

I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

Chapter 181 - 170: A Familiar Feeling, a Sharp Pain

This feeling was all too familiar, just like being inside the magnetic pile. The sensation of having the world in his grasp was truly wonderful.

Of course, the power of the Seed Burst Pill was still a bit different from that of the magnetic pile.

Just as the Melon Peel System had said before, the power of the magnetic pile was more like a "medium," but the power of the Seed Burst Pill was more of a catalyst.

It stimulated his own power...

Or rather, it burned it!

Gao Neng felt the speed of his blood flow triple, while the energy in his magnetic core was stimulated, continuously radiating outward.

'Energy projection! This is the power of the middle tier. Did I just get forcibly boosted to the middle tier?!' Gao Neng's knowledge was far greater than before, so he naturally knew this was energy being projected from his magnetic core.

A single Seed Burst Pill allowed for energy projection.

'It truly is a piece of black tech from the Celestial King Group, worthy of its 20 million Alliance Coin price tag!'

Just as he was thinking this, he saw Fang Tangtang's face was also flushed red. However, she lacked his clarity. Instead, she looked drunk as she charged forward, swinging the massive Scythe of Death like a whirlwind.

"Witness the Ninety-Nine Consecutive Slash of Death God Fang Tangtang!"

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'What the hell?'

'We both took a Seed Burst Pill, so why did Fang Tangtang end up like this?'

Of course, there was no time to dwell on it. As Fang Tangtang charged, several of the non-humans attacked again.

The scythe swung.

The air whistled and shrieked.

Fang Tangtang's power seemed to have been massively enhanced. Although she wasn't using any energy projection techniques, her strength, speed, and explosive power had all been greatly boosted.

BOOM!

The ground cracked.

At this moment, Fang Tangtang was like a wolf charging into a pack of huskies, creating the illusion that she could take on two of them at once.

"Kill her!"

BOOM!

A Tier Three Late Stage non-human was sent flying by a single slash just after shouting the order.

"Hahaha... I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will take on a hundred of you today!" Having landed a successful blow, Fang Tangtang's confidence surged, and she charged at the two Middle-tier Women once more.

Seeing this, the two Middle-tier Women's expressions turned grim. They both attacked, intending to surround and kill Fang Tangtang.

However, just then, a slab of iron like a guillotine blade dropped from the wall.

Gao Neng had made his move.

He didn't know what had changed about Fang Tangtang.

But the change in him was obvious.

With his 100% talent, he possessed far greater energy control than others. Once he could project his energy, he could easily control his surroundings.

The steel rebar from the building's construction was forcibly extracted.

It formed into a guillotine blade.

BOOM!

The two Middle-tier Women were forced back.

The instant they were forced back, iron bars sprouted from the ground like thorns, continuously lashing out at the two Middle-tier Women.

"I'll take the middle-tiers! You take the rest!" Gao Neng shouted.

"You got it!" Fang Tangtang didn't argue.

"He actually used the Spring of Life to reach the middle tier in such a short time?!" A red light flickered in the eyes of the snake-skinned man, his sense of alarm palpable.

As for Ye Ying... her face was currently a little pale.

Gao Neng's surge in power reminded her of something unpleasant. Inexplicably, she felt a sharp, stabbing pain in a certain... spot.

She looked down.

Her jaw dropped. At some point, an Iron Thorn had sprouted from beneath her feet and pierced right into... that spot.

"AHH!!" Ye Ying let out a bloodcurdling scream.

"What a tragic sound..." The corners of Gao Neng's mouth turned up as he smiled at the nearby Ye Ying. "It reminds me of a poem: 'Listening to the spring rain from a small tower all night.' A pity... you're no spring rain!"

"Kill them!" Ye Ying shrieked.

"You'll have to be able to, first!" Gao Neng retorted with contempt. He felt absurdly powerful right now.

'Everything is under my control!'

'What are two Middle-tier Women? What's one snake-skinned man?'

Before a super-genius like Gao Neng...

Dogs should kneel.

And dragons should cower.

"Today, none of you are walking out of here!" Gao Neng drew his blade, holding it at the ready.

"Huh?! Gao Neng, how can you extract energy from so far away? Is your energy being projected? Why isn't mine? And how is your projection so powerful?" Just as Gao Neng was reveling in his arrogance, Fang Tangtang's astonished voice cut in.

"Isn't this normal?" Gao Neng was slightly startled. 'Once you can project energy, you can extract all kinds of Elemental Energy from your surroundings. Is there a problem with that?'

"Is it normal? What's your iron talent percentage?"

"I'm not telling you!" Gao Neng paid Fang Tangtang no more mind. After unleashing his energy projection, he had discovered a small problem.

'The energy consumption is huge!'

'Even greater than when I was inside the magnetic pile!'

If not for the vast amount of energy stored in his magnetic core, those last couple of moves would have likely drained him completely under normal circumstances.

'The Seed Burst Pill doesn't truly raise one's strength.'

'It just forcibly burns and releases energy in a short burst. This state can't be maintained for long. I have to kill these non-humans as quickly as possible.'

"Lady Nightingale, Gao Neng used the power of the Spring of Life to reach the middle tier! You must leave first!" the snake-skinned man yelled as he made his move.

"I'm leaving them to you!" Ye Ying roared, forcibly ripping out the Iron Thorn that had pierced her body. Then, she leaped, preparing to jump out the window.

Chapter 182 - 170: Familiar Feeling, Stabbing Pain (Part 2)

But Gao Neng wasn't about to give her the chance to escape through the window.

Several Iron Thorns shot up from the windowsill, sealing the window in an instant.

Ye Ying's face slammed right into them.

"Ah!" Another bloodcurdling scream rang out.

Gao Neng glanced over. It looked like her face was marred, and her body was pinned tight by the Iron Thorns.

"Nightingale!" The snake-skinned man spun around and slammed his palm against the Iron Thorns, shattering the ones wrapped around Ye Ying.

'Middle-tier aliens seem to possess immense strength. I wonder if they have any special skills besides raw power?' Gao Neng mused, tightening his grip on the large saber in his hand.

Since this power wouldn't last long, he stopped trying to conserve energy and spirit. His Spiritual Power began to spread out wildly.

Empowered by his Spiritual Power, his extraction of the surrounding Elemental Energy became even more frenzied.

Moreover, as the snake-skinned man shattered the Iron Thorns, Gao Neng was already upon him, raising his large saber and slashing down.

"Half-Step Kill!"

BOOM!

The snake-skinned man was driven to one knee by the force of the blow.

A few pieces of the red Scale Armor covering his body were even blasted off by the immense impact.

"Boss!" The two Middle-tier Women charged forward.

"Bring it on, all three of you!" Gao Neng was already prepared to fight one against three. As he forced the snake-skinned man to his knees, he lashed out with a kick.

THWACK!

One of the women was kicked back.

But the other woman had already closed in behind Gao Neng. A white bone with a metallic sheen appeared in her hand.

CLANG!

Gao Neng whipped his saber back to block.

The bone collided with his large saber, producing a metallic ring.

Then, Gao Neng saw a new hole on his Alloy Saber. 'It was actually pierced by the bone?'

'Are middle-tier aliens this strong? If I hadn't taken Fang Tangtang's Seed Burst Pill, I might not have made it out of here today.' Gao Neng was startled, and the energy he had extracted lashed out wildly.

Countless Iron Thorns shot toward the two Middle-tier Women.

