

Chapter 151 - Turn of Events

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The best laid plans often go awry. Neither of them had ever experienced going up against the high-level magics of astrology.

Ever since they entered the blood-red Final Lands, Xiao Lin had been avoiding overthinking. What if they were not able to escape? What if the high priest captured them? What if they died there?

All these questions caused them to lose hope. Lilith and himself were SS-rank talents, and their talents had been able to push themselves to the limits. However, they were facing high priest Asabanor, a monster that had lived for more than nine hundred years. In front of this opponent, they were but fledglings.

Xiao Lin was not battle hungry like Lilith, so he had to work hard to calm himself down and analyze the situation in front of them, calculating the battle capabilities of him and Lilith.

It only caused him to fall into despair; he could not find any chance of victory. More and more skeletal soldiers were heading toward them. He even began to suspect that the high priest had sent every skeletal soldier at his disposal, which could total to at least 30,000 to 50,000 skeletons. It was impossible for just the two of them to overcome the hurdle.

The only consolation he had was that the high priest would not kill them immediately since he needed their power to return to Planet Norma and put his revenge into motion. However, the best case scenario for that was still him eliminating them after using them—it was only a delayed death.

What could he do?

What choices did he have!

Xiao Lin noticed that the woman next to him was filled with excitement at the upcoming battle, which proved there was no way for him to properly interact with Lilith, and adding to his frustrations.

“Are you still trying to rebel? It’s useless! Your only choice is surrender!” The high priest donned a victorious smile as he waved his hands, signaling the skeletal army to advance.

“If that’s the case, then just die!” Asabanor’s offer of surrender was just for show, as he quickly issued his command.

Xiao Lin was agitated as he shouted, “If you kill us, won’t that stop you from going back?”

Asabanor had a cold look on his wrinkled and indistinct face. “Idiot! You underestimate the laws that God created. In the Final Land, death is just the beginning. I only need to destroy your physical body and seal your souls, then I’ll have plenty of time to slowly do my research!”

“You despicable fiend!” Xiao Lin was furious. His original intentions of stalling for time were dashed.

“What’s the point of talking to him!” Lilith sent a sideways glance at Xiao Lin. Her hands firmly gripped her battle scythe as she said impatiently, “Are you fighting or not?”

Lilith understood the danger they were in at the moment as well, so she needed Xiao Lin’s strength, but she did not mind fighting by herself either.

Xiao Lin gritted his teeth as he held up his sword in the right hand, and the hammer in his left. “F*ck! Let’s fight! The worst that could happen is we die!”

The Lightstream Jade on his chest shone brightly as a wave of intense draconic power surged out. He did not care about conserving the draconic power anymore and let out as much as he could. The silhouette of a dragon grew ever larger in the skies.

The light from the jade started to dim, and Xiao Lin understood that the draconic power within had been completely exhausted. Whether they survived or died, that moment could very well be his very last fight. The power in the sky quickly turned into a dense mist as it shrouded Xiao Lin, quickly strengthening him.

Xiao Lin felt like he was filled with inexhaustible energy. It was the first time he had such immense draconic power at his disposal. He would definitely not have wasted so much before then, so even he was not clear what sort of level he was at right now, but he felt like it was at least at Silver-rank, or close to Gold even.

‘Being able to feel how powerful someone so close to Gold-rank... Is this a small stroke of luck before I die?’ Xiao Lin could not help but think to himself.

Lilith did not hold back either. The flames on her scythe were at the absolute maximum as the blade started to glow in a dark-red hue. Xiao Lin could not help but be surprised. He had never seen flames like that during his battles before, so it seemed that Lilith had been holding back.

“Let’s go!”

Lilith commanded in a low voice, raising her scythe and prepared to charge. Xiao Lin got into a stance as well. The high priest only stared coldly the entire time, as if waiting for them to struggle to their deaths.

It felt like time froze for a moment, and in the next second, Xiao Lin felt the ground begin to shake. The tremors grew more and more intense, turning into an earthquake in seconds. Even the skeletal army could not stay standing.

What was that old man doing?

That was Xiao Lin's first reaction, but when he raised his head, he saw Asabanor look shocked and angry, his mouth constantly moving, as if chanting something. It was obvious that this was not in the high priest's plans.

No one knew what was happening. Lilith and Xiao Lin shared a look as the ground beneath their feet began to rumble.

Suddenly, the square, filled with green bricks, began to collapse to the ground. In a flash, the ground Xiao Lin and Lilith were standing on turned into a lone island in the center, and in front of them was a large stretch of darkness with no bottom in sight. Countless skeletal soldiers had fallen into the hole, disappearing as they fell.

The high priest's expression turned sinister. A crazed look twisted his face as he rushed at Xiao Lin and Lilith, his distorted body starting to stretch in mid-air.

"You won't escape! No matter the price, I will not give up on this chance!"

Asabanor shouted wildly as he raised his arms that looked like dried firewood. His silhouette looked blurry and without substance, but at that moment, his form was slowly solidifying, but at the same time, the wrinkles on his face deepened, as if he was rapidly aging. The skin on his face started to fall off like tree bark.

Looking at the slowly solidifying hands rapidly approaching, Xiao Lin only had one thought in his head: to not get caught by the old man or all would be lost.

"Jump!" Xiao Lin and Lilith said at the same time as they jumped into the darkness together.

The two of them were shockingly of one mind, which was that, if they were to die there, they would rather shatter in the darkness than die in Asabanor's hands.

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 152: Another World

"No!"

Asabanor shouted in rage as he floated in the blood-red air. Even though he rushed at them at full speed, he was one step too slow. Looking at the high priest's aged face, the rapidly-falling Xiao Lin showed him the middle finger, but he suddenly realized the Norman high priest might not understand the meaning of gesture. He did not have time to regret it, as his entire person was swallowed up by the darkness.

Xiao Lin's consciousness was extremely hazy, as if he was a newborn baby that only had a vague sense of the outside world. He felt like, in one moment, he was in a cold, damp and dark place; another moment, he was in a white, bright and warm place. His surroundings were constantly changing.

After some amount of time, as if it was as long as an entire century, yet as short as a few minutes, Xiao Lin opened his eyes. He was lying down on a wide-open field, and everything around him was luscious and green. There was a mild calming fragrance as the warm sun shone in the clear blue skies.

Xiao Lin got up and rubbed his eyes, pinching his face to make sure he was still alive. It was like everything had been a dream, and he woke up to find himself in a heavenly paradise.

“Lilith, where are you?” Xiao Lin thought of the woman that fell into the darkness with him, and shouted out loud. The sound went very, far causing him to jump in fright before closing his mouth. He still did not know where he was, whether he was still in the Final Land, or he had returned to the New World. If Asabanor’s power could reach him there, Xiao Lin definitely did not want to give away his location.

