

Apocalypse 441

Chapter 441: Anti-Miasma Pearl

Mudra Bodhisattva used his body as a sacrifice, regardless of whether Elder Bai and the others intervened, nothing would have changed.

In an instant, Mudra Bodhisattva's physical form and divine soul slowly transformed into a grey substance, resembling a dark cloud.

Then, this grey substance passed through a black hole and instantly vanished without a trace.

Mudra Bodhisattva came quickly and died quickly.

From appearing to sacrificing himself and turning into a plague, the whole process took just over ten seconds.

Even Lin Yuan hadn't reacted yet.

The main reason was that Lin Yuan didn't know who this Mudra Bodhisattva was.

"Who was he?"

"The plagues he mentioned, have they already spread to our world?" Lin Yuan asked Elder Bai and the others.

Elder Bai nodded and said gravely, "He was Mudra Bodhisattva, a Tier Two powerhouse under the World Honored, a fragment of the Medicine King Buddha."

"His strength is inferior to the Grand Elder. Even if he sacrificed himself and turned into a plague, he couldn't break through the defensive barriers set by the Grand Elder on Qingqiu Mountain."

"Thus, his intention to spread the plague was definitely not aimed at Qingqiu Mountain. It could only be your world."

"What a vicious heart! The World Honored wants to cut off the roots, forcing you to return to your world. Without you here, we can only face him directly."

Elder Bai wasn't foolish, he immediately understood the purpose of the World Honored.

"Damn!"

"This is totally picking on the weak!" Lin Yuan couldn't help but curse.

The World Honored is clearly taking advantage of the Real World's lack of top-tier combat power, thus using this disgusting tactic against him.

"Facing directly, then facing directly it is!"

"Since you used my Qingqiu Mountain's return to the ancestral land to release the plague to the ancestral land."

"Without the burden, I certainly won't let things rest with the World Honored!" Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder said with a stern face.

Without the drag of Qingqiu Mountain, Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder spoke much more confidently.

Although it's known that the plague spread by Mudra Bodhisattva is targeting the Real World,

Lin Yuan wasn't in a hurry to return.

Instead, he asked Elder Bai and the others, "Elder Bai, do you have a cure for this plague?"

The spreading of the plague by Mudra Bodhisattva was an opportunity that arose from the Qingqiu Fox Race descending upon the ancestral land in great numbers.

If this plague causes too many casualties, it would become a significant karmic burden for the Qingqiu Fox Race.

Thus, Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder certainly couldn't stand by idly.

Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder took out a white jade box from his bosom. Inside the box were three green pearls.

"This is called an Anti-Miasma Pearl. Wherever it's located, it can ensure a radius of a thousand miles free from plague disturbance." Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder handed the Anti-Miasma Pearl to Lin Yuan.

Holding the Anti-Avoidance Pearl, Lin Yuan thought, according to Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder's words, one Anti-Miasma Pearl can protect an area of a thousand miles.

Essentially, one Anti-Avoidance Pearl can guard a Giant City.

However, the Dragon Country has nine Giant Cities, and these three Anti-Avoidance Pearls aren't enough!

"Grand Elder, are there more of these Anti-Avoidance Pearls?"

"Three are not enough!"

"Our Dragon Country has nine Giant Cities. Each city has a vast population. Once the plague spreads, the consequences would be unimaginable." Lin Yuan said gravely to Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder.

"I have two!"

"I have one!"

"I have one!"

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Elder Bai, the Golden-Winged Roc, and the Black Bear Spirit gathered an additional four Anti-Avoidance Pearls, bringing the total to seven.

But it's still not enough; there's a shortage of two more.

"With our cultivation, we're no longer affected by any miasma, so we don't deliberately collect Anti-Avoidance Pearls."

"These pearls were acquired by chance and kept as curiosities. Unexpectedly, they come in handy today."

"We're still short of two Anti-Avoidance Pearls. The forests are full of miasma. Those old immortals in the Ten Thousand Mountains definitely have some." Elder Bai said with certainty.

Hearing this, Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder glanced at Lin Yuan and said, "Young one, wait for me a moment. I will go to the Ten Thousand Mountains to seek the remaining two Anti-Avoidance Pearls from those old immortals."

Elder Bai said with a heavy tone, "This matter involves our conflict with the esteemed one. Those old immortals might not give them to us."

"Even if they give them to us, they will likely demand tough conditions."

Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder's expression was grim, but he gritted his teeth and said, "Paying a small price is better than bearing immense karma."

Elder Bai nodded and said, "Alright, I'll accompany you."

Lin Yuan chimed in at this moment, "Let's go together. Besides, after obtaining the Anti-Miasma Pearls, I have to make a return trip."

Elder Bai didn't refuse and took Lin Yuan to the Ten Thousand Mountains.

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In the Ten Thousand Mountains, there's a Divine Beast Bai Ze.

In matters of divination and calculation, Divine Beast Bai Ze is second only to Elder Bai.

After Mudra Bodhisattva turned into a plague at Qingqiu Mountain, Divine Beast Bai Ze predicted it.

To avoid karma, Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder would definitely come to request the Anti-Avoidance Pearls to save those in the ancestral land.

Divine Beast Bai Ze also knew he couldn't give the Anti-Avoidance Pearls!

Mudra Bodhisattva turning himself into a plague was a game between the World Honored and Elder Bai.

If they gave the Anti-Avoidance Pearls to Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder, wouldn't that be sabotaging the World Honored's plan and offending the World Honored?

However, if they didn't give the pearls when Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder came to ask, it would offend Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder.

After much consideration, the old immortals in the Ten Thousand Mountains decided to simply shut their doors and refuse guests.

When Elder Bai and the others arrived at the Ten Thousand Mountains, no one came to greet them.

Those old immortals' things didn't make an appearance either.

"Those bastards just hid when things got tough!" Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder said through gritted teeth.

Lin Yuan, seeing this, thought, I'm familiar with this tactic.

Playing the game of closed doors, are we?

"Elder Bai, since they're not welcoming, let's leave!"

"However, when I get angry, I tend to talk nonsense. Soon, I'll take these seven Anti-Miasma Pearls and leave."

"And I'll loudly say, 'The seniors of the Ten Thousand Mountains are truly kind! I just had a walk here, and they gave me seven Anti-Avoidance Pearls.'" Lin Yuan said, pulling out the seven Anti-Avoidance Pearls gathered by Elder Bai and others.

Lin Yuan knew that those old immortals in the Ten Thousand Mountains were secretly watching them, so he decided to play rogue.

In fact, just as Lin Yuan predicted.

As soon as Lin Yuan spoke, those hiding in the shadows were dumbfounded!

This young man's tactics are a bit dirty!

This is like throwing muck on them!

If Lin Yuan really took those seven Anti-Avoidance Pearls and strutted out, saying they were given by the seniors of the Ten Thousand Mountains, even if those seniors denied it, who would believe them?

Chapter 442: If Soft Tactics Fail, Use Force

Lin Yuan, this is an open strategy!

Ten Thousand Mountains are rich in Anti-Avoidance Pearls; as long as he openly carries these pearls out of here, letting the World Honored One Sect see them.

Then, this matter will reach the ears of the World Honored.

By that time, when the immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains say these pearls weren't given by them, will the World Honored believe them?

By that time, they'd be like yellow mud falling into the trousers — whether it's not manure, it still is!

Lin Yuan used this move right off the bat, not to mention those immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains.

Elder Bai and Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder were stunned.

After all, right now, these immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains belong to the neutral faction; Elder Bai and Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder don't want to offend them.

Therefore, Elder Bai initially thought of exchanging benefits to acquire two Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

Elder Bai wanted to use a conciliatory approach, but Lin Yuan didn't think that way.

From the fact that Ten Thousand Mountains' immortals closed their doors, Lin Yuan knew that using soft tactics today to acquire Anti-Avoidance Pearls wouldn't be easy.

First, they hoped to meet these immortals, but it would be very difficult.

Second, even if they met these immortals, acquiring Anti-Avoidance Pearls would require a lot of persuasion.

Lastly, whether they would offer the exchange is uncertain. Even if they did, it would certainly come at a great cost.

