

Apocalypse 211

Chapter 211 Yang Jing Tormented to Death

At the onset of the eerie emergence, the financial faction rapidly established the Deceitful King Faction.

It was also the existence of the Deceitful King Faction that preserved the extraordinary power of the financial faction.

They occupied Lin'an City, becoming the local emperors of Lin'an City.

In this city, they were the sky.

When the Nine Cities Plan was just being prepared over at Emperor Dragon City, the Deceitful King Faction caught wind of it.

It was also then that they began infiltrating Ninghai City.

In the eyes of the Deceitful King Faction, Ninghai City securing a slot as one of the Nine Cities was almost a sure thing.

However, a flaw still appeared now.

Peng City rose like a dark horse, Lin Yuan resolved the colossal Deceitful Demon in Tang City, proving his strength to Emperor Dragon City.

This slot, due to Lin Yuan's existence, fell to Peng City.

Ninghai City did not successfully obtain the slot for the Nine Cities Plan and returned empty-handed.

This meant that the Deceitful King Faction's plan to go public by proxy failed.

When this news reached Lin'an City, the head of the Deceitful King Faction's intelligence department frowned deeply, remaining silent for a long time.

Since the rise of Lin Yuan, the Deceitful King Faction had met with nothing but misfortune.

First, all the missions in Peng City failed, and the Zhang Family's hunting team was almost completely annihilated.

Then, the Xu Family defected, with Xu Weili, the only survivor, fleeing to Peng City with the materials for the Guardian Demon Alloy.

Then, the top expert of the Deceitful King Faction, Yang Jing, repeatedly lost to Lin Yuan.

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Examples like these are simply countless.

The losses suffered by the Deceitful King Faction at Lin Yuan's hands were too many.

Now, the slot meant for Ninghai City was taken by Peng City, and the Deceitful King Faction's plan to acquire a Giant City failed.

One could imagine the rage when the Ghost Leader learned of all this.

"Sigh!"

"We must inform the Ghost Leader of everything!" Even though the Ghost Leader would be furious, this matter had to be reported to him.

Because their preparation and arrangements in Ninghai City had been in vain.

The next step in their action plan would decide whether the Deceitful King Faction could still possess superhuman authority.

The time left for them was scarce, and they had to prepare their next move without delay.

Thinking of this, he immediately went to report this matter to the Ghost Leader.

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Arriving at the Ghost Leader's office, he glanced around only to discover that the Ghost Leader wasn't in the office.

Moments ago, the guards outside the office had clearly told him that the Ghost Leader was inside and hadn't left.

"Old Feng, I'm here!" Suddenly, the Ghost Leader's voice rang out.

For any organization, the intelligence department is undoubtedly among the most crucial departments.

Those who could be in charge of the intelligence department must naturally be close confidants among confidants.

The head of the Deceitful King Faction's intelligence department was named Feng Wuji, a blood brother to the Ghost Leader.

The sudden voice startled Feng Wuji, who looked around but couldn't find where the Ghost Leader was.

However, he noticed something unusual.

In the Ghost Leader's office, there appeared a full-length mirror.

This mirror was large, like the ones used in clothing stores for trying on clothes.

As someone working in intelligence, Feng Wuji had an extremely keen sense of perception, and his judgement was also exceptional.

With just one glance, he felt something was off about this mirror.

The Ghost Leader was a man, and an old man in his fifties.

If it were a young lady's office, a full-length mirror could be explained.

But in an old man's office, a full-length mirror was unusual in itself.

"There's something wrong with this mirror!"

"The voice is coming from inside the mirror." Feng Wuji immediately concluded.

While he was closely watching the mirror, the Ghost Leader's somewhat alien-like face appeared on the mirror's surface.

"Old Feng, what's the matter?" the Ghost Leader asked in a deep voice.

Lately, the Ghost Leader had been working on something significant, with strict orders not to be disturbed.

The matters of the Deceitful King Faction were entrusted to Zhang Yuandong to handle in his stead.

Today, it was only because of Feng Wuji that someone else could see the Ghost Leader.

"Ghost Leader, the Nine Cities Plan has come to a conclusion!"

"Ninghai City... has failed!" Feng Wuji's voice was heavy.

As the head of the intelligence department of the Deceitful King Faction, he knew how much effort had been expended these days to infiltrate the official forces of Ninghai City.

However, the Ghost Leader didn't react with the expected fury. Instead, he slowly began, "Come inside and speak."

Since the Ghost Leader was in this mirror, it meant that this wasn't an ordinary mirror.

If the Ghost Leader could enter the mirror, so too could Feng Wuji.

In the next moment, Feng Wuji stepped forward, directly entering the mirror.

After entering the mirror, he seemed to have entered a strange world.

All around was pitch black, with inky black fog swirling about.

"Just follow the path straight ahead!"

"I'm just up ahead!" the Ghost Leader's voice echoed in Feng Wuji's ears.

As the Ghost Leader's words fell, the black fog in front of him began to slowly recede, revealing a path about two or three meters wide in front of Feng Wuji.

"What is this place?" Feng Wuji thought to himself, somewhat curious.

At this moment, he realized that his understanding of the Ghost Leader was still too limited.

He never knew the Ghost Leader possessed such means.

This mirror world seemed not large, and after walking forward for several hundred meters, Feng Wuji saw the Ghost Leader.

At this time, the Ghost Leader was sitting quietly in front of a cold pool.

The water in the cold pool was also as black as ink, boiling continuously, emitting black fog upwards.

The black fog that permeated the entire mirror world was actually emanating from this cold pool.

The water in the cold pool was boiling continuously, but it was boiling not from heat, but from cold.

The closer to the cold pool, the more chilling it felt.

By the time Feng Wuji reached the edge of the cold pool, his hair and eyebrows were covered with a layer of frost.

At this moment, the Ghost Leader sat quietly in the cold pool, staring straight at the surface of the water, his eyes full of anticipation.

Feng Wuji thought, could there be some treasure in this cold pool?

But that couldn't be, the Ghost Leader was never interested in treasures.

"Ghost Leader!"

"Ninghai City did not get the quota for the Nine Cities Plan, the last spot went to Peng City."

"What should we do next?" Feng Wuji stated the purpose of his visit.

Originally, Feng Wuji thought that after he delivered this news, the Ghost Leader would be furious.

Unexpectedly, the Ghost Leader did not show the slightest bit of anger.

Very calm, unexpectedly calm.

"As expected," the Ghost Leader said slowly, "after the failed assassination of Yang Dingguo, I already anticipated that Ninghai City wouldn't compete against Peng City."

"The authorities need to create a hero, and the survivors need a war god to restore hope. As it stands, the only one who can be that person is Lin Yuan."

"With Lin Yuan there, it's reasonable for Peng City to get the spot, don't you think?"

After hearing the Ghost Leader's words, Feng Wuji immediately understood why the Ghost Leader previously organized that assassination.

That assassination was the final attempt to seize the last spot of the Nine Cities Plan.

At the time, if they had successfully assassinated Yang Dingguo, and Yang Jing had managed to kill Lin Yuan.

Then Ninghai City could have obtained the last spot in the Nine Cities Plan.

The Deceitful King Faction could then continue with their plan to go public.

"Sigh!"

"Unfortunately, the assassination plan failed!"

"Yang Jing also died!"

"This Lin Yuan is just too strong!" Feng Wuji sighed deeply.

However, a mysterious smile appeared on the Ghost Leader's face.

He pointed at the cold pool and said, "Indeed, the assassination plan failed, but Yang Jing didn't die."

"Look, over there."

As the Ghost Leader pointed to the cold pool, the black fog on the pool opened up, and the originally ink-black cold pool suddenly became transparent.

At this moment, lying at the bottom of the cold pool was a person, and that person was Yang Jing.

No, maybe it should be said, it's no longer Yang Jing.

At the bottom of the cold pool lay a monster over nine meters tall.

This monster had three heads, the middle one was Yang Jing's, the left was a black flood dragon's, and the right was a black tiger's.

At the same time, it grew six hands, in addition to Yang Jing's own hands, there were two dragon claws, and two tiger paws.

A dragon tail and a tiger tail also grew from its back.

If, last time, Yang Jing, whose organs were swapped, could still be considered a person.

Then now, Yang Jing has become a complete monster.

The last assassination plan failed, Yang Jing was cleaved in half by Lin Yuan.

A red cloud broke through the void, taking Yang Jing's wreckage away.

It now appeared that it was likely the Ghost Leader who saved Yang Jing.

After rescuing Yang Jing again, the Ghost Leader fused his remains with a Demon Flood Dragon and a Demon Tiger.

Both the Demon Flood Dragon and Demon Tiger are Tier Five Evil Spirits.

Yang Jing, the Demon Flood Dragon, and the Demon Tiger had completely merged into one, becoming a monster neither human nor demon.

One must say, Yang Jing truly was unfortunate!

His fate would've been better if he had just died!

The Ghost Leader really tormented Yang Jing to death!

Last time it was organ replacement to demonize Yang Jing.

This time, directly turned him into a monster.

The monster in the cold pool, no, it should be said, the monster in the cold pool exuded a savage aura all over.

As if, once resurrected, it would end the world.

Seeing the monster in the cold pool, Feng Wuji felt a chill down his spine, a cold air enveloping his whole body.

The Ghost Leader, what kind of monster did he create!

"Yang Jing..."

"Is he still alive?" Feng Wuji's voice carried a tremor.

A strange smile emerged on the Ghost Leader's alien-like face: "Not alive yet, but soon, he'll come back to life!"

"At most ten days, at least three to five days, and he will be alive!"

"But after he's alive, whether he's still Yang Jing or not, I can't be sure."

Chapter 212 The Deceitful King Faction's Next Plan

At this moment, under the cold pool is Yang Jing.

Or rather, the monster under the cold pool.

It is a fusion of Yang Jing, the Demon Flood Dragon, and the Demon Tiger.

Moreover, when Yang Jing was brought back, he was actually already dead.

Even his soul was extremely weak.

Therefore, after this monster composed of the three entities was resurrected, it's truly impossible to determine whether it's really Yang Jing.

Perhaps, the consciousness of the Demon Flood Dragon is dominant.

Perhaps, the consciousness of the Demon Tiger is dominant.

Or perhaps, Yang Jing's consciousness is dominant.

However, no matter whose consciousness ultimately dominates, the Ghost Leader's goal has been achieved.

The Ghost Leader needed a war weapon.

A war weapon that could potentially defeat Lin Yuan.

The current monster is its masterpiece.

Of course, regardless of whose consciousness occupies dominance, the Ghost Leader is confident in controlling this war weapon.

If he can't control his own masterpiece, there's no point in him being the Ghost Leader.

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In Lin'an City.

Inside the meeting room of the Deceitful King Faction.

The Family Heads of the various financial groups, along with some important members of the Deceitful King Faction, were gathered here.

The meeting began.

The Ghost Leader, who resembled an alien, was the first to speak: "Everyone should know why I called you here."

"Ninghai City's competition failed, and the last spot went to Peng City."

"All our investments in Ninghai City were in vain. Ah, this is truly a failed investment!"

The news of Ninghai City's failure to compete was no secret, and all the Family Heads present were already aware of it.

However, when this news came from the Ghost Leader's mouth today, everyone still looked disappointed.

"Ghost Leader, what should we do next?" Zhang Yuandong quickly asked.

After Zhang Yuandong asked this question, everyone in the meeting room turned their eyes to the Ghost Leader.

The Ghost Leader glanced around at everyone and smiled slightly: "Today, I called you all to hear your opinions."