Meanwhile, he continued to press the snake-skinned man, bringing his saber down in another ferocious slash.

"Half-Step Kill!"

BOOM!

The snake-skinned man had just struggled to his feet when he was sent flying by the strike.

"Ah, damn it!" the snake-skinned man cursed. "The power of the Spring of Life won't last long! Don't fight them head-on! Tie them up in a drawn-out battle and wear them down!"

"Wear me down? Let's see you try!" Gao Neng gritted his teeth and unleashed all the power in his magnetic core at once, extracting all the iron in the vicinity.

RUMBLE!

The floor completely fractured.

Countless Iron Thorns erupted from the ground.

Or rather, this was no longer a patch of Iron Thorns, but a giant thorn tree. Its barbed spikes filled the entire room.

Like a forest of sharp blades, it partitioned the area into several isolated pockets.

It was a shocking scene.

One of the three Tier Three Late Stage aliens fighting Fang Tangtang was nailed directly to the wall by the thorn tree, blood gushing from his chest.

Naturally, Fang Tangtang wasn't about to pass up this opportunity.

She swung her scythe.

A head went flying through the air.

"Hahaha... I, Fang Tangtang, have slain an alien spy!" Fang Tangtang was ecstatic. Her face was flushed so red it looked like it might start bleeding, though it was hard to tell if it was from excitement or splattered blood.

But one thing was certain...

...the aliens finally began to panic.

The entire room was choked with the thorn tree, severely hindering their movements. What's more, the branches seemed to have eyes, stabbing toward the vulnerable parts of their bodies.

"Ah!" Another alien had an eye pierced through.

Then, the last Tier Three alien was stabbed and leaped into the air...

...her hands desperately clutching a certain spot below.

Flames of fury blazed in her eyes. She was humiliated, unwilling to accept it. Eight aliens, suppressed by two humans who were only at Tier Two. She refused to accept this outcome.

But it was no damn use.

Because a second thorn branch was already upon her.

This time, it pierced her through and through.

As for the two Middle-tier Women and the snake-skinned man, they weren't too badly hurt by the thorn tree. Only one of the three suffered a minor wound to the arm.

'Looks like pure iron has a hard time doing real damage to middle-tier aliens,' Gao Neng assessed. 'Pure iron is relatively soft, not all that hard.'

But in this small building...

...iron was the most convenient metallic energy source to extract.

Of course, besides metallic energy, there was also non-metallic energy. And the most effective and fastest way to harden iron was...

Carbon!

Gao Neng recalled that when he first met Shen Ning'Er in the Forgotten Land, she had mentioned that energy manifestations could have a "devour" effect.

He'd just never had a chance to try it.

Now was the perfect time.

With a thought, a Super Earth Dragon burst from the ground.

"Devour carbon and evolve into a Pig Iron Earth Dragon!" Gao Neng commanded, picturing the way Shen Ning'Er used her Iron Dragon. Flames immediately erupted over his own Earth Dragon.

The black Earth Dragon transformed, becoming like a red-hot furnace.

The wooden furniture in the room began to scorch from the intense heat.

WHOOSH!

The Earth Dragon began to crawl along the thorn tree.

Its two scythe-like claws began to relentlessly attack the two Middle-tier Women.

CLANG!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

...

"It's really getting harder!" Gao Neng's eyes lit up. He could clearly feel the Earth Dragon's body hardening as it devoured the carbon.

It had successfully evolved into a Pig Iron Earth Dragon.

Unfortunately, evolving it into a Refined Steel Earth Dragon would require a much slower refinement process.

Because making refined steel required precise control over the carbon ratio.

"Gao Neng, why haven't you killed them yet? Can you handle the energy drain?" Fang Tangtang cried out anxiously when she saw him still controlling the Earth Dragon.

"Energy drain?!" Hearing this, Gao Neng's expression changed drastically. His hand seemed to slip, and the Earth Dragon fell from the thorn tree.

More importantly, as the Earth Dragon fell,

his own legs gave out.

THUMP!

He collapsed to the floor as if from sheer exhaustion.

"I barely said a word and you collapsed?! Holy shit... What am I, Death God Fang Tangtang, supposed to do now? Ah... I'm out of strength too!" Fang Tangtang cried in alarm, and her body began to tremble.

The two Middle-tier Women and the snake-skinned man hadn't expected this. 'They were fighting one second, and the next they've completely lost their strength?'

"The power from the Spring of Life has run out!"

"Quick! Now's our chance! Let's kill them together!"

"Kill!"

After a brief moment of shock, the snake-skinned man and the two Middle-tier Women pounced.

It was the perfect opportunity.

They completely ignored the surrounding thorn trees. After all, if Gao Neng was out of power, the thorns were nothing more than decorations.

"Help me, Fang Tangtang!" Gao Neng yelled, scrambling backward.

"I... I'm out of strength too!" Fang Tangtang's eyes were wide with panic, but she remained rooted to the spot, trembling uncontrollably.

One of the Middle-tier Women charged toward Fang Tangtang.

The other Middle-tier Woman and the snake-skinned man charged toward Gao Neng.

A double kill!

Gao Neng closed his eyes in despair.

Terrified, Fang Tangtang tripped on a thorn branch while backing away and collapsed to the ground, completely defenseless.

Closer!

Closer!

The Middle-tier Woman rushing Fang Tangtang had a cold glint in her eyes and a cruel smirk on her lips. She could finally eliminate these two budding geniuses.

For aliens like them, who had been so severely injured on the battlefield that they had no hope of ever breaking through to a higher tier... this was a worthy trade.

"Die!" the woman roared.

Then, she felt the world was spinning.

Fang Tangtang, who had been right in front of her, seemed to be somersaulting through the air.

'What's going on?'

The woman instinctively glanced down. In her field of vision, she seemed to be in mid-air, her body still hurtling forward from inertia.

"I'm... dead?!"

Chapter 183 - 171: A Major Turn of Events

The woman couldn't believe it.

But whether she believed it or not, she was now dead. Just as she rushed toward Fang Tangtang, the Earth Dragon, which had already fallen to the ground, appeared behind her like a phantom.

A slash of its scythe.

After evolving into raw iron, the Earth Dragon's attack power had risen to a new level.

With a single slice, her head fell to the ground.

And it wasn't just the woman who had charged Fang Tangtang. The snakeskin-clad middle-aged man rushing toward Gao Neng was also staring at his own chest in disbelief.

For in his chest was a wound from an Alloy Saber.

"You..."

"Ah! That was the last of my strength!" Gao Neng yelled. He then sent the snakeskin-clad man flying with a kick before his body, spent of energy, rolled aside once more.

The snakeskin-clad middle-aged man was speechless.

'So, he'd fallen for Gao Neng's dirty trick?'

'Tricked by an eighteen-year-old human?'

'But how could this be?'

'After borrowing the power of the Spring of Life, Gao Neng's strength had already surpassed theirs. From his perspective, it was impossible that Gao Neng would deliberately waste any more time.'

'But Gao Neng had used that exact assumption against them...'

'He'd hidden one last bit of strength to deal them a fatal blow.'

PTHOO!

A mouthful of fresh blood sprayed out.

The snakeskin-clad middle-aged man collapsed to a sitting position. Blood constantly flowed from the wound in his chest, his strength draining away, but he wasn't about to die just yet.

"Big Brother, how are you?" the Middle-tier Woman cried out in alarm. Then, her gaze shifted to the corpse lying before Fang Tangtang in the distance. "Third Sister... Third Sister!"

