

I CAN CONTROL RESOURCES

Chapter 201 - 181: Two-Realm Mountain (2)

"The fortress gets attacked too? I thought both sides had restricted zones?" Gao Neng voiced his confusion.

"It doesn't happen often, but it's not unheard of. I heard things have been pretty intense recently. If that weren't the case, Grandpa Shen wouldn't have made a special trip to guard the Eastern District Fortress."

"So, there's a good chance we'll run into an alien army making a night raid as soon as we leave the fortress?"

"Yeah, but the chances are low. If we really ran into an alien army attacking the fortress, our only option would be to run back..." Fang Tangtang trailed off before adding, "Besides, there's an outer patrol line outside the fortress, defended by the Military Department. If a large alien force were really coming to attack, we would've had a warning by now."

"Got it." Gao Neng nodded.

Tonight should be a peaceful night.

The two of them slipped out of the fortress gates under the cover of darkness.

The path ahead was a wide-open expanse. The Human Alliance must have deliberately cleared the area in front of the fortress to prevent the alien races from hiding.

Sand, gravel...

Mixed in were tattered pieces of clothing and bloodstains.

'Looks like the alien races really have led an army to attack the fortress recently,' Gao Neng thought. 'Otherwise, the stench of blood wouldn't be this thick. I just wonder what the casualties were like on both sides.'

The open terrain didn't stretch on for too long.

Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang moved very quickly. Twenty minutes later, they saw the soldiers of the outer patrol, all dressed in black military uniforms.

Then came the routine inspections.

By the time they passed through the outer patrol area, they had been checked five times in total.

Time: 4:15 AM.

Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang had finally, officially, reached the lands beyond the Human Alliance's defenses.

This was no longer flat ground.

Instead, it was overgrown with weeds.

The weeds were half as tall as a person and dark red in color.

Gao Neng glanced around. The farther in they went, the thicker the weeds became. The ground was also pitted and uneven, and he could even spot a few white bone fragments here and there.

"So this is the battlefield?" Gao Neng ducked down, hiding himself in the weeds.

"Yep. The battlefield spans over a hundred kilometers. It's where humans and the alien races fight to hone their skills. I came here once when I reached the second tier and even killed a member of the Beast Race with my own hands. Impressive, right?" Fang Tangtang was clearly pleased with herself as she finished.

"The Beast Race?"

"Yeah. The Dark Night Elf Clan is to the southeast, and the Beast Race is due east. Actually, the greatest defensive pressure on the Eastern District comes from the Beast Race. But they're all pretty dumb and look very different from us, so you rarely see them where humans live. C'mon, let's go. This spot is close to the Eastern District Fortress's outer patrol. Alien races rarely sneak this far in. The real danger won't start for another ten kilometers."

"Are you sure?"

"Of course. If a fifth or sixth-tier enemy were discovered here, they'd be the unlucky ones, not us. All we'd have to do is send a signal and a Military Department patrol team would be here in a flash. As for the lower-tier ones, they wouldn't dare come this close," Fang Tangtang said with a confident expression.

"You should've said so sooner..." Gao Neng immediately stood up from the weeds, tilted his head back, and gazed into the distance, projecting an air of extraordinary courage.

He didn't completely trust her, though.

He spread out his Spiritual Power.

He maintained it within a ten-meter radius around him—a drain he could afford.

If there was any movement within ten meters,

he would be able to detect it instantly.

And then, it would be time to sprint for his life.

Both of them wore black Battle Garments, and they sprinted at high speed across the unlit battlefield.

Ten minutes later.

Gao Neng discovered a problem: his phone had no signal.

Twenty minutes later.

Gao Neng discovered another problem: the weeds were now tall enough to go over their heads, and they were mixed with thorns.

Forty-five minutes later...

Gao Neng stopped.

Time: 5:00 AM.

The surrounding terrain was no longer just weeds. There were now huge boulders and dense trees, and most importantly, two small mountains had appeared.

Between the two small mountains was a path, ten meters wide.

"Are you sure the main force will definitely pass this way?" Gao Neng looked at the mountain path before him, then at the two mountains, which weren't very tall.

"Positive. These two mountains are called 'Two Hills Mountain.' To get to the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory, you have to pass through this mountain road. The only alternative is to take a detour, but that would add another four or five hours. The Military Department won't take a detour."

"Between two mountains? Aren't you afraid of an ambush?"

"You've been reading too many war manuals... These mountains are less than thirty meters high. And you see that path in the middle? It's ten meters wide. What's there to ambush? Let me tell you, these mountains have another name. Do you know what it is?"

"What is it?"

"Wild Battle Mountain! It's for having *wild battles*!"

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'What the hell!'

'So, we came out here for a 'wild battle,' is that it?'

"But you're not wrong. It is a bit dangerous for the two of us to take the mountain path. So we'll go over the mountains instead. There's a high chance there are small groups of aliens on this Wild Battle Mountain. And from what I know, there are dangerous beasts up there too. Spread out your Spiritual Power. My life is in your hands now," Fang Tangtang quickly decided.

"Okay." Gao Neng felt a mix of nervousness and excitement.

He was nervous because he didn't know what was on the mountain or what dangers awaited, but he was excited because after walking for nearly an hour, they might finally run into some alien races.

Together, the two of them began to climb the mountain in the darkness.

Chapter 202 - 181: Boundary Mountain (3)

Fang Tangtang talked a big game, but once they were on the mountain, she stuck close to Gao Neng, practically glued to his side.

"Find anything?"

"No." Gao Neng shook his head.

"Oh, then let's keep going. Found anything now?"

"Nope."

"Looks like our luck is good. Let's walk a few more steps... That rock is huge. Could there be an ambush? Use your Spiritual Power to take a look..."

"Nothing." Gao Neng shook his head again.

"GULP." Fang Tangtang swallowed hard, then grabbed her canteen and took a sip of water. "Just replenishing my energy. This is all wilderness survival 101. Stick with me, Death God Fang Tangtang, and you'll learn a thing or two."

"You're just nervous, aren't you?" Gao Neng commented casually.

"Ahem... What do you mean, nervous? Me, Death God Fang Tangtang, nervous? You've got to be kidding me... Back when I was Tier Two, I charged in and out of battlefields like it was nothing! What non-human would dare stand in my way? I'd just blast them to... Mmph!" Before Fang Tangtang could finish, Gao Neng clapped a hand over her mouth.

Then, Fang Tangtang's gaze was drawn ahead.

Ten meters away, under a large tree.

A dark figure was slowly rising to its feet, its two ghostly green eyes staring at them in the darkness like a pair of phantom flames.

The two of them exchanged a rapid glance.

Horrified, Fang Tangtang nodded repeatedly.

Gao Neng's face had also turned a little pale.

"Run!"

In an instant, the two of them bolted, running for their lives. Without a shred of hesitation, they scrambled back the way they came, fleeing frantically.

Fang Tangtang dropped her canteen, but she still couldn't outrun Gao Neng.

They ran for less than two minutes...

...and a gap gradually opened up between them.

"Gao Neng, stop! Stop!" Fang Tangtang yelled, panting heavily in desperation.

"Huh? We're not running anymore?" Gao Neng glanced back and saw Fang Tangtang more than ten meters behind him, momentarily confused.

"Did you even get a clear look at what that thing was before you took off running?" Fang Tangtang demanded, hurrying to catch up to Gao Neng, her face slightly flushed.

"I saw it clearly. It was a wolf!" Gao Neng nodded.

"A single wolf? Then why did we run? We should've just killed it!" Fang Tangtang thumped her chest and yelled, "You let a single wolf scare you into running?"

"You were the one nodding like crazy, telling me to run, weren't you?" Gao Neng wasn't about to take the blame for this.

"So if I tell you to run, you just run? And on top of that, you actually ran faster than me... Wait a minute, how could you possibly be faster than me?" Fang Tangtang was furious, but as she reached the end of her sentence, her expression suddenly changed. She gave Gao Neng a very peculiar look.

"I had a breakthrough. I'm at Tier Two Late Stage now, so my speed has improved a bit. But as for being faster than you... are you sure you were going all out just now?" Gao Neng had his answer ready.

"Well, no... I haven't even had to use my ultimate escape technique! Still, your normal speed is faster than mine? That doesn't add up," Fang Tangtang continued to mutter.

"It's probably the mountain path. I grew up in the Forgotten Land, so I'm faster on mountain trails. On flat ground, I'd be much slower," Gao Neng continued to explain.

"Oh, so that's why. In that case... Mmph!" Fang Tangtang's mouth was covered again.

But this time, Gao Neng didn't just cover her mouth; he unceremoniously tackled her to the ground, pinning her completely beneath his body.

Fang Tangtang was clearly too stunned to react.

She tried to struggle.

But she found Gao Neng only pressed down harder. He used his legs to force hers apart, all while frantically signaling to her with his eyes.

'No... Gao Neng, you can't do this! You really want to do it out here in the wild?!'
Fang Tangtang was terrified, but she soon realized something was off.

Because after subduing her, Gao Neng made no further moves.

And, most importantly...

...there was a sound gradually approaching from the distance.

Since Fang Tangtang had been tackled onto her back, she couldn't see what was in the distance.

But Gao Neng could see it all perfectly clearly.

He had to admit, he was completely stunned.

In the distance, a squad of about fifty figures was approaching them. He wasn't mistaken—it was really a squad of fifty.

But they weren't ordinary people. They were Giants!

The shortest among them was over three meters tall, and the tallest was at least seven meters!

Furthermore, their massive bodies were covered in thick battle armor, which was adorned with strange symbols that resembled ancient totems.

'Are those... the legendary Hill Giants?!' Gao Neng could hardly believe his eyes. The scene was simply too shocking.

He had no doubt that these Giants could tear tigers and leopards apart with their bare hands.

This was a squad in which the weakest member was at least Tier Five. The seven-meter-tall Giant could even be Tier Six, or possibly Tier Seven.

Of course, that wasn't the most important part...