"After all, the Deceitful King Faction is not solely my decision-making body. Everything must be discussed together."

"Especially this matter, which concerns our collective fate."

After the Ghost Leader finished speaking, he indicated to everyone present that they could speak freely.

Everyone looked at each other, but no one stepped forward to speak.

As the saying goes, "The shot hits the bird that pokes its head out." Being the first to speak is rarely a good thing.

Anyone who has worked in big companies or enterprises should know this.

When a meeting falls into silence and no one is willing to speak, it often requires a leader's sidekick to come forward, to break the ice.

And generally, what this sidekick says is prearranged by the leader.

Seeing no one speaking, the Ghost Leader gave Zhang Yuandong a look.

Zhang Yuandong, being a loyal supporter of the Ghost Leader, could be accurately described as a sidekick.

"Dear Family Heads, brothers!"

"The situation is very grim! Our Deceitful King Faction needs its own Giant City!"

"Once the nine Giant Cities are built, the entire scenario in the Dragon Country will fundamentally change. By that time, our Lin'an City will be like a lone boat in the sea."

"Since the strange invasion, the things we've done wouldn't be enough to save us even with ten heads!"

"If this ship capsizes, none of us will have a good ending!" Zhang Yuandong's tone was extremely grave.

They all understood the reasoning behind Zhang Yuandong's words.

Before the strange invasion, at most, they were manipulating the capital market, driving up housing prices, goods prices, and swindling some hard-earned money from ordinary people.

These crimes, before the strange invasion, were not worthy of the death penalty.

After the strange invasion, their money became worthless, and to ensure their rights and statuses, they committed many morally outrageous things.

Not to mention, just the act of hunting Life Pattern Masters and skinning them would be enough to get them hanged from the street lamps.

They occupied Lin'an City, which put them in a state of self-proclaimed kingship.

Currently, the authorities tolerate them because there are other important matters to handle and haven't dealt with them yet.

The current inaction is temporary and doesn't mean they will be forever immune. Once the authorities are free, they certainly won't show mercy.

As Zhang Yuandong said, if the Deceitful King Faction's ship capsizes, everyone dies.

After Zhang Yuandong finished speaking, the Patriarch of the Huang Family stood up and suggested:
"Demon Dragon City, according to Emperor Dragon City's plan, all the cities in our area are to be merged into Demon Dragon City."

"This Giant City of Demon Dragon City is second only to Emperor Dragon City."

"We can divide ourselves and integrate into surrounding cities ahead of time, and then merge with them into Demon Dragon City."

"Given the hidden strength we have in Demon Dragon City, even if we can't completely control it, having some power is still easy enough."

Demon Dragon City is a very unique city.

Before the strange invasion, it was the economic center of the Dragon Country.

The large population base meant that there were many survivors here.

Many survivors also implied many Life Pattern Masters.

The situation in Demon Dragon City is extremely complex.

Its various forces intertwine in a complicated manner.

Official forces, the power of the Deceitful King Faction, and even some foreign forces

Although the official authorities have overt control over Demon Dragon City, in reality, they only possess about sixty to seventy percent of the power.

The remaining thirty to forty percent of power is held by the Deceitful King Faction and those scattered small forces.

The proposal of the Patriarch Huang is actually feasible.

Due to the unique situation of Demon Dragon City, even after the construction of a Giant City, it would still be difficult for the official forces to fully control it.

Once they enter Demon Dragon City, although they no longer wield the emperor-like power they have in Lin'an City, their security is certainly assured.

However, this is merely the thought of Patriarch Huang.

For many heads of financial conglomerates, without extraordinary power, what is the point of living?

Why did they establish the Deceitful King Faction in the first place?

Isn't it all for extraordinary power?

Power is something captivating, something that drives people mad.

Once they merge into Demon Dragon City, the Deceitful King Faction would completely turn into an underground organization.

Their power would also be greatly restricted.

"No, I do not agree!"

"This can only be considered a fallback option. If there's no other way, we can choose to merge into Demon Dragon City."

"However, there's still time now. I personally believe we should find a way to gain control of a Giant City. A Giant City, just like Lin'an City, that belongs to us." Patriarch Li stepped forward in opposition.

"Find a way to control a Giant City?"

"How could such a way be so easy to think of?"

"If you, Li Hongyan, have a way, then speak up?" Patriarch Huang said irritably.

Within the Deceitful King Faction, there are radicals as well as conservatives.

Especially as the situation becomes increasingly unfavorable for their side, the conservatives' ideas have grown even more conservative.

Patriarch Huang is a conservative within the Deceitful King Faction.

Although Li Hongyan is a radical, he currently has no good idea.

However, facing the timid yet aggressive Patriarch Huang, Li Hongyan didn't hold a good attitude.

"I may not have a good plan?"

"But I'm still better than a certain coward."

"The situation has just begun, and some people are already planning their escape!"

"If you ask me, don't go to Demon Dragon City. Just head straight to Emperor Dragon City!"

"If you go to Emperor Dragon City now and apologize, maybe you can save your life. But, I estimate that even if you survive, you'll spend the rest of your life behind bars!" Li Hongyan sneered.

For a while, the conference room erupted in arguments, growing increasingly intense, almost turning physical.

The Ghost Leader sat at the head seat, smiling as he observed everyone present.

The more ferociously they argued, the more divided they became, the happier he was.

Because the Deceitful King Faction is a kind of alliance. Although everyone respects him as the leader, he is just a leader in name.

The more fiercely they bicker, the more secure his position becomes.

If these people united, they could easily overthrow him.

This is similar to the balance of power philosophy of ancient emperors.

Seeing that the argument had subsided somewhat, the Ghost Leader finally stood up.

"Bang!" The Ghost Leader slammed the table, frowning, and reprimanded, "What are you doing? The external threat hasn't even been resolved, and you're already fighting among yourselves first."

"Since you're so capable, go kill Lin Yuan for me, and everything will be solved!" "Old Huang, Old Li, which one of you is going to take out Lin Yuan for me?"

Patriarch Huang: "?????"

Patriarch Li: "?????"

If the two of them had the ability to take out Lin Yuan, they wouldn't resort to arguing here.

After reprimanding both with fifty strokes, the Ghost Leader continued to ask, "What about the others?"

"Does anyone else have any ideas?"

In the conference room, Patriarch Liu frowned deeply.

The Liu Family's influence is significant, and Patriarch Liu is very young. Many people believe he will be the next Ghost Leader.

Until now, he had not spoken at the meeting.

He didn't intervene during the factional disputes either.

Because he does not support either faction.

The conservatives' opinion is to merge into Demon Dragon City and try to gain as much power as possible there.

The radicals' opinion is to seize a Giant City, and have absolute control over the city.

Patriarch Liu's opinion is to construct their own.

To build a Giant City themselves.

With factions entrenched within Demon Dragon City, trying to seize power won't be as easy as imagined.

Seizing a Giant City is equivalent to directly challenging the official authorities, and once angered, it could lead to a catastrophic disaster.

Both methods are not flawless.

The only perfect method is to construct their own.

With Lin'an City as the foundation, they could build their own Giant City.

If the official authorities can construct nine Giant Cities, then pouring all of the Deceitful King Faction's strength into it should have no reason to fail.

This way, they can fully control it without falling out with the official authorities.

However, Patriarch Liu has never discussed this idea with others.

Because there is one most crucial condition that hasn't been resolved for building a Giant City.

That is the Guardian Demon Alloy.

Chapter 213 Home Invasion Plan

In his previous life, Lin Yuan struggled bitterly for three years in the world after the eerie invasion.

However, in that world, there was no so-called Nine Cities Plan.

In this life, the core that allows the authorities to execute the Nine Cities Plan is the Guardian Demon Alloy.

The formless Deceitful Charm and Evil Spirits cannot penetrate the Guardian Demon Alloy.

It is precisely because of the existence of the Guardian Demon Alloy that the construction of the Giant City becomes meaningful.

Actually, back then, there was a good opportunity placed in front of the Deceitful King Faction that they did not cherish.

It was only after losing this opportunity that they regretted it immensely.

If only...

The opportunity was when the Xu Family developed the Guardian Demon Alloy and intended to use it to trade for control over a hunting squad from the Deceitful King Faction.

Back then, the decision made by the Deceitful King Faction was to kill the entire Xu Family and forcibly seize the Guardian Demon Alloy.

Unfortunately, they failed.

The only survivor of the Xu Family, Xu Weili, fled with the Guardian Demon Alloy and escaped to Peng City.

Now, with Lin Yuan's protection, they can only dream of getting the Guardian Demon Alloy.

Back then, even though the Deceitful King Faction knew how important this metal that Evil Spirits couldn't penetrate was,

they didn't realize just how crucial the Guardian Demon Alloy was.

If they had foreseen this day back then, they probably would have been willing to hand over not just one hunting squad, but three or five to the Xu Family.

The Guardian Demon Alloy is so important that even ten hunting squads can't compare to it.

"Old Liu, you make it sound so easy to build a city wall by yourself. It's not that simple."

"Seizing is much easier than building!"

"Besides, we don't even have the Guardian Demon Alloy in our hands?"

"A skillful wife can't cook without rice. What are we going to use to build the city without the materials?"

"Do you think Old Liu could just blow out a city with a puff of fairy breath?"

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The heads of major monopolist families present were making sarcastic remarks, clearly not optimistic about Patriarch Liu's plan to build a Giant City.

Purely from the perspective of this plan's difficulty,

the difficulty of constructing a Giant City is evidently much greater than seizing one!

Compared to taking a city, the only advantage of building a Giant City is avoiding a direct conflict with the authorities.

Listening to everyone's sneers at Patriarch Liu, the Ghost Leader slowly said, "Old Liu's method is not entirely impossible."

"If we can figure out how to manufacture the Guardian Demon Alloy in the short term, this method could be an alternative if the city capture attempt fails."

According to the Ghost Leader's words, he intends to make the construction of a Giant City an alternative plan.

That is to say, in his view, the proposal by Patriarch Huang to merge into Demon Dragon City doesn't even qualify as an alternative scenario.

Thinking it through, this makes sense since the Ghost Leader is a person with an extremely strong desire for control.

If he can't wholly dominate the rights over a Giant City, it's more uncomfortable for him than having ants crawling on his body.

When their interception of Yang Dingguo and Lin Yuan failed, the Ghost Leader knew that Ninghai City wouldn't receive a place in the Nine Cities Plan.

It was around that time he began preparing the next step.

However, this plan has been awaiting the right moment for disclosure.

Ninghai City's failure got reported back to Hang City; today was the perfect opportunity for revealing it.

The Ghost Leader called everyone together to voice their opinions freely.

But in reality, it was just a formality.

Unless everyone in the meeting joined forces to strongly oppose,

in the end, the pre-prepared plan would certainly be implemented.

Of course, the Ghost Leader wouldn't present the plan himself.

He had already handed it over to his henchman Zhang Yuandong.

After everyone proposed some immature ideas, Zhang Yuandong introduced a relatively cautious and thorough plan.

Naturally, everyone would end up supporting Zhang Yuandong's proposal.

Seeing the atmosphere was ready, the Ghost Leader gave Zhang Yuandong a look, signaling it was time for him to step up.

Zhang Yuandong, that's the stooge of this meeting.

"Ladies and gentlemen, if we talk about familiarity with Peng City and Lin Yuan, if I claim first place, likely no one would dare claim second!"

"Let me share my thoughts," Zhang Yuandong slowly began.

"My suggestion is still to take Peng City, this Giant City. This Giant City should have belonged to Ninghai City. Now, since it's landed on Peng City, we ought to take back what's ours."