It should be known that the plague has now spread to the Real World.

Perhaps, some people have already died due to the plague.

Every minute of delay leads to more deaths.

Lin Yuan doesn't want to linger with them, so he used a killer move right away.

The fact proves that Lin Yuan's kill move was very effective.

In a hall somewhere within Ten Thousand Mountains.

The immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains looked at each other, all turning their gaze towards Divine Beast Bai Ze.

The implication being, that the idea to close the doors was yours, now what do you propose?

"Alas!" Divine Beast Bai Ze heavily sighed and said, "Fine, let's meet them!"

"However, these Anti-Avoidance Pearls must not be given. Angering the World Honored brings no benefit to us."

Lin Yuan's approach proved very useful; before, they had stayed here so long, with no one paying attention to them.

As soon as he used his killer move, it didn't take long before a member of the Demon Race came to guide them.

Soon, they were in a grand hall, meeting these immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains.

A group of thousand-year-old demons.

"Brother Bai, what wind blows you all here!" Divine Beast Bai Ze said with a smile.

The situation was urgent; Elder Bai didn't beat around the bush, directly stating, "We've come with a request."

"We know you all have the most Anti-Miasma Pearls, so we'd like to trade for two."

"Rest assured, we won't take them for free; propose any condition, and we won't bargain."

In the past, these immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains would surely agree to trade, and then take the opportunity to extort Elder Bai.

They know Elder Bai has lived long and has many treasures.

However, this involves the World Honored; once they trade with Elder Bai, it would offend the World Honored and bring karmic entanglement.

Thus, no matter how great the benefit of the trade, it can't proceed.

"Brother Bai, to be blunt, we do have many Anti-Avoidance Pearls on hand."

"But you came at a bad time!"

"The youngsters from our tribe went to a miasma-infested place for training, and took all the Anti-Avoidance Pearls."

"When they return, instead of a trade, I'll personally send you two!" Divine Beast Bai Ze fabricated an excuse.

Upon hearing this, Elder Bai and the others' faces turned dark.

Bai Ze's words were clearly a trick, not genuinely meant.

Wait until their tribesmen return, then gift them to Elder Bai?

When will they return? Isn't it determined by Bai Ze?

By then, the humans in the Real World might be all dead, and these Anti-Avoidance Pearls would be useless.

"Everyone, these words seem to be fooling us!"

"I understand your concerns."

"We came quietly this time, the World Honored knows nothing. Just two Anti-Avoidance Pearls won't bind so much karma." Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder also spoke.

Yet, Divine Beast Bai Ze still shook his head, saying firmly, "No, no!"

"With the karma tied to the World Honored, even a little — we refuse to be involved at all."

Even so, Elder Bai and Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder continued to plead.

Seeing this, Lin Yuan's rage flared up.

This group of immortals truly thinks they can bully us!

"Elder Bai, Grand Elder, enough pleading!"

"We fight to the death with the World Honored, while they watch. They are all Tier Two Peak and all have hopes of attaining the Dao."

"When we beat the World Honored, they might seize the fruits just the same."

"In my view, we should find a secluded place here in Ten Thousand Mountains and hide like them."

"Let's see, when the World Honored succeeds in attaining the Dao and comes to kill us, if they will flatten Ten Thousand Mountains along the way." Lin Yuan said angrily.

"Bang!" Among the immortals, an Ox Demon slammed the table and stood, pointing at Lin Yuan, "Junior, who taught you to speak to elders this way?"

Lin Yuan, emboldened by Elder Bai's protection, wasn't afraid, and roared, "Elder, you're only ahead of me by thousands of years in cultivation, you're not as brave as the old plowing ox — what kind of elder are you!"

"I think you're all fools!"

"In the ancestral land, there's a plethora of humans, and we only want to save the humans in nine cities; asking you for two Anti-Miasma Pearls doesn't tie much karma."

"If you won't give, fine, then I'll destroy these Anti-Avoidance Pearls in my hands, not save the people of the ancestral land, and stay in your hall forever!"

"Let's see if giving us two Anti-Avoidance Pearls ties more karma than me staying here does."

Undoubtedly, Lin Yuan staying here involves more karma!

Lin Yuan is the mortal enemy of the World Honored; to the immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains, he's a disaster.

"Brat, are you threatening us?"

"Do you truly believe I dare not kill you?" the Ox Demon raged.

Lin Yuan looked at Elder Bai and asked, "Elder Bai, can you protect me completely?"

At this point, Elder Bai could only continue with Lin Yuan's rhythm.

"In terms of defense, I am confident!" Elder Bai said confidently.

At the same time, Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder, Golden-Winged Roc, and Black Bear Spirit guarded Lin Yuan, prepared for any Tier Two Powerhouse to make a move on him.

Lin Yuan directly took out the Anti-Avoidance Pearls Elder Bai had gathered for him and, in front of the immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains, "bang" crushed one.

"Now, we need to trade for three Anti-Avoidance Pearls."

Chapter 443: Bai Ze Concedes

Lin Yuan is a ruthless person, directly in front of this group of Old Immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains, he crushed an Anti-Avoidance Pearl into powder.

Then, he threatened them to trade three Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

From the original two Anti-Avoidance Pearls to now three Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

The more Anti-Avoidance Pearls given to Lin Yuan, the deeper the causal ties with the World Honored.

However, if they don't give Lin Yuan the Anti-Avoidance Pearls, once Lin Yuan crushes all of them, it's like breaking the pot and living directly here, then the causal ties would be even deeper.

Now, this group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains are like being roasted over a fire, they are in a dilemma.

This Anti-Avoidance Pearl, they can't give it, but they can't not give it either.

The most infuriating thing for them is that Lin Yuan, a mere small fry who has just advanced to Tier Three, dares to threaten them, a group of Tier Two Peak powerhouses, in broad daylight.

"You brat, are you seeking death?" The Ox Demon glared with round eyes and roared.

Being threatened publicly by Lin Yuan made the Ox Demon feel very humiliated.

Unfortunately, Elder Bai and the others divided into four directions to protect Lin Yuan tightly, there was no chance for him to take action and kill Lin Yuan.

If there was even a slight chance, he would have directly made a move to kill Lin Yuan.

It's not just the Old Immortals of Ten Thousand Mountains who are angry, even Elder Bai and the others were extremely shocked.

They never expected Lin Yuan to be so wild, directly confronting this group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains.

Elder Bai thought to himself, you're so wild, do your parents know?

You're so wild, if it weren't for us protecting you here, you'd probably have been killed by someone already.

Actually, in circumstances less than dire, Elder Bai and the others didn't want to become adversaries with this group of Old Immortals from Qingqiu Mountain.

But, since Lin Yuan has already pushed things to this point, they are helpless and can only follow Lin Yuan, going down this dark path together.

Lin Yuan couldn't care less, now, the Real World is in grave danger, the plague is spreading, unknown how many will be endangered.

Lin Yuan doesn't have much time to waste, he must quickly obtain enough Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

He can't manage other countries in the Real World, but he must safeguard the nine Giant Cities of Dragon Country.

Facing the Ox Demon's threat, Lin Yuan remained unfazed and pinched firmly again.

"Bang."

Another Anti-Miasma Pearl was crushed in his hand, turning into flying ashes.

"Now, we need to trade four Anti-Avoidance Pearls," Lin Yuan said word by word.

At this moment, this group of Old Immortals in Ten Thousand Mountains had eyes burning with fury like the Ox Demon, extremely angry.

However, more had faces full of worry, falling into contemplation.

Those angered like the Ox Demon are all brute force, not understanding the implication of Lin Yuan's actions.

Lin Yuan crushing the Anti-Miasma Pearl in his hand is forcing himself onto a dead end along with them, one side must give way, otherwise, it's the fate of everyone dying together.

However, Lin Yuan has the courage to go all-in, which is clearly lacking in this group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains.

If they truly had the courage to go all-in, they wouldn't be hiding in Ten Thousand Mountains, afraid to become enemies with the World Honored.

Some of the smarter Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains collectively turned their gazes to the Divine Beast Bai Ze.

