby fell right on Philip's head.

Philip raised his head. The billboard was almost as heavy as a car, falling while dragging its wires along and triggering sparks. He was forced to stop channeling a spell and dodge to the side.

"Rise!"

With a thought, Mo Fan uprooted the street lamps along the street and lifted them into the air, turning them into his weapons. As Mo Fan pointed his finger, the lamps all flew at Philip fiercely.

While Philip was busy handling the street lamps flying at him, Mo Fan reached out and slowly lifted a fireball.

The fireball was unlike the Fire Burst that he normally cast. A Fire Burst was basically as big as a C-cup breast, just enough to be held with a single hand. When the Fire Burst landed on its target, it would then set the target on fire, or apply the effects of Burning Bones or Rupture.

The fireball that Mo Fan was lifting with both his hands was far more shocking. It was like a giant iron pan when he first formed it, but it grew to the size of a house in just two seconds!

Mo Fan tossed the fireball at Philip. The enormous fireball smashed into the roads and kept on rolling, laying down a blazing red carpet of flames!

Philip was stunned when he saw a fireball almost as wide as the street rolling at him. He crazily summoned ice walls to stop it, but without his Domain, he was unable to construct a strong enough defense in a short period of time!

Not only did the enormous fireball smash the ice walls into pieces, it struck Philip and rolled directly over him!

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“Such a ridiculous move!” Zhao Manyan could not believe his eyes when he saw the fireball in the distance.

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Philip rose to his feet from the scorched street miserably, his armor now on. He glared at Mo Fan, before looking at Mu Ningxue on the building in the distance.

He was a lot weaker without his Domain of Hailstones. It felt like he was unable to do anything he tried.

He looked to the side, pretending to launch an attack at Mo Fan, but he suddenly used an Ice Lock to drag himself into the air.

The ice chains flew across the sky, including the one that he was standing on!

One of the ice chains was heading straight toward the building Mu Ningxue was on. Philip quickly hopped between the chains and stepped on the one that was quickly approaching Mu Ningxue.

Mo Fan’s strength had exceeded his imagination. Philip knew he had to take out the Ice Maga that was meddling with his Domain first, so he could establish it. With his Domain, it would be a lot easier for him to take out Mo Fan!

However, Zhao Manyan and Jiang Shaoxu were not going to let him have his way. They had been hiding close to Mu Ningxue, waiting for Philip to take the bait!

“Heart Confusion Imprisoning Formation!”

The Psychic trap that Jiang Shaoxu laid down earlier now came in handy. Before Philip was in range to attack Mu Ningxue, several Psychic Demonic Swords appeared in all directions, stabbing at his head!

The Psychic Demonic Swords was able to inflict enormous pain to both the target’s mind and spirit.

Philip was pretty alert. He immediately altered his path as soon as he stepped into the Psychic trap, trying to withdraw from it.

The Psychic Demonic Swords did not land on him, yet his mind was temporarily in a chaotic state, preventing him from casting complicated spells for the time being.

“Mo Fan, it’s your chance, take him out quick!” Jiang Shaoxu yelled.

Mo Fan was right on Philip’s tail. He was able to match Philip’s speed, especially with the help of the fiery feathers driving him forward like a rocket. He instantly sprang forward like a missile!

“Meteorite Fist!” Flames surged across the air. Mo Fan sprang forward at an astounding speed, already surrounded by several imperious fiery dragons as he was accumulating energy.

The Calamity Fire erupted with a volcano’s destructive aura. The light emitted by his fist swept across the night sky like a meteor, lighting up the streets below it!

It was the same Meteorite Fist, but since the Calamity Fire was a lot stronger now, its damage had escalated significantly. When Philip turned around, he saw the flames of death locked onto him and looming over his minuscule figure. He had nowhere to escape to!

The fist and the Calamity Fire knocked Philip back down towards the same street that was now in ruins. While he was still arcing through the air, the fiery feathers on Mo Fan’s back started disintegrating...

“Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix!”

The fiery wings spread into thousands of fiery feathers, lighting up the space around Mo Fan like stars, a domineering halo of flames!

The guy had attacked Mo Fan with an ice phoenix, so now Mo Fan returned the favor with a fire phoenix!

Unlike in the past, the feathers did not fly to the target and explode in waves. They actually combined into a fiery phoenix in mid-flight. The creature beat its wings and set the night sky on fire...

The Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix followed Philip closely and crashed into him as he landed on the ground. A stunning mushroom cloud rose into the sky. The whole place was dyed red by the overwhelming energy!

“How...How strong!” Zhao Manyan, who was merely around to give morale support and protect Mu Ningxue, was stunned.

The Meteorite Fist, surrounded by its fiery dragons, and the Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix were both utterly spectacular. Not only were Mo Fan’s Fire Spells extremely cool visually, their destructive power was enough to make many experienced Advanced Mages feel ashamed!

Little Flame Belle’s transformation had allowed Mo Fan’s Fire Element to evolve completely!

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Chapter 984: Killing Two Birds with One Stone

In a giant pit along the scorched ground...

Mo Fan was quite experienced when it came to avoiding unnecessary expenses. Just in case he had to compensate people for the loss, Mo Fan purposely knocked Philip into a fairly spacious area. Otherwise, half of the shops on the street would have instantly turned to ashes!

Inside the burning pit, Philip was covered in festering boils, with lots of blood pouring from his mouth.

He struggled to his feet. All that was left of his magic armor was broken pieces dangling from his body. It could no longer give him any protection.

Right before the attack struck him, he had gathered all his Ice Magic to form a thick ice armor to protect himself. Otherwise, he would have evaporated instantly before the overwhelming heat of the Thousand Feathers Fiery Phoenix!

Philip wiped the blood from his lips. He was trembling in anger.

He finally knew why Salan had specifically asked him to take out the kid. Not only was he the strongest young Mage he had ever seen, both his Natural Innate Talent of having extra Elements, and his unique Fire Elemental Spirit and its ability to possess him, were extremely impressive. If Philip was at the same age as Mo Fan, the young man could easily crush him to death!

"You should be proud that you're able to leave me in this state. Unfortunately, you won't be able to kill me yet!" Philip burst out laughing.

"Are you going to run away?" Mo Fan mocked.

"Next time, I'll surely take your life!" Philip had no intention to fight Mo Fan further.

"You said the same thing last time," Mo Fan replied indifferently.

Philip's furious eyes flickered murderously. However, without his Domain, he had no chance of killing Mo Fan. These young Mages had set him up this time; he had only ended up like this because he had stepped into their trap. However, once his Domain recovered, he could easily kill these brats!

Philip turned around and fled for his life. He was not afraid of Mo Fan chasing after him, as his Domain would soon recover. Mo Fan would simply get himself killed if he actually decided to chase after him!

Philip quickly escaped to another street. He turned around and saw Mo Fan tailing him, yet he was not following too close behind.

"Luckily, the Sacred Hall Mages did not show up!" Philip let out a relieved sigh.

Mo Fan was not his greatest worry. Even without his Domain, Mo Fan would still have trouble killing him. As long as the Sacred Hall Mages were not here, no one could possibly stop him from escaping.

Just a little longer, he would soon reclaim his Domain. It was Philip's greatest concern now!

He had started to regret underestimating Mo Fan. It was unwise to continue with the fight after he realized they had set up a trap for him!

An Executioner could kill their target at anytime, there was no reason for him to rush it! As long as he was still alive...

“So you’re an Executioner of the Black Vatican, Salan’s lackey?” an eerie voice suddenly appeared behind Philip.

Philip was stunned. He immediately turned around and saw a man with a cold, tanned face less than ten meters away.

When did this guy show up beside him? He was sure that there was nobody nearby when he checked the place just a moment ago!