"First infiltrate Peng City's officialdom, then seize it once the Giant City is about to be completed."

As soon as Zhang Yuandong finished speaking, someone stood up to object, "No, Old Zhang!"

"Your method sounds like a fool's dream, doesn't it?"

"Do you really think this is child's play?"

"Is Yang Dingguo of Peng City so easy to deal with?"

"He and Lin Yuan, one civil and one military, are not that easily handled! Even if we are to capture a Giant City, we shouldn't choose the most risky one!"

"Is it because you, Old Zhang, have suffered losses to Lin Yuan several times, that this time you're sneaking in some personal motives, wanting to take this chance to retaliate against Lin Yuan?"

Many people cast skeptical glances at Zhang Yuandong.

After all, in the entire Deceitful King Faction, if anyone suffered the most at Lin Yuan's hands, it certainly would be Zhang Yuandong.

"Bullshit!" Zhang Yuandong cursed, then threw the prepared documents onto the conference table, feigning anger as he said, "I, Old Zhang, am wholeheartedly public-minded with absolutely no personal interests."

"This is my detailed plan; everyone can take a look. After reading my plan, feel free to speak your minds."

Concerning this plan, Zhang Yuandong had full confidence.

He believed that once the people present saw these plans, the majority would support him.

Because this detailed plan wasn't even prepared by him.

Instead, it was a comprehensive plan meticulously designed and prepared by the Ghost Leader.

When Zhang Yuandong first saw this detailed plan, he too was quite taken aback.

The core of the plan is infiltration.

Plant members of the Deceitful King Faction into Peng City's official organization, then slowly take control of the political sphere of Peng City from within.

However, the place of Peng City has been managed by Yang Dingguo like a steel drum.

Never mind infiltrating Peng City's official organization, even strangers coming into Peng City are scrutinized thoroughly.

Thus, to execute the infiltration plan, there needs to be a rational reason to arrive at Peng City.

Moreover, there need to be large groups entering Peng City so that members of the Deceitful King Faction mingled among the crowd won't attract attention.

The key to the plan is to lure Evil Spirits to attack relatively weaker city human sanctuaries near Peng City.

Once these sanctuaries are destroyed, the survivors of these cities will have nowhere to go.

By then, their only option will be to turn to Peng City; with a large number of people seeking refuge in a short time, Yang Dingguo will surely be overwhelmed.

This way, members of the Deceitful King Faction can blend into the crowds and enter Peng City openly.

Moreover, the rapid population increase would lead official organizations to expand quickly, thus providing opportunities for Deceitful King Faction to infiltrate Peng City.

This plan is akin to putting a bra on a little pig—layer upon layer!

After everyone had finished reading the detailed plan, the Ghost Leader was the first to speak, "Everyone has seen Old Zhang's plan, right?"

"I think the feasibility of this plan is very high. Moreover, Peng City is already one of our targets."

"Next, I plan to withdraw all forces from other cities and focus entirely on taking Peng City."

With the Ghost Leader's support, others started to voice their opinions too.

"Old Zhang's plan isn't bad, I support it."

"Indeed, it seems like a good idea."

"This plan seems to have a high success rate; I have no objections."

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Everyone expressed their stance; except for the two or three conservatives remaining silent, the others all showed their support.

Even Patriarch Li, who usually stands against Zhang Yuandong, showed support this time.

While Patriarch Liu's eyes were darting around, he also expressed his support.

Although he verbally agreed with Zhang Yuandong's plan, in fact, Patriarch Liu intended to use this plan to obtain the Guardian Demon Alloy.

After acquiring the Xu Family's research data, Peng City's laboratory is the most advanced in the research of the Guardian Demon Alloy.

At the meeting, the monopoly forces nearly unanimously passed the infiltration plan for Peng City.

Meanwhile, Lin Yuan had just arrived at Lian City, preparing to find a way to control the demon ape.

Unbeknownst to him, the damn Deceitful King Faction is once again starting to mess around.

Chapter 214 Dark Demon Ape

Lian City.

A vast, primitive forest stretches to the horizon, where it meets an endless ocean.

At the junction of the forest and the ocean, there's a mountain shaped like a peach.

Let's call it Peach Mountain for now.

This Peach Mountain is the Ghostly Realm of the Dark Demon Apes.

The ghost servants of the Dark Demon Apes are a group of monkey-shaped evil spirits.

The Dark Demon Apes do not favor humans but neither do they actively kill or eat them.

Of course, if a human intrudes into their Ghostly Realm, these low-intelligence ghost servants would mercilessly slaughter them.

The Dark Demon Ape is massive, about seven to eight zhang tall, with muscles as solid as an ancient dragon.

Its body is covered with ink-black fur, except for a tuft of white hair on its head.

The Dark Demon Ape is not an individual but a collective, a species.

Just like the Qingqiu Fox Race, it's a group, a race.

In that mysterious world, the Dark Demon Ape clan, although not as powerful as the Qingqiu Fox Race, can barely be counted as a first-rate large clan.

In that mysterious world, the Qingqiu Fox Race is at the pinnacle of first-rate large clans, while the Dark Demon Apes barely make it into the first-rate category.

However, this does not mean the Dark Demon Apes are weaker than the Qingqiu Fox Race.

In terms of individual strength, the Dark Demon Apes are far stronger than the Qingqiu Fox Race.

The relative weakness of the race is entirely due to their fertility, which is far less than that of the Qingqiu Fox Race.

The foxes on Qingqiu Mountain number at least in the tens of thousands.

While the Dark Demon Ape clan, at its strongest, numbers only in the hundreds.

Moreover, in that mysterious world, some powerful sects capture Dark Demon Apes as protectors, reducing their numbers even further.

Last time, when the Ghost Leader from the Ghost King Faction gave Yang Jing an organ transplant, he used a Dark Demon Ape's heart.

Back then, to hunt that Dark Demon Ape, the Ghost King Faction paid a heavy price.

At this moment, the Dark Demon Ape is bathing in the ocean, each of its movements stirring waves.

With a scoop in the water, it caught a five to six-meter giant squid and used it as a scrub to wash itself.

Suddenly, while bathing, the "lantern-like" big eyes of the Dark Demon Ape widened in shock.

It sensed that a powerful being had entered its Ghostly Realm.

A Tier Five Evil Spirit places great importance on territorial awareness.

Especially such beast-like Tier Five Evil Spirits consider any trespass into their domain a challenge.

The Dark Demon Ape groped along the shore and found a stone pillar, about twenty to thirty meters long and five to six meters in diameter.

Carrying the stone pillar, it stepped out of the ocean and headed towards the edge of the Ghostly Realm.

Clearly, it was preparing to confront the uninvited guest.

...

...

The outskirts of Peach Mountain Ghostly Realm.

Lin Yuan and his group stood on the back of a Mud Crocodile, using it as a new means of transportation.

It's worth noting that the Mud Crocodile has the ability to manipulate soil; the lower half of its body merges into the soil, supported as it moves.

It's like a subway, very fast and without much noise.

Carrying many people, it moves quickly, quietly, and environmentally friendly without pollution.

As a means of transportation, the Mud Crocodile is quite excellent!

However, carrying Lin Yuan and the group from Ze City to Lian City left the Mud Crocodile famished.

Lin Yuan pushed it hard without giving it anything to eat.

Always working it hard without feeding it!

The main reason for not feeding it was that the Mud Crocodile's appetite was enormous.

Thankfully, the Mud Crocodile has a natural ability.

Which is, eating soil!

It's an omnivorous evil spirit; it eats anything.

When there's truly nothing else to eat, eating soil can alleviate its hunger.

Of course, eating soil is only a way to ease hunger, it doesn't have much flavor.

So, if there are other things to eat, the Mud Crocodile prefers not to eat soil.

As soon as Lin Yuan and company entered the Peach Mountain Ghostly Realm, a group of demon apes blocked their way.

These demon apes are the offspring of the Dark Demon Ape.

In fact, they aren't strictly part of the Dark Demon Ape clan.

They are merely monkeys, orangutans, and baboons that have absorbed the aura of the Dark Demon Ape and were then refined into ghost servants.

In terms of strength, they are quite decent.

Mainly Tier Seven, with over a dozen Tier Six demon apes.

Although the number of ghost servants is far less than that of the Mud Crocodile's, in terms of quality, they are superior.

Upon seeing these demon apes, the Mud Crocodile's eyes lit up.

It was starved for a long time, and these demon apes coming over seemed like a buffet!

"Eat!"

"Eat! Eat!"

As the owner, Lin Yuan could clearly sense the Mud Crocodile's current emotions.

It just wanted to eat all these demon apes to improve its diet.

Lin Yuan and the group got down from the Mud Crocodile's back, signaling it to go eat!

With Lin Yuan's permission, the Mud Crocodile excitedly charged into the demon ape crowd.

While the Mud Crocodile's strength isn't stellar among Tier Five Evil Spirits, confronting Tier Six and Seven demon ape ghost servants is a piece of cake!

The ground beneath these demon ape ghost servants turned into a swamp, trapping them, unable to move an inch.

A few Tier Six demon ape ghost servants managed to struggle out of the swamp onto the shore, only to be pulled back by mud tendrils from the swamp.

While these demon ape ghost servants floundered in the swamp, the Mud Crocodile moved gracefully through it.

It swam in the swamp, happily devouring the mud along with the demon apes, relishing each bite.

The Mud Crocodile was feasting when the Dark Demon Ape arrived.

Seeing the Mud Crocodile eating its ghost servants, the Dark Demon Ape flew into a rage.

The Dark Demon Ape clan is inherently ruthless, and seeing this, the Dark Demon Ape deemed the Mud Crocodile as good as dead.

The Mud Crocodile was enjoying its meal!

Noticing a gigantic ape ahead, it thought that eating it would stave off hunger for half a month!

The Mud Crocodile is slightly slow-witted, not realizing yet that the Dark Demon Ape is also a Tier Five Evil Spirit with much superior strength.

After a good ten seconds of confusion, the Mud Crocodile finally sensed the Dark Demon Ape as a Tier Five Evil Spirit.

At this point, the Dark Demon Ape, exuding a violent aura, pointed its two-to-three-meter stone pillar at the Mud Crocodile and angrily shouted, "Trespassing into my Ghostly Realm and eating my ghost servants!"

"You wretched reptile, if I don't beat the crap out of you today, consider yourself lucky."

From both appearance and aura, the Mud Crocodile was no match for the Dark Demon Ape.

As the saying goes, the wise adapt to circumstances.

The Mud Crocodile seemed to know it couldn't contend with the Dark Demon Ape.

So, it quickly withdrew from the swamp and hid behind Lin Yuan.

However, its size made hiding behind Lin Yuan rather comical.

The Mud Crocodile was just too cowardly.

It surrendered even before the battle began.

"Mud Crocodile, go deal with the Dark Demon Ape for me," Lin Yuan ordered the Mud Crocodile.

Mud Crocodile: "????"

Hearing this command, the Mud Crocodile thought, you don't even feed me and always make me eat dirt, yet you want me to risk my life. Is this fair?

Although Lin Yuan realized that the Mud Crocodile was likely no match for the Dark Demon Ape, he still wanted to see the disparity between them.

Furthermore, such a direct comparison would provide the clearest understanding.

The Mud Crocodile, with its thick skin, wouldn't have a problem enduring a little hardship even if it wasn't a match for the Dark Demon Ape.

The Mud Crocodile wanted to resist Lin Yuan's command.

But with the constraints of the Yin Law chains, it couldn't defy Lin Yuan's order.

There was no choice but to grudgingly approach the Dark Demon Ape.

