

Elite Mages' Academy Novel

Chapter 551 - Back To The Academy

Chapter 551: Back To The Academy

“Hold on, why is he here? The dean needs rest right now, so we need to know why you’re here...”

“Enough, let us through!” Song Junlang’s expression changed, it was obvious he was not in a good mood.

Everyone else looked at Song Junlang, glancing at the blue emblem on his chest. Even though they were not scared, they had no intention of making a move. One of them carefully said, “We don’t know how you got that thing, but I don’t think it’s something you can obtain.”

“Oh? Are you unwilling to accept it? Then let’s go talk about it at the Supreme Council!”

“Even if the defense minister was here, he still won’t have any power to stop me from leaving!”

“It seems like you all are new recruits. Do you need me to remind you of the power this emblem carries?”

“This is an emblem awarded by the Supreme Council, and in the entire world, not more than five people have this emblem. Those with the emblem are viewed as having the highest authority. In front of this emblem, there are no secrets, and outside of those with the same power, no one has any authority to interfere with them!”

The usually warm Song Junlang had finally thrown his temper. His voice got constantly louder. Even though his power was something that could be easily stepped on in Dawn City, his background was something not anyone could offend.

Xiao Lin was also shocked when he heard it as it was clearly a modern day golden plate!

A few of the men started to turn green in the face. They obviously knew the power of that emblem, but they could not think about how that man, whose power was very ordinary, could possess that emblem. However, now that Song Junlang had directly challenged them, they did not dare to make a move easily. In the end, they could only stare as Song Junlang left with Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin’s short meeting with the dean lasted for over an hour. On the way back, Xiao Lin did not conceal anything, telling Song Junlang everything the dean had said. This time, Song Junlang did not give him any suggestions, and instead repeated the dean’s last words. “Go back to the academy and don’t return to the colonist territories in the near future.”

The dean said that Song Junlang was someone who knew of the situation as well, and after Song Junlang spoke of the emblem's powers earlier, Xiao Lin understood where his foundation came from, but Department Head Song obviously did not plan to discuss all of that with him.

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In the spatial carriage, the monitors who had waited for the tardy Xiao Lin for a long time had nothing to complain about. Even the most stupid of them could see that Dawn City was not the same as usual, and they had interacted with too many important people in the past few days, and none of them had told the monitors anything. The position of a monitor was not even at the lowest level of the city's hierarchy.

Cheng Ming and the others wanted to get some news from Xiao Lin, but Xiao Lin was not in a great mood. Song Junlang had basically forced him onto the platform. Even when he said he wanted to write a letter for Ibeiya in the Rosa Kingdom, he had been rejected bluntly.

Be it Song Junlang, Yu Mei or the dean, none of them wanted Xiao Lin to continue staying in the colonist territories. They were all very clear that Xiao Lin was still too weak, and Dawn City, with its impending new leadership, would be facing a political storm. As for how many would be involved, that was something that no one knew, and none of them wished for Xiao Lin to be involved in it.

The academy was an ivory tower-like existence. No matter how violent the storm ended up being on the outside, the students within would not be affected. Even the defense minister would not dare to cross that line lightly.

Xiao Lin remembered what the dean had alluded to — infighting really was the main hurdle, no matter what the time period. Even someone like Ivanovich did not die to countless assassination attempts by the Normese, nor did he die to the destruction of Earth; he died to the inner workings of men; it really was laughable.

Returning to academy grounds after such a long time and tossing all schemes and traps aside, Xiao Lin finally felt a feeling of warmth. At least he did not have to think about any schemes there.

Since it was a weekend, there were no classes, and the monitors all returned earlier to rest. Some of them had even gathered their group leaders into meetings to understand what had been happening.

Xiao Lin chose to lock himself in his dormitory. He then closed his eyes and entered his meditative state. In that elemental universe that he had spent countless time in, never reaching the end, he found something new.

In his universe, there was an irregular square shaped body. It had a white glow. It did not shine brightly, and the response was weak, but the surroundings of the object were clean, meaning that all the elements had seemingly avoided that thing on purpose.

Xiao Lin could somewhat guess the origin of that object. It was probably the Shards of Creation that he had collected. After successfully obtaining the third shard in Rosa Kingdom, it had fused together with the two he had collected prior, and they probably fused into the object in front of him.

Xiao Lin still did not know what the Shards of Creation were, but they did give him some benefits after fusing, which was the direct increase in his attributes. On top of that, thanks to the fighting during that time, Xiao Lin could feel that his skills had gone through a breakthrough.

Ivanovich had asked him to collect the Shards of Creation. Xiao Lin had thought to only collect them as a favor, collecting them when he encountered them, but never deliberately looking for them.

However, after returning this time, Xiao Lin had a lot more on his mind. The dean's words kept reverberating in his ears. The world's laws were facing collapse, and only those with SS-rank talents could stop it. That had nothing to do with skill, so it had to be something only those with SS-rank talents could do.

Ivanovich had said it as well, that collecting the shards had something to do with the future of Earth and Planet Norma.

Xiao Lin suddenly woke up from his meditative state, feeling like he had grasped something. It was possible that the Shards of Creation were his only clues.

After that, Xiao Lin's life returned to peace. Every day, he would leave early and only get home late, and he spent every day alternating between attending class and training.

Xiao Lin headed to the library more and more, the library in the academy had been built during the early periods of colonization, and had been constantly added to. It contained basically the entire history of humanity's colonization, so he had hoped to get some clues from it.

However, Xiao Lin was aware the truly sensitive books would not appear in the outer, lower-leveled sections of the library. He had a B-ranked library pass, at the highest leveled ones for the library were S-ranked ones.

Chapter 552 - Library Pass

Chapter 552: Library Pass

What Xiao Lin needed to understand was the history of the colonists, not those textbooks meant for the masses, but true history. It was obvious that Dawn Academy adopted some traditions from back on Earth, and the books that were publically available were never complete or have always had special edits made.

Xiao Lin knew that he probably would not be able to find any books he wanted from the first three areas of the library, so he first looked for the librarian, Gu Fantian. He had met Gu Fantian a few times before. Even though they were not that familiar with each other, the second-year senior was quite nice to him. Of course, most of that was due to Xiao Lin's status as a monitor.

Gu Fantian was working in the library during the weekend for some extra income, and his expression changed to one of friendliness and happiness when he saw the rare appearance of Xiao Lin. He even tried to drag Xiao Lin out for some drinks. Xiao Lin naturally did not have the mood,

and after a few pleasantries, he voiced his request upfront. He said that he wanted an S-rank library pass.

Gu Fantian's smile slowly disappeared as he asked in confusion, "An S-rank library pass? I don't think you need that area of the library right now, right? Why are you so impatient? With your abilities in the academy, you will be able to get in when you are in your fourth year."

"Do you have no way to do it?" Xiao Lin deciphered his words. Of course, he anticipated that answer, so he changed his questions. "Where will I be able to get an S-rank library pass?"

"Only the student union president can do that. The S-rank area has a lot of books that even the fourth-year seniors can't use. Most of them are for research students or professors," Gu Fantian reminded.

"So I only need the student union president to decide on it? That's simple then. It'll be easy for me." Xiao Lin let out a long sigh of relief as he mumbled to himself.

Gu Fantian's eyebrow twitched. Xiao Lin was probably the only person that would think that getting the approval of the student union president was the easiest way. He had vaguely heard of Xiao Lin's relationship with the president before this, but he could not hold back as he said, "It's not just the president, the various department heads need to discuss the matter as well. You will need the support of the relevant department heads to be able to get the pass done."

"Discussion? The support of a department head?" Xiao Lin felt like his problems had disappeared, because he thought about Song Junlang. The Logistics Department Head was still at the level of a department head, so he smiled, "Then there won't be a problem. Don't worry, you just need to tell me how it's done."

This time, Gu Fantian was thoroughly speechless, because he thought about Song Junlang as well. Xiao Lin had constantly gone to the logistics department that no one cared about; that was already something widespread. However, he did not think that Xiao Lin would have such a good relationship with the people there. Gu Fantian could not help but admire Xiao Lin. Before, he only admired Xiao Lin's monitor position and skill; now, it was his background and connections.

Xiao Lin immediately left for the student union after talking to Gu Fantian. The president had returned with him from Dawn Academy. When he saw Xiao Lin knock on the door, he was a little surprised, but quickly smiled bitterly. "I should really create a special pass for you to the student union offices, but it seems like it's not that needed. The guards are already pretty much all familiar with you."

"Ah, there's no need for a pass, there doesn't seem to be anyone in this building who would stop me from coming in. Why don't you give me an S-rank library pass instead?"

"An S-rank library pass? Haha, that's not a problem." The president smiled warmly. Not even asking anything else, he immediately produced the needed forms from his drawer for Xiao Lin. Once Xiao Lin filled it up, the president signed his name before returning it to Xiao Lin, continuing to say, "According to the rules, you still need a signature from a department head for an S-rank library pass to be in effect. You don't know the other department heads, so just head to Song Junlang."

The entire process only needed ten minutes. After that, Xiao Lin could not help but get suspicious. No matter how familiar he was with the president, it should not have been so easy. Xiao Lin looked throughout the form, but could not see any flaws, and he did not think the president would trick him with something like that either.

Once he reached Song Junlang's logistics department, Department Head Song did not even look at the form. Once Xiao Lin gave a brief explanation, the department head immediately laughed.

Xiao Lin's mouth twitched. "I can hear the mockery in your laughter."

"Oh, this isn't mockery; I just think it's interesting."

"Then is there any difference with mocking me?"

"Fine, I won't joke around. Do you know why the president approved your request so quickly?"

"Does he really have some sort of trick?" Xiao Lin's eyes widened in disbelief.

Song Junlang laughed out loud again. He laughed so much he bent backwards. When Xiao Lin started glaring at him, Song Junlang finally stopped, saying, "You're just too dumb. I know what kind of books you want, but regretfully, the books you want are incredibly rare, even in the S-rank area."

Xiao Lin was dumbfounded.

"The S-rank area is meant for professors and researchers. How could those books that are truly secrets be left there for them?" After pausing, Song Junlang suddenly had a strange smile. "Have you heard of the restricted area?"

"The restricted area?" Xiao Lin suddenly remembered that night when he just entered the academy. Someone had asked him if he wanted to sneak into the restricted area when he was being questioned.

Song Junlang nodded. "The library has a basement, and all the restricted books with absolute secrets are stored there. If you want to know any secrets, I think you'll be able to find your answers there."

"Since it's restricted, then it will be very hard to apply for entry."

"Apply? Put it this way; even the president doesn't have the power to enter alone. There is no way to apply for entry. Only with the collective signatures of the dean and the defense minister can anyone enter. Also, why are you looking at me with that expression?"

Xiao Lin coughed dryly. "If that's the case, why don't you let me use that emblem of yours."

"Impossible!" Song Junlang rejected flatly, raising his arms helplessly. "Don't think that that emblem is omnipotent. Every time it's used, it will mobilize a lot of people. Put it this way, in the past few days, the leaders of the colonist territories have constantly been calling me. I'm someone who wants to maintain a low profile, so I'm not planning on using that for at least another year."

Xiao Lin held his tongue, abandoning that train of thought too. Even though he did not agree that Song Junlang was someone who maintained a low profile, if the emblem really mobilized so many people, it was not a good idea to ask for Song Junlang's help. Yu Mei and the others had sent him back so he could temporarily avoid the gazes of the important figures, and Xiao Lin did not want to become the focus of everyone.

Chapter 553 - S-rank Library Area

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It did not seem like he could make any progress through Song Junlang, and it had served to emphasize once again that Xiao Lin did not know much of the true inner-workings and secrets. He politely excused himself, and even though Xiao Lin was very suspicious, there was nothing he could do about it.

Of course, Xiao Lin did not forget to get Song Junlang's signature on the application form before he left. It was a free S-rank library pass, and there was no reason for him to refuse it. Smoothly obtaining the golden, palm-sized pass from the president, he saw that his name and fingerprint was etched on top. The card was unique, and only Xiao Lin could use it. The usage period was for a year, and the president had told him meaningfully that, if he seriously violated the academy rules during that period, the student union had the right to take that card back.

How could someone as smart as the student union president not guess Xiao Lin's intentions? However, Xiao Lin nodded and agreed. After leaving the president's office, he threw that warning to the back of his head.

During the afternoon, Xiao Lin once again appeared at the library, and when he approached Gu Fantian, he caused that senior, and the dozen or so other people who were working there were so shocked that their jaws dropped.

The others were shocked because it was the first time they had seen such a prestigious library pass, and could not help but hold their suspicions on Xiao Lin's identity. It was not the first time Gu Fantian had seen an S-rank library pass; he was shocked because he still underestimated Xiao Lin's abilities. Even if he really could get such a library pass made, Gu Fantian never expected it to be so fast, as it had only been half a day.

"I'll bring you there." Gu Fantian assigned his tasks to some others before personally bringing Xiao Lin into the library. After finding a large magic carpet, the two of them headed straight for the deeper ends of the library.

The carpet was not slow, but it still took them almost half an hour before they stopped in front of an unassuming grey door. Gu Fantian said, "You'll have to head in yourself, as only those with S-rank library passes can go in and even librarians like me can't."

"Thank you." Xiao Lin expressed his thanks politely before asking, "I want to ask as well, where is the restricted area!"

Bang!

Gu Fantian fell straight off the magic carpet. Thankfully, the two of them were already at a very low height, and Xiao Lin helped him up, also nonchalantly saying, “Don’t worry, I’m just trying to find out the location; you don’t have to bring me there.”

“I don’t know anything; it’s better if you ask someone else!” Gu Fantian said with finality before unhesitatingly climbing back on the magic carpet, escaping immediately. It was obvious the guy had been scared by Xiao Lin’s words.

There was a restricted area in the library — that was not a secret in the academy — but other than madmen, no one would think about barging in. It was impossible to even get any information, as the academy was extremely strict when it came to punishments in that regard, and if anyone was caught, they would be interrogated at the special investigation department in Dawn City, or held and locked up for a long time.

That was right, they would not be exiled back to Earth or have their memories removed. The academy felt that those who entered the restricted area could not be safely ignored, even if they were sent to Earth forever. After all, those who had their memories removed would occasionally retain fragments of their memory, so the academy was more willing to lock them up in prison forever. No one came to the New World to be locked up indefinitely, so no one dared to lightly violate that rule.

Xiao Lin was actually afraid as well. If the dean was still in power, he would not be that worried, but now that it was the defense minister standing in the dean’s place, things were not as simple.

However, Xiao Lin still had to make it to the restricted area, as it was currently his only clue. Even though the dean had asked him to go check out Ivan’s old home, the problem was that he did not know where that was. He had already been prohibited from entering the colonist territories by the old man who was the new dean. After returning to the academy, the president had deliberately pulled him aside to emphasize the point regarding that, telling him it was not a game, and that the people working at the spatial carriage had also received similar orders.

That meant that if Xiao Lin wanted to continue investigating, he could only rely on finding the relevant clues in the restricted area. The dean had told him about the dangers Earth was facing, and Xiao Lin cared about that a lot. He could even be said to be extremely anxious. He thought about his parents; how could he sit idle when the Earth could completely disappear from the universe at any point?

Yet, regarding that matter, the president and Department Head Song could not help him. Xiao Lin, who had no one to turn to, was running around like a headless chicken. During the week that he had his S-rank library pass made, he spent most of the time in the library’s S-rank area.

As the public area with the highest clearance level, the area was surprisingly bigger. Other than books, there were also many tools and strange, unknown things displayed. Those things were not replicas or models; they had all been collected from Planet Norma. They all had dangerous elements to them, and were placed there after being placed into special containment units. The ones who came here were all researchers and professors, so they could use those objects during their experiments.

The books there were incredibly profound, and most of them had something to do with space, time, or astrology. There were even introductions to Legend-ranked skills and objects.

It was all just fine though, as Xiao Lin felt like he could ignore the Legend-rank skills, but the books on astrology had piqued his interest. The dean had mentioned that the dean used a special astrological skill to somewhat predict the future, and the third eye Silverlight had given him also had the ability to pierce through time. He had even personally interfered with history before.

All of that definitely caused Xiao Lin to be extremely interested. Before he could enter the restricted area, his free time was all basically spent there.

The knowledge of time and space was built on extremely high foundational knowledge, including understanding the elements and various energies. The relevant materials were possibly only taught in the fourth year, but that did not stop Xiao Lin from reading it. Even if he only had half-baked foundational knowledge, Xiao Lin could still somewhat understand the contents of the books.

Such as the illustration of the wall of time, it was just an theoretical understanding for others, but Xiao Lin had personally experienced it before. After looking at the explanations, he could not help but sigh in realization.

There were actually quite a few people in the S-rank area. After all, the academy had gathered many researchers and professors throughout the years. Xiao Lin quickly attracted everyone's attention as a little junior that had suddenly appeared.

It was not that Xiao Lin did not maintain a low profile; it was that he just had no choice. Everyone there had pretty high clearances, and with the appearance of such a foreign and young looking man in the S-rank area, they would naturally be curious. After checking through the central computer, all of them could find out that Xiao Lin was a first year student.

Chapter 554 - The Theory of Time

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A first-year appearing at the S-rank library area was absolutely a rare thing. The professors and researchers all had their suspicions, but they did not bother with him too much. Yet, when they occasionally heard Xiao Lin mumbling to himself, some of them could not hold back.

For instance, the fact that time could not be rewound was the same principle as the fact that the wall of time could not be broken. In the field, it was basically a universally-accepted theory. Xiao Lin could not help but let out a small laugh, even though he did not know which professor wrote that book; it was obvious that the theory had a massive hole in it.

Coincidentally, a professor who researched time was next to him, and after glancing at the book Xiao Lin was reading, he asked curiously, "You can understand this book?"

"Somewhat."

"That's quite strange; even among graduates, there are few who can understand this book. You had a realization earlier?"

“Yes, the book is quite well-written, and the various explanations on time are very detailed, but there’s a little flaw,” Xiao Lin said, completely treating it as idle chatter.

As he said that, the man, who had a black shirt and thick glasses on immediately raised his voice, “A flaw? You said that there is a flaw in the book?”

“Yes, it’s not a big problem, but it’s just the theory that time can’t be rewound, but you can’t blame the author for that,” Xiao Lin explained.

“The fact that time cannot be rewound is something everyone on Planet Norma knows. I’ve researched time for over twenty years, and I don’t think there’s anything wrong with that theory!” the man argued, his head full of steam.

Xiao Lin looked around; their words had attracted the attention of others. He furrowed his eyebrows and said in frustration, “Even if that’s so, what does it have to do with you? Every reader can have their own understanding and views.”

“I’m sorry; I am the author of that book, and now you’re suspicious of my theory, so I obviously need to get an appropriate explanation.”

Xiao Lin was suddenly speechless. Even he did not expect that he would meet the author of a book he had just casually taken out from the drawer. He did not dwell on the problem, so he said, “Fine, forget what I said earlier. That’s just something I said while I was daydreaming. That’s it. Goodbye.”

Xiao Lin had already read most of the book, and he closed it and was preparing to leave. However, the man grabbed him; even though he was a researcher who looked into theory, anyone who could reach the level of a professor would have pretty good basic attributes. His hand had a lot of force behind it. Xiao Lin sighed and said, “What do you want?”

“Tell me clearly!” The man widened his eyes. “Tell me what is wrong with my theory, and don’t dismiss me.”

That put Xiao Lin in a difficult spot; he definitely could not say that he had changed history before, and that was during Atlantean times on Earth. He could not say that his own experiences had proven that theory false.

“No, you’re not wrong. It’s true. I just spouted some nonsense. I’m sorry, I still have classes to attend, so please let me go.” Xiao Lin did not want to explain. Explaining would tax him mentally, and might even bring him more trouble.

However, the man had no intention of letting him go, which made Xiao Lin a little angry, and while the other party was not prepared, he suddenly entered his Ruin state. The sudden increase in his strength had caused the man to retreat in alarm. A small breeze could be felt in the narrow room, but two seconds later, Xiao Lin quickly deactivated his Ruin state and took the chance to flee.

When he got back to the dormitory, Xiao Lin looked for that book on the school’s internal Internet. Of course, there was no way to look at the contents of that book, but the basic information could still be found, such as information about the author.

Zhang Jieqiu, professor of time theory. One of the pioneers of the study of time at Dawn Academy. Dawn Academy never prioritized that field during the early days, so it has fallen behind the other academies in that regard. This professor has brought many theoretical systems to Dawn Academy.

In general, he really was a very capable person. Even the rare time-based spells had mostly been invented through his theories.

After reading that, Xiao Lin got a headache; men like him who obviously fervently and passionately threw themselves in a subject were usually very stubborn. He did not want to interact with that man that much.

“You look very frustrated; do you need me to help you get rid of any information that can be used to find you?” A woman’s clear voice could suddenly be heard behind him.

Xiao Lin had always been alone in his dormitory, so with the sudden appearance of another person’s voice, every nerve in Xiao Lin’s body tensed. In the next second, he took out his Holy Sword from his spatial ring, and activated Miracle before entering his Ruin state.

Behind him, a girl in a white dress was floating in the air. Her bare and white feet were drifting around as her young face wore a teasing smile. “Your reactions are pretty quite quick, but it’s a pity that your actions were too slow. You used 2.5 seconds to retrieve your weapon and get ready for an attack. If I really was an enemy, that would have been enough time to deal with you.”

“It’s you!” Xiao Lin ignored the girl’s insults, sighing with relief before he withdrew his weapon.

“I bet you’ve already forgotten who I am.”

“The artificial intelligence, Bell, right? My memory isn’t that bad.”

“It’s ‘artificial lifeform’, not intelligence! Don’t keep making me correct your mistake!”

“Fine, fine, I got it,” Xiao Lin answered nonchalantly before curiously saying, “Hold on, I remember that you can only appear through virtual images, so how are you here?”

He tried to touch that girl’s arm, but his palm went right through it. She looked like a real person, but she obviously did not have a physical body.

“Hey! You pervert!” the girl muttered, her face looking aggrieved and irritated as she did. After that, she proudly explained. “In this academy, as long as I want to, I can appear anywhere.”

“So you mean that we’re being observed every second we’re here?” Xiao Lin could immediately tell what that meant.

“Don’t worry. unless it involves something sensitive in the academy, I don’t really care about all of you idling in your dormitories.” Bell understood Xiao Lin’s words differently.

Xiao Lin rolled his eyes, deciding not to continue with what that conversation could entail. He then asked, “You said you could prevent my information from being found? What do you mean?”

“That Professor Zhang from earlier could fervently be looking for your information.”

Chapter 555 - Agreement With Bell

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“He was searching for my information?” Xiao Lin gaped.

“He has very high clearance.”

“My clearance should be higher than his.” Xiao Lin vaguely remembered the dean saying that his clearances had been increased.

“That’s only in certain aspects, but when it comes to public information, Professor Zhang can find it; that includes information such as your year and dormitory.” The girl had a naughty smile on her face, saying, “You shouldn’t have said so much; that professor is famous for being stubborn, and he will get to the bottom of something no matter what. You caused him to be confused, so he naturally wants an answer from you.”

“You know what happened in the library? Wait, let me retract that question; you can observe everything, and so you naturally know about it.” Xiao Lin smiled bitterly before looking at the girl hopefully. “Then, can you help me block off my information? I don’t want that professor to camp in front of my dormitory every day. It will cause me too much trouble.”

“Why should I help you?” Bell asked.

“Then what do you want me to do?” Xiao Lin asked in exasperation. That girl was either just there to tease him, or she definitely had a request, even though he did not know what he could help with.

“Time can’t be rewound. It’s not like there’s no one who ever doubted that theory, but all of them lacked convincing evidence, so they did not have much behind their arguments. But you... Why were you so sure?” The girl suddenly wiped the playful smile from her face before looking at Xiao Lin with her bright eyes.

“I was just spouting out some nonsense.”

“Oh, then I’ll just forward all your information, including stuff about your ancestors, to Professor Zhang.”

Xiao Lin was speechless.

Xiao Lin looked closely at Bell, and after a few minutes, he asked with a strange expression, “Why do you want to know that?”

The girl averted her gaze. Even though she was just a virtual image, she did not seem to want Xiao Lin to look at her current expression, so she impatiently said, “You don’t need to know the reason!”

Even though that artificial lifeform always seemed very friendly to him, Xiao Lin knew that he was not very familiar with Bell, who had seemingly been born with and grew with the academy. Strictly speaking, she was definitely at a higher rank than him, and since she did not seem happy, Xiao Lin did not pursue the matter.

“Blocking my information is just a casual action for you, and I could just ask the president to do it for me. Even though I don’t really want to trouble him right now, compared to what you want to know, it’s not worth it for me at all,” Xiao Lin suddenly said.

Bell glared at Xiao Lin, saying, “Cunning man, you still want to enter the restricted area of the library?”

“So you have been spying on me!” Xiao Lin said indignantly.

Bell said, “Who would be so free to observe a man’s life the whole day. I’m not a pervert! Only, the president looked for me yesterday, and reminded me not to give you any special rights.”

“You agreed?”

“He’s the president; he has the rights to govern the academy, so I naturally need to promise him that.”

“What if I give you the secret behind rewinding time in exchange?” Xiao Lin immediately asked.

“Then I can promise to help you get this thing done.” The girl fluttered her large eyes.

“Your promises are really cheap...” Xiao Lin’s lips twitched.

“Oh, only the dean can give me direct orders. I can even ignore the Supreme Council. Unless it’s an order from the dean, I can always change my actions based on the situation,” Bell said.

“Fine, then should we sign an agreement?” Xiao Lin was afraid that she would not pay up.

“You don’t trust me!” The girl widened her eyes.

How could Xiao Lin trust a girl who just sold out the president without any hesitation right in front of him? However, that was all in his mind. The only person that could help him right now was Bell, who held the biggest power in the academy at that moment. That was why Xiao Lin lied, “You’re so cute, how could you lie to you? I do trust you.”

After that, the two of them stared at each other, entering an awkward silence.

“Quickly tell me how you rewind time!”

“Then tell me how to get to the restricted area of the library.”

“You first!”

“You first!”

Then there was over ten minutes of silence before Xiao Lin said helplessly, “Fine, let’s just compromise. I’ll first say half of it, then you bring me to the restricted area, then after that I’ll tell you the rest.”

“I can only tell you the location first. After that, you tell me the rest before I consider bringing you there.”

“Fine, it’s a deal.”

They finally reached an agreement, and Xiao Lin was worried she would regret it, so he did not delay, immediately saying, “Rewinding time actually needs one to break the wall of time.”

“After that? You basically said nothing!” Bell was not satisfied with that answer.

The girl mumbled to herself, floating back into the air, seemingly investigating something before she quickly went back down, standing in front of Xiao Lin as she said sternly, “This is the first time I’m doing something like this, so you have to keep it a secret for me.”

“Of course, of course.” Xiao Lin nodded like a chick eating rice.

Bell was not too happy with Xiao Lin’s dismissive answer, but her glare was ineffective. She changed to a low voice, and slowly started talking. As she spoke, Xiao Lin noticed that his dormitory seemed to be filled with a shadow.

“Don’t worry, that’s just the most basic of precautions. I don’t want anyone else to hear what I’m about to say. The restricted area of the library was not restricted during the early days of the academy. It was only when Ivan’s rebellion happened. It had involved a lot of people, and caused a big shift in power. The library ended up with a lot of restricted materials. It’s not just books in the library, there’s also a lot of evidence from back then.”

“Hold on, I’m a bit confused. Ivan’s rebellion? What happened there?”

Bell shrugged with a helpless expression. “I can’t tell you that, my programming has been restricted in that regard. I can’t tell you anything personally, but I can help you find it. The true history from that period will help you find the answers you want.”

Bell had stirred his interest, and Xiao Lin could only nod and say, “Fine, where is the restricted area? If you can’t bring me there, can you at least tell me where it is, and how to get in, such as the passwords?”

Bell once again laughed. “Password? Do you think such an important place would have such archaic protections?”

“Come, I’ll have you look at it yourself. This will be a very mystical journey, you should be mentally prepared.” After Bell’s words, the room suddenly got brighter and brighter until it shone like a star, swallowing everything in the light.

Chapter 556 - Virtual Space

Chapter 556: Virtual Space

Suddenly Xiao Lin felt like he had entered a dream world. He had closed his eyes when the light shone, and when he reopened them he realized he was still in his room, but his surroundings were very dark, and he was also pitch-black outside his window. He could not see any trace of sunlight, nor could he hear anyone else. The entire world was dead silent, and Xiao Lin could not help but suspect if that was hell after he died.

“Hey, you’re already awake? That was fast!” Bell pushed open the door and entered. The girl was still in her white dress, and her feet were still bare. However, Xiao Lin immediately saw something strange; Bell actually had her feet on the floor. Compared to the virtual image before, each step she took felt much more realistic.

“Are you a pedophile?” Noticing Xiao Lin’s gaze, Bell’s smile widened.

Xiao Lin suddenly shivered as he averted his gaze; that artificial lifeform was probably older than anyone in the academy, so it was not appropriate to call her a little girl, even though she looked like one.

“Where is this?” Xiao Lin asked.

“Dawn Academy.” Bell smiled as she held her head high, continuing to say, “This is my world; a virtual Dawn Academy.”