Philip reacted quickly. He immediately activated his Magic Boots, and turned into a ray of light, heading for the alleyway.

The light sprinted quickly in the alleyway and turned the corner at lightning speed. Philip slowed down only after he sprinted through five alleyways...

However, the space ahead started to twist. With a mysterious, silver glow, the same man appeared right before him. His eyes were staring at Philip with fury and hatred!

Philip was stunned. The man felt somewhat familiar; he seemed to be one of the members of the Chinese national team. Philip did investigate the team prior to this, and the man seemed to be their captain.

The guy was not around when he had first ambushed Mo Fan. However, in Philip’s eyes, no one on the national team could possibly stop him from killing Mo Fan!

However, when Philip actually stumbled into the captain of the Chinese national team, he was surprised to sense a dangerous aura!

-This guy’s cultivation... how can a student of a national team be this strong!?-

“Demon Torture!” Ai Jiangtu clenched his hand into a claw and closed it.

The demon forming behind Philip emitted an eerie red glow as it grabbed onto Philip’s throat with both hands!

A shocking claw mark immediately appeared on Philip’s throat. Meanwhile, his soul was dragged out of his body by the demon!

“We don’t need the help of the Sacred Hall Mages to take you out!” Mo Fan finally arrived by jumping between the roofs of the buildings, and landed in front of Philip.

Ai Jiangtu had been waiting for the already-injured Philip for a long time. The man had no chance of escaping once he was struck by the Curse Spell.

Did he seriously think he could run away from a Space Mage who could Blink?

Go ahead and run as fast as you can, a Space Mage could smoke a cigarette right until its end and still have no trouble catching up to him!

“Should we deal with him on our own or hand him to the Sacred Hall Mages?” Mo Fan asked.

“Let’s hand him over to the Sacred Hall Mages, there’s something you have to know,” Ai Jiangtu said.

“AHHH!!! AH! Let me go! Let me go!”

Philip cried out in agony as the two were chatting. The Demon Torture kept tearing at him. Even though there were no visible wounds on him, his soul was already covered in bruises and scars.

As a matter of fact, when they learned the guy was once a Sacred Hall Mage, Lingling immediately proposed asking for someone’s help, someone who wasn’t a Sacred Hall Mage. If the guy dared to commit murder on the street, it was obvious that he was not afraid of the Sacred Hall Mages...

Therefore, Mo Fan decided to ask Ai Jiangtu for help.

Ai Jiangtu did not make his move at the start. The truth was, even if both Mo Fan and Ai Jiangtu teamed up, they could easily defeat Philip as long as he did not have his Domain. However, they were worried that Philip would flee immediately after realizing that he was at a disadvantage...

Since they were determined to take out the Executioner here in New York, they could not afford to let him run away. Ai Jiangtu had been watching in the dark, waiting to strike at the perfect time to take Philip down!

Philip was too focused on detecting the presence of the Sacred Hall Mages, assuming they were the only ones that could pose a threat to him. To his surprise, Ai Jiangtu’s strength was comparable to some of the Sacred Hall Mages, and Mo Fan had asked him to lend a hand, just in case!

Ai Jiangtu was from the Chinese army. The others, who were not close to Mo Fan, would hesitate to meddle in affairs related to the Black Vatican, but Ai Jiangtu would never forgive the Black Vatican. The Chinese army had sworn to uproot the Black Vatican ever since the Calamity of the Ancient Capital!

“Keep it going, don’t let him have a chance to summon his Domain. Otherwise, even with the whole team here, we won’t be able to stop him from running away,” Mo Fan reminded Ai Jiangtu.

“Mmm!” Ai Jiangtu nodded. He glanced at the street that was now full of debris and said, “I think you’ll need to pay a lot of money for that.”

“I’m guessing I’ve done the Sacred Hall Mages a huge favor. I assume they will be willing to pay for the damages!” Mo Fan shrugged indifferently.

Zhao Manyan and Jiang Yu had evacuated the streets before the fight took place. They were not in trouble as long as there were no casualties. They might not be forgiven if they failed to arrest the evil Mage that was attempting to murder someone on the street!

Ai Jiangtu glanced at Philip and saw the heavily damaged symbol on the back of his right hand. He said, “Even though we managed to arrest this Executioner, the Black Vatican still got away with it.”

“Got away? With what?” Mo Fan was confused.

“Philip was only bait.”

“Bait?” Mo Fan was even more confused.

If anyone was the bait, wouldn't it be him? He had been strutting across the world, provoking the people of the Black Vatican to come trouble him. That being said, he had still managed to take out every member of the Black Vatican that he stumbled into.

"Do you really think the Black Vatican is stupid enough to commit murder on the street, considering how cunning they are?" Ai Jiangtu chided him.

"I was pretty confused by that too," Mo Fan admitted.

With the Black Vatican's style, Mo Fan thought they would only strike when he was alone at a remote place. Not only would it be easier to kill him, they could easily run away, even if they failed the attempt!

Meanwhile, Philip's attempt was strangely arrogant. He had decided to attack Mo Fan less than five kilometers away from the Sacred Hall of Liberty. Wouldn't that allow the Sacred Hall of Liberty to send reinforcements right away? It was too risky, even if Philip was well aware of their presence!

"Doesn't that mean they weren't actually trying to kill me?" Mo Fan asked when he realized something was fishy.

"They were serious about killing you, but it was only one of their goals, or I should say, it's only something they wanted to do conveniently. On the same night Philip attempted to kill you on the street, someone stole a forbidden object from the Sacred Hall of Liberty," Ai Jiangtu explained.

Mo Fan frowned. He glanced at Philip, who had fallen to the ground feebly after the extreme torture.

"This guy was only a diversion?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mmm, the real culprit has already left New York with the forbidden object. They purposely made a great fuss when attempting to kill you just so Philip could distract them, allowing his accomplice to steal the forbidden object from the Sacred Hall of Liberty. Killing you was one of their goals too; they were trying to kill two birds with one stone... the Sacred Hall of Liberty just realized it not long ago," Ai Jiangtu informed him.

Mo Fan's heart sank.

-That bitch Salan is indeed detestable, especially with how cunning she is...-

Mo Fan initially planned to send her the Executioner's corpse as a huge gift, yet it turned out that Salan had played the Sacred Hall of Liberty like a fiddle. They pretended they were plotting to kill him to get revenge, yet their real goal was to steal the forbidden object from the Sacred Hall of Liberty!

"What was it that they stole? Is it important?" Mo Fan asked.

"I only know that much. The Sacred Hall of Liberty is reluctant to declare it to the public. Anyway, we still managed to arrest Philip, so it's not a worst-case scenario. Let's hand Philip over to the Sacred Hall of Liberty. Hopefully, they can retrieve the stolen object through him," Ai Jiangtu said.

"Mmm!" Mo Fan agreed.

Ai Jiangtu smiled when he saw the grim look on Mo Fan's face, "Speaking of which, you have grown a lot stronger. I bet the Black Vatican never thought your strength would improve so quickly. I'm pretty sure they are at a loss about what level of Executioner they should send after you."

"I did hope they would be sending a Red Cardinal after me," Mo Fan replied.

"If they really have to send a Red Cardinal after you, the Black Vatican won't be far away from being uprooted," Ai Jiangtu mused...

There was no way Salan would show herself, even though her strength greatly exceeded Mo Fan's. She knew that if she actually showed up, Mo Fan would transform into a demon without hesitation, and kill her right away!

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 985: The Giant Skeleton at the Beach

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A tall figure in a red outfit stood in the waterfall mist. She had an earring upon her left ear, and a voice was coming out of it.

"Executioner Philip is dead," said a deep voice on the other end.

"Oh, that's very disappointing!" the red figure replied calmly.