Lin Yuan intended to weaken the Dark Demon Ape with the Mud Crocodile, then step in at the crucial moment to subdue it.

This approach would increase the success rate of imposing the Yin Law chains during the Dark Demon Ape's weakened state.

Chapter 215 Mud Crocodile Overwhelmed, Takes Action Himself

Although both are Tier Five Evil Spirits, the aura between the Mud Crocodile and the Dark Demon Ape is vastly different.

The Mud Crocodile is a coward, quaking in its boots before the battle even begins, hesitating and never daring to strike first.

On the contrary, the aura around the Dark Demon Ape continues to grow stronger.

Could it be that monkeys all have this kind of personality?

Fearless of heaven or earth?

"Mud Crocodile, if you don't beat it up, I'm going to beat you up!" Lin Yuan's voice sounded in the Mud Crocodile's ear.

Upon hearing Lin Yuan's voice, the Mud Crocodile shivered instinctively.

The Mud Crocodile thought, what's my strength? And what's its strength? You want me to beat it up? No, you're asking me to get beaten up!

Croc Croc here! Really speechless, gah!

However, with the restraints of the Yin Law chains, the Mud Crocodile couldn't disobey Lin Yuan's orders.

Weighing the pros and cons, the Mud Crocodile decided to strike at the Dark Demon Ape.

After all, if it truly can't win, Lin Yuan would surely step in to help.

Having gone to such lengths to subdue it, there's no way Lin Yuan would just stand by and watch it get killed by the Dark Demon Ape.

The Mud Crocodile's labels include cowardly, timid, couch potato, living off others...

While it has many labels, it's not stupid,

it understands what the consequences are for defying Lin Yuan's orders.

At the moment, although the pressure from the Dark Demon Ape is strong, it's far from matching the pressure Lin Yuan exerts.

With this in mind, the Mud Crocodile cautiously moved to attack the Dark Demon Ape.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz."

A low vibration sounded, and the swamp that had trapped the other demon apes rapidly expanded to a size of several kilometers in diameter.

Looking around, everything in sight had transformed into a swamp.

The Mud Crocodile jumped into the swamp, and in it, it moved as effortlessly as a fish in water.

A swamp environment is the Mud Crocodile's most adept battle setting, allowing it to perform exceptionally in such environments.

In the next instant, the Mud Crocodile struck, sending dozens of mud dragons hurtling towards the Dark Demon Ape.

The Dark Demon Ape leapt into the air, raising its stone club high and swinging it towards the mud dragons.

"Boom!"

"Boom! Boom!"

Successive explosive sounds echoed as the Dark Demon Ape's stone club smashed into the mud dragons, breaking them into pieces and scattering the mud droplets.

In just two or three seconds, the Dark Demon Ape swung its club dozens of times, destroying all the mud dragons in the sky.

In the next moment, the Dark Demon Ape dashed through the falling mud pieces, charging straight at the Mud Crocodile in the swamp.

The Dark Demon Ape swung its club down, faster than lightning, thundering with the sound of a storm and wrapped in dense black fog, its depth indecipherable.

If this club hit the Mud Crocodile, while it may not kill it, injuring it wouldn't be much of an issue.

However, the Mud Crocodile never won in a fight, but never lost in a chase.

In a head-on clash, it's definitely no match for the Dark Demon Ape.

But when it comes to making a run for it, the Mud Crocodile is second to none.

Just as the Dark Demon Ape swung its club down, the Mud Crocodile dove headfirst into the swamp and disappeared.

"Boom!"

The Dark Demon Ape's club smashed into the swamp, its violent energy evaporating a large swath of mud and leaving a hole over ten meters in diameter.

Yet, in this large pit, there was no sign of the Mud Crocodile.

Moments later, the Mud Crocodile reemerged.

It emerged from about several hundred meters behind the Dark Demon Ape, then opened its massive jaws, aiming a mud breath at the Dark Demon Ape like Godzilla.

After its miss, the Dark Demon Ape seemed to realize the danger.

It sensed the danger coming from behind, so it turned abruptly to look back.

The moment the Dark Demon Ape turned, the Mud Crocodile's mud breath was already spewing out.

"If you've got guts, don't—"

The Dark Demon Ape was about to shout angrily, but before the words were out, a large glob of mud poured into its mouth.

This mud spewed from the Mud Crocodile's mouth and straight into the Dark Demon Ape's.

So, what difference is there between this and them kissing?

This mud breath wasn't just ordinary mud; it carried some energy with it.

Taking a solid hit from the mud breath, aside from getting a mouthful of mud, the Dark Demon Ape was knocked flying backward.

With a "Boom!" the Dark Demon Ape was sent hurtling several hundred meters, landing heavily in the mud.

Now, the Dark Demon Ape was entirely covered in mud, its face and body smothered, looking incredibly bedraggled.

Nevertheless, in terms of offensive capability, the Mud Crocodile is still too weak.

Though the sudden mud breath left the Dark Demon Ape in a mess, it didn't actually inflict any substantial damage.

Even so, the Mud Crocodile's performance already made Lin Yuan see it in a new light.

The Dark Demon Ape is one of the stronger Tier Five Evil Spirits.

The Mud Crocodile is considered one of the weaker ones among Tier Five Evil Spirits.

There's almost a two-level gap between them.

Being able to compete to this extent, with the Dark Demon Ape taking the first hit, was beyond Lin Yuan's expectations.

"Roar!"

"You're dead, dead!"

The Dark Demon Ape crawled out of the swamp. He stomped fiercely and leaped out from the swamp, causing the surroundings to start shaking.

You must know, this is the deceitful domain of the Dark Demon Ape.

Though both are Tier Five Evil Spirits, the Mud Crocodile being able to transform part of the Dark Demon Ape's deceitful domain into a swamp is already quite impressive.

However, when the Dark Demon Ape gets serious, the Mud Crocodile is still on the passive side.

Everything around continued to tremble, and the mud in the swamp slowly started to solidify with the vibrations.

Soon, this mud gathered into a large mountain shaped like five fingers.

The five-fingered mountain slowly solidified and soon covered the sky above the Mud Crocodile.

"Roar!"

"Roar! Roar!"

A powerful sense of oppression arrived, and the Mud Crocodile anxiously swung its tail. Lin Yuan could clearly feel that the Mud Crocodile was extremely uneasy at this moment.

The next moment, the five-fingered mountain completed its formation and smashed down towards the Mud Crocodile.

This strike could be considered a powerful blow from the Dark Demon Ape.

In the eyes of the Mud Crocodile, a look of fear appeared.

It had completely lost the courage to resist and tucked its tail, darting over towards Lin Yuan.

With the Dark Demon Ape truly enraged, the Mud Crocodile was naturally not its match.

However, the Mud Crocodile was still very smart; it knew who was the real support.

"Master!"

"Master, beat him up, beat him up!" The Mud Crocodile shouted in human language as it ran.

The Mud Crocodile's fleeing speed was fast, but still not as fast as the descending speed of the five-fingered mountain.

Seeing that the five-fingered mountain from the sky was about to smash down, the Mud Crocodile could even feel the fierce wind accompanied by the mountain's descent.

The Mud Crocodile looked up towards Lin Yuan, only to see that at this moment, Lin Yuan still hadn't moved.

Mud Crocodile: "????"

"Not saving me?"

"What kind of foolish master have I actually followed!"

"It's over, it's over!"

"It's the end for me, I'm finished today!" At this moment, the Mud Crocodile's inner play was extremely complex.

Seeing that it couldn't escape, the Mud Crocodile simply stopped trying to run and quickly started digging a hole, hoping to burrow underground.

But without swamp mud on the ground, it wasn't that easy to get underground either.

After digging for a long time, half its tail was still exposed when the five-fingered mountain came crashing down.

At this time, the five-fingered mountain was less than ten meters from the Mud Crocodile.

The Mud Crocodile quickly tucked up the half of its tail that hadn't burrowed in.

Coming across a foolish master, it could only burrow into the ground and wait to die!

If it didn't die, it would just mean it was lucky.

However, after waiting for a long time, the feeling of the five-fingered mountain smashing down on its body still prevailed.

The Mud Crocodile wiggled its body for a while and drilled out from the ground, only to see that the five-fingered mountain was firmly being held in place by a giant.

Lin Yuan had used the Zhong Kui divine appearance, and just as the five-fingered mountain was about to crush down, he propped it up with one hand.

"Master's divine might is like the sea, master is invincible under the heavens!"

"Master, quickly help me teach this dead monkey a lesson!" The Mud Crocodile flattered Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan casually tossed it like throwing away garbage and threw this hundred-zhang-tall mountain directly into the front sea.

"I can't let you kill it!"

"It's dumb and weak, but it's quite good for pulling a cart!" Lin Yuan said with a smile.

The Dark Demon Ape, at this moment, was extremely enraged, and since Lin Yuan dared to save that dead crocodile from his grasp.

Then, he would kill Lin Yuan as well.

"Killing one is also killing!"

"Killing two is also killing!"

"Dare to trespass into my deceitful domain, both of you must die!" The Dark Demon Ape's voice boomed with rage.

From the recent observations, Lin Yuan roughly guessed what power of rules the Dark Demon Ape mastered.

The power of rules mastered by the Dark Demon Ape seemed somewhat similar to the "Darkest Night" of the Great Black Heaven.

At the very least, both belong to the power of the rules of the dark side.

However, in terms of momentum, the Dark Demon Ape's momentum, while strong, is still slightly weaker than the Great Black Heaven's.

The Great Black Heaven is at the Tier Five peak, with one foot stepping into Tier Four.

The Dark Demon Ape can only be considered at the Tier Five peak, and has not yet taken the last step to reach Tier Four.

Back then, in the super large deceitful domain at Tang City, even the Great Black Heaven was not Lin Yuan's match.

Now, no matter what kind of "rule" power the Dark Demon Ape possesses, it is absolutely impossible for him to be Lin Yuan's match.

Because after defeating the Great Black Heaven and seizing the power of its rules, Lin Yuan is no longer what he used to be.

"It's for pulling the cart, and I'm still missing someone to watch the gate!"

"I think you'd be very suitable to be my gatekeeper!" Lin Yuan said playfully, looking at the Dark Demon Ape.

Upon hearing this, the Dark Demon Ape's anger immediately intensified.

Although his ancestors were also gatekeepers for others.

His ancestors were gatekeepers for a supreme being in the mysterious world.

How could a mere human be worthy of making him a gatekeeper?

Chapter 216 The Demon Ape Refuses to Submit, Little Sister-in-law Appears

When Lin Yuan mentioned gatekeeping, it hit the Dark Demon Ape's sore spot.

Because this Dark Demon Ape's family, for eighteen generations, had been gatekeepers for a supreme being from the Mysterious World.

His father was a gatekeeper, his grandfather was a gatekeeper, his great-grandfather was also a gatekeeper....

No one knows if the gatekeeping job is somehow formalized, but it just kept being passed down.

By the time it reached his generation, that supreme being suddenly disappeared, and he was born into unemployment!

The ancestral job was gone, so the Dark Demon Ape descended into this world, trying his luck to see if he could advance his cultivation further.

That stone staff in his hand is actually a staff used to brace doors.

After the supreme being disappeared, the dojo was divided by disciples, and his father, old and weak at the time, couldn't compete with the other disciples and only got that door-bracing staff.

Now, just the mention of gatekeeping makes the Dark Demon Ape furious.

These days, finding a job is tough, even a gatekeeping job can be lost.

"You want me to gatekeep? You're not worthy!"

The Dark Demon Ape swung the stone staff, which carried a terrifying aura, smashing towards Lin Yuan.