The most important part was that the Hill Giant Race was not on the maps for the Eastern District.

Over the past ten days, Gao Neng hadn't just been blindly increasing his strength; he had also taken the time to study up on the various non-human races.

The Hill Giant Race was a branch of the Barbarian Race.

They were natural-born strongmen.

Beings who could truly move mountains and fill seas.

But the crucial problem was that the Hill Giant Race was active in the South District, while he and Fang Tangtang were currently in a battlefield in the Eastern District.

'How did the Hill Giant Race end up in the Eastern District?'

Just as he was thinking this, he felt Fang Tangtang struggle fiercely beneath him. She wasn't trying to get up, but rather to flip over.

"Huh? Are those... No way! They're actually Strong Warriors from the Hill Giant Race!" After flipping onto her stomach, with her rear end now pointing to the sky, she could naturally see the distant spectacle.

"Shh!" Gao Neng immediately motioned for Fang Tangtang to be quiet. For some reason, however, he couldn't help but feel that there was something very awkward about their current position.

Chapter 203 - 182: The Battlefield Is Really No Fun

'Just what is it that feels so wrong?'

As he was thinking, Gao Neng felt Fang Tangtang squirm beneath him. Like a caterpillar, she stuck her butt in the air and slowly crawled forward.

Her squirming nearly exposed him.

"Don't move!" Gao Neng yelled in fright, pinning Fang Tangtang down. If they were discovered, they probably wouldn't even have a chance to run.

'Fifty Hill Giants!'

The weakest among them was at least Tier 5. If they charged, it would be worse than fifty tanks rolling over them. He and Fang Tangtang would definitely be flattened into meat patties.

"Just a little further. I want to see what they're up to." Fang Tangtang sounded a little dissatisfied. She kept struggling, squirming forward relentlessly.

'This close-contact squirming...'

Gao Neng found it a little hard to handle for a moment.

Against his will, he was actually pushed two or three meters forward by Fang Tangtang's squirming.

CRACK!

Just then, a faint sound came from beneath them.

A rock had been crushed.

Gao Neng's expression changed instantly. The moment the sound rang out, fifty pairs of eyes in the distance turned to look their way.

"..."

'Crap, we're about to be discovered!'

Gao Neng couldn't worry about being rough anymore. He grabbed Fang Tangtang's head and pushed it down, giving her no chance to struggle.

"Ah Lu! There's movement over there!" one of the Hill Giants said.

"Just beasts on Two Hills Mountain. Ignore them. We're here to propose a marriage. It's getting late, let's keep moving." The seven-meter-tall giant shook his head and signaled for them to press on.

"Yes!"

The fifty Hill Giants paid Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang no mind and continued forward.

However, because the Hill Giants' path was heading straight for Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang, the distance between them was still shrinking.

One hundred meters!

Eighty meters!

Fang Tangtang lifted her head again.

This time, however, Gao Neng didn't give her a chance to speak. He clamped his hand firmly over her mouth. No matter how much she tried to signal with her eyes—*I get it, I'll behave*—it was useless.

Fifty meters!

Thirty meters!

Finally, the seven-meter giant at the lead began to turn, stepping onto the mountain path between Two Hills Mountain.

Gao Neng let out a quiet sigh of relief.

He wasn't sure if what they'd said was true, but he felt that if he had turned and run just now, the chance of death would have been at least 90%.

They might ignore beasts, but they definitely wouldn't ignore two humans.

Just like that, the fifty Hill Giants walked onto the mountain path.

They continued until they disappeared from sight.

Only then did Gao Neng release Fang Tangtang.

"Did you hear what they just said?" Fang Tangtang didn't seem to mind Gao Neng's rough handling. Instead, she brought up what the Hill Giants had said with a hint of excitement.

"I heard. They said they were going to propose a marriage." Gao Neng wiped the sweat from his face and lay back on the ground. 'War is so dangerous.'

'Just randomly running into a squad of fifty Hill Giants?'

'I got lucky this time...'

'What about next time?'

"You heard them mention a marriage proposal too? But the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory is up ahead. Are you saying they're going to the Dark Night Elf Clan to propose marriage?" Fang Tangtang continued to ask.

'That sounds like something out of a fantasy novel... and a bit off, doesn't it?' Gao Neng also had his doubts.

"Yeah, very off! The Dark Night Elf Clan is a vassal of the Celestial Race. They should be intermarrying with the Celestial Race, so why would they go and arrange a marriage with the Hill Giant Race?"

"So, they're just passing through?"

"Passing through? I doubt it... How about we follow them and see?" Fang Tangtang's face was slightly flushed, her expression eager.

"We'll get killed. What if we run into another group just 'passing through'?"

"No way! Marriage proposals are made by one race at a time. Who's ever heard of the Hundred Races coming to propose all at once? Have you ever seen something like that?" Fang Tangtang found that highly unlikely.

"But what if?"

"There is no 'what if'! I, Death God Fang Tangtang, have been on the battlefield. A fifty-man squad of Hill Giants is equivalent to an army of a thousand. You don't just run into them that easily. This is just the periphery of the battlefield. That Hill Giant squad was definitely a coincidence. You have to trust my experience. Follow me, and you can't go wrong!" Fang Tangtang patted her chest, guaranteeing it.

"I still think this is a bad idea..." Gao Neng wasn't convinced.

'A coincidence?'

'There's no such thing as so many coincidences.'

'The truth is, you have to play it safe and not get cocky.'

"You don't trust me?" Fang Tangtang pouted.

"I'd have to be crazy to trust you."

"Please, Gao Neng? This could be an opportunity. We might get some important intel. As members of the Human Alliance, we can't just think about ourselves. We have to consider the safety of the main army. If something is really happening with the Dark Night Elf Clan, we can warn the main army behind us in advance." Fang Tangtang started to wear him down with pleading.

"..." Gao Neng hesitated.

"How about this? If we really get some intel and earn merit points, we'll split it sixty-forty. You get sixty, I get forty. No objections now, right?" Fang Tangtang played her trump card.

"Fine. But we keep our distance and absolutely do not get close. Once we reach the first defensive line, we stop following. Also... if there's danger, we run immediately!"

"I'll listen to you on everything! Look, you were so rough with me just now, but did I, Fang Tangtang, say anything? I, Fang Tangtang, am very magnanimous!" Fang Tangtang was overjoyed when Gao Neng agreed.

"We'll stick to the mountains!"

"Okay!"

Having made their decision, the two of them crept back up the mountain.

However, neither of them knew that just after they left, another group of dark figures appeared in the distance. This group was even larger than the last, a full two hundred strong.

...

On Wild Battle Mountain.

Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang crept forward side by side.

The Hill Giant squad wasn't moving too quickly. And because they were so massive, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang could still see them even from a great distance.

However, after following for less than five minutes, they once again arrived in front of the same tree as before.

Beneath the large tree, two ghostly green eyes lit up again.

"It's that wolf again. Let's kill it!" Fang Tangtang prepared to strike.

"Wait until the Hill Giant squad gets a bit further away. Otherwise, we might attract attention." Gao Neng shook his head. Even though they were following from far away, killing a wolf would still make some noise.

"Alright, I'll listen to you." Fang Tangtang nodded obediently.

「Two minutes later.」

The Hill Giant squad had moved so far away they were just a few black dots.

Gao Neng felt it was about time to make his move.

He reached for the hilt of his saber, preparing to sneak up on the wolf.

But just then, Gao Xiaomeng, who was hiding in his backpack, suddenly let out a soft meow. In the silent night, it carried a hint of provocation.

The wolf under the tree shot to its feet with a SWOOSH.

Then, it lunged toward Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang.

"Wow, your cat knows how to taunt?" Fang Tangtang was as surprised as if she'd discovered a new continent. But then she realized something was off. "Huh? Speaking of taunting... why didn't she meow earlier?"

"Because she's smarter than you!" Gao Neng retorted casually, his hand tightening on his saber's hilt.

Ten meters away.

The wolf was fast.

But Gao Neng's Horse-Cutting Saber was faster.

The instant his hand gripped the hilt of his Horse-Cutting Saber, his entire body became like a fully drawn bow. From his hand to his waist, down to his legs, he built up maximum momentum.

Sword Drawing Technique!

CLANG!

The blade flashed out.

A crescent of cold light glinted.

The lunging wolf was split in two, from head to tail.

Fresh blood splattered on the ground.

It gave off a coppery stench.

"Whoa, Gao Neng, that slash was so cool!" Fang Tangtang stared at the wolf, which couldn't be any more dead, momentarily stunned.

She remembered that Gao Neng's slashes hadn't been this cool before.

But this time, she felt that from the moment he drew the blade to the moment he slayed the wolf, the entire motion was incredibly natural. It was flawlessly cool.

"Just a standard move, no need to be surprised." Gao Neng waved his hand dismissively. He had only just reached the introductory level of the Sword Drawing Technique. When he mastered it, that's when it would be truly cool.

"Did Bald Shark teach you that? It's a new combat technique, right? Is it Iaido? It looks like it... but not quite. You drew your sword too fast!"

"Are you going to keep following them or not?"

"Of course we are!"

"Then what are you..." Gao Neng was about to get up when he suddenly felt that something was wrong again. Out of the corner of his eye, he thought he saw a group of dark figures.

"Let's hurry and—Mmph!" The instant Fang Tangtang stood up, Gao Neng clapped a hand over her mouth again and forcefully pressed her down beneath him.

This made Fang Tangtang very unhappy.

'This again?'

'If you want to take advantage of me, just say so...'

'If you say it out loud, I might even let you, you know?'

'Always using force!'

'What's this all about?'

As unhappy as Fang Tangtang felt, her gaze still drifted unconsciously behind her. The moment she looked, her eyes went wide.

On the mountain path below.

There was now a troop of two hundred.

This troop wasn't as massive or conspicuous as the Hill Giants, but their presence was in no way inferior. In fact, it seemed even more imposing.

As the troop drew closer.

Fang Tangtang and Gao Neng finally got a clear look at them.