Thankfully, Lilith was not far away from him, and had just woken up as well. After hearing his shout, she found him quickly. The two of them looked at each other as Xiao Lin said, “Where are we?”

“I want to know the answer to that more than you do.”

Xiao Lin half-jokingly tried to break the awkward atmosphere. “Fair enough, but it doesn’t seem like this is heaven. Right, we’re colonists. This might be hell then.”

Lilith had a look of regret. “I’d rather go to hell. There might be stronger opponents there.”

Xiao Lin was stumped. That was not a topic they could continue on. The two of them decided to check out their surroundings, but the fields were extremely vast with no end in sight.

Xiao Lin and Lilith were cautious at the start, worried that Asabanor could appear at any moment. However, the entire time, other than the two of them, they did not see any shred of life, let alone skeletal soldiers. As far as they could see, it was all limitless green and above them were clear blue skies.

After a while, the moon started to rise, and Xiao Lin could finally be sure that they were still in the Final Land because the sun and moon were in the sky at the same time. Even though it was obviously night time, their surroundings were still bright as day with nothing to indicate the fall of night. It was an impossible phenomenon on Planet Norma.

Lilith’s observational skills were sharper than Xiao Lin’s. As they rested she suddenly said, “There’s something different about the moon.”

Xiao Lin had not eaten anything for the whole day and was wondering if he should start eating grass. When he heard Lilith’s words, he was uninterested. “Of course it’s different, this isn’t Earth. The moons aren’t round here. I didn’t know you liked looking at the moon. It’s out of character for you.”

Lilith ignored his last words as she turned around, her blue eyes blinking earnestly, “Don’t you think the moon here looks the same as the one on Planet Norma?”

Xiao Lin gaped, immediately looking up. He did not pay it any heed earlier, but with Lilith's words, he recalled the two moons back in Planet Norma. The moon there looked a lot like the blood moon!

The moons of the New World were not perfectly circular and one of them was closer to ovular in shape, which looked similar to that one. Was it just a coincidence?

Xiao Lin was unsure, but the uncertainty frustrated him. Lilith was the same. Even though it was safer there without the skeletal soldiers and the high priest, the unknown was even scarier.

With that in mind, the two were exhausted and starving, but they still silently agreed to pick up their pace. The night was short there and when the moon started to disappear, many different colors suddenly appeared in their vision. To be precise, there was a gigantic garden in front of them, and in the middle of that park was an impressive ancient castle.

Food and water; those were the two things that leaped into Xiao Lin's mind, but in the excitement, he was also cautious. Unfortunately, his weapons were all lost in the darkness. He said to Lilith, "Do you still have your weapons?"

Lilith did not bother with idle chit-chat. With a flick of her wrist, her bracelet glowed as a short but refined dagger appeared in her hand. She offered it to Xiao Lin, but did not forget to say, "Remember to return it."

Xiao Lin gave the dagger a few test swipes and it felt quite comfortable in his hand. A greenish hue could be seen as he waved the blade as the energy seeped into his arm, it made his actions feel much more agile and smooth. Even though he did not know much about weapons, he knew it was not an ordinary blade.

As he touched the jade in front of his chest, he could only sigh ruefully. The draconic power within the Lightstream Jade had been exhausted. Even if he had an impressive weapon, it would not be of much use in his hands. At the most, it made him feel safer.

The garden was surrounded by silver metallic fences. Xiao Lin had intended to jump over, but the moment his hand touched the fence, an unseen force suddenly exploded out, flinging him ten meters away. Thankfully the grass was very soft, so he was not injured too badly, but the fall was still heavy.

After resting for a bit, Xiao Lin and Lilith took a huge detour around the fence, finally locating the main gate. However, the gate was shut tight. Xiao Lin did not rush to push the door this time, but shifted his gaze toward Lilith, indicating that it was her turn.

Lilith rolled her eyes, walking forward but not pushing open the door immediately. She looked around nearby, trying to locate some way to open the door. After investigating for a while, she really managed to find something. In a part of the wall obscured by the grass was a golden plaque with a few lines of text.

"What language is that? I can't make it out. Is it Normese?" Xiao Lin asked.

"Russian." Lilith had no time to look at Xiao Lin as he mouth was slightly open. She looked flabbergasted, which caused Xiao Lin to be even more interested in the contents of the plaque.

Chapter 153 - The Mystery of Ivan

Chapter 153: The Mystery of Ivan

“Ivanovich. This is Ivan’s garden.” Lilith had a difficult tone. Her language skills seemed to be pretty good; not only could she speak Mandarin, she was even fluent in Russian.

“Ivan? The Ivan that established the Law of Immortality?!” Xiao Lin exclaimed, suddenly understanding what Lilith meant. His eyes were wide.

He remembered high priest Asabanor had mentioned that Ivanovich had stepped into the Final Land before, but he used his own power to escape the place.

“It looks like that old man wasn’t lying. Does this mean this garden is Ivan’s former residence?”

“Former residence?” Lilith turned around and looked at Xiao Lin curiously.

“Yes, a former residence means somewhere he stayed before.”

Lilith glared at Xiao Lin. “I know what that means! I’m saying, how do you know this is a former residence and not his current residence?”

“Current residence? Where he’s staying right now?!” Xiao Lin almost doubted the woman’s Mandarin again, but Lilith’s glare made him swallow his words. He turned to look at the words on the plaque, even if he did not understand Russian.

After a moment, Xiao Lin asked, “Ivan’s been dead for so long. How could he still be staying here.”

“Who said he’s dead?”

“Everyone says so.” Xiao Lin was not too certain. Thinking about it, the first time he had heard about Ivanovich was when Song Junlang talked about the individual with an SS-rank talent who established the Law of Immortality. Lolander had mentioned him a few times as well, but his knowledge of Ivanovich was way too little.

Lilith said calmly, “Yes, his death was what the Supreme Council announced to everyone, but that is just a lie for the masses. It’s a pity that not many people know the truth anymore.”

“What’s the truth?” Xiao Lin could not help but continue the conversation.

“He went missing.”

After a moment of silence, Xiao Lin asked again, “Then what happened?”

“There’s nothing else.”

Xiao Lin almost cursed at Lilith. “How could nothing else have happened? He’s the one who established the Law of Immortality and allowed mankind to prosper. No, allowed the colonists to prosper. His accomplishments cannot be called anything but great. How could someone like that just go missing? If he really did go missing, does no one want to look for him? How could they just announce he’s dead?”