The staff broke through the void, and in an instant, it was less than five meters above Lin Yuan's head.

The energy carried on the stone staff had become tangible, with black energy rolling continuously, making one shiver.

No, it should be said it made the crocodile shiver.

Lin Yuan was not afraid at all; instead, the Mud Crocodile hid behind Lin Yuan, tail between its legs.

If not for holding tightly, the Mud Crocodile would have been scared witless by now.

Lin Yuan squinted slightly, and in the next moment, a large red umbrella appeared above his head.

The Qiankun Umbrella emerged.

With tremendous resilience, the Qiankun Umbrella firmly blocked the stone staff's strike, only slightly denting and then quickly bouncing back.

The Dark Demon Ape's resentful blow did not harm Lin Yuan in the slightest.

A serious expression appeared on the Dark Demon Ape's monkey face.

Before he could react, the Qiankun Umbrella began to slowly rise.

The Dark Demon Ape seemed unconvinced, gritted his teeth, and used all his strength to press the staff down.

The Dark Demon Ape was very powerful, but unfortunately, his opponent was Lin Yuan!

The disparity in strength was evident; the Dark Demon Ape exerted all his strength, his face turning as red as a monkey's buttocks.

But still, the Qiankun Umbrella held, rising bit by bit.

Though the Mud Crocodile could not defeat the Dark Demon Ape, it clearly understood how to capitalize on others' influence.

Seizing the moment, it mustered all its strength and whipped the Dark Demon Ape with its tail, sending him flying.

Lin Yuan took a step forward, Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword already in hand, as the crimson "Annihilation" energy erupted, forming a terrifying energy tide.

The Dark Demon Ape had just climbed up when the energy tide was already upon him.

"Boom!"

With a loud bang, the Dark Demon Ape was sent flying again.

Lin Yuan was not like the Mud Crocodile; this strike was more than just sending the Dark Demon Ape flying.

The Annihilation energy acted upon the Dark Demon Ape, leaving a massive sword wound on his body.

At the same time, the Power of Annihilation continued to corrode and invade along the wound.

"Roar!"

"Roar! Roar!"

The Dark Demon Ape let out a furious roar, with the Power of Rules surging on his body, as he utilized his rule of power at that moment.

Dark Night Twin.

The Power of Rules activated, and not far from the Dark Demon Ape, another Dark Demon Ape appeared.

Similar to the legendary single breath creating three cleanses.

Using dark energy, a clone was reconstructed.

However, this clone only possessed eighty percent of the main body's strength.

The two Dark Demon Apes began to flank Lin Yuan from left and right, violent energy spreading, as if trying to tear him apart completely.

Scarlet energy and dark energy continuously clashed, with visible shockwaves erupting.

Even the Tier Five Mud Crocodile, if present at the center of the battle, would risk injury.

One must admit, the Dark Demon Ape's strength is formidable.

Also, being a Tier Five Evil Spirit adept in close combat, fighting him was quite a spectacle.

Among all the Tier Five Evil Spirits encountered by Lin Yuan, the Dark Demon Ape was second only to the Great Black Heaven.

In fact, Lin Yuan felt that given time, should the Dark Demon Ape grow, his power would be on par with the Great Black Heaven.

He had the potential to be a valuable ally.

By any means necessary, the Dark Demon Ape must be subdued.

Lin Yuan battled the Dark Demon Ape for about a dozen or so minutes, the roars from the Dark Demon Ape grew gradually weaker from strong to feeble.

Soon, the Dark Demon Ape's body was sent flying out of the battle storm by Lin Yuan.

As for his rule clone, it was directly obliterated by Lin Yuan.

The Dark Demon Ape leaned against Peach Mountain, covered in wounds, with blood pooling beneath him into a small puddle.

Seeing Lin Yuan approach, the Dark Demon Ape struggled to stand, wanting to fight him once more.

Alas, his fighting spirit remained, but his body could no longer sustain him.

Now, the biggest movement the Dark Demon Ape could manage was to bat an eyelid.

The Dark Demon Ape is strong, but unfortunately, Lin Yuan is unbeatable below Tier Four.

There's no time to waste.

At this moment, the Dark Demon Ape had already lost its ability to resist. Now was the perfect time to control him.

Lin Yuan activated the ability of the Yin Law Department, and the earth-yellow energy shrouded the Dark Demon Ape, who subconsciously wanted to resist.

However, he was powerless to resist.

The energy of the Yin Law Department began to connect with the energy inside the Dark Demon Ape, as chains of Yin Law appeared on the ape's body.

However, the Yin Law chains on the Dark Demon Ape seemed different from those on the Mud Crocodile back then.

Back then, the Yin Law chains on the Mud Crocodile were earth-yellow, while the chains on the Dark Demon Ape were a mix of black and yellow.

"Crack!"

"Crack! Crack!"

At this moment, the black and yellow mixed Yin Law chains on the Dark Demon Ape shattered inch by inch.

With the shattering of the chains, Lin Yuan instantly understood.

Although the Dark Demon Ape's body was powerless to resist, his willpower still resisted.

This resistance, derived from willpower, was too strong, causing the Yin Law chains to fail to form.

"Dark Demon Ape, do you want to die?"

"If you don't submit, there's only one road to death for you!" Lin Yuan shouted fiercely.

However, the Dark Demon Ape was not afraid in the slightest, his entire being still brimming with fighting spirit.

Although he was not Lin Yuan's match, he was defiant, refusing to submit even to death.

"Master, this disobedient creature is useless to keep."

"Might as well let me eat him!" Mud Crocodile wagged its tail at Lin Yuan, showing a flattering look.

Look at this spineless thing, where is this a crocodile? It's clearly a lapdog.

Mud Crocodile was spineless, but there was another one with a backbone.

But this one with a backbone wouldn't submit even in death!

Looking at the Dark Demon Ape, he really wouldn't submit even if he died!

If he didn't cooperate voluntarily, the Yin Law Department couldn't control him successfully. Even if forcibly controlled, there would be a risk of losing control in the future.

One must know, Lin Yuan intended to take him back to Peng City, and there couldn't be even a tiny risk.

If he lost control, with the Dark Demon Ape's combat power, it would be a great disaster for Peng City.

Uncertain how many survivors would die under his club.

As it stood, if the Dark Demon Ape refused to submit, killing him was the only path.

By killing him, Lin Yuan could absorb his Power of Rules to enhance his own strength.

The Dark Demon Ape's flesh and blood could be fed to the Mud Crocodile, greatly enhancing its strength as well.

Thinking of this, Lin Yuan raised Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword in his hand, intending to end the Dark Demon Ape.

People of the Dragon Country always had a special affection for monkeys, especially those with strong combat power.

Now about to kill the Dark Demon Ape, Lin Yuan really felt a bit reluctant.

"You better think it over!"

"Cultivation is not easy; if I strike with this sword, you will truly die."

"Submit to me, serve me, and you can still keep your life!" Lin Yuan made one last attempt to persuade the Dark Demon Ape to submit.

However, the Dark Demon Ape remained arrogantly proud, turning his head and closing his eyes, ignoring Lin Yuan completely.

With a posture of 'kill if you must, chop if you must.'

Lin Yuan thrust his sword forward, piercing the Dark Demon Ape's heart.

With this stab, the Dark Demon Ape was bound to die.

However, just as the sword tip touched the Dark Demon Ape's chest, a gush of blood spurted forth.

At the very moment he was about to take the Dark Demon Ape's life, Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword could not penetrate even an inch further.

A delicate jade hand clamped down on the blade of Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword.

First came the delicate jade hand, followed by a slender waist, and a voluptuous chest...

A woman clad in a black priest's robe appeared out of thin air before Lin Yuan.

For a moment, Lin Yuan stood dumbfounded.

"Long time no see!" The woman's voice was incomparably soft, making Lin Yuan's heart melt.

"Little..."

"Little sister-in-law!" Lin Yuan's voice trembled slightly.

Little sister-in-law!

The one who appeared before Lin Yuan was none other than the long-lost little sister-in-law.

"Holy Mother."

"The Holy Mother has returned."

The Dark Demon Ape opened his eyes, looking at the one who saved him, and with difficulty, opened his mouth to utter.

Back then, in the Deceit Village, after the little sister-in-law died, she inadvertently received the inheritance of a supreme being.

The last time she saved Lin Yuan, absorbing all the demonic energy and flames from his body, when she was about to lose control, she received the call of that supreme being.

The little sister-in-law disappeared last time because she entered the Mysterious World, completely accepting the entire inheritance left by that supreme being.

The little sister-in-law now stood as the heir to that supreme being.

The name of that supreme being was the Rebirth Saint Mother.

The ancestors of the Dark Demon Ape from eighteen generations ago were gatekeepers for the Rebirth Saint Mother.

Though the Dark Demon Ape had never seen the Rebirth Saint Mother, her aura was engraved in his DNA.

Upon sensing the aura of the little sister-in-law, the Dark Demon Ape knew it was the Rebirth Saint Mother who had saved him.

Chapter 217 Reunion After a Long Separation

For eighteen generations, their family had been servants of the Rebirth Saint Mother.

Their family of Dark Demon Apes had an ancestral decree, which was to guard for the Rebirth Saint Mother whenever she appeared again.

No matter how many trials and tribulations they faced, their descendants had to continue guarding for the Rebirth Saint Mother.

The ancestral decree must not be defied!

Lin Yuan and his younger sister-in-law were looking at each other with deep affection.

The two of them hadn't seen each other for quite a while.

The last time Lin Yuan went berserk, he did see his younger sister-in-law, and they even sparred for several days.

However, at that time, Lin Yuan was not clear-headed, he was in a daze, half-awake and half-asleep.

Meeting again at this moment was truly a reunion after a long absence; everything was understood without words!

Lin Yuan missed his younger sister-in-law, and she missed Lin Yuan too!

Mr. Lu Xun once said, 'The quickest way to a woman's heart is through the Yin...'

Ever since Lin Yuan took her for a ride, her heart had been completely enthralled by him.

Last time, if it weren't for redirecting the demonic energy from Lin Yuan into her own body, she feared it would get out of control and hurt him.

Otherwise, she would not have been willing to leave Lin Yuan no matter what.

Upon meeting again, the two were filled with deep affection, and even the air was thick with the scent of hormones.

Dark Demon Ape: "????"

Dark Demon Ape looked at Lin Yuan and his younger sister-in-law sharing a deep gaze and thought, 'Does the Holy Mother know this human?'

Moreover, they seemed to have an extraordinary relationship?

Dark Demon Ape, being a monkey, didn't understand such intricacies and simply felt that their relationship appeared somewhat unusual.

"In the presence of the Holy Mother, I offer my bow!" Dark Demon Ape, having regained some strength, immediately kowtowed to the younger sister-in-law.

Unfortunately, Dark Demon Ape was too injured; before he could bow completely, he stumbled and fell to the ground.

The Dark Demon Ape was following the family decree to show submission to the Rebirth Saint Mother.

This kowtow from the Dark Demon Ape broke the affectionate gaze between Lin Yuan and his younger sister-in-law.

Lin Yuan glared fiercely at the Dark Demon Ape, thinking, 'You deserved this stumble. Why are you so tactless!'

The younger sister-in-law glanced at the Dark Demon Ape lying on the ground, flicked her finger, and a black gas entered the ape's body.

Once the black gas entered, it quickly expanded, roaming through the ape's limbs and bones.

The black gas was like a hot spring flowing through the Dark Demon Ape's body.

The Dark Demon Ape was astonished to find that wherever the black gas went, his injuries healed rapidly.

A moment later, his severely wounded body was as good as new.