The faces of the people in this troop were covered in white fish scales, and their shoulders were draped in thick white fur. They were tall and looked like polar bears.

Gao Neng had crammed some knowledge about the other races.

But due to limited time, he had only glanced over the races of the Eastern District and the adjacent South District. However, there was absolutely no description of a race like this in either district.

Therefore, he could be certain...

This troop was also from another warzone!

'Something big is happening in the Eastern District... No, something big is happening to the Dark Night Elf Clan!' Gao Neng already sensed that something was amiss. Two different races from other warzones had arrived in the Eastern District at the same time, and both seemed to be targeting the Dark Night Elf Clan. How could there not be a problem?

Just as he was thinking...

The troop of two hundred came to a halt.

"There's the scent of blood on the mountain. It's fresh!" one of the otherworlders at the front said.

"On the mountain? Probably just beasts fighting again," another voice called out from the troop.

"We came from the north and aren't familiar with the terrain. These mountains aren't high, but it's better to be careful. We should take a look."

"Mm. Ah Bing, take a few warriors and go up."

"Yes!" An otherworlder nodded and quickly stepped out of the formation. Immediately, five or six others followed behind him.

On the mountain.

Gao Neng was so shocked his eyes nearly popped out of his head.

Wild Battle Mountain wasn't particularly high.

But it was at least thirty meters, right?

The straight-line distance between them was at least sixty meters. From that far... they could smell blood?! And they could even tell it was fresh?

'The battlefield...'

'...is really no fun at all!'

Chapter 204 - 183: Angel's Wings, I Am the 7th Princess

'What should I do?'

An alien contingent of two hundred. There was no way he and Fang Tangtang could fight them head-on. If they were caught, death was practically guaranteed.

'Should we run?'

Whether they could even escape was another question entirely.

Seeing the enemy about to close in, Gao Neng couldn't worry about anything else and immediately shouted, "Who goes there?! How dare you trespass on the territory of the Dark Night Elf Clan?!"

"Huh?" The leading alien paused, slightly stunned.

The other aliens also came to a halt.

Evidently, they hadn't expected the people hiding on the mountain to actually be from the "Dark Night Elf Clan."

"We are the Northern Cave Race, here to propose a marriage at the invitation of the Elf Queen!" the leader soon announced.

'A marriage proposal?!'

Gao Neng glanced at Fang Tangtang beneath him. 'Another group here for a marriage proposal? But didn't this girl say only one race was coming? How did another one show up?'

The Northern Cave Race!

'They're actually from the Northern District Battlefield?!'

Hearing this, Gao Neng realized that something major must be happening with the Dark Night Elf Clan. But he didn't have time to dwell on it now.

Saving his own skin came first.

"If you're a marriage delegation, then why are you trying to steal our kill?" Gao Neng said as he stood up, grabbing half a wolf's head and conveniently using it to hide his face.

"Kill?" The leading alien glanced at the wolf head in Gao Neng's hand, a look of surprise in his eyes. But he seemed to understand quickly. "It seems this was a misunderstanding. We merely suspected an ambush on the mountain. We didn't expect to find allies from the Elf Race hunting here."

"So it was a misunderstanding? Well... you can continue on your way, then. We still have hunting to do here." Gao Neng felt a flicker of joy. 'I really am a genius.'

Just as he was thinking this, the other party spoke again.

"Still hunting? Our Ninth Prince has come in person to ask for the Princess's hand. Shouldn't the two of you be leading the way?" The Cave Race warrior, Ah Bing, said with a sneer.

"Lead the way?" Gao Neng's expression shifted.

'Shouldn't we just go our separate ways?'

'What the hell is this "lead the way" crap!'

'I really underestimated these aliens.'

These guards had traveled all the way from the North District to the Eastern District for a "marriage proposal." They couldn't possibly be green recruits. They were most likely battle-hardened warriors.

'What now?'

'They actually want me to lead the way!'

'They probably still suspect my identity and are worried about an ambush on the mountain, right?'

"What's wrong? Is there a problem?" Ah Bing of the Cave Race asked when Gao Neng remained silent. At the same time, he gestured with his eyes to several Cave Race warriors behind him.

The Cave Race warriors understood immediately.

They began to surround Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang from the left and right.

"Ngh..." At that moment, Fang Tangtang broke free from Gao Neng's grasp. "Lead the way, my ass! Don't you have your own map? The Hill Giant Race already passed through. If you're so scared of dying, just follow them!"

"The Hill Giant Race?" Ah Bing was stunned again.

"That's right! They've already gotten a head start. If you waste any more time here, you'll lose your chance to propose!" Seeing that they seemed to be falling for it, Fang Tangtang immediately shouted again.

"This... We have come from afar as guests. As our hosts, why do you not understand basic courtesy?" Ah Bing hesitated but still insisted.

"Courtesy? I am the Seventh Princess of the Dark Night Elves. What courtesy do I need to show you?!" Fang Tangtang grew even more smug.

"The Seventh Princess?!" Ah Bing's expression finally changed.

It wasn't just him. The two-hundred-strong contingent below all turned their gazes in unison, focusing completely on Fang Tangtang.

The few Cave Race members who had been closing in on Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang stopped in their tracks.

"It's the Princess!"

"Could it be? The Princess came here specifically to welcome us?"

"..."

A wave of discussion rippled through them.

Seeing this, a smile finally appeared on Fang Tangtang's face.

She tilted her head up and glanced at Gao Neng, as if to say, 'How about that? I, Death God Fang Tangtang, am amazing, right? I scared them all stiff in an instant!'

"Greetings, Princess!" Ah Bing was silent for a moment before finally speaking again. "I am Ah Bing, a guard under the command of the Cave Race's Ninth Prince. If I have caused any offense, I apologize to the Seventh Princess of the Dark Night Elf Clan!"

"No need for formalities!" Fang Tangtang waved her hand.

"..." Gao Neng.

'Can you really play it like that?'

'No way, right?'

"It's just that there is one thing I do not understand, Princess. Why are you here, instead of staying in Dark Night Elf City?" Ah Bing asked, his respectful attitude unchanged.

"This princess goes where she pleases. Is that any of your business? Since you're here to propose marriage, you should hurry up and do it. It wouldn't be good if the Hill Giant Race beat you to it," Fang Tangtang said with a haughty expression.

"..." Ah Bing's expression shifted again. "Princess, is it possible you don't know who we are here to propose to?"

It wasn't just him; the expressions of all the Cave Race members turned exceedingly strange.

"Of course this princess knows! Now hurry along, and don't worry about me. If you don't get lost now, don't blame this princess for being rude!" Fang Tangtang waved her hand grandly, gesturing for them to scam.

"She's an impostor!"

"Impersonating the Seventh Princess? Die!"

"Kill them!"

In an instant, the peaceful atmosphere shattered.

Whether it was Ah Bing or the warriors who had stopped, they all jolted as if shocked the moment they heard Fang Tangtang's last sentence.

They snapped to their senses in an instant.

"MEOW!!!" Gao Xiaomeng let out a cry.

"Holy crap, Fang Tangtang, you've really blown it!" Gao Neng was so frustrated he wanted to grab Fang Tangtang and throw her. 'Why the hell did you have to impersonate a princess?'

He'd pretended to be a "commoner," and wasn't that going just fine?

All they'd asked was for them to lead the way. But no, Fang Tangtang had to go and impersonate a princess. And as a result, she'd barely said two sentences before her cover was blown.

"Huh? My cover was blown?! Impossible! I did my research beforehand. The Dark Night Elf Clan really does have a Seventh Princess, and she's about my age. I even heard she's the number one beauty of the Dark Night Elf Clan! How could my cover have been blown?" Fang Tangtang seemed genuinely confused.

But that didn't stop her from running.

In fact, the moment they said they were going to kill her, she was already gone.

And she'd made a very decisive escape.

"She's fast!" Gao Neng didn't hesitate either and broke into a run. "Fang Tangtang, are you an idiot? Think about the Seventh Princess of the Dark Night Elf Clan's

status! Why would she possibly be here? You, the Seventh Princess, not staying put in Dark Night Elf City, but running out to a battlefield to kill wolves for fun? Who would ever believe that?"

He was truly fuming.

'Even an idiot would know that!'

"Even if you had to impersonate someone, you should have pretended to be a commoner or a general or something!"

'Wait.'

'Speaking of generals...'

'I think I actually know one!'

"How dare you trick us! Stop! You will die today for sure!" Ah Bing shouted as he led the Cave Race warriors in pursuit.

Gao Neng unleashed his Spiritual Power.

He could clearly feel Ah Bing chasing him. His speed was incredible—at least that of a fifth-tier powerhouse.

If he hadn't learned the life-saving technique > beforehand, he would have been a dead man today.

So, he felt he had to do something.

"It's not that we tricked you, it's that you Cave Race are just too stupid! Didn't you know this whole marriage proposal event is actually a sham?"

"A sham?! What are you talking about! Explain yourself!" Ah Bing's face changed drastically.

This sudden public call for marriage proposals from the Seventh Princess of the Dark Night Elf Clan had been a rather unbelievable event for the other races to begin with.

However, the beauty of the Seventh Princess of the Elves was renowned among the alien races.

As the number one beauty of the Dark Night Elf Clan and the Elf Queen's most beloved princess, how could the other alien races not take a chance, even if they felt something was off?

Most importantly, marrying the Seventh Princess of the Elves meant forming a marriage alliance with the Dark Night Elf Clan, which could even lead to pulling the Dark Night Elf Clan under the control of the Celestial Race in the future.

The temptation was simply too great!

Even though all the alien races had their doubts, they still sent marriage delegations one after another.

"Huh? They actually believe me?" Gao Neng was a little surprised. He had just blurted out some nonsense because he figured the alien races weren't united, but he hadn't expected such a strong reaction.

'Could it be that this marriage proposal really is a sham?'

'If that's the case...'

'...then I'd better add a few more lines.'