“Allowed the colonists to prosper?” Lilith had a strange look on her face as she looked away from the plaque. She sighed, “Someone who knew the truth told me something. Ivan is an angel: he gave us the power to truly colonize the New World, but he is also a devil—he will destroy the whole world.”

Xiao Lin gaped as he asked, “Destroy the world? Why would he want to destroy the world? Isn’t he on our side? Does he have issues with the Russian academy?”

Lilith impatiently said, “How would I know! I’m not from that era! Even if I was, no one would know the truth.”

Xiao Lin was barraged with thoughts and collected himself. The news was very shocking, but there was another question they needed to be concerned about: if Ivanovich went missing because he came to that world, then was he really staying in the garden right now?

Lilith was still studying the plaque; she carefully used her hand to brush aside the lower part of the grass, and softly wiped away dust when the door suddenly opened itself.

That was definitely convenient, but Xiao Lin began to have some doubts. If Ivan was really alive and staying there, then what consequences would there be if they barged inside?

Was Ivan an angel or a devil?

D*mn it all, what did that even mean?

Did Ivan betray humanity in the end?

If that was the case, were they courting death by going inside?

Might high priest Asabanor have been the easier one for them to overcome?

In a flash, a sea of thoughts were in Xiao Lin’s head. Lilith also stood in front of the door unmoving. It seemed like this fearless woman finally had some doubts.

Ivanovich could be said to be the most powerful colonist in history. In front of such a character, even Xiao Lin and Lilith, who also possessed SS-rank talents, could not hold a candle to him.

“Let’s go in!” In the end Xiao Lin voiced out first. His voice was soft and the woman next to him looked at him strangely, waiting for his reasoning.

Xiao Lin bitterly smiled, “Compared to starving or dying of dehydration, I’d rather die quickly with a blade to my throat.”

Even though it looked pristine there, there were no streams or rivers, no fruit trees or wildlife. Even if the grass was not poisonous, neither Lilith nor Xiao Lin wanted to live the rest of their lives eating grass.

Lilith forced a smile as her doubts disappeared. “I’m not nearly as lighthearted as you! You’re right, if we have someone like that as our opponent, it’s a blessing to us as well. In all the colonist academies in the world, only the two of us could possibly stand a chance to fight Ivan.”

Saying that, Lilith withdrew her battle scythe from her bracelet as she walked right toward the castle.

Xiao Lin stood dumbfounded, feeling like crying. He started to hate his own mouth. Why did he have to say all that nonsense?

If Ivan was still alive, it was possible he would be their enemy, but it was just a possibility. Even if Ivanovich had really betrayed mankind, that was many years ago. Who knew if he had a change of heart? Everyone was from Earth. With regards to that world, they were all basically from the same hometown.

Xiao Lin’s initial idea was that they would sneak into the castle. If they really met Ivan, he planned on reasoning with the other party to settle things amicably. If that was impossible, then they would have to accept their misfortune.

As for fighting Ivanovich? What a joke. He was the one who established the Law of Immortality. Their skills were like the difference between a creek and an ocean!

However, Lilith was currently rushing inside with her scythe, full of bloodlust. No matter what the other person thought, when faced with that animosity, the only option would be to designate them as enemies.

Xiao Lin’s hands were tied. Lilith had already rushed inside and Xiao Lin could not just stand there idly. Xiao Lin needed Lilith’s help if he were to survive that cursed place.

Xiao Lin gritted his teeth as he gripped the dagger Lilith had given him tightly, and he carefully followed Lilith into the garden.

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 154: Coffin

Upon entering the garden, Xiao Lin’s eyes widened. This garden was like a different world, the sounds and smells from the outside disappeared immediately. It was extremely quiet there and only their footsteps could be heard.

The castle gate was not locked, nor were there any traps. Xiao Lin and Lilith managed to get in easily and were immediately assaulted by a bright flash of light. The entire interior of the castle was filled with white crystals, including every inch of the walls and ceiling, which were adorned with diamonds and jades. Standing inside felt like they had entered a dream-like crystal palace.

The castle was very spacious and simple. Other than a huge hall, there were no other rooms or hallways. At the end of the hall was a black coffin, which contrasted heavily with the pure and holy hall.

Xiao Lin and Lilith exchange glances, their mutual shock evident. Their gazes then turned back toward the coffin as the two of them walked closer.

Could Ivanovich be inside the coffin?

The two of them let their imaginations run wild, but hesitated for only a moment before deciding to open the coffin to investigate. It might be disrespectful to the dead, but they could be facing the greatest mystery in the history of the colonists.

Getting closer, Xiao Lin gasped. He noticed that the cover of the coffin was slightly shifted away from the body; it was not completely shut.

Could someone have opened it already?

They could not tell what the coffin's material was. It felt smooth, like jade, but was extremely heavy, much heavier than any metal they knew. Even the two of them together had a lot of difficulty opening it. When they looked inside, they were shocked.

The coffin was empty; there were not even any bones inside. Of course, they had some guesses beforehand, so it was not that shocking, but the curious part was that there were a bunch of random objects inside the coffin, like a pen, a pocket watch, and pictures. Xiao Lin picked up the pen and the pocket watch. The pen was not that special and was rather old-fashioned. The pocket watch was frozen in time, having stopped working for a while.

They were obviously not magical objects and seemed to be from the last century on Earth. Lilith carefully took out the picture and could not help but pale as she said, "This is Ivan's photo. I think this really is Ivanovich's burial spot."

Xiao Lin hurried over to look at the photo. It was a very old black-and-white photo, and the image was a little blurry. However, a young Russian male could be made out, and a middle aged woman stood next to him. He asked, "Who's that woman?"

Lilith explained, "That's his mother. I've been to the museum at Voyna Akademiya, and this very photo was displayed there. I heard that Ivan's mother passed away when he entered the academy, so he has a lot of photos of his mother to remember her."

Xiao Lin's face paled as he said softly, "If this really is Ivan's grave, then where is his body?"

The two of them were silent as they looked at the empty coffin.

They did not solve the mystery. All they did was make it bigger.

"The good news is we aren't face to face that legendary man. We can't be sure if he'd be friend or foe." Xiao Lin half-jokingly broke the silence.

However, it was not really good news. Xiao Lin would actually rather face a living Ivanovich. Friend or foe, at least they would be able to find out a little about their surroundings, unlike the clueless flies they were right now. They did not know what their next step would be, and lacked water and food. Xiao Lin did not even know how much longer he could last.

After some discussion, the two of them decided to look around within the castle. There might be some secret passageways that could lead them somewhere.

After half an hour, they did not find any secret passages, but they found other things. More accurately, they found some texts. In the surrounding crystal walls, rows of black-colored block characters appeared when they got close.