At this moment, the forehead of Divine Beast Bai Ze was covered with dense beads of sweat.

Divine Beast Bai Ze thought, "Don't look at me, I'm sweating profusely too!"

The Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains hesitated, unable to make a decision.

Meanwhile, Lin Yuan pressed harder, another Anti-Miasma Pearl appeared in his hand, about to be crushed.

"Don't!"

"Don't..."

"We can talk, we can talk!" Divine Beast Bai Ze couldn't hold it anymore and had to relent.

Hearing this, Elder Bai took the opportunity to approach Lin Yuan and said, "Lin Yuan, give me a favor, stop for now."

This group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains had already yielded, Lin Yuan naturally couldn't press further.

"Alright, Elder Bai, today I will give you this favor!" Lin Yuan nodded.

Seeing Lin Yuan stop, this group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains also couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

At this time, Elder Bai looked at Divine Beast Bai Ze and asked, "How do you want to negotiate?"

Usually very good-tempered Divine Beast Bai Ze felt annoyed at this moment, he glanced at Lin Yuan and said in frustration, "I won't negotiate with this brat, this brat is too rude."

"Even if we have to negotiate, it's between the two of us."

Not negotiating with Lin Yuan?

Clearly, Lin Yuan's recklessness had made Divine Beast Bai Ze wary, or rather, scared.

Lin Yuan is still Tier Three, yet he can make Divine Beast Bai Ze, a Tier Two Peak powerhouse, wary of him, showing Lin Yuan's extraordinary nature.

However, Elder Bai also thought it better for Lin Yuan not to be involved in the negotiations.

Lin Yuan's recklessness made Elder Bai a bit worried.

Divine Beast Bai Ze's concession meant there was a way to trade the Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

Next, it was a matter of how much cost to be paid.

As long as a trade can be made, Elder Bai wasn't too concerned about the cost.

Elder Bai was also afraid Lin Yuan's involvement might botch the negotiations if he got another bout of anger.

"Lin Yuan, how about letting me and the Grand Elder handle the negotiations, while you wait here for a moment!" Elder Bai suggested to Lin Yuan in a negotiating tone.

Although Lin Yuan's actions today were reckless, he achieved his goal and turned the situation around.

This made Elder Bai look at Lin Yuan in a new light, though Lin Yuan was Tier Three, no one dared to underestimate him.

As long as the goal could be achieved, Lin Yuan didn't want to entangle with this group of Old Immortals from Ten Thousand Mountains.

"Alright!"

"However, Elder Bai, my bottom line is securing nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls, not one less!" Lin Yuan emphasized to Elder Bai.

Elder Bai nodded slightly, indicating he understood.

Then, Elder Bai walked up to the Golden-Winged Roc, instructing, "Make sure to protect Lin Yuan tightly."

Just now Lin Yuan was too wild, after they left, they feared someone might act against Lin Yuan from Ten Thousand Mountains.

"Rest assured, I will definitely protect this brat!" Golden-Winged Roc promised while patting his chest.

The Golden-Winged Roc's strength among the Tier Two Peak powerhouses was not small.

Plus there was the Black Bear Spirit; although the Black Bear Spirit wasn't strong in attack, he had thick skin and was excellent in defense.

With the two of them protecting Lin Yuan, even if someone really acted against him, they could hold out until Elder Bai and Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder returned.

While Elder Bai was giving instructions, Divine Beast Bai Ze and the others were whispering.

Divine Beast Bai Ze was warning the Ox Demon not to mess things up after he left.

At the same time, he arranged for a few mild-tempered, conservative powerhouses to stay in the hall to watch the Ox Demon.

Bai Ze feared that while he was negotiating, the Ox Demon might finish Lin Yuan off.

Chapter 444: Bad News, Disaster Strikes. Good News, Heading to Fusang.

"Kid, you're not bad!"

"You suit my Old Bear's temper!" Once Elder Bai left, the Black Bear Spirit patted Lin Yuan on the shoulder, expressing his approval.

Clearly, it wasn't just the Black Bear Spirit; the Golden-Winged Roc also greatly approved of Lin Yuan. He looked at Lin Yuan and said, "In the future, if you need help, you can come to Tianpeng Mountain to find me!"

Indeed, no matter which world you're in, if you want to gain recognition, you must appear strong and tough enough.

Groveling and begging will only make others look down on you.

Watching the encouragement from the Black Bear Spirit and the Golden-Winged Roc towards Lin Yuan, the Ox Demon was enraged, wishing he could gore Lin Yuan to death with his horns.

Unfortunately, the Divine Beast Bai Ze had arranged several people to watch him before leaving, so the Ox Demon could only fume, unable to act rashly.

At this moment, in another room, Elder Bai and the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder were also engaged in a heated verbal exchange with the Divine Beast Bai Ze.

"We need four Anti-Avoidance Pearls. Of course, we won't let you suffer a loss; we are willing to exchange treasures worth five times the value!"

"No way. At most, we can give you two, and you originally asked for two from the start."

"Two? Impossible, without nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls, the kid won't agree."

"He destroyed two Anti-Avoidance Pearls himself; what does that have to do with us?"

"If you'd agreed earlier, the kid wouldn't have had to destroy two Anti-Avoidance Pearls himself."

"It was his own recklessness. How can you blame us? You're extorting us."

"In any case, getting nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls is the kid's bottom line and is non-negotiable. We can offer more in exchange, but you must trade us four Anti-Avoidance Pearls. If the negotiation fails, you'll have to deal directly with the kid."

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Elder Bai's bottom line is unmovable, or rather, Lin Yuan's bottom line is firm.

If they can't obtain four Anti-Avoidance Pearls from those old immortals of the Ten Thousand Mountains, they would rather not continue the negotiations.

Moreover, when the Divine Beast Bai Ze began to yield, they were already at a disadvantage.

Eventually, after a full half-hour, Elder Bai finally achieved his goal.

Four Anti-Avoidance Pearls in hand, though at a great cost.

Since the Anti-Avoidance Pearls had to be given, the Divine Beast Bai Ze naturally tried to extract as much treasure from Elder Bai and his group as possible.

However, overall, the results were favorable.

In the hall, the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder and Elder Bai walked out.

Seeing Lin Yuan, the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder handed over the four Anti-Avoidance Pearls obtained in the deal.

"Thank you, Grand Elder!" Lin Yuan accepted the pearls and expressed his gratitude.

Lin Yuan was thanking the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder, not those old immortals of the Ten Thousand Mountains.

In Lin Yuan's view, these Anti-Avoidance Pearls were exchanged by Elder Bai and the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder, so they deserved his gratitude, unrelated to those old immortals of the Ten Thousand Mountains.

If they had promptly traded when they first arrived, Lin Yuan might have been grateful to them as well.

But they only agreed to trade under pressure, so Lin Yuan wouldn't feel grateful.

The Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder didn't claim credit, saying calmly, "It's only right. This matter arose because of my Qingqiu Fox Race."

Elder Bai was more polite, cupping his hands towards those old immortals of the Ten Thousand Mountains, saying, "Fellow Daoists, I apologize for the offenses today."

"We won't stay any longer, farewell."

After speaking, Elder Bai left with the group.

Seeing this group of jinxes leave the Ten Thousand Mountains, the Divine Beast Bai Ze couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Outside the Ten Thousand Mountains, Elder Bai said to Lin Yuan, "Today, you've thoroughly offended those old immortals of the Ten Thousand Mountains. In the future, be wary of them."

However, Lin Yuan dismissively said, "They're just a bunch of insignificant flies; why should I fear them?"

The Golden-Winged Roc agreed with Lin Yuan's words, nodding, "They're just a group of cowards living off their past glories. If they were really capable, they wouldn't hide in the Ten Thousand Mountains all the time."

At this moment, Elder Bai had a deep look in his eyes, seemingly implying, "If they're really cowards, they're not scary."

"The real fear is if they plan to strike while we're unaware."

After obtaining the Anti-Avoidance Pearls, Elder Bai and the others went their separate ways, and Lin Yuan immediately returned to the Real World.