"Quick, kill them! They can't possibly have any strength left... It's impossible!" the snakeskin-clad middle-aged man shouted, clutching his chest tightly.

"Gao Neng, I'll kill you!" The Middle-tier Woman was frantic.

White bones, like sharp spikes, began to sprout continuously from her body. She had to kill Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang to avenge her Third Sister.

As for Gao Neng, he seemed terrified and kept backing away.

His face was incredibly pale.

Both of his hands trembled from exhaustion, and the Alloy Saber had already fallen from his grasp.

He crawled through the Iron Thorn bushes, but his movements were extremely slow. He looked like a withered leaf in the wind, ready to be crushed with the slightest touch.

"Gao Neng... run..." Fang Tangtang was equally desperate.

"Don't come any closer... I... I still have strength left! I can still move! If you come over here, I'll make you die a horrible death! I've broken the Fourth Human Limit! I have five talents over 80%! You'd better run..." Gao Neng shouted weakly.

"Run?! It's impossible for you to have any strength left, Gao Neng! No matter how much of a genius you are, you'll die here today for sure!" The Middle-tier Woman charged, the bones on her body like sharp swords.

Her speed was immense.

At least ten times faster than the current Gao Neng, if not more.

The more Gao Neng insisted he had strength, the more convinced she became that he was truly exhausted. He couldn't possibly be playing another trick. Time wouldn't allow for it; the very nature of the Spring of Life guaranteed it.

But just as she was less than half a step away from him, her eyes widened once more. She saw the smile playing on Gao Neng's lips.

Most importantly, that once-pale face was now flushed with color.

Then, she saw a hand reach out.

With an almost terrifying speed, a fist slammed into her chest.

BOOM!

The Middle-tier Woman went flying.

Her boobs hurt.

Of course, her heart hurt even more.

And in the instant she was sent flying, a black shadow appeared before her. Two scythe-like claws, with a SWISH, slashed toward her throat.

"GAO NENG!!!" the Middle-tier Woman roared. Two sharp fangs suddenly grew in her mouth, and she bit down directly on the Earth Dragon's claw.

CLANG!

A violent tremor shook the air.

The Middle-tier Woman was flung back like a cannonball.

KABOOM! A large, human-shaped crater appeared in the wall.

This turn of events left the snakeskin-clad middle-aged man, who was still clutching his chest, utterly stunned.

'They'd fallen for his trick again?'

'How is this possible!'

'He couldn't believe it. He truly couldn't believe that a Tier Two like Gao Neng could possess so much energy!'

"I told you I still had strength, but you just wouldn't believe me, would you? How's that feel?" Gao Neng dusted himself off, looking at the Middle-tier Woman as she slowly slid to the ground.

"You... you..." The Middle-tier Woman was so furious she couldn't speak.

But Gao Neng didn't give her another chance to speak.

He rushed forward.

Without his Alloy Saber, he used his fists.

One punch, two punches, three punches...

All of them hammered at the Middle-tier Woman's weak points.

The Middle-tier Woman was completely unable to resist Gao Neng's torrential assault. She finally collapsed limply to the ground, several of her bones broken.

"Classmate Fang Tangtang, what do you think? Should we kill the man and leave the woman alive?" Gao Neng then turned his head to glance at Fang Tangtang.

Fang Tangtang had been stunned speechless ever since she saw the Middle-tier Woman get sent flying by that one punch.

'Gao Neng actually had the strength to keep fighting?'

'They were both Tier Two.'

'And she was even a Tier Two Late Stage.'

'But in the end, she was truly exhausted, while Gao Neng could last this long?'

'What the hell?'

'Did he have to be so discouraging!'

'Most importantly, I can clearly sense that Gao Neng still has plenty of energy. It doesn't feel at all like he took a Seed Burst Pill; it's more like he just joined the battle.'

'His energy signature is just too immense.'

"You're not thinking of sparing the guy, are you? You've got some heavy tastes, Classmate Fang Tangtang!" Gao Neng spoke again when Fang Tangtang didn't reply.

Chapter 184 - 171: A Great Mishap

"You're the one with the weird taste!" Fang Tangtang retorted, annoyed. But then, her expression turned exceptionally odd. "How do you still have so much energy?"

"Because I'm a genius!" Gao Neng would never tell Fang Tangtang that he had a second magnetic core, but he couldn't think of any other excuse at the moment.

The Middle-tier Woman was already taken down.

And there was no longer any need to keep this snake-skinned man around.

As for the other Tier Three aliens, they were basically all wiped out. The ones who weren't dead were incapacitated.

'A pity, one got away.' Gao Neng glanced at the shattered window. In the end, Ye Ying had managed to escape with the snake-skinned man's help.

'I wonder if the authorities will be able to capture Ye Ying out there?'

It was a shame.

But on second thought, just surviving a situation like this was no small feat.

'As the Buddha said: There's no such thing as perfection in this world. Perhaps imperfection is its own kind of ultimate beauty. That must be what it means, right?'

'Yes, that must be it. In order to give perfection a chance to shine, I intentionally let Ye Ying go, creating a beautifully flawed outcome.' Gao Neng tilted his head up slightly.

"Gao Neng, I'll kill you!"

Seeing Gao Neng tilt his head up, the snake-skinned man attacked again.

He charged forward.

But Gao Neng paid him no mind. He kicked the snake-skinned man to the ground, pinned his head down, and began stomping on it furiously.

With the second magnetic core, his energy was instantly replenished.

He was now at full strength.

But the snake-skinned man and his allies were already a spent force. What threat could they possibly pose?

"Gao Neng, watch out!"

"I'm always careful!" Even as he was stomping on the snake-skinned man, Gao Neng knew the Middle-tier Woman might try to attack him again. After all, she wasn't dead yet.

Just as he said, he was always on guard and would never let it down. Having grown up in the Forgotten Land, he knew that the only outcome of underestimating an enemy was death.

And the most naive thing about the Middle-tier Woman...

...was that she actually tried to copy him?

'This kind of convincing acting... can a mere alien like you even learn it?'

CRACK!

Strands of Iron Thorns shot out, instantly entangling the Middle-tier Woman as she struggled to her feet.

The Middle-tier Woman struggled with all her might. She opened her mouth and gnawed at the vines, as if she still had enough strength left to try and bite through the Iron Thorns that bound her.

But the Iron Thorns only multiplied, wrapping around her even tighter.

In the end, the Middle-tier Woman was completely encased in an iron cocoon.

And it wasn't just the Middle-tier Woman.

The other aliens who were still breathing were similarly encased by the Iron Thorns.

One by one, iron cocoons now hung from the thorny vines.

Gao Neng wasn't about to give these aliens another chance to launch a sneak attack or try any other foolish tricks. He tied them all up first.

The moment he finished...

...a commotion erupted outside.

Then, Gao Neng saw several figures crash through the window.

'The authorities?'

Huh?

'It's not the authorities... It's Bald Shark?!'

The first person to crash through the window was Bald Shark Gui Zian—his bald head was unmistakable. The second was the current top student of the Eastern Capital Military Academy, Lin Ying.

Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing were there too.

This surprised Gao Neng. He remembered Fang Tangtang saying she was coming to catch him cheating. So how did Bald Shark, Lin Ying, and the others end up here?

"Didn't she say Gao Neng was fooling around? How did it turn into... Huh? These people... they're aliens!" Gui Zian was just as surprised.

"They're alien spies who've infiltrated the City of Hope!" Lin Ying's gaze was cold as ice.