"The thing we wanted is being delivered to the destination."

"Mmm, well done," the red figure said.

"Should we send someone else to take out that guy?" the deep voice asked.

"It's fine, we can't really touch him for now, let's wait for another chance," the red figure replied.

"But his strength has improved a bit too fast. Even Philip failed to take him out. I'm worried that he's going to grow stronger and become a greater threat to us. After all, he has Double Innate Elements. Once he reaches the Super Level, he will be almost unstoppable," the deep voice said.

"Don't worry, I won't let him live until the Super Level!" Salan answered.

"Your words are a relief, you're just like Jörmungandr!"

"Jörmungandr? Maybe!"

—

The Atlantic Ocean seemed bluer than the Pacific. The water was like an ice mirror, clear and reflecting the sky and the white clouds when its surface was calm.

Tinuoaya was the prettiest, most mysterious city of Portugal. It was also the place where the Sea Hunters gathered. Almost every Hunter that was interested in exploring the Atlantic Ocean to search for treasure would gather here. Most of them would also spend all their fortunes here within a single night.

Be it the bars at the beach with lots of glamorous women, the noisy casinos, or the dueling grounds of the Mages, the place had all kinds of unending enjoyment!

It was only afternoon, the gentle sunlight shone down elegantly upon the surface of the ocean. The gentle waves were undulating like the edge of a dress...

A drunk old Mage sat on a wooden path leading off towards the ocean. It was like a wooden bridge, where many people would come at night just to cool off with the sea breeze.

The old Mage's face blushed as he kept mumbling to his friend, as if he was not satisfied with his friend's performance when they went out to the sea.

"I already told him, he has to hold the Water Barrier on his hand. If he wasn't so arrogant and actually listened to me, the Lightning Demon Fish won't have been able to escape!" the old Mage grumbled.

The man beside him was his comrade. He was middle-aged, with a thick beard. He did not drink much. Trying to comfort his friend, he replied, "But you shouldn't kick him off the team like that. You know how difficult it is for us to get a team together. We are all here to hunt Sea Monsters for the money, don't be so hard on yourself."

The old Mage, Kanter, clenched his teeth furiously. He was about to say something when he saw a huge ivory ship on the water.

He was very drunk, he was able to see multiple ships stacked on top of one another as they slowly approached the city.

"How big is that ship!? I thought Tinuoaya City didn't allow huge ships to dock at its port?" the man with a beard blurted out.

"Humph! Once I hunt a Commander-level creature, I'll buy a ship like this too, and invite the ladies in Tinuoaya City on a tour around the Atlantic Ocean with me. Once I return to Tinuoaya City, the population on my ship will have doubled!" The old Mage burst out laughing vulgarly.

The man with a beard clearly knew what the old man meant. He burst out laughing too, and glanced at the fairly imperious-looking ivory ship...

As the huge, ivory ship got closer, the bearded-Mage's expression stiffened. It felt like his eyes were about to fall out!

"Kanter, that...that isn't a ship..." the middle-aged Mage said in a shocked voice.

"How is that not a ship? Is there something else that's this big and can float on the sea in this world? Are you telling me it's a gigantic sea monster?" Old Kanter said.

"It's...it's really not a ship!" The middle-aged Mage raised his voice when he realized that something did not seem right.

A gigantic, ivory creature slowly approached the harbor, gliding across the surface of the sea. Its size was even more shocking than when it first appeared. It felt like it was taking up their entire field of view.

Kanter rubbed his eyes. He slowly became sober as the sea breeze swept his face. He lifted his gaze and stared ahead.

Following his glance, Old Kanter immediately felt his scalp exploding. He fell to the ground from the shock!

Cold sweat poured down like rain. Old Kanter was an experienced Hunter. He was about to rank up to a Hunter Master, but he had never seen anything this terrifying!

A skeleton!

It was not an ivory ship cruising on the water. It was an enormous skeleton being pushed toward the beach by the waves!

The skeleton was perfectly preserved. They could imagine how imperious the creature once was just by looking at its bones. The creature was most likely a Ruler of the ocean!

But now, the creature had turned into a skeleton, like a rubbish bottle, can, or a piece of wood, floating along on the ocean. Even an experienced Mage would be trembling in fear upon seeing it, as the pressure from just looking at the corpse was dumbfounding. Its fierce skull that one had to lift their head to look at, and its enormous bones... Most importantly... how terrifying was the thing that had turned this Ruler of the ocean into a skeleton!?

Some time later, the Mage with a beard finally collected his thoughts and stammered, "I...I...I'll alert the Alliance..."

"Al...alright!" The old Mage was still sitting on the wooden path. His legs were weak, and he was having trouble standing up.

The giant skeleton looked like it was still alive. The old Mage had roamed the ocean for many years, yet he had never heard of such a shocking creature...

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As the two Mages were overwhelmed by shock, a plane in the sky above them slowly landed at the seashore city of Tinuoaya.

Up on the plane, Mo Fan was seated at the window, and happened to be glancing down at the beautiful city when he caught a glimpse of the sight.

"What are you looking at?" Zhao Manyan asked.

"There's a strange, white ship down there. It feels too big to dock at the port," Mo Fan said.

"That's normal for a ship."

"I just feel like it's surprisingly big."

"I've seen bigger ships before. The ships at a small city like this are nothing to be surprised about," Zhao Manyan said proudly.

Chapter 986: The Return of the Drowning Curse

As the sea breeze swept past, the people could vaguely capture a strange scent from the giant skeleton lingering around the harbor.

The harbor was currently crowded with people who had never seen anything like this. All kinds of scary rumors were spreading rapidly among the people, most likely going to spread throughout the streets of Tinuoaya City in no time.

"It...it's actually big, like, very big!" Zhao Manyan swallowed with wide eyes.

They had already thought the white thing did not fit well in the little harbor when they were glancing down from the plane. However, when they actually landed, they realized how shocking the skeleton was when they arrived at the scene.

"How did a creature of this level end up like this? The skeleton is well-preserved, yet not a single drop of blood or the smallest piece of flesh remains, let alone its organs!" Nanyu wondered.

"Jiang Yu, go and see what creature is it," Mo Fan asked seriously, nudged the demon creature expert.

Zhao Manyan was left speechless. He exclaimed, "Aren't you asking too much from him?"

"It's most likely a Coastal Mammoth. Its head and upper body resemble an ancient mammoth, but its lower body is like a whale. It normally resides deep in the ocean. It doesn't like to bother humans, but many ferocious sea demons prefer to avoid this imperious creature, too. This thing has to eat more than ten sea monsters in a day to obtain enough energy for its body to function properly, and most of the time, it can swallow the sea monsters with a single bite..."

"They also have another nickname... Ship Destroyers! In the past, almost a hundred luxurious cruise liners have been destroyed by these creatures, even when they were packed with Mages, not to mention that the cruise liners were designed to survive against Commander-level creatures..." Jiang Yu explained, all in one breath.

Mo Fan nodded. Meanwhile, Zhao Manyan almost dropped his jaw to the ground.

Did Jiang Yu seriously manage to recognize the creature just by looking at the skeleton? Wasn't his ability to identify creatures a bit too insane? Although there were not many creatures of this size in the ocean, it was still unbelievable!

"This creature died less than two days ago," Jiang Yu added.

"Doesn't a creature of this size need a long time to end up as just the skeleton? How is it possible that it only died less than two days ago?" Mo Fan said.

"Look at the tusks... oh, those aren't horns, they are tusks, similar to the tusks of an elephant. The tusks of these Coastal Mammoths are worth more than ten million each! They are used for crafting magic

armor or Deathstrike Magic Equipment. The tusks have only started to turn black, and usually, these tusks will be completely black after a few days, like coal. Once they turn black, they no longer have any value," Jiang Yu informed them.