At this thought, Gao Neng immediately shouted again, "Hahaha, of course it's a sham! You've all been tricked by us, the Celestial Race! But it's too late for you, even if you know now. Lady Mu Feifei has already laid a trap. You're all doomed! Every single one of you will die!"

"The Celestial Race?! Mu Feifei? You're from the Celestial Race?" Ah Bing was clearly, truly shocked. He of course knew who Mu Feifei was.

And most importantly, he had once heard that it was Mu Feifei who had proposed this public call for marriage proposals for the Seventh Princess of the Elves in the first place.

"Duh! Our noble Celestial Race is nothing like you Northern Cave Race! Do you know what our Celestial Race's greatest ability is?" Gao Neng yelled, seeing his opponent falling deeper into the trap.

"What is it?"

"Hahaha, we're fast runners!" After saying this, Gao Neng paid them no more mind. He lifted his feet, and two faint, phantom-like 'ghost feet' appeared.

The Second Realm of >.

The Ghost Foot Realm!

It didn't last long, but a few minutes was more than enough on the mountain.

Gao Neng pushed himself to his top speed. His two ghost feet seemed to generate wind as they moved, making him look like he was gliding just above the ground.

In just a few blinks of an eye, he caught up to Fang Tangtang.

Fang Tangtang's eyes nearly popped out of her head. 'Gao Neng is faster than me again?'

'But I had a head start!'

Gritting her teeth, she played her trump card.

She quickly swallowed a medicinal pill.

Then, a pair of faint, shimmering wings of light sprouted from her back...

"SWISH!" Fang Tangtang's speed exploded.

"One is gliding above the ground?! The other has wings? They really are from the Celestial Race!" Watching this scene, Ah Bing gritted his teeth. Their speed was truly astonishing.

Chapter 205 - 184: Black Technology

'She actually grew wings. Now there's no way people won't mistake her for one of the Celestial Race, is there?' Gao Neng was also startled by the wings of light that had sprouted from Fang Tangtang's back. He tried to leave her far behind but was surprised to find that her speed wasn't the slightest bit slower than his.

The wings of light unfurled.

Fang Tangtang's speed surged. It was as if she truly had a pair of wings; she wasn't just as fast as lightning, she had actually taken flight.

'Son of a bitch!'

'This kind of black-box tech actually exists?'

Gao Neng sighed internally. 'As expected, being rich really does mean you can do whatever you want.'

'Good thing I'm not slow, either. If we'd run into another race that was faster, it really would have been a toss-up who would've died.'

In reality, Fang Tangtang was just as shocked. She was relying on high-end, black-box tech developed by the Celestial King Group, but Gao Neng was relying on his own power.

'How is he so fast? Is that a godspeed technique? Who taught him that?! I don't remember Bald Shark having a godspeed technique this incredible!' Fang Tangtang thought, her emotions in turmoil as she watched the unshakeable Gao Neng below her.

After all, the price of a single Angel's Wings wasn't low...

Even for her.

She would never have used this move unless it was a last resort.

The two of them sprinted madly, one after the other.

Behind them, Ah Bing of the Cave Race gave chase with all his might, but soon, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang vanished from sight. He truly couldn't keep up; those two "Celestial Race" members were just too fast.

The Cave Race's strong suit wasn't speed.

'How am I supposed to catch them?'

Besides, the most important thing was that they still had to rush to Dark Night Elf City for the marriage proposal. If what Gao Neng had said was true, and this was all a trap, then the Ninth Prince's safety was paramount.

Ah Bing stamped his foot in frustration before finally turning and leaving.

...

Far in the distance, after shaking off Ah Bing, Gao Neng and Fang Tangtang finally came to a stop together.

The two of them exchanged a look.

"Heh," Gao Neng chuckled.

"Hahaha..." Fang Tangtang laughed as well.

Then, almost simultaneously, they both spoke again.

"Liar!"

A silence fell between them.

After about a minute of silence, Fang Tangtang couldn't take it anymore. "Gao Neng," she asked, "how long can you maintain that godspeed technique of yours?"

"One minute, tops," Gao Neng replied without hesitation. He then reached out to touch the wings of light on Fang Tangtang's back, which seemed to be a physical manifestation of energy. "And what about these wings? How long do they last?"

"Same as you. Just one minute." Fang Tangtang tilted her head back, and the wings of light on her back vanished without a trace.

"Heh..." The two of them chuckled again.

Gao Neng thought it over. 'This can't go on,' he decided. 'If we're going to be a team, we need to be honest with each other sometimes.'

"Alright, I'll level with you. My godspeed technique is called 'Ghost's Dread,' and I learned it from Gu Yi. I was just using the Second Realm, the Ghost Foot Realm. This realm is a bit too much for my body to handle. I can only keep it up for two minutes, tops. Any longer than that, and I'm done for."

He wasn't afraid of Fang Tangtang investigating or asking around.

After all, the name "Ghost's Dread" was real, and both the Ghost Step Realm and Ghost Foot Realm were the actual established realms. The real discrepancies were with the Fourth and Fifth Realms that came after.

"Really?" Fang Tangtang still sounded skeptical.

"Of course it's true. Teammates should be honest with each other, right? I've laid my cards on the table, so you should, too," Gao Neng said with a sincere look on his face.

"Fine, I'll be honest too. This is called Angel's Wings. The principle is similar to a Seed Burst Pill, it just condenses energy into wings of light. The energy drain is huge, so I can only maintain it for about two minutes, tops. Really... same as you!" Fang Tangtang immediately patted her chest as she made her promise.

"Then how many more of those pills do you have?" Gao Neng immediately pressed.

"Only one left." As she spoke, Fang Tangtang pulled a silvery-white pill from her clothes. "This is the last one. Just like the Seed Burst Pill, this medicine requires the Spring of Life, so it's not something you can buy with just money. You have to believe me. When have I, Death God Fang Tangtang, ever lied to you?"

"Oh really? And you think I'd believe you?" Gao Neng was clearly unconvinced.

"Then what are you going to do? You're not actually going to search me, are you?" Fang Tangtang subconsciously took a step back as she spoke.

"Search you?" Gao Neng's eyes scanned Fang Tangtang's body, a smile playing on his lips. 'She's flat-chested, but her waist is pretty slim.'

"Gao Neng, we're out here in the middle of nowhere! If... if you really dare search me, I swear I'll tell Sister Ning'Er! I'll... I'll..."

"Tell her what?"

"That you took advantage of me, of course! You... you can search me if you really want, but if you don't find anything, my reputation will be ruined because of you! I'll have no choice but to cling to you for the rest of my life, and you won't be able to get rid of me even if you try! If Sister Ning'Er asks, I'll just say you screwed me on Wild Battle Mountain. From now on, I'll be the first wife and she'll be the second. Let's see how she likes that!" Fang Tangtang said through clenched teeth.

'Trying to latch onto me? Hmph, I'm not giving you the chance!' Gao Neng finally gave up the idea of searching her. It wasn't because he was scared of her threat, but because it felt like a scummy thing to do.

To be honest, even though Fang Tangtang was a bit of a troublemaker...

...she had actually given him quite a bit. Ten million Alliance Coins, plus two Seed Burst Pills and two Life-saving Pills. All told, it was worth tens of millions.

Most importantly, they had already agreed on the terms: they would enter the battlefield together to find treasure, so they would each have to bear their own risks.

Fang Tangtang had her own ways of saving her skin, and so did Gao Neng.

He just couldn't bring himself to actually search her and take all her pills. A man has to have some principles, after all.

"So you're not going to search me?" Fang Tangtang saw that Gao Neng wasn't looking at her anymore, but she still felt a little uneasy.

"I'm not!"

"Hehe, then let's keep going!" Fang Tangtang let out a sigh of relief, her eyes scanning the surroundings as she prepared to press onward.

"Keep going? Don't you think something's wrong?" Gao Neng had no intention of listening to Fang Tangtang this time. He felt that this situation was a huge problem.

One marriage proposal delegation might have been a coincidence.

But running into two in a row was definitely not.

'Something is definitely wrong with the Dark Night Elf Clan.'

"I know there's a problem! That's exactly why we have to keep going. Otherwise, what's going to happen to the main army behind us?" Fang Tangtang said, as if it were the most obvious thing in the world.

"No, I think we should wait. We can tell the main army what happened after they get here." Gao Neng felt this was the safer option.

"Wait here?"

"Where else would we wait?"

"It's too dangerous here! What if another marriage proposal delegation shows up? We escaped once, but we might not be so lucky a second time!"

"..." Gao Neng frowned.

Fang Tangtang might be a little unreliable, but she had a point. This was a path one had to take to get to the Dark Night Elf Clan.

And from what had just happened, he was starting to understand something.

The other races must all have special abilities of their own.

For example, the Northern Cave Race likely had an extremely keen sense of smell. Otherwise, it was improbable they would have detected the scent of blood from dozens of meters away.

Hiding here...

...was too dangerous!

If they were discovered again, it was uncertain whether they'd be able to escape.

'Should we go back, then?'

As he thought this, Gao Neng's gaze swept the surroundings. Soon, he spotted a huge boulder not far off, situated right at the mountain's peak.

"Let's go to the peak and check things out."

"Okay." Fang Tangtang didn't object.

The two of them made their way to the summit in the darkness and climbed onto the boulder.

"Huh? Gao Neng, look! Over there, it looks like another group from a different race!" The moment she climbed onto the boulder, Fang Tangtang spotted another party on the move in the distance.

"Another group?" Gao Neng immediately looked over. He was surprised to see that it wasn't just one group. Off to the right, there was another.

Two groups!

If you added the Hill Giant Race and the Cave Race they'd encountered earlier, that made a total of four groups.

Four groups, four different races...

All heading to the Dark Night Elf Clan to propose marriage at the same time?

'Is this really a coincidence?'

"Gao Neng, we have to run! They look like they're coming this way! Look at that group... they're heading up the mountain!" Fang Tangtang's expression grew tense.

"We can't go back?" Gao Neng's frown deepened.