"Huh? 'Catching a cheater' turned into 'catching a spy'?" Kong Kun scratched his head, unable to process the situation for a moment.

"Was it because Gao Neng was seduced by an alien spy, and then got hit with an Immortal Leap, and that's how it ended up like this?" Feng Qingqing guessed as she rushed to Fang Tangtang's side.

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'What the hell is this?'

'These guys aren't here to help, are they? They're here to catch me cheating?'

'No, wait!'

"Gao Neng, what exactly is going on?" Gui Zian looked around, his brow furrowed, his gaze finally settling on Gao Neng.

"I was catching spies. I took down one of their strongholds. Killed eight in total. How... did you guys get here?" Gao Neng asked in return.

"Catching spies? But didn't Tangtang say you were cheating on someone? She told us to hurry over and get photos for proof. She was afraid that after you were caught, you'd kill the person to silence them, and then Shen Ning'Er would deny it ever happened," Gui Zian asked again.

'Photographic proof?' Gao Neng was finally starting to understand. That girl Fang Tangtang really had come to catch him cheating, but she hadn't come alone.

She had brought a posse...

'And she even said she was afraid I'd kill someone to silence them?'

'Damn, she really knows how to stir up trouble, huh?!'

"Gao Neng, what do you think you're doing?!" Fang Tangtang watched him advance on her, sweat pouring down her face. "Hey, let's talk about this, wait... Would you believe me if I said they misheard? I said 'catching spies,' but it came out as 'catching a cheater'... Really, they just misheard me!"

"Ouch!"

"Stop hitting my butt!"

"..."

...

Five minutes later, the authorities arrived.

However, they didn't enter the building, nor did they see what had happened inside.

Because Gui Zian had already sealed off the scene in the name of the Military Department.

"A total of eight aliens. Three middle-tier, five low-tier... but even the low-tier ones were basically at the Tier Three Late Stage. Gao Neng, Fang Tangtang, you two..." Gui Zian's expression finally shifted as he inspected the alien bodies.

"It was all me!" Fang Tangtang yelled.

SMACK! Gao Neng raised his hand and slapped Fang Tangtang right on the butt.

"You hit me again?! I, Death God Fang Tangtang, will fight you to the death!"

"Oh yeah? Bring it on."

"..." Fang Tangtang's threat was fierce, but she just pouted and scampered off to the side.

"We discovered an alien spy stronghold, successfully killed six spies, and captured two alive. How many Merit Points is that worth?" Gao Neng asked, looking at Gui Zian.

"Normally, discovering a single alien spy gets you a reward of 300 Merit Points. If it's a middle-tier leader, the reward doubles to 600. There are five Tier Threes and three middle-tiers here, so that's a total of 3,300 points. But since you uncovered an entire spy stronghold, the Military Department will give you an additional 500-point bonus!"

Gui Zian answered offhandedly before adding, exasperated, "Are Merit Points the only thing you two care about? Shouldn't you be explaining what happened first?"

"We can talk about what happened later. Besides wiping out a spy stronghold, I also discovered a very important piece of intelligence."

"What intelligence?"

"I discovered that a Dark Night Elf has been resurrected!"

"A Dark Night Elf resurrected? You... What do you mean by that?"

"I mean that this is the same Dark Night Elf I killed in the Forgotten Land. She's been resurrected, and now she's here in the City of Hope."

"A Dark Night Elf you killed in the Forgotten Land was resurrected... Wait, when did you kill her?!" Gui Zian's expression changed abruptly when he heard this.

"Duh, it was before the entrance exams. Barely three months ago!"

"Resurrected in less than three months?! Are you sure?" Gui Zian's eyes went wide, his face a mask of pure shock as he stared at Gao Neng.

"How is that possible? Isn't the reincarnation cycle supposed to be twenty years?" Kong Kun muttered from the side, disbelieving.

"Resurrected in three months? Gao Neng, you're not joking, are you?" Lin Ying's expression also changed.

"Of course I'm not joking. I killed that Dark Night Elf with my own hands. Ning'Er saw it too. In fact, Ning'Er even took the body for research! Wait a second... Don't you guys know they can be resurrected in three months?" Seeing the looks on Gui Zian's and Lin Ying's faces, Gao Neng suddenly realized this matter might be a bit more serious than he'd thought.

"Shen Ning'Er saw it too?" Gui Zian's brow furrowed deeply, and his fist clenched. "Quickly, to the Military Department, now! Gao Neng, you're with me!"

Chapter 185 - 172: The "Pure and Kind" Student Gao Neng

"To the Military Department?" Gao Neng was genuinely surprised. He'd only thought that speaking up might earn him some minor credit, but he never imagined Gui Zian would actually take him to the Military Department because of it.

"The Military Department? I'm going too!" Fang Tangtang immediately shouted. As if afraid Gui Zian wouldn't take her, she quickly added, "I'm one of the people involved!"

"Alright, you can both come. Lin Ying, you're in charge here. Dispose of the bodies and send the captive to the military academy for now. Don't hand them over to the security bureau yet." Gui Zian nodded as he gave Lin Ying his instructions.

"Understood. Don't worry, Teacher."

"Kong Kun, Feng Qingqing, you two assist Lin Ying. Gao Neng, Tangtang, let's go!"

"Are we leaving now?"

"Of course."

"In that case, could I trouble Teacher Gui to carry me... UGH... BLECH!" Gao Neng wasn't completely exhausted, but the aftereffects of his life-form transformation were still lingering.

...

The Eastern Capital Military Academy was under the jurisdiction and management of the Eastern Capital Military District.

The four major and sixteen minor military districts, including the Eastern Capital Military District, were under the direct command of the Military Department. Each military district housed an office building for the Department.

Gui Zian was the Vice Director of the War Academy at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, but he was also on the official roster of the Eastern Capital Military District.

After leaving the small building, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang were both helped into a military jeep.

Gui Zian personally drove, heading for the Eastern Capital Military District.

Once the vehicle started moving, Gao Neng's aftereffects mostly vanished. After taking a few more Energy Pills, he gave a rough account of how he had discovered Ye Ying and killed the spies.

Of course, he still concealed some things, like the Eye of Deprivation.

Gao Neng's explanation was that he had recognized them at a glance—a natural, keen intuition for spotting alien spies.

Gui Zian didn't quite believe it, but he didn't press the issue.

As for Fang Tangtang...

She was also exhausted and kept popping Energy Pills. By the time Gao Neng finished his story, she had just barely recovered some of her strength.

However, the question on her mind wasn't actually about how Gao Neng had identified Ye Ying. 'What she cared about was why Gao Neng could project his energy to such a degree, and how he managed to sustain it for so long?'

Gao Neng ignored Fang Tangtang.

The journey wasn't very long, and half an hour later, the military jeep arrived at the main gate of the Eastern Capital Military District.

"We're here." Gui Zian got out of the car.

Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang also got out.

Compared to the Eastern Capital Military Academy, the Eastern Capital Military District was clearly more imposing and solemn. Security was tight, and the main gate was flanked by massive weapons.

Four soldiers stood ramrod straight on either side of the gate. Both Gui Zian and Fang Tangtang presented their credentials, but when it was Gao Neng's turn, he realized he didn't seem to have one.

But it wasn't a big deal...

Because he saw an acquaintance waiting for him at the entrance.

Chen Bai.