Mo Fan lifted his gaze and glanced at the tusks. It was just as Jiang Yu had said, the tusks had only started to turn black.

"I still don't understand, I know the ocean is vast, so it makes sense there are creatures stronger than a Coastal Mammoth, but this skeleton is perfectly preserved. It doesn't seem like it was injured at all, and even if the creature that killed it was so strong that it killed the Coastal Mammoth with a single attack, where did its skin, flesh, organs, and blood go? Besides, aren't bones supposed to be heavy? Why is the skeleton floating on the surface like a ship?" Nanyu wondered.

"Aren't you all busybodies? Let's hurry up to the Training Hall. We can head on to our next destination once we are done with the challenge!"

Obviously, no one could possibly explain the sight, including the Hunter Groups who had been around Tinuoaya City for many years.

The residents of the city were terrified knowing that a giant skeleton had shown up at the port. A single Coastal Mammoth was enough to bring utter destruction to the city, let alone the demon hiding in the ocean that had killed it so easily!

Fear was contagious. When the team reached the streets, they could hear everyone whispering to one another. They were all discussing the incident.

It was likely that many news agencies had started drafting headlines for the following story...

Mo Fan was a curious man. The visual impact of the skeleton was too strong to be ignored for him. Most importantly, how exactly did the Coastal Mammoth die?

"Jiang Yu, do you have any rough idea how strong that Coastal Mammoth was?" Mo Fan inquired.

"The weakest among them would be around the Commander-level, but the creature at the beach, it's most likely close to the Ruler-level, judging from its teeth and size," Jiang Yu replied.

"Close...close to the Ruler-level... Jiang Yu, please don't scare me!" Zhao Manyan shivered.

If a creature that was almost as strong as a Ruler-level creature had died such a horrible death, wouldn't that imply there was a real Ruler-level creature close to Tinuoaya City? And it was the kind that liked to drink the blood and eat the flesh of its prey!

The team was not too bothered by the skeleton before Jiang Yu mentioned the level of the creature. However, their attitude completely changed, as they no longer felt safe even when they were in the city.

"Let's hurry up to the Training Hall and get on with the challenge. We'll take the first flight and leave as soon as we're done with it."

"..."

Mo Fan was not interested in fighting Portugal's Training Hall. He was actually more curious about the skeleton after listening to Jiang Yu's explanation.

"Just go if you want, we'll handle the challenge," Ai Jiangtu said helplessly when he saw the look in Mo Fan's eyes.

"Hehe, we'll leave it in your hands then! Come, time to do some investigation!"

"What investigation? It's more like a ghost story."

Zhao Manyan was unwilling to go, but Mo Fan forcibly dragged him along. The adventurous Jiang Shaoxu tagged along with the group that was eager to find out the truth. To everyone's surprise, Mu Ningxue, who was normally only interested in becoming stronger, decided to tag along, too!

"Mo Fan, this simply means Mu Ningxue is the kind that only looks cold on the outside. She's actually adventurous and a thrill-seeker on the inside. When you manage to push her down... oh, someday, she will surely push you down and let you have a taste of her wild nature!" Zhao Manyan was indeed a pervert, to actually come up with such a shameless interpretation from something so insignificant.

"If she heard you, I wouldn't be able to save your life even in my demon form," replied Mo Fan.

"Hehe..." Zhao Manyan laughed dryly.

Mo Fan was actually surprised that Mu Ningxue was interested in the skeleton.

But Mo Fan soon realized he was wrong. When the group was heading for the skeleton, Mu Ningxue took another path and disappeared into the alleyways.

The alleyways in the city were stacked up like a maze. Mo Fan did not notice where Mu Ningxue went, so he had no choice but to proceed on his way.

Mu Ningxue walked through the alleyways. The sound of her wooden-heeled shoes on the ground echoed on the narrow paths.

She eventually reached a stone bridge, leading to an area filled with fine houses on the other end. Below the bridge was a shallow beach, the water slowly rising, turning the sandy area into a little stream...

The other side of the bridge was a seemingly dirty, narrow beach. The view of the ocean was blocked off by the surrounding estates. Only a small corner of it was visible.

The sea breeze that had lost its way in such a complicated layout blew Mu Ningxue's disheveled hair back, revealing her beautiful face...

"It's already the third one this month." An old man smoking on the bridge let out a heavy sigh while staring at a black bag on the narrow beach.

There was someone on the narrow beach. It was a Fire Mage in a red outfit, with logs stacked up high in front of him. On the logs laid something covered in a black bag.

Another person opened the bag, revealing a properly-dressed, yet lifeless body inside. The body was lying still on the wooden stand.

The Fire Mage completed a Star Orbit and ignited the logs with a gold-tinged flame. The logs were set aflame instantly, devouring the young man lying on them.

Mu Ningxue was startled when she saw the fire.

-A cremation? Why are they cremating a body on the beach?-

This kind of cremation was only conducted for people that died of some kind of disease. Could this beautiful city be plagued with a deadly disease?

Mu Ningxue went up to the old man and asked, "Elder, what did you just say?"

The old man was speaking in English. They were many different nationalities in Tinuoaya City, thus most people would converse in English.

"It's already the third cremation this month," replied the old man.

"Did he die of some sickness?" Mu Ningxue asked.

"People wouldn't be so scared if it was only a sickness," said the old man.

"Why is that?"

"It's better if you don't ask any further. You will have a nightmare if you know what happened," the old man shook his head.

"I want to know."

The old man looked at the fire for quite some time, as if he was waiting for the fire to burn the corpse into ashes.

Some time later, the old man finally spoke, "Instead of saying he died of sickness, it's more suitable to say it's a suicide. No, that's not it, it's a curse... because every single one of them was running crazily to the water and drowned themselves in it..."

Mu Ningxue frowned and asked seriously, "Did you see it?"

"Yeah, I saw it. If I was to count every incident that I saw, there aren't just three of them."

Mu Ningxue's heart sank instantly.

She had only come here because she heard a few women discussing it along the way. Mu Ningxue initially thought they were discussing the skeleton, yet when she listened to them closely, she immediately recalled the strange incident she had stumbled into in Japan!

The Drowning Curse!

Back then, Mu Ningxue had personally witnessed a woman running at the sea in a crazy manner, and she drowned in the water in just a brief moment!

Now, she had witnessed the same kind of death, at a seashore city in Portugal on the other side of the Earth from Japan!

The sea breeze blew on Mu Ningxue's face again. A strange chill immediately swept across her skin...

Versatile Mage

Chapter 987: The International Reward Pool

Mu Ningxue did not recover from the shock after a long time.

-The Drowning Curse, why would the same, strange curse take place at a beach that was so far away?-

Mu Ningxue immediately asked the old man for more details. The old man told Mu Ningxue everything he knew.

It turned out that eight people had already died to Drowning Curse at different times. The old man had lived in the area for many years, hence why he was familiar with the strange incident.

However, no one knew exactly where the Drowning Curse came from!

“So you’re here, what’s so special about that bonfire?” Mo Fan’s voice appeared behind her.

Mu Ningxue was left speechless. What eyesight did this guy have? That was a body being cremated on the beach, not a bonfire!

Besides, who the hell would come to the beach just to watch a bonfire in broad daylight!?

“I witnessed something terrifying at East Maritime Fortress.” Mu Ningxue briefly explained the Drowning Curse to Mo Fan.

Mo Fan was dumbfounded when he heard about the Drowning Curse.

-A person running to the ocean to drown themselves?-

And the corpse would turn extremely pale and dried up? It sounded like the symptoms of some scary disease, yet he had never heard of any disease that could force someone to kill themselves!

“What about the skeleton? Did you learn something new?”