The road back to the Eastern District Fortress was crawling with these marriage proposal delegations. Turning back now would be like a lamb walking into a tiger's den.

'But if we don't go back... where else can we go?'

"It's too late! Let's rush to the first line of defense. That's the only place we might run into the Military Department's main army," Fang Tangtang whispered.

"If something's really wrong with the Dark Night Elf Clan, we have to find a way to get this intel to the Military Department. Otherwise, once the main offensive begins, it could be a disaster," Gao Neng said, hesitating.

"But there's no signal on the battlefield! Our phones can't reach the Military Department. How are we supposed to report anything?"

"We have to find a way back."

"That's impossible! Leaving aside the fact we might run into more of those groups, do you even know the army's marching route? The battlefield is wide open, and the first defensive line is huge. We have no idea which route the Military Department is taking or which breach point they're planning to attack."

"And we'll know once we get behind the first defensive line?"

"Of course. As soon as the Military Department starts its assault, we'll hear it. Then we'll know where the main army is. It's the fastest way."

"Didn't you just say this route was one the main army had to take?"

"I said it was the *most direct* path, not the *only* path, right? What if the Military Department decides to take a detour? Spending a few extra hours isn't out of the question."

"The Military Department would take a detour?"

Chapter 206 - 185: Stealth, Super Plan

"Uh, I'm just saying, what if?"

"No, it's not a 'what if.' They definitely won't pass through here!" Gao Neng suddenly realized.

"Huh? How can you be so sure?" Fang Tangtang looked bewildered.

"I'll explain later. That alien team heading up the mountain is about to creep up on us. Let's find a place to hide first!" Gao Neng didn't explain right away, instead pulling Fang Tangtang up and starting to run.

Since Fang Tangtang had said she'd been on a battlefield before, Gao Neng had been instinctively following her lead and directions the whole way.

But thinking it over now, he realized that Fang Tangtang had nearly led him astray.

The Military Department's operation this time is a secret one, not a true declaration of war. Plus, it's not a protracted battle—it's only supposed to last for three days.

So, in essence, it's still a sneak attack.

'A sneak attack...'

'Why would they possibly take the main road?!'

If he was guessing correctly, the Military Department had probably dispatched an elite unit this time, a mix of third and fourth-rank students from the four major military academies. Their numbers wouldn't be huge, but their marching speed would certainly be extremely fast.

A lightly-equipped elite force taking the enemy by surprise, forcibly tearing open a weak point in one of the two defensive lines, and then rapidly retreating after three days—that was the proper way to conduct a sneak attack.

'Take the main road on Wild Battle Mountain and fight a frontal battle?'

'Absolutely not!'

The Military Department's target definitely wouldn't be on the front lines. It would be one of the weak points in the first defensive line—and if all went as planned, it would also serve as a retreat route.

As Gao Neng considered this, a rough plan began to form in his mind.

However, the priority right now was to find a place to hide.

Fang Tangtang wanted to ask more, but the alien team behind them was drawing ever closer. She had no choice but to clamp her mouth shut and follow Gao Neng.

The two of them and the cat began to search the mountainside. Before long, they found a small cave, just big enough for three or four people to hide in.

But that was enough.

Gao Neng had Fang Tangtang go in first. Then, he blocked the entrance with a large rock, leaving a small crack to observe the situation outside.

Because it was a bit dark, he couldn't get a clear look at the alien team passing by.

But the team soon passed by, moving without a sound. It was clear they had no intention of searching the area either.

Once the alien team was a safe distance away, Gao Neng pushed the rock aside.

"Gao Neng, hurry up and tell me, what did you mean earlier?" Fang Tangtang immediately asked.

"Do you think they'd launch a frontal assault in a sneak attack? Or take the main road?" Gao Neng retorted casually.

"A sneak attack? Huh? You said sneak... Oh, I get it!" Fang Tangtang froze for a moment before the realization dawned on her.

Gao Neng didn't dwell on the issue. He opened his map and began to carefully examine the terrain of the first defensive line, analyzing the Military Department's possible points of attack.

'As for Fang Tangtang's intelligence...'

'Everyone has their strengths. Gao Neng didn't think Fang Tangtang was unintelligent; her forte just wasn't in "practical application." She was much better at judging character and public speaking.'

'From the moment they entered the military academy, Fang Tangtang had singled out Gao Neng. She constantly tried to sweet-talk him into joining her Death God Team, and later tried to do the same with Kong Kun and Feng Qingqing.'

'If Gao Neng hadn't forcefully established the Invincible Team, the Death God Team would probably have been formed long ago.'

'Beyond that, Fang Tangtang was also incredibly sharp when it came to investing. The moment Gao Neng mentioned he was looking for an investor, she immediately took him to see Fang Yuan.'

'It might sound like a normal thing to do, but it was actually a move full of decisiveness and wisdom.'

'First of all, Fang Tangtang has significant financial autonomy. She didn't even blink when paying a ten million deposit, so how could she not have money to invest? But at the time, she never mentioned investing herself. Instead, she claimed she had no desire to start a business, yet she specifically took Gao Neng to Fang Yuan.'

'To put it bluntly...'

'Fang Tangtang had the makings of a "post-success" businesswoman, but she lacked the mindset of an entrepreneur. She had never experienced hardship, so she didn't understand the difficulties of a startup's early days and naturally lacked a strong sense of crisis.'

'She was an excellent "investor," but not an excellent "practitioner." So if you actually asked her to draw up a battle plan, it was only natural that she wouldn't be able to think it through comprehensively.'

'But Gao Neng was different.'

'He was born into the lower rungs of society. From birth, he was surrounded by danger. No one paved the way for him; a single misstep could mean death.'

'Different upbringings naturally lead to different experiences.'

'Asking him to make money from money, rake in interest, find business opportunities, or make investments? That would definitely be a no-go.'

'But staying alive and making plans—those were his strong suits!'

Gao Neng only studied the map for two or three minutes before successfully identifying several potential "points." After two rounds of elimination, two remained.

The first was near a forest, a good spot for a sneak attack. Moreover, it offered a convenient retreat route directly into the woods.

The second was easy to defend and difficult to attack, as it occupied the high ground. If a sneak attack there succeeded, even a small force could defend it for three days to keep the retreat path open without any issues.

"Fang Tangtang, which of these two do you think is more likely?" Gao Neng was hesitant and looked to Fang Tangtang for her opinion.

"The second one!" Fang Tangtang answered after a moment of thought.

"Oh? And your reason?"

"I once heard Uncle Bai say that if you encounter a forest on the battlefield, it's best to stay out if you can. Otherwise, you might die without even knowing how it happened. So, I'm guessing the Military Department won't attack from the forest."

"Mm, I also think the second one is more likely. The high ground is difficult to assault, but the Military Department is deploying elites this time. With the element of surprise, taking it shouldn't be a major problem. As long as they capture that high ground, they'll be able to advance or retreat as needed." Gao Neng nodded slightly in agreement.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's get going!"

"Which way?"

"From here, of course... Look... there's a path right here on the map. If we cut through, we can get there in time, right?" Fang Tangtang pointed at the map.

"What if we run into another one of those proposal parties? Besides, the closer we get to the first defensive line, the more aliens there will be. We've probably only avoided them so far because of the time of day. If we head in that direction... it'll take even longer. After six o'clock, we're very likely to run into them!"

"Then how do you suggest we go?"

"While I was hiding in the cave, I was thinking, why don't we travel underground?"

"Underground?! You want to dig a tunnel from here... all the way to the high ground at the first defensive line? Are you insane? How long would that take?!"

"Did you forget? I have a super Earth Dragon."

"An Earth Dragon! That's right... you have an Earth Dragon. But, wouldn't that still be slower than running? After all, no matter how fast an Earth Dragon can burrow, it can't be faster than sprinting on the surface."

"The problem is, you *can't* sprint on the surface. Go on, give it a try..."

"But wouldn't that be way too slow?"

"I've calculated the time. If we travel on the surface, we can get there in about two hours. Traveling underground, however, will take about seven or eight hours."

"That long?"

"It's a bit longer, but the timing is perfect. Did you forget? Even if we arrived early, we'd still have to wait there for at least five hours. Getting exposed on the way would be even more dangerous. We might as well spend that waiting time on the journey instead."

"Fine, I'll listen to you this time!" Fang Tangtang gritted her teeth and finally nodded.

"Hold on tight." Gao Neng immediately crushed the high-dimensional capsule.

The black super Earth Dragon instantly appeared before them.

"Huh?" Fang Tangtang was taken aback.

Gao Neng didn't stand on ceremony. He swept Fang Tangtang into his arms as the Earth Dragon leaped up, its hind feet immediately gripping his back and backpack.

"MEOW!" Gao Xiaomeng let out a cry.

"Fang Tangtang, put on your helmet. Don't you have anti-magnetic battle armor? Put that on too. If you don't want your clothes shredded while we're burrowing, you'd better change into it quickly."

"Oh? Okay!"

"BOOM!"

Once the two of them had put on their helmets and anti-magnetic armor, the Earth Dragon plunged into the ground with a BOOM.

A seven-to-eight-hour underground journey.

'They certainly weren't going to crawl it!'

'If they actually had to crawl, they probably wouldn't get there by morning.'

The Earth Dragon grabbed onto Gao Neng with the claws on its abdomen and then began to burrow. He'd performed this maneuver before, back when he was taking on the D-Rank Challenge.

The only difference was that now he had Fang Tangtang with him.

"..." Fang Tangtang was held tightly in Gao Neng's arms. She finally understood what he meant by "traveling underground." 'The Earth Dragon is actually carrying us while it burrows?'

'So I don't even have to run... right?'

'Not bad at all!'

'It might be a little slow, but the main thing is that it's effortless.'

The two of them were carried by the Earth Dragon as it burrowed, its movements completely controlled by Gao Neng's Spiritual Power. The toll was considerable, so Gao Neng had to periodically consume an Energy Pill.

They continued burrowing like this for over an hour...