Just as when they had met in the Forgotten Land, Chen Bai was still the same old Chen Bai. There wasn't a single extra star on his rank insignia; he was still stuck in place.

"Vice Director Gui, I'll be handling your reception," Chen Bai said, greeting Gui Zian first.

"Thank you, Lieutenant Chen," Gui Zian replied with a nod.

"Hey, I remember you! You're the one who brought Gao Neng to the Eastern Capital Military Academy to register, right?" Fang Tangtang's memory was decent, and she recognized Chen Bai at a glance.

"Yes, I was the one who brought Gao Neng. If I recall correctly, you're Fang Tangtang, right?" Chen Bai smiled.

"Yep. It's been over a month, and Lieutenant Chen is still a Lieutenant. You haven't changed a bit! Meanwhile, I, Death God Fang Tangtang, am about to be promoted to First Lieutenant!" Fang Tangtang said with a blink.

"..." Chen Bai froze, his expression turning obviously awkward. As Shen Ning'Er's second-in-command, he had actually earned military merits during the mission in the Forgotten Land.

Barring any surprises, he would soon be promoted to First Lieutenant. The problem was, Fang Tangtang was only sixteen years old. How was he supposed to compete with that?

'Kids these days...'

'They have no respect for their seniors whatsoever.'

Chen Bai decided not to bicker with Fang Tangtang and quickly turned his attention to Gao Neng, a friendly smile touching his lips. "Gao Neng, we meet again."

"Yeah. It's been a month, and you, still stagnating in the same spot, are no longer my opponent." Gao Neng nodded with a solemn expression.

"???" Chen Bai.

'What the hell?!'

'These two have to be doing this on purpose, right? Not everyone's a genius, you know!'

'He was just an ordinary talent.'

'He relied on perseverance and hard work!'

"Ahem. Lieutenant Chen, please don't take it personally. These two always run their mouths like this..." Gui Zian was rendered speechless. He shot a glare at Fang Tangtang and Gao Neng before casually adding, "But... what Gao Neng just said about you not being a match for him... that's actually true."

"!!!" Chen Bai.

'Is this the school spirit at the Eastern Capital Military Academy these days?'

'The students are like this...'

'...and the teachers are like this too.'

'I'm just fucking here to greet you people! Do you really think I have no pride?'

"Lao Bai, didn't you get any military merits for overseeing the college entrance exams in the Forgotten Land? How come you're still a Lieutenant after a month?" Seeing Chen Bai's sour expression, Gao Neng pressed him further.

"Nonsense. Earning merits isn't that easy. However, I actually am about to be promoted to First—"

"Earning merits is easy! See? I just earned more. Baldy—oops, I mean, Teacher Gui said we'll be getting close to 4000 Merit Points for this. Plus, I killed three mid-tier aliens all by myself. Sigh... sometimes it gets lonely at the top..."

"..." Chen Bai ultimately decided to just keep his mouth shut.

Chapter 186 - 172: The "Pure and Good" Student Gao Neng (Part 2)

Of course, if he were forced to say anything else, it would be just three words:
What the fuck!

...

「Night had fallen.」

Under Chen Bai's guidance, the group arrived at the Military Department's office building.

After taking the elevator to the third-floor conference room, they found more than ten uniformed military personnel already seated inside.

Gao Neng took a quick look around. The lowest rank he saw was Major.

Hmm...

And the only Major was Shen Ning'Er.

Besides her, the room was filled with lieutenant colonels, colonels... and one Major General.

'What a big-shot meeting!'

Gao Neng truly hadn't expected such a small matter to draw out so many important figures. 'Could it be? Am I really the one who discovered a "new world"?''

'If that's really the case, the merit I'd earn wouldn't be small, would it?'

"Allow me to make the introductions. This is Vice Commander Chen... and Advisor Li. I believe you are acquainted with Major Shen and Gao Neng, correct? In that case, Gao Neng, could you start by telling us what happened?"

The Military Department's way of doing things was certainly direct.

There were no lengthy opening remarks.

Upon seeing Gao Neng and Gui Zian arrive, a colonel stood up, made a brief introduction, and then got straight to the point.

Gao Neng took a mental note.

Vice Commander Chen was the only Major General present. He was a middle-aged man around fifty, with tanned skin and a small scar on his face.

As for Shen Ning'Er, she was still in her black uniform and merely gave a slight nod when she saw Gao Neng enter.

"Gao Neng, go ahead and tell them," Gui Zian said.

"Yes. Three months ago, I killed a Dark Night Elf in the Forgotten Land. Today, when I was returning to the military academy, I saw a woman at the school gate who looked exactly like that Dark Night Elf. So, I went to test my suspicion..." Gao Neng nodded and began his story.

A quarter of an hour later, Gao Neng finished speaking.

The colonel who had made the introductions earlier now frowned.

"So, you're saying this woman ultimately escaped, correct?"

"Yes." Gao Neng nodded. "I was tied up with several mid-tier aliens at the time. She escaped through the window, and by the time I dealt with them, several minutes had passed. Plus, it was already dark... trying to catch her would have been difficult."

"Mm, it's easy to hide in the central area of the Eastern District." The colonel nodded, then continued his questioning. "Based on your description, we can't actually be completely certain that she is that Dark Night Elf. Her power level has changed, and she no longer has the characteristics of a Dark Night Elf. Am I correct?"

"No, I'm certain it was her," Gao Neng said, shaking his head.

"Oh? What's your basis for that?"

"It was definitely her. Although she didn't admit it directly, I got the feeling that she recognized me. There's no mistaking that feeling," Gao Neng stated with certainty.

"Intuition?" The colonel nodded, then glanced around at the others.

"To conclude that an alien can be resurrected in about three months based on intuition alone... that's a bit of a stretch, I'm afraid..." an officer said, shaking his head slightly.

"It is a bit of a hasty conclusion, but if what Gao Neng says is true, then I'm afraid our current plan will require a major adjustment," another officer chimed in.

"Mm, but if they can be resurrected, why has this never happened before?"

"If the Strongest can really be resurrected ahead of schedule, then what's their purpose in waiting twenty years?"

...

Discussions broke out in the conference room.

Gao Neng didn't interject. He just glanced at Shen Ning'Er, who was sitting not far away. After all, when it came to the Military Department's affairs, he was a complete blank.

'What plan?'

'I don't understand any of this.'

"Major Shen, where is the Dark Night Elf's corpse now?" After another fifteen minutes, Vice Commander Chen, who was seated at the head of the table, finally spoke.

"At Military Base No. 5 in the Forgotten Land," Shen Ning'Er replied.

"Have you contacted them to inquire about the corpse's current condition?" Vice Commander Chen nodded and continued to ask.

"Yes, I contacted them before coming here. We've collected quite a few Dark Night Elf corpses. This particular one was handled by Dr. Lan. It was dismembered... but the dismembered parts are still there," Shen Ning'Er replied again.

"Mm. Tell me your thoughts on this matter."

"Certainly. Based on Gao Neng's description of the events, I've identified a few issues. First, the lack of a Dark Night Elf's biological traits. This isn't too difficult to achieve, as the biggest difference between Dark Night Elves and humans is their ears. A little surgery could easily alter them. The biggest problem is the second point: this Dark Night Elf had no energy fluctuations and had become an ordinary person."

"Yes, the issue Major Shen raised is precisely what I've been considering. A twenty-year cycle is something we're all aware of. So, the biggest question now is, if resurrection is truly possible, where is the 'source' of this resurrection? And, if such a 'source' exists, why would it be used on a low-level Dark Night Elf instead of one of the alien Strongest?" Vice Commander Chen paused after saying this.