Lin Yuan was extremely concerned about the situation in the Real World.

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Real World.

A massive mountain descended from the sky, slowly landing in the East Sea.

This mountain was precisely Qingqiu Mountain.

Accompanying Qingqiu Mountain was the seven plagues created by the Mudra Bodhisattva's transformation.

These seven plagues turned into dark clouds, covering the East Sea Region, falling on the East Sea and nearby islands like a fine drizzle.

Because Qingqiu Mountain had preemptive restrictions set up by the Grand Elder, the disaster couldn't affect the fox race within Qingqiu Mountain.

However, the surviving Human Race within the East Sea, and even those bizarre creatures that descended into the Real World, suffered greatly.

The plague spared none; whether human or bizarre creature, all within its range suffered.

However, at this time, most Dragon Country's people were concentrated in nine Giant Cities, and the East Sea Region had none of Dragon Country's Giant Cities.

Though lacking Dragon Country's Giant Cities, there were two neighboring countries to the east of Dragon Country.

Little Sakura and Little Kimchi.

The range of this plague directly covered Little Sakura and Little Kimchi.

This time, Little Sakura and Kimchi suffered gravely.

Originally, under the strange invasion, Little Sakura and Kimchi suffered heavy losses, almost to the point of annihilation.

Little Sakura, with over 100 million people, dwindled to just over a million.

As for Little Kimchi, it was even worse. Out of over 50 million people, only a few hundred thousand remained, living in underground shelters, close to national extinction.

This plague pushed them to the brink of complete annihilation.

At this moment, the key figures were also facing this disaster, holding urgent meetings.

On the large screen in the conference room, live broadcast scenes of the disaster played.

In the footage, people were emaciated, looking like evil spirits, constantly consuming, whether it be food, car tires, reinforced concrete, excrement, or even humans...

It wasn't just people; some animals, plants, and even those powerful bizarre creatures turned into these forms.

They consumed everything they encountered, eating endlessly, yet growing thinner.

"What's going on, is this some kind of pre-invasion zombie?"

"Zombies, these low-level creatures, can't possibly infect such powerful bizarre entities."

"Now, even the bizarre entities have turned into this; it's definitely not zombies! These things are much more terrifying than zombies."

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In the meeting room, Dragon Country's high officials discussed, yet no one knew what was happening.

At this moment, the meeting room's doors were pushed open.

Jian Bing pushed the director in from outside.

Chapter 445: Return to the Real World

"Dean!"

"You're here!"

"Now that you're here, we have a backbone to rely on!"

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Seeing the Dean arrive, everyone couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

After all, the Dean specialized in this type of research, and hopefully, he would have a solution.

The Dean nodded to Jian Bing, signaling her to play a new video.

In the video, it was clearly Qingqiu Mountain descending upon the East Sea Region, along with the dark clouds shrouding it.

"These clouds are the source of the plague."

"The plague comes from another world. Those infected become like the hungry ghosts in the myths of the Six Paths of Reincarnation, never full no matter how much they eat."

"I've named them the Gourmands," the Dean said slowly.

Upon hearing this, Ye Qing quickly asked, "Dean, is there an antidote?"

The Dean nodded, then shook his head.

"This plague is extremely powerful. Even if there are some pills that can counter it, they are incredibly rare and precious. It's unrealistic to use them to save everyone."

"There is a treasure called the Anti-Miasma Pearl. If we had it, we could protect these few Giant Cities of ours."

"Otherwise, the entire city's populace will turn into these hungry ghosts," the Dean said worriedly.

After hearing the Dean's words, the high officials of the Dragon Country also panicked.

If this isn't handled properly, it could mean the destruction of the nation and its people!

"Where is the Anti-Miasma Pearl?"

"I'll immediately send someone to find it; we must locate that Anti-Avoidance Pearl," Ye Qing anxiously asked.

However, the Dean's next words plunged everyone present into despair.

"We don't have such a treasure like the Anti-Avoidance Pearl in our world."

"Even in the Mysterious World, where the power levels are higher, the Anti-Avoidance Pearl is a precious gem," the Dean slowly said.

After hearing the Dean's words, Ye Qing and the others collapsed onto their chairs, showing despair.

The Anti-Avoidance Pearl only exists in the Mysterious World, and they don't even have the means to enter that world. Also, the pearl is very precious there.

Doesn't this imply they have no hope of obtaining the Anti-Avoidance Pearl?

Is it true that they are doomed to destruction?

"Qingqiu Mountain descended from the Mysterious World, and I sensed Lin Yuan's presence on the mountain."

"Lin Yuan surely knows about this; at this point, we can only trust Lin Yuan to obtain the Anti-Avoidance Pearl and deliver it in time."

"The Gourmands began appearing three hours after Qingqiu Mountain descended. Judging by the speed of this plague's spread, it will take at least nine more hours before it reaches the Dragon Country."

"There are no Giant Cities in the border areas; all Giant Cities are deep inside. It would take at least a day for the plague to reach the closest Demon Dragon City."

"The fate of the citizens of Demon Dragon City hinges on whether Lin Yuan can deliver the Anti-Avoidance Pearl in time!" the Dean revealed the only hope for humans.

Someone asked, "Should we evacuate the citizens of Demon Dragon City first to buy some time?"

This time, before the Dean could speak, Ye Qing shook his head directly: "No need; relocating an entire Giant City's population cannot be done in a day's time."

"The cost of relocating a Giant City is too high; we don't know how many people would die at the hands of the Evil Spirits and Mysterious creatures on the way."

"Besides, our hope lies in the Anti-Avoidance Pearl. If Lin Yuan cannot bring the Anti-Miasma Pearl, it's only a matter of time before everyone dies."

Lin Yuan has now become the hope for the entire Dragon Country.

Although placing the survival of the Dragon Country on one person seems questionable, they have no other choice.

However, Lin Yuan did not disappoint them.

At this moment, a light flashed by, and Lin Yuan's figure appeared in the conference room.

The situation was extremely urgent, and Lin Yuan didn't wait for anyone to report his arrival.

He scanned with his mind and, discovering the Dragon Country's top officials gathered in the conference room, came directly.

"You've arrived quicker than I expected!" the Dean remarked, watching Lin Yuan.

The Dean was very satisfied with Lin Yuan.

The Dean had supported Lin Yuan a lot throughout his journey, and although Lin Yuan wasn't his apprentice, it wasn't far off.

Looking at Lin Yuan, the Dean felt like a father seeing his son succeed.

Lin Yuan opened his hand, revealing nine pearls emitting a faint green glow: "Mission accomplished!"

Without any doubt, the nine green pearls in Lin Yuan's hand were the Anti-Avoidance Pearls the Dean had mentioned.

Each Anti-Avoidance Pearl can protect a Giant City's safety.

Nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls were just enough to protect nine Giant Cities.

"Great!"

"Wonderful!"

"These nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls are enough to keep Dragon Country safe; in this way, this plague has inadvertently turned into a blessing," the Dean, sitting in a wheelchair, couldn't help but laugh.

Lin Yuan didn't understand, and the others present clearly didn't either.

The nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls safeguard the nine Giant Cities, ensuring Dragon Country's safety.

But even so, it's merely not a disaster; where does the blessing come in?

"The Dean is right, this plague wiped out both Little Sakura and Little Kimchi directly, that's surely a blessing!" Ye Qing laughed heartily.

The people of their era had an unreasonable aversion to Little Sakura and Little Kimchi.

Dean: "????"

The Dean's face was all black lines, thinking, too narrow, that's not what I meant.

"This plague does not discriminate; Evil Spirits and Mysterious creatures alike will be infected and turn into Gourmands. These Gourmands will then devour each other."

"These nine Anti-Miasma pearls can protect people of the Human Race, and thus, the Evil Spirits become the victims instead."

"We can use this plague to cleanse a wave of Evil Spirits!" the Dean revealed his thoughts.

After hearing the Dean's words, everyone suddenly realized.

Indeed, the Dean made a valid point!

As more Evil Spirits descended, the Mysterious creatures increased, making humanity already at a disadvantage.