It was unlikely they could figure out the reason behind the Drowning Curse now. Mu Ningxue switched the topic to the skeleton. As a matter of fact, the sudden appearance of the skeleton was actually a lot scarier than the Drowning Curse.

“The creature’s bone marrow is all gone. The bones were huge, but the insides were empty,” Mo Fan told her.

The group finally realized why the skeleton was able to float on the surface of the ocean. The bones were hollow and empty, thus they were not as heavy as the team initially thought.

The Hunter Union had sent someone to investigate the matter. However, it was hard to tell if they could learn anything useful.

“I want to learn the truth,” Mu Ningxue said.

“Likewise, such a huge skeleton, the flesh, blood, and bone marrow were all gone. I wonder what actually happened,” Mo Fan said.

“I was referring to the Drowning Curse,” Mu Ningxue said seriously.

“...” Mo Fan felt his balls aching. Did Mu Ningxue’s thoughts always jump around like this?

Alright, perhaps Mu Ningxue’s mind was occupied with the Drowning Curse, since it was her second time stumbling into it.

Thinking about it, if something so terrifying happened at the East Maritime Fortress, and was now happening on the other side of the planet, the Drowning Curse was surely far more serious than it seemed before!

“I’ll help you, I’m a Hunter Master after all,” Mo Fan said.

“Mmm!” Mu Ningxue did not reject Mo Fan’s offer.

For some reason, Mu Ningxue’s instincts were telling her that there was more to the Drowning Curse than met the eye. Mu Ningxue did not want to see another corpse showing up at the beach...

It was true that Mo Fan was a Hunter Master, but he still had to ask the experienced and knowledgeable Lingling for help most of the time.

Lingling was still in New York. She was probably busy with something that Old Bao asked her to do.

Mo Fan returned to the inn and found a computer connected to the Internet. He briefly described the Drowning Curse to Lingling, hoping that she had some information about it.

Lingling had access to a huge database that contained the records of most strange incidents that happened across the world.

Lingling’s eyes immediately glittered when she heard about the Drowning Curse.

“Where are you guys?” Lingling asked.

“Tinoaya City in Portugal. Don’t tell me you’re thinking of coming over?” Mo Fan replied.

“Why can’t I? Anything is better than going back to school!” Lingling answered.

Since Mo Fan had started traveling around the world, Lingling felt like she was going to rot at the Magic City. There were no incidents, no missions, no chance of using her brain. She felt like she was going to collapse at any second.

She had enough of the boring days. She had to find something that a Hunter was supposed to do!

“Mo Fan, I’ve investigated it, and I have good news for you,” Lingling immediately responded, as efficient as usual.

“Good news?” Mu Ningxue felt Lingling’s description was unfitting. How could any good news be related to a Drowning Curse that was driving people to commit suicide?

“About the Drowning Curse! The World Hunter Union is actually offering a reward for anyone that can solve the mystery of the Drowning Curse. It turns out that many places across the world have had similar incidents,” Lingling explained.

“So the World Hunter Union already knew about it, meaning that it’s not just a mere coincidence. The good news you mentioned... are you saying that we can try solving the mystery for the reward?” Mo Fan asked.

Mo Fan realized that he was still not strong enough after stumbling into Executioner Philip.

Philip managed to dominate him with his Domain alone. He was only a kid waving his fists around wildly in front of Philip. Mo Fan was worried that he would find himself in a similar situation if he stumbled into a Mage with a powerful Domain again.

His Fire, Lightning, and Shadow Elements had all reached the Advanced Level. His Summoning Element had improved significantly after Little Flame Belle’s growth. It should be fairly close to reaching the Advanced Level.

As such, Mo Fan needed to secure himself another Galaxy Vein. On top of that, Mo Fan felt like he was lacking something important too: he desperately needed a Domain!

Having a Domain actually made a lot of difference!

Normally, a normal Soul-grade Seed was priced around two to three hundred million. A Soul-grade Seed around this price was at least twice as strong as a Spirit-grade Seed, and different Soul-grade Seeds would also enhance the Mage’s spell with different special effects.

As for a Soul-grade Seed with a Domain, the price was absolutely insane!

According to Zhao Manyan’s description, most Soul-grade Seeds with a Domain cost at least six hundred million when they were auctioned off!

Mo Fan had used most of his savings feeding Little Flame Belle with Soul Seeds. A Fire Spirit-grade Seed was at least ten million, and it was only enough to feed Little Flame Belle a few meals. As such, Mo Fan was living in poverty. He really missed the days when Lingling could feed him a great job, just so he had a glimpse of hope at buying a Soul-grade Seed with a Domain one day.

“You just have to tell me how much the reward is,” Mo Fan prodded her.

“It’s not a fixed amount. Do you know what a reward pool is?” Lingling asked him.

“Nope, what’s a reward pool?”

“You should know what a jackpot is, right? It’s a lottery that keeps stacking up until someone eventually wins it. Similarly, there is a reward pool for certain jobs too, especially those that are requested by people across the world. The World Hunter Union combines the rewards together. They don’t give the money back when someone fails to complete the job, but they put it into a pool instead. The reward continues to accumulate in the pool...” Lingling trailed off knowingly.

Mo Fan’s eyes glittered upon hearing this!

A reward pool, there actually existed something so wonderful in the world! Mo Fan could imagine himself having a swim in a pool of gold coins!

Mu Ningxue was speechless when she saw how excited Mo Fan was all of a sudden.

She was only eager to solve the mystery to do a kind deed, as she did not want anyone to die to the strange curse. To her surprise, there was already a reward pool for it. More importantly, it seemed like Mo Fan had completely forgotten that he was still a student on the national team after learning about the reward pool!

“How big is the pool now?” Mo Fan asked impatiently.

“There were 1,325 requests across the world to solve the mystery of the Drowning Curse. Most of them were submitted by the families of the victims, while some are from the local governments, associations, experimental labs, or charities. The sum is now three hundred forty-five million and seven hundred thousand... oh, someone has just contributed to the pool, it is now three hundred fifty million... I’ve bought a ticket, I’ll be there tonight,” Lingling informed him.

Lingling did not show any expression during the video call, yet considering how fast she was packing her stuff, she was just as excited as Mo Fan!

Mu Ningxue had no idea if she should be laughing or crying, watching the two Hunters who were like birds of a feather.

Anyway, at least they were doing the world a good deed. Hopefully, they could solve the mystery of the Drowning Curse, so that no one would die such a horrible death again!

“Mo Fan, if we can solve the Drowning Curse, we will be Four-Star Hunter Masters. We’ll be given more privileges to access useful information, and to accept jobs with greater rewards!” Lingling did not forget to mention before hanging up the call.

“HAHA, at this rate, we’ll soon become Senior Hunters!” Mo Fan burst out laughing.

Senior Hunters were highly respected in society. Mo Fan knew Lingling was aiming to become a Senior Hunter all along, while he was aiming to earn money by completing the jobs as a Hunter. He believed they would both achieve their goals eventually!

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Lingling was incredibly proactive. She was on a flight to Tinuoaya City before the sun had fallen.

While Lingling was on the flight, she had already prepared the information about the Drowning Curse. She had combined all the information about the victims on the Drowning Curse on an electronic map to try and find some similar patterns to their deaths.

“We know that all the deaths occurred in cities close to bodies of water like an ocean, a river, a lake, etc.,” Lingling was surprisingly very energetic. Her eyes were glittering as if they were saying, “There’s finally a case I can work on!”

“Wouldn’t it be difficult to solve a mystery that has the whole world confused in a short period of time?” Mo Fan said.

From Lingling's electronic map, the Drowning Curse had taken place in the Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and Indian Ocean. Interestingly, there's weren't many incidents in China, but in other countries, especially Portugal, a lot more deaths had occurred...