“A virtual world? Like a computer game?” Xiao Lin could not help but think about some webnovels that he had read before.

“I think you’ve played too many games! I can’t really explain the basic principles to you, but if you’re interested, you can go learn about space. Basically, this is still the academy; we’re still in the same plane, but in a different place.”

“So you have a real body here?” Xiao Lin could not help but voice his confusion.

“Hahaha!” That girl liked to laugh, but most of her time her laughter was that of playful teasing. The laughter gave Xiao Lin a bad feeling, and sure enough, Bell said, “No, I think you’ve got it all wrong. It’s not that I’ve obtained a body... You just lost your body!”

Xiao Lin was shocked, and he hurriedly touched his arms and body; he still felt solid, but he felt like something was off. At Bell’s words, he frantically investigated what was off.

It was his body heat; his skin was completely ice cold and it had no warmth at all. He could not feel a heartbeat from his chest at all; he felt completely like a dead person, but Xiao Lin did not feel that way at all.

“Am I dead?”

“If you want to die, I can do that for you!” Bell rolled her eyes in annoyance, then explained, “This space completely replicates the academy; both of them have their similarities, but the laws here

don't allow living beings to enter. Don't worry though; I used a special way to temporarily separate your consciousness, so it won't affect your safety."

Even though Xiao Lin could not understand the theory behind it, it seemed very cool...

Basically, Xiao Lin was not worried about his safety, since it was in the same space. That meant that he was still under the protection of the resurrection towers, so death was not a threat. Following Bell out of the dormitory, they headed straight to the library.

On the way, Xiao Lin looked around, and just like the girl had said, each blade of grass, each tree and each building all looked exactly like Dawn Academy. It was just that there was no one in the buildings.

Pushing open the library, it was very dark inside. Xiao Lin had to narrow his eyes to look around carefully. The layout inside was the same as usual, but when Xiao Lin took out a book from the shelves, he found something different.

The cover of the book was a little yellowed, and the corners had obvious marks of wear and tear. That had surprised Xiao Lin, because the library had always considered the long-term storage of the books, and had used special magics to protect them. However, he did not know that those protective spells only started to be used in the last few decades.

The book did not have a name. On the title page was a line of words that seemed to be drawn on, 'Strength is just sacrifice; only by paying a high enough price can we obtain unlimited power!'

"This is a forbidden skill... The author had violated the academy rules that prohibited research into black magic, and even broadcasted it, causing very negative repercussions. The author had his memories removed and was sent back to Earth, and based on our last investigation, I remember that man is still in the psychiatric ward." Bell appeared behind Xiao Lin and explained all of this to him after looking at the title page.

"Why was he in the psychiatric ward?" After what happened with Wang Dalin, Xiao Lin knew that the academy absolutely prohibited the spread of forbidden techniques.

"I've already said it — his memories were completely wiped. That's to prevent him from potentially regaining any of them. After all, if someone with forbidden magic managed to regain their memories, it would cause tremendous harm to Earth. Only, that kind of removal causes a large scar, and it harms the mind, so he has to stay in the psychiatric ward his whole life."

Xiao Lin trembled as he hurriedly put the book back onto the shelf, asking, "Since the president has given you a request beforehand, do you know what sort of books I want?"

"That's right, I do, but isn't it time for you to fulfil your promise?" Bell fluttered her innocent eyes as she said slyly.

"You really are stingy," Xiao Lin mumbled before falling silent.

Bell waited for a few minutes in boredom before she vented a few words in frustration, but Xiao Lin did not answer her. Suddenly, Xiao Lin's eyes widened as veins appeared next to his eyes, as if he was using a lot of force. Xiao Lin panted heavily.

“Hey, hey, what are you doing? I almost forgot to tell you, the laws in this place reject the elements, so if you want to do anything to me, you might not be able to beat me. Oh...” Bell was just playfully mocking him, but midway through, she forcefully swallowed the remainder of her words as her eyes widened. She looked at the third eye on Xiao Lin’s head with a strange expression on her face.

“A Heaven’s Eye, you have a Heaven’s Eye! How could that be?!” Bell asked before Xiao Lin could even speak.

“Isn’t this a Spiritual Eye?” Xiao Lin remembered that Silverlight had told him those eyes were actually called Spiritual Eyes based on what they were called in Atlantis.

“There’s no difference. First, tell me, how did you get a Heaven’s Eye! These eyes should have completely gone extinct tens of thousands of years ago!”

Xiao Lin did not say anything, and Bell was not surprised, so she quickly continued her monologue, “Whatever, it’s fine if you don’t want to tell me. Legends say that Heaven’s Eye had the ability to go back and forth in reincarnation. It’s something almost everyone treats as a myth. Now I understand why you are so certain that time can be rewound!”

Chapter 557 - Discovering History

Chapter 557: Discovering History

“So that’s why you were so certain that the theory of time not being able to be rewound was wrong. I’m curious... Did you really change the past? What did you change?”

Xiao Lin maintained his Heaven’s Eye for a moment and quickly realized that using it in this space consumed even more of his strength. He said, “Before I answer that question, I think it’s time you fulfil your promise.”

“What a petty man!” Bell mumbled, “Follow me.”

Bell brought Xiao Lin to the deepest parts of the library as promised, and in front of them was a steel door that was sealed shut. On the door was a frightening amount of locks; it was unbelievable how so many locks had been fixed on, but what caused Xiao Lin to be speechless was that Bell only needed to wave her hand, and all the locks fell on the ground soundlessly.

“You don’t have much time. You’re far too weak. You can’t stay in this realm for too long, or it will cause irreparable harm to your soul.

“Also, I did not hold much hope for you initially, but since you have that eye, you could give it a try. It could be of some help.”

After Bell’s final warning, she lightly pushed him into the room, and she kept watch outside.

Xiao Lin did not even have time to say anything when the door behind him shut itself again soundlessly. The light had been quite dim before, and there were no windows in that room. After the door closed, Xiao Lin was surrounded by complete darkness, but the darkness did not last long. After a dozen or so seconds, a row of blue lights lit up next to the walls.

Upon closer inspection, Xiao Lin saw that rows of transparent glass orbs had been placed on the closets surrounding him. The orbs had a white substance inside, and the glow was from that substance.

Xiao Lin reached out and took the closest glass orb. The moment his Xiao Lin's hand touched the cold orb, Xiao Lin suddenly felt an immense bout of dizziness, and then a strong suction came from the orb, even completely twisting his body. It was then that Xiao Lin was even more certain that he was not in solid form.

In the dizziness, Xiao Lin seemed to enter a dream world. At some point, he was no longer in that little black room, but instead in a bright meeting room, but the surroundings looked blurry and dreamlike.

There were six people in the meeting room, and they seemed to be fiercely debating something. Xiao Lin could not hear anything initially, but after a few moments, the sound seemed to close in from a distance, and started to get clearer.

"The orcs are getting more and more bold! This is already the thirteenth merchant group that has been attacked in this month! If we don't increase our retaliations, those brainless barbarians will get worse!"

"I agree. Dawn Academy is one of the first colonist countries, so we absolutely mustn't let anyone look down on us."

"I agree."

"I have no comment."

"In at least three months, we should have chased those orcs away to the Endless Seas!"

"I object. Let's not be too eager for war. It's not the right time. The Americans have just signed a peace treaty with the elves, so the elves no longer need to watch their backs. If they work with the orcs, coupled with the fact that our troops have fallen drastically in strength in recent years, open war will cause unbelievable casualties."

"Coward!"

"You're just afraid of the orcs!"

...

Xiao Lin could vaguely understand what he was listening to. That was probably the meeting regarding starting the war with the orcs all those years ago. Even though all of them looked unfamiliar, he had recognized that lone person who objected to going to war. Even though that

person looked very young, it was obviously a younger dean. Of course, he was still not the dean at that time.

The results of that discussion were already obvious; those who wanted war had an absolute advantage. The dean then slammed the door and left in anger. As for what happened after, Xiao Lin naturally knew early on. During the war against the orcs, Dawn Academy's losses were immense, and they had lost their status as the strongest colonists due to that.

The surroundings turned into a blur again, and had dispersed like ripples in the water. Xiao Lin once again returned to the dark room, but he had already grasped the use of those toys. They were a little like memory crystals, and had recorded down important matters. As for why the meeting had been sealed here, Xiao Lin could more or less guess the reason. The participants of that meeting would naturally not want anyone to know they were the ones who proposed the war.

It was unbelievable that the dean had predicted the results of the war, even back then. Even though the war ended in Dawn Academy's victory, the war had caused the academy too many losses. It could be said that the academy fell into decline after that, which caused them to be caught up to and surpassed by the Judge Academy.

However, that was not the reason Xiao Lin was there. Even though Xiao Lin was very interested in what happened back then, he still put Bell's warning in his heart. He seized the time to continue looking for other crystal balls. He tried a few of them, but they were all from the wrong time periods.

There were at least a hundred glass balls there, and if he continued trying like that, he would not have enough time. Xiao Lin was a bit anxious, but he suddenly remembered Bell saying that his Heaven's Eye would be able to help him. Even though she was vague with it, Xiao Lin still decided to try.

It was very taxing activating his Heaven's Eye here, as he could not feel the presence of any elemental energy. Because of that he had no way to replenish the large amounts of energy he used to maintain the Heaven's Eye. With Xiao Lin's current level, it was quite an endeavor.

Xiao Lin did not know why Bell wanted him to use Heaven's Eye; it was obvious Bell was not clueless about that eye, but just as Xiao Lin was suspecting that he would need to use Time Rewind, and target it at those glass balls, he suddenly realized something.

The Eye of Truth could even see through time!

The liquids in the glass orbs started to disperse and look clearer under the Eye of Truth. Even though he could not completely see through what was inside, it felt like a movie that had been sped up to the fastest speed; he could not see it clearly, but he could still somewhat grasp it.

Xiao Lin walked around nearby, and the eye on his forehead constantly looked around. He was quite satisfied with how useful his eye was even though it was an eye. Heaven's Eye did not actually 'see' the outside world, instead it 'felt' it. The results of the feelings were transmitted into Xiao Lin's mind, and he made his decisions based on that.

With that method, Xiao Lin suddenly seemed to feel a sudden stimulation as he entire body shuddered. He quickly walked to the rightmost row, and eyed the last glass ball there.

Chapter 558 - Ivan's Final Battle

Chapter 558: Ivan's Final Battle

Xiao Lin's intuition seemed to be attracted by something in that glass ball. The feeling was different from the other glass balls. The feeling only got that strong after he opened Heaven's Eye. He stared at the glass ball in front of him, furrowing his eyebrows for a moment before revealing a strange expression.

A Shard of Creation!

That strange sensation meant that it was clearly a Shard of Creation!

Xiao Lin already knew that the Shards of Creation shared a certain relationship, but he currently had very few of them, so the relationship was very weak. After receiving the newest shard from the Rosa Kingdom and successfully fusing the few he had into an incomplete body, it greatly strengthened the connection.

"I never thought there would be a shard here, but why did I not feel it earlier?" Xiao Lin mumbled to himself before touching the eye on his forehead. After eliminating all other possibilities, the only answer left was that it was something caused by the eye on his forehead.

On the surface, that glass ball was no different from the others; there was a blurry liquid inside just like the others, and there was space to store a Shard of Creation, but Xiao Lin believed that the reaction from the Shards of Creation within his body would not be wrong, so he reached out to touch the glass ball.

The surroundings suddenly blurred once again, and when he reopened his eyes, Xiao Lin noticed that he was in a dense forest. The dark skies were covered with large clouds. The temperature looked very low, but of course, Xiao Lin could not feel the temperature at all as a spectator. Two men stood nearby, and one of them was Ivanovich.

Xiao Lin had met Ivan before, even if that was just an incomplete fragment of Ivanovich's memories within his dream world. However, he had a deep impression of the man, so he could immediately identify him at just a glance.

When he looked at the other man, Xiao Lin was shocked, because it was a man who looked noticeably older than Ivan, and was not completely unfamiliar to Xiao Lin. He was familiar because he looked too much like Song Junlang from the Logistics Department! If it was not for the fact that their ages looked too different, Xiao Lin would have thought that it actually was Song Junlang.

"Ivan, why are you doing this?" The man who looked like Song Junlang asked with a pained look; his voice was very low, quite different from Song Junlang's, which gave Xiao Lin some relief. He was much more certain that it was not Song Junlang, but he had to have been a relative of his.

"Song! You don't have to say anymore! You should know my temper more than anyone else. My alma mater educated me, and I'm grateful to them, but they lied to me, lied to this world! That's

something I cannot accept!” Ivanovich said emotionally; his Mandarin was not very accurate, but the general meaning could be understood.

“This world has always been wrapped around lies and falsehood. Haven’t you seen through that? Even people as strong as you and me can’t save the home world. We can’t save everyone!” the man who looked like Song Junlang said slowly. His voice was low, hiding a certain amount of sadness.

“Is that so? Even if you don’t understand me!” Ivan sighed, his tone turning cold. “You are right — we can’t save everyone, but they used my mother’s soul to threaten me. I hate necromancers the most in this world. Everyone who specializes in that should all be sent to hell! Hahaha, did they think that I would fall to their wills just like that? They are naive to a despicable degree. Who am I? I am Ivanovich, I am an SS-rank talent-holder! Who do they think they are? Who?!”

Ivan’s eyes started to redden, and his voice carried a certain sadness. “Song, do you know? I shattered my mother’s soul. I personally killed my mother, but I had no choice. When we reach our level of skill, it’s not difficult to control souls. I don’t want my mother to be controlled by others, even in death. I would rather she die in my hands.”

“I’m sorry. I can understand your pain, but I have nothing to do with Voyna Akademiya. Your actions now are threatening Dawn Academy and my country, so I have no choice.” Song’s eyes dropped.

“Even you think I’m trying to destroy the world? I’ve said many times that I’m saving the world, not destroying it... Even you don’t believe me?”

Ivan laughed. “Since that’s the case, there’s nothing much to say. Song, you are my best friend. Even though you are just an S-rank talent-holder, you are called the one closest to me. It’s not a surprise they sent you here, but no matter how close you are, you still can’t reach my level.”

“How do we know if we don’t try?” Song smiled softly, but his smile carried a moroseness to it.

Xiao Lin could not help but widen his eyes. Even though he did not understand everything that they were talking about, the battle that followed would probably be an intense battle that could never be forgotten by the annals of history.

The battle shook the heavens. Ivanovich’s ability was Creation, and his power of creation was already at the point of perfection. Lava, a raging storm and a torrential flood was constantly surging within that narrow forest.

The other man’s ability seemed to be related to spatial powers, and he had completely negated all of Ivanovich’s creations with that, and the battle suddenly entered a lulled state.

Xiao Lin had thought that the battle would have lasted longer, but after a few minutes, the battle was close to an end.

Ivanovich created wind to float up into the air, and he shouted loudly, “Song! Don’t blame me! Even if it’s you, I won’t give up on my ideals. This will be my last gift to you and this world!”

A rumbling sound started to be heard in the skies. Xiao Lin suddenly raised his head, and his pupils shrank. In the sky, a massive meteor was currently plummeting toward the surface at an incredible speed.

“My god!” Xiao Lin could not help but exclaim, as he remembered the dean telling him before that Ivan’s Creation ability could create meteors toward the end, and now he finally saw the shocking sight with his own eyes.

“Ivan! Have you gone crazy?! Do you really want to destroy the world and betray mankind?” Song’s expression changed as he shouted in anxious anger. It seemed like the meteor exceeded his abilities. After all, the man closest to Ivan was only close, and S-ranks and SS-ranks still had an insurmountable difference between them.

However, very quickly, that man had a decisive expression on his face. He stood facing the meteor, not having any intention of dodging. He raised his hands up high, and in the middle of his hands, a pitch black orb started to condense.

Chapter 559 - Distorted Space-Time

Chapter 559: Distorted Space-Time

In between the man’s palms, a galaxy-like, endless darkness was quickly forming with that black orb as the heart of it. An immense amount of dust and stones, and even the ice shards and flames from the surroundings, were frantically being sucked in.

Ivan had a startled expression. “Using the pull between spaces to form a miniature blackhole? After not meeting each other for a few years, you’ve actually mastered this killer technique! However, Song, with your power, you will only be able to create a blackhole. You won’t be able to control it. You should know more clearly than I do what losing control of a blackhole means! You... Are you trying to die?!”

“Since that’s the case, then let’s try it out. A collision between a blackhole and a meteor, hahaha. I want to see what kind of power it will produce! Let’s go! Collide with that meteor!”

As Ivan laughed, the gigantic meteor started to hit the ground. In a flash, a terrifying blast and an explosion of light that resembled a star filled up every corner. Xiao Lin shut his eyes at that moment, but could not resist leaving it a fraction open. He did not want to miss anything that happened during the final moments.

From their words earlier, Xiao Lin derived that they were currently on Earth. Then, the question came... Ivan had created a meteor and sent it straight to Earth, and even though Xiao Lin did not understand physics, he still knew some basic knowledge. If a meteor of that scale hit the Earth, even if it did not destroy it, it would still be enough to completely kill off all the humans on Earth.

Yet, actual history proved that to be false, so did that mean that the meteor had been stopped by that man named Song?

Countless questions surfaced in Xiao Lin's mind, and the piercing light lasted for a very long time. Even just peeking through a small crack in his eyelids was enough to cause his eyes to water, but he quickly found that something was wrong. He seemed to be getting closer and closer to the center of impact?

Even though he did not understand the principles behind the glass orbs, based on Xiao Lin's guesses, they should be like memory crystals, and recorded history through some sort of special method, and he was just watching it like a movie.

What sort of joke was this!!

Xiao Lin should have been absolutely silent and unaffected as a spectator, since there was nothing he could do but look at the battle through these 'lenses'. Yet, at that moment, his body started to move involuntarily and Xiao Lin could somehow feel a suction coming from the center of the explosion.

The miniature blackhole!

Remembering the miniature blackhole the man had unleashed during the last moments, Xiao Lin could not help but get anxious. Was that blackhole's suction even capable of piercing through time and space, directly affecting Xiao Lin.

That was not funny.

Xiao Lin just wanted to look at the truth of history; he did not plan on burying himself within it. It was a pity that Bell did not tell him how to get out of this illusory world before he entered, so he could only wait for the recording to end before being able to go back.

After an uncertain amount of time, the intensity of the light got a lot weaker. Opening his eyes, the surroundings had already turned into a barren wasteland. No matter if they were insects, animals, plants or trees, they had all been turned to ashes from that clash. Xiao Lin was not affected by that impact at all, but the suction from the blackhole got stronger and stronger, and Xiao Lin's heart was a lot more frantic as he looked at it.

Suddenly, the world surrounding Xiao Lin fell into a pitch-black darkness, and Xiao Lin could not even see his own body, but he could feel his body constantly twisting and distorting. Other than his consciousness still being intact, he could not even open his mouth.

After a few seconds, a few words came from the darkness, and he could tell that it was Ivanovich and Song.

"The collision between a meteor and a blackhole... I can't believe it even distorted time and space. It's really an unbelievable power. Thankfully, you managed to protect Earth. If you didn't manage to block my meteor earlier, I would have hated you to death."

"Ah, are you not willing to give up, even at the end?"

"The path I have chosen... I will complete it even if I have to die."

“You’re still the same person. I could feel someone observing our fight near the Tungus River. Even if you can escape from this distorted space — even if it’s you — you won’t be able to defeat those people with the strength you have left. I will help you open another spatial pathway, but as for where it ends up, whether it’s a different dimension or a different universe, it will depend on your luck. Ivan, that’s the last thing I can do for you. So take care.”

“I’ll leave this Shard of Creation to you. it might help you. Song, I’m sorry, this is the last time I’ll apologize to you. You... Take care as well!”

The voices in the darkness got softer and softer until the surroundings were once again plunged into silence. A hole suddenly appeared in the darkness; it was a passage that barely seemed to exist. Xiao Lin could vaguely make out a blood-red color at the end of the passage. It was a world filled with red, and it was a world he was familiar with.

The answer was simple... At the end of the spatial passage was the Final Lands!

Before he could even be shocked, the passage closed in a flash, but Ivan had already gone through the passage. After a while, a sigh could be heard in the darkness before the voice mumbled to itself, “This is the legendary Shard of Creation? It really is something amazing. It can actually let me live on in this space where my flesh and blood is constantly being distorted... But what use is that?”

A star-like glow could be seen in the darkness; it was the light from a Shard of Creation, and Xiao Lin once again felt a familiar response in his mind. At the moment, he was still somewhere where he could not control anything. He tried waiting... He tried waiting for the recording to disappear so he could escape.

Yet, the wait seemed much longer than he anticipated. At some point, he did not even know how much time had passed. An hour? A day? A month? Or was it a year?

In that world, where even his body had been distorted, Xiao Lin could not do anything other than think. Finally, at some point, he felt like he had to do something instead of waiting for death like that. Even though his senses and movements had been distorted, other than thinking, he actually had something else he could use.

Heaven’s Eye!

During that unknown period of time, the exhausted Heaven’s Eye had already recovered its energy.

With the eye open, the Eye of Truth started to clear up the darkness in front of him. Even though his sight was still blurred, he could still somewhat make out the person that was floating not far away from him. Even if it was just a guest, that man should definitely be that Song person.

Time Rewind!

The next second, Xiao Lin did not hesitate to activate the second ability of his Heaven’s Eye!

Chapter 560 - New Shard

Chapter 560: New Shard

Following the activation of Time Rewind, a white light started to be unleashed from his forehead. Xiao Lin's entire being was like a lighthouse in the darkness, and had illuminated even the distorted chaos and darkness, but he felt like that was a problem, because Xiao Lin should just have been an observer, yet in this place where even time and space have been turned into darkness, it seemed like his status as a spectator had also been distorted.

Time Rewind could cause an area's time to move in reverse, allowing one to observe the truth that happened in the past.

Yet, what could he see by rewinding time there, because that was a place where time did not even exist? However, Xiao Lin quickly got his answer, the slowly illuminated chaos was like a dark mist, and it slowly looked like it was moving.

No, in the world that was in an indeterminate location, there was no darkness or mist. What was dispersed by Time Rewind's light was not mist, but time!

Suddenly, Xiao Lin understood the principles behind it. In this world where space and time had fallen quiet, his Time Rewind had caused it to move again.

The darkness was dispersed, and the man that was floating in mid-air seemed to feel it as well. He turned his head with a strange expression, and on his face was a thick look of confusion and alarm.

As time started to move again, Xiao Lin's originally distorted body was quickly recovering, and was also moving toward that man. However, the closer he got to that man, it was clear from the man's expression that, even though it was obvious from the man's expression that he could perceive Xiao Lin, the man could not see him.

That strange scene was already not something Xiao Lin could understand. He did not know if that place had something like the wall of time that served as a barrier.

Fine, Xiao Lin did not even know if he was interfering with history by doing this, or maybe it was just like sealing the sea god, and this was actually a part of history itself?

"Ivan, is it you?" the man suddenly said, his voice obviously old and raspy; it seemed like even making a sound was hard. It was like a person who had never spoken for decades suddenly opening their mouths, realizing they had forgotten how to speak.

Xiao Lin did not know what to say. At that moment, he tried greeting the man. After the mist had been dispersed by Time Rewind, he found that he could indeed talk there. However, the other party did not seem to have heard him, and his voice could not be transmitted.

"I can feel that you're here. Have you finally returned?" The man could not get a response from Xiao Lin, but he still mumbled to himself.

"Ah, it feels just like yesterday, but I'm someone who specializes in time and space, so I know that even though no time feels like it's passed here, who knows how much time has actually passed me by? Has it been decades or just a few years?"

Xiao Lin sighed in his heart, as from his words with Ivan before, he could already guess that the mark of their battle would have been noted down in history as the Tunguska Event. Because that man had mentioned the Tungus River, the explosion had occurred near Russia's Tungus River.

Calculating the time, over a hundred years had passed. It was possible the man understood that the time outside was incredibly faster than here, but he could not have possibly anticipated such a large change. It was just a hasty farewell to him, but a century had already passed.

"I don't know what the current world is like, but since you're still here, then I believe both Earth and Planet Norma are both fine. I thought that I was very good at space and time before, but regretfully, I only understand now that, compared to the uncountable laws of the universe, the knowledge I have grasped was only a drop in the water... I can no longer leave this place. I can feel that my body has already deteriorated beyond repair. If it wasn't for the Shard of Creation you gave me that protected me, I would not even be able to talk like a cripple right now."

The man spoke while panting, and it seemed like every word used up all of his energy, like a candle about to go out. Xiao Lin even felt like getting the man to stop talking, but he could not do anything. All Xiao Lin could do was stare as the man floated in the air, listening to the low voice constantly resonating into the darkness. His Time Rewind only had a limited range of effect, so upon leaving the radius of the white glow, it was still all distorted space and time.

"I'm tired. Compared to staying here living between life and death, I'd rather just go quickly, but I can't just leave what you gave me behind. I know this shard is very important to you and both the worlds, but now that you're here, I can finally return it to you."

The man tried to lift his arm, but it powerlessly fell as he lifted it halfway. After a few minutes, the irregularly shaped shard floated up from his body, and the golden glow of the shard even covered up the light that Heaven's Eye emitted.

The Shard slowly moved toward Xiao Lin, and when it was close, Xiao Lin tried to grab the shard, but his hand merely passed through. It was just like everything was just an illusion.

After trying a few times, Xiao Lin even tried to focus all of Heaven's Eye's power on the shard, but he still could not touch it. He could not help but get anxious, because he started to feel like his strength was rapidly being drained and lost. Maintaining Time Rewind was still something very taxing for Xiao Lin, and just a short few minutes was already his limit.

Once he lost Time Rewind, the temporarily lit up area would once again be plunged into an unending darkness, and at that moment, it would be impossible to find the Shard of Creation.

The man could not see what was happening. The moment the shard left him, his entire body started to rapidly age until he looked like dried up firewood. His life could end at any time, and because of that, Xiao Lin was even more nervous. He did not want that man to lose his life in vain.

"Since Heaven's Eye can't be used, then I'll try using my own shards!" Xiao Lin hatched a plan in a hurry. Seeing as he had not much time left with Time Rewind, he immediately summoned the Shard of Creation in his body.

The two pieces quietly floated in the air, and radiated their own energy. From the size, the other piece was noticeably larger. Xiao Lin's shard might have been combined with a few different pieces, but it seemed like it was still not as large as the one Ivan left behind.

Chapter 561 - Fusion of Shards

Chapter 561: Fusion of Shards

Each shard emitted their own light, and the lights slowly merged together. As they shone on each other, the feeling in Xiao Lin's mind intensified. As predicted, with the intensifying of that feeling, the two shards slowly began to resonate, and started to vibrate.

After that, the shards started to morph into a multicolored light as they both started to rapidly collide at the center. At the moment of the collision, they once again emitted an endless bright light that did not pale in comparison to the collision of the meteor and the blackhole at all. The energy that the two shards that were just the size of a palm contained shocked Xiao Lin.

The soundless collision only lasted for a second before everything quieted down again. Only one shard remained in the air, and the size was even smaller than the two shards before, but it emitted an even more intense light. After floating for a moment, it was called back into Xiao Lin's body.

Not long after that, Time Rewind reached its limit and started to slowly disperse. Looking at that old man who was rapidly aging, Xiao Lin did not know what to say. The darkness was already rapidly setting back in, so Xiao Lin could only say softly, "Thank you."

Knowing that those words would not be able to be transmitted to the distorted space and time, Xiao Lin prepared to turn back, but he heard a soft and burdened sigh in his ears, "If it's possible, help me check on that useless idiot son of mine, Junlang. Thank you."

Xiao Lin suddenly turned around, but darkness had already covered every corner. He could no longer see that man in the chaotic space-time, and a great power started to condense in his surroundings. However, it was not that same suction from the start. It was the opposite – an intense repelling force.

Xiao Lin lost control of his body yet again, he suddenly started to feel like he was being spun around as his surroundings started to constantly spin. At some point, Xiao Lin opened his eyes to find that he was lying on a cold floor, and the dimly glowing glass balls around him caused him to be relieved. At least, he had managed to return.

Using Time Rewind had greatly exhausted him, and after forcing himself to stand up with some effort, he no longer planned on continuing. However, he noticed that the rack was missing one glass ball, which was the recording that he was just looking at. As he narrowed his eyes to look around, he noticed shards of glass on the floor.

As he was mulling over what to do, the door opened again, and Bell poked his head, asking, "What happened? I heard some sort of commotion earlier. I need to remind you to pay attention. The memory crystals here might not all be valuable, but it will still be troublesome if they were destroyed."

“Oh, I regret to say that your warning was a little late.”

After a few minutes...

Bell and Xiao Lin, who had already left the library, looked at each other. Xiao Lin was speechless, and Bell was noticeably angered. Xiao Lin was the first to say something as he innocently shrugged, “I didn’t do it on purpose.”

“What difference does that make! Do you know how important that crystal you destroyed was?! A few decades ago, the last dean had personally placed it in the restricted area, and the Supreme Council had issued a decree prohibiting anyone from looking at it!” Bell had already learned of the contents of the crystal from Xiao Lin.