...

The surrounding officers fell silent.

Vice Commander Chen didn't wait. Instead, he turned his gaze to Gao Neng. "Hello, Gao Neng. Thank you for taking the trouble to come all this way. My name is Chen Yichuan, and I'm the Vice Commander of the Second Army. I'd like to confirm a few final points with you, if you'd be willing to answer."

"Please ask, Vice Commander Chen." Gao Neng nodded.

"First, you said you determined it was the Dark Night Elf you killed based on your intuition. I believe you're telling the truth, but I still want to ask: what is the source of this intuition? Is it only because you felt she recognized you?"

"Actually, there's another reason..."

"What reason?"

"Her scream."

"Her scream?"

"To be specific, her scream of pain. The last time I killed her, I attacked a certain part of her body. This time, I attacked it again. The scream was identical. A scream that comes from the soul like that... I don't think it's something that can be faked." Gao Neng glanced at Shen Ning'Er, choosing a more civilized way of putting it.

"A scream of pain? I understand. Alright, my second question: are you certain she has become an ordinary person? Did you determine this based solely on the lack of energy fluctuations, or did you have other means?"

"Other means. First, during the struggle, some physical contact was unavoidable. Second, when she tried to escape through the window, I used... Iron Thorn to block her. As a result, she crashed right into it, completely defenseless."

"I see..." Chen Yichuan nodded again upon hearing this, then stood up. "Thank you very much, Gao Neng, for providing us with this critical intelligence. We now need to process and discuss this information. You may take a break outside for a while."

"Alright. In that case, may I ask a question?" Gao Neng nodded and stood up.

"Oh? You have a question for us, Gao Neng? Of course, please ask." Vice Commander Chen seemed momentarily surprised, then replied with a smile.

"If this intelligence is confirmed, will I be considered to have earned a merit?"

"Of course. And a great merit, at that!"

"Thank you, Vice Commander Chen! For you to call it a great merit, it must be very important. But, Vice Commander Chen, could you tell me directly... what kind of merit is it? I know the Military Department has things like Special-Class Merits, First-Class Merits, and so on. Would this be considered a Special-Class Merit, or a First-Class Merit?"

"Er..." A corner of Chen Yichuan's mouth twitched. Looking at the expectant expression on Gao Neng's face, he finally understood what the young man was really asking.

'Special-Class Merit?'

'First-Class Merit?'

'This seemingly "harmless" young man, Gao Neng, has quite an appetite!'

Chapter 187 - 173: A New Plan

"How about a Second-Class Merit, then?" Gao Neng asked, seeing that Chen Yichuan looked troubled.

"Haha. Student Gao Neng, your intelligence is indeed very important to the Military Department. However, our evaluation of military merits requires a multi-faceted assessment. Let's wait for Vice Director Gui to submit the application, and then we'll get back to you with the results. How does that sound?" Chen Yichuan felt a headache coming on.

"Uncle Chen, I was part of it too!" Fang Tangtang, who hadn't found a chance to speak, immediately stood up as soon as she heard there would be an official evaluation.

"Yes, yes, of course. The Military Department doesn't let its Warriors shed their blood for nothing," Chen Yichuan said with a smiling nod.

"Thank you, Uncle Chen!" Fang Tangtang immediately said.

"Thank you, Vice Commander Chen!" Gao Neng knew to quit while he was ahead.

He wasn't stupid.

He knew that the Military Department's criteria for military merits were extremely strict. Thinking a single piece of intelligence was worth a Special-Class Merit was just wishful thinking.

As for why he'd said it in front of Chen Yichuan, part of it was to angle for the reward, but the main reason was Gui Zian.

After all, he had learned a few things about Gui Zian recently.

Bald Shark was very strong.

He was arguably the strongest person at the Eastern Capital Military Academy, aside from the directors themselves. Many even said that Gui Zian's power might surpass that of several vice directors.

Most importantly, Gui Zian was young.

Wang Qixing was over fifty, and Song Tianyun was over sixty. Only Gui Zian was just in his early forties.

'A man that young and promising hadn't been assigned to the front lines as a Division Commander or Deputy Division Commander, but was instead placed in the Eastern Capital Military Academy as a mere "instructor"?'

It would be impossible for Gao Neng not to be a little curious about it.

So, he'd looked into it.

The results were shocking.

Gui Zian had participated in countless battles, large and small, and the number of enemies he'd killed was staggering. But his military merits... were pitifully few. He only had a single, minor Third-Class Merit.

Without military merits, his rank could only inch upward with seniority. A major promotion was nearly impossible. As for positions like Deputy Division Commander or Division Commander, they were essentially out of his reach...

In short: Gui Zian was an utterly selfless person.

And Gao Neng was not.

So, he had to make a move himself and, while he was at it, get Chen Yichuan to remind Gui Zian to submit the application. Otherwise, there was a ninety-nine percent chance this whole affair would be all thunder and no rain.

And things turned out just as Gao Neng had expected.

Hearing this, Gui Zian spoke up, just as predicted. "Vice Commander Chen, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang are still young and don't understand the Military Department's merit evaluations. They are both soldiers; collecting intelligence is simply their duty. I think we should... just forget about applying for merits, shouldn't we? The academy will naturally give them some reward when they get back!"

"Teacher Gui... we risked being surrounded and killed by eight aliens to retrieve this critical intelligence from a raging fire! Plus, three of them were mid-tier, and I'm only at the Tier Two Mid Stage..." Gao Neng immediately put on a pained expression.

"Yeah, we went through a lot," Fang Tangtang chimed in, playing the victim. Then, she pointed to her own arm. "Look, Teacher Gui, my arm is broken!"

"Quiet! This is the Military Department!" Gui Zian's expression darkened.

"Hahaha, it's quite all right. Vice Director Gui, don't be so harsh. Since they've rendered a service, the Military Department must give them what they're due. Otherwise, how could we call it fair?" Chen Yichuan said with another laugh.

"But..." Gui Zian looked conflicted.

"Teacher Gui, I'm the one who earned the merit, not you!" Gao Neng felt compelled to remind him again.

"Nonsense, of course I know that!"

"Alright, that settles it. Gao Neng, you and Fang Tangtang can go rest outside for a bit. Vice Director Gui, please stay for the meeting." Chen Yichuan swiftly put an end to the discussion.

"Yes, sir!" Gui Zian immediately responded.

...

Once they were out of the conference room, a smile finally spread across Gao Neng's face. 'Just as I thought, Gui Zian is hopeless. You have to handle some things yourself, otherwise I'll end up just like him.'

Just then, Chen Bai reappeared before them and led Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang to a lounge on the third floor.

There was tea inside...

but no snacks.

"Lao Bai, I'm hungry..." Gao Neng said, clutching his stomach.

"Me too," Fang Tangtang added, blinking.

"..." Chen Bai's expression darkened once more. "There are only crackers. Take them or leave them."

"They're too dry. And there's no oil or salt. We just went through a life-or-death battle! If we don't replenish our nutrients, it could have a negative impact on our bodies!"

"That's right! We're completely exhausted!" Fang Tangtang immediately nodded.

"What do you two want? Don't tell me you expect me to cook noodles for you?" Chen Bai looked at them, utterly exasperated.

'After you two completely demoralized me, you want me to cook noodles for you?'

'In your dreams!'