“It’s Ancient Normese!” Xiao Lin had worked under Professor Brown for more than half a month, and had been interacting with those difficult words every day, so he recognized it immediately.

Xiao Lin worked hard to translate. His Ancient Normese had been LV1, but during his half a month of work, he had been trying to learn the language as he copied the tablets. Thanks to his Academic Genius skill, his Ancient Normese had definitely leveled up to probably LV2 or 3, so the words in front of him were not completely foreign.

“Give me some time,” Xiao Lin said.

“No problem, we have all the time in the world,” Lilith said over her shoulder before trying to see if they had missed anything.

Xiao Lin was left alone in front of the crystal walls, reading word after word. He did not plan on completely translating the whole thing, it would be too large of an endeavor. However, Lilith and him were in an awkward spot right now. Where would they go if they left the castle? Would they continue to wander around aimlessly in that field with nothing on it until they died?

He hoped there would be some clues on how to get out in those Ancient Normese texts. It was their only chance.

“This probably means sky? No, that’s wrong, there’s an adjective in front, so maybe it’s color? So blue-colored sky? No, that isn’t blue, red? Blood! Yes, this definitely refers to the blood red sky.”

“This sentence could be talking about light and darkness combining? Doesn’t seem right, but the word should mean that. Maybe mixed? Yes, this should mean it’s mixed.”

“This one is easy. Start point? What the heck is a start point. Start could mean beginning... The point of beginning? The original place? Final Lands! Yes, let’s use that first.”

...

Even if Xiao Lin’s Ancient Normese had improved in half a month, it was still a taxing endeavor to translate so much. Thankfully, he felt that his brain power was not too bad. He could only make out about half the words, but filled in the rest of the contents with guesswork and estimates.

It was obviously very hard at the start, and he even had to leave some harder words alone, but after diving deeper, especially once he realized the contents seemed to be describing the Final Land, he started to have a basis to his guesses, and the contents came to him clearer and faster.

Chapter 155 - Possession

Chapter 155: Possession

Xiao Lin got more and more engrossed as he translated, to the extent that he ignored Lilith when she asked him about his progress. Lilith was obviously annoyed at the lack of a response, but she knew she could not interrupt Xiao Lin at the moment, so she left a bowl of water in front of him before leaving.

Lilith had not been idle. She managed to find a water source nearby. The garden had various plants in it, and some of the plants had pearls of water on them. Lilith plucked off the leaves to gather water, which at least ensured they could endure for a while longer with sufficient hydration.

Xiao Lin only noticed there was a bowl of water in front of him after two hours. He had more or less been finished with the contents of the wall in front of him, and was just about to change spots when he saw it and he stayed glued to the walls as he consumed the water.

What he did not notice was that every time he was done with one section of the walls, the words within would slowly disappear, possibly never to be seen again.

Xiao Lin's attention was extremely focused, to the extent that he forgot everything else. It was a strange feeling, as if he was in a limitless spring; his curiosity surged from the bottom of his heart, making it impossible for him to stop. He was unsure if it was just his own feelings, but as he read the words, he felt that his understanding of Ancient Normese got progressively stronger.

At the start, there were a lot of places that needed guesswork, but then, he seemed to speed through the reading. He understood those strange tadpole-like words instantly with just a glance.

The castle was very big, and Xiao Lin had long since abandoned his original intention of not completely translating everything. In his eyes, those strange words were no longer a challenge. Even if he did not eat, drink or sleep, he would be able to maintain his strange obsession.

Lilith sensed that Xiao Lin was acting strange, so she tried to pull Xiao Lin away, but a sudden and strong surge of energy pushed her away. Xiao Lin's expression turned ice-cold, without a shred of feeling. His eyes did not even look human anymore.

Lilith opened her mouth, but could not find the words. In the end, she shook her head and left the castle herself.

Lilith's departure finally caused a reaction in Xiao Lin's spiritless eyes. His face wore a shred of doubt, as if he did not understand what was happening. When he wanted to get up and go after her, a voice in his consciousness told him, 'Read and understand these words!'

The voice had an extremely alluring power, and Xiao Lin's eyes quickly turned cold again as he once again sat next to the crystal wall.

As the days passed, Xiao Lin did not feel the passing of time at all, nor did he realize his body was getting weaker by the day. His entire being was still filled with that exciting obsession, so his consciousness constantly told himself he could carry on.

Xiao Lin's reading speed got faster and faster, and everytime he was finished with one piece of the wall, not only would the words on the crystals disappear, the skies outside the castle would turn darker and the plants in the garden would slowly decay. The entire castle was shrouded in shadows.

After seven whole days, Lilith finally returned. This time, she was very imposing as she raised her battle scythe, and swung the back of it at Xiao Lin's back, careful to control her strength.

Clank!

The scythe was stopped by a dagger as Xiao Lin turned around. His skinny yet hardened face revealed a sinister smile, as he said in a hoarse voice, "No need to rush. It'll be done very soon."

"Asabanor! I knew it was you!" Lilith smiled coldly.

Xiao Lin, or rather the man with Xiao Lin's appearance stood up. "I should actually thank the two of you. I gave up on the physical body that took me so long to form to catch you, and my soul ended up being sucked in by that darkness. Who knew it would be a blessing in disguise. I've finally entered the true Land of the Beginning! I've been in the Final Land for more than nine hundred years, and I've been constantly looking for a way here. Who knew the chance would present itself like this!"

"Isn't this the Final Land?" Lilith asked.

"Ignorant demon! How could you understand the greatness of God! There are two parts to The Final Land. Creation and destruction are opposites, beginning and the end, darkness and light, all of them are opposing existences. I've been dwelling in the representation of darkness and the end for countless years, but how could that man so easily reach this place!"

He was referring to Ivanovich.

"You will never know the answer!" Lilith raised her battle scythe once again.

"Hahaha! No matter! As long as I finish with these texts, I will be able to open up the way back. You never expected that, did you? These words will be the beginning of the end for you demons!"

Lilith furrowed her eyebrows. "Open up the way back? What is this text? Who wrote them down? You or Ivan?"

"I suppose there's no harm in telling you. This is the Law of Creation." Xiao Lin's face wore a strangely respectful and devoted look. "God used this power to create Norma from the Final Land, but the Law of Creation was lost in the chaos after God left. That demon might have boundless

power, but it was only enough to find this tiny fragment out of a boundless ocean. He probably would never have expected that I would use the power he found to destroy all of you!”

“Tiny fragment?” Lilith looked at the huge crystal wall around her with a strange look before mockingly saying, “Thanks for answering my questions. You can go ahead and die now.”

“Oh? Are you really going to fight me? This is your companion’s body!” Xiao Lin’s mouth smiled mockingly. “I will return soon, but you will be trapped here forever. No, you don’t know astrology. You won’t even be able to survive here!”