“The Supreme Council? That’s true, it seemed like only they had the power to do something like that to Ivan, but why didn’t they notice?” Xiao Lin ignored Bell’s anger, and was more concerned about her words. The sealing of that crystal was probably decided by the Supreme Council.

Of course, Xiao Lin was not surprised by that. In that recording, the man had said that someone was observing their battle from Tungus River, but he was still curious as to why the Supreme Council did not take away the Shard of Creation.

However, in the end he figured out the only possibility: the first half of the recording was indeed observed, but after being sucked into the blackhole and thrown into that distorted space, others could probably not see what was happening within at all. Thanks to Xiao Lin having his Heaven’s Eye, which had been lost for tens of thousands of years, he was able to look at the truth behind the distorted space.

Yet, that still could not explain how he could accept the Shard of Creation that was hidden in there. It was possible what he saw as not actually a recording of history. At least, the last part might not be. It was possible that that memory crystal was coincidentally an entrance to a secret space, just like how Ivan had gone to the Final Lands from that distorted space. The chaos of time and space was not something Xiao Lin or anyone else could understand easily.

Xiao Lin was beginning to get a headache, and Bell was venting her anger on him when she suddenly asked coldly, “Then did you find the answer you wanted?”

Xiao Lin fell silent for a moment before bitterly smiling. “I did not really find it, but at least I got some clues. However, I did not expect the true history to be so... cruel.”

He had wanted to say it was dirty. In the past, Voyna Akademiya had worked with Dawn Academy to stop Ivanovich, and no matter the reason, it had definitely not been an upright move. However, if he thought that way, then he would even be blaming Dawn Academy, and he would have been doing it right in front of Dawn Academy’s own intelligent computer, which was definitely not the right move.

“Then I guess you did find an answer.” Bell fluttered her eyes, putting on an expression that Xiao Lin found very cute.

Xiao Lin was immediately on alert. He remembered he actually still had a deal with that girl. She had helped him find his answer in the restricted area, and now he had to tell Bell the way to

change history. He suddenly asked, “You care so much about whether or not time can be rewound. Are you trying to change time?”

“That’s none of your business!” Bell glared at him angrily.

“Fine, it’s actually quite simple. You’ve mentioned it as well already; my eye is actually the extinct Heaven’s Eye from an ancient civilization. The legends aren’t wrong; the eye does possess the ability to go to the past, but regretfully, changing history isn’t that easy. If history could really be changed, then how did that ancient civilization get destroyed, and how did modern humans appear?”

“Are you trying to trick me?” Bell narrowed her eyes, her expression suddenly turning ice-cold and scary.

“No, no, I’m not lying to you. The only way to change history is through me, understand? Even if you give this eye to anyone else, they won’t be able to break the wall of time; only I can do that.”

Xiao Lin ignored the threat in Bell’s expression. His words were basically telling Bell that, if she really wanted to change time, Bell would have to help him. Otherwise, even if she took out the eye on Xiao Lin’s forehead and gave it to someone else, it would be useless.

Being able to change time lay with Xiao Lin, not with the Heaven’s Eye.

Even though Xiao Lin himself felt like it was strange and hard to believe, his experience had seemed to prove that fact true.

Chapter 562 - Ban

Chapter 562: Ban

Because Xiao Lin could not stay in that world for too long, and Time Rewind had expended too much of his power, Bell did not cause him too much trouble, and she quickly brought him away from that world. After a brief blast of light, Xiao Lin once again stood in his dormitory, as if he had never left at all. However, with the exhaustion of his mind and the feeling of the shard in his body, he knew it was not a dream.

Bell had repeatedly warned him against exposing the matter to anyone. As for the shattered memory crystal, she would find a way to conceal the matter. Thankfully, in the recent few years, basically no one had been checking on it. As for what they would do in the future, they would leave the matter till then.

To Xiao Lin, the trip to the restricted area might have produced a lot of questions, but he also gained a lot of answers. The key seemed to still be Ivanovich. Just as the dean had said before he left, going to Ivan’s home might yield more findings.

To the current Xiao Lin, he definitely had Ivan’s old home in mind. It was possible there would even be more Shards of Creation there. Based on the man’s conversation with Ivan, it was not hard

to determine that the Shards of Creation were definitely very important things, and Ivan had been collecting them back then as well. It was just a pity he did not succeed.

However, the dean's words were very vague. Ivan's home could have been a lot of things; it could be his home on Earth, Vonya Akademiya could also be his home, or it could even be where Ivan stayed on Planet Norma.

It was fine; thanks to Xiao Lin's current ban, there was no way for him to go to the colonized territories, and wanting to go to another academy was an even more troublesome procedure that involved a lot of bureaucracy. There was no way for Xiao Lin to say that he was going there to find Shards of Creation, so in the end, his only choice was to go back to Earth.

However, when he mentioned it to the student union president, he was unceremoniously rejected. The president still had that innocent baby face on, but his tone was much more stern, "Xiao Lin! Did you forget everything I told you earlier? If you do that, do you know how much you would hurt those who care about you?! For you, your biggest task right now is to properly study! Even if heaven were to fall, we're still here to hold it up!"

The president rarely got angry, and Xiao Lin knew that it was out of kindness, but he still remembered the dean's last words to him. Some things have to be done by those with SS-rank talents. Only he could collect the Shards of Creation. If Xiao Lin's guess was right, Lilith should be doing the same thing in Judge Academy as well.

Xiao Lin and Lilith had no grudges against each other, but on this matter, even if it was for the dean who had always cared about him, he did not want Dawn Academy to lose to Judge Academy.

Xiao Lin could not mention those reasons to the president, the less people who knew about the Shards of Creation the better, that was certain. So, in the end, he could only obstinately stare at the president.

After a few minutes, the president's tone mellowed out as he sighed. "Don't hold any wishful thinking. Let me tell you, two days ago Dawn City issued a ban on you. Other than the colonized territories, you've also been banned from returning to Earth in the next two years."

This time Xiao Lin really did get angry as he stood up, asking accusingly, "Why is he doing this?!"

The president looked at him meaningfully, saying, "There are some things that you can't hide from everyone. During that battle in the Pacific on Earth, the military sent a team of very perceptive people to investigate. They can find a person even with just a shred of a scent."

Xiao Lin was stunned. The last time, he had hidden it from the academy when he went into Atlantis's remnants deep in the ocean under the guidance of Silverlight. He had thought that no one knew, but he never expected that someone had found traces of him.

The president said, "Don't worry, I don't know the details, but this matter has already been settled. No one will do anything to you, but after that investigation, some people don't want you returning to Earth in the near future."

"Then what about my family?" Seeing as there was no way to do anything about it, Xiao Lin asked another question.

The president smiled. "You don't have to worry about that, no one would dare do anything to your family. In truth, we've already sent some people to protect your family. Even if you can't go back, you can still write letters every month, and get it sent by those on the Earth branch. No one would care about a small matter like that."

"Fine!" Xiao Lin sighed.

As he was about to leave, the president suddenly coughed lightly as he put on a false smile. "What is it? Do you think differently of me?"

"Oh, that's not it." Xiao Lin knew that the orders definitely came from the new dean, the defense minister. Even the president did not have the power to change the orders.

"You really don't trust me enough."

"Is there still room to turn it around? If you want me to go and beg, then forget about it." Xiao Lin felt that he still needed to have a bit of a backbone.

The president laughed. "Of course that's not possible. There's no way they would retract an order that has already been issued, but the orders also mentioned that exceptions could be made for special circumstances."

"What kind of circumstances would be considered special?"

"An example would be the inter-academy tournament. At that time, we would definitely need to compete in the other academies, and we would usually go there through Earth."

Xiao Lin had a moment of realization; it was getting closer to the inter-academy tournament. Before that, he had been trapped in the Rosa Kingdom, and after experiencing a slew of things, he had almost forgotten about it. As the most outstanding new student, he was naturally one of the representatives of Dawn Academy, and would definitely participate when the time came.

"I understand. I will definitely prepare for the tournament properly."

Xiao Lin gave the president a serious guarantee, causing the president to be relieved. After all, if Xiao Lin caused any trouble, he would be the one put in the most difficult position.

After that, Xiao Lin did not go to the restricted area anymore, but Bell regularly looked for him. He would open the door to his room to suddenly find a barefoot little girl making faces at him while floating in mid-air. After being scared a few times, Xiao Lin got used to it, and could not stop himself from thinking about Silverlight. The last person to scare him like that was definitely that Atlantean Princess.

Bell normally did not look for Xiao Lin for anything in particular, but Xiao Lin understood that the girl seemed to be very fixated on rewinding time, but it seemed to be for a reason that could not be spoken of. She did not say what part of history she wanted to change, and as the academy's intelligence, Bell was harmless to humans, so Xiao Lin understood that she would not be doing anything too untoward. Xiao Lin would have more questions occasionally as well, and Bell would be able to answer a lot of them.

Chapter 563 - Bronze Rank

Chapter 563: Bronze Rank

Compared to being in the colonist territories, life in the academy was much more peaceful. Returning to the life of cycling between the dormitories, classes, and training hall, Xiao Lin quickly fell into a routine. His nerves that had been tense since the Rosa Kingdom started to relax, but he would occasionally remember Ibeiya who was still there.

The president would give him the occasional news, such as the fact that Liang Taibai had started the journey back to the Rosa Kingdom a few days ago. Even though they did not know what sort of orders Liang Taibai received this time, just as they predicted before, before the situation in the Rosa's government stabilized, even the new dean would not easily change the new queen that had been appointed by the last king. Or maybe they thought that Ibeiya, being young, would be easier to control. Basically, Ibeiya would be able to continue being the queen.

The rebels in the Rosa Kingdom disappeared without a trace ever since they retreated from the royal city. After that, even though Dawn City's troops scoured the country, they could not find a single trace of the rebels. If it was not for the piles of corpses around the royal city signifying the situation when the city was being besieged, they would have thought that the siege was just a strategic ploy.

Asabanor had brought the rebel troops that he earned and disappeared again.

It was a pity there were no satellites on Planet Norma; if Asabanor had really prepared a camp deep in the mountains or a dense forest or some unknown location, it was actually hard to locate him.

Song Junlang still remained in Dawn City. The last time, he had been researching some animals that had been brought over from Earth, and had planned on returning within the month, but since Xiao Lin had brought back more samples from the Rosa Kingdom, Song Junlang's interest had been massively piqued, and he might not even leave the research center in Dawn City in the next half a year.

The president had given Xiao Lin good news both times, but he kept avoiding talking about Dawn City's latest situation as well as the dean's health. He did not seem willing to reveal too much.

Xiao Lin did not try to pursue the matter, as he knew that even if he had more information, there was nothing he could do at his current level. The only thing he could do at that moment was to frantically train himself and increase his abilities as fast as possible to prepare for the inter-academy tournament.

The month's classes went on as usual, and even Xiao Lin, who had the freedom to choose his own classes, basically went to class according to the time table. At the middle of the month, a new experience welcomed the first-years.

Based on the regulations of the academy, there would be a complete assessment in the middle of every semester. The first reason was to renew the data the academy had, and the second reason was so that the students would have a better understanding of their own growth.

The assessment was done during the weekend, and the process was more or less the same as when they entered the academy. They used a special scanner which would go through checking and analysis on the central computer, and later on, everyone would obtain their reports on their own computers.

What was different from when they entered the academy was that, other than the various physical attributes, there were also various analytics, such as how much they improved after entering the academy, what courses they were in the last semester, and which attributes those courses helped with. They would then compare the students' growths with historical averages to see where the students stood.

Xiao Lin was somewhat surprised when he received his report, because his four basic attributes had all increased to 80. That meant that his total attribute score was at 320, and Bronze rank only required 300.

In the Rosa Kingdom, Xiao Lin's attributes had all taken a big leap due to the Shards of Creation, and had all increased to 60 points. After that, with Liang Taibai's vials of potions, he had temporarily experienced being at Bronze rank, but after the potions wore off, he returned to Black-iron rank.

It seemed that after receiving the shard from the library's restricted area, the same effect happened, causing his attributes to break through to the Bronze rank.

What caused Xiao Lin to be even more speechless was, after he received the report, he started to get a lot of congratulatory phone calls. He had been curious as to how those people knew, but when Chen Dao asked him to log into the forums, he noticed there was a gigantic title in the middle of the first-year forums. [Congratulations to the monitor of Class Seven, Xiao Lin, for being the first freshman student to break into Bronze rank!]

The other monitors could not possibly have that sort of special privilege on the forums, but Xiao Lin suddenly thought about Bell. That girl had said that she could manage the forums, but the eye-catching title was definitely done out of mischief.

However, the entire first year had been shaken by Xiao Lin's shocking breakthrough, and even the small handful of conspiracy theorists that were always present in the forums could not continue to slander Xiao Lin when it came to that subject.

The higher one's basic attributes were, the harder it was to increase, that was something everyone had come to an understanding about as they reached their second semester. It was now very hard for them to increase one attribute by a few points in just one training lesson like last semester, and it was also because of that that Xiao Lin's incredible speed was even more amazing.

Xiao Lin actually regretted it a little, for if he had known that the shards would have such an obvious help to his attributes, he would have waited a little longer before absorbing them. After all, he would only find it harder and harder to increase his attributes in the future. However, since he was now at Bronze rank, he was a lot more confident about the inter-academy tournament.

Xiao Lin used his rights as a monitor to look at the ranks of the others in this class. Compared to the end of last semester, there was quite an increase in Black-iron ranked students. It was actually not hard to increase basic attributes before reaching the Black-iron rank, and other than Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, Class Seven had four others students at that rank.

Xiao Lin still focused on Gu Xiaoyue as usual. Since the monthly examination, a series of events had happened and he did not have the time to look for Gu Xiaoyue, but that did not mean that he did not care about her. Gu Xiaoyue was still the same person; her total attributes were already at 240 points. If he did not count the Shards of Creation, Xiao Lin would more or less be at her level.

However, Gu Xiaoyue's skills were still extremely one-sided. Of the 240 points, her intelligence took up 150 points. The other three only averaged about 30 points, especially her physique, which seemed to have even deteriorated from last semester. That rendered Xiao Lin speechless, as out of so many students in class, Gu Xiaoyue was the only one whose attributes had deteriorated.

Of course, the attributes themselves could not be decreased, and they would often just show a slight decline if neglected for too long. For instance, those who specialized in bureaucracy after graduating would see their states slowly decrease after a long time of living in peace, but Xiao Lin did not think that Gu Xiaoyue would be someone like that.

Chapter 564 - The Dropping Of Gu Xiaoyue's Attributes

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Gu Xiaoyue had always lived a simple life; she rarely interacted with other students, and all her spare time was spent either reading or in meditation. If anyone called that girl lazy, then the school would probably have no one who could be called hardworking.

With those emotions in his mind, Xiao Lin opened the door to Gu Xiaoyue's room. Since dinner had just passed, he did not worry that she would be asleep. The girl was as cold as usual, but when she saw Xiao Lin walking into her own room so naturally, the corner of her lips twitched.

Xiao Lin suddenly thought that barging into a woman's dormitory late at night was not a good idea, but he had to admit that he had been driven by the urge to see Gu Xiaoyue immediately.

Gu Xiaoyue looked at him calmly, as she was not one to start conversations.

Xiao Lin looked around the simple room, and his gaze fell on the desk. The desk had a book on it, so she was probably reading earlier. There were two bottles next to the book; one of them was already empty, and the other one had a faint red liquid inside.

"What is that?" Xiao Lin finally asked.

"Nutrient potions."

Xiao Lin raised his eyebrow before picking up the bottle to read the words on it. “Nurse the Body and Replenish Blood?”

Xiao Lin observed Gu Xiaoyue, who was right next to him with an intense expression, and he was surprised to find that, after so long of not seeing her, Gu Xiaoyue’s face seemed a little pale. His voice got a little heavier, “What’s wrong with your health?”

Gu Xiaoyue seemed a little shy at being stared at, and she looked away, saying, “I have... I have not been feeling all that well lately, so I bought these two bottles of potions to help with it.”

“A little unwell? Are you so unwell that it caused your physical attributes to drop by so much?” The girl tried to brush it aside, but it did not cause Xiao Lin to relax. He knew that Gu Xiaoyue was very stubborn.

Gu Xiaoyue’s physique had dropped only a little compared to last semester, and it did not look that much, but Gu Xiaoyue was someone who signed up for physical training classes. With her hardworking personality, she would definitely have increased the attribute by quite a bit. If that was the case, her attributes would not have decreased by so little.

Xiao Lin cursed himself for not realizing it earlier, and it caused him to have a dark thought as he asked, “Does it have anything to do with your lifespan? I looked at your report earlier; you only have a year and a half left!”

Half a semester had passed, and Gu Xiaoyue had lost a quarter of her life!

It now looked like, with the shortening of her life, Gu Xiaoyue would be suffering from severe impacts to her body. Xiao Lin could vaguely feel that the cold girl in front of him was slowly weakening.

Before, Xiao Lin had already speculated on Gu Xiaoyue’s secret with Song Junlang. The two of them felt that Gu Xiaoyue might have elvish blood in her. As seen from the colonist territories, whenever humans bred with the natives, they would almost always have natural born genetic deficiencies, and their lifespans were never long.

It was a problem that stumped all the academies. The problem still did not have a solution to this day, but Song Junlang had told Xiao Lin before that he had constantly been conducting genetic research, so it was possible that Song Junlang could be of some help. Only, after hastily showing his face in the academy last time, Song Junlang had already returned to Dawn City to continue his research, and it would be hard to find him in the academy in the short term.

Xiao Lin knew that it was useless to console Gu Xiaoyue, as the girl probably had such a realization long ago, but Xiao Lin still said with determination before he left, “No matter what, I won’t let you just die like that after a year!”

Gu Xiaoyue answered casually, but she probably did not take it to heart.

Xiao Lin did not continue on that topic, and instead shifted his focus to the book she had. He noticed it was a spellbook; the name of the book was God’s Light — it was a Bronze-ranked healing spell. Even though Gu Xiaoyue was not at Bronze rank yet, her intelligence meant that she was more than capable of learning that spell.

Xiao Lin was a bit speechless. “You really are determined to continue pursuing support magic.” He had looked at the assessment report, and Gu Xiaoyue had continued focusing on support-type spells. She only had a few offensive combat spells to protect herself.

“Of the twelve monitors, no one had chosen this path,” Gu Xiaoyue said calmly.

Xiao Lin paused, not understanding what she meant.

Gu Xiaoyue rolled her eyes, saying, “Are you telling me you still don’t know the competition system for the inter-academy tournament?”

Xiao Lin felt a little awkward, because he really had not been paying attention to that. However, he suddenly felt that it was strange; the twelve monitors had all been forced to participate in the competition on behalf of the first-years this time, but no one else had been forced. Even though the student union seemed to have put Gu Xiaoyue into the list of candidates, it made no sense that she would be interested in that tournament with her personality.

Gu Xiaoyue did not answer his doubts. Instead, she said, “The tournament will be split into individual and group tournaments. Setting aside the individual portions, in the group competitions, when both sides have equal skill, the support will determine the victory!”

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. It really seemed like he was neglecting his duty, but he really did not have time to understand the inter-academy tournament. Hearing Gu Xiaoyue mention it, he took the chance to say, “I really haven’t looked at it in detail, but Gu Xiaoyue, are you really going to attend?”

The tournament had a list of 15 people, so other than the 12 monitors, there would be three other attendees. Of course, that would be determined after layers of selection, and the current list had yet to be publicized.

“In the first year, outside of myself, I can’t think of anyone who can replace me!” Gu Xiaoyue pushed her glasses confidently, going silent for a moment before lowering her voice. “The prize is very important to me this time, so I need to win it back no matter what!”

“What prize?”

“There is an announcement on the forums. I think you should go back and look at it.”

Xiao Lin did not know whether to laugh or cry. Gu Xiaoyue was clearly chasing him away, but he knew that being there in the middle of the night could easily cause misunderstandings as well. Before he left, he told Gu Xiaoyue to take care of herself, and asked her to tell him if it got worse. Even though she said okay, Xiao Lin doubted the girl took his words to heart.

After returning to his dormitory, Xiao Lin decided to look at the forums after having his curiosity piqued by Gu Xiaoyue. He found the thread that Gu Xiaoyue had mentioned. The one who posted it was the second-year leader Chen Yu. It was a thread announcing the tournament, and it introduced the tournament’s history and meaning.

Of course, it included a lucrative and attractive prize.

Chapter 565 - Start Of A New Monthly Examination

Chapter 565: Start Of A New Monthly Examination

The prize for the inter-academy tournament was something contributed to by all the academies, which showed how much importance everyone put on the competition that served to showcase the combat ability of all the academies during peace times. The prize would naturally not be meager.

The first was a prize in terms of status. The ones who obtained the first three places after participating would forever be recorded, and once those who were recorded down graduated, they would get special considerations, regardless of if they were looking for jobs or other alternatives.

The next was a material prize. This time the tournament was offering an Eternal Fruit as the prize. Only the academy that wins in the end would get it. Chen Yu gave a very detailed introduction to the Eternal Fruit — the fruit came from a tree on Planet Norma, and needed over a thousand years to bear fruit. Because it was so hard to find, even on Planet Norma, other than a small number of people who had it kept, most of the time no one could afford it.

The Eternal Fruit has something grown with the purest of energies; it has many benefits, such as being able to cure any injury, and could even bring someone back from the dead. It was also a core material for many sorts of Legend-ranked equipment. It could also be eaten directly, and the fruit would increase the energies in one's body, which were also known as basic attributes, and the increases were very substantial.

Other than that, there were also many pieces of equipment as prizes, but comparatively, it was obvious that the Eternal Fruit was the real prize.

Xiao Lin did not mind it much; putting aside Legend-ranked equipment or the restorative abilities of the magic fruit, permanently increasing basic attributes basically made it a Shard of Creation. Of course, Xiao Lin knew that to those that could not have a Shard of Creation, it was a very attractive prize, especially since everyone now knew how hard increasing basic attributes was later on.

However, Gu Xiaoyue's enthusiasm toward the fruit was unexpected. Xiao Lin thought about it, and felt like she wanted it for the ability to cure any injury. If the fruit could cure her lifespan that was shortened by her genes, then it would be a very happy ending.

No matter what, to him, there was now one more reason he could not lose the inter-academy tournament, Xiao Lin thought to himself silently.

That detail did not affect Xiao Lin's usual training arrangements. After returning from Dawn City, a month had passed and they quickly neared the monthly examination.

Due to how special the last monthly examination was, Xiao Lin had tried to get some inside information. However, the president told him plainly that it would only be a regular examination this time. They were currently transitioning between deans, and no one was willing to do anything

special at that time. The president sighed at that, because he realized that, ever since Xiao Lin entered the academy, Xiao Lin only participated in a normal monthly examination a very limited number of times.

“Don’t underestimate the monthly examination. Every result is recorded, and it will be a key part of your experiences in the future. Sometimes, you need a big enough backing to convince others.”

The president’s words were a bit subtle, but Xiao Lin understood them. It meant that some people were getting unhappy with his special treatment. As an SS-rank talent holder, the dean’s treatment of him was not inappropriate, but as the highest of secrets, most people would not know of the fact. With the dean currently critically ill, the old man was no longer around to suppress it, so nasty rumors naturally started to spread. Even though the president did not tell him in detail, Xiao Lin had some idea of it.

However, they might call it a regular monthly examination, it was still going to be different from the last semester. When the monitors tried to get the basic report of the monthly examination from the student union a few days before the exam as usual, they were rejected. The first-years quickly knew of a new ruling. Since most of the students were growing at a very good rate, in order to ensure the quality of the training that the monthly examination provided, from the current semester onward, they would stop providing reports for the monthly examination.

The reports were originally a benefit that was supposed to last for the whole first year, but it had suddenly been stopped after half a semester. Many of them were naturally unhappy, but as usual, other than voicing their dissatisfaction on the forums, they could only swallow it down.

However, there were some people who mocked on the forums, indicating that the common students had been represented by certain people, and since certain people increased their skills too quickly, it had pulled up the overall level of the entire year by too much, and it was obvious that the higher-ups did not want their examinations to be too easy, so the reports were naturally gone.

Those reports usually included data like the number of opponents, their ranks and even the skills they could use. They even had the tasks and maps on them. That way, they could have more targeted preparations, such as preparing equipment that was better against magic if they knew that the opponents were skilled in magic.

However, they no longer had that, and even if the monthly examination itself did not change, the difficulty had definitely increased. Xiao Lin could only smile bitterly, somewhat feeling like he had something to do with the change in arrangements. The president was not causing him any trouble, but it was as if the president was hinting to him that, if he wanted his results to be even more convincing, then he naturally did not need any benefits.

No matter how much everyone else complained, the monthly examination arrived two days later as scheduled.

Right before the examination started, everyone received the introduction to their tasks.

[Task Name: Forest Survival Battle]

[Task Explanation: With classes as your units, survive in the Forest of Death for thirty days. After thirty days, the task will automatically end.]

[Reward: Those who survive all thirty days will get 1000 redemption points and 50 credits.]

That was the description of the task. Everyone exchanged looks after listening to it. Compared to how complicated the last few monthly examinations were, it was decidedly ordinary. There were no optional tasks, nor were there any foes to defeat. They just needed to survive for thirty days. That seemed way too simple.

As a monitor, Xiao Lin had received the notification on the examination a few hours ago from the student union. In the public hall, he waved his hand with a strange expression, motioning for everyone to remain silent. After that he said, “Oh, I also need to tell you something else. There are two special rules to this task. The first is that no one is allowed to bring any tools, equipment or weapons into the examination. After that, other than the basic rewards, every object that you obtain in the simulated environment will be given to you by the school after the examination ends!”

“What does that mean?” The bald group leader, Zhou Feng, asked after pausing.

“It means that this examination will have unlimited possibilities,” Xiao Lin said.

“And even more dangers.” Gu Xiaoyue added.

Xiao Lin smiled. “That’s right, danger follows opportunity. I’m anticipating this examination quite a bit. Alright, everyone put down their equipment as the rules say. We’ll prepare to be transferred in ten minutes!”

Chapter 566 - Start Of The Examination

Chapter 566: Start Of The Examination

Under Xiao Lin’s orders, everyone reluctantly took off all their equipment and tools. The public hall had specialized storage units. Of course, some of them had tried to sneak some stuff in, but there were specialized checks before the examination. If they did not listen after a warning, they would have their credits and redemption points taken away.

Xiao Lin had even stored away his spatial ring. Since the rule was that all tools were prohibited, he naturally did not hold any delusions. That meant that he would not have a way to use his black knight, but it really did not affect much. When the monitors were notified by the student union, the president had told them so.

“This time, the examination is actually mimicking the earliest colonists. You should already know, during the earliest eras, the colonists from Earth did not have any magical equipment, so what they had to face was a completely new and foreign world.”

After ten minutes, the checks were finally finished and the examination finally started. Fifty-nine rays of white light dropped down on the hall, sending everyone into the simulated exam space. As for why there were fifty-nine rays, the ray that was missing was Wang Dalin’s. Because he used forbidden arts, his memory had been wiped and he had been forcibly sent back to Earth while Xiao Lin had gone to the Rosa Kingdom.

When Xiao Lin opened his eyes again, he was already standing in a forest. Around him were massive trees filled with leaves, and the dense leaves completely blocked out all sunlight, only allowing slivers of light to break through the spaces in between. It was very cool under the shadows of the forest, but the air was very humid. Beneath his feet were soft rotten leaves, and there were occasionally unknown bugs that would crawl past.

Xiao Lin appraised his surroundings in alert. It was very quiet, because at that moment, only he stood there. After making sure there was no danger around, he let out a sigh of relief before he smiled bitterly.

They were not given any reports before the examination. Even though he was already prepared, he never expected the examination to throw a curveball at them right at the start.

It seemed like the examination sent everyone to random locations, which meant that all 59 of them had been sent to random locations in the forest. The lucky ones would be able to gather a few people and form a group, while the unlucky ones might not even find another person until the examination ended.

The sudden change surprised everyone. The forest would definitely not be as peaceful as it looked on the surface. No one knew how much danger was hidden within. If they were alone, the chances of them dying would definitely be higher.

“Is the academy trying to tell us that luck is also a skill?” Xiao Lin cursed as he started to look around nearby.

Since the goal of the examination was only survival, Xiao Lin did not need to move needlessly. He felt like his spawn point was quite decent, and decided to stay there for a few days, getting a feel for the forest before making his next decision.

Since he did not bring anything into the exam, Xiao Lin needed to solve a lot of problems before he could think of anyone else. After looking around nearby, he quickly got some rewards. He had picked a few wild fruits that could both sate his hunger and quench his thirst.

Thanks to the Basic Normese Biology classes, Xiao Lin had a certain understanding of the common fruits on Planet Norma. That helped him avoid eating any poisonous fruits. Some Normese fruits might not even be poisonous, but thanks to the uniqueness of the world, a lot of the fruits had special effects, and could cause very bad endings if one was not careful.

After that was the problem of protection. Xiao Lin knew very well that they would not be allowed to pass through the examination peacefully, so he started to estimate his current combat ability. After losing all his weapons, there was no way for him to use his sword skills, but magic did not necessarily need a staff to use. However, most of those who specialized in magic had weak constitutions, so it could be considered fair.