Outside of the nine Giant Cities, the wilderness had already become the domain of the Mysterious and Evil Spirits.

As long as they can ensure that the nine Giant Cities are not troubled by the plague, its spread won't matter to them.

Thinking of this, everyone couldn't help but relax a lot.

At this moment, Lin Yuan seemed to have thought of something and asked the Dean, "Dean, are the areas where the plague has spread still suitable for human habitation?"

Lin Yuan was also worried about one thing—that this plague, like nuclear radiation, might leave lasting harm.

The Dean shook his head and replied, "No, this plague will be absorbed by everything, leaving nothing lingering in the air."

"After this plague, it will be a time when everything is revitalized."

Hearing this, Lin Yuan couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Chapter 446: Gourmand

Lin Yuan thought for a moment, and then told the dean everything about what happened in the Mysterious World.

Upon learning that the Mudra Bodhisattva transformed his body into seven kinds of plagues, the dean was slightly taken aback.

"The situation is more severe than I imagined. It seems that after gluttony, other plagues will also spread."

"However, we only need to hold onto the nine Giant Cities and observe the changes."

"There is no way to break the situation anyway, so this might provide us an opportunity to break the deadlock!" the dean said slowly.

Actually, with the dean's skill, developing a cure for the plague is not difficult.

However, merely developing the cure is of no use.

In the Real World, there is simply no way to gather the raw materials needed to make the cure.

Those raw materials are extremely precious even in the Real World.

At this point, we can only defend instead of attacking.

First, secure the fundamental strategies of the Dragon Country and then seek opportunities to turn the tide.

There is still time before the plague reaches the Dragon Country, so distributing the Anti-Avoidance Pearls is still possible.

Soon, all nine Giant Cities received the Anti-Avoidance Pearls, and once they were activated, a dim green light spread out, protecting a radius of a thousand miles.

The Anti-Avoidance Pearls are treasures even in the Mysterious World, let alone in the Real World.

Except for Lin Yuan, people in this Real World had never even seen them.

In the blink of an eye, several days passed by.

The nine Giant Cities in the Dragon Country were very peaceful under the protection of the Anti-Avoidance Pearls.

Elsewhere, however, things had already descended into chaos.

Moreover, a new kind of aberration appeared in addition to the Gourmands.

These aberrations seemed to transform into teddy bears, seemingly devouring heaven, earth, and air itself.

The dean named these newly born aberrations as Hedonists.

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"Help!"

"Someone save us! We beg you!"

"Run, run quickly!"

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Crying and screaming echoed within a refuge in Sakura Country, where a Gourmand, hungry for three days, had found its way in.

Initially, the casualties among the survivors, called little sakura, were not too severe; it was these continuous cries for help that attracted more Gourmands.

This refuge was not large, with only a few thousand people.

All around the refuge, over a dozen Gourmands were crowded, feasting as if at an all-you-can-eat buffet.

These Gourmands were metamorphosed from humans, animals, and even bizarre, evil spirits.

The characteristic of Gourmands is that devouring makes them stronger, and they even consume each other.

So regardless of what transformed into a Gourmand, those who survive are extremely powerful.

The most terrifying part is that, unlike mindless zombies in sci-fi movies, these Gourmands have consciousness. They just can't control their hunger and instinct to devour.

The Life Pattern Masters of Sakura Country were inherently weak and were no match for the Gourmands.

Faced with the Gourmands, they stood no chance.

A grand buffet feast of Gourmands began, a bloody massacre.

At this time, Lin Yuan and Jian Bing were also in this refuge, but thanks to Lin Yuan's spell, the Gourmands hadn't discovered them yet.

The Gourmands are strong, but no matter how strong, they can't exceed the world's rules' limits.

That is to say, their current limit is Tier Four.

This time, the purpose of Lin Yuan and Jian Bing's visit was to capture some Gourmands and send them to the dean for experimentation.

The two remained hidden, quietly observing the slaughter.

"Should we step in and save them?" Jian Bing whispered.

Lin Yuan shook his head and replied, "There's no need. This underground bunker is already damaged, even if we remove these Gourmands, it's useless."

"Whether they stay or flee, they are on a path to death."

"If that's the case, we might as well enjoy the show."

If it had been the people of the Dragon Country, Lin Yuan would surely have intervened to save them.

But for a group of little sakura, Lin Yuan found no reason to save them.

The Gourmands ate the Sakura Country people with remarkable speed, as if racing in an eating contest.

Soon, the few thousand little sakura were completely devoured by the dozens of Gourmands.

However, an astonishing scene unfolded.

The dozens of Gourmands began fighting each other, starting to consume one another.

This scene was both unexpected and seemed somewhat inevitable.

"They're devouring each other, should we act?" Jian Bing asked.

In Jian Bing's view, Lin Yuan's patience was astounding.

The inner fighting among the dozens of Gourmands had barely begun, and within a few minutes, the two weakest Gourmands had already been consumed.

Jian Bing felt that if they acted now, they could capture more Gourmands.

But if they waited, more Gourmands would surely be devoured by their own kind.

However, Lin Yuan's perspective differed completely from Jian Bing's.

In Lin Yuan's view, there were plenty of Gourmands outside, capturing them would be a piece of cake.

He wanted to see with his own eyes how these Gourmands devour one another.

Lin Yuan remained hidden, watching the fierce struggle like a bystander.

These Gourmands were like Gu Insects.

Similar to Gu Insects, they killed and devoured each other.

The Gu Insects' brutal killings and consumption would eventually birth a Poisonous Insect King.

Among these Gourmands, after mutual devouring, the strongest Gourmand would emerge.

The weakest Gourmands would be devoured first, moving from weak to strong.

In the end, only two of the strongest Gourmands remained in this refuge.

Both Gourmands were Tier Four and, in terms of power, were comparable to Jian Bing.

This reality was truly terrifying!

Bear in mind, from the plague's arrival to now, only a few days have passed.

In just a few days, they reached Tier Four.

The speed at which a Gourmand's strength increases is something Lin Yuan can't even dream of matching.

Fortunately, the Power of Rules restrains this world's beings.

In this world, no one can surpass Tier Four.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan thought of something.

If he could take the Gourmands to the Mysterious World, in the domain of the World Honored, given the Gourmands' devouring evolution speed,

it wouldn't take long for them to reach Tier Three.

If there were no limitations, they might even reach Tier Two.

By then, the World Honored's base would be turned upside down for sure.

If the Gourmands' rate of increasing strength was too rapid, it might even force the World Honored to intervene.

Lin Yuan rubbed his chin, thinking this was truly a genius idea.

This plague, ultimately orchestrated by the World Honored, would come back like a boomerang to hit him.

At that moment, the final battle between the two remaining Gourmands began below.

Lin Yuan couldn't think any further, focusing on watching the battle.

Chapter 447: Capturing the Gourmand Alive

The two Gourmands: one is in human form, and the other is a bizarre human-tiger hybrid.

There was no communication between them, no interaction whatsoever.

When their eyes met, they only held a greedy desire for each other's bodies.

They had devoured enough powerhouses, and only when devouring each other did they feel that kind of desire.

Lin Yuan had encountered many Evil Spirits, but even he felt a tinge of fear towards the Gourmands.

The existence of Gourmands is terrifying upon close thought. If they keep devouring, could they consume the entire world?

A gray and white aura emanated from both Gourmands, then they lunged at each other.

Their way of attacking seemed quite "back to basics."

No flashy moves, just like a brawl between hooligans.

No, it shouldn't be said as a brawl between hooligans, rather like a fight between beasts.

Because they didn't pummel each other with fists, but tore with their mouths.

They kept tearing each other's bodies with their mouths and swallowing the flesh into their bellies.

Yet the aura they emitted was spine-chilling.

These two Gourmands could easily devour some relatively weaker cities.

While the Gourmands bit, gnawed, Lin Yuan and Jian Bing stealthily observed.

"The physical strength of these two Gourmands far surpasses even some Tier Four Life Pattern Masters."

"Yet their jaws can easily tear through defenses, meaning Human Life Pattern Masters stand no chance against Gourmands."