“You talk a lot! So annoying!”

With that, Lilith swung her flaming scythe, but Xiao Lin did not even move to dodge, letting himself get stabbed in the right shoulder. Seeing Lilith take a few steps back, he laughed wildly. “Hahaha! So you do care about him! You didn’t even aim for any vitals. Come on, aim for his heart...”

Asabanor suddenly stopped as his expression suddenly froze in place. His entire body stood unmoving as the wound on his right shoulder still burned with flames, but the strange thing was that those flames did not cause any harm to his skin or flesh.

“I can only help you this much. Don’t make me kill you!” Lilith muttered to herself.

Chapter 156: Waking Up

Xiao Lin felt like he had a very, very long dream. In that dream, his consciousness was fuzzy. His senses and his awareness were unable to sense anything happening in the outside world, as if he had been trapped in a muddled world. He was surrounded by darkness, not even able to see his own fingers, and he was falling at a terrifying speed. He did not know where he was falling to, but he could do nothing but wait and see quietly.

His consciousness grew fuzzier the longer he waited, to the point where he was beginning to forget himself. He felt the temperature surrounding him constantly falling until he was beginning to freeze.

It was only until a flame shaped like a red lotus appeared when Xiao Lin felt a shock jolt through his body, causing him to draw nearer, raising his hand to touch the flames. It was just a tiny spark that could disappear into the darkness at any time.

Xiao Lin grabbed onto the spark, but it did not burn him at all. A warmth spread throughout his body from his palm as he slowly recovered his sense of self within the cold.

Who am I?

I am Xiao Lin!

Where did I come from?

I'm from Dawn Academy!

His consciousness constantly asked questions, and he constantly answered them. He felt his mind get clearer every time a question was asked.

He was still surrounded by the immense cold and Xiao Lin carefully protected the spark in his palm. He had a feeling that, if the flame were to be extinguished, he would be trapped within the freezing darkness forever.

Just as he was regaining his sense of self, a violent wind blew around him as the formless darkness got thicker. A cloud of darkness rushed toward Xiao Lin, as if trying to extinguish the fire.

"Be swallowed by the infinite darkness!" came a cold and sinister voice.

Xiao Lin immediately shielded the flame with his body, but could not withstand the assault from the darkness and the wind. The flame started to dance around, looking weaker and weaker, like it could disappear at any moment.

"Die and surrender this body to me!" The voice in the darkness sounded even more violent.

Xiao Lin was like a raft in an ocean of waves, ready to be completely submerged. Xiao Lin still did not know where he was, but he had regained enough consciousness to have an idea of what was happening.

He shouted back, "No! Never!"

"Die!"

"F*ck off! Surrendering my body to you?! Never!"

Xiao Lin yelled a slew of curses. It was hard to find counterparts to curse words in Normese, but that world seemed to automatically translate their words.

There seemed to be a crack in the darkness as the voice shouted in despair, "How! How is there still no way! How could the meager soul of an evil demon be so strong!"

The voice did not seem to have given up, but a white light suddenly shot out from the darkness. The darkness seemed to shatter like glass into countless pieces as more and more light poured in.

"Him! It's his power! How is this possible! Absolutely impossible!" The voice sounded weaker and weaker, until it could not be heard anymore.

The darkness had been completely overtaken by the light, and Xiao Lin suddenly felt a warmth that he had never felt before. He shut his eyes and felt a sense of serenity. When he opened his eyes again, he noticed countless black, tadpole-like objects floating around him. Upon closer inspection, it was all Ancient Normese words.

Xiao Lin suddenly felt like he could recognize all those words and a voice in his consciousness told him to read them aloud. He opened his mouth and read everything, speeding up as he went.

After an indeterminate amount of time, he finished reading, and the words spun around, gathering in the middle as they slowly morphed into a human silhouette. It nodded to Xiao Lin, smiling as it said, "Well then. It's all yours now."

"Who are you?" Xiao Lin asked hurriedly.

Before he could get a response, a power raised him up and the surrounding light shattered until it disappeared.

In a haze, Xiao Lin quickly widened his eyes as he was surprised to finally regain his feeling, touching the crystal floor. In front of his eyes was an alert woman holding a battle scythe.

"Who are you?" the woman asked.

"Lilith? Don't you recognize me?" Xiao Lin was confused.

"Who are you?" Lilith repeated as the scythe got nearer to Xiao Lin.

"No no no, I'm Xiao Lin!"

Lilith tilted her head, staring at Xiao Lin with her bright eyes for a moment before letting out a breath of air, storing her battle scythe. "Looks like it is you. Where's the old man?"

"Who?" Xiao Lin might have finally woken up again, but he still did not quite grasp the situation.

Lilith was taken aback, but still summarized the situation for him. Xiao Lin was more and more shocked as he listened on, but he finally realized the voice in the darkness that wanted him to die was Asabanor. He had chased them to this place.

"Is he still in me?" Xiao Lin asked, uneasy.

"That's not possible. The possession spell from necromancy is quite limited. Now that you've woken up, his consciousness can no longer enter your body."

At that point, Lilith furrowed her eyebrows, "However, based on what you said earlier, that old man did not completely disappear; he left by himself. This means he could still be nearby. It's a pity I don't have any spells that can destroy souls. I'll need to attend a few more courses when I head back."

Xiao Lin suddenly remembered the silhouette that pierced the darkness, and its words: "It's all yours now."

He did not tell Lilith, since he was extremely confused himself. Who was that man? What was he given?

He was still deep in thought when Lilith quickly walked toward the door, saying with some doubt on her face, "We need to leave this place quickly! The world has turned a little strange."

Xiao Lin was shocked when he walked out. That peaceful world had somehow been covered by dark clouds and the entire world had turned eerily dark. The lush greens around them had all wilted. Whatever it was, it did not look very promising.

"How do we leave?" Xiao Lin asked.

Lilith looked over. "That old man said the words in the castle were key to leaving this place, so you need to ask yourself that question. I can't read Ancient Normese."

Chapter 157 - Destruction

Chapter 157: Destruction

Xiao Lin walked toward the castle walls and noticed they were blank; the Ancient Normese words had completely disappeared. He scratched his head as he smiled awkwardly. “You’ll need to give me some time, my mind is a mess at the moment. It’s like I just woke up from a very long dream.”

Lilith shrugged, looking at the thickening dark clouds. “You’ll need to hurry up, or we’ll be stuck dreaming here forever.”

Xiao Lin gulped, noticing how weak he felt. Thankfully, Lilith had gathered quite a bit of water and he felt refreshed after drinking it. Closing his eyes, he tried to remember everything that happened.