“If I use my Ruin state, even if I’m empty handed, my combat abilities wouldn’t be too bad.” Xiao Lin was quite confident in his abilities, especially since he now was truly Bronze-ranked, so his abilities would be even better when he used his Ruin state.

Xiao Lin passed the first night of the examination sleeplessly, and because he was worried that it might attract wild animals, he did not use his flame magic to start a fire. He only relied on the

clothes on his body to sleep, and shivered in the cold. He constantly needed to worry about any potential incidents, so he could not completely fall asleep.

During the second day, Xiao Lin started to treat that place as the center, and started to investigate the surroundings within certain limits, using some stones to use as markers.

The forest seemed a lot bigger than he had thought. When Xiao Lin was preparing to head back in the evening after investigating, he heard a frantic cry for help. Following the voice, he saw two women from his class who were trembling away, and in front of them was a black Wind Wolf.

It was a common wild animal in Planet Norma; its strength was nothing special, but it had the power of the wind element, so its combat ability was not weak. When Xiao Lin came over, the two women had probably fought it for a while; their faces and arms had a lot of wounds. They somehow found a steel rod, but it seemed that it was not that threatening to the wind wolf.

“Monitor!” Xiao Lin’s appearance caused the two girls to exclaim happily, but Xiao Lin had been approaching stealthily, and their exclamation had caused the Wind Wolf to notice. It turned around to look at Xiao Lin and with a low growl, it lunged at Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin bitterly laughed as he immediately activated his Miracle state, throwing all his attributes to Agility. The Wind Wolf was faster than anticipated, but he still managed to evade it under Miracle. After a moment he shifted his attributes to Strength, and slammed his fist right into the wind wolf’s torso without care for any form.

Boom!

The Wind Wolf’s body was sent like a cannonball a few dozen meters away. At Bronze rank, he could convert even more attributes, and the force of that punch could even reach Silver rank. However, it could only be used against an unintelligent beast like the wolf. With his full strength state, it meant that Xiao Lin’s other attributes were incredibly low.

“Monitor, be careful! It’s still not dead!” one of the women cried out.

Xiao Lin looked back and saw that the wolf had gotten up and was prepared to run. With the possibility that the wolf could be looking for other allies, and with the thought that he could improve his diet that day, he did not give that beast the chance to run. He immediately converted all his attributes to Intelligence. At his highest, it could even surpass Gu Xiaoyue’s. Xiao Lin raised his hand and sent out a Fireball. The large ball of fire immediately killed that Wind Wolf that had already managed to run a hundred meters away. It was killed in one shot.

Chapter 567 - Abandoned Camp

Chapter 567: Abandoned Camp

Looking at the Wind Wolf collapsed on the floor unmoving, Xiao Lin still did not relax, as he took the steel club from one of the women and smashed the club right into the wolf to make sure the beast was dead. Then, he relaxed.

Xiao Lin returned the steel club as she asked, “Where did you find this? It’s not bad as a weapon.” Of course, to himself, there’s not much difference with or without a weapon. The earlier battle had shown him that his barefisted strength was not low.

“We picked it up from an abandoned campsite we passed,” a strong short-haired girl answered simply.

“Abandoned campsite?” Xiao Lin was suddenly on alert. “Where? It can’t be ours; we wouldn’t have the tools. Were there other people in the campsite?”

“Oh, I’m-I’m not too sure. We were hurrying around trying to find other people then, and we just picked up a steel club to use as a weapon before leaving.” Xiao Lin’s rapidfire questions caused the short-haired woman to stumble with her words, unsure if she had said something wrong.

“Tomorrow... No, bring me there right now. Is it far?” Xiao Lin was thinking about resting for a night, but looking up, even though it was near the evening, based on his experience yesterday, night fell very late here, so he still had time before the day fell completely dark.

“We walked for over an hour, but if you think we should rush, we could reach there in half an hour,” the longer-haired woman said.

Xiao Lin slung the Wind Wolf’s corpse on his shoulder before motioning for the two women to lead the way. The short-haired woman asked strangely, “Monitor? Why are you bringing that along?”

“That’s dinner.”

The two women were speechless.

“Speaking of which, what did you eat last night?”

“We did not eat.”

“Then there’s no need to be picky.” Xiao Lin looked at the two women whose faces were full of disgust and exasperation. Fine, his fireball had been too strong, the wolf’s corpse had been turned into something quite unsightly, but Xiao Lin did not really care about that. He had seen even more disgusting things with Song Junlang, and eaten stuff that was even more unspeakable.

The wolf’s body was quite heavy, but that did not affect his speed, and under his urging, the two women rolled their eyes in annoyance with how he was throwing his authority around. Xiao Lin seemed to not understand and ignored it, which was why their speed constantly increased to the point they seemed like they were flying. Xiao Lin did not want to spend the night on the road.

After over twenty minutes, they reached the camp the women talked about. The two women were quite strong physically, so they could keep up with him. Xiao Lin put down the corpse and had them stand on guard, resting as they stayed alert while he walked into the camp himself.

The camp seemed to have been abandoned for a long time. The camps that were made with special beast skins were still in good condition, but the floor was littered with leaves and dust, and each corner was filled with cobwebs. Xiao Lin searched the place, and managed to find a few wallets in the chests which had a few holes on them, and there were also obvious traces of blackened blood.

No matter what, they could use it as a temporary campsite. After the two women entered, they cleaned up a bit. They would not be sleeping in the wilderness that night.

Xiao Lin was left with the task of dealing with the wolf's corpse. The two women did offer to help, but it was obvious they did not have any experience in that regard. They had always eaten the buffets in the academy, and the past exams had always allowed them to bring food and equipment in as a benefit to the first-years.

The difficulties of losing the benefits had started to surface; the academy wanted them to quickly get used to an even more realistic Planet Norma, but to Xiao Lin, it already was not a problem. He was already used to killing livestock with Song Junlang, since that man would always use the excuse that he was a department head.

After using a flame spell to set up a campfire, they found some abandoned pots in the campsite. It was a hassle to clean it, but thankfully the long-haired woman specialized in water magic, so they had a source of water.

Even without any seasonings, the three of them still had a good time eating the bowl of meat soup that still had the taste of blood. The two women were the ones who tidied up after the meal. Meeting the strong monitor had caused the two women to be very happy, and they were not bad in terms of their looks, so they tried to use the womanly advantages to gain Xiao Lin's favor, hoping that Xiao Lin was not used to women treating him nicely.

Xiao Lin did not know it, but he was a mythical figure in Class Seven. Everyone acknowledged his strength, and he had very good connections. Everyone knew that the president regularly talked to him, and thanks to the fact that he regularly gained the right to go to the New World, many students never got to see him.

That was why everyone was filled with envy and admiration for Xiao Lin, but between that was also a lot of respect.

After simple conversations, Xiao Lin got to know of their overall situation. Since he had already looked through the attributes of the class before the examination, in terms of ranking, the two women would be ranked within the score range of forties in the class.

Xiao Lin did not have any other intentions for the two women, as his mood was not great and the appearance of the camp caused Xiao Lin to be on alert again. He had thought that the greatest enemies in that forest would have been various strong beasts, but now he suddenly knew that the examination was not as simple as it was on the surface. Their opponents would not just be wild beasts; they would also be humans — humans from Planet Norma.

Humans were always harder to deal with than wild beasts. Even though the camp had been abandoned for a long time, he did not dare to be careless. He extinguished the campfire under protests from the two women, and cleared any trace of them. As they slept at night, he ordered them to split into two shifts to keep watch. He would watch for half the night, and the two women would watch for the other half.

They passed the next three days without any issue like that. During the day, Xiao Lin would hunt for prey or find any fruits that could be eaten, and the two women were in charge of finding other companions. , they would gather at the camp during the evening. In three days, their little team

had increased to seven people. They seemed to have been transported to random locations, but it did not seem like the distance was too great.

The team of seven consisted of five men and two women, and the center of it was Xiao Lin, because he was the monitor. Since Xiao Lin had been mostly in the New World, his interactions with most of them was limited to the forums, but Xiao Lin memory had gotten quite good, and he could remember each person's attributes and specializations clearly.

When he knew what their names were, Xiao Lin could immediately tell what they were good at, such as the fact that the two women were specialized in magic, though some of their physical attributes were quite alright. Xiao Lin did not give them any hard labor though. There was also someone like Lu Renjia, who was one of the few archers in the class.

The others respected Xiao Lin, and were placated, because that meant that Xiao Lin was always concerned about the class, instead of what they had thought before, which was that Xiao Lin had left everything to the two group leaders and ignored them.

Chapter 568 - Sleepless Night

Chapter 568: Sleepless Night

The first week of the examination passed by without issue, but the numbers in Xiao Lin's camp did not increase and stayed with just seven of them. Everyone had lost the initial anxiety and uncertainty when entering the forests, since it seemed to be much safer than they had thought. Even though they would occasionally encounter attacks by wild beasts, most of them were just around the Black-iron rank. The low-leveled beasts around that area could not compare to humans in terms of intelligence, so dealing with them was very easy with everyone working together, on top of having traps.

Hunting was the main source of food in the following two days, but the chef had been changed. The person had said that he worked as a chef on Earth, and Xiao Lin's cooking skills admittedly had a lot of room for improvement, even if Song Junlang did not mind his food. During their investigations two days ago, they found a salt-leaf tree. The leaves of that tree were very rich in salt content, so they quickly had a way to season their food.

Everyone had started to get more enthusiastic when it came to hunting because everyone had somewhat understood the goal of this examination, at least from their perspective.

The tasks said that everything obtained in the examination would be given to them in real life after the examinations ended. Of course, they could also choose to exchange them for redemption points. That rule was definitely very attractive. Someone like Xiao Lin who had too many redemption points would not care, but the rest of them actually cared quite a bit. Their redemption points were not at the level where they could spend it casually.

Everyone had been quite puzzled when they arrived at the forest since there did not seem to be anything valuable at the place. Surely they were not expected to cut down a tree so that they could bring it back.

Yet, after Xiao Lin and the rest of them finished eating the first wolf, they immediately understood. Hidden in the wolf's heart was a faint white orb the size of a fingernail. On Planet Norma, that was called a beast core. That was the origin of their power, and to humans, beast cores had various uses. Be it as an energy source or as an addition to certain special tools, they were pretty decent objects.

There were many types of beast cores, and their values and compositions were different. A Wind Wolf's beast core was of the wind-attribute, and they could tell that the beast core the size of a nail was of low quality. It was unfortunate, because the wind element was very high in purity. It was not like other beast cores that would be mixed up with too many impurities. At that stage, no matter how high the quality was, the uses would be very limited.

Xiao Lin, who did not really care about such a reward, had quickly shared it with the ones who had joined later on, earning their gratitude.

That was why everyone had been enthusiastically asking to join the patrol group. Xiao Lin did not fight them over it, and elected to be in charge of guarding the campsite.

They had no issues in terms of weapons, as mages could basically only rely on being empty handed, but thankfully wands and staffs only affected damage and accuracy, so those with low perception could only blame their misfortune.

The only one who had a problem was Lu Renjia. He was an archer, so he was the most affected by not having a weapon. In truth, it was not hard to make a bow; the problem was arrows, and they were not able to ensure the quality and damage ability of the arrows. Compared to improvising such a thing, using a steel club was even more reliable.

Xiao Lin had some thoughts regarding that. "The academy might be trying to make us understand the importance of secondary professions; it seems like we will be starting those classes soon." Of course, it was merely speculation on his part, but it was plain to see that if they had someone who knew how to make equipment there, they would not be in such an awkward position.

...

"More and more, I'm feeling like we're here to camp." During an evening a week later, Lu Renjia remarked with boredom after everyone had returned to camp.

The others agreed. After solving basic problems like food and water, the conditions might not have been great, but compared to their earlier examinations, it was idle enough that it did seem like camping.

Xiao Lin shook his head helplessly, as he felt that it was strange as well. He turned around to look at those who went out searching, and seeing that they were empty handed, he asked, "Did you get nothing today?"

"Today was a bit strange. We widened our search area, but we couldn't find any beasts." The one who said that was a burly man, whose weapon was a steel club wrapped in cloth that they found in the campsite. The ones with greater physical strength felt more at ease here.

“It’s fine; we found some fruits, so we can just eat those.” The short-haired woman spoke, probably already tired of eating meat that had the taste of blood.

“It’s not poisonous, right?”

“Hey, how dare you say something like that even when you failed Basic Biology!”

“Hey, the pot is calling the kettle black. I remember you were only slightly better than me!”

...

Everyone had gotten friendlier with each other after a semester, and they basically passed the evenings by chatting. It was boring, but it still passed the time.

Xiao Lin listened in quietly, but he suddenly furrowed his eyebrows. He looked up at the sky that was obscured by the canopy, and it was darker than usual; he said, “There’s wind.”

“It seems like it; the wind is a little strong.” Xiao Lin’s words immediately became the topic of conversation.

“It’ll probably rain.”

“That would be bad, as that tent still has quite a few holes. What do we do tonight?”

“Let’s see what happens for a night, as we don’t know how long the rain will last.”

The dark sky past the canopy had dispelled everyone’s good mood as they started to prepare for the potential storm.

After eating the fruits they picked, the sky got darker and violent winds started to blow. The camp was not very sturdy after being abandoned for so long. The howling caused everyone to worry that it could be blown away at any time, so everyone decided to stabilize it. After the fire was extinguished, the darkness rendered them unable to even see their fingers.

They were certain to pass the night sleeplessly, but the anticipated storm never arrived; only the winds got stronger. The tents that had already been strengthened a few times could no longer handle it, and after two hours, it was finally blown away after a series of cracking noises.

“How unlucky! The wind is at least at level twelve!”

“You wouldn’t be standing here if it was!”

“Everyone quickly gather next to that tree. Don’t get blown away!”

...

Even if it was a little embarrassing, everyone only complained with a few words at most. After all, after going through several monthly examinations, a natural phenomenon of such a degree was not something they were too concerned about.

They surrounded a massive tree nearby, using the large trunk to temporarily block the wind. It was only after midnight did the wind start to die down a bit, and everyone started to feel tired.

Xiao Lin was still quite awake, and just as he was about to suggest that he would stand guard while the rest of them slept, a low cry reverberated in the forest.

Everyone's sleepiness suddenly disappeared.

Chapter 569 - Attack In The Night

Chapter 569: Attack In The Night

The low whistling sound did not have changes in its tone. It was a bit like the sound of a train whistle that had been lowered. Xiao Lin suddenly increased his alertness, but he was not surprised. From the start, they were already prepared for the fact that some powerful beasts would be hiding in the forest, as that would likely be the hardest point of this examination; it was just that it appeared a little later than they anticipated.

However, the cry was a little odd, and when Xiao Lin tried to determine where it was coming from, he was surprised to find that the sound constantly changed in distance, as if it were floating about. What caused them to be even more in disbelief was that, at the nearest point, the sound sounded like it was right next to them!

That discovery caused the two women to have goosebumps, especially since the moonless sky had added to the strangeness of the atmosphere. Everyone had fallen quiet, waiting for a decision. Xiao Lin did not hesitate either, and immediately stood up as he said, "We're leaving this place!"

Saying that, he had already launched two fireballs, but the flames did not reveal anything. Only Xiao Lin vaguely felt like a thick layer of white mist seemed to have covered the forest.

Sitting down and waiting for death was not a habit of his, so Xiao Lin decided to abandon the camp, and he immediately distributed the torches they had prepared to everyone. After using flame magic to light the torches, he then headed toward the direction opposite of the cries. The night was not suited for combat, so Xiao Lin wanted to bring everyone as far away as he could first, waiting for the day to come before investigating. After measuring the strength of both sides, he would then decide to fight or to flee.

Xiao Lin walked at the back of the group, and the flames on the torch swayed violently as he heard the howling wind next to his ear, indicating that the wind was growing stronger again. He cursed to himself at their rotten luck that night. Everything they did ran into difficulties.

The rest of them did not say anything as they gripped the weapons in their hands tightly, aware that the mysterious beasts behind time could attack at any moment. In the half an hour that they ran, nothing happened, but that low cry kept on shadowing them, following them tightly like a nightmare that could not be dismissed.

“It’s so annoying! Come fight me if you have the balls!” A man in the team suddenly shouted out in frustration, but he was quickly admonished by the others. The others did not agree with courting trouble like that, and of course the beast behind them would not understand their language.

Xiao Lin sighed subtly, as the current situation was worse than he had expected. Since just now, he had been under his Miracle state, concentrating his attributes on Intelligence to increase his perception. Even if it was pitch black, his perception was at least at Silver rank in that state, so he was even able to feel a bug flying across nearby.

However, he could not feel anything at that moment. One could only conceal themselves from a mage’s perception if they had the specialized skills for it, but beasts did not possess that ability. The forest should be filled with various life forms, whether it be insects or forest animals, but at that moment, they seemed to have completely disappeared. Xiao Lin could not even perceive the tiniest bug.

It was as if they had gone into a cemetery of death that did not have any trace of life. As if he was the only person left alive in the world. That feeling was a horrifying experience, which was why Xiao Lin did not tell anyone else in his fright, so as to not terrify them.

There was still a long time left in the night.

The winds started to get stronger, and they were going against the wind as they ran from the sound of the beasts, which meant the speed of their journey was especially slow. The strange thing was, those sounds seem to stop because of that as well.

When they moved forward, it would move forward, and when they stopped, it stopped.

The panic and anxiety caused by the unknown had started to spread from the two women to the others, and someone even suggested that, since they could not avoid it, they should just turn around and fight. After all, it would just cause them ten years of their life, which was better than being toyed with like that.

Xiao Lin could only smile bitterly, but under his perception, he could not even feel the existence of any life behind them. Either their foes had skills that far outstripped his, or their foes were lifeless undead, or there was absolutely nothing behind them. Of course, the last option was the least possible.

Xiao Lin hated that game of cat and mouse as well, there was still some time until the sun would rise, and if they did nothing before that, it might greatly affect the mental state of everyone else, which was something he did not want to see. So, he ordered Lu Renjia in a low voice, “You take the lead after this. Don’t turn back no matter what. Go straight ahead until the sun rises!”

“Then what about you?” Lu Renjia asked.

“I want to go see what kind of beast it is! If I can’t return, then Lu Renjia will take charge for the moment! The rest of you, don’t think about fighting it anymore. Flee, just keep fleeing!” Xiao Lin did not dare to be careless either. Even though he was confident in himself, if he really could not deal with it, then the rest could only flee.

Lu Renjia was both horrified and thankful for Xiao Lin's confidence, but the man did not say anything more, and merely acknowledged his orders. After Xiao Lin's final orders, he patted Lu Renjia on the shoulder before turning around.

Xiao Lin had no weapons with him, and those steel clubs were less useful than his own fists to him, which was why he chose to rely on his magic. Under his Miracle state, he carefully put up a water shield for himself. He had learnt that low-level defensive spell a long time ago, but never had the need to use it. That day was an exception.

Since he could not perceive where the beast was, he could only shoot his offensive spells at any possible direction he could. He shot a flame ball at the leaves, promptly setting a tree on fire. After seeing the fire grow to a satisfactory level, Xiao Lin stopped his attacks. He planned on using a forest fire to force his foe to retreat, but it would be no joke if he lost control of the flames and ended up burning himself.

A few burning trees finally dispersed the dreadful darkness. Xiao Lin once again closed his eyes, using his perception under his Miracle state. Xiao Lin first needed to ascertain the position of his enemy, and at the very least he needed to find out what it was.

Under his perception, his surroundings were still devoid of life, but he seemed to feel something at that moment as he dashed deep into the fires.

He saw that the flames were revealing a thick white mist. The mist was even bigger than earlier, and it was constantly moving, as if it were alive. At that moment earlier, the sudden feeling of life he felt came from that mist!

Chapter 570 - Floating Fish

Chapter 570: Floating Fish

Planet Norma had many times more species of life than on Earth, and there were some life forms that were hard to fathom even existed, such as some almost invisible lifeforms, some life forms that were composed of pure elements, and the like. That was why after Xiao Lin felt the strange nature of the beast behind them, he quickly thought of that possibility, and tried to find the relevant information from the Basic Biology lessons he had gone through.

Using his Phantom Steps and leaving after images behind, Xiao Lin seemed to step into the mist in a flash. At that moment his body could not help but shudder. The forest was not that cold after night fell, but it was very humid. However, the temperature within the mist was especially low, and when he rushed in with his body full of sweat, the liquids suddenly turned into ice.

Xiao Lin gritted his teeth and violently sent a fist into the air. The air he had agitated let out a low but ear-piercing sound as wind from his punch pierced a large hole through the fog. What followed was an even more ear-piercing cry, like a baby crying. That sound came from nearby, and the sound felt like it went straight into his heart. It seemed to carry some magic that caused one to be dizzy, and Xiao Lin consciously used his hands to cover his ears.

In a short moment, the fog that was broken through by the wind had covered itself up, but this time the wind seemed to hide something else inside. Xiao Lin forced himself to resist the ringing in his ears, but Xiao Lin still could not feel anything despite being in his Miracle state. He felt that it might be due to the mist that could possibly shield any perception from the outside world.

Xiao Lin could only rely on his own sight and, borrowing the light of the flames, Xiao Lin determined a mysterious thing swimming over at a rapid speed. He was stunned for a moment as he tried to make sure he did not see it wrongly, but that thing really was swimming in mid-air as it went over.

Was it a fish?

Xiao Lin had a strange thought in his mind, but that did not stop his body's reactions. He did not hesitate to activate his Ruin state, and he suddenly felt his body being filled with explosive power. He once again lifted his fist, and this time the wind was even sharper. However, without a sword, his destructive ability was not like it used to be, so Xiao Lin could not afford to hold back. Since he did not have a weapon, he would need to use all his power to gain an advantage in the shortest amount of time.

Dragon breath!

The power of the dragon race started to be felt. Under his Ruin state, the power of the dragons that existed in the mysterious black hole in Xiao Lin's body was his greatest power at that moment. Before that, he had used his Sword Aura to condense and release it, but he could still use it without a sword. Only, without the control of swordsmanship, the power was even harder to control.

The gigantic fish that was quickly swimming around the mist seemed to fear the draconic power immensely as its ear-piercing whistle weakened. However, just as Xiao Lin thought that his foe would retreat because of it, the fish suddenly increased in speed. That thing took less than a second to reach its highest speed from a state of inertia. In a flash, it was right in front of Xiao Lin, and Xiao Lin finally saw the true face of the mysterious beast.

It really was a fish. It had the body of a fish but did not have any scales. Its body seemed to be transparent and smooth, and Xiao Lin could even see inside of its body. Only, the inside of its body was just filled with mist, and there were no organs within. On its massive head was a very long moustache, and a large mouth as well as eyes the size of soccer balls. The moment it opened its mouth, it spat out the mist within its body, which was probably the origin of the mist around them.

Xiao Lin reacted quickly, as his agility when under the Ruin state was immense. He immediately moved his fist that carried the draconic power, and landed it straight on the fish's head. The moment he touched the skin, a cold piercing sensation caused his arm to shiver, and then he stared as his fist passed through the fish's head. That strike felt like it had landed on a bubble. Other than the coldness, he did not feel anything solid at all.

How was that possible?!

Xiao Lin was shocked and once again unleashed his draconic power. Without his sword aura as a conduit, his control of that power was not perfect, but because it was not perfect, the power of the draconic energy was even more violent when it was released. Xiao Lin's arm which held the violent

energy once again passed through his foe's body, and the fish once again unleashed an ear-splitting cry, causing Xiao Lin to sway with dizziness.

Thankfully, the fish did not use any other attacks, and quickly escaped after passing through Xiao Lin, disappearing without a trace.

The mist had dispersed, and the winds also started to die down. All that remained were a few trees that were still burning, but thanks to Xiao Lin controlling it, the flames were not big, and were quickly extinguished soon.

Xiao Lin remained on alert for a moment, but after a few minutes he let out a sigh of relief having not seen any movement. Undoing his Ruin state, his entire body was drenched, but it was not sweat, and instead the cold vapor from the mysterious mist.

Preparing to chase after the rest of them, Xiao Lin turned around and moved a few steps, but he was stuck in place as he furrowed his eyebrows. His right hand pinched his left arm and his heart sunk. No matter how he tried, his left arm did not seem to have any feeling to it as well. It limply hung by the side, feeling nothing; it just was unable to be moved.

That was definitely done by the fish because Xiao Lin had used his left hand to strike it earlier, and it had passed through its body.

Since it was already like that, there was no point regretting it. After checking and making sure he had no other injuries, Xiao Lin quickly chased after them in the forest. When the sky started to brighten up, Xiao Lin managed to catch up to Lu Renjia and the others to their happy surprise. No matter what, Xiao Lin had stood up to protect their rear, which caused them to feel closer to their monitor.

Mentioning the monster, Xiao Lin's expression was still heavy as he briefed all of them about the special characteristics of the beast. Even though everyone had studied the animals on Planet Norma, it was the first time they heard of a fish that could float in mid-air. They could not help but remark on its strangeness, and of course someone had wanted to try fighting it, but they were quickly scared out of the idea by Xiao Lin's next words.

"You need to flee as far as you can if you see that beast. You see my arm? I only touched it for a moment, and now it's completely lost all feeling." Xiao Lin smiled bitterly as he pointed at his left arm. The only thing he was thankful for was that he had used his left arm earlier, so he could still try to make do with his right arm.

Chapter 571 - Meditation

Chapter 571: Meditation

On their eighth day in the forest, Xiao Lin and the others finally had heavy expressions on their faces. However, that was anticipated. No matter what, the academy would never send them to an examination they could pass easily just by eating and drinking every day.

However, the final goal of the examination was just to survive for thirty days. It was fine as long as they survived for thirty days. They did not need to kill anything, which was why after Xiao Lin said how vicious that beast was, the rest of them did not hesitate to retreat.

“Since the beast did not chase us, it should be fine if we don’t go out of our way to provoke it.” The short-haired woman voiced her opinion to see if the rest of them agreed.

Everyone exchanged glances, but their gazes all finally fell on Xiao Lin’s body. From the situation last night, they admitted that they would not be able to defeat that beast. Even if the mysterious monster had some amazing treasure with it, it still was not at the level they could handle. The only one with the ability to obtain it would be their monitor.

“Monitor, you’re already at Bronze rank. Can’t you deal with that monster?” someone asked.

“It’s hard to say.” Xiao Lin did not give a firm answer. The doubts in his mind were not less than the rest of them. He remembered his conversation with the president before the examination.

The president had said that it was a ‘normal’ monthly examination. An examination at the normal difficulties would not have questions that were impossible to answer, and monsters that were too strong for the other students would never appear. Otherwise, it would not be an examination... It would just be a slaughter.

The difficult part of the examination actually lay in the gathering of information. Xiao Lin knew nothing of that monster, and since this examination did not provide any benefits in terms of reports, he suddenly had a moment of realization. It was possible that the examination was testing their ability to gather information, such as the weaknesses of beasts.

The camp they had stayed in last night had been completely destroyed by the violent winds, and everyone was worried about the possibility of being attacked again. So, after they collected all their things, everyone decided to continue moving. The weather was not bad that day, so it seemed like the violent winds from the night before were just a nightmare.

They had failed to hunt anything that day as well, and everyone started to speculate if the appearance of that monster had caused the other beasts to go into hiding.

Xiao Lin was also working hard testing his left arm. It did not seem like there were any injuries on the surface, but he still could not feel anything. Since the goal of the examination was just to survive, they could only walk around without a goal like headless chickens, and they would basically not stay at the same place for too long.

Just like that, three days had passed since they encountered that monster. The three days passed by peacefully. They did not encounter other classmates, but they did not meet that monster either.

Of course, the others were quite positive, and felt that they were lucky to not encounter any trouble. It was not bad passing the time like that, but Xiao Lin could feel something was wrong in his heart.

It was too quiet.

It was supposed to be a forest filled with life, and they should basically be encountering various beasts and animals every day, but ever since that night, it was as if only the seven of them were left in the world. They continued to not find anything to hunt for the three days, and even though they did not lack in fruits, it seemed that everyone failed to eat their fill.

Xiao Lin had tried entering meditation under his Miracle state a few times, and the conclusions were shocking. Within the range he could detect, other than the seven of them who were alive, there were no traces of life at all. Forget the signs of life, he could not even find any death aura that represented the death of other living creatures.

In his meditative world, all that was left was an empty, black universe. That was something that had never happened before. Xiao Lin could not think of a world that had no signs of life at all. Even the strangest place he had gone to before, the Final Lands, at least had piles and piles of skeletal soldiers.

Xiao Lin was not the only one who sensed it, as the two women had also felt the strange phenomenon when they entered meditation, and they quickly told the others of the matter. Even those who did not learn any magic understood how strange it was.

After half a semester of intense training, no one was the same clueless person they were when they entered the academy anymore. Yet, even so, that inexplicable phenomenon still caused them to feel a sense of horror. They were not scared of facing powerful enemies or beasts, nor were they scared of a battle to the death, since that would just cost them ten years of their life, but that sort of mental torture was too hard to handle.

Xiao Lin finally decided to let the group stop moving because there was no reason to keep moving on in the forest that had no trace of life. He needed to quickly find a way, or at least an appropriate explanation.