Suddenly, Gao Neng noticed a problem.

When he controlled the burrowing Earth Dragon from the surface, he could precisely manage its direction and position. However, now that he was underground himself, controlling its direction seemed to have become a bit of a crapshoot.

This was a problem he hadn't anticipated.

'But we shouldn't have strayed off course, right?'

'My sense of direction has always been incredible. There's no way I'm lost.'
Despite his thoughts, Gao Neng still controlled the Earth Dragon to surface.

He glanced at the surrounding terrain. A faint light was beginning to touch the sky. All around were rocks and weeds, and he could hear a rustling sound not far away.

"Huh? Why did we surface? Gao Neng... you're not lost, are you?" Fang Tangtang, who had been sleeping soundly, groggily sensed something was amiss and opened her eyes.

"Lost? How is that possible? Me, get lost? What a joke!" Gao Neng gritted his teeth and had the Earth Dragon dive back underground to continue its journey.

'Getting lost is impossible!'

'I'll never get lost, not in this lifetime!'

'Besides, to look at it another way, the sky is already starting to brighten. The surface definitely isn't safe. Traveling underground at least guarantees our safety.'

'Onward!'

Chapter 207 - 186: The Human Alliance Is Attacking

...

The wind of the battlefield blew on and on... It was like a young woman in a thin silk veil, dancing gracefully—mysterious, yet infinitely intoxicating.

The sun was just beginning to rise.

A light mist filled the battlefield.

A contingent of about fifteen hundred men was advancing at high speed. Beasts along the way scattered and fled, but some bloodstains were still left behind.

Time passed quickly.

By the time the sun had fully risen, the contingent had arrived at the foot of a highland. On the high ground, a raised flag could be faintly seen.

It was a black flag, embroidered with a silver leaf.

The Dark Night Elf Clan's first line of defense, unlike the Eastern District Fortress, naturally wasn't a high wall. It consisted mostly of military outposts established according to the terrain.

And on this highland, there were a total of two thousand Dark Night Elf defenders.

Fifteen hundred against two thousand.

Plus, the two thousand defenders held the high ground.

Under normal circumstances, fifteen hundred men would have absolutely no chance of victory.

But if among those fifteen hundred, nine hundred were elite troops of the fourth tier or higher, with another two hundred at the fifth and sixth tiers and fifty at even higher tiers, then this battle would hold little suspense.

"The Human Alliance is attacking! They've launched a surprise attack on Longgu Heights!"

"Quick... Quickly, report to Her Majesty the Queen!"

"Longgu Heights has fallen!"

The surprise attack didn't last very long...

Less than an hour.

The highlands fell.

The black flag was torn to shreds, and the vibrant red flag of the Alliance fluttered in the sky above the highlands.

This was the speed of the Military Department.

The students of the four major military academies stood on Longgu Heights, their gazes directed downward. At their feet, corpses were laid out in rows.

"Isn't this a bit too cruel?"

"Cruel?! When we of the Human Alliance were being hunted down by the other races, were they not cruel? Don't you know they once slaughtered billions of humans?!"

"A population of nearly seven billion was slaughtered until only five hundred million remained. When have they ever shown mercy?"

"..."

Sighs, then silence.

For this military academy reform, students from all four major academies were present to observe the battle. With about eighty spots per academy, there were over three hundred students from the four academies combined.

Among them, even the weakest was at the third tier or above.

But after this surprise attack, they discovered that their strength, compared to the true elites of the Military Department, was truly far, far too weak.

The students from the four major military academies had attacked the eastern face of the highlands together.

As it turned out, while the other three faces had been completely taken, they had only managed to fight their way to the mountainside...

How humiliating!

They were all "celebrities" on their academies' combat rankings. In terms of sheer strength, they even had fourth-tier students among them, yet their combat effectiveness was several times weaker.

"I don't get it. How can they fight so fast?"

"Because their coordination is better than ours."

"It's not just coordination, is it? When they charge... they're truly fearless. That ferocity... we really can't compare... The gap is just too wide."

"Let's not get discouraged. One day, we'll mature. These people from the Military Department were all forged on the battlefield. Their talent might not be better than ours, but their practical combat experience is far greater. Once we've had more practice, we won't necessarily be any worse than them!"

As the students talked, they began to clean up the battlefield.

But just then, one of the other races, who had been lying on the ground drenched in blood, suddenly lunged up. The sharp blade in its hand plunged unhesitatingly into the chest of the student who had just spoken.

"More practice? HA HA HA... You'd need the chance for that!" A cold glint flashed in the creature's eyes. Without waiting for the student to speak, it self-detonated.

BOOM!

Several students who had rushed to help were injured in the blast.

A few more pools of blood appeared on the ground.

The student who had last spoken moved his mouth, wanting to say something, but no words came out. He could only close his eyes in bitter resignation.

"The battlefield is a cruel place, even when you're just cleaning it up." An elite from the Military Department walked over and casually thrust the Alloy Gun in his hand into the throat of another creature on the ground.

The creature struggled twice before dying, filled with hatred.

"Teacher, Wang Yu is dead! He was killed by a Dark Night Elf that wasn't completely dead!" a female student sobbed, her face a mask of tears. That was her boyfriend.

'Dead, just like that?'

'And not even in battle, but while cleaning the battlefield.'

"Yes... I saw." A teacher's eyes grew moist. A genius from the military academy, gone just like that. He wasn't so cold-blooded and heartless.

He had personally mentored this student.

Not even twenty years old, and his strength was about to break through to the fourth tier.

In the future, he might have had a chance to reach the fifth or even sixth tier and become a true elite on the battlefield. To die just like this... it truly pained his heart.

"Be careful when you clean the battlefield! If you don't want to die, you'll stab every single one of these creatures at your feet! Stain your sleeves red with their blood!" a voice rang out.

"Yes, sir!"

Even more blood flowed on the highlands.

But at least no more academy students were stabbed to death.

This was war.

The war between humans and the other races had begun a century ago. It had spanned generations, yet there had never been a single, true "peace negotiation."

Because this was a war of survival between races.

...

Gao Neng had never imagined he would one day get lost. Ever since he was a child, his sense of direction had been excellent. No matter where he went, he could always find the most suitable landmark.

But after tunneling underground for a full eight or nine hours, he really couldn't find any landmarks. After all, he was surrounded by nothing but dirt.

Moreover, and most importantly, he had discovered another problem.

It seemed he had a hard time hearing whether any large-scale battles or skirmishes were breaking out above, so it seemed his hearing was also slightly affected.

'Sight, hearing... basically useless.'

'Smell?'

'All I can smell is the faint fragrance from Fang Tangtang...'

'As for taste, that's even more ridiculous.'

'Does anyone use their sense of taste to navigate?'

He had considered keeping his Spiritual Power constantly extended, but controlling the Earth Dragon already consumed Spiritual Power. If he also used it to probe the situation on the surface, he probably wouldn't last even half an hour.

"We've been tunneling for eight or nine hours now. I wonder if we've reached the first line of defense?" Gao Neng had actually stopped to check several times during this period.

But the surroundings were nothing but weeds and rocks.

Everything looked basically the same, so he could only continue to travel covertly, on and on...

But he had been tunneling for eight or nine hours now. Under normal circumstances, they should have arrived long ago. Thinking of this, he decided to stop and take another look.

After stopping, he didn't immediately break through the surface.

Instead, he chose to first recover some stamina. He popped a few Energy Pills, doing his best to restore his condition to a decent level.

He waited for about ten minutes.

He broke through the surface.

This time, the scenery above had finally changed.

It was no longer weeds and rocks.

It was a forest.

It was a real forest, with no weeds, only dense greenery and the occasional faint, fresh scent drifting over. It looked completely different from the withered grass and rocks of the battlefield.

"Huh? We're out again? Did we make it this time?" Fang Tangtang opened her eyes again. Her gaze also swept around the area, and she soon let out a surprised cry, "Where is this? Why isn't this Longgu Heights?"

"Ahem, I guess we're not there yet! Let's see if there's a forest before Longgu Heights..." Gao Neng said as he pulled out a map.

He looked it up.

And sure enough, there was a forest.

It didn't look very large on the map.

It was located just past the midway point between his previous location, Wild Battle Mountain, and Longgu Heights.

"We should be here, which means we still have a bit less than half the journey to Longgu Heights. It seems... my calculations had a minor error. Our tunneling speed is slower than I thought, so it'll take a bit longer to get there." Gao Neng quickly came up with an answer; they should be getting close.

'As for the direction...'

'It's correct!'

'This is the right direction!'

"Okay, so we're in this forest now, right? We're a bit behind schedule. By the time we get there, the Military Department will have probably already taken Longgu Heights. Doesn't that mean we'll miss the chance to join the first wave attacking the second line of defense?" Fang Tangtang nodded, sounding a little regretful.

"What's the rush to fight? Once we find the main force, the first thing we'll do is report the intel we gathered on the way. Who knows... maybe the Military Department will even decide to retreat." Although Gao Neng felt the chance of the Military Department retreating was slim, it wasn't entirely impossible.

"The Military Department wouldn't retreat, would they? This is the first battle of their reform. If they mobilize such a large force and come away with nothing, there will probably be dissenting voices within the Alliance." Fang Tangtang seemed to know a thing or two about this.

"Whether they retreat or not is the Military Department's decision. We just need to deliver the information. And taking a step back, we're only a little late. Once we get to Longgu Heights, find the main force, and hurry a bit, we might still have a chance to catch up as the Military Department breaks through the second line of defense."

"Okay, then let's speed up!" Fang Tangtang was full of energy.

"Alright. But let's eat something first. We'll get back on the road after we've eaten." Gao Neng nodded.

"Compressed biscuits again? I was hoping we could get some hot pot from Bald Shark once we reach Longgu Heights!" Fang Tangtang sounded a little dissatisfied.

"Hot pot? In your dreams!" Gao Neng ignored her and started eating a biscuit.

Having confirmed that the direction was correct and only the tunneling speed was a bit slow, he finally breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed he hadn't gotten lost after all.