"The grayish substance they emit suppresses all Energy Attacks; defeating a Gourmand requires close combat!"

"Coincidentally, close combat is what Gourmands excel in. I estimate at least two Tier Four experts are needed to handle one such Gourmand!" Lin Yuan slowly analyzed.

After hearing Lin Yuan's analysis, Jian Bing nodded and said, "Indeed!"

"All of this is truly terrifying!"

One must know, at present, there aren't many Tier Four powerhouses among Human Life Pattern Masters.

Outside of Dragon Country, among other countries' survivors, there isn't even a single Tier Four Life Pattern Master.

Even in Dragon Country, there aren't many Tier Four Life Pattern Masters.

Outside of Emperor Dragon City and Peng City, having one or two Tier Four powerhouses in other Giant Cities would be the limit.

But in a small underground base in Sakura Country, two Gourmands emerged.

Now, in the entire Sakura Country, there are more than ten Tier Four Gourmands.

Moreover, apart from the Gourmands, there are the newly emerged Excessives.

Besides Sakura Country, the situation in Korea is also grim.

Now, what reassures Lin Yuan is that luckily, Qingqiu Mountain landed in the East Sea, and the areas initially covered by the plague were Korea and Sakura Country.

If Qingqiu Mountain had landed in Dragon Country initially, near one of Dragon Country's Giant Cities,

With Dragon Country's survivor base, if the plague had spread before Lin Yuan brought back the Avoidance Barrier Pearl, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

One can only say, heaven favors Dragon Country.

Just then, the battle between the two Gourmands below was nearing its end.

The human-tiger hybrid Gourmand lost, and the final victor was the human-form Gourmand.

After the human-form Gourmand won, he devoured large chunks of the human-tiger hybrid Gourmand, carrying its two large legs while feasting as he walked.

The Gourmand must continuously eat; otherwise, it would feel extreme hunger.

This hunger is more frenzied than that felt by an addict.

After devouring the human-tiger hybrid Gourmand, the aura of the human-form Gourmand significantly elevated by several levels.

At this point, Lin Yuan knew this spectacle was nearing its climax.

It was time for him to act.

Lin Yuan stepped forward and appeared directly in front of the Gourmand.

Lin Yuan's appearance made the human-form Gourmand's face change.

The Gourmand's subconscious told him Lin Yuan was not easy to provoke, better avoid, quickly flee.

However, his craving for food was telling him, quickly, pounce, devour him, after consuming him, you will become stronger.

These two voices kept echoing in the Gourmand's mind. The subconscious rational thought was soon overwhelmed by the craving for food.

Knowing full well that acting would lead to death, the Gourmand still madly pounced on Lin Yuan.

Rationality is something exclusive to humans.

The Gourmand, undeniably, was no longer human.

So, the subconscious rational thought could in no way overpower the craving for food.

The Gourmand lunged, while Lin Yuan stood there motionless, seemingly stunned with fear.

Yet, was Lin Yuan really stunned with fear?

Of course not, during the Ten Thousand Mountains moment, he faced those immortal Tier Two powerhouses fearlessly and even dared to threaten them.

How could a mere Gourmand induce fear in Lin Yuan?

The reason for not moving was that Lin Yuan didn't consider the Gourmand a threat at all.

Even if Gourmands could devour ordinary Tier Fours, Lin Yuan was Tier Three.

The chasm between Tier Three and Tier Four was insurmountable, like a sky-high gap.

The Gourmand's mouth split into eight sections like a massive bloomed carnivorous flower, with its tongue dividing into countless retractable serpents wrapping towards Lin Yuan's head.

At this moment, the grotesque, eerie mouth was less than twenty centimeters from Lin Yuan.

Seeing this scene, even Jian Bing, knowing Lin Yuan's capabilities, couldn't help but call out, "Lin Yuan, be careful."

However, Jian Bing's worry was certainly unnecessary.

Just as the Gourmand was about to swallow Lin Yuan's head, Lin Yuan acted.

He raised his fist, which glowed with a crimson blood light, then smashed it heavily at the Gourmand.

Lin Yuan's fist seemed like a miniature tornado, containing immense power, like a small volcano, erupting and instilling fear.

"Boom!"

After a loud crash, Lin Yuan's fist smashed into the Gourmand's jaw, utterly smashing its mouth into a mess.

The mutated carnivorous flower-like mouth retracted and returned to a normal human appearance.

The Gourmand fell heavily to the ground, struggling, looking at Lin Yuan with eyes full of fear, resentment...

This Gourmand that could devour Tier Four powerhouses was nothing before Lin Yuan.

It was just that the director's experiment required it alive, or else Lin Yuan would have drawn his sword and struck it dead.

Chapter 448: The Director's Experiment

The culprit behind the destruction of Sakura Country and Korea—the Gourmand—was as fragile as a plaything in Lin Yuan's hands.

Lin Yuan stepped forward, swinging his fist onto the Gourmand's joints, making him lose the ability to move.

The Gourmand writhed on the ground like a stink bug, and even in such a state, he couldn't suppress his inner craving for food.

He crawled toward Lin Yuan, inch by inch, still trying to devour and tear him apart.

Unless his soul is utterly annihilated, the Gourmand will consume anything material he can see.

For the Gourmand who'd lost the ability to move and resembled nothing more than a worm, Lin Yuan couldn't be bothered to strike again.

Smacking this thing was no different from punching a sandbag; it brought no pleasure at all.

Ignoring the Gourmand's futile struggle, Lin Yuan grabbed him by the neck, then opened a gate to the Eighteen Layers of Hell and tossed him inside.

"What evil spirit dares trespass!" The mighty voice of the Yin Mountain Ghost King rang out.

The sound resounded like thunder, and the Gourmand trembled from head to toe as if struck by lightning.

The Yin Mountain Ghost King was a Tier Two Powerhouse, although he could only live within the Eighteen Layers of Hell.

Yet, to have him keep an eye on the Gourmand—that was mere child's play.

"Yin Mountain Ghost King, keep him under control!"

"Don't let him eat, but don't let him die either!" Lin Yuan ordered.

Upon hearing Lin Yuan's order, the Yin Mountain Ghost King hastily replied, "I obey, my lord!"

The method the Yin Mountain Ghost King used to restrain the Gourmand was simple: he sat right down on him, pinning him so he couldn't move.

The Gourmand, trapped by the Yin Mountain Ghost King's weight, was immobilized, but his mouth could still move.

The Gourmand had the urge to swallow anything—it didn't matter whether someone was a Tier Two Powerhouse or not. As long as he saw them, he wanted to eat them.

Like when the third brother's desire is high and even a lizard looks like the third sister-in-law.

This craving was absolutely uncontrollable.

The Gourmand lunged, trying to bite the Yin Mountain Ghost King's ass, but his usually unstoppable jaws finally failed.

The Yin Mountain Ghost King's Tier Two Powerhouse physique was simply impervious to his bite.

The Yin Mountain Ghost King showed no anger—almost as if he felt nothing at all. He dutifully followed Lin Yuan's orders, keeping the Gourmand suppressed.

At this moment, Lin Yuan took Jian Bing and headed back to Emperor Dragon City.

On the way, they took the opportunity to observe the situation in Sakura Country and Korea.

The survivors of Sakura Country and Korea were almost all dead or wounded.

Now, probably only tens of thousands of people remained alive in Sakura Country, and Korea was even worse off; there might not even be ten thousand survivors left.

Even the buildings in Sakura Country and Korea had been devoured clean, and even Sakura Country's famed Divine Mountain—the snow-capped peak—had been eaten by the Gourmand.

Not only Sakura Country and Korea were wrecked; conditions in the sea were no better.

Many sea creatures and evil spirits had also been infected by the plague, turning into Gourmands.

But, since food was more abundant in the ocean, for now they had no reason to venture ashore.

When Lin Yuan and Jian Bing returned, they saw the towering Qingqiu Mountain, now an island in the East Sea.

The Grand Elder's barrier over Qingqiu Mountain was still intact.

Perhaps, at present, Qingqiu Mountain was the safest place in the entire Real World.

Far safer than the nine Giant Cities of the Dragon Country.