The others were voicing their own views. Lu Renjia and the others were of the opinion that it was due to the appearance of that strange monster. It was possible that the monster had a strange power that could swallow or reject other life forms. It was possible the beast was silently observing them, like a hunter stalking its prey. Once they were exhausted, the beast would unleash its final attack.

That was the most obvious possibility, and Xiao Lin did not reject it. However, his heart seemed to tell him that it was not that simple, though he knew that relying on himself to think about it would yield no results.

Xiao Lin once again entered his meditative world. Everything in the world had a life, so the three basic energies should always be present. That was a law in Planet Norma. No matter where they were, as long as they were still on Planet Norma, that law needed to be obeyed, unless there was someone who could change the laws of the area. However, that would at least take someone of Legend rank. That floating fish might be a bit stronger than usual, but Xiao Lin did not believe it would have that ability.

The two girls also entered the meditative world, but their Intelligence attributes and meditative ranks were quite far away from Xiao Lin's, and the distance only widened when Xiao Lin activated his Miracle state to focus his attributes on Intelligence, so they could not perceive anything at all when they were meditating.

Xiao Lin might have focused on close combat in his studies, but he had never neglected his Basic Meditation Classes. He would always find the time to go to a meditation room every week. Now, his meditation rank had already exceeded the basic ranks, and was already in novice territory. After activating Miracle, Xiao Lin basically lost himself in meditation. In his meditative world, within that wide universe, everything was pitch-black, yet Xiao Lin suddenly felt like something was being hidden.

Chapter 572 - Voice From The Heart

Chapter 572: Voice From The Heart

The meditative world should have been filled with various planets that represented the natural elements of the world. Normally, Xiao Lin could feel elemental and death energies. As for nature energy, that was a specialization of the elves, and not something he could master.

However, the current meditative world was completely empty, and because of that extremely rare emptiness, Xiao Lin found something else in that world.

It was just as if he was standing in a dense forest. His eyes were completely obscured by the leaves, but he was not able to see the flowers that were hidden within the forest. However, when the forest suddenly disappeared, no matter how small the flowers were, they would be exceptionally eye-catching.

During this examination, in that strange environment, Xiao Lin had seen the flower that had eluded him for who knows how long. Normally, due to the natural energies, he had ignored that strange existence. The strange energy was very weak, and it felt alive, but it did not have any special characteristics of life. It moved like energy, but was not like any of the big three.

The center of that power was the mysterious black hole in his body!

Xiao Lin was even more shocked. His meditative world was different from everyone else, that was something he realized early on. When he activated his Miracle state to enter the meditative world, he would notice a deep blackhole in the universe. It was a very peaceful blackhole — other than consuming the elements nearby, it was peaceful most of the time. The blackhole was also the origin of Xiao Lin's killer technique: the dragon's breath.

Even though he could never figure out the principles behind it, Xiao Lin had always been happy to enjoy the benefits that the mysterious blackhole brought. Yet, now that Xiao Lin was really observing the blackhole, he felt a faint but very clear movement.

What was that?

Xiao Lin wondered to himself deep in his subconscious. Even if that blackhole was in the deepest part of his body, even he did not know where it was. Yet, that strange phenomenon caused him to hesitate, wondering if he should continue diving further in.

Even though the academy currently taught what was recognized as the safest and most reliable basic meditation skills, meditation itself had always carried dangers. If someone's meditative

world suddenly collapsed, or if another person used a special method to invade a meditative world, then their consciousness would be trapped in the destroyed world, and the meditator would be severely impacted. It would be just like if someone was bedevilled; even the chances of that happening was more or less the same as a plane going missing. It was still not completely risk free.

The strange environment was like that; even if he wanted to investigate further, he would at least need to wait until he returned to the academy. Only with the help of a high-ranking teacher or even the president could he continue.

Xiao Lin quickly made a decision, and after that, he prepared to leave his meditative world. Yet, an old voice suddenly came from the deepest parts of the black hole. The voice sounded like an exploding star, and completely covered the whole universe. It felt like it was speaking to his heart, and even the other students who were idling around Xiao Lin were startled when their monitor, who had been quietly meditating, suddenly shuddered.

“You’re finally here. Why are you in such a hurry to leave? Do you know how hard it is for me to talk to you?”

Xiao Lin’s consciousness was blank for a brief moment because what was happening had exceeded all his expectations. However, he quickly calmed down as he shouted in his mind, “Who are you?! Why are you here, in this world that is mine?!”

“No, it’s not your world; it’s our world!” That old and calm voice corrected Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin almost got goosebumps. The origin of that blackhole was his body and consciousness. The voice’s words meant that the thing was inside his body and was a part of him!

“I don’t think I have a split personality!” Xiao Lin could not afford for his composure to be too unsteady. That would force him out of the meditative realm. However, he trusted that the sarcasm in his consciousness could be felt by that person.

“I am a part of you, and I am the reason you can be here. Whether or not you believe it, it’s the truth.”

“If you keep on with all that nonsense, I’ll leave the meditation!” Xiao Lin warned. Since the person had waited until this day to speak to Xiao Lin, then it was definitely no simple matter. It was possible that the strange circumstances of the examination was what allowed them to meet.

“You’re only a very ordinary lifeform. Now, that word is not appropriate; it should be lowly. In the universe, your life isn’t even worth a firefly. No one would ever notice you. Yet, you possess the most basic energy in the universe. Were you never curious as to why?”

Xiao Lin was dazed for a moment, but he quickly calmed down. It was a calm he never felt before, and even his organs suddenly felt cold.

Xiao Lin had always thought he was a very ordinary person, and it was that way for the first twenty or so years of his life. He had been just like the billions on Earth. If not for this academy, the next part of his life would have been to find a regular job, marry a regular wife and live a regular second half of his life.

However, he had received an admission letter, entered Dawn Academy, and even obtained an SS-rank talent. He had unrivalled learning ability, which shocked even himself. Later on, he learned that Dawn Academy had always been very particular about choosing new students, and it had been impossible for him to be picked with his attributes. Before, Wang Yuelan from the Admissions Department had told him that his name was originally not in the new students register.

Even though Xiao Lin had wondered at the time if he had used some ability to bend time in order to give himself the admissions letter, there were still too many things that could not be explained.

Xiao Lin did not pay too much attention to the admissions letter. He felt like he was just lucky, and put it down to fate. Maybe he had done many good deeds and God was rewarding him?

Yet now, at that moment, Xiao Lin suddenly woke up. Everything he had was not down to luck, nor was it a gift from God. Even if he did not know the true reason, the answer might actually be in that blackhole.

Chapter 573 - Mysterious Existence

Chapter 573: Mysterious Existence

Was it time to pay up?

Xiao Lin could not help but have that thought in his head, but he did not retreat from his meditation. No matter what, he did not want to hide from anything.

In a short time, Xiao Lin prepared himself mentally in various ways, but he did not get the answer he wanted, so he asked loudly, “Who are you?!”

The sound in the blackhole repeated in a low voice, “At this moment, I am you, but if you are asking about my prior status, then I regret to say that I don’t know.”

Xiao Lin was dumbfounded, and even angered. “You’re toying with me!”

“Toying with you? No, I have no such intention. It’s not easy for me to be able to talk to you like this, so I won’t waste our valuable time. I don’t know where I came from, and I don’t know when I woke up. I only know that I’ve been here since I opened my eyes, in the center of this piece of the universe. I can feel your existence, but I have no way to leave.”

“Hold on, this piece of the universe?” Xiao Lin noticed his phrasing. That universe should just be a symbolic world, but that meant that his consciousness had its similarities to the other person.

“A leaf and a flower could make up a world. Life is the most wonderful composition in the universe, comparable to the movement of the stars. The existence of this universe is not something to be surprised at.” The voice seemed to see through Xiao Lin’s doubts.

“How do you know that theory?”

“I don’t know.”

“Fine, let’s change the topic. Why did you wait until now to talk to me?”

“I don’t know.”

“How long have you been in my body?”

“I don’t know.”

“Do you have any goals?”

“I don’t know.”

“What do you know?!”

“I don’t know.

Xiao Lin was speechless. He felt like he was going crazy. If it was not for the sincerity in the other person’s voice, he would have left immediately. However, he held it back. After all, who would be able to calmly pretend nothing was happening after discovering there was a strange being that was previously unknown living in their body.

“No, I’m not within your physical composition. Strictly speaking, my position right now should be in your energy ball, and in the most internal part of it.” The voice corrected Xiao Lin’s mistake.

That strange way of speaking confused Xiao Lin, only after a while did he suspiciously translate the person’s words. “You’re saying that you’re not in my body, but my soul!” Fine, whatever an energy ball was, he could only jokingly describe it as his soul.

After a moment of silence, the other person acknowledged it, causing Xiao Lin to be shocked as he quickly asked, “Then does my power come from you?” He smiled bitterly as he asked, expecting to be told the person did not know the answer again.

However, this time that voice slowly said, “Yes, and no.”

“Can’t you just answer something clearly for once?” Xiao Lin was frustrated. That answer was the same as not knowing.

“I can feel your anger, but regretfully, I can’t hide anything from you. I know of some things, and some things I know nothing of. The source of your power is internal, but you can also treat it as your own, and no one can steal that power you worked hard to obtain.”

Xiao Lin said helplessly, “It’s really tiring talking to you. Can you not speak in circles? I can understand every word you speak, but why can I understand anything from them?”

“We are of the same form and body, so your language directly affects me. There’s no way you don’t understand my words.”

"I'm not referring to the words themselves. Whatever, forget I said that." Xiao Lin got an even bigger headache. That thing really knew how to throw out completely foreign words. He could not determine if the person was deliberately confusing him, or if the person's personality was like that.

Seeing Xiao Lin going quiet from anger, that voice continued without a care, "I can feel the danger around you. I've wanted to tell you plenty of times, but regretfully I can't communicate with you. I can't only talk to you in this false environment. Please remember my next words. The Origin of the Beginning relates to this universe. It is further away than you or anyone around you can think of. I can feel that an ancient threat is reawakening, so you don't have much time left."

"Your words are meaningless. What is the Origin of the Beginning? What ancient threat? Hey, can't you just say your words clearly? You at least need to tell me how you know all this!"

"It's hard to explain. It's like me asking you why you're a human and not any other lifeform; that question is meaningless."

Xiao Lin was angry again, but it seemed to make sense when he talked about it. Why was he a human and not a beast? Was that person trying to debate philosophy?

"I've forgotten a lot of things, but I know my task is to protect."

"Protect me?" Xiao Lin snorted coldly. "Are you trying to tell me I'm some ancient superhero? Or maybe the savior of the world?"

"No, not you. Just as I said earlier, you're just an ordinary life form. What I am protecting is the Power of Origin." That voice was very honestly assaulting Xiao Lin's ego.

Xiao Lin did not know how to react. He had been thinking too much.

"Then what do I need to do?" Xiao Lin asked.

"The shards! You must quickly collect the shards!"

Fine, Xiao Lin let out a sigh of relief. Now that person was finally saying something Xiao Lin could understand. Shards could only be referring to the Shards of Creation.

"Since you know what you need to know, and don't know what you don't, why don't you tell me how to get out of my predicament right now?" Xiao Lin had almost been pulled in, collecting the shards was already within his plans, but he suddenly felt like that mysterious person could solve his current problem.

The voice paused for a moment before he started to recall in an even voice. "A sky fish, a living being from the first era of man. It's a morphed aquatic lifeform, and spends most of its time in the air. When the winds exceed rank six, it will follow the winds down to feed. Its special characteristics give it the ability to fly with the wind, and it can swallow a powerful hypnotic mist. The mist is its biggest weapon for hunting. Due to being over hunted, its numbers dwindled at the end of the first era, and it went extinct during the second after a disaster."

“Are you talking about Normese history?” Xiao Lin was shocked at the similarities of the sky fish and that fish that floated in the air, but he was curious when the person mentioned the first and second eras.

Chapter 574 - Dream World

Chapter 574: Dream World

“No, it’s the blue planet.”

The answers that voice provided were as vague as usual, but this time Xiao Lin immediately reacted as he said strangely, “Blue planet? Are you talking about Earth?”

“No, based on terminology, Earth was only called so after the fifth era, while Blue Planet was its name since the first. It was named so after its color. This is something life has set forth in the universe, which is that sight was the most direct reaction...”

“Fine, fine! Call it Blue Planet!” Xiao Lin’s head hurt as he interrupted the other person before he pulled the topic back. “You said that sky fishes could hypnotize people. Are you saying we’re currently hypnotized?”

“That’s right, which is why I can talk to you. I’m not allowed to interact with you too early, as it would break the laws, but the sky fish’s existence was not within our expectations. The flow of time can be anticipated, but the sands of time are never certain, so I can talk to you here.”

Xiao Lin sighed, not bothering to ask why it could not interact with him too early because he already knew that it did not know. He ignored what was said during that time since he knew it was a theory that he could not grasp.

“How do I wake up from this false hypnotic world?” Xiao Lin continued to ask, pausing before he added, “Just tell me how to handle the sky fish. I feel that it would be hard to fight it since it can hypnotize us without us knowing. Does it have any weaknesses?”

“The sky fish itself is ordinary in strength, which was why it was hunted to near extinction during the first era. The dream world has very mysterious powers. Even though the hypnotist is the sky fish, the dream world still needs a form of support.”

That voice started to sound fatigued, so it hastened its speech. “I don’t have much time left; the shards you collected can wake me up from slumber for short period of time, but the power of the shards is still not enough, and I will quickly fall back asleep, so I will transfer the location of the other shards to you. I hope we will meet again soon...”

After that, Xiao Lin felt a strong and formless pulse of energy come out from the blackhole; the energy pulse cracked the meditative world, and at that moment Xiao Lin’s head felt like it had exploded. He woke up abruptly as his body trembled.

“Monitor, what happened?!”

Everyone gathered over as they looked on as their monitor panted heavily, as if he had just gone through a large battle. Xiao Lin waved them away, indicating that he was fine, but he could not help but massage his temples. His head hurt too much; that energy pulse should be something like a pulse of memories. At that moment, a large amount of information flooded into his brain, and he felt like his brain was lagging in the same way that a computer would.

“All of this is... My god, who is that person!” After calming down, Xiao Lin quickly digested the information in his head. Even just a small bit of it was enough to shock him.

“What person? Where is this person?”

The rest of them were very curious, and Xiao Lin smiled softly as he recovered, “I think I already know how to get out of this place.”

“Really?”

“That’s great! The monitor really has his ways!”

“Get out?”

...

Xiao Lin did not continue, he remembered the words that person said when he was meditating. What frustrated him was that, since there was not enough time, the instructions were very vague.

The sky fish itself is ordinary in strength, which was why it was hunted to near extinction during the first era. The dream world has very mysterious powers. Even though the hypnotist is the sky fish, the dream world still needs a form of support...

That was the only clue.

In truth, after realizing that there were no signs of life around them, Xiao Lin had a suspicion, and now his suspicion had evidence behind it.

There was no way for there to be anywhere devoid of life in Planet Norma, unless that place was an illusion. That had been Xiao Lin’s guess; the dream world could be said to be an illusion, and just like that mysterious voice said, the dream world was a mysterious power.

What was the support of the dream world?

Xiao Lin’s expression slowly turned strange. He could not help but look around at the other six around him. They were looking at him in anticipation and anxiety, waiting for their monitor to explain and make a decision.

If this was the dream world after being hypnotized, then it could only be his own dream world. In his dream, other than himself, everyone else should be fake, including his so-called companions around him.

However, even if he knew it was a dream world, it was not easy to wake up from it. If he failed to wake up, then he would be asleep until the examination ended!

He tried some ways to wake himself up, such as pinching himself, but the clear feeling of pain made him feel like he was not dreaming.

Maybe death?

Xiao Lin shook his head. He would pass on such a dangerous method. After all, his pain felt real, so what if dying in the dream world would end up in him really dying?

He could not accept that, so the key lay in the support.

What was the support point for the dream world?

Xiao Lin worked hard thinking about it. The voice had given him a clue, but he still had to grab onto the clue to find the key to the door.

As he remained sitting, he tried to move around to make his body more comfortable, but he almost fell down as he did so. Xiao Lin suddenly remembered that his left hand had completely lost all feeling. He prepared to stand up, and at that moment, his body stiffened as a flash appeared in his mind.

Support... If it could be understood at the point of communication between the real world and the dream world, then the support point should be in the real world and not in the dream world. Xiao Lin had always been very smart, and thinking about it, he felt like such a mysterious and massive hypnosis would not be something that could be conventionally understood. The power might need to be stored in the real body in order to be effective in the long term.

And his left arm had lost all feeling after that night. He had thought that it was the act of that strange fish, but the sky fish did not have that ability.

Maybe his left arm was the support for the dream world!

That was why he had lost all feeling, because the left arm never entered the dream world, so he naturally could not feel it. It was possible that his thought process was off. After all, who would dream of missing an arm? However, in this world, normalcy did not apply, just like how he could not imagine a fish that could live above the clouds and swim in the winds.

Chapter 575 - Surrounded By Beasts (1)

Xiao Lin used his right hand to grab his left arm, and started to use some force. After that, he activated his Miracle state, throwing all his attributes into strange. The force in his hand was stronger and stronger, but he still could not feel any pain, yet his arm had already started to distort in shape.

Xiao Lin's heart was a bit hesitant, but he quickly increased his strength. After that, he heard a pop, and the next moment, an intense pain spread throughout his body. He subtly cried out, and everything in front of him turned dark as he collapsed.

After an unknown length of time, Xiao Lin started to wake up from his daze. He was still in the same forest, and the dimly lit sky caused the forest to be even darker. The surrounding wind was intense, and the howling did not stop. Xiao Lin forced himself to stand up. Feeling the pain in his left arm, he knew that he was back from being hypnotized. He quickly closed his eyes to use his perception, and his face quickly turned strange.

The forest was finally back to being full of life, indicating that he had woken up from the hypnosis caused by the sky fish. However, what chilled his heart was that, surrounding him, in the darkness he could not see through, there were way too many lifeforms hidden inside!

Xiao Lin did not immediately undo his Miracle state. His heart was already on alert. He had just stood up when he heard a low growl from the darkness on his right. Seemingly at the same time, a gigantic shadow lunged at him.

‘Ruin!’

That abrupt sense of danger caused Xiao Lin to not hesitate to activate Ruin. He launched his fist right at the shadow, and the heavy blow sent the shadow right to the floor. Ruin state's power had been enough to kill it in one shot, but Xiao Lin's fist was also full of blood, it was like he had slammed his fist into steel.

Xiao Lin launched two flame fingers with his left hand, lighting up a tree nearby, using the flames to disperse the darkness. There was movement in the darkness, and Xiao Lin could make out a few red or green pairs of eyes. Xiao Lin looked on alert as he knelt down to inspect the beast he had hit.

A Steel-tooth Tiger; they looked like the tigers on Earth, but they had very long and sharp parts in their teeth. It looked like a steel sword, and had the destructive ability of a Black-iron rank attack.

Xiao Lin quickly recalled his biology lessons; the creatures were very fierce hunters. Xiao Lin looked at the wound on his hand and smiled bitterly. In his hurry, he had slammed his fist into the steel teeth before hitting the Steel-tooth tiger's face. However, it did not matter, flesh wounds like that could be recovered quickly thanks to his dragon's blood.

Xiao Lin looked at the snapped tooth on the ground. After picking up the tooth, he appraised it in his hand, it was quite heavy, and it felt quite alright in his hands, so Xiao Lin decided to use it as a weapon.

The dark forest had been lit up by the fires, but it did not chase away the greedy hunters. The attack by the Steel-tooth tiger had served as a signal, and even more beasts started to lunge out, rushing toward their prey.

There was a white-spotted spider, named so for their large and disgusting white spot on their back. The spiders in this world were many times larger than on Earth. The primary way it attacked was by spitting venom; its venom was enough to dissolve any living organism, so its attack power was very strong.

Seeing the gigantic spider rushing over, Xiao Lin's heart chilled. He was quite good at biology — of course it was thanks to the increased memory from his Academic Genius Skill. The introductions to Planet Norma's animals flashed through his mind, and Xiao Lin decided that he could not give that thing the chance to spit its venom. Wounds could be healed, but it was very troublesome if it had venom.

Rocketing forward, Xiao Lin spun as he kicked the white-spotted spider to the floor. Before it could turn around, the steel tooth in Xiao Lin's hand had already pieced down on its soft torso. The power of his Ruin state had easily pierced a hole through the spider's heart, and it quickly stopped moving after struggling for a moment.

Xiao Lin turned around and looked at the other beast and monsters that were rushing over from not too far away. He jumped, and suddenly gripped his steel tooth tightly as he slashed downward. The spider's entire torso was split open as the sticky blood splashed on his body. There was even a stinky smell to it, almost making Xiao Lin vomit, but Xiao Lin clenched his teeth, holding back his disgust as he reached around the organs in the belly, pulling out a sac that was dripping with blood.

Even if it was disgusting, Xiao Lin remembered the teacher emphasizing in class that, even if the spider was very poisonous, the poison sac in its body was a very strong natural antidote; it was especially effective against other spider venom.

No one knew if he would be meeting other poisonous beasts, so having an antidote handy was a good idea. Xiao Lin started to understand why the academy had not allowed them to bring any equipment or tools inside; it was possible that the examination was to test their usage of the knowledge they gained in class.

After killing three white-spotted spiders, Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows; the amount of beasts around him was quite terrifying. By his vague estimation, there were close to a hundred of them. No one knew why they gathered there, and he had been attacked immediately after he woke up from hypnosis.

The only possible explanation was that the power of the sky fish still remained on his left arm, and that caused the beasts to fear him. After all, no matter how weak the sky fish was, a high-ranked beast like that would carry its own level of threat. The other beasts probably did not dare to touch prey that had already been marked, but when Xiao Lin woke up from his hypnosis, it meant he had cleared off the smell of the sky fish on him, which meant the beasts no longer needed to care.

He needed to leave immediately!

Because he did not see anyone else, Xiao Lin was a little worried, and his Ruin state was not good for long battles. He threw out a few fireballs; under his Ruin state even Black-iron ranked spells had immense destructive power. Not far away, he heard cries of agony; a few beasts had been burnt alive immediately. The continuous magical onslaught caused them to be surrounded by flames, and a lot of the lower-ranked beasts immediately escaped slyly.

Flames were the best way to chase beasts away, but not all of them were afraid of fire. In the flames, Xiao Lin noticed a large figure rapidly approaching. When it ran through the sea of flames, Xiao Lin's eyebrows furrowed.

It was a humanoid beast that was over two meters tall; it had strong-looking legs and a pair of strong arms; its entire body was surrounded by plates, and it seemed even larger within the fires.

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly; it was called a Fire-eater. The lecturers had repeatedly warned against using any fire spells on the wild beast because, just like their names suggested, they naturally ate flames. Flames could cause their Black-iron ranked abilities to suddenly jump close to Bronze rank.

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Xiao Lin did not initially sense the existence of the Fire-eater. He had used flame magic to scare away the other beasts, but that thing had profited from it. Nonetheless, Xiao Lin felt relieved. It was hard to say if a strong beast was better than a group of beasts, but if it was only at the Bronze rank, he was not that afraid.

Fire-eaters were very good against fire, so Xiao Lin's spells would definitely be useless. He first cast a water shield on himself, but he naturally doubted how useful the low-ranked defensive spell would be, but that did not stop him from running forward. Pulling out the steel tooth that was stuck to a spider's body, Xiao Lin used his ghost-like footwork. Ruin had increased his agility even higher, closing in on Silver-ranked levels.

The Fire-eater primarily used fire in its attacks; it clawed at the flames, and between its claws were strings of high-temperature flames. Xiao Lin stepped forward, doing various dodges in midair which caused it to look like he was dancing. He could even feel those thin flames whistle past his face, the hot air brushing against his ears.

The flames were at least over a hundred degrees and, lacking any anti-flame equipment and magic, the Fire-eaters were quite difficult for normal first-year students. Any flames that slightly touched the body would immediately burn them, causing their combat abilities to drop greatly.

However, Xiao Lin easily avoided all of the flames. Agility did not just bring an increase in speed, it also increased the dexterity and flexibility of the body, allowing him to be able to control his body to the limits in mid-air. And the moment he dropped on the ground, he immediately gathered his energy, speeding up as he dodged and charged forward.

The temperature around him rose as well, but the thin water shield around Xiao Lin was capable of lowering the temperature around him, even though it stood no chance against a direct attack.

The more flames the Fire-eater absorbed, the more its power would increase, but at the same time it would burden itself as well, causing its speed and reactions to slow down. It was even slower than Black-iron rank, and that was its greatest weakness.

Xiao Lin's classroom knowledge was very reliable, and he had used his advantages to seize the initiative in the fight. Fire-eaters were very threatening, but it was fine as long as he did not touch them.

However, it was impossible for him to counter attack immediately, as the Fire-eater's body temperature was around a hundred degrees, and the area around its heart could even approach two hundred.

Two hundred degrees was not something a Bronze-ranked water shield could block, and even though Xiao Lin was at Bronze rank, he did not have any armor on. Unless he had specialized armor, he might immediately lose a hand the moment he touched it.

“It really is a tricky bastard!” Xiao Lin could not help but curse, looking at the steel tooth in his hand. He was not sure how well the steel tooth would deal with fire. Otherwise, he could just throw the steel tooth directly at the Fire-eater. In their classes, they had been taught that the best way to deal with a Fire-eater was water magic or long-ranged attacks like archery.

Xiao Lin had always felt that he had quite a wide range of knowledge, but at that critical point he found that he knew too little. It was not obvious in group battles, but there were even fewer people who were completely well-versed in solo combat. After all, the academy mainly focused on group combat tactics.

The steel tooth was his primary weapon, and he was very satisfied with the sharpness. If he threw it out and it was not effective, it would mean that he had to fight empty-handed. Xiao Lin hesitated slightly, and he suddenly slapped his forehead, silently cursing himself for being stupid. He had forgotten the biggest reward he got from the Rosa Kingdom.

Incomplete Absolute Defense!

The LV2 Academic Genius skill allowed him to learn a skill after copying it if he satisfied certain requirements. Even after the time limit of the replication ended, his body would naturally remember that skill. However, it was just the most basic memory, and after remembering it he still needed to commit the time and energy to repeatedly practice and familiarize himself with it.

However, Incomplete Absolute Defense did not need a large amount of training to get good at it. The special ability only seemed to have high requirements for the user’s bloodline. Even though Xiao Lin did not really understand the requirements on the bloodline, and vaguely guessed that, if it was targeted at those with talents, it was clear that he had satisfied the conditions.

Incomplete Absolute Defense could completely defend against any attack that was not higher than his own level. Those with incomplete bloodlines can use it. It had a thirty second cooldown, and each time it was cast, it did not last more than three seconds. Each use would also use up 10% of the user’s total physical strength.

It had only been a month since the battle in the Rosa Kingdom, but Xiao Lin recalled the battle in detail, recalling the skill. He believed that his body could quickly remember it since he could not have forgotten it so quickly.

After a few minutes, a familiar feeling bubbled up in Xiao Lin’s body which both surprised and excited him. A white shield quickly formed around his body. It was the Incomplete Absolute Defense!

Xiao Lin had successfully recalled the ability with his body, but then he did not hesitate to rush at the Fire-eater. The closer the distance, the more the temperature rose, but all of it was blocked by the shield. The Fire-eater, which already had its reactions slowed, could not react in time to the sneak attack from behind it. As its body was turning, the steel tooth in Xiao Lin’s hand had already pierced inside it.

The steel tooth started to glow red in just a moment, and started to rapidly soften. It seemed that the steel tooth was more susceptible to fire than he thought. Xiao Lin did not retreat, and instead let out a low roar as he used all the power in his body to push the steel tooth, along with his right arm, completely into the Fire-eater's body.

He had planned on using his arm as a weapon from the start, using the increased speed granted by Ruin to increase his attack power, then using the three seconds of immunity provided by Incomplete Absolute Defense to avoid any injury to himself.

Under Absolute Defense, even he could not use any form of energy attacks, including the elements, death energy or sword aura, so he could only use the purest form of combat.

Three seconds was not a lot, but it was not short either, it was enough to determine the victor of that battle.

Using Absolute Defense to sink his whole arm into the intense flames, Xiao Lin could feel a round object. He did not hesitate to crush it with force, and after a soft exploding sound, the Fire-eater let out a low and sharp cry of energy as the flames on its body started to fluctuate.

Xiao Lin knew that something was wrong, and using the last half a second, he quickly pulled his arm out and frantically ran into the forest.

The fires around the Fire-eater's body started to intensify as its body started to distort, and in a flash, an immense explosion could be seen.

Chapter 577 - Chase

Chapter 577: Chase

The Fire-eater was finally defeated. No matter how intense the flames around it were, no matter how hot its body was, the moment its heart was destroyed, death was inevitable. The explosion the Fire-eater caused right before its death led to the sea of flames to be even more intense.

Thankfully, the forest always had a very high humidity. Even if he left it like that, the flames would slowly die down. Xiao Lin, whose face was grey with ash, looked at the mess around him and was rendered speechless. He never expected the last attack of the Fire-eater to be so strong, so it was a good thing that his Absolute Defense lasted just long enough, and that his speed under Ruin was fast enough to avoid that lethal wave.