'As expected, I'm a genius.'

'I can't get lost even when I can't see a thing.'

'Time to pick up the pace.'

'Let's keep moving.'

Judging by their previous speed, it would take at least another two hours to reach Longgu Heights.

'But that's not a big problem...'

'As long as the direction is right, there won't be any issues.'

After eating a few biscuits, Gao Neng began to control the Earth Dragon to continue tunneling underground. But because the tree roots in the forest ran too deep, he had the Earth Dragon dive a little deeper.

'Two hours to Longgu Heights!'

Chapter 208 - 187: Super 2nd Attribute (Perfect-Grade)

...

Spring rain brings dewdrops.

But in the depths of autumn, there were none.

Autumn was, however, the season for chrysanthemums to bloom, and they blossomed everywhere. The sight was especially magnificent within the Dark Night Elf City.

The Elf Queen's most beloved Seventh Princess was publicly seeking a suitor today, so the Elf City was bustling with extraordinary excitement. The entire city was decorated with golden, young chrysanthemums.

This place had once been an ancient city.

Built by humans, it was occupied by the Dark Night Elf Clan long ago. They had since remodeled the ancient city, transforming it into the bustling Elf City of today.

A colossal Ancient Elf Tree stood in the very center of the Elf City, soaring into the clouds. Whether in deep autumn or the dead of winter, its leaves remained perpetually emerald green.

Beneath the Ancient Elf Tree lay a pool of water, where countless elves were kneeling in prayer.

It was a magnificent sight.

And yet, at this very moment, an urgent dispatch rushed through the city gates, heading straight for the Royal Hall of the Elf City.

The Dark Night Elf Clan was a matriarchal society.

The meaning of a matriarchal society is...

No explanation needed.

At this moment, inside the Royal Hall, the current Elf Queen, Una, was seated upon a jade-green throne. She wore black royal attire, and on her head rested a crown woven from thorn flowers.

She was stately and elegant.

Her smooth skin made her appear no older than twenty-seven or twenty-eight, her beauty comparable to the bright moon in the sky.

But her eyes were incredibly deep, like a pair of frigid pools connected to another world, betraying no emotional fluctuation.

Until the urgent dispatch was placed in her hands.

"An attack on Longgu Heights? All elite troops of the fourth tier and above? Over fifty high-tiers... What a grand move from the humans!" As Una's gaze slowly

swept over the words on the dispatch, a flicker of emotion finally appeared in her eyes.

Hearing Una's words, a wave of discussion broke out in the Royal Hall.

"Over fifty high-tiers?!"

"To think the humans, who have always cowered in their shells, would actually send fifty high-tiers to attack our Dark Night Elf Clan? It seems they're determined to win at all costs!"

"I'm afraid it'll be a one-way trip for them, though."

"A one-way trip isn't a certainty. With a terrifying force of fifty high-tiers, the delegations that came to propose marriage might not necessarily intervene," a figure shrouded in a black robe spoke up.

The discussion immediately fell silent.

The members of the Elf Royal Race all looked at each other.

'Yes, the Human Alliance's determination to attack the Dark Night Elf Clan is even greater than we imagined. They've sent fifty high-tiers and over a thousand elites in one go.'

'Such a sharp blade...'

'Who would needlessly touch its edge?'

'Unless there was one of the Strongest among them.'

'But which of the suitors' delegations would have one of the Strongest?'

'As long as the Human Alliance doesn't go so far as to try and breach the Elf City, there's an eighty percent chance that these delegations will simply watch from the sidelines.'

'After all, the destructive power of fifty high-tiers is just too great.'

"It was the Celestial Race that proposed the Seventh Princess's marriage recruitment. Since the Celestial Race sent a Venerable Envoy, you must have a countermeasure, correct?" a member of the Royal Race said, walking up to the black-robed figure.

"We do have countermeasures, naturally," the black-robed figure nodded.

"Then please speak, Venerable Envoy."

"There are two plans: a superior strategy and an inferior one. I wonder which one the Third Prince and the Queen would like to hear?" The black-robed figure slowly stood up, bowing first to Una on her throne and then to the Third Prince of the Royal Race who had just spoken.

"The superior strategy, of course!"

"The superior strategy is simple. Since these suitors' delegations came for the Seventh Princess, just have the Seventh Princess take three or five attendants and go to the front lines to fight the enemy."

"What?! You want my royal sister to fight the enemy? And with only three or five attendants? Venerable Envoy, are you trying to send my royal sister to her death on the front lines?" the Third Prince exclaimed, angered.

"Exactly! What kind of 'superior strategy' is that? It's basically sending the Seventh Princess to her doom!"

"Absolutely not!"

Voices of opposition quickly arose.

"Please rest assured, Third Prince," the black-robed figure explained unhurriedly, seemingly having anticipated the objections. "The Seventh Princess going to battle would merely be for show. All that needs to happen is for the Seventh Princess to 'accidentally' hear news during the marriage recruitment that our defenses have been breached. Then, 'filled with righteous passion,' she must swear to defend the territory of the Elf Race to the death. Finally, she 'fearlessly' leads her three or five attendants out of the city to face the enemy. If she does all this, the suitors' delegations from the other races will inevitably follow!"

"That is still too dangerous! My seventh royal sister, while gifted and intelligent, is still in the spring of her youth. Her strength has only just broken through to the mid-tier. How can she possibly fight? Please, Venerable Envoy, tell us the inferior strategy!" the Third Prince refused flatly.

"Very well. The inferior strategy is for the Dark Night Elf Clan to lead its most elite troops into battle. As long as you can wear down half of this elite force from the Human Alliance, the suitors' delegations will see an opportunity and swarm forward. At that point, the crisis facing the Elf City will be resolved!" the black-robed figure said.

"What kind of inferior strategy is that? You're just telling our Elf Race to have a bloodbath with the humans!"

"Exactly! The Dark Night Elf Clan only has sixty or seventy high-tiers in total, and they're all scattered across various cities. The Elf City alone has no more than thirty. We can't possibly leave the Elf City undefended, can we? If we did that, what if these suitors' delegations take advantage of the chaos to attack us?"

"Is the Celestial Race just going to stand by and do nothing?!"

The voices of opposition rose once more.

"Heh heh, if you are unwilling to adopt either the superior or the inferior strategy, then I have no other plans to offer." The black-robed figure chuckled, then silently retreated to his previous position.

"This..." The members of the Royal Race fell silent.

"Venerable Envoy, is there no compromise strategy? One that can both ensure the Seventh Princess's safety and also get the suitors' delegations to help us fight the enemy?" the Third Prince asked again.

Chapter 209 - 187: 2 Overpowered Attributes (Perfect-Grade)

"My lord devised this marriage proposal plan to help the Elf Race out of their predicament. Your Dark Night Elf Clan has always been an ally of our Celestial Race. Why would we want to see you suffer losses? As for the Seventh Princess, the Third Prince and the Queen should both be well aware that she is destined to marry into the Celestial Race. Would we really stand by and watch her die?" the black-robed man said leisurely.

"But facing the enemy with only three or five attendants is simply too dangerous. If they run into humans, it's a certain death sentence. How about this... let my seventh royal sister take a thousand-strong troop, with a few high-rankers to protect her. That would be foolproof!" the Third Prince said through clenched teeth after some thought.

"Hahaha... Are you joking, Prince?" the black-robed man suddenly burst out laughing.

"What does the honored envoy mean by that?" The Third Prince's brow furrowed slightly.

"If the Seventh Princess brings a thousand-strong troop with high-rankers protecting her, do you think those suitors' parties will actually go?" the black-robed man said coldly.

"They came for my seventh royal sister. Why wouldn't they go?" The Third Prince couldn't quite understand.

"Do you really think those suitors' parties are all fools? When my lord devised this plan, those other races already knew the Human Alliance was going to attack the Dark Night Elf Clan. Do you think they wouldn't guess our intentions? You want to have the Seventh Princess lead a thousand-strong troop with a few high-rankers by her side. Besides complimenting you with 'The Dark Night Elf Clan has put on a fine show,' they probably won't do a thing!"

"A show?"

"Of course it's a show. They were suspicious of this public marriage proposal's purpose from the start. Although the various races have come, they're all on guard. You're not sending other battle-hardened Great Elves to meet the enemy, but are instead specifically sending the Seventh Princess with a troop. If this isn't a show, what is? Even a fool could see through it, right?"

"..." The Third Prince fell silent.

The other members of the Royal Race also fell silent.

After a moment, the Third Prince spoke again. "Then if my seventh royal sister goes with just a few attendants, won't the suitors' parties still think it's a show?"

"It will still be a show, naturally, but it's one they'll have to participate in. The Seventh Princess will be in a perilous situation with no guards, only a few attendants. Even knowing it's an act, there will surely be a few princes captivated by the Seventh Princess's beauty. As long as a few princes are willing to follow her, the other races will be forced to join in! Once they engage the Human Alliance's army, they won't be able to back down even if they want to."

"But that's too risky... The honored envoy should know that outside Elf City, there are vast forests that aren't exclusively our Dark Night Elf territory. With only a few attendants, I'm afraid my seventh royal sister won't even make it to the defensive line. Even sending just two high-ranking guards would be better! Or even one would be fine!" The Third Prince clenched his jaw tightly.

"High-rankers are out of the question. However, secretly swapping the few attendants for a few mid-rank elites is possible!" the black-robed man considered for a moment before finally replying.

"..."

Silence fell once more in the Royal Hall.

The Seventh Princess was Her Majesty the Queen's most beloved princess.

Who would dare agree to let the Seventh Princess take such a risk?

Even the Third Prince didn't dare to speak up at this moment. After all, the Dark Night Elf Clan was a matriarchal society. Within the Elf Race, his status was far inferior to the Seventh Princess's.

To put it bluntly...

The Seventh Princess could potentially inherit the throne in the future.

"All of you, withdraw. I need to consider this." Elf Queen Una looked down at them, breaking the silence, her expression incomparably cold.