The only good news was that the black clouds shrouding Qingqiu Mountain—that is, the plague created by Mudra Bodhisattva—had already dissipated more than half.

For now, only Gourmands and Hedonists appeared; the other plagues hadn't made their move yet.

Lin Yuan remembered perfectly well: back then, Mudra Bodhisattva had transformed himself into seven kinds of plagues.

So, at least five types of plague were still dormant.

For now, Lin Yuan didn't bother with them—he returned to Emperor Dragon City to report to the Director.

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Emperor Dragon City.

The Research Institute.

Inside the Director's office.

It was here that the Director had engraved the Ten Yama Kings' tattoos on Lin Yuan's soul.

At present, only the King Pingdeng and King Zhuanlun tattoos were done—eight more Yama Kings remained unmarked.

Even though Lin Yuan, having borrowed power from the Little World, had achieved Tier Three strength and seemingly made the Yama King tattoos irrelevant—

It was unclear whether the remaining eight Yama King tattoos needed to be finished.

Lin Yuan asked the Director about this, and the Director gave him a definite answer.

Although Lin Yuan had already reached Tier Three, having the Ten Yama King tattoos on his soul wouldn't give him a direct boost anymore,

But his Eighteen Layers of Hell were empty.

After having the Ten Yama King tattoos engraved on his soul, he could manifest them within the Eighteen Layers of Hell.

As the divine offices in the Eighteen Layers of Hell are replenished, Lin Yuan would gain even more support from Hell itself.

"Director, I picked up some Tier Four Power of Rules on this trip to the Mysterious World—when can you help me engrave the remaining eight Yama King tattoos?" Lin Yuan said, producing some Tier Four Power of Rules he'd obtained in the Life and Death Trial Arena.

The Director replied, "No rush. The urgent matter now is to resolve the plague—give me the Gourmand first."

Lin Yuan remembered the important matter and quickly handed over the Gourmand.

With Lin Yuan's help, the Director fixed the Gourmand to the lab table—plainly preparing some sort of experiment.

"Director, what are you trying to do?" Lin Yuan asked.

The Director didn't hide it, answering, "Naturally—we'll be returning this 'gift.' The World Honored sent us a present, so naturally we have to send one back."

Sure enough, the Director and Lin Yuan were kindred spirits.

After Lin Yuan discovered that Gourmands could rapidly grow stronger through devouring, he'd also thought about sending them back to the Mysterious World.

However, Lin Yuan's idea was simply to send them back directly, while the Director obviously wanted to tinker with them a bit before sending them back.

"Director, these Gourmands have a fatal flaw."

"They can't control their desire and will consume anything they see."

"If discovered by the World Honored's experts, they'll likely be wiped out instantly."

"Tier Three and above can easily handle them; two or more Tier Four could also deal with them!" Lin Yuan warned.

If he could deal with the Gourmand so easily, then the likes of Peacock Great Ming King or Medicine King Buddha—Tier Two Experts—could probably eliminate them with a mere snap of their fingers.

Lin Yuan felt that sending Gourmands back to the Mysterious World might cause the World Honored One Sect some headaches, but it would hardly cripple them.

"So what do you think I'm planning to experiment on with the Gourmand?" The Director asked, smiling slyly.

Lin Yuan was taken aback, then suddenly understood.

The Director was brimming with confidence!

Once this experiment succeeds, the Gourmand will become a major thorn in the side of the World Honored One Sect.

It might even bring about the destruction of the entire World Honored One Sect.

Chapter 449: Conversation with Yang Jing

World Honored One instructed Medicine King Buddha, letting his avatar Mudra Bodhisattva transform into a plague to create monsters like Gourmand and wreak havoc in the Real World.

So, the dean wants to release monsters like Gourmand to the territory of the World Honored One.

Let the World Honored One know what it means to lift a rock only to drop it on one's own foot.

However, directly releasing Gourmand to the territory of the World Honored One is definitely not feasible.

Gourmand, who devours whatever he sees, is too easily detectable.

In this way, they might not cause much commotion before being discovered and eliminated by the forces of the World Honored One.

The dean intends to modify Gourmand, making him controllable.

The experiment of the World Honored One is ongoing; besides making Gourmand controllable, the World Honored One also wants Gourmand to transform into the appearance of the person he's swallowed.

This disguise is the real disaster for the World Honored One Sect.

Even for the dean, this experiment is a major project.

Lin Yuan temporarily departed, not disturbing the continuation of the dean's experiment.

After leaving the laboratory, Lin Yuan returned to Peng City.

The current Peng City is rather peaceful.

With the protection of Giant City, the citizens of Peng City seem to have returned to a civilized society before the Mysterious World invasion.

Those Life Pattern Masters occasionally leave Peng City to hunt Evil Spirits and undergo ghostly trials.

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Peng City.

Old Yang's Dog Meat Restaurant.

Ever since being resurrected, Yang Jing has been making a living with this dog meat restaurant.

Fortunately, there are quite a few "dog lovers" in Peng City, so Yang Jing's dog meat restaurant business is relatively good.

Lin Yuan had just arrived near the dog meat restaurant when he caught a whiff of an enticing aroma.

This winter is the most suitable season for eating dog meat.

Warm the body, warm the stomach, strengthen...

In short, dog meat is fitting for a woman like Lin Yuan with many people.

Yang Jing served a steaming dog meat stew, then added a few side dishes and a bottle of wine.

"Drink a bit?" Lin Yuan raised the wine bottle in his hand and asked.

Yang Jing nodded and said: "Drink a bit!"

After agreeing, Yang Jing went to the door and hung the sign for today's suspension of business.

Yang Jing's identity in Peng City is not really a secret; many high-ranking officials in Peng City know he is a hidden expert.

Naturally, many high-ranking officials come to his dog meat restaurant to dine and drink.

As more high-ranking officials came, some wealthy individuals would also visit, and gradually, even ordinary citizens believed Yang Jing had some backing in Peng City.

Today, Lin Yuan came to Yang Jing's dog meat restaurant, and many citizens who saw this spread the news.

Lin Yuan there wouldn't invite any trouble.

Yang Jing sat across from Lin Yuan; neither of them spoke first, but simultaneously raised their cups, drinking a toast.

This is how strange the world is.

Not long ago, Lin Yuan and Yang Jing were deadly enemies, yet ultimately, Yang Jing was resurrected by Lin Yuan.

Now, they drink together like good friends.

"I heard something happened outside?" After drinking a toast, Yang Jing opened the conversation.

Not long ago, Peng City recalled all the Life Pattern Masters training outside and tightened its defenses.

Also, above the city appeared a bead emitting a brilliant green light.

Lin Yuan nodded and said: "The bastards from the Mysterious World released some poison in our world. Sakura Country and Korea are completely finished, and there's a problem in the nearby seas."

"Fortunately, luck is on my side; I obtained nine Anti-Avoidance Pearls, just enough to protect our nine Giant Cities."

"If this matter gets out of control, I'm afraid, apart from our Dragon Country, all other survivors worldwide will be wiped out!"

On hearing this, Yang Jing worriedly asked: "Nothing will happen to the Holy Mother, right?"

"Chan'Er is there; I'm afraid something might go wrong. Otherwise, let them return to Peng City to hide for a while."

Lin Yuan isn't worried about his younger sister-in-law.

After eliminating the remnants of the first Rebirth Saint Mother's soul, the younger sister-in-law became the true Rebirth Saint Mother, with a very high potential.

The first Rebirth Saint Mother could even wrestle with the World Honored One.

Not to mention the avatar Mudra Bodhisattva of Medicine King Buddha transforming into a plague, even if Medicine King Buddha himself transformed into a plague, the younger sister-in-law will surely have a way to deal with it.

Unless the World Honored One personally takes action, Lin Yuan doesn't believe anyone can threaten the younger sister-in-law.

Among Lin Yuan's women, although Bai Ling'Er is strong now, she may not surpass the younger sister-in-law.

Although the younger sister-in-law is currently Tier Four.

But it's important to note that Tier Four is the world's limit, not the younger sister-in-law's limit.