"Oh, to be precise, this Tinuoaya City actually has the highest number of deaths," Lingling said.

Mu Ningxue immediately recalled the old man's words. Eight people had already died on the shallow beach!

"It looks like we have found ourselves in the right spot, but then, I wonder if just the few of us are enough to crack the mystery," Mo Fan wondered.

"Don't worry, I'm going to solve it!" Lingling's eyes flickered with the stubbornness and professionalism of a Hunter as she replied stubbornly.

Chapter 988: Drowned in Blood

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue proceeded to question the locals. Not just the shallow beach, a few other places close to a body of water also had similar incidents.

If they were murders committed by a serial killer, there had to be some similarities between the deaths, allowing them to identify the gender, occupation, or even a group of people that the killer was targeting.

The Drowning Curse might occur randomly to people living close to a beach, but it did not necessarily mean the victims were not related in some way. Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue wanted to find the key similarity between all the victims. Otherwise, they did not have any clues, apart from knowing that all the victims were killed by the strange curse.

They first went to visit the old man. If he had witnessed eight deaths so far, it was likely that he held some useful information.

The old man went ahead and told Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue a legend, something about presenting sacrifices to the ocean. The God of Sea was only willing to protect the people of the city once they gave it sacrifices.

The legend sounded like some pure bullshit to Mo Fan.

Anything about presenting sacrifices was pure nonsense, and anything that asked humans to sacrifice their lives was not worthy to be called a god, either. It was now the twenty-first century, science was the basis of every belief. Why would anyone still believe in superstitions?

"I've asked the families. The three victims that died this month were strangers to one another. I then looked at their photos, and realized that they were fairly tanned. Their families told me that they liked to swim," Mo Fan said.

"They like swimming?" Mu Ningxue was confused.

"Hehe, I don't think it's useful, either," Mo Fan shrugged.

After learning magic, Mo Fan realized he was more interested in using violence to settle disputes. He was no longer good at solving problems with his brain.

As they were walking along an alleyway filled with fresh flowers, Mo Fan saw a man walking toward them from the opposite direction. He was holding a bottle of beer in his hand, and seemed to be enjoying himself.

Soon, the man with the bottle of beer noticed Mu Ningxue walking toward him. His lips raised and he whistled at Mu Ningxue. His eyes were staring at Mu Ningxue's collar bones, and trying to probe deeper.

"Are you seriously ignoring my presence?" Mo Fan glared at the man and snapped in an unfriendly manner.

The man had quite a bad temper too, and snapped in return, "Who do you think you are?"

"Piss off!" Mo Fan waved and shoved the man aside with the Space Element.

Mo Fan was going easy on the man, only trying to teach him a lesson.

To his surprise, the man was no ordinary human. He immediately summoned a Water Barrier to protect himself.

"Space Element? You're an Advanced Mage?" The man raised his brows. He immediately showed a whole new level of respect for Mo Fan.

"Aren't you going to leave yet?" Mo Fan said.

"It's just the Advanced Level..."

Mo Fan swung his hand again. He was not in the mood to listen to the asshole's crap!

Mo Fan did not go easy on the man after learning that he was a Mage too. The force rammed into the man, who failed to hold his ground this time. He immediately went flying across the alleyway.

He fell onto the ground. The beer bottle in his hand smashed into pieces too, leaving foam on the ground. The man was not really injured, and rose to his feet furiously. Knowing that he was no match for Mo Fan, he pointed his finger at Mo Fan and said, "Kid, this is my territory! Just you wait, I'll make you kneel down and apologize to me!"

After saying that, he turned around and left. The alleyways were pretty complicated, so Mo Fan soon lost him even though he wanted to teach him a lesson.

"Coward!" Mo Fan found the fellow quite amusing.

"Just ignore him, it's no use wasting your time on a person like him!" Mu Ningxue did not agree with Mo Fan's approach.

"You're good-looking, so it's normal to catch people's attention, but he dared to act like a jerk and whistle! Not only was he disrespecting you, he was provoking me too! I'm already being very merciful, since I didn't beat all his teeth out," Mo Fan declared firmly.

Mo Fan always had his reasons. Mu Ningxue was too lazy to argue with him. As a matter of fact, Mo Fan was pretty much a jerk to her too, if she compared him with the man!

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue came to a residential area. It was the seventh family they were visiting.

If the only similarity between the victims was they liked to swim, Mo Fan suddenly felt like it was better to go back to the inn and take a nap...

As they arrived at the place and walked past the little garden full of wisterias, Mo Fan suddenly picked up a foul smell.

Mu Ningxue smelled it too, and immediately covered her nose. She was confused why the nice-looking garden would have such an unpleasant smell...

"Anyone home?" Mo Fan walked into the house and pushed the wooden door open.

"Anyone? The whole place stinks!" Mo Fan yelled.

There was still no response. Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue exchanged glances.

Mo Fan quickened his pace and entered the living room.

"Hey, what are you two doing? Asshole, you dare come to my house! I swear I'm going to take you down!" a familiar voice came from outside the house.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue turned around and saw the same Water Mage they had stumbled into before.

This was his place? Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue were speechless. How small is this world?

"This is your house?" Mo Fan asked.

"Of course, don't be ridiculous! Even if you're an Advanced Mage, you can't just sneak into my house just because I took a few extra glances at your girlfriend!" the Water Mage shouted.

"Something absolutely stinks in your house, don't you smell it?" Mo Fan asked.

The Water Mage took a deep breath and immediately started coughing. He was so focused on Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue that he had simply ignored the smell.

"Why does it stink so much?" the Water Mage said.

"You should ask yourself that, I think it's coming from this big room," Mo Fan pointed at a locked room.

The room was locked from the outside. Even the gaps were sealed with nails. It did not look normal to Mo Fan, as the door would only be sealed to trap someone inside the room.

The man was startled, and his face immediately turned pale.

He quickly took out a key and unlocked the room.

As soon as the door flung open, a disgusting smell burst out from it. The three immediately held their breaths!

"Norke, Norke!" the man screamed as he rushed into the room.

Mo Fan followed after him, but he was stunned as soon as the disgusting sight filled his eyes!

The man was dumbfounded too. He fell to the ground feebly...

Mu Ningxue quickly turned around, as she did not dare to look at it further.

Mo Fan had seen horrible things before, but even he felt uncomfortable after seeing the sight in the room.

There was a man in the room. He had been tied up, most likely by the Water Mage they had stumbled into.

However, the man inside the room was dead!

His wrist was sliced open, and lots of blood had poured out into an iron pot. The man had shoved his face into the pot and drowned himself in the blood.

It was difficult to tell if the man had died from losing too much blood or drowning. Either way, his body was pale and dried up, the same symptoms shown by the victims of the Drowning Curse!

The man cried for a long time. It seemed the man called Norke was his younger brother!

To make things even worse, the person that had died to the Drowning Curse three months ago in this household was his elder brother...

In other words, two members of his family had died to the Drowning Curse!

"Tell us what you know. I believe you have a stronger urge than anyone else to find the real cause of their death." Mo Fan brought the man some bottles of beers to help him calm down.

The man emptied two bottles of beer in an instant. It was obvious that he was having trouble accepting the truth.

"Norke likes to surf. I didn't let him go, so he was grabbing and scratching me like he had gone insane. I thought he was out of his mind, so I locked him up in the room. I didn't come home last night, I planned to lock him up for a day hoping that he would come to his senses. I didn't expect him to drown himself in his own blood. What did I do wrong?" Bobby cried.

"I don't think it has anything to do with me, but it's indeed strange that two members of your family died to the Drowning Curse. Even though people across the world have died to it, I can't believe it's a coincidence that it has happened to the same household twice. Did your elder brother and Norke go to some place together? Or did they recently do something together, or eat the same thing?" Mo Fan asked seriously.