"Yes!" The members of the Royal Race withdrew one after another.

The black-robed man also withdrew, his attitude respectful.

...

「Two hours later.」

The battle for the second defensive line finally began.

After a brief rest and clearing the battlefield, the Human Alliance army left over four hundred elites to guard Longgu Heights.

The remaining force of over a thousand soldiers then plunged into the second defensive line with lightning speed, tearing open a breach with absolutely overwhelming combat power.

They took down a Dark Night Elf Clan 'Celestial Eagle Camp'!

With this, the Military Department's "Operation Dagger" was halfway to success.

A dagger, thrust into the heartland of the Elf Race.

Hold for three days.

Then, a swift retreat.

This was the entirety of Operation Dagger.

Of course, there was another part of the mission: dispatching ten four-person squads to infiltrate various parts of the Elf Territory and secretly investigate the "Seed of Resurrection."

The Dark Night Elf Clan's territory wasn't exceptionally vast.

However, it still contained one Royal City, two major cities, and several small Elf Camps. Factoring in the forest area, it wasn't small by any means.

The Human Alliance's reconnaissance plan this time primarily targeted the Royal City and the two major cities within Dark Night Elf City. After all, the physical differences between humans and elves weren't that great.

Just put on a pair of pointy elf ears.

And they would basically look the same.

As for certain cultural and energy-related differences... the Military Department had its methods.

Moreover, according to the Military Department's plan, with the Human Alliance's dagger plunged into the heartland of the Dark Night Elf City, the Royal City and the two major cities would naturally be forced to react.

With the cities in chaos and the elves in a panic, even if they couldn't uncover the truth of the Seed of Resurrection in three days, they could still gather some information.

Besides that, this was also considered the first battle after the Military Department implemented its reforms.

Using overwhelming force to strike a blow against the Dark Night Elf Clan would shut some people up back home.

And the fifty high-rankers... were a testament to the Military Department's determination.

As long as they didn't encounter one of the Strongest, a force like this could be placed in any other race's territory and hold out for thirty days, let alone three, provided they didn't run out of supplies.

To be on the safe side, the Military Department even had one of the Strongest holding the line in secret.

One could say their preparations were thorough.

...

「Dark Night Elf Territory, Second Defensive Line, Celestial Eagle Camp.」

The now-experienced military academy students began to clean up the battlefield again. The blades in their hands were sharper than before, for they were stained with more blood.

However, they soon noticed that there were clearly fewer military academy students cleaning the battlefield than there had been at Longgu Heights.

'Did that many military academy students die?'

They were puzzled. Then, they started looking for their own classmates and found that most of them were present. They didn't bring it up again. After all, your

classmates not dying while other people's classmates did wasn't exactly a happy topic of conversation.

"Our army is so strong!"

"When we attacked Longgu Heights, we killed nearly a thousand of the two-thousand-strong Elf Army and another thousand fled. This time, we've killed at least two thousand!"

"Fifteen hundred of us killed three thousand enemies with less than a hundred casualties. We really are strong!"

"That's because our fifty high-rankers took action. The elf garrison defending the second line was obviously stronger than the first. It wouldn't have been so easy without the high-rankers."

"That's true. So, are we responsible for defense next?"

"I heard the Dark Night Elf Clan has a lot of good stuff. Should we wait until dark and sneak off to other places to have a look?"

"We'd better not. Our instructor said we're forbidden from going out. If we're discovered, we'll lose Merit Points..."

"Let's search this Elf Camp first. The instructor said a small mining site was found. That's a pretty good find. We can go check it out."

"Then what are we waiting for? As soon as the battlefield is cleared, let's go. I wonder if there are any magnetic piles in that mining site. It'd be awesome if there were."

"When are we ever that lucky?"

"..."

...

Gao Neng had almost forgotten how long he'd been sneaking underground, but as he moved along, a sudden thrill shot through his entire body.

"Fang Tangtang, would you believe me if I said I found a pile of ore?"

"Huh? What did you say?" Fang Tangtang groggily opened her eyes.

Gao Neng couldn't explain.

But the attributes on the second page of his system were just that domineering.

Second Attribute Page:

Ore Mining Skill (Proficiency: 100%): Your shovel and pickaxe will perfectly avoid any parts that could damage the ore. Anything you dig up will be a complete ore.

Ore Identification Skill (Level: Perfect): No ore can escape your eyes. With just a glance, you will know where to find ore.

Energy Material Collection Skill (Proficiency: 100%): Your fingers are perfectly nimble. Any energy materials you collect will not lose even a speck of energy.

Energy Material Identification Skill (Level: Perfect): As long as there is energy, you can detect it. No energy materials can escape your eyes.

...

'So, even without a line of sight, as long as I "glance" ahead, I can see a sparkling pile of ore up there, right?' Gao Neng was a little speechless.

Chapter 210 - 188: 7th Princess, Beauty and the Beast

Not even an X-ray is this powerful!

He could tell where there were ore deposits with a single glance. It was like a miniature satellite positioning system, and a perfectly accurate one at that.

So, what should he do at a time like this?

Go digging for ore?

No, Gao Neng wasn't that kind of person. He had waited so long for this very opportunity. Now that he had finally discovered an ore deposit, how could he just start digging right away?

That was the work of bandits, of robbers.

Besides, it required absolutely no skill.

So, he decided to create a quest first, and *then* go digging...

'A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!' Gao Neng didn't hesitate at all. He had been thinking about this for a long time and was certain this quest would be completely safe.

A quest with a built-in "target."

"Gao Neng, what did you just say? You found an ore deposit?!" Fang Tangtang seemed to snap out of her daze, her eyes widening as she stared at Gao Neng.

"That's right, a deposit. We're going to dig now!"

"Okay!" Fang Tangtang didn't ask how Gao Neng had found it. She had always been one to focus on results; the process could be ignored.

"Haha..." Gao Neng was in a great mood. He immediately tapped the button to issue a system quest.

Soon, he had typed out the quest name.

"Find an ore deposit in the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory or on the battlefield! (System will automatically provide one hint.)"

He had settled on this quest name after careful consideration.

The reason was that Gao Neng wasn't actually sure if he was on the battlefield or within the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory. Just in case, he broadened the area.

Plus, he had specifically requested a hint.

'There shouldn't be any more problems, right?'

As for why he was creating this quest, there was a good reason for that too.

Gao Neng was experienced now. He knew very well that the Idiot System's quest rewards were linked to the quest's difficulty. The harder the quest, the better the reward.

So, was finding an ore deposit on the battlefield or in the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory difficult?

Of course it was!

If he had made this quest before setting out, or before discovering the ore deposit, it would have been an incredibly difficult task. Therefore, the quest was inherently difficult.

Gao Neng was just exploiting the timing.

He had named the quest "Find an ore deposit," so how could the Idiot System's objective change? No matter what, it couldn't go beyond the scope of finding ore. 'This is the system's bug!'

Next up was setting the reward.

Gao Neng had also considered the reward recently. Getting a Divine Artifact would be nice, but his current strength was too low. Even if he were given a Divine

Artifact, he wouldn't be able to unleash much of its power. Besides, he already had the Horse-Cutting Saber and life-saving inner armor. For now, his equipment was passable.

As for money...

He **was** short on cash.

But not to the point of making money the reward for a quest. That was too tacky, unbecoming of his handsome face and refined disposition. Plus, he already had shares in the No. 4 Electromagnetic Cannon. Would he be short of money in the future?

So, this time, he wanted a skill.

"Reward: One spin on the Lucky Wheel!" Gao Neng didn't ask for any high-level treasure chests. He knew the skills from the Lucky Wheel were the real game-breaking skills.

'This is foolproof!'

'Time to issue the quest!'

"DING. Does the host wish to issue the quest: 'Find an ore deposit in the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory or on the battlefield! (System will automatically provide one hint.)'?"

"Yes," Gao Neng confirmed.

"DING. Quest issued successfully."

"Quest Name: Find an ore deposit in the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory or on the battlefield! (System will automatically provide one hint.)"

"Quest Description: The rise of any powerhouse requires an abundance of resources, and the accumulation of resources often begins with owning an ore deposit. As long as you have a mine to your name, no problem is too big to solve."

"Completion Condition: Find the largest ore deposit in the Dark Night Elf Clan's territory and successfully excavate one hundred ore stones."

"Quest Reward: One spin on the Lucky Wheel."

"Quest Penalty: Forfeit one skill. PS: The system will randomly deduct one of the host's existing skills."

"..." Gao Neng was speechless.

'What the hell? Isn't this a bit too simple and crude?'

'Where's the system bug I was promised?'

'You think you're so clever just because you added the word "largest"?''

'Fine...'

'Idiot System, you really are something else!'

'Just kill me now!'

'How the hell am I supposed to know where the largest deposit is?'

Gao Neng was so happy he wanted to sing. But he couldn't decide whether to sing a dirge of despair or a cheerful spring ballad, so he didn't sing at all.

"Hint: The size of an ore deposit is related to the intensity of its glow. When you see a beam of light, you will have found the largest deposit."

Just as he was thinking this, the hint arrived.

This was the first time Gao Neng had ever received such a reliable hint. 'So, a small deposit means a faint light, and a large deposit means a bright light, right?'

'This hint is actually pretty good.'

And most importantly, there really was a beam of light right in front of him.

Like love, it was incredibly blinding.

'So, this light in front of me is the ore deposit the system wants me to find, right?'

'It really is a system bug after all! I can't believe I can complete the quest this easily! And I even get a spin on the Lucky Wheel. The heavens are smiling upon me...' Gao Neng felt like he was on a roller coaster. He had thought the quest was doomed, but it turned out to be a joyous surprise.

'As long as I find the deposit, digging up a hundred ore stones is no big deal, right?'

'Idiot System!'

'I've seen right through you!'

'From now on, you will be under my command. Starting today, I will begin my ascent to the peak. From this day forward, I'll be able to create any quest I want, with no worries at all.'