"Overthinking."

"This mere plague won't pose any threat to her." Lin Yuan said lightly.

The "her" Lin Yuan mentioned naturally refers to the younger sister-in-law.

After hearing Lin Yuan's words, Yang Jing couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Yang Jing trusts Lin Yuan's judgment.

Lin Yuan picked up a piece of dog meat, chewed it carefully, and praised: "Not bad craftsmanship!"

"If it's delicious, have more."

"Whenever you come back, you can come to me; I'll treat!" Yang Jing smiled and said.

To Yang Jing, Lin Yuan is his savior, so inviting Yang Jing for some dog meat is naturally no problem.

"Will you be content to sell dog meat for life with your skills?"

"I can introduce you to a famous teacher who would take you in as a disciple. With your talent, your future achievements might surpass mine." Lin Yuan asked.

Lin Yuan is now Tier Three, undoubtedly the strongest in this world.

He easily discerned Yang Jing's strength: he is also Tier Four.

Yang Jing was originally a talented person, and having experienced life and death, his mindset is unmatched.

Thus, his strength also improved quickly.

In Lin Yuan's view, Yang Jing's talent far exceeds that of Meng Zhang, Jian Bing, Ling Guang, and Zhi Ming.

Jian Bing and the others reached Tier Four with the dean's guidance as a famous teacher.

Whereas Yang Jing relied entirely on himself: a true grassroots success story.

Lin Yuan cherishes talent; he wants to introduce Yang Jing to the dean as a disciple.

With this, one day, Yang Jing could undoubtedly become a Tier Two Expert.

Even Lin Yuan thinks, without his rebirth and cheats, perhaps Yang Jing would be more suitable to be the protagonist of this world.

Yang Jing smiled and said: "Before the Mysterious World invasion, when I worked as a security guard, my greatest wish was to have a small shop like this."

"Back then, if not for saving Chan'Er, I wouldn't have been used by Ghost Leader, nor would I have become your enemy. I'd rather live a stable, ordinary life like the ordinary people of Peng City."

"Nowadays, this life is very nice and satisfying for me."

Chapter 450: Gourmand Modification Succeeds

Everyone has their own choices, and everyone has their own path to walk.

Lin Yuan also didn't have the right to make decisions for Yang Jing.

Since Yang Jing likes his current life, then he wouldn't try to force anything.

Lin Yuan didn't bring up the matter again and just drank and chatted with Yang Jing, mostly talking about the current affairs in Peng City.

As Yang Jing said, Peng City is quite good now.

Inside the Giant City, it's orderly, just like society was before the Mysterious World invasion.

The only downside is that it's not possible to travel freely like before the invasion.

In short, as long as you don't leave the protection range of the Giant City, you're living in a lawful society.

After leaving Yang Jing, Lin Yuan went to meet Yang Dingguo.

Although Yang Dingguo seemed to have aged a bit more, his health was still robust.

Following the Mysterious World invasion, the overall lifespan of humans had increased.

Moreover, Yang Dingguo practiced the Totem Visualization Method; unless something unexpected happens and someone kills him, he should be able to live many more years.

Seeing Lin Yuan, Yang Dingguo felt a bit sentimental.

Originally, Yang Dingguo was training Lin Yuan as his successor.

After his hundred years, Lin Yuan would replace him, leading the people of Peng City through these hard times.

However, as time passed, Yang Dingguo realized that Lin Yuan's pace was too fast, and Peng City could no longer keep up with him.

Slowly, Lin Yuan transitioned from being Peng City's hope to becoming the hope of the entire Dragon Country.

Yang Dingguo was still as busy as before, never idle.

It was precisely because of Yang Dingguo's diligence that the people of Peng City could live stable lives.

Nothing comes easy; it's simply because someone bears the weight for you as they move forward.

Yang Dingguo was like this, and so was Lin Yuan.

After spending a little time with Yang Dingguo, Lin Yuan returned home.

Seeing Lin Yuan, Wen Yingying and Day Traveler were all very happy.

Back in the familiar home, Lin Yuan also relaxed completely.

The feeling of home, it's really nice!

Lately, Lin Yuan had no intention of leaving the Real World.

The cloud of plague over Qingqiu Mountain hasn't completely dissipated, and Lin Yuan wants to wait for the toxic cloud to fully disperse before considering anything.

Otherwise, if Lin Yuan goes to the Mysterious World and something happens in the Real World, it would be regrettable.

The prerequisite for going to the Mysterious World and causing trouble for the World Honored is first ensuring the safety of your base.

Don't foolishly attempt to sneak in, only to get sneaked up on yourself; that would be disastrous.

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Lin Yuan here just got a few days of peaceful life when the director contacted him, telling Lin Yuan that his experiment succeeded and urged him to come quickly.

There was no choice; Lin Yuan had to return to Emperor Dragon City immediately.

He was curious to see what the director had been tinkering with all this time.

When Lin Yuan arrived at the laboratory, he saw a group of researchers gathered together, looking at something.

Lin Yuan hurriedly squeezed in, only to see the director holding a game controller and shaking it.

Lin Yuan: "??? ?? ??"

Lin Yuan thought, the director at this age is still playing games?

Looking closer, he saw a huge glass container in front, with a Gourmand inside it.

After observing carefully, Lin Yuan understood that the director could control the Gourmand's movements with the game controller in his hand.

It seems that this Gourmand is the one modified through the experiment.

"Lin Yuan, you're here!" The director greeted Lin Yuan upon seeing him.

Lin Yuan leaned in and asked the director, "Director, has there been any change in this Gourmand?"

The director nodded and said, "Let me demonstrate to you, and you'll understand."

After saying that, the director instructed the people nearby, "Throw a chicken in."

Following the director's orders, the nearby experiment staff quickly threw a chicken into the glass enclosure.

Upon seeing food, the Gourmand's eyes still showed desire, but there was no movement.

The Gourmand's inherent nature of crazily devouring everything was gone.

It's impressive; the director surely has some skills!

To think he really succeeded in the modification, and in such a short time, completed this experimental transformation.

However, the more surprising part was still to come.

The director controlled the game controller, then directed the Gourmand to move towards the chicken.

After that, under the director's control, the Gourmand swallowed the chicken whole.

The director pressed a button, and the Gourmand's appearance began to change.

Once the transformation was complete, Lin Yuan's eyes widened.

No way, if you transform into a chicken, then transform into a chicken, but what's with the middle part?

Lin Yuan even suspected that if you throw a basketball in now, the Gourmand could put on a show for you.

"I've implanted a special chip into the Gourmand's brain; that chip is made from the old locust tree root you brought. The game controller also contains the same kind of chip."

"This way, you can use the game controller to completely control the Gourmand's actions."

"Next, we need to deploy this experimental specimen into the Mysterious World, while controlling it from this world."

"If it can be controlled across worlds, then the experiment is a success." Upon saying this, the director paused and looked at Lin Yuan, asking, "You know what this means, right?"

What does this mean?

Lin Yuan certainly knew.

If they could control the Gourmand's actions across worlds,

they could then capture Gourmands in large numbers, implant chips into them, and send them to the World Honored's territory.

These Gourmands would still retain their devour-and-evolve instinct, meaning they could rapidly grow stronger.

Moreover, they would possess the ability to transform into the appearance of people they devoured.

This way, they could control these Gourmands to devour the World Honored's subordinates, and then disguise themselves as those subordinates.

Thinking about it, Lin Yuan felt a surge of excitement.

If that's the case, this is a brilliant plan.

Perhaps, someday, apart from those Tier Two and Tier Three strong individuals, every other member of the World Honored One Sect could become their people.

Except for the higher-ups, the entire sect would be infiltrated by moles.

The thought alone was thrilling.

"I think it could be changed to a gaming helmet, controlled by mental intention."

"This way, it should be much more convenient!" Lin Yuan voiced his suggestion.

The director nodded in agreement with Lin Yuan's suggestion.

Changing the game controller to a gaming helmet was like a piece of cake for the director's research team.

After the transformation, they could directly share the Gourmand's vision and control its actions through brainwave configurations in the gaming helmet.