The steel tooth had already been destroyed from the high temperatures. Even though he did not just kill one Steel-tooth Tiger earlier, the other corpses were already destroyed in the sea of flames.

Over 80% of the Fire-eater's body consisted of fire, so there was practically no corpse to be found, but the unsatisfied Xiao Lin still looked around nearby, and his eyes lit up when he noticed a pile of deep red crystals of varying sizes on the floor. The large ones were as big as his palm, and the smaller ones were only the size of fingernails. The crystals emitted a deep red glow and warmth and, by now, the intense heat from the explosion had already begun to cool down.

“These are mid-grade flame energy stones. No, with the coloration it might even be high-grade ones!” Xiao Lin exclaimed happily as he carefully picked up and kept all the crystals.

Energy stones were like ores back on Earth. They were found in various mines in the world, but natural energy stones usually had too many impurities, and could not be used immediately. They needed to be refined after the fact before they could be useful.

However, the crystals in front of him were different. As something that was mainly composed of fire, the Fire-eater’s explosion before it died had created a high heat with high pressure force, causing the flames around its core to complete a refinement process, which ended up in benefiting Xiao Lin.

The value of mid- and high-grade energy stones far exceeded low-grade energy stones that had not been refined yet. He might not be able to use them during this examination, but thinking about the regulations of the monthly examination, Xiao Lin would be able to get them as his spoils of war after the examination.

Leaving the sea of flames, Xiao Lin continued to move deeper into the forest. Compared to the initial few days, the forest seemed much more active than before. Even if he did not focus on his perception, he could still occasionally see various beasts running past him. In the dense foliage, he would also occasionally see some beasts flying past. Those beasts all had very very strong attack abilities, and would even fight among themselves occasionally.

He had just used up his Ruin state, and coupled with the 10% consumption of his energy after using Absolute Defense, his body was extremely weak at that point, which was why he constantly stopped and avoided all the beasts that were fighting. He would constantly have to take a longer path around them. No one knew what had happened to the beasts in the forest; they were not that active when the examinations started, but they all seemed to seem like they were going through puberty, unleashing all their pent up strength and energy.

The forest was very noisy; other than the cries of the beasts, he could somewhat make out the sound of humans from deep within. There were definitely other students nearby. The sporadic voices made it hard for him to determine their location, so Xiao Lin did not advance. Since he had no better way forward, he decided to temporarily rest where he was; he picked up some wild fruits to quell his hunger.

After over two hours, Xiao Lin’s strength had more or less returned. The natural recovery of his dragon’s blood meant that the flesh wounds he suffered earlier were now just some scars that did not affect much. The voices in the distance had disappeared as well. He did not know what the result of the battle was, so Xiao Lin decided to go take a look.

After activating Miracle, he used his high agility alongside his Phantom Steps. Xiao Lin became just like a cunning fox, easily moving through the forest as he wished. After half an hour, he arrived at the spot where he suspected they were earlier.

There were obvious traces of battle; the trees nearby had been cut down, and the part that was cut was abnormally smooth. Not far away, there was a pile of leaves that had been burnt to ash that were still emitting a black smoke. The beast corpses that were littered around had large traces of blood, and following the blood, there were more and more bodies. Other than beasts, there were even other animals.

Xiao Lin immediately furrowed his eyebrows. Those men were all donned in full armor and even had swords, but the rules of the examination had prohibited any equipment. Furthermore, they would not leave any bodies behind after death. They would merely return to the academy after disappearing.

It was not their own people!

Xiao Lin made the judgement quickly, and hesitated to move forward, but at his moment of hesitation, someone saw him.

“Please, help me!” It was a woman who shouted at him, and she spoke in Normese. She had on thin red leather armor, and in her hand was a shortbow.

Not even a few meters away, there was a five or six meter Arachne. That monster had the lower body of a spider, but its upper body was a massive humanoid figure. It was a very ugly beast, and its long black hair emitted a disgusting stench.

The Arachne’s speed did not decrease from its size, and it was rushing toward the woman, and it coincidentally ran past Xiao Lin. Black blood was flowing from the woman’s leg, and it seemed she was too injured to avoid anything. Her weapon was a bow, but with such a close distance, it was hard for her to use the advantages of an archer.

Under his Miracle state, Xiao Lin’s speed was enough to avoid the spider, indicating that he would not help. If the one attacked was a classmate from Class Seven, he would naturally have extended a helping hand, but since it was a native, Xiao Lin had too many misgivings on the notion. He obviously remembered being tricked by the Normese merchants during the third examination.

As colonists, they and the natives were natural enemies; that was a truth that could not be changed. After experiencing a whole semester, Xiao Lin had that realization. Before he could identify the other party, the best attitude was to avoid anything.

Looking at Xiao Lin having no intention of helping, that woman got even more anxious, and she shouted, “One hundred low-grade energy stones and thirty mid-grade energy stones as a reward!”

That woman looked to be bad at melee combat. Coupled with her injury to her leg, her movements were even less nimble. The Arachne’s black leg had kicked the woman on the floor; the next attack would cost the woman her life.

Chapter 578 - Beast Tide

Chapter 578: Beast Tide

One hundred low-grade energy stones and thirty mid-grade energy stones as a reward!

Xiao Lin raised his eyebrow. That woman was very smart; when she saw that he was not going to help, she stopped wasting her time pleading, and instead did not hesitate to offer a reward.

However, Xiao Lin merely hesitated for a moment before he said in Normese, “If you die, wouldn’t those things still be mine.”

That was true; the rewards were not enough to make Xiao Lin move. That Arachne seemed to be much better than the beasts he had met before both in terms of strength and agility. It was more or less at the level of the Fire-eater, and was not something he could easily handle.

“There’s also information! Information on the beast tide; it’s something I obtained through special channels! If I die, you might not be able to leave without that information!” The woman put even more on the table in her panic.

She was a smart and decisive woman. Xiao Lin did not know what a beast tide was, but he somewhat realized that it could be the most difficult part of this examination, and was probably why the academy had deliberately hidden any information from them. Obtaining that information for himself was probably a focal point of their examination.

Xiao Lin did not waste time on any nonsense. Even though it had not been that long since the Fire-eater, and his strength had yet to fully recover, compared to the information and rewards he could obtain, he felt like the risk was worth it.

Xiao Lin made his move; because he did not have much strength left, he did not plan on stalling for time. Regardless of whether or not he was saving her, he had to finish his foe in one strike!

The woman had lost hope when she saw how hesitant Xiao Lin was, and she had started to struggle to stand up. However, the Arachne had already started its second attack, and with its body shape, the woman could not avoid it at all. She even showed a look of hopelessness, but she suddenly heard the Arachne let out a sharp and strange cry before it charged forward, moving past her.

Its target was not herself?

The woman turned around in shock and saw Xiao Lin bitterly smiling.

The Arachne was a little smarter than Xiao Lin had anticipated. When he activated his Ruin state, the beast felt threatened by him and immediately shifted targets.

However, it was already too late; in order to defeat it as soon as possible, Xiao Lin had used his dragon’s breath sword aura the moment he activated Ruin. Before, he had not used it because he did not have a weapon. Even though it was possible to use it with his bare hands, the power would greatly decrease. On the way here, those corpses on the floor had solved his problem of lacking a weapon.

The white-colored dragon’s breath started to seep out of his body, shooting up in the air as the leaves over his head were covered by the dragon’s breath before turning into powder. Originally, Xiao Lin had planned on using that woman to buy himself some time because his dragon’s breath needed time to gather, but he no longer had that luxury, and Xiao Lin could feel the white sword in his hand starting to tremble. That meant the sword was not that great in quality, and could not withstand the force of the dragon’s breath.

Boom!

As Xiao Lin swung down with that sword covered in dragon's breath sword aura, a thunderous explosion could be heard around half the forest. The Arachne might have sensed the danger beforehand, but it could not avoid it at all since it was too close. In a flash, the white light turned the Arachne into a pile of meat.

The dragon's breath continued to shoot out for a dozen seconds before slowly dissipating, and the exhausted Xiao Lin had been forced to undo his Ruin state the moment he unleashed his dragon's breath, and the sword in his hand had shattered from the backlash.

Dragon's breath did use a lot of his physical strength, and Xiao Lin was already beginning to feel dizzy. However, he bit his lips as he leaned against a tree, preventing himself from collapsing immediately as he calmly looked at the woman next to him.

He could not afford to show any weakness in front of that Normese woman who suddenly appeared.

Thankfully, the woman immediately showed signs of friendliness as she put her bow away and stopped herself over ten meters away. She politely and respectfully thanked Xiao Lin. However, on top of her friendliness, she had actually been shocked by the power Xiao Lin had shown earlier. In truth, the other reason Xiao Lin had used his dragon breath was to warn the woman against turning her back on their deal.

"This is the reward." The woman quickly took out the stones and placed them on the floor for Xiao Lin to look at before wrapping them back up.

"Who are you?" After making sure the woman had no other intentions, Xiao Lin finally started with his questions.

The woman's face showed some sadness. "We are adventurers, we were planning on doing some hunting before the beast tide, but we never expected the beast tide to happen earlier this time. The beasts that came out earlier separated me from my party, and a few of my companions encountered an ambush. I'm the only one left.

"What is a beast tide?"

The woman found Xiao Lin's question weird, but she honestly answered, "The beasts in the Forest of Death fight each other after a period of time. They kill each other in search of a new ruler of the forest. It's called a beast tide, and during the beast tide, all the beasts will come out."

Xiao Lin said in understanding, "So you wanted to take advantage of the situation, using the time the beasts are gathered together to increase your hunting efficiency. Were all these energy crystals your loot?"

"Yes; the rewards you can get during a beast tide is at least ten times more than usual. Anyone would be tempted. Aren't you the same?" the woman asked.

The woman probably thought that Xiao Lin was here to hunt as well. After all, those energy stones were all valuable objects. Xiao Lin did not bother to explain as he said, "You really aren't afraid of dying. Since you know there are more beasts around, you still dared to enter."

“That’s not it. If it’s just before the beast tide, the beasts that would appear are all low-ranked, so we could still hunt them. If the real beast tide started, those beasts that have been dormant or hibernating for decades or even up to a hundred years would appear. However, no one would be dumb enough to stay here after the beast tide starts. The hunting is only during the period before it.” Pausing, the woman bitterly sighed. “There are always rules that the beast tide follows. We did a lot of research before, but we never expected the beast tide to be moved forward this time.”

“Has the beast tide started?”

“It hasn’t yet, but since a beast like the one you just killed has appeared, there won’t be much time left. If we don’t leave during this period of time, we’ll all die here!”

Chapter 579 - Time For The Examination

Chapter 579: Time For The Examination

The simple chat with the woman had given Xiao Lin quite a lot of information. That woman was named Anna, and was the one in charge of instructing the archers in their mercenary group. The name of the mercenary group could not be translated to any Earth language, so Xiao Lin ignored it. However, the mercenary group was not small. According to her, there were over a hundred of them who came to hunt. They had been separated after being attacked by a group of beasts, and the team that followed her was mostly long-ranged attackers; they had all been killed by the speed of that Arachne.

Anna also tried to learn who Xiao Lin was. To that woman, someone who could kill that Arachne with one strike was very rare in her country, and would be an outstanding person. That sort of person could not possibly be unknown, but forget recognizing Xiao Lin, even Xiao Lin’s name led her to reveal a strange expression, as if a Chinese name like that was very unique.

Anna’s country was not large, and the name of the country was even harder to translate from Normese than the name of her mercenary group. However, Xiao Lin had heard of it before. No, more accurately he had learnt of it before. The land Dawn Academy was occupying had originally belonged to that country, and they had been briefly introduced in his history lessons.

However, the country was not exterminated by Dawn Academy. After all, Dawn Academy still did not have that power during the early stages of colonization. They were instead eliminated by the orcs when that race had been expanding.

Xiao Lin recalled that the small and weak country had been exterminated around 20 N.C., and since that woman said she was part of that country, it meant that the examination was set before 20 N.C.

They had not been provided with any information on the examination. Other than the information that everyone was concerned about, such as the composition and information on the wild beasts, the timeline and backdrop of the examination might also be one of the questions they needed to figure out.

Xiao Lin thought of the strange expression on Anna's face when she looked at him, and did not directly answer any of Anna's questions about himself. He casually asked, "Have the mermen to the east settled down a little lately?"

Anna's eyebrows furrowed once again. "I don't really understand that question. Oh, what I meant is, those lowly mermen just disturb the fishermen a little at most. Surely they wouldn't dare to attack us."

Xiao Lin paused. "Aren't they at war right now?"

"The mermen? Going to war?" Anna could not help but laugh, but taking note that the person in front of her was much stronger than her, she quickly composed herself as she joked, "Are you talking about their inner conflicts? The mermen would fight each other for mates during their reproductive periods, but they usually go back to their normal ways. There's nothing strange about that; even the orcs don't care about that race. Who could they beat in a fight?"

Xiao Lin found it even stranger, and tried asking a few other questions that only caused Anna to look at him with a weirder expression, as if he was looking at an alien.

During the earliest periods of colonization, Dawn Academy's earliest opponents were the mermen. Due to fighting over their territories, the war that happened then never stopped. Thankfully Dawn Academy's only foes were the mermen, as the orcs did not participate in the war back then. Even though the colonists back then were only normal people, the mermen were not a very strong race, so they fought on an even playing field, and were able to gain an advantage through their intelligence.

If it was during the first twenty years of colonization, then if their history lessons were not wrong, the mermen should be intensely fighting the colonists. As the nearest Normese country, and even being a part of a mercenary troop that went all over the place, there was no way she would lack that information.

That meant Anna could be lying to him, but that possibility was not that viable. When Xiao Lin had shown his absolute power to her, that woman had lost any advantage she had, and she had no reason to do so since she did not stand to benefit from it at all.

If Anna's words were true, then there was only one possibility left, which was that the forest had been set at a time in Planet Norma before colonization had started, which meant that, at that point in history, no one from Earth had appeared yet.

That hypothesis shocked Xiao Lin. After all, up till now all the examinations had been set during the colonization periods. This examination would be the only exception. Of course, from the examination's perspective, the exam was focused on the various beasts in the forest, so the timeline and background were not important matters.

However, was that really true?

Xiao Lin could not help but feel a sliver of doubt in his heart, but the moment quickly passed. The most important thing he had to focus on should be the upcoming beast tide, but Xiao Lin could not casually believe in Anna's words. He repeatedly asked for information regarding the beast tide, especially the part where Anna mentioned that the beast tide had come earlier. However, based on

her words, the expected date had been predicted based on astrology, and Anna herself did not know why the date was wrongly predicted this time.

However, the process was unimportant. After making sure that Anna's information was accurate, Xiao Lin started to think about his own decisions. Anna's people had planned on leaving the forest as soon as possible. She did not hide the fact that she did not plan on looking for her missing squad members because she believed that, as long as her troops were not stupid, they would be planning on leaving as well. If they did not leave in time, then when the beast tide fell, the even more horrifying beasts would arrive and no one would be able to save them.

Anna had been hinting to Xiao Lin to leave with her. That way, her life would be even safer. After she left, she would give him even more rewards; it was just that she did not have the rewards on her at that moment.

The examination stated that they had to survive for a month in the forest, but it did not mention the method of survival, nor were there any restrictions. However, the examination did not specify if the area would be limited to the forest as well, so Xiao Lin did not know if leaving would end with him failing.

Furthermore, Xiao Lin could not leave just by himself. A pretty and cold face surfaced in his mind; he would not throw Gu Xiaoyue aside and leave. Even with the beast tide coming, even if he might not be able to deal with those terrifying beasts that were going to be waking up from their slumber, he would only lose ten years of his lifespan if he died, but Gu Xiaoyue could not even afford to die a single time.

Chapter 580 - Pursuit

Chapter 580: Pursuit

Anna felt like Xiao Lin had to be crazy for him to reject a deal as good as hers. Even though she had to admit that the man's skill was horrifying, and that the sword aura he had used to defeat that Arachne was the strongest sword aura she had ever seen in her life, she had a deeper understanding of the Forest of Death, having grown up with the mercenaries.

"No! Absolutely not!" Even if she respected Xiao Lin's skill, Anna could not help but widen her eyes as she looked at Xiao Lin in disbelief.

"No one can survive during the beast tide! No one!"

"Do you know how strong the beasts that will appear in the beast tides are? They aren't even at the same level as that Arachne!"

"We have reliable witness reports that the beasts that appear at the end of the beast tide can even be at the Epic rank! I admit that you're very strong, but I don't think you can defeat an Epic rank!"

Anna shot out at Xiao Lin, trying to make him abandon that unrealistic thought. She was actually very frustrated because, if Xiao Lin was adamant on looking for his companions, she would be in a

difficult spot. She could not guarantee her own safety if she took the road alone, but it was even riskier to follow him.

“Hey, the words you said earlier contradict themselves.” Xiao Lin suddenly decided to interrupt her, focusing on a different point.

“Huh? What contradiction?”

Xiao Lin touched his nose, saying, “You said no one can survive the beast tide, but then you said that you have witnesses that state that the highest ranked monsters are at Epic rank. Isn’t that contradictory?”

Anna stood speechlessly on the spot.

Xiao Lin smiled as he pushed his hands away. “That’s why the beast tide might not be as scary as you think. Since someone had survived before, and even witnessed an Epic rank beast, why can’t we do exactly that?”

“We?” Anna raised her voice again.

Xiao Lin shrugged as he pointed at the energy stones on the floor, saying, “I’ll use these as a reward, so help guide me. I think you should know this forest quite well.”

He had no choice because he lacked information. It would be like searching for a needle in a haystack if he wanted to quickly find someone in that large forest. So, just like Anna needed Xiao Lin to help her leave safely, Xiao Lin also hoped to get Anna’s help in delving deeper in the forest.

Anna’s eyebrows twitched as she looked at Xiao Lin using the things she had just given him as a reward. She was a bit exasperated as her expression flickered. Anna was a bit hesitant since leaving the forest was quite a big risk for her. As an archer, she knew that she was very weak after losing the protection of her companions.

Furthermore, she glanced at her leg. The wound that the Arachne had inflicted on her had started to rot. The blood that flowed out was dark, and it was a clear sign that she had been poisoned. Under that state, she would not be able to move far by herself.

“If you’ve been poisoned, I think I have a way to help you.” Xiao Lin took out the white-spotted spider’s poison sac and waved it in front of Anan. The blood around the sac had dried, but the stench was still there. Xiao Lin did not want to continue bringing that smelly thing around, so it would be great if it were of some use at that moment.

Anna’s expression started to sway; her wound was not deep, but if the poison continued to seep in, even if she safely left the forest, her leg would be thoroughly crippled. It was obvious that no one wanted to be a one-legged cripple.

“Ah, but if you want me to give you the antidote, then I can’t give you the energy stones.” Xiao Lin thought about it and kept the energy stones.

Anna was suddenly angry as she could not help but say, “The energy stones can be exchanged for a hundred sacs outside! It’s not some powerful beast!”

“However, to you right now, the value of the sac far outstrips these,” Xiao Lin said logically. Being able to bring back the energy stones would definitely be a large profit. He might have a lot of money, but who said no to more money?

Anna was once again speechless, but having grown up among mercenaries, she knew that the value of these things were not absolute. After considering it for a moment, she felt like she had been forced to accept being Xiao Lin’s guide. The reward would be the antidote sac, but she added another request. If they still did not find anyone when the beast tide started, she would leave immediately, even if Xiao Lin did not go with her.

Even though there were various problems, the moment they settled on the deal, Anna quickly devised various plans. Her mercenary group regularly hunted in that forest, and had participated in a few hunts before the beast tide, so she was very familiar with it.

“It’s currently the period before the beast tide; most of the beast around here will be very agitated. We need to avoid fighting them if possible. Even if you are very strong, a person’s stamina is still limited, you won’t be able to fight off every beast in the forest.

“The forest doesn’t have a complicated geography, but it’s very easy to get lost the first time around. However, there’s a technique to it, as long as you follow those beasts, you’ll be able to find the exit. The beasts are all naturally scared of the strong, and they can sense those with stronger presences, which is why, before the beast tide, most of them will try to head to the outer areas to avoid it.”

Xiao Lin said, “So we should head outside?”

“No, we should head deeper in.” Anna said earnestly, “The current situation on the outer parts is very complicated. Believe me, even if your companions are there, there’s a low chance they can survive. It’s actually the deepest parts that are the safest now. If your companions are smart enough, I think it will be more likely to find someone there.”

...

Xiao Lin felt like this guide was not bad. Under Anna’s suggestions, the two of them headed deeper into the forest. On the way, they met a few excited beasts; most of them had formed groups and were headed toward the outer parts of the forest. They would start fighting if they met those of different species. With how strong the beasts were, their group fights were essentially miniature wars.

Anna had said that the forest itself was filled with life force. Even if the entire forest was destroyed, it would completely regrow after a few years. Otherwise, the place would not be able to handle the torture from the beasts.

Around ten days after the exam had started, which was the third day after Xiao Lin and Anna departed, Xiao Lin finally found another student. First, he met someone that had been dispersed by the sky fish’s hypnosis. When he met the person, he was already heavily injured. Even though they had given him some simple treatment, it was obvious that he would not be able to continue on.

“Monitor, I know I won’t be able to hold on; it is so painful. It’s fine. I will end myself. That’s right, it’s best if you hurry over. I don’t think the others managed to escape.” That man around his thirties coughed out blood as he spoke.

He had initially hidden somewhere after being hypnotized, but his luck was quite good. A band of around ten people had passed by and helped him undo his hypnosis.

The forest was very large, so it was actually quite hard for a class of almost sixty to meet each other after being dispersed throughout the forest, which was why Xiao Lin was stunned when he heard of a team with around ten people. When he heard they had dispersed his hypnosis, Xiao Lin almost jumped with excitement.

The sky fish’s hypnosis was not like regular sleep; it was not something that could be woken up from with just a push. One would need a spell of a certain level. Dispelling hypnosis was a support-type magic, and most people would not waste time on such meaningless magic. Based on Xiao Lin’s knowledge, the only person who knew that kind of magic in Class Seven was Gu Xiaoyue.

After a simple recollection of the situation, the man chose to use the steel club he had with him to hit his own head and commit suicide. Even though Xiao Lin could have brought him along, the man probably did not want to be a burden. Just like when they had met an ambush, he had decisively let Gu Xiaoyue and the others leave first.

What a straightforward man!

Xiao Lin subtly sighed. After that he looked at the dumbfounded Anna. The disappearance of the body had probably shocked her. Xiao Lin casually found a reason to brush it off, but to a certain degree, it also showed that colonists did not exist on Planet Norma at that time. Otherwise, Anna would not be so shocked.

According to the man, Gu Xiaoyue and the others had been attacked by an earth dragon. Earth dragons were lesser dragons, and had very strong attack power, but their greatest strength was their magical resistance. To Gu Xiaoyue, who had an insane intelligence, it was the most troublesome opponent, which was why the ten of them had been defeated.

“The earth dragon is a very stubborn hunter; it will endlessly pursue its prey.” Anna did not hesitate to share the information she knew before adding, “The earth dragon’s skills are about the middle tier. Even though it won’t attack in groups, it’s also not easy to handle.”

“Let’s go!” However, Xiao Lin used his actions to answer Anna’s question.

“Fine! You’re the master. You make the decisions!” Anna could only follow in frustration, but she still honestly fulfilled her duty as a guide.

The footprints left behind were a mess, and Xiao Lin did not have any tracking ability. Thankfully, the enemy was an earth dragon; even if it was a lesser dragon, it still carried a faint amount of draconic energy. After Xiao Lin was given dragon’s blood by Song Junlang, on top of his strange constitution, he had slowly become more sensitive to draconic energy.

Using that strange sense, or maybe it was his urge to see Gu Xiaoyue, Xiao Lin's movements gradually increased. Anna wondered how he was following them, but it without a doubt that the man was filled with mysteries, so she respectfully chose to shut up.

Chapter 581 - Earth Dragon (1)

Chapter 581: Earth Dragon (1)

Using Xiao Lin's sensitivity to draconic power, the power slowly got stronger, the more sensitive he felt. The signs of battle on the road were more and more obvious, and dried blood could be seen in the chaotic forest, but they did not see any corpses. However, that did not alleviate Xiao Lin's worry, since dying here would not leave any traces.

Xiao Lin's footsteps sped up, and after an hour, he finally heard the intense sound of combat and the obvious sounds of Mandarin conversation. He was quite emotional, but also apprehensive. Turning around, he softly told Anna, "You should wait here. An earth dragon isn't something you can handle."

"Don't worry, you shouldn't die either." Anna had never planned on going closer; even if it was a lesser dragon, it was still a dragon. At the same rank, the earth dragon had few rivals.

Xiao Lin picked up the weapon he had brought. Even if the quality was not great, it was still better than being barehanded. Following the sounds of battle, he activated Miracle before he arrived.

Boom!

After running a hundred meters, Xiao Lin immediately sensed a dark figure shooting over. Avoiding it, he saw a bulky man slam onto the floor before skidding for over ten meters and slamming onto a tree. Xiao Lin remembered him; in Class Seven, in streams of the strength attribute, that man was among the top two. Even though his other attributes were low, he had pretty good results on the last few monthly examinations. He could be considered one of the better students in Class Seven.

Someone like that was looking weak as paper at that moment. Looking at him collapsed on the floor curled up, it was hard to know how many bones in his body were still intact.

"Careful!"

"Get away!"

"Idiot, don't be stupid enough to fight that guy head on!"

"Let's just get this sh*t over with!"

...

The noise was getting clearer, and after walking a few steps forward, he finally got a look at the chaotic scene. The first thing to catch his eye was that massive monster, even though there was an

obvious draconic feel on its body, Xiao Lin was still suddenly uncertain, because that thing was too big. Its body was the size of a four-story building, and it basically felt like the building was blocking his way, making for an intimidating sight.

The earth dragons in his textbooks were not that big. Even though he was shocked, Xiao Lin did not hesitate to move, because after working hard to look around, his sight fell on that lithe body a few dozen meters away. It was Gu Xiaoyue. Even in that frantic scene, the woman was still wearing a face of calm, unperturbed and not scared at all.

Gu Xiaoyue stood behind everyone; in her hand was a simple wand that Xiao Lin did not know where she got. However, everytime she waved her hand, various spells would fall on those who were fighting. Those strength-enhancing support spells increased their combat power, but in front of that massive earth dragon, the enhancements were meaningless.

As if feeling Xiao Lin's gaze, Gu Xiaoyue looked over, and her expression merely shifted for a moment. The woman did not easily reveal her emotions and composure, and Xiao Lin was already used to that. He was just about to use his Phantom Steps to move past the earth dragon and say a few words when he suddenly felt a subtle yellow light fall on his body.

Divine Movement; that spell could increase a person's speed to a certain degree. Xiao Lin had worked with Gu Xiaoyue during the last monthly examination, so he understood that spell of hers. Only, that woman was as direct as usual, and had immediately casted a spell on him the moment he arrived. It was obvious she knew the others would not be able to handle the dragon.

Looking at the look Gu Xiaoyue sent him, Xiao Lin did not know how to react. It seemed that, facing an earth dragon that was far more powerful than the textbooks, Gu Xiaoyue could not keep her usual calm.

However, he did not need her to say anything. Xiao Lin had come over to save them. Running over, Xiao Lin had already shifted his attributes over to agility, and after Divine Movement was casted on him, his agility at that point was far ahead of Bronze rank.

Xiao Lin had been considering converting more of his attributes on his Strength since he had Divine Movement on him, but the crazed earth dragon quickly made him abandon that thought.

Xiao Lin was an extremely small presence in front of that massive being, but the earth dragon's sense of smell was very acute, and it seemed to hate other living beings being near it. It immediately sent its massive tail flying over, and the grey stalk was filled with scales. Its tip glinted in a sharp light.

At that time, the other students that were frantically fighting for their lives had noticed Xiao Lin, and quickly cried out in warning, but the sound of the wind next to his ear had already caused Xiao Lin to be on alert. The attack covered a wide area, and he chose to use his strength to leap high up, having absolute faith in his speed after he was enhanced by the Divine Movement spell.

However, the earth dragon reacted even more quickly, and the tail seemed to have anticipated that he would dodge as it changed its trajectory midway, heading straight for the air.

At that crucial point, Xiao Lin did not hesitate to activate his Ruin state, increasing his agility even more. On top of Divine Movement, it was far above even Silver rank standards.

Xiao Lin managed to avoid the tail, but the sound of the winds next to his ear made it seem like it had ripped apart the air, which showed the force behind its tail. If Xiao Lin had been hit, his examination might have ended right there.

Compared to saying the earth dragon was very quick, it was more accurate to say it had a very sharp sense for combat; it was a very smart beast!

Xiao Lin had some doubt in his heart, and he could not help but frown. It was very different from the earth dragons in the textbooks. Earth dragons were a beast that relied purely on brute force; it had the power of dragons, but did not have the intelligence, which was why it was stuck as a lesser dragon.

However, this creature was different. After that short confrontation, the sense of danger in Xiao Lin's heart intensified.

That beast was strong, and its intuition sharp. Its combat ability was strong too. It was also very sly, and did not seem like a beast when it fought. It seemed more like a human.

Xiao Lin had already given up on putting his attributes into strength. He was very clear on the fact that his speed was just enough to dodge at that moment. If he lowered it at all, the results might not be good.