"They were always together. I'm a Mage, so I barely come home. I spend most of my time at the Magic Association. My elder brother always take Norke with him, but I'm not too sure where they went," said Bobby.

Bobby was grieving, and struggling to speak properly. Mo Fan did not feel like asking him more questions, either. He had no choice but to wait for the man to calm down, so he could try and get some useful information from him.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue went to the side. They could see the shock and uneasiness in each other's eyes.

"This is really scary," Mu Ningxue said softly.

"Yeah, I think this Norke was affected by the Drowning Curse, too. Normally, he would have run to the ocean and drowned himself, but he was locked in the room by Bobby, making it impossible for him to find any body of water. In the end, he managed to complete the drowning ritual with his own blood. It's not as simple as a disease, it's like some kind of mental torture, or brainwashing," Mo Fan said.

"But what could it be that it's able to person to drown himself in his own blood?" Mu Ningxue said.

"I've already notified Lingling. Let's keep the place as it is. I believe we might be able to find some useful clues here!" Mo Fan said seriously.

Mo Fan was initially interested in the Drowning Curse because of the reward pool, but after witnessing the terrifying death, he was no longer at ease!

Where the hell did this curse come from? It was absolutely terrifying!

Chapter 989: The Jellyfish Evil Maggot

It did not take Lingling long to arrive.

When Bobby saw a little girl coming into the house, he quickly rose to his feet and said, "Little girl, don't come in here, it's too scary!"

Lingling continued on her way, her eyes displaying intelligence unfitting her age, staring right at the gory scene.

She went closer and felt the blood in the pot with her fingertips, before lifting Norke's head to inspect it closely.

Bobby was stunned. He stared at Lingling with a blank face, and it took him quite a while to recover.

"Don't tell the cops or the Magic Association yet, we won't be able to find what we want if they come," Lingling said.

"I've used the Space Element to quarantine this place, it will stop the smell from leaking out too," Mo Fan complied.

"What's this?" Lingling pointed at some strange-looking thing stuck to the pot and asked curiously.

"No idea, it looks like dander," Mo Fan said.

Lingling cautiously collected the dander stuck to the pot into a vacuum bag so she could experiment on it.

"Find a skilled pathologist and let him dissect the body," said Lingling.

"Di...dissect?" Bobby immediately began to reject.

This was his younger brother. How could he let them dissect his corpse? He had to give him a proper burial!

"If you think a proper burial is more meaningful than finding the true cause of his death, or the real culprit behind it, you can ask the Magic Association to send someone over now. Those bunch of idiots will only tell you that it's safer to cremate him," Lingling said firmly.

Bobby did not expect to hear such words from a little girl. He looked at Lingling with a blank face.

"If you want to know what killed your brothers, just like we do, then just do as she said," Mo Fan patted Bobby's shoulder and told him earnestly.

Bobby was a rational person. He nodded to give his consent, and let Lingling take care of the body.

While Lingling and the pathologist were dissecting the body inside the house, Mo Fan and Bobby sat in the garden, each holding an iced bottle of stout beer, taking sips at times. They did not look like they had just gotten into a fight not long ago.

"How did you take care of your elder brother's corpse? Did you burn it?" Mo Fan asked.

"Mmm, on the same day. An old pharmacist from the Magic Association said it might be some kind of contagious disease, so they had to burn it. I tried to stop them, but they insisted on burning it anyway," Bobby confirmed.

"Your brother Norke, when did he... turn..."

"Lose his mind?"

"Yeah, when did you realize he wasn't himself?" Mo Fan asked.

"Around a week ago, his temper suddenly worsened. I thought he was only behaving like that because of what happened to my elder brother," Bobby said.

"Did he show any peculiar behavior?"

"Nothing in particular... he seemed pretty normal, although he did have a better appetite recently," Bobby said.

"Better appetite?" Mo Fan immediately recalled the families of the victims he visited. He remembered them mentioning the same thing.

Lubi was picky when it comes to food, but he's been eating everything lately. I thought he was finally going to grow a lot stronger. His feeble body was going to improve too, but to think that he would die all of a sudden...

Mo Fan remembered one of the victims' mum saying the same thing!

"Xue Xue, can you go pay the families a visit again and ask them in particular about the appetites of the victims?" Mo Fan asked Mu Ningxue.

Mu Ningxue nodded and immediately headed out.

It did not take long for Mu Ningxue to revisit the families with the speed of her Wind Element. She soon returned to Bobby's house.

Mo Fan already knew the answer when he saw the look on her face.

"Every victim had a better appetite prior to their deaths. The amount of food they ate was around two to three times their usual amount, with not a single exception," Mu Ningxue said seriously.

"It's likely that the cops and the Hunters would disregard a tiny detail like this. They won't assume there's any problem with it, but it might actually be the clue we're looking for," Mo Fan opened Lingling's database and searched it using the keyword 'appetite'.

Even though not every record of the victims of the Drowning Curse had taken note of their appetite, he did find some other information about sudden changes to a person's appetite!

"Appetite? What does that have anything to do with the curse?" Bobby asked in confusion.

"An increase in appetite isn't necessarily a good thing, especially when each victim did not seem to gain weight despite eating a lot more than they usually do," Mo Fan replied.

While they were discussing the victims' appetites, Lingling walked out of the house. She looked at the three sitting in the garden with glittering eyes.

"We found something," Lingling said.

"So did we!" Mo Fan immediately told Lingling how every victim had a sudden increase in appetite before they died.

Lingling pondered for a while before sharing her discovery, "Norke's body is extremely feeble, like a person who hasn't eaten for more than ten days. He only looks normal on the outside. The inside of his body is actually swelling because of taking in too much water."

"That's...that's impossible!" Bobby screamed.

Norke had clearly eaten a lot. How was it possible that his body was like an empty shell only full of water? That didn't make any sense!

"I can feel my head hurting," Mo Fan smiled wryly. He simply could not find any possibility to explain it.

The victims were starving when they ate more than they usually did... it was simply impossible, no matter how fast a person's metabolism was!

"I think we've found some clues," Lingling said. She went into the house and returned with the pot filled with blood.

Mu Ningxue and Mo Fan were confused. Why did she bring the pot of blood out?

Lingling asked Mo Fan to hold onto a filtration net.

Mo Fan did as she asked and held out the net. Lingling started pouring the blood through the net.

The viscid blood flowed through the tiny gaps of the filtration net. Bobby had a complicated feeling watching it. How daring was this little girl? Even a Mage like him was frightened by the gory sight, but the little girl seemed perfectly normal.

The blood continued to fall through the net. Mo Fan almost wanted to ask questions when he suddenly saw something wriggling in the net.

It looked like a blood clot, but it was soft and squishy, as if it could pass through the net with a little push.

“What’s that?” Mo Fan asked, pointing at the blood clot.

“Don’t touch it, it’s very fragile. It will die as soon as it leaves a body of liquid,” Lingling warned him.

Mo Fan immediately took back his finger. Mu Ningxue and Bobby went up to take a closer look.

“Go get some water,” Lingling said. She poured the quickly-retrieved water onto the wriggling blood clot, to wash the crimson off it.

To their surprise, after the viscid blood was washed off, the wriggling blood clot totally vanished, as if it had melted.

“Where did it go?” Mo Fan asked in astonishment.

“It’s still there, look closely,” Lingling said.

Mo Fan lowered his head and took a closer look. He finally discovered a completely transparent, tiny maggot at the same spot where the blood clot was in the filtration net!

The thing was soft like a jellyfish, but more transparent than it. It was almost invisible to the naked eye. It had the shape of a maggot, and was slightly bigger than a thumb.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Mu Ningxue admitted.