He had noticed the Ancient Normese words that were on the walls, and prepared to translate and analyze them. He could still vividly remember that. However, after that, his memories were very vague. It was as if he had fallen asleep the entire time.

Of course, that was just what Xiao Lin felt, from Lilith’s perspective, he was trapped in a furious obsession for the next few days, tirelessly translating the words on the wall at a rapid speed.

If the high priest’s soul came over from the blood-colored world, then from the moment he entered that frenzy, Xiao Lin had probably lost his consciousness.

This was not the first time Xiao Lin encountered possessive magic. That last night in New Washington, the American, Norn, was probably also controlled by this spell.

As for why Asabanor chose to possess him then, and even picked Xiao Lin instead of Lilith who was much stronger, the two of them had different thoughts.

Lilith felt that when Xiao Lin was busy translating, he let down his guard to the outside world, and these possession magics were very hard to pull off, with many ways to circumvent them. If there was enough warning, the magic would usually fail.

Xiao Lin did not think it was that simple. It was obvious that Asabanor’s soul had been following them from the start. When they entered the castle and found the words on the wall, the high priest might have realized the significance of the words. He might have just picked Xiao Lin because Xiao Lin knew Ancient Normese. Plus, he was more of a novice and would probably have been easier to control.

After that, Lilith left the castle in frustration, but as the words on the walls were read, the world started to go through shocking changes. Lilith felt something was off as she was leaving, and she also recalled what happened to Norn in New Washington, which caused her to suspect that Xiao Lin had fallen to the same magic. In the Final Land, the only one who could pull off that spell was Asabanor.

That was what Xiao Lin managed to gather from Lilith's information. As for what happened in his spiritual world—which was what he was calling it—the high priest tried to extinguish his soul. When his consciousness was trapped within that freezing cold, it was only thanks to that small flame that he could wake up.

The thing that puzzled Xiao Lin the most was the ending. That spark gave him warmth and helped him wake up, but it was impossible to fight the powerful Asabanor with just that. Xiao Lin was very clear that the thing that really saved him was that mystical light, as well as the man that was formed by those tadpole-like words.

Xiao Lin let out a sigh. If those words were from the crystal walls, then what should his next step be? He decided to experiment. He chanted those strange Ancient Normese words in his heart. Just like when he was using the draconic power, he tried to regulate the output as he pleased.

He was only met with failure. No matter what he tried, nothing changed. The sky suddenly turned darker as the sounds of violent winds could be heard and the castle behind them started to rumble.

“Let's leave!”

The two of them immediately fled toward the plains far away. When they were halfway there, they heard loud crashing noises as the castle behind them collapsed. Xiao Lin turned around to see a pile of ruins behind him before awkwardly saying, “If that really is Ivanovich's grave, do you think he's going to haunt us for this?”

Lilith kept her eyes forward. “That would require us to be alive! Run, quickly!”

Xiao Lin turned around and sucked in a breath. At the fringes of the plains, a blackish-grey and massive tornado was forming, linking the sky with the earth. Everywhere it passed left the earth shattered, and even the sky broke apart like glass, getting absorbed into the tornado.

“What is this!”

“This world is probably at its end!”

“Just because we came here? What kind of joke is this!”

With that, Xiao Lin suddenly paused. If they were to think about what they had done since they came, then it would only be one thing. He had absorbed all the words on the crystal wall. If he were to guess, the words should all be in his body at the moment.

Which is to say, was he responsible for destroying this world?

Xiao Lin jumped in fright at the thought, but he did not have time to regret it. What was important at that moment was escaping.

The tornado did not move quickly, but it was getting larger and larger. What caused Xiao Lin and Lilith to lose hope was, behind them, even more tornadoes were forming, surrounding the whole world.

Numerous tornadoes were quickly going to merge into one. The two of them did not have anywhere to run. They were at the center of all the tornadoes, so they were just sitting ducks. No matter how they struggled, they could only look as the tornadoes surrounding them started to get closer, waiting to be enveloped.

The two of them were deathly pale. In the face of that overwhelming power, even the two SS-rank talents did not have any chance.

“Die, you despicable demons!”

Then, a sharp voice could be heard, and what followed was a black shadow. It looked nothing like a woman, and only its basic organs could be vaguely made out in the blurry shadow.

It was high priest Asabanor! He really did just retreat from Xiao Lin’s body earlier instead of being eliminated. However, it seemed that he still refused to give up. Xiao Lin and Lilith were already panicked, and they were filled with anger. With the appearance of an outlet for their frustrations, they both cried out and withdrew their weapons, fearlessly rushing forward.

Chapter 158 - New Washington Conference

Chapter 158: New Washington Conference

After the Single Moon Festival, the New World had entered autumn. New Washington, the prosperous city with centuries of history stood peacefully in the autumn wind. The shops that used to be extremely busy were all shut and the elves were leaving the city in droves.

It had been almost half a month since the Single Moon Festival that was now being called Nightmare Day. No one in the city could forget what happened that night, when the sudden appearance of the blood moon shrouded New Washington in red. To the colonists, the new phenomenon was scary, but to the natives, it was terrifying.

At the heart of the city—the castle district—the skeletal corpses from that day had already been completely cleared out and all the skeletons were burned to dust. In order to prevent anything of the sort from happening again, Judge Academy had even inspected all the burial grounds from all those years ago, ensuring nothing was left out.

The academy’s response was swift, but they could not prevent the aftermath. It would be hard to turn things around in the short term.

In a great hall in one of the palaces, over ten Americans sat around a large round table, deep in intense discussions.

“In these two weeks, trade in New Washington has dropped by twelve percent, and daily necessities have pretty much stopped selling. If this continues, we’ll be really short on taxes this year.”

“Trade is one thing. What I’m worried about right now is our population! This is the data I just received from the city guard. In just ten short days, almost fifty thousand people have left New Washington! We only have a little over a million people in the city!”

“Population is very important to us. A lot of our facilities require a lot of our manpower, and most of our tax income comes from the natives. Surely, we can’t let our academy students be the ones doing hard labor. We need to prioritize this problem.”

“I’ve seen the data from the guards. There aren’t really that many natives leaving. The second and third generation natives are pretty much stuck here, their families and businesses are all in New Washington after all. What I’m more concerned about are the elves. Has everyone noticed? Since the day before yesterday, the elves in the city have been leaving in waves. All the elven shops have been on the market for a low price. It doesn’t seem like they plan on coming back!”

“How much longer do we have in our peace treaty with the elves?”

“We still have more than ten years. The elves are a race that puts great importance on trust and keeping promises. We won’t have to worry about them breaking the treaty.”

“How about after the treaty is done? What if the elves don’t extend it?”