"Noodles? Alright, but I'm not eating plain broth. I want at least two eggs in mine!" Gao Neng held up two fingers, wagging them in front of Chen Bai.

"I'm still growing, so I need three!" Fang Tangtang held up three fingers.

"..." Chen Bai.

...

「Military Department, Third Floor Conference Room」

After Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang left, the discussion officially shifted to the topic of resurrection.

"Let's hear everyone's thoughts on this matter," Chen Yichuan said once he was seated, his gaze sweeping across the room.

A lieutenant colonel quickly stood up.

"Based on the information Gao Neng provided, I believe the key point is the change in strength post-resurrection. Could it be that because the resurrection was premature, their strength couldn't be fully restored?"

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"Yes, I agree with Major Yang. If they can be resurrected early without recovering their full strength, then this isn't a major threat to us." Another major nodded.

"Vice Director Gui, what's your take on this?" Chen Yichuan turned to Gui Zian.

"The issue of their strength is a given. If they could truly be resurrected early *and* recover their full power, humanity would have likely been wiped out long ago. Therefore, I don't think the key issue is whether they regain their strength, but rather... intelligence," Gui Zian said after a moment of thought.

"Intelligence?" Major Yang frowned.

"Yes, intelligence!" Gui Zian nodded and continued, "The City of Hope has captured many spies from the alien races over the years. These spies were embedded within our city, so naturally, they gathered a great deal of information. We used to think that once they were killed, that information was secure. Now, it seems that's not the case at all."

"Yes, what Vice Director Gui mentioned is precisely my concern." Chen Yichuan's brow furrowed deeply. "If the alien races can be resurrected, it means intelligence on the City of Hope has been constantly leaking. But there's another critical question: when did this phenomenon begin?"

"That... would be incredibly difficult to verify, I'm afraid."

"Indeed."

"..."

Hearing this, the others in the room once again fell silent.

The words of Gui Zian and Chen Yichuan made them all realize the gravity of the problem—one that extended beyond just intelligence leaks from the City of Hope.

More importantly...

The future of the war.

If low-ranking members of the alien races could also be resurrected...

Then on future battlefields, if those fallen aliens were to be resurrected, what would become of the intelligence they possessed, even if they didn't have their full strength?

The question might seem trivial.

But it could very well dictate the course of future battles.

"Vice Commander Chen, Gao Neng mentioned that the Dark Night Elf was killed three months ago. Can we assume from this that they need a minimum of three months to resurrect? If it's really a three-month cycle, we can still prepare some countermeasures," a Colonel offered.

"I'm afraid the period is even shorter..." Chen Yichuan shook his head. "Gao Neng just happened to encounter that Dark Night Elf after three months. We can't be certain that the cycle is actually that long."

"Yes, Vice Commander Chen is right. Now that we know about this, should we immediately notify the other military districts so they can also take precautions?"

"We must notify them! Old Chen, contact the other major military districts. If possible, we should convene an emergency inter-district conference!"

"Yes!" A Major General nodded and exited the room.

After the Major General left the conference room, Chen Yichuan's gaze once again swept over the attendees. It rested on Gui Zian for a moment before shifting to Shen Ning'Er.

"Ning'Er, much of what Gao Neng said was based on intuition and speculation. But this matter is too important for any mistakes. How credible do you think he is?"

"I can vouch for him." Shen Ning'Er answered as if she had expected the question.

"So you believe what he said is true?"

"Yes."

"Alright. In that case, let's discuss solutions. While we have this initial intelligence, the specifics remain murky. For example, the exact resurrection cycle, and the 'source' of this resurrection—these things are all unclear. Does anyone have a solution?" Chen Yichuan once again addressed the room.

"If we want to gather specific intelligence, our only option is to send agents to infiltrate the alien races. But for decades, humanity has never been able to successfully infiltrate their territory. There are just too many problems..." a Colonel began.

"That's right. Humans and the alien races are different. Their population is relatively small, but each individual is quite powerful. We can't just send in ordinary people to infiltrate them as they do to us! The main issue is that security in their territories is far stricter than ours. After all, they have to defend themselves from ambushes by other alien races."

"We'd have to force an opening!"

"Are you suggesting we start a war? If humanity were to proactively attack one of the alien territories, wouldn't that provoke the other races into surrounding us?"

"Yes, it would be very difficult..."

"More importantly, now is not the right time to start a war!"

Everyone around the table eventually shook their heads.

"Vice Commander Chen, I actually have a proposal," a Major General said, rising to his feet.

"Oh? And what might that be, Deputy Division Commander Li?"

"Could the upcoming reform in the Military Department be an opportunity?"

"Reform? You mean the initiative where the four major military academies are sending low and mid-rank students to observe on the battlefield?" Hearing this, Chen Yichuan naturally understood what Deputy Division Commander Li was implying.

"Exactly. Since our goal is to give the students an early understanding of the battlefield, why not just launch a real war? We can forcibly attack an alien territory, create an opening, and then we can arrange for some of the observing students from the four academies to receive some infiltration training..."

"Absolutely not!" Gui Zian shot to his feet. "The students being sent to observe on the battlefield are the elites of the four major military academies. How can we have them carry out a deep-cover mission? It's far too dangerous! If anything goes wrong, the entire reform initiative will be impossible to implement!"

"Vice Director Gui, you've misunderstood me. I'm not suggesting we have the students do the infiltrating. I mean, the Military Department can insert some low-ranking Warriors among the students to carry out the infiltration!" Deputy Division Commander Li clarified.

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"I think Deputy Division Commander Li's suggestion is feasible. With our large-scale entry into the battlefield for observation, the news has likely already reached the foreign races. Since that's the case, we might as well pull a 'feint in one direction, attack in another'!" a colonel, upon hearing this, nodded in agreement.

"Then which foreign race's territory should we assault?" someone asked again.

"Since the intelligence came from the Dark Night Elf Clan, let's attack their territory. The Dark Night Elf Clan has no Strongest among them, and they're under the protection of the Celestial Race. As long as we don't strike their Tree of Life, the Celestial Race shouldn't counterattack right away. We'll only attack for three days and then immediately retreat. There shouldn't be any major issues."

"That seems feasible."

"..."

"Hmm, Vice Director Gui, what's your opinion?" Chen Yichuan finally gave a slight nod, his gaze falling on Gui Zian.

"How many people does the Military Department intend to embed with the students?" Gui Zian asked after a moment of silence.

"About forty people," Chen Yichuan replied after a moment of thought. "We'll divide them into ten small teams to conduct reconnaissance separately. That should increase the odds of success."

"Forty people? Does that mean each military academy has to give up ten spots?"

"No. The infiltration is a top-secret matter. The more people who know, the higher the risk of exposure. My intention is to place all forty of them among the students from the Eastern Capital Military Academy."

"All of them with the Eastern Capital Military Academy?!"

"Yes, it'll be safer that way. I'll arrange for all the observation students from the four major military academies to wear identical uniforms and gas masks. It just means we'll have to impose on the Eastern Capital Military Academy to free up forty spots in their observation group," Chen Yichuan explained with a nod.

"Understood. I will coordinate with Principal Song to make the necessary adjustments and arrangements." Gui Zian's brow furrowed. The Eastern Capital Military Academy only had a total of eighty students participating in the observation this time.

Moreover, these spots had already been announced a few days ago.

'And now they want to take forty spots all at once?'

This was going to be extremely difficult.

But Gui Zian understood the importance of the matter, so naturally, he said nothing more.