Anna's words now held even more truth to them. As they drew closer to the beast tide, more and more strong beasts would appear, but Xiao Lin first needed to handle the foe in front of him.

Chapter 582 - Earth Dragon (2)

Chapter 582: Earth Dragon (2)

Information was definitely important, but what was written in textbooks was not always absolute, and Xiao Lin now got to experience that. In the initial exchanges with the earth dragon, Xiao Lin had to admit that he had underestimated it.

As a lesser dragon that had inherited the strength of dragons, an earth dragon's strength, defense and resistance to magic were all excellent, but its speed and reactions were its greatest weaknesses, but the one in front of him was different.

After realizing that, Xiao Lin had already activated his Ruin state. In his hand was a sword that had been picked up from the fallen mercenaries. With Anna's help, he had naturally chosen the one with the best quality, but it was still only a Bronze-ranked weapon, and it seemed like it had been damaged from the original owner's battles.

Under his Ruin state, his sword aura was incredibly powerful, and after dodging the tail, Xiao Lin took the opportunity to slash at the beast. He was concerned that the trees nearby would cause a fire and affect the others, so he did not use his flame sword aura, but its power did not decrease because of that.

Clank!

The Bronze-ranked sword was unable to pierce through the earth dragon's spine. That beast might not have the scales of a true dragon, but it was still extremely hard. He could see that there were various scars of differing sizes on its surface, probably a result of their prior attacks, but none of them had pierced its scales.

Xiao Lin's slash had immediately drawn a line of blood. With his sword aura and his Ruin state, that thick outer layer was thin as paper, and Xiao Lin managed a sigh of relief. At least that beast was not untouchable. Even though its combat ability exceeded expectations, as long as Xiao Lin could pierce through its defense, nothing would be a problem.

The other students had already taken the chance to distance themselves. All of them had varying injuries on them, and they already knew how devastating the earth dragon's skills were. They could not help but clap and cheer loudly for Xiao Lin.

Regardless of how competent Xiao Lin was as a monitor, on Planet Norma, power was more convincing than leadership ability. Being able to bring everyone out of difficulties and save the other students, that was already enough for Xiao Lin to be called the monitor of Class Seven in their eyes.

It took only a few seconds for him to drop from the air. Using the earth dragon's blind spot, Xiao Lin had already taken the opportunity to launch at least twenty strikes. Divine Movement and his enhanced agility caused his strikes to be stronger, and it increased the speed of his attacks.

After landing, Xiao Lin immediately pulled away, dodging the dragon's incoming attack, and he could not help but exclaim softly. His attacks had left a giant wound on the earth dragon. Its back was already littered with blood. A large amount of warm blood was flowing out of its back, and had fallen on the grass on the ground. Strangely enough, the grass and flowers that had been destroyed during the battle had immediately come back to life after touching the blood, and they were growing at rapid speeds.

Xiao Lin was shocked. Dragon's blood had its innate recovery abilities, but lesser dragons did not have that strong of an effect. Regretfully, his all-out attack earlier did not kill that beast on the spot. Its stubbornness had exceeded his expectations. Of course, it was possible that, after converting his attributes to agility, his strength was a little lacking.

Just as he was lamenting it, a few rays of light once again fell on Xiao Lin's body. Looking back, Gu Xiaoyue was waving her wand at him with a serious expression, pursing her lips. There were a total of eight rays of light, and with Gu Xiaoyue's extremely quick casting, it had only taken three seconds.

Xiao Lin's eyes twitched, even though he never learned support magic before, it did not mean he did not study any of the theories relating to it. Gu Xiaoyue's spells ranged from Black-iron to Bronze rank, it enhanced both his speed and his strength, and enhanced things like physical damage and defense as well. The amount of spells were already enough to render people speechless. After all, for most people, even if they used support magic, they would only learn it as a secondary ability after considering combat prowess. However, that woman seemed to be determined to fully walk the path of support magic.

The earth dragon roared as it appraised him. Xiao Lin could not retreat because Gu Xiaoyue and the others were behind him. This time, he shifted some attribute points to strength and rushed

forward. He needed to lure the beast somewhere else. He also needed to buy himself enough time to gather up his energy to use his dragon's breath sword aura.

However, the earth dragon did not give him the chance; its large body did not seem to affect its agility at all. Its huge body jumped abruptly, suddenly twisting and pulling off a difficult evasive posture, because not far away from it, a few arrows shot at it.

Xiao Lin looked at Anna, who was not far away, in surprise. Even though the earth dragon had avoided it, the arrows were shot very accurately. They were aimed at its soft eyes that had no scales to cover it. It was obvious that the woman's archery skills were quite good.

With the sounds of metal clashing, Xiao Lin, who had chosen close combat, suddenly felt like the battle was much easier. The attacks that he needed to use all his focus to avoid earlier could now be avoided just by shifting his body, and his sword aura had left even more deep wounds on the earth dragon. He could even manage to see its white bones.

Gu Xiaoyue's buffs were evidently very effective, but it actually only had that sort of effect on Xiao Lin's body. He had always relied on such an explosive combat style, and under Miracle and Ruin, he was able to pull off Silver-ranked levels of power despite being at Bronze rank.

The higher his basic attributes, the more evident the buffs were.

As he used his Phantom Steps to easily avoid another tail attack, everyone else was dumbfounded as they looked on. It was an enhanced Phantom Steps, and was even better at dodging. When using it to its limits, it was able to produce actual illusions. Xiao Lin had never used it to its limits, but he was using it at that moment.

The after-images had messed with the earth dragon's decisions. Even if it quickly realized the differences, it had already lost the combat initiative.

At that moment, after a few minutes of intense battle, Xiao Lin had already thoroughly seized control of the flow of combat. He did not even need to use his dragon's breath. After all, that powerful sword aura that exceeded Xiao Lin's limits had too large of a side effect. It weakened him after using it, and gathering the power was too obvious. They were all massive weaknesses.

Chapter 583 - The Final Question Of The Monthly Examination?

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The battle ended even quicker than they expected. Under Xiao Lin's unreserved onslaught, each strike was like the sharpest sword, and slicing it at the earth dragon's back felt like slicing through tofu. It looked like it was effortless, and the earth dragon was quite stubborn, but it had only managed to hold on for ten minutes. After ten minutes, the dragon, whose body was covered in

blood, collapsed. It brought down all the trees nearby, and large amounts of blood seeped into the ground.

The others looked at Xiao Lin with a gaze filled with respect. Only Xiao Lin knew that this opponent was even more horrifying than the Arachne or the Fire-eater; it was only thanks to Gu Xiaoyue that the battle was so easy.

Xiao Lin's breath was not even that erratic as he threw away the sword that had been tainted with blood. The earth dragon's scales still did irreparable damage to the weapon, and it was already unusable.

"Are you alright?" Walking next to Gu Xiaoyue, Xiao Lin tried to force his tone to sound like he was just asking a fellow student, but the uncontrollable concern and anxiety still betrayed his inner feelings.

Gu Xiaoyue shook her head, wanting to apologize, but her expression darkened as she softly said with some regret, "We lost eight of us."

Since they were pursued by the earth dragon, eight of the students with Gu Xiaoyue had died, and they were only left with five. Xiao Lin naturally consoled her, but it seemed like Gu Xiaoyue paid no heed to his words. The woman still placed the responsibility on herself. She might be outwardly cold and aloof, but they had still been classmates for half a semester. Even if they were not friends, she still cared for them.

"It was all a mistake in my judgement; if my support spells had been of a high enough rank, if I had learnt even more high-ranked recovery spells, if only my buff spells increased secondary attributes instead of base attributes... It's my fault."

Gu Xiaoyue's words rendered Xiao Lin speechless. He had thought that the woman would be swayed from practicing support magic after that, but after experiencing fighting with the buffs, Xiao Lin understood that in a real battlefield, people like Gu Xiaoyue were more important than himself.

"Right, do you know who that woman is?" Xiao Lin knew it would be hard to change Gu Xiaoyue's decision. So instead, he pointed at Anna, who was standing not far away and looking on with some curiosity and alarm.

"She's quite a pretty woman. Who is she?" Gu Xiaoyue looked over and asked with a sour tone.

That tone did not seem like the usual Gu Xiaoyue, and Xiao Lin was stunned. He never expected Gu Xiaoyue would do something like remark that the woman was pretty. It was only when Gu Xiaoyue slightly reddened, as she looked away with some embarrassment and anger, that her tone went back to the normal coldness. "She's not someone from our class, and this examination doesn't involve other classes, so she should be a native. I can't believe this examination has NPCs!"

Gu Xiaoyue once again changed the topic. Xiao Lin smiled helplessly before describing the beast tides. After that, he said, "Anna says that there is only at most thirteen days left until the beast tide. After thirteen days, the forest will be completely sealed off. At that time, the forest will be filled with unthinkable old monsters, even the kind that had been hibernating from ancient times. She suggests that we leave this place in ten days."

“There’s still about twenty days left in the examination.” Gu Xiaoyue reminded, her hidden words asking what they would do during the last week. The examination required them to last a whole month.

“I believe that Anna isn’t lying to me, and this information is very important. In fact, these two days, there have been more beasts than when we first arrived, and they have gotten stronger.”

“You trust her quite a bit.” Gu Xiaoyue could not resist narrowing her eyes at Xiao Lin again.

Xiao Lin let out a few dry coughs.

Gu Xiaoyue immediately turned away, explaining herself, “I’m just saying that our statuses are different. Don’t forget the lesson from last time. Even if it’s just a simulation, the natives can’t be trusted.”

Xiao Lin felt that it was funny, but he did not voice it out. He then mentioned his speculation that the examination was set at a time before the colonists arrived, and it seemed that the guess had a very high possibility of being true. He told that to Gu Xiaoyue in hopes that Gu Xiaoyue’s incredible intelligence could be of help. Just as he expected, after a bit of surprise, Gu Xiaoyue quickly fell silent.

“This forest doesn’t exist in history. I’m referring to our colonist history, I’m sure of that,” Gu Xiaoyue said.

“I’ve actually considered it before. That country is within our colonized territories; if this forest really existed, and so many terrifying beasts were there, I don’t think it would be possible,” Xiao Lin said, analyzing.

“If we remove the possibility that that woman is lying, then no matter how unbelievable the remaining answer is, it is still our only answer.”

“What answer is it?”

“This forest was destroyed before Dawn Academy was established. We don’t know the reason for it, and it was not recorded in history, but I think that we will quickly know what the reason is.”

Xiao Lin seemed to have anticipated that, but he still furrowed his eyebrows. “Are you saying that this forest will quickly encounter a massive calamity that even Epic rank beasts could not survive?”

“That’s the only explanation. The academy could not possibly give us an examination without a correct answer, but when the beast tide arrives, we definitely can’t survive. Even you won’t be able to.”

Xiao Lin touched his nose. “I understand that. In truth, even with your support magic, that battle with the earth dragon was already my limit. If one or two more come, I don’t think I will be able to do anything.”

“Do you still remember the contents of the examination?” Gu Xiaoyue asked.

“To survive in this forest for a month,” Xiao Lin answered. After that he had a moment of realization. “So we had been wrong from the start. The greatest hurdle to survival isn’t those beasts, nor is it the natives we could meet. It is that disaster; the academy wants us to survive that disaster!”

Gu Xiaoyue nodded. “That’s the most logical explanation.”

Xiao Lin smiled bitterly. “That means we can’t leave this place. The answer to the question can’t be as simple as leaving the forest. I think, if we insist on leaving, we might instantly return to the classroom after leaving the place and be given a failing score.”

Chapter 584 - Calamity?

Chapter 584: Calamity?

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were discussing by the side while the rest of them were resting nearby, helping the wounded treat their injuries. They had the utmost trust in Xiao Lin, and as for Gu Xiaoyue, most of Class Seven had turned their inability to understand Gu Xiaoyue slowly into respect for her.

The woman was warm on the inside and cold on the outside, she was not good at human interaction, and did not know how to talk to others, but her skills were something everyone had to admire. Her support magic was undoubtedly the reason their group had managed to hold on for so long, so no one had put any blame on her.

The one who was alone was Anna, who was not far away. The group had caused Anna to feel isolated, mainly because Anna did not speak Mandarin. Looking at them speaking in a language that she did not understand, that woman was noticeably confused and on alert.

That was why Anna could not help but look for Xiao Lin as she asked carefully, “If you’ve already found who you wanted to, can we leave now?”

Gu Xiaoyue measured Anna before using Normese, which was even better than Xiao Lin’s, to answer her, “Very sorry, we won’t leave, so you can go now.”

Gu Xiaoyue’s tone was firm, and it seemed like her attitude was not very friendly. Anna blinked with awkwardness and confusion. Xiao Lin immediately took over; because they did not have any information on the forest, so Anna was still very important to them. Xiao Lin even thought that the mercenary troop that had been separated in the forest might be a ‘tool’ that the academy had deliberately arranged for them to encounter.

“We got a piece of news earlier, and I don’t mind telling you. This forest, no, this area will encounter a calamity soon. Based on our understanding, staying here could be the best way to avoid it. Leaving would only lead to death.” Xiao Lin’s Normese was not as fluent as Gu Xiaoyue’s, but his words were essentially devoid of mistakes.

“A calamity? The beast tide?”

“No, not the beast tide; it might be an even more terrifying disaster than the beast tide. We still don’t know what it is, so we hope for your help, and of course, you’d be helping yourself.

“How did you learn of this?” Anna did not refuse immediately, but she was still very suspicious.

“It was the result of viewing the stars.”

“You’re an astrologian!”

“That’s right.”

Anna was immediately respectful. In Norma’s history, astrologians were always a respected profession. With regard to Xiao Lin’s skills, the woman voiced no doubts.

Gu Xiaoyue could not help but roll her eyes at that lying man, but did not object to allowing Anna to stick around.

However, Anna did not have any understanding of the so-called calamity at all. Based on Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue’s understanding, a calamity that could wipe out Epic rank monsters would probably be a disaster that could destroy the whole forest. Eliminating the possibility that it was caused by men, then it could only be a natural disaster of horrifying proportions.

An earthquake? A volcano? A meteor strike?

“Earthquake? Are you talking about that Gold-ranked spell? That’s impossible. How could a spell of that rank destroy this forest, and some of the beasts can fly.

“Oh, volcano? Are you talking about the Epic-ranked explosion? That spell is very hard to cast, and could destroy this place, but a lot of the Epic-ranked beasts are very resistant to fire.

“A meteor? Oh, you’re referring to the disaster from the skies? At that level, even some Gold-ranked spells could just destroy it from the sky.”

Anna’s expression was more and more confused, and Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue looked at each other bitterly. They were naturally thinking from the perspective of Earth, and Earth’s natural disasters were not even a threat in this place.

...

After everyone treated their injuries, the group of people did not hurry to move because they still needed to decide if their next direction was to go deeper or to go to the outskirts.

Xiao Lin had asked for their opinions, but there were very differing views. Leaving the forest safely would be seen as failing the examination, but they would preserve their lives. If they stayed back for the rewards, they might lose their lives.

Anna was very anxious. There was only thirteen days until the beast tide, and they were already too deep into the forest. If they wanted to return, it would need seven or eight days, which meant

that they only had four to five days to think. Of course, they also need to take into account the possibility that the calamity would fall during that time.

Just as Anna had suggested earlier, during the period before the beast tide, there would be less beasts around the closer they were to the center. Those low-ranked beasts would linger around the outside, but that also meant that when the beast tide came, they would have the chance of meeting the terrifying beasts that stayed in the center.

After stopping and resting for a moment, their days passed by quite peacefully. Even though they never stopped encountering magical beasts, they did not meet any at the level of the earth dragon. For the regular students, that was pretty decent news since they already knew that the beast cores dropped were pretty good rewards. Even though regular beasts did not drop very pure beast cores, to most of them, even the smallest reward was something.

However, after three days, Anna subtly reminded Xiao Lin that it was not a good omen. If the stronger beasts had suddenly disappeared; that meant they would quickly encounter even more horrifying beasts.

“Didn’t you say that the beast tide is still ten days away?” Xiao Lin asked curiously.

“That’s right, but we’ve already been wrong once, so I can’t guarantee it won’t be wrong again.” Anna was obviously frustrated. “It was told to me by the astrologian in the mercenary group before we got separated.”

“Have there been any mistakes before?”

“Never; this time is really strange. The stars are always at certain fixed positions. Its something time has told us after thousands of years, so it can’t be wrong.”

“So, what you mean is that there is some error in the stars that led to some of the rules of the beasts being affected?”

“That’s basically the principle.”

Astrologians on Planet Norma were existences that were like astrologists on top of shamans; that was why Xiao Lin easily understood what Anna meant, but what could possibly have caused an abnormal movement in the stars. He was not an astrologist, and had no way of answering a specialized question like that. However, in his mind, he felt like he was missing something.

When the fourth day arrived, they could no longer delay making a decision. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue argued a lot. Their speculations were the same to a certain degree. This time, the academy did not give tasks that were procedural, but they felt like it was already procedural to a certain degree.

If they left at that point, they would definitely be judged to have failed, but the beast cores they had obtained earlier were already enough for them to profit. Staying back was even riskier, but it was possible they could obtain even richer profits.

Chapter 585 - Deep In The Forest

Chapter 585: Deep In The Forest

The fourteenth day of the examination, which also put them almost at the halfway point of the examination, Xiao Lin finally made his decision to head deeper into the forest!

Not choosing to leave, to a certain degree it was because he was following Gu Xiaoyue's wishes. That woman obviously did not want to leave. She had never been afraid of dying. To Gu Xiaoyue, who only had less than two years left in her life, what she needed to do was to do everything in her power to cure her sister.

The others did not have that many opinions. Half a semester worth of examinations was not enough for everyone's life spans to drop to dangerous levels. Even if they died, they were not too worried, and comparatively, the rewards they could gain were even bigger.

...

What shocked Xiao Lin was the fact that Anna had chosen to follow them. Even though she complained a lot the entire time, the woman's appetite and ambition was huge. As someone who grew up among mercenaries, Anna had spent most of her time around various dangers, so she was not scared of risk, and was very calculative.

"If the calamity you spoke of really is coming, and you have some way of avoiding it, then this place will really be a paradise for us! Think about it, the whole body of an Epic-ranked monster is a treasure. With corpses littered all over for us to get, we'd earn enough for ten lifetimes!" Anna discussed it with Xiao Lin with a tone of admiration.

Fine, Xiao Lin had to admit that that was part of his thought process as well. He obviously could not deal with Epic rank monsters, but if they really could avoid it, picking up the bodies was natural. He could not hide that from the intelligent girl, but their next steps still needed Anna's help, so they naturally would need to properly compensate her.

"Let's think about how we'll overcome this calamity first." Xiao Lin changed the topic.

"Don't you know astrology? Can't you just predict it?" Anna did not seem to have any suspicions.

"Didn't your astrologian fail to predict the earlier beast tide?" Xiao Lin asked in exasperation.

"That's right. Do you know what's in the deepest parts of the forest?" Anna suddenly asked with a mysterious expression.

"If I knew, I wouldn't need you to guide me!" Xiao Lin said expressionlessly. He did not know if he had shown off his power too much, or if the others did not have fluent enough Normese, but Anna had stuck to his side to chat the entire time.

Of course, Gu Xiaoyue's Normese was good as well, but she seemed to have a natural animosity toward Anna. The two women did not have any intention of talking to each other.

Xiao Lin did not add on to the conversation. Anna pouted and answered herself, "In truth, nobody knows what's in the deepest part of the forest. There are only some records that say that there are very strong beasts within. On top of the beasts that appear during the beast tide, no one ever wants to venture inside."

"Records? Where are these records from?" Xiao Lin asked, because no matter if it was their geography or history lessons, this forest had never been mentioned. When he was in Dawn City, he also knew that this forest did not exist. Of course, it was possible that the records were all within the library, and he definitely could not have read every book in the library.

"This forest appeared around a few hundred thousand years ago, or even possibly millions of years ago. Before this, the entire area was a desolate wasteland. Because back then, the air was very dry and there were no sources of water. Putting aside humans, even the beasts that are resilient to the heat would not come over. However, after that a mysterious explosion happened. After the explosion, there was torrential rain that fell and lasted a whole month which completely changed the weather around here. No, to be precise, the area turned incredibly strange. I've said before, this place is very rich in natural energy. Even if the forest was destroyed, it would quickly recover."

"That's right, you've said that before." Xiao Lin was mildly curious, as he did not expect the forest to have a past like that. If it were just an explosion, he would have suspected it was some kind of meteor, but a collision would not cause a month long rain.

With the beast tide closing in, the deepest parts of the forest started to be more and more peaceful. At the start, they would occasionally see some strays, but now they would not even see a single beast for an entire day. They knew it was not a good thing. Everyone could not help but feel that it was merely the calm before the storm.

As they ventured deeper into the forest, they started to be exceptionally careful, worried that they would startle some amazing hibernating beast away.

However, they were quickly disappointed. The restricted area that Anna kept talking about, the legendary deepest area, did not have any suspicious places, nor did it carry any signs of beasts. Of course, the group of them did not have that high of a perception ability, but if there really were Epic-ranked beasts, even if they were asleep, there would still be traces of them around.

However, was the place right in front of them where these amazing beasts were living?

In front of them was a beautiful scene with clear waters and wondrous mountains. They had gone past a dense forest to arrive there, and felt like they had entered a completely different world. The air around that place was not too humid; it was not too hot or too cold. There was even a massive lake not far away, the surface of the lake shimmered, and there were various colorful flowers next to the lake. They had seen some of them in their textbooks before, but some of them were foreign to them.

No matter what, the fact that the legendary deepest part of the forest was such a scene both shocked them and gave them a strange feeling. They would not be surprised if they were told that

this was the site of a resort, but if this was the nest of some beasts, then those beasts really were living a life of luxury.

“You said before that no one has tried to enter the deepest parts of the forest,” Gu Xiaoyue coldly said to Anna.

“That’s right. Who would be so suicidal?”

“There definitely would have been some suicidal folks, right?” Xiao Lin said. It went without saying that he referred to their group as well. There were always some people who placed money over their lives.

“Yes, some people have entered before, but I’ve never heard of anyone coming out.” Anna’s expression turned heavy, but she was very brave. Even knowing so, she had dared to follow them in.

“Let’s look around first and see if there are any places that look like nests or caves, but make sure not to startle anything. Gather here after half an hour.” Since they were already there, Xiao Lin did not consider anything else as he issued his orders.

Chapter 586 - The Last Day

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The area was the most central area of the forest, and it was at least a few football fields wide. Because there were not that many trees blocking the way, they could basically see the whole area. On the surface, it did not look that dangerous, and Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue could not sense anything as well, so he allowed everyone to disperse to look around. However, he made sure they were two in a group, so that there would at least be someone able to pass the news if anything strange happened.

Xiao Lin had naturally wanted to be in a group with Gu Xiaoyue, but what rendered him speechless was that Anna said she could not really speak with the others, and decided to follow the two of them, completely ignorant to the fact that she was like a lightbulb at the moment. Maybe Planet Norma did not have such a notion?

Gu Xiaoyue’s face was still calm, completely ignoring Anna who did not stop talking. Her gaze was fixed on the surface of that calm and peaceful lake.

They walked around a few times nearby. There did not seem to be any caves or nests around, so the only point of suspicion was that lake. Xiao Lin could not resist recalling what had happened in Silverlight Lake. Was there a legendary presence in that lake as well? A spirit that had been trapped there for millions of years?

Xiao Lin’s thoughts had really started to wander.

However, the lake was incredibly ordinary. Of course, Xiao Lin wondered if it was a remnant of a meteor strike or something similar, but there was no evidence of it.

Since no one knew any special water magic, they decided against diving deep inside. After half an hour, everyone had returned empty-handed. Other than saying that the scenery was nice around them, they did not gain anything.

It was not bad news, but it had disappointed everyone, and someone even started to suspect what Anna had said earlier. It was inevitable that some of them felt that the natives could not be trusted and that she should just be killed off. Thankfully, Anna did not understand Mandarin, and Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were not dumb enough to translate it.

When they rested, Xiao Lin discussed the matter with Gu Xiaoyue. If something like a calamity happened, the lake might actually be a sanctuary. After all, as long as it was not too big of an explosion or some form of impact, the lake should be able to absorb most of the damage.

They rested there for two days, and the entire forest turned quiet yet again. Xiao Lin felt that it was very off. They could clearly hear movement from the beasts outside, but when everyone prepared for battle, they never saw any beasts coming into the central area.

During the last few days, they could no longer even hear any movements from the beasts. If the examination was split into three parts, then the first part would be when they first arrived and their tasks were focused on survival and collecting early spoils of battle. In the second part, the beasts started to be excited and active, and the stronger students could still handle it. Then came the final part, where everything fell into silence again.

Xiao Lin did not dare to be careless, and was constantly on alert. He had maintained a steady three shifts of guard duty; the others felt it was troublesome, but still did it in the end.

It was obvious that everyone's tense mental state had slowly been relaxed because the beast tide that Anna spoke of did not come as they expected. As time drew closer, there were still no signs of those horrifying Epic-ranked beasts of legend. Anna felt a little awkward, but Xiao Lin still had his suspicions. He was not suspicious of the existence of the beast tide, but since Anna's astrologian had made a mistake once, it was possible there would be a second mistake.

The examination just passing like that was not a bad thing. There was not much time left, and they could no longer try to escape the forest. With that in mind, everyone had decided to just enjoy the nearby scenery like it was a vacation.

With that attitude, time had slowly closed onto the last day of the examination. If nothing unexpected happened, when the day came to an end, they would have stayed in the forest for a month, and all of them would return to the academy.

Even Xiao Lin had started to suspect if he had been overthinking things. It was possible that that was all there was to the examination, and that the difficulty was not as hard as they expected. If they avoided those beasts during the middle stages, they could have easily survived.

It was right before noon during that last day when the calm forest finally started to change, and it was an unbelievable change!

The weather on the last day was not great. The sky had been covered in dark clouds since the morning, but there had been no rain fall. There were more and more dark clouds, and the sky got

darker and darker. When noon came, it seemed like the clouds could no longer stand the pressure, and started to rumble.

The sound was very different from normal thunder because it was low and long, and could occasionally be accompanied by a sharp howl that sounded like a steel plate being snapped. It caused everyone to have goosebumps.

“It doesn’t seem like it’s raining.” Gu Xiaoyue’s expression was heavy. In truth, no one had a good expression on, but with the sky like that, they could not make anything out.

Only two of them had a very strange expression on their faces. Xiao Lin opened his mouth to say something, but did not know how to explain to the others.

It was true, the scene in front of them might be foreign to the others, but it was something Xiao Lin was already familiar with. No, it was a scene Xiao Lin had seen a few times already — once in the Final Lands, and again when he went to the past to visit Atlantis...

It was the signs of space and time being fractured; it symbolized the cracking of space!

Planet Norma’s space and time would obviously not collapse. Based on Xiao Lin’s understanding, it was different from Earth’s fragile space. Planet Norma was still very stable, and no cracks or destruction would happen. The only possibility was that someone was using an external power to force their way into the time and space of this world!

Thinking about that, a moment of shock passed through Xiao Lin’s mind. The examination had been set before the colonist academies arrived, but he never knew how long before it was. Now Xiao Lin had a sudden realization.

It was possible that today was the day Dawn Academy came into this world from Earth!

“I think we’re witnessing history.” Xiao Lin thought about it, and decided not to tell the others. However, he found it a little strange. Was the point of the examination so they could experience their actual history?

However, he paused in the middle of his sentence because Xiao Lin noticed that he was not the only one with a strange expression on his face; there was also another person: Anna!

Chapter 587 - The Truth Of The Past

Chapter 587: The Truth Of The Past

As their guide, Anna’s usefulness had been very obvious. Xiao Lin and the others had greatly benefited from her, taking more shortcuts and avoiding a lot of beasts. Anna understood the forest very well, but Xiao Lin had never let his guard down toward her.

What Anna did not know was, when Xiao Lin decided on guard duty every night, he would quietly tell them to monitor Anna's movements. If that girl acted abnormally at all, he was to be woken up, even if he was in deep sleep. If Anna did anything dangerous, she could even be killed immediately.

Xiao Lin's precautions were natural. Even if the colonists had yet to descend and their animosity had not been established yet, after half a semester, they had fostered a basic defensiveness.

However, Anna had never shown any abnormal actions. That woman was smart; she could feel that the others had their guards up around her, but she had ignored it. Even though she regularly stuck to Xiao Lin and talked to him, when Xiao Lin and the others were discussing matters, Anna would go far away, even if she did not know the language they spoke.

It was thanks to her intelligence that Xiao Lin and the others relaxed a bit and allowed her to continue being their guide. After all, having someone familiar with the forest guiding them saved a lot of time.

Anna's expression at that moment was very strange, because she was too calm. Facing the sounds of a fracturing sky and the dark clouds, anyone would have a change in expression, but that woman merely quietly stood there, looking at the sky. That was definitely not normal.

Xiao Lin swallowed his words and cast a gaze at Gu Xiaoyue. Gu Xiaoyue immediately understood and put some distance between them. As the support of the group, Gu Xiaoyue needed to be protected. Gu Xiaoyue also sneakily took out her wand to cast strengthening magic on Xiao Lin. If Anna showed any hostility, Xiao Lin would immediately enter Ruin and that woman would not live longer than three seconds.