“This is not the time to be discussing something that will happen in more than ten years. Don’t stray too far from the main point! Everyone here needs to think about how we can save our coffers this year!”

“Enough!” A furious voice bellowed in the noisy hall. A man who was sitting in the furthest corner stood up. He was dressed differently from everyone else; he had a full suit of silver armor on and his helmet was on the table as he looked on impatiently.

“All of you are busy discussing our population, finances and our treaty with the elves. I think you’ve all been away from the academy for too long. Have you forgotten who we are?”

There was a stir in the great hall. An old man stood up and said, “Captain Harry, this meeting is about the governance of the city, and you’re the captain of the dragon-eagle knights. The military doesn’t really have anything to do with this conference. If it wasn’t for the fact that you claim you have something important to report, we wouldn’t even have invited you here today!”

Harry coldly smiled and said, “Don’t forget that we are colonists! If we lack manpower we can capture more, if we lack finances, we can plunder. As for the elves, what’s so scary about that weak and useless race declaring war on us!”

“Harry, what do you mean by this. Speak up if you have something to say. You don’t have to cause a scene!”

Harry took a deep breath, pushing back his anger as he said, “You’ve discussed so much today, but you seemed to have forgotten something very important! Lilith has been missing since the incident, and we haven’t seen any trace of her. Is no one concerned?”

“Ah, Lilith. You know how that girl is. She does what she wants to without any concern for law and order. She’s probably met some opponent that caught her interest and left New Washington on her own. She’ll be back in her own time,” the man said dismissively.

Harry’s face once again filled with anger, “It seems that none of you know how important Lilith is to Judge Academy!”

“We know how important Lilith is. Captain Harry, I understand how you feel, but we’re already past the era where the colonists can rely on only war. The economy is equally as important, and everything we do here is also for Judge Academy.”

“Speaking of which, was that the important matter you needed to report today?”

Harry took another deep breath before shaking his head and saying, “That day, other than Lilith disappearing, a student from the Dawn Academy that we invited went missing as well.”

The short man closest to Harry had almost fallen asleep, but at Harry’s words, he immediately opened his eyes, adjusting his butt to a more comfortable sitting position before slowly saying, “The Foreign Affairs Department is responsible for this matter. The student is named Xiao Lin, and we invited him to work with Professor Brown. After the blood moon, Captain Harry and I interrogated the student who was possessed day and night, but we’ve not made much headway.”

A man with glasses stood at the focal point of the table; he seemed to be the chair of the meeting. He furrowed his eyebrows and said, “Dawn Academy? That will be troublesome. We have an alliance with them, and it shouldn’t be compromised by this. What year and skill level was that student at?”

The short man answered, “He’s a new student, not even at the Black Iron-rank in skill. He needed our anti-gravity accessory and super potions to work in New Washington.”

The man let out a sigh of relief. “A new student? That’s no issue then. Can we keep it from Dawn Academy for now?”

The short man put up both his hands. “That’s what I have to report today. There are some complications with this matter. A department head from Dawn Academy was here with Xiao Lin, and that department head has already sent the news to Dawn Academy, so we won’t be able to keep it from them. A special investigation team from the academy is already at my department. I wish to ask city hall how I should proceed?”

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 159: Return to Before

There was another stir around the round table, but it was quickly settled down by the bespectacled man knocking on the table, silencing them before announcing, “That student went missing in New Washington, the Foreign Affairs Department will try to placate the investigation team while Harry’s dragon-eagle knights conduct a large scale search of the area. Spare no effort in finding Lilith and Xiao Lin, but the important one is obviously Lilith. If we really are unable to locate that

student from Dawn Academy, we'll offer some compensation to them. Now, let's carry on discussing our financial plans..."

Harry let out a cold snort before leaving the great hall in anger. The short man in charge of the Foreign Affairs Department nodded to the rest of them before leaving.

The discussions after that did not have much to do with military or foreign affairs, but Harry's attitude caused some of those present to look on in scorn.

Outside of the great hall, the short man held his large stomach as he rushed after Harry, panting in exhaustion as he leaned against a large tree for support, shouting, "Captain Harry, don't you hear me calling for you?"

Harry's face was still cold. He did not seem to particularly care for the man. "Department Head Johnson, our two departments don't really have anything to do with each other. I still have things to attend to in my regiment. Speak up if you need anything!"

Johnson smiled and said, "Don't be in such a rush. Why don't we get drinks somewhere? We're from the same year in school after all. We haven't gotten together in a while."

Harry was disgusted, "Johnson, ever since we graduated, you've lost all sense of being a warrior. Looking at you now, I don't even think you can wear any armor, or hold a sword! Sorry, my regiment has a rule. We're not allowed to drink alcohol when not on holiday. I need to follow that rule as well!"

"I admit, I've turned into a real government official after we graduated, but it's true what they said at the conference. We can no longer rely solely on war. We need governance and colonization, not just killing off everyone. You have to admit, proper governance can sometimes be simpler and more effective than brute force."

Johnson looked at Harry's increasingly impatient face before stopping himself, waving as he said, "Fine, let's not talk about that. I didn't find you to reminisce about the past. Why didn't you bring up that matter in the conference?"

"What's the matter?"

"That student, Xiao Lin. He's someone with the Lightstream Jade. That jade was probably a gift from the dean of Dawn Academy, and he wasn't even missing for a day before Dawn Academy sent their investigation team after him. Who exactly is Xiao Lin?" Johnson asked curiously.

"I want to know that more than you do!" Harry bellowed.

Johnson laughed out loud. "Harry, we've known each other for a while, and I know how you are. You purposely concealed that fact from the city hall so you can investigate it yourself. I don't believe you haven't had any results until now. What did you hide from the city hall?"

Harry paused for a moment before walking away with a cold smile.

Johnson wanted to run after him, but he considered his stamina and gave up. He raised his voice a little. "Then let me add on: Lilith and Xiao Lin disappeared at the same time. It's possible they're

not even in this world right now. That blood moon had never been seen before. Maybe it's a wormhole of some sort? I asked the instructor for the space-time course, and that is a possibility that exists."

Harry finally stopped.

Johnson laughed again, continuing, "Dawn Academy's investigation team has been driving me crazy. I almost resigned out of frustration, but I've been investigating the matter even more than you have! Professor Brown's research team had so many people there, so why were Lilith and Xiao Lin the only ones who went missing?"

Harry finally turned around, his eyes narrowed. "What are you getting to?"

Johnson slowly walked closer, lowering his voice, "Oh! Stop playing dumb! I'm different from those purely administrative officials. Let's open up our minds and speculate. What could Lilith and Xiao Lin have in common? Their skills are so different, they aren't the same age... We don't even have to talk about their genders and physical attributes. If we eliminate the possibility that it was just a coincidence, then the only possibility is..."