Feeling his completely recovered body, the Dark Demon Ape was overjoyed.

"Thank you, Holy Mother."

"Thank you, Holy Mother. Thank you!" The Dark Demon Ape kowtowed towards the younger sister-in-law, nodding repeatedly.

In a soft voice, the younger sister-in-law instructed, "Stand by the side."

The Dark Demon Ape was unruly with Lin Yuan, but in front of the younger sister-in-law, he was obedient.

When she instructed him to stand by the side, he sat quietly nearby like a small mountain, unmoving and silent.

This setting wasn't quite appropriate; besides the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile, there were also Zhuge Ming, Zhang Zhen, and a group of Life Pattern Masters from Peng City present.

Regardless, it was enough that the two had each other in their hearts; there was no rush to express their heartfelt feelings.

For now, discussing business was more urgent.

The younger sister-in-law glanced at the well-behaved Dark Demon Ape and then at Lin Yuan, asking, "How did you get into a conflict with this brute?"

Lin Yuan was supposed to dispose of the evil spirits in Peng City, but this place was Lian City!

Why was Lin Yuan getting involved in Lian City's affairs?

"It's like this, Peng City wants to build a Giant City and needs some suitable Tier Five Evil Spirits. This Dark Demon Ape happens to be suitable," Lin Yuan explained his plan to construct a Giant City in Peng City briefly to his younger sister-in-law.

Then, he sighed and said, "Since this Dark Demon Ape is your servant, I won't trouble him anymore. I'll just look for another target, even if it means wasting some more time."

The Dark Demon Ape would rather die than submit to him, and even if he truly killed it, the benefits would be minimal.

The Dark Demon Ape had immense potential and could possibly become an invincible ape in the future.

Absorbing his Power of Rules and letting the Mud Crocodile consume his flesh would be a total waste.

Since he was willing to submit to the younger sister-in-law, that would naturally be for the best.

After hearing Lin Yuan's explanation, the younger sister-in-law smiled and said softly, "His ancestors had been guarding and protecting for past Rebirth Saint Mothers. Since I inherited the Rebirth Saint Mother's legacy, I naturally inherit her karma too."

"With such a connection here, I can't just watch you take his life."

"I came here to seek him, also intending to establish a dojo here for the future changes in the world, to have a foothold."

"Leaving him be is harmless for now, let me fulfill your wish."

At this, the younger sister-in-law looked towards the Dark Demon Ape and instructed, "Monkey, acknowledge him as your master and heed his commands."

Dark Demon Ape: "?????"

The Dark Demon Ape looked bewildered, thinking, 'How did I become the subject of this gossip?'

'I was just sitting quietly for a moment, and suddenly I have a new master.'

'But they didn't even ask for my permission!'

The Dark Demon Ape stood there, squirming a little, appearing somewhat reluctant.

"Serving him is serving me," the younger sister-in-law's voice rang again.

Lin Yuan also curiously watched the Dark Demon Ape, knowing that this ape was quite defiant!

Earlier, when Lin Yuan threatened him with his life, he would rather die than comply.

Now, are you following sister-in-law's command?

Obedying the Rebirth Saint Mother's command is a memory engrained in my bones.

When it comes to the Rebirth Saint Mother's orders, there's no refuting; they must be followed 100%.

The Dark Demon Ape thudded onto its knees before Lin Yuan, bowing its head and saying, "Master."

Although it called Lin Yuan 'Master,' there was still some reluctance in its tone.

At this moment, Lin Yuan was using the Yin Law Department's abilities on the Dark Demon Ape, and it no longer resisted.

Soon, three Yin Law chains formed on the Dark Demon Ape, and as usual, Lin Yuan applied the same restraints he used on the Mud Crocodile onto the Dark Demon Ape.

This time, since the Dark Demon Ape cooperated throughout, the entire process was very smooth.

After subduing the Dark Demon Ape, sister-in-law whispered to Lin Yuan, "Let's find a quiet place to chat."

Lin Yuan: "????"

Lin Yuan thought, this isn't chatting; this is clearly an invitation for me to take a trial run.

Lin Yuan instructed Zhuge Ming, "You all go back to Peng City first. I'll bring the Dark Demon Ape and the Mud Crocodile back afterward."

Since the Dark Demon Ape had a historical connection with sister-in-law, Lin Yuan thought it inappropriate to use his Deceit Servants for training anymore.

Since the training was off the table, Zhuge Ming and the others could head back to Peng City ahead of time.

Men!

Those who understand, understand.

The reason Lin Yuan made them go back first, Zhuge Ming surely knows it, right?

Knowing is one thing, but you can't say it outright.

Not only must it not be said directly, but Zhuge Ming also has to help Lin Yuan cover it up.

Zhuce Ming immediately responded, "Alright, then we'll head out first."

After Zhuge Ming and the others left, Lin Yuan and sister-in-law entered the Dark Demon Ape's cave.

The Mud Crocodile and the Dark Demon Ape were assigned by Lin Yuan to guard the cave entrance.

Guarding the entrance is basically the Dark Demon Ape's original job.

The Dark Demon Ape squatted on the left side of the cave, while the Mud Crocodile squatted on the right. With these two gatekeepers, no one will disturb Lin Yuan and sister-in-law's catching up.

Otherwise, why say the Mud Crocodile deserves a beating!

Originally, the two of them had their own territories and didn't interfere with each other.

But the Mud Crocodile insisted on provoking the Dark Demon Ape.

"Hey!"

"The master accepted me first and then you!"

"So, from now on, I'm the boss and you're the second. Call me Crocodile Boss starting today, and I'll call you Monkey Second. How about that?" the Mud Crocodile chimed in.

Dark Demon Ape: "????"

The Dark Demon Ape thought, it's already frustrating to switch masters inexplicably, and now this bastard has the nerve to provoke me.

Without saying another word, the Dark Demon Ape leaped onto the Mud Crocodile's back, raised its fist, and started pounding it.

The Mud Crocodile was no match for the Dark Demon Ape, and since the Dark Demon Ape struck first, it caught it off guard.

For a while, the Dark Demon Ape only had the ability to defend without counterattacking, being beaten into constant cries of pain.

Outside, the Mud Crocodile and the Dark Demon Ape were in a heated battle, while inside, Lin Yuan was pouring his heart out to sister-in-law.

"Where have you been these days?"

"Last time, thanks to you saving me, otherwise, I would probably be dead!" Lin Yuan said.

However, before he could finish, sister-in-law covered his mouth, "Don't say such inauspicious things."

"This time, I went to another world and received the complete inheritance of the Rebirth Saint Mother."

"In that other world, I learned many secrets, and let me tell you about them one by one. These secrets should be very helpful to you."

Then it was Lin Yuan's turn to cover sister-in-law's mouth.

However, sister-in-law used her hand to cover Lin Yuan's mouth, whereas Lin Yuan used his mouth to cover hers.

"Mmm mmm!" Sister-in-law whimpered, speaking unclearly, "Let's... talk about the important stuff first."

"Let's get to the important stuff first!" Lin Yuan also said.

Lin Yuan didn't agree with sister-in-law's request to talk about the important stuff first.

Lin Yuan felt that after a long separation, they should deal with the important matters first.

Half an hour later.

At the entrance, the Mud Crocodile was beaten with bumps all over its head, covered in wounds.

The Dark Demon Ape was also tired from the fight and sat with a thud, glaring ferociously at the Mud Crocodile.

"Smelly monkey, just wait!"

"When the master comes out, I'll definitely report you, and you're doomed!" the Mud Crocodile threatened angrily.

At this point, strange sounds were coming from inside the cave.

They sounded like cries of pain or sorrow, but not quite.

"What's going on inside?"

"Could it be that they are fighting too?" the Dark Demon Ape tentatively asked.

The Mud Crocodile thought for a moment and said, "After a long reunion, they should spar a bit to see if each other's cultivation has improved."

Chapter 218 Little Sister-in-Law's Worries, Deceitful King Faction Makes a Move

After a bout of sparring, Lin Yuan and his sister-in-law were both drenched in sweat, yet neither had emerged victorious.

The two decided to take an intermission, and after the break, proceed to the second round of sparring.

"What were you about to say just now?" Lin Yuan asked, looking at his sister-in-law who lay weakly in his arms.

His sister-in-law raised her delicate eyebrows and said teasingly, "Oh, you still remember the serious matter!"

Then, she began to slowly recount her story.

The inheritance his sister-in-law received was from a deity of the Mysterious World, the Rebirth Saint Mother.

In that mysterious world, the Rebirth Saint Mother was a leading figure not to be underestimated.

The term "Rebirth Saint Mother" doesn't refer to a person, but to a divine title.

Whenever a new epoch arrives, the Rebirth Saint Mother would sit in meditation, leaving behind the inheritance, awaiting a new Rebirth Saint Mother to succeed.

Previously, the vermilion red coffin in Deceit Village was the magical treasure left by the Rebirth Saint Mother, called the Rebirth Divine Coffin.

It is said that the first Rebirth Saint Mother was born from within that coffin.

Because the inheritance status she received was high enough, it allowed his sister-in-law to learn a lot about the secrets of the other world.

The demon fiends and deceivers in that mysterious world originally existed in the myths and legends of the Real World.

At a particular moment, they were separated from the Real World, and now is the time for their return.

The world after their complete return is called the new epoch by them.

Lin Yuan once received a hint from the Great Black Heaven that it was a return, not an invasion.

However, the Great Black Heaven had only mentioned this one sentence.

Now, Lin Yuan finally learned the full story from his sister-in-law.

No wonder these evil spirits seem so familiar; they all once existed in the myths of Huaxia.

"You must quickly start building that Giant City."

"In that world, many evil spirits and great demons are trying to hasten the process of the mysterious invasion."

"Some of the evil spirits and great demons are after human blood and souls. Some who claim to be gods are there to harvest faith."

"In summary, to the Mysterious World, humans are like a coveted prize," his sister-in-law said with a weighty tone.

The entire day, Lin Yuan and his sister-in-law were entwined with each other, from day until night, and during intermissions, his sister-in-law left nothing out in sharing everything she knew with Lin Yuan.

By evening, Lin Yuan's reserve of fish eggs had been completely exhausted.

There wasn't a drop left.

Looking at his sister-in-law in his arms, Lin Yuan gently said, "Come back to Peng City with me!"

His sister-in-law shook her head, politely refusing Lin Yuan.

"My state is very unstable, even though I survived and received the inheritance of the Rebirth Saint Mother."

"But I don't know if it's good or bad!"

"I cannot go to populated human areas. Perhaps, to humans, I'm like a ticking time bomb."

Although his sister-in-law accepted the Rebirth Saint Mother's inheritance, in her eyes, the Rebirth Saint Mother is not a true god.

Even if the Rebirth Saint Mother is a god, then it is an evil god.

The inheritance she accepted is an evil god's inheritance to humans.

She can't even tell whether she is human or an evil spirit.

Lin Yuan may accept her, but that doesn't mean others will.

"I'll stay here and make it my dojo." At this, his sister-in-law shyly said to Lin Yuan, "If..."

"If you ever miss me, you can come to see me anytime."

Lin Yuan thought for a moment and felt it made sense.

Lian City is not far from Peng City, and with his ability to use the Yellow Springs Road, he could be there in an instant.

Her staying here isn't much different from going back to Peng City with him.

"Alright then!"

"I'll first take the Mud Crocodile and Dark Demon Ape back; they are essential for constructing the Giant City."

"Another day, I'll come back to find you!" Lin Yuan softly said to his sister-in-law.