Mu Ningxue was considered the knowledgeable sort, yet it was her first time seeing the creature. Most importantly, why was it in the blood clot? Did that mean everyone that died to the Drowning Curse had this transparent maggot in their blood?

“It’s understandable if you haven’t seen it before. This is only the larval form of the creature. They can only grow into their true form by taking in enough water from the ocean,” Lingling told them.

“What true form?”

“It’s hard to say. The scariest thing about these Jellyfish Evil Maggots is that their eggs are like an embryo that can attach to any living creature, allowing them to take their host’s form,” Lingling said.

“Are you saying that this thing can grow into any creature? Like, if it attaches to a Scarlet Demon, it will turn into a Scarlet Demon, and if it attaches to a sea monster, it will turn into a sea monster?” Mo Fan exclaimed.

“Something like that. It’s also my first time seeing a living Jellyfish Evil Maggot. I can finally conduct some experiments on it tonight!” Lingling said, her eyes glowing in excitement.

“But how about the Drowning Curse?” Mu Ningxue asked.

“Didn’t I already say it? This Jellyfish Evil Maggot can take the form of any living creature, including humans!” Lingling said.

Mo Fan and Mu Ningxue were stunned. Didn’t that sound extremely terrifying?

Bobby snapped furiously after hearing the conclusion, “What...what did you say!?! My brothers were actually transformed maggots like these! Impossible, that’s impossible!”

“It’s only a speculation for now, I’ll need to investigate it further,” Lingling said.

“But that’s crazy, to think that every victim of the Drowning Curse was actually a maggot like this! How could a tiny, transparent maggot transform into a human, and be able to speak and move like one?” Mo Fan thought Lingling was exaggerating. Even he was having a hard time believing it!

“Speaking of which, I heard that an enormous skeleton showed up at the beach not long ago?” Lingling asked.

“Mmm, that did happen,” Mo Fan confirmed.

“Hopefully, it’s not the doing of these creatures. Otherwise, this city is most likely in big trouble,” Lingling said grimly.

[Versatile Mage](#)

Chapter 990: The Cause of the Drowning Curse

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Lingling took the Jellyfish Evil Maggot back. Late that night, Lingling summoned Mo Fan, Mu Ningxue, and Bobby to the beach. She was holding a tiny tablet on her hand. It was showing a blinking red dot right in the center.

“What are you doing?” Bobby saw Lingling opening a box and placing the transparent Jellyfish Evil Maggot into the ocean.

The Jellyfish Evil Maggot was barely visible to the naked eye when it was placed on a person’s hand. However, when it was placed in water, it blended in perfectly!

“The reason why no one discovered any trace of poison, parasite, or curse from the victims of the Drowning Curse was because these Jellyfish Evil Maggots were no longer detectable in the water!” Lingling said.

“You mean that every victim of the Drowning Curse actually had maggots like this in their bodies? They were under its control, which drove the victims to drown themselves in the ocean, allowing the maggots to leave their hosts and escape into the ocean?” Mo Fan asked for clarity.

“Exactly! The truth is, most maggots are a lot bigger than this one. The people that died to the Drowning Curse all dried up in a short period of time, like all the energy in their bodies were sucked dry in an instant, but it actually happened because these maggots left the hosts after taking a huge amount of energy from them. They simply drew all their nutrients away, resulting in the horrible deaths we saw,” Lingling said.

Lingling knew the three were still clueless about the details, so she explained her findings in detail.

“First of all, these maggots are a type of extremely terrifying parasitic creature. They normally reside in seawater, and are as tiny as plankton, meaning that they can enter a living creature’s body easily through their mouth, nose, or ears. Actually, in the early days, these maggots were unable to live inside human bodies, but since a few decades ago, they started to evolve into something that can use human bodies as their hosts. These maggots will enter a person’s body and attach themselves close to the stomach, drawing in the nutrients and food of their host crazily. As such, the people that were under the Drowning Curse had a greater appetite, since they were not only trying to provide energy for themselves, they had to feed the maggots in their embryo form inside their bodies.

“These embryos in human bodies will gradually mature. The food that their hosts eat will no longer be enough to satisfy their needs. Instead of taking the energy of the hosts they were living inside secretly, they prefer to acquire all the energy they want from the vast ocean. The maggots will start to eat the human’s body, securing all the energy available and storing it inside itself to prepare to move into the ocean. These terrifying little creatures will then control the minds of their hosts and urge them to head for bodies of water, especially the ocean...

“Once they reach the ocean, these maggots that have feasted on their hosts will leave the empty human bodies, instantly drawing all the remaining energy from them, killing the victims in mere seconds. These transparent evil creatures will then swim freely into the ocean and start their new lives!”

Lingling explained how the maggots entered a human, parasitized it, grew in their bodies, and left in the end. Bobby, who often went swimming in the ocean, immediately shivered in fear. He could feel his stomach twitching, as if there was a terrifying parasitic, vampiric maggot lying on it!

“Such a terrifying creature. It’s basically impossible to watch out for them!” Mu Ningxue said.

They were various kinds of demon creatures, including sea monsters, mountain beasts, undead, and even parasitic creatures like the maggot. Some were basically invisible to the naked eye, living inside creatures like a little devil and slowly killing them!

“I’ve analyzed it thoroughly; this Jellyfish Evil Maggot has two different forms. The first form is the embryonic form I mentioned before, the Jellyfish Evil Maggot is incredibly weak in this form. Even the slightest hit will kill them, and their chance of surviving in human bodies isn’t high, either. As such, even when a Jellyfish Evil Maggot ends up in a human body, it won’t necessarily kill the host with the Drowning Curse. However, once it successfully matures into the Jellyfish Evil Maggot that can control its host’s mind, it’s basically a stage-four cancer. There’s no cure at all! Killing the Jellyfish Evil Maggot will draw away all the energy of the host, but not killing the Jellyfish Evil Maggot means the host will eventually run to the ocean and drown themselves.

“Their second form is the form they take after they have killed their host and entered the ocean, but they are only like younglings that have just hatched from eggs. They need to continue feeding on other creatures in order to achieve their complete form...” Lingling said.

“What’s their complete form?” Mo Fan asked.

“That’s what I’m trying to figure out. I’ve analyzed the embryo of a Jellyfish Evil Maggot, but I wasn’t able to find any immune system on them. I assume it only exists when they reach the complete form of their second stage,” Lingling said.

“So if we can come up with a vaccine and ask the Magic Associations across the world to inject their people with it, does that mean no one will die to the Drowning Curse again?” Mu Ningxue asked with glittering eyes.

Mu Ningxue had learned how smart Lingling was at Chongming Island, yet she did not expect the little girl was able to learn the truth of the Drowning Curse that had boggled the whole world so easily. Mu Ningxue could not help but wonder where Mo Fan actually found such an intelligent capsule? Her intelligence was out-of-this-world, yet she was only a little girl!

“So you’ve released the creature to let it grow in the ocean?” Mo Fan asked.

Lingling nodded. She waved the little tablet on her hand and said, “I’ve already implanted a tracker in it. I can precisely locate it no matter where it is...”

“So what do we do now? Do we just wait until the little creature reaches its final form?” Mo Fan asked.

“What we have to do now is the trickiest part,” Lingling said.

“Tracking?” Bobby asked.

“Tracking the creature is way easier than what we have to do. We’ll need to make sure the maggot we are tracking can grow healthily. I already mentioned that even though the maggot is pretty scary, it’s very weak once it leaves the host. These maggots that return to the ocean have a very high chance of dying. Only a few of them manage to evolve into their final form... therefore, not only do we need to track it, we’ll need to protect it too, to make sure it can grow safely!” Lingling smiled.