"Enough!" Harry shouted, stopping Johnson's train of thought. He thought for a moment before saying with a complicated expression, "It's just speculation. The possibility isn't even at 1%. In the end, we need to wait for them to come back before verifying it for ourselves.

"Indeed, even I can't really believe the conclusion I ended up with. I think, other than us two lunatics, no one else would believe it!" Johnson sighed, raising his head as his eye twinkled. "If our guess turns out to be correct, what are you going to do about it?"

Meanwhile, in the Final Land, the tornadoes were all almost merged into one. The dark sky had been completely shattered by the tornadoes and were falling down like raindrops. The ground was full of cracks and was constantly shaking, as if there was an earthquake.

"Ha ha ha! This world will soon return to nothingness! You were the ones who denied my return. Let's just die here together!" the shadow roared.

Xiao Lin and Lilith were completely exhausted. They had battled the spirit for a long time, but the fight had no meaning to it at all.

The high priest was only left with a fragmented spiritual form. Normal attacks did nothing to him. Lilith could only use her flames to harm him slightly. Xiao Lin was even worse; he could only rely on using the hammer Lilith lent him to cast Holy Light Blessing.

Regardless, the damage was very minimal. They could not help but admit that the century-old high priest was still much stronger than them, even in a spiritual form.

However, Asabanor was at his limit as well. He could not maintain his current form for long, and as time went on, he got weaker and weaker. Otherwise, the high priest would have just attacked them in that form from the start.

The fact that he did not do that led them to believe maintaining this form would cause himself irreversible harm.

Xiao Lin was suffering thanks to his weakness. The high priest's attacks were mostly focused on him. As a spirit, he had only one mode of attack, which was to attack spiritually. That was why even though Xiao Lin did not look physically harmed, it took everything he had to even remain standing.

Chapter 160 - Return

Chapter 160: Return

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation **Editor:** EndlessFantasy Translation

The sky grew ever darker as the tornadoes converged at the center. A strong force started to suck them in. Xiao Lin, Lilith, and even the high priest in his spiritual form were all affected by the tornado, as they could not help but be sucked in.

The fight stopped abruptly and no one had any way to continue it. The force behind the tornado was terrifying and did not only affect flesh and physical objects. Even the holy light that Xiao Lin shot out, Lilith's flames and Asabanor's formless spiritual attacks were sucked inside. It was like a limitless blackhole.

Xiao Lin took out his dagger and stabbed it into a crack on the floor, trying to resist the tornado, but it was absolutely useless. The dagger that Lilith gave him was of good quality, but it only held on for two seconds before snapping in half. At that moment, the tornado was less than a hundred meters away from them.

Woosh!

Xiao Lin and Lilith were blown into the air. They could no longer control their own bodies and could only stare as the tornado got closer and closer.

Was his twenty odd years of life going to end there?

He had not even seen the sights of the New World.

His parents were still waiting for him on Earth.

How could he die here?

How could he die now!

If only he had just a bit more power.

If only he had the ability to turn this around.

Indignance, anger, pain and regret... A lot of feelings rapidly flew by in Xiao Lin's heart. He let out a hopeless cry of rage in the air.

It could have been his hallucination, but somehow, in the howling tornado, he managed to make out a low voice. It was like when he was in the spiritual world filled with light, when that familiar voice said to him, “Well then. It’s all yours now.”

In the next second, an intense light shot out of Xiao Lin. In the darkness it looked like a large star, emitting endless light and warmth. Within the white light, rows of tadpole-like words began to shoot out his body, spinning around him, constantly rising.

As the words increased, their speed increased as well. The uncountable words suddenly merged, forming a black passage that pierced through the shattered sky, heading toward the end of the world.

In the middle of the light, Xiao Lin felt that the tornado had lost all effect on him as he floated toward the end of the passage. He stretched out, trying to pull Lilith in from outside the passage, especially since the latter had realized it was possibly the way out and was also struggling to get closer. However, under the influence of the tornado, her struggles were futile.

A sharp cry could be heard that sounded close, yet far. Xiao Lin turned around and looked and he suddenly cursed in his heart. Asabanor’s shadow was also rushing toward him. Just how deep was that man’s hatred?

At that moment, the high priest looked to be in pathetic shape. The grey shadow was already broken down in many ways and was like a ripped up piece of cloth, filled with holes, trying to fly but unable. It was likely the influence of the tornado; his strength was rapidly deteriorating, but the b*stard was still a crazy old man who had lived for centuries. Even under immense power, he was still struggling to move toward the black passage.

He was very slow, but still getting closer. The tornado grew more and more powerful, and the shadow was slowly fading. The grey shadow’s power was visibly disappearing and it was obvious that if the high priest lost all energy in his spiritual state, he would disappear forever.

Xiao Lin could not do anything but watch.

After 15 seconds, the high priest had lost his waist.

After 30 seconds, even one of his shoulders disappeared.

After 40 seconds, he was only left with his head, but he finally touched the black passage. The passage seemed to have its own domain, and within the domain, the influence of the tornado could not be felt.

Right before the high priest’s head entered the domain, a chain made of fire suddenly shot out, capturing the shadow. Lilith had used the last of her strength on her Red Lotus Blade.

Boom!

The world finally collapsed, but Lilith’s chain was pulled into the black passage along with the high priest, speeding up and disappearing into nothingness.

...

In New Washington, the weather was not so great and the dark skies looked very gloomy. There was a drizzle, but the rain was not too heavy, yet it looked like it would last for a while.

The city had quieted down by a lot thanks to the blood moon, but thanks to the city hall giving a lot of incentives for trade and migration, including lowering the rent and reducing taxes, alongside the fact that the Americans had gained a lot of trust from the natives in those years, the city had regained some of its luster.

The city hall was very encouraged by this, but the Foreign Affairs Department did not participate in the joy. Johnson was currently incredibly frustrated in his office. Even though the autumn air was cool, his thin shirt was still drenched with sweat.

During the afternoon, Dawn Academy sent yet another investigation team over. Johnson had planned on following the city hall's suggestion, treating them like the first investigation team by placating them with food and drink and pushing the matter aside.

However, the moment the investigation team arrived, Johnson knew it would not be as simple as the first time before he even met the team. The investigation team arrived on a naval warship from Dawn Academy's capital.

It would take two to three months to get there from Dawn City by ship, even if the journey was smooth, but the group of people arrived in half a month, which meant they were on a very advanced warship. They did not travel back to Earth to get there, but chose to arrive by sea in the New World, which meant they were at least Gold-rank and above, since at that rank, they could no longer return to Earth, which left them only the naval route.