After another emotional farewell, Lin Yuan prepared to take the Mud Crocodile and Dark Demon Ape to Peng City.

Using the Yellow Springs Road Tattoo comes with a burden.

The bodies of the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile are too large to be carried using the Yellow Springs Road Tattoo.

His sister-in-law accompanied them for over ten miles.

"Stop accompanying us, go back!" Lin Yuan told his sister-in-law.

Holding Lin Yuan's hand, his sister-in-law solemnly said, "Will you promise me one thing?"

"Yes!" Lin Yuan replied, "Tell me."

"If..."

"If, and this is just if."

"If one day I act against my conscience, doing the things only evil spirits do, then you must kill me without mercy!"

"If I truly become an evil god, I'd rather die by your hands." Her hand holding Lin Yuan's trembled slightly.

Hearing this, Lin Yuan frowned deeply, his face darkened.

At this moment, he realized the gravity of the situation.

His sister-in-law was already, in fact, dead.

Her continued existence was initially due to the drop of water from the River of Oblivion he had left behind when using the Yellow Springs Road Experience Card.

Secondly, it is because of that Divine Coffin passed down from the Rebirth Saint Mother.

Although the Rebirth Saint Mother is called a deity, the gods of that Mysterious World are not true gods, but rather evil deities.

In this world, there's no such thing as a free lunch.

What you gain must be paid for. As it stands, my sister-in-law has gained all the benefits without any cost.

This is absolutely unreasonable. However, the joy of reunion had kept Lin Yuan from thinking along these lines.

Before parting, his sister-in-law's sudden words made Lin Yuan's heart skip a beat.

"Are you hiding something from me?" Lin Yuan asked gravely.

"No!"

"I'm simply afraid that such a day might ultimately come!"

"Promise me, if there ever comes a day when I become part of the Evil Spirit faction, you must, you must kill me!" his sister-in-law pleaded again.

Lin Yuan held his sister-in-law's hand and agreed, "Alright, I promise you!"

Although he agreed verbally, Lin Yuan thought to himself, nothing can take you away from me.

Lin Yuan decided that, once he got back, he would find a way to investigate this Rebirth Saint Mother.

In any case, he was determined to protect his sister-in-law.

No matter who it was, if they dared to try and take her away, Lin Yuan would face gods and Buddhas alike with unwavering resolve.

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Huai City.

The shelter in the heart of the city was now shrouded in darkness.

The shelter had completely collapsed, enveloped entirely in darkness, without a trace of light.

At this moment, in the underground base of the shelter, all the survivors were huddled together closely, with many dozing off in a torpor.

The walls of the shelter had collapsed in large swathes, and the buildings within were in a state of ruin.

Amongst the rubble and ruins of the broken walls, a patchwork of human Life Pattern Masters' corpses lay scattered.

Throughout the city, sounds of fighting, hoarse shouts, and the roars of evil spirits echoed intermittently.

Three days ago, Huai City suffered an unexpected attack by an unknown Tier Five Evil Spirit.

The attack was sudden. In less than half an hour, the walls of the Huai City shelter were breached, and hordes of evil spirits poured in.

With city communications cut off, the only way to seek aid was to dispatch Life Pattern Masters to neighboring cities for help.

The Huai City authorities sent wave after wave of Life Pattern Masters to seek assistance, but not a single one managed to return.

Street fighting continued for three days, and up to now, barely one-tenth of Huai City's Life Pattern Masters remained.

Some surviving Life Pattern Masters of Huai City had witnessed the Tier Five Evil Spirit that attacked.

It was a massive three-headed monster, with a human head in the center, flanked by dragon and tiger beast heads on either side.

The strength of this three-headed monster was immense, far surpassing that of an ordinary Tier Five Evil Spirit.

Huai City's overall defense capabilities were decent, at least capable of resisting an average Tier Five Evil Spirit.

However, against this three-headed monster, they stood no chance.

On the fourth day at dawn, the three-headed monster led other evil spirits in retreat from Huai City.

It seemed they hadn't discovered the ordinary people hidden in the underground base.

After the evil spirits withdrew from Huai City, the surviving Life Pattern Masters gathered together.

Once sure all the evil spirits had left, they erupted in joyous cheers.

However, following their narrow escape, they faced another pressing problem.

What should be their next step?

This time, Huai City fended off the attack thanks to the timely transfer of survivors to the underground base.

The underground base remained undiscovered by the evil spirits, thus Huai City's civilians suffered no casualties, with eighty percent of the casualties being Life Pattern Masters.

Only one-tenth of the Life Pattern Masters survived, and even they were all injured.

Rebuild the shelter?

If they were to rebuild the shelter, the remaining Life Pattern Masters wouldn't be able to protect these civilians.

In the end, after weighing their options, only one path remained.

And that was to turn to Peng City for refuge.

Anyway, once the Giant City was completed, they would have to seek Peng City's protection.

Now, having suffered an attack by evil spirits and unable to ensure their own survival, they might as well seek Peng City's refuge now.

Without hesitation, the remaining Life Pattern Masters in Huai City cobbled together a security force to escort the survivors to Peng City.

Huai City was just the first human shelter to come under attack. After Huai City, numerous other human shelters experienced attacks by evil spirits one after another.

These attacked shelters shared a common trait.

They all surrounded Peng City and were to be incorporated into Peng City once the Giant City was completed.

Moreover, after losing their self-defensive capabilities due to the attacks, they unanimously made the same choice.

To organize survivors and head straight for Peng City.

The attacks on these shelters were orchestrated by the Deceitful King Faction, with Yang Jing leading the assaults.

During their flight to Peng City, the Deceitful King Faction orchestrated more assaults, creating chaos.

During the chaos, their agents infiltrated the fleeing crowds.

Chapter 219 Back to Peng City, Everything's in Chaos

Peng City.

Official Sanctuary.

Underground Base.

Inside the conference room, Peng City's top officials gathered together.

Sitting at the head at this moment was Yang Dingguo.

Yang Dingguo was really overwhelmed now!

In recent days, the sanctuaries near Peng City have been attacked repeatedly.

The number of sanctuaries completely destroyed isn't less than a dozen.

On the surface, it looks like the sanctuaries from other cities are in trouble.

But anyone with discerning eyes can see that this is targeted at Peng City!

These days, Peng City is flooded with survivors seeking refuge, and in order to take in and settle these survivors, the construction of the Giant City has been delayed.

Dragon Country has always been about prioritizing people, adhering to a spirit of no abandonment, no giving up.

Yang Dingguo and his people certainly can't ignore these survivors seeking refuge.

However, the Peng City sanctuary is already operating at full capacity, and suddenly, there are so many survivors.

How to eat, how to drink, how to live.

Ensuring their safety is a very serious issue.

"What's the situation now?" Yang Dingguo asked the officials under him.

A middle-aged man stepped forward and reported truthfully: "So far, we've taken in forty thousand survivors."

"It's preliminarily estimated that there are no less than one hundred thousand survivors on the way."

"In the short term, food, drink, and supplies can be guaranteed. However, there's one thing—the safety issue—which we can't ensure."

"The sanctuary can no longer accommodate more people; we can only temporarily settle them elsewhere."

"Everyone should be aware, the more people gather, the more Evil Spirits will naturally appear."

"Currently, almost every day there are survivors dying at the hands of Evil Spirits, even if we send out Life Pattern Master squads to patrol, they almost have no effect."

"For now, we can only control the casualties within a manageable scope."

What does it mean to control casualties within a manageable scope?

To put it bluntly, too many people are seeking refuge in Peng City now, and losing one or two lives won't affect the overall situation nor cause any turmoil.

Next, other Peng City officials began to report on the recent situation of Peng City.

After listening to the reports, Yang Dingguo's complexion turned grim.

To put it plainly, what's the biggest issue Peng City is facing right now?

The biggest challenge for Peng City is the lack of strength, a serious shortage of Life Pattern Masters.

Originally, the official forces of Peng City were more than sufficient for protecting Peng City.

However, suddenly having tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of survivors needing protection, how can Peng City hold up!

"Has Lin Yuan returned?" Yang Dingguo asked gravely after a moment of tension.

Currently, the only one who can bring a sense of security to Yang Dingguo is Lin Yuan.

"Not yet!"

"However, the people he took with him have returned, Mr. Lin should be back soon."

"It's said that Mr. Lin has already controlled two Tier Five Evil Spirits," Secretary Wang reported.

Up to the present moment, the best news heard in this meeting is Lin Yuan subduing two Tier Five Evil Spirits.

It's known that each Tier Five Evil Spirit's combat power is undoubtedly extraordinary, only those with extraordinary combat power can be called Tier Five Evil Spirits.

Now, Yang Dingguo only hopes Lin Yuan will hurry back with the two Tier Five Evil Spirits to help relieve the pressure from the front.

Currently, Peng City's officials are already struggling to bear the pressure from the front.

"Bang."

As the meeting was ongoing, when the people in the conference room were at a loss, the conference room door was opened.

The one who pushed the door and came in was Lin Yuan.

Seeing Lin Yuan suddenly appear, everyone in the conference room looked at each other speechless, and for a moment, the room was dead silent.

Lin Yuan also felt it was a bit impolite to walk in like this while someone was having a meeting.

"Ahem!" Lin Yuan coughed twice to ease the awkwardness, tentatively asking, "Am I being a bit presumptuous?"

"Should I come back after you finish the meeting?"

Seeing Lin Yuan, Yang Dingguo's eyes instantly lit up.

Not only Yang Dingguo's eyes, but everyone in the conference room suddenly seemed to have found their backbone.

"Not at all, not at all!"

"You're right on time, just perfect!" Someone stood up and made a space for Lin Yuan to sit.

Lin Yuan didn't stand on ceremony and simply sat down in the conference room.

Lin Yuan knew Old Yang likely encountered trouble again.

He saw Peng City's current situation when he arrived.

With Peng City at the center, survivors fleeing from all directions now resemble a long dragon.

The whole Peng City is now completely chaotic, other places are even more disordered than the vegetable market except for the sanctuary.

"I heard you got things handled over there?" Yang Dingguo asked Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan nodded and replied, "That's right, it's all settled."

"One Mud Crocodile, one Dark Demon Ape, both Tier Five Evil Spirits, absolutely stable, won't cause any issues."

A Tier Five Evil Spirit possesses the power to destroy ordinary human shelters.

Having two Tier Five Evil Spirits in Peng City is like sleeping in a room with two ferocious tigers at your bedside.

Anyone would feel a sense of imminent fear.

However, as for Lin Yuan, Yang Dingguo trusts him completely.

Since Lin Yuan says these two Tier Five Evil Spirits won't cause any trouble, then they surely won't.

Once Yang Dingguo finishes questioning, it's Lin Yuan's turn to ask.

Lin Yuan speaks, "What's going on outside now? I've only been away a few days, how has it become so lively?"

Lively?

The situation outside can't simply be described as lively!

It's only that Lin Yuan is way too optimistic.

"Around Peng City, no less than a dozen city shelters have been assaulted."

"They've lost the ability to protect themselves and have all come to Peng City seeking refuge!"

"Suddenly, Peng City is flooded with so many survivors, it's tough to handle!" Yang Dingguo's expression is extremely grim.

The situation in Peng City resembles an ancient famine, with displaced people seeking refuge.

In ancient times, when famine struck, the displaced people would flee to places unaffected by famine.

But the cities spared from famine would usually close their gates tightly, not allowing the displaced inside.

Because the number of displaced people is always much higher than that of the original residents.

Originally, the food supply in the city can sustain the residents without problems.

But once the gates are opened to aid the refugees, the massive influx will undoubtedly consume the city's resources completely.