"Alright, now that we have a decision, let's discuss the specific details of the plan's implementation," Chen Yichuan said with a nod. "I will propose it at the military region conference."

"Yes, sir!"

"Major Shen, go and get the details from Gao Neng again and record them. Then, have Military Base No. 5 in the Forgotten Land transmit an image of that Dark Night Elf. If possible, also ask Gao Neng to draw a sketch of the Dark Night Elf so we can compare the two."

"Yes," Shen Ning'Er replied, rising to her feet.

"Right. When you're finished, arrange to have him and Fang Tangtang sent back to the academy. And don't mention the plan to infiltrate the Eastern Capital Military Academy's observation group to him." Chen Yichuan finished, then his gaze shifted back to Gui Zian. "Vice Director Gui, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang... they're not part of the observation group, are they?"

"They... are part of the observation group," Gui Zian said, deciding to tell the truth after a moment's hesitation.

"They're in the observation group? Aren't they both only Second-Order? This is absurd! Sending Second-Order students to the battlefield—has the Eastern Capital Military Academy run out of people?" Chen Yichuan was visibly stunned. He remembered the order specifying Third and Fourth-Order students as the elite reserve pool. Second-Orders on the battlefield? 'What the hell is this?'

"Well... they aren't ordinary Second-Order students. After enrolling, Gao Neng and his friends challenged twenty different squads from the lower rankings in a single month and won every match. What's more, their final battle was against four Third-Order students. So... Principal Song and I thought it over, and we..."

"Forget it. I won't meddle in your academy's affairs. However, since the Eastern Capital Military Academy has to give up forty spots anyway, I think you should just remove Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang from the list. Those two have immense potential, but right now, they're just kids. We need to be forward-thinking with our plans, but if something were to actually go wrong, how would you explain yourself to the Fang Family? Not to mention Vice Commander Shen... Er..."

As Chen Yichuan spoke, his eyes subconsciously flickered toward the door.

Thankfully...

Shen Ning'Er had already left the room.

Chapter 190 - 174: Escalating Situation, Infinite Resurrection

...

Inside a lounge at the Military Department.

Gao Neng had just finished his noodles with two eggs when Shen Ning'Er arrived.

Looking at Shen Ning'Er's stunning face and her crisp, black military uniform, Gao Neng was inexplicably reminded of how she looked back in his dorm room.

'I'm getting a little sleepy...'

He was truly exhausted.

He hadn't slept for two nights, had gotten into a fight right at the military academy's entrance, and then eaten a bowl of noodles. Now, he could barely keep his eyes open.

"Tired?" Shen Ning'Er asked casually as she watched Gao Neng yawn.

"Hahaha, Sister Ning'Er, you probably don't know this, but your man—oh, wait, no—this guy hasn't slept a wink in two days. He's been at our Celestial King Group the whole time," Fang Tangtang jumped in before Gao Neng could answer.

"Oh? What was he doing at your Celestial King Group?" Shen Ning'Er asked, a little puzzled.

"Building the Electromagnetic Cannon!"

"The Electromagnetic Cannon?"

"Mhm, the Number 4 Electromagnetic Cannon! You should know about it, right? He built it. And it's the mass-producible kind, too. My grandpa and the others were all stunned!"

"He built the Number 4 Electromagnetic Cannon?!"

"Yeah. My grandpa will probably bring a sample to the Military Department in a little while. This hasn't been officially announced yet, but he might hold a press conference in three days. Gao Neng... Huh? Wake up... How did this guy fall asleep?"

BONK!

Gao Neng had just drifted off to dreamland when he got smacked on the head.

As soon as he opened his eyes, he saw Fang Tangtang glaring at him, while Shen Ning'Er stood before him with a calm expression.

"Student Fang Tangtang, are you asking for a beating?" Gao Neng cursed viciously, then glanced at Shen Ning'Er. "Heh, just a little sleepy."

"Alright. I'll take you back to the military academy first. In the car, you can tell me the details of what happened today and describe the changes in Ye Ying's appearance," Shen Ning'Er said, not minding his behavior.

"Okay."

...

On the way, Gao Neng once again detailed the course of events for Shen Ning'Er. Of course, he still concealed certain things that involved his own secrets.

After all, some things just couldn't be explained.

Besides, he was afraid that if they had the slightest disagreement, Shen Ning'Er would take him away for research again.

"Sister Ning'Er, no matter how I look at it, today's incident seems like a minor thing. Why is the Military Department taking it so seriously? And they're actually going to award us combat merits for it?" Fang Tangtang asked after Gao Neng finished his story.

"No, this matter might be even more serious than you imagine." Shen Ning'Er was driving a military jeep that looked very ordinary on the outside, but its acceleration was extremely fast. It had likely been modified.

"More serious than I imagine? Why?"

"Actually, in the battlefield historical records, the twenty-year cycle didn't refer to all non-human races being resurrected, but rather a very small number of individuals from those races."

"Sister Ning'Er, are you saying that in the past, the ones who resurrected were all high-ranked?"

"Not high-ranked, but the Strongest."

"The Strongest?! But that Ye Ying... she doesn't count as one of the Strongest, does she?"

"Correct. And that's what makes this problem even more serious. Immortality, resurrection from death... these have always been eternal topics in human development. When the Strongest were resurrected in the past, the Alliance didn't think too much of it because their numbers were just too small. Besides, the Strongest have their own unique qualities."

"Unique qualities?"

"Mhm. In some ancient histories, there have always been legends. For example, ascending to immortality after attaining the Dao, or how a Buddha's physical body remains indestructible after death. It's actually the same for the Strongest now. To become one of the Strongest, one must possess special abilities. Therefore,

resurrection from death is limited to a select few, and it's not something anyone would expect for themselves."

"I get it now. In the past, the Human Alliance only knew that the Strongest could be resurrected. So even if humans obtained the 'Source' of resurrection from the non-human races, it couldn't be widely applied. But now that the Human Alliance knows that low-ranked individuals can also be resurrected, many people will start to hold expectations for this?"

"That's more or less the gist, but not entirely correct. In fact, the 'Source' of resurrection has always been a research focus for the Human Alliance, but there have been far too few opportunities to study it! This is because there are only two ways to research the secret of non-human resurrection. One is to wipe out an entire race and seize their 'Source'—for example, the Elf Race's Elf Tree, the Blood Race's Blood Pool, and so on... The only other way is to capture a living non-human member of the Strongest. But both of those are far too difficult."

"Yeah, that's basically impossible!" Fang Tangtang nodded.

Listening to this, Gao Neng also started to roughly understand what Shen Ning'Er meant.

To conduct research, you need materials.

The Elf Tree is the 'Source' of resurrection, while a member of the Strongest is the 'origin' after resurrection. It's like the relationship between a server and a client.

If you can't get the server's source code, you get the client's source code. Although the difficulty increases, there's bound to be some connection between them.

In the past, the clients were the Strongest.

Very difficult to capture.

But now, the clients have become low-ranked non-humans. That changes things.

As long as they can capture a successfully resurrected non-human, there's a sliver of a chance to crack the secret of their resurrection. Why would the Human Alliance give up on that hope?

"Is the Human Alliance's next plan to attack the Dark Night Elf Clan?" As Gao Neng thought of this, the drowsiness in his mind began to fade a little.

"You figured it out?" Shen Ning'Er glanced at Gao Neng and then nodded lightly. "The Military Department won't be the one to officially broach the subject, but there will definitely be people who support doing so."