At that point, even the original residents turn into refugees.

The situation in Peng City is akin to this now.

Peng City can't possibly support so many fleeing people.

Yet, it can't bear to watch them die unattended.

"Know who's behind this..." Lin Yuan trails off, choosing not to finish his question.

The question is rather foolish.

No need to ask, it's surely the doings of the Deceitful King Faction again.

Tier Five Evil Spirits may attack human shelters, but nearly simultaneously, shelters in over ten cities are attacked.

Moreover, coincidentally, all these shelters lie around Peng City.

Such a coincidence surely suggests someone is orchestrating behind the scenes.

This incident must be the work of the Deceitful King Faction.

However, the current priority is not to deal with the Deceitful King Faction.

It's rather to take responsive measures to solve the accommodation issue for these survivors seeking refuge in Peng City.

These survivors from various places have disorganizedly gathered together—not to mention attacks by Evil Spirits.

The daily conflicts, fights, and injuries, even deaths among them are numerous.

They must be properly settled soon; otherwise, it will further impact Peng City's normal order.

"If it's not a blessing, it's not a curse; if it's a curse, it can't be avoided."

"In my opinion, these people coming might not necessarily be a bad thing!" Lin Yuan pauses for a moment and then says sternly, "Starting tomorrow, cut off their relief food."

"If they want food, they must work for it."

"Quarrying, transporting, building, smelting...."

"Everyone must exchange labor for food; those who don't work won't receive even a bit of relief food."

As soon as Lin Yuan finishes speaking, someone at the end of the meeting tentatively says, "Isn't this..."

"Isn't this inhumane?"

Lin Yuan glares at him fiercely, scolding, "Look at the time now, and you're still talking about humanity."

"During ancient famines, wise officials knew to provide relief by work. Your persistent distribution of relief food will only provoke their laziness."

"Now, if you dare let them eat for free, tomorrow they'll demand access to the shelter."

Upon hearing Lin Yuan's words, someone in the meeting room chuckles bitterly, "Not tomorrow; they're already demanding now."

"These survivors from various places march around all day, clamoring for entry into the shelter."

The shelter is undoubtedly safe.

However, the construction of Peng City's shelter was based on the number of Peng City's survivors at the time.

Though there is some spare capacity, clearly it can't accommodate too many people.

"Starting tomorrow, stop relief food distribution and let them exchange labor for food."

"Additionally, create a reward system: those who actively contribute to Peng City can be permitted to live in the shelter." Lin Yuan instructs.

Lin Yuan's approach is actually quite effective.

While they exchange labor for food, they retain the hope of entering the shelter.

This way, they will strive intensely to gain access to the shelter.

Under these circumstances, giving up can only mean death.

"Can safety be guaranteed?" another Peng City official asks.

Lin Yuan ponders for a moment and replies, "With me and the two Tier Five Evil Spirits, while we can't guarantee complete safety, there shouldn't be any major issues."

"If those bastards from the Deceitful King Faction dare come, they'll have no way out."

"In these troubled times, some sacrifices are inevitable; only by quickly constructing the Giant City can we accommodate so many people, ensuring greater safety."

Chapter 220 Important Intelligence from Day Traveler

Lin Yuan's current status in Peng City can be said to be second only to Yang Dingguo.

What he says still carries significant weight.

Moreover, what Lin Yuan mentioned is a harsh reality.

Currently, the number of survivors pouring into Peng City from various places is as large as a million.

If the Deceitful King Faction continues to cause large-scale destruction, then even more survivors may flock here.

Peng City does not have extra strength to protect them; let them participate in city-building, constructing the Giant City at the fastest speed.

This also lets them protect themselves.

After all, there's no such thing as a free lunch in this world.

Actually, everyone understands this principle.

They are officials emerging from peacetime, still quite conservative in their thinking. No one has proposed such a practical solution until now.

Now, Lin Yuan has proposed this method.

After the meeting, Yang Dingguo supported Lin Yuan's idea.

The meeting finalized the implementation plan based on Lin Yuan's idea.

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Early the next morning.

Lin Yuan personally led a team of Life Pattern Masters to the temporary shelter for survivors.

Behind Lin Yuan, on his left and right, followed two enormous creatures, none other than the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile.

Initially, the survivors were a bit startled upon seeing these two huge creatures.

Afterwards, seeing the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile obediently following Lin Yuan, their panic slowly subsided.

Originally, every morning, someone came to distribute breakfast to them.

Breakfast consisted of simple hot porridge, steamed buns, and pickles.

Though not sumptuous, it was filling enough.

However, today's breakfast didn't arrive.

The original breakfast turned into a piece of paper, detailing where they need to gather and what kind of work they must engage in within a certain period.

Around the gathering area, buses are ready. Each piece of paper the survivors hold corresponds with a specific license plate.

Soon, they will be assigned to different construction sites to begin the construction of the Giant City.

People naturally have a tendency towards laziness.

These survivors have been freeloading in Peng City for quite some days, and now they're suddenly told to work and that they must labor to earn their meals.

They instantly developed a sense of resistance.

"We want food!"

"We want food!"

"We want safety!"

"We want safety!"

"This is infringing our human rights!"

"You're treating us like slaves!"

"We want the same rights as Peng City People; we want to survive within the shelter."

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At the gathering point, under someone's deliberate leadership, all survivors began to raise their arms and shout, their voices echoing far and wide.

At this moment, several officials from other cities approached Lin Yuan and said in a deep voice, "Mr. Lin, let them have food first!"

"If this continues, it will be uncontrollable, and trouble will arise."

"As for working, let's discuss, and give us another chance to negotiate with them."

Negotiate?

Exchanging labor for food compensation is a fair exchange, it's only natural.

Trouble?

With Lin Yuan here, what trouble could arise?

Lin Yuan signaled to the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile, and the two Tier Five Evil Spirits immediately understood.

"Roar!"

"Roar! Roar!"

The Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile roared fiercely at the crowd, their roar forming a gust of wind that enveloped the people.

The wind carried an aura of menace; many were so scared that they fell back onto the ground.

Some even urinated in fear, leaving puddles on the ground, wishing they could disappear.

Under the two roars of the Dark Demon Ape and Mud Crocodile, the original chants stopped abruptly.

The survivors exchanged glances, hearts pounding.

Taking advantage of the silence, Lin Yuan picked up a loudspeaker and shouted to the crowd below, "Peng City doesn't support idle people, nor can it afford to support so many idle people."

"If you wish to stay in Peng City, follow the instructions on the paper you have, engage in labor, and exchange it for food and compensation."

"As for entering the shelter, you should know every shelter's capacity is limited, built according to the city's survivor population."

"It's impossible for all of you to enter the shelter."

"However, each month we will offer a thousand family slots, providing you a chance to enter the shelter. Those who perform the best, contribute the most, will have the opportunity for their entire family to enter."

"Rest assured, although your working location is not as safe as the shelter, I, Lin Yuan, guarantee with my integrity to provide protection to the best of my ability."

"You must understand, relying solely on the Peng City Shelter cannot accommodate so many of you. Only by completing the Giant City can everyone live in a safe environment."

"Of course, if anyone cannot accept our arrangements, we won't compel you."

"We'll provide you with three days of food, transportation to the next city, where you can seek new shelter."

"The time available for you is running out; you need to make a choice. Those willing to stay and work should quickly follow the instructions on the paper in your hands and head to the buses for assembly. Meanwhile, our staff will also try to provide you with assistance."

The papers in their hands were tasks assigned based on their personal information and skills.

It can be said that everyone is put to their best use.

Last night, for the sake of compiling this data, Peng City's office workers did not sleep a wink all night.

Who around Peng City doesn't know the name Lin Yuan?

With Lin Yuan here, along with those two huge beings behind him, who would dare cause trouble?

At this moment, many people began weighing the pros and cons.

Participating in the construction of the Giant City, working in exchange for food and rewards, this is quite reasonable!

Not to mention, even before the bizarre invasion, they had to work to earn wages!

Moreover, even when heading to the shelter in the next city, they wouldn't be supported for free!

Needless to say, Peng City is the safest place nearby.

Plus, there's the enticing prospect of the entire family entering the Peng City Shelter.

Thinking of this, some started to waver and began to follow the instructions on their papers, heading towards the assembly.

Humans are the most conformist creatures; once someone makes a decision, others began to follow suit one after another.

More and more people chose to stay and participate in the construction of the Giant City.

On the outskirts, buses full of people began to move towards various construction sites.

The number of survivors at the gathering point dwindled.

For the handful who didn't wish to stay, Lin Yuan stuck to his word, providing them with food, transportation, and so on.

"Mr. Lin, you always have a way!" The official in charge of managing these survivors couldn't help but give Lin Yuan a thumbs up.

"We can't support such a large population here; if they leave, where can they go?"

"The longer they wander outside, the higher the chances of dying."

"It's just a carrot-and-stick approach; they understand how to weigh the pros and cons." Lin Yuan wasn't arrogant.

"However, with so many more people in the project, won't we attract evil spirits?"

"The safety of so many people is a big problem!" The person said worriedly.

Lin Yuan pointed at the Mud Crocodile and Dark Demon Ape behind him and said, "With both of them here, most evil spirits should actively avoid Peng City."

"Even if occasionally some evil spirits dare to enter Peng City, our guard team should be able to fend them off."

Lin Yuan had already asked the Mud Crocodile and Dark Demon Ape to fully release their aura; evil spirits have territorial divisions.

With them releasing their aura, in the eyes of other evil spirits, Peng City became their territory.

Thus, evil spirits entering Peng City are either stronger than them and disregarding them,

or they are ignorant and starving, eager to eat humans.

In any case, there will certainly be casualties, but as long as it's within controllable limits, there shouldn't be major issues.

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After a busy day, they finally settled the survivors properly.

Returning to Wushan Shelter, Lin Yuan saw a familiar figure.

This person hadn't been seen for a long time.

It was the Day Traveler.

Seeing the childlike, giant frame and small stature in front of him, Lin Yuan felt a sense of reunion after a long separation.

Of course, it was merely a reunion, without any other implications.

Day Traveler is the only one with decent looks and build, but can't stir any male hormones in Lin Yuan.

Because, in Lin Yuan's eyes, she's a madwoman.

Would you have any thoughts about a madwoman?

Certainly not, because she might take your life at any moment while you're enjoying yourself!

"Mad Woman, why are you here again?" Lin Yuan directly asked without beating around the bush.

Day Traveler is Lin Yuan's partner, both having a common goal to destroy the Deceitful King Faction.

"To execute a task, or rather, to gather intelligence on your side."

"Recently, hasn't the situation been unusual around here?"

"Nearby city shelters were attacked, all by the Deceitful King Faction!" Day Traveler didn't waste words and directly reported the information.

"Figured it was them!"

"But what is their purpose in doing this?" Lin Yuan asked.

"To seize the city!"

"They need a Giant City; the one you're building is their target."

"Amongst these survivors, there are many spies they've planted, and all of this is just laying the groundwork for seizing the city!" Day Traveler once again revealed critical intelligence.

"Many spies?"

"How extensive can it be?" Lin Yuan asked in surprise.

Upon hearing this, Day Traveler took out a book, seemingly containing dozens of pages.

"Here!" Day Traveler handed the book to Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan: "????"

"What is this?"

"The Art of War? Why did you think of asking me to read a book?" Lin Yuan asked in confusion.

Day Traveler paused, then explained: "Not a book, it's a list of spies."

"Cough, cough!" Lin Yuan nearly choked on his saliva.

This is a damn list of spies?

Doesn't this mean there are thousands of spies among the survivors?