Anna made no movements, and merely stood there quietly. The strange sounds in the sky got louder and more frequent. After a while, the cracks that could even be seen with the naked eye started to appear. It really was a sign of a fracture in space and time.

Xiao Lin quietly walked behind Anna, coldly saying, "Something seems to be coming. This is the calamity we discussed earlier? I can't believe it; it's not a volcano, an earthquake or a meteor, but time and space is breaking!" He tested Anna, curious as to what Anna was hiding.

"So you know of time and space breaking as well; it's not strange for an astrologian to know that," Anna said calmly, she no longer had that enthusiastic and respectful tone. After pausing for a moment, she said, "But this isn't time and space breaking; it's a Spatial Teleportation Array."

"Spatial Teleportation Array?" Xiao Lin's expression turned weird as he said with surprise and confusion, "Did you set up that array?"

Anna laughed, her muted face seemingly recovering some normalcy, and she shook her head. "How is that possible? Don't you know that time and space are domains only God can touch? Comparatively, the space magic that we humans can master are only the tiniest fraction."

"It seems like you understand space magic."

"I don't have the talent; I've just happened to read some documents from a very ancient civilization."

“What were the contents like?” Xiao Lin chatted casually. Since Anna did not show any hostility, he did not make his move and tried to gather more information. However, it felt very strange to do so facing a scene where the sky was cracking and the world might be destroyed.

“It had to do with spatial teleportation. It is said that those from the ancient civilization possessed very powerful space-time magics. Those spells could allow them to transverse distances that are even greater than the stars. Ah, what an unbelievable distance.” Anna did not seem to think anything of Xiao Lin trying to get more information from him, but she smiled as she said, “I know what you want to ask, but it’s alright. If it’s already at this stage, no one can stop it.”

Xiao Lin seemed to understand something, and was shocked.

“I was surprised to see that the ancient records noted that, during a very distant time, we once fought a long and intense war with demons from another time and space. Those despicable demons craved our world, but were finally defeated, and the passageways were sealed...” Anna mumbled to herself in recollection. She did not seem to care anymore, and defenselessly said everything she knew.

Xiao Lin’s expression twitched. He was even more certain of the guess in his heart. He had already heard of the truth from the dean awhile ago, but it was definitely fresh news for the rest of them.

Everyone had gotten closer at some point, and all of them who heard it had an expression like they had seen a ghost. Even the calm Gu Xiaoyue had a face full of shock.

“She... Is she saying...”

“That’s right!”

“A Spatial Teleportation Array. Could it be the academy’s...”

“That’s right!”

“My god, it actually is...”

“That’s right!”

Everyone was full of confusion. Xiao Lin used a low and strange tone to affirm every question. With Anna slowly telling her story, no matter how dumb they were, they still managed to guess the truth.

Over two hundred years ago, the first colonists used a spatial passage to arrive on Planet Norma. After that, they started a long and bitter exploration before establishing Dawn Academy.

That was something every new student learned in their first history lesson. If what they were hearing was true, then it meant that the first spatial passage had not been randomly discovered by their predecessors, nor did they use their own power to open it; it was because someone was helping them from Planet Norma!

Upon deeper inspection, that was far more logical. Space and time were domains that were very hard to grasp. Even after two hundred years they did not dare to say that they had grasped

everything, let alone those who lived a few hundred years in the past. It was already enough that they knew of space and time, but it was definitely impossible that they could use their own strength to open the passage!

Chapter 588 - Familiar Foe

Chapter 588: Familiar Foe

“I hate this world. I hate it bitterly. A twisted world like this should not exist... I’m in so much pain, even though I’ve tried to go against my fate, all I got was a deep sense of helplessness. I’m not a genius. Even if I work the hardest I can, I’ll never be the strongest...”

Anna ignored the shocked eyes that were staring at her as she mumbled up her own story. For any spectators, it was a very miserable story. Anna was someone who grew up surrounded by misery. She was born to a small noble family, but because they offended royalty, the family had been exterminated and her parents were killed. She escaped in her youth, and managed to live on after suffering countless difficulties. She then stayed in the mercenary group in hopes of revenge, but the power of royalty was something she could not match. She felt her own powerlessness, and there was nothing she could do.

“This is a twisted world. Everyone is led by their own desires. Greed, ambition... Everyone in this world is like this. What a pointless life...” At that point, Anna’s cold tone started to scare some of them. In her words, the only reason she managed to stay in the mercenary group was because of the leader liking her looks. Even though it disgusted her, she still needed the help of the mercenaries to enter this forest.

She was a girl who had been wreathed in hatred since she was young, but when she realized she had no way of taking revenge, that woman walked to the brink. She cast her hatred on the entire world.

‘It’s not my fault. The world is the one at fault.’

Xiao Lin suddenly thought of that phrase. Of course, it was not unusual to see someone with such an extreme thought. Madmen who fantasized of destroying the world were not rare.

Yet, this woman had pushed it to a terrifying degree. She was not satisfied with fantasies. After thinking that the world was at fault, she started to think of various ways.

Even though Planet Norma was a world filled with magic and sword aura, destroying the world was not something easily done. Even Legend-ranked spells that were like nuclear weapons were only enough to destroy a small city, and making all the mages in the world work together to destroy it was something impossible.

However, Anna never gave up, and she actually managed to find a way. Since they could not destroy the world themselves, she sought help from an outside force.

Based on the ancient records, Planet Norma had fought the demons during a very ancient era. Anna decided to compile the incomplete records, and finally found a way to unlock the sealed passages, and one of the starting points of the passages was in this forest.

That was correct, the wormholes started opening thanks to this woman named Anna. It was her who got the humans from Earth to this world. Strictly speaking, that Normese native was the pioneer of the colonization era!

It sounded very ludicrous; if they were not witnessing it for themselves, Xiao Lin and the others would think that it was some story that could only exist in novels. It was possible they were about to witness history, or witness their predecessors arriving.

“If the demons she is referring to are at the other end of this passage, then it would actually be history. Would the examination end there?” Gu Xiaoyue turned to look at Xiao Lin.

The rumbling had slowly started to calm down, and Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows, going deep in thought. There were still a few hours away from the end of the examination. If the next part would be like watching a movie, and their predecessors would come out of the passage, then it would not be that dangerous to them.

That was also the thought that the others seemed to have. After getting over the shock Anna caused, the movie-like twist had caused them to be filled with anticipation. Being able to witness their colonist predecessors and witness a turning point in history was not a bad experience.

Time slowly passed, and everyone seemed to be tortured as they waited with anticipation and nervousness. After recounting her story, Anna stood by like an NPC that had fulfilled her purpose, waiting for the final moments.

Probably because the space-time fracture did not affect the stability of the law, the cracks in the sky were more and more obvious, but there were no negative effects other than that. In truth, Xiao Lin had been worried if the real calamity would be something caused by the shattering in space and time. After all, they did not know much about it at all, and no one knew what could happen.

Yet, it seemed like that would not be the case, but with the passage of time, the cracks got larger and larger behind the dark clouds. It seemed like the arrival was at hand, and Xiao Lin seemed to feel something as his face underwent an intense change.

It was not just him, as Gu Xiaoyue did so as well. The two of them looked at each other as a shocked expression could be seen on both their faces.

Everyone could feel the power that was exuding through the space, and the mages with high perception felt it even more intensely. It was an extremely terrifying aura that was enough to cause even their souls to tremble.

Yet, if the energy was not as simple as being powerful for Gu Xiaoyue and Xiao Lin, it was too familiar!

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue had a deep impression of that aura because, not long ago, on Earth, no, it was actually during the Atlantean era on Earth, they had personally felt it. It was the terrifying power of the sea god Poseidon.

At the time, they had used a lot of effort, and with the help of Silverlight, had managed to seal Poseidon into the distorted spatial passage. They had thought that they would never meet that guy again, but they never expected that, in just a few months, they would feel that energy again in the monthly examination.

“We still changed history in the end, or maybe history had always been like this. I guess we’ll never truly understand how time works.” Xiao Lin bitterly smiled.

“Compared to that, let’s figure out how to seal him again!” Gu Xiaoyue pushed her glasses up and quickly calmed down.

“Based on history, Atlantis’s time until now, and by that, of course, I mean the time of the examination, should be tens of thousands of years apart. Even if the seal was loosened by this, how did he find the exit?”

Xiao Lin took a deep breath. He said those words, but without Silverlight’s help, it would be very hard for them to seal him like last time. The sea god Poseidon was definitely not someone they could handle.

Chapter 589 - Fighting Poseidon Again (1)

Chapter 589: Fighting Poseidon Again (1)

The dark clouds in the sky got thicker. The lightning that got more and more frequent seemed to signify the approach of a storm, but the source of the storm was deep in the crack. The sea god Poseidon had control over water, and summoning this kind of water was something simple, but Xiao Lin’s expression quickly turned strange.

Both him and Gu Xiaoyue had personally experienced how strong Poseidon was. Even with sacrificing Silverlight, all they got was sealing him. Without the sealing spell, the few of them would not be able to withstand even a hit from Poseidon.

However, the power that was flowing out in front of them was shocking and terrifying, but it was still very far away from Poseidon’s.

Was it not Poseidon?

No, it might be an incomplete Poseidon!

Xiao Lin quickly tried to think of a plan. After verifying the source of the power, he understood there was no way for them to run, and it was already too late for them to run anyway. Xiao Lin was also still half in disbelief; he did not believe that Poseidon had really appeared on Planet Norma. Poseidon’s power was at the Legend rank, so if he descended on Planet Norma, it would not be as simple as just destroying that forest.

As he thought, he suddenly heard a shocked gasp. Xiao Lin immediately raised his head and he noticed that Anna’s body was slowly floating into the air. On her face was a painful expression, as if some power was grasping her throat and pulling her up toward the air.

“Kill her! Xiao Lin, quickly kill her!” Gu Xiaoyue suddenly said with a low roar. “Even though I don’t know what spell it is, it’s definitely a sacrificial spell. Something behind the crack is trying to use her as a sacrifice to gain power!”

Xiao Lin did not hesitate at all, and the sword in his hand was sent toward Anna. The defenseless Anna was immediately stabbed through the heart. She sent an indescribable look at Xiao Lin before blood flowed out of her mouth and she closed her eyes.

Xiao Lin fell silent. He was not very familiar with Anna. Even that long sob story of hers was just met with him empathizing with her as a spectator. However, in the end, it was an examination, a simulated environment, and it was a simulation from hundreds of years ago, so he had not been fully moved.

However, Anna’s final expression had somewhat moved Xiao Lin, because he felt like he had more or less seen through what that gaze meant. Anna had never planned on living on after reopening that gateway. Death had just been a release for her. However, in the final moments of her life, Anna’s gaze to Xiao Lin had the happiness and relief of her successful revenge, but it was also filled with pain and regret, as well as anticipation and hope!

Anna’s supposed understanding of the demons was just empty talk. When she really experienced that power, her heart was suddenly moved; it was possible that Anna had finally felt how horrible that power that was descending into the world was.

Anticipating the destruction of Planet Norma for her revenge, she had also hoped that someone would be able to reclose the gateway and save the world. That conflicted gaze, at her last moments, was extremely vivid.

Bang!

As Xiao Lin was deep in thought, Anna’s body that had been pierced by the sword suddenly turned into a mist of blood, dispersing and falling all over everyone.

The others frantically retreated to avoid the remnants of her organs, though only Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue did not move. The moment Anna’s body exploded, they clearly felt something move with their perception. An uncountable volume of mistlike vapor started to seep out of the crack, and the next second, that mist started to solidify, turning into a humanoid shape.

It was an abnormally large and fierce shape of a woman. It was several times taller than a normal woman. The whole body was naked, and its solid muscles caused some of the women to blush. Yet, only Xiao Lin’s face was green. His guess finally had an answer, but he would rather his guess have been wrong.

It really was Poseidon. It looked exactly like the Poseidon he met back then, only the sea god did not have his trident in hand.

“He seems different,” Gu Xiaoyue said softly.

“Yes, I felt it. He seems weaker than before, but to us, it’s still something we can’t handle easily.” Xiao Lin bitterly smiled. The power that seeped out of the crack should just be a tiny portion. After all, the laws of space in this world were not as fractured as it was on Earth. Someone who would

threaten the laws of this world like Poseidon would naturally not be allowed to enter easily. The gateway that Anna had opened gave the man a chance, allowing Poseidon to force through a portion of his power.

“He should be at least Silver-ranked.” Gu Xiaoyue’s expression was not great, but she quickly calmed down. It was not her style to dwell on mistakes, and she quickly analyzed the situation in front of her.

“The academy would definitely not give us a task that we have no chance of succeeding. That horrifying energy was actually just from his power in the wormhole, but as long as the laws in this world don’t break, Poseidon can’t possibly send all his power over. If it’s just Silver-ranked, it’s not like we can’t...”

As Xiao Lin muttered, he suddenly heard a thunderous roar in the sky as the naked Poseidon had suddenly shouted angrily, glaring at a certain figure on the ground.

Xiao Lin had clearly felt himself being locked onto. He jumped in fright, rubbing his nose as he continued to smile bitterly. “Surely not? Isn’t this just a simulated examination? And tens of thousands of years have passed. Does he really remember me?!”

It was once again a question that involved the theory of time, and they had no way of answering. However, it was obvious that Poseidon remembered Xiao Lin, and with that crazy roar, that man’s body seemed to emit a red glow, and his body suddenly started to grow, the muscles bulging to a horrifying degree.

“He seemed to be forcibly increasing his own strength.” Gu Xiaoyue calmly judged.

“I know.”

“It’s probably some power similar to Berserk. I think it definitely will have a very large side effect, but the bad news is, what we’re facing now might be a Gold-ranked Poseidon.”

“Thanks for your reminder,” Xiao Lin said helplessly.

If he was just at Silver rank, Xiao Lin might not be able to handle it, but the entire class was no longer inexperienced rookies. Most of them had already entered Black-iron rank, and those core members, like the monitors, would not be far away from Bronze rank if they were not already there. Facing Poseidon who had most of his power sealed, and was comparable to Silver, as long as they commanded things well and used the right strategies, they would be able to win.

However, Xiao Lin’s side encountered a bit of a problem. What they had to face was at Gold rank!

Chapter 590 - Fighting Poseidon Again (2)

Chapter 590: Fighting Poseidon Again (2)

That was the final problem the student union had prepared for all the students: a weakened Poseidon. Of course for most of the students, they did not know who their opponent was, as that would require them to constantly fight and constantly collect information. For Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, they could skip that process, but that benefit did not help them at all because their opponent had leveled up to Gold rank from Silver rank.

The roaring sea god started to condense vapor-like ripples around him, Xiao Lin was stunned for less than a second before he shouted back loudly, “Disperse! Quickly dodge it!”

The rest of them who were still confused listened to their monitor’s warning, and dispersed throughout the area as fast as they could. After a few seconds, a greyish black wave of water shot out from Poseidon’s hand. What followed was the water at the center of the lake rapidly decreasing. As the master of the seas, controlling the water from a lake like that was not a problem, even while restricted by the world’s laws.

The water that had been absorbed shot out again, and large ripples of water in the air shot out in all directions, turning into sharp arrows of water. A few of the physically weaker mages were pierced on the spot, but those that had hid after being warned successfully avoided the attack.

Xiao Lin had seen that technique of Poseidon’s before; the power was obviously much weaker than before. If Poseidon had his full power, the water arrows could easily have covered the entire forest, leaving no one with any way to dodge.

However, the water arrows were still not easy to dodge after the decreased power and difficulty. Those lucky enough to avoid the area of attack pat their chests in relief, and could not help but shoot a thankful gaze at Xiao Lin. Just as they prepared to thank him, Xiao Lin’s angry shout could be heard again.

“What are you staring at?! Run! Everyone, run!”

“Don’t run in the same direction, disperse!”

“Run! Run! Run!”

The others were naturally a little shocked, but they quickly understood why Xiao Lin had said so. That opponent was obviously more than Xiao Lin could handle. If even their monitor could not handle him, then the rest of them definitely could not, so everyone started to frantically run away.

“Maybe we should not have come here!” Xiao Lin, who had decided to remain behind and somewhat stall for time, bitterly smiled as he said to Gu Xiaoyue next to him. After all, the one who made the decision was himself.

“No, your decision was right. Try feeling the outskirts of the forest,” Gu Xiaoyue shook her head and said.

Xiao Lin shifted his perception away from fully focusing on Poseidon for a few seconds. Then, his expression changed before he laughed.

Even with his level of perception, he could feel the dangers around the forest at that moment. It was different from before; it was a feeling that caused his hairs to stand on end. That meant that

the level of the beasts in the forest far exceeded those that they had encountered before. Anna was at least right on that point.

The beast tide was finally here!

It had just arrived in a completely different way. Those beasts had felt Poseidon's power; even if it was just a weakened version, the power that came from the space-time crack still caused the beasts' natural instincts to choose to retreat. So, at that moment, the outskirts of the forest that should have been filled with weak beasts suddenly became the territory of the strongest monsters.

If they had chosen to leave at the very start, they would have encountered those beasts right at that moment. Facing those Epic-ranked beasts, their chances of survival would have been even lower than facing Poseidon!

"So that's the case! This is the obstacle the student union set for us. They're telling us that those who try to avoid fighting with little tricks will only die faster than the others!"

Xiao Lin lamented to himself, but did not change his order.

They still needed to flee, because they were facing a Poseidon that was at Gold rank. Escaping was the only choice they had, but as for whether or not they would be able to survive the last few hours, it would depend on their own skill and luck...

Xiao Lin activated Ruin, and the sword in his hand unleashed his strongest attack at Poseidon: Dragon's Breath Sword Aura!

An immense white energy shot out of the sword. The quality of the swords he picked up from the mercenaries were the same. He had already destroyed one before, and this sword could not withstand the dragon's breath for too long either, and was quickly swallowed in the light of the dragon's breath.

The strongest sword aura Xiao Lin commanded was not all that useful at that moment. If he was facing a Silver-ranked Poseidon, it might be possible, but Gold rank was not something his sword aura could stand up against.

After the explosion, Xiao Lin saw that there was no trace of injury on Poseidon's body. Even if he had already guessed that result, he still sighed before he grabbed Gu Xiaoyue's hands and legs and started to run away without any hesitation.

Gu Xiaoyue struggled a little, but immediately gave up when she heard the sound of panting next to her. During the final moments of his Ruin state, Xiao Lin's speed was not something she could compete with.

Roar!

Poseidon once again shouted. His body had already completely formed, and he looked like a giant emitting a red glow. His sudden burst of speed broke the sound barrier as he rapidly chased after Xiao Lin, who was still in his Ruin state. However, Xiao Lin's dragon's breath sword aura earlier still managed to stall for time.

Even as they rapidly fled, Xiao Lin could not help but feel Gu Xiaoyue's small and gentle hands. When he looked back at the meteor-like figure in the air, he suddenly felt his throat go dry. He had deliberately made everyone disperse as they fled in order to distract their foe and increase their chances of survival.

Yet he realized that he had been thinking too much because Poseidon was obviously rushing right toward Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue!

"You run to the right later!" feeling his Ruin state coming to an end, Xiao Lin said.

"No." Gu Xiaoyue rejected it without any hesitation.

"Stop arguing! I'm the monitor!" It was the first time Xiao Lin felt like he had to use his power as a monitor. He grasped Gu Xiaoyue's hands without saying anything, and ruthlessly threw her into some dense bushes to the right of them. Even if he had controlled his strength, he still felt distressed when he looked at Gu Xiaoyue's body flying in that direction, but it was still better than her dying.

After that, Xiao Lin used his last amount of power from his Ruin state to bring out his flame sword aura, attracting Poseidon's attention as he fled frantically.

After his Ruin state ended, a deep sense of fatigue followed, and Poseidon continued to close in. He looked like he could catch up to him at any moment.

Chapter 591 - Fighting Poseidon Again (3)

Chapter 591: Fighting Poseidon Again (3)

The fatigue caused Xiao Lin to feel like just collapsing on the floor and not moving, but if he did so, there was a high chance that Poseidon would look for Gu Xiaoyue, who had participated in the sealing with him, after handling him. He could die, but Gu Xiaoyue could not afford to die.

He needed to at least stall for more time!

Xiao Lin did not know how much time he could delay after losing his Ruin state, but he had to do it. He could not afford to stop, no matter how tired he was. Dragging his feet, which were beginning to feel heavier and heavier, Xiao Lin's speed did not decrease by too much after losing Ruin. He even used his Phantom Steps, but that skill that was Bronze-ranked at most was definitely nothing in the face of the sea god.

Poseidon, probably because he had just descended into the world, also due to his drastic decrease in power, did not seem accustomed to his body at that moment. On top of that, he had been pinned down for a while with Ruin, so he was still a distance away from Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin took the chance to recover some strength, using the strong recovery ability of his dragon's blood. However, in just half an hour, Poseidon once again sped up in the air. That man was quite good at adapting. Even under various restrictions, he still managed to adjust his strength.

A tsunami from the sky suddenly fell behind Xiao Lin like a waterfall. The water that surged forth caused Xiao Lin to fall on the ground, unable to dodge. He was extremely wet, and the strength he had painstakingly gathered had been completely stripped away by that wave attack. If it was not for the dense bushes around cushioning the blow, that attack might have killed Xiao Lin.

“Cough cough!”

Xiao Lin coughed a few times before all the water in his lungs was forced out. He struggled to steady his drenched body. He felt a shadow in front of him, and when he raised his head he noticed that Poseidon was already slowly descending in front of him.

‘@#*\$*...&’

Poseidon opened his mouth and spoke in a language that was hard to decipher. Xiao Lin naturally did not understand, so he coldly smiled and replied in some words that even he did not understand.

Poseidon had a confused expression, and could not resist saying a few more words.

‘#¥¥%’

‘@*&%¥’

...

He was just delaying for time anyway, so Xiao Lin did not mind this blind conversation that he did not understand at all. However, after a few sentences without any effects, Poseidon showed an impatient expression. It was obvious that he was very angry, but in that anger was also a thick sense of suspicion, so he suppressed that anger to interrogate Xiao Lin.

To Poseidon, he was the most stupefied person when he was sealed that day. He still did not know how Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue suddenly appeared to this day.

However, Poseidon did not mind not getting an answer, as he just needed to kill the person who had sealed him.

Woosh!

Without any warning, an ice arrow shot out from Poseidon’s finger tips, right at Xiao Lin’s heart. Xiao Lin’s skills were already at the Bronze rank. With just that level of a spell, Xiao Lin could easily dodge it, but if he had still been at Black-iron rank, his reactions would probably be a step too slow.

Poseidon was not angered, as it was possible that he had done that intentionally. An opponent that he could kill easily would not allow him to vent out all his anger after being sealed for millions of years. He had a cold and cruel smile on his mouth as he raised his hand slightly and fired even more ice arrows out.

Xiao Lin almost bit his lips off as he used all his might on his spent feet to launch off the ground. Two ice arrows brushed past his right leg, but he managed to avoid any serious injuries.

Without any hesitation, Xiao Lin endured the pain of the wound and the cold as he limped and ran back toward the deeper parts of the forest. After leaving the center of the forest, there were more and more beasts around them. Those beasts feared Poseidon more because of the chaotic energy that came from the crack, but since Poseidon had been weakened until around Gold rank, he definitely was not unrivaled in the forest.

Xiao Lin's plan was very obvious — he wanted to use the other beasts to stop Poseidon, be it Arachnes or Fire-eaters, those troublesome beasts that he had been avoiding; at this point Xiao Lin was deliberately looking for them, and would even shoot out some flames to anger the foe.

Xiao Lin was successful. After a few moments, he had a long line behind him. Other than those strong beasts like Arachnes, there were even many low-leveled beasts mixed up within. Of course, beasts were not intelligent, and when someone sent out a few flame bullets at them, and stared at them mockingly, even humans would be angered.

Xiao Lin was playing with fire. After losing his Ruin state, he would be very pressured even facing something like an Arachne or a Fire-eater. He could only rely on Phantom Steps, which was pretty reasonably ranked. He had practically used that skill to the maximum, and managed to dodge every attack at its very limits.

Even so, he could not avoid all the attacks because he had lost too much strength, so he could only choose to avoid being hurt in any fatal areas. As for any other injuries, he could not afford to care.

His actions did result in some positive effects. Poseidon was left behind him, and Poseidon's attacks were the most fatal, but because the beasts were interfering with his vision, it had greatly weakened the threat Poseidon had.

Just like that, they wasted half an hour. As Xiao Lin thought that his plan had succeeded, the low rumbling of thunder could be heard again, and in a flash, a heavy rain began to fall. The dark clouds that had been gathering above finally started to release torrents of rain.

However, the rain was not normal, as even the beasts that were chasing him seemed to quiet down after being drenched. Their attention was all focused on Poseidon, who was in the air. Poseidon opened his arms; calling in the rain was nothing hard for him, but such a large-scale downpour was definitely not easy for him after all the restrictions.

The rain was accompanied with howling winds. As the sea god, Poseidon's domain should be the vast ocean, but he did not mind forcibly making this area his domain. That way, even at Gold-rank, he would not be afraid of the beasts in the forest.

The unstoppable rain started to gather in the forest, and the water had already exceeded the amount that the ground could absorb. The beasts finally started to go into hiding, just like Xiao Lin had speculated earlier. That forest was fated to be destroyed. Only, he did not expect that it would be in this manner.

It was similar to how Atlantis had fallen.

Chapter 592 - Final Determination

Chapter 592: Final Determination

Impressive amounts of water vapor surged out of Poseidon's body. The sea god was born in the sea. Even outside of the domain of water, it did not mean he could not use the power of water. Poseidon's body was in itself the most natural way to collect water. However, what Xiao Lin did not know was, when Poseidon used the power of his own body, it meant that Poseidon had nothing else in reserve

That was Poseidon's only choice; after his powers were restricted, he was only left at Gold rank. He could even feel a strong sense of danger from that foreign forest. The beasts had been apprehensive at the start, probably because they were afraid of the power from the crack, but they would eventually react. Poseidon could not accept his power being challenged by anyone, so he held nothing back as he used his trump card.

Many trees started to fall as the water levels constantly rose, and countless beasts were frantically running away. Facing that impressive power that affected nature itself, even the beasts that were stronger than Poseidon had to retreat.

Xiao Lin had the foresight to climb up one of the taller trees, but at the rate the water was accumulating, it seemed like it would only be a matter of them. Looking at Poseidon who was summoning wind and rain, and feeling the waves that crashed on him and the howling winds, Xiao Lin could not help but laugh after he coughed out some blood.

Poseidon remained in the air as he coldly observed Xiao Lin. He did not descend again, probably used to looking down on others from a position far above them. It was a pity his arrogance did not last long, as the winds got more and more intense, up in the sky, within those clouds, a low whistling sound could be heard.

"It's finally here?" Xiao Lin was elated. "Poseidon, I chose a very good opponent for you."

The snow-white silhouette of a fish could be seen in the dark skies. The sky fish would only appear when there was enough wind. The intense winds Poseidon summoned provided the sky fish with the best place to move around.

Poseidon raised his head, his expression stern. The sky fish hovered around the air for a moment before suddenly moving its fins, rushing right at Poseidon who was in the air. It was time for the sky fish to hunt. When it descended from the sky, it was to catch prey for itself.

Bam!

The sky fish lunged at an incredibly fast speed and collided with Poseidon. At that moment it emitted a bright white light, covering the entire forest as if a meteor had just hit the earth. Xiao Lin could not take it, and fell from the tree that he had climbed up to.

However, thanks to the sky fish's disturbance, Poseidon could temporarily not gather any water. The water levels had started to recede for the moment, and it reached Xiao Lin's waist. Xiao Lin did not hesitate to move quickly toward the opposite direction. He did not want to interfere in the upcoming fight. It did not matter who won that fight, as long as they managed to last a few hours.

Xiao Lin had no time to slowly observe the battle behind him, but the shocking sounds of battle did not stop for a moment in two hours. He did not know the result of the battle, but after two hours, the sounds of battle stopped, and the entire forest fell into silence, leaving only the sounds of flowing water behind.

The water level in the outer parts of the forest was not high, but Xiao Lin did not dare to stop and rest despite his exhaustion. The entire way, he did not see Gu Xiaoyue. He did not know if that woman had managed to avoid the sudden onslaught of water, but he did meet a few other people. It was not the ones who had separated from them earlier, but other students. It was obvious that there were quite a few students that managed to survive in the forest.

However, with things the way they were, they could only rely on their own luck if they managed to survive until the end.

Xiao Lin was a bit relieved, and he continued to move away alone. He did not dare to distance himself from Poseidon too much because he was worried that Poseidon would choose to look for the others. Of course, he hoped even more than the sky fish had killed Poseidon, but he knew it was not that possible. At least he managed to win himself a reprieve of over two hours.

After leaving, he deliberately slowed his pace, continuing to observe any movements behind him carefully. After ten minutes, alongside huge waves that reached the sky, Poseidon's red body once again rose into the air. A series of roars with uncontrolled anger reverberated around the forest.

Poseidon had won, even though he did not look like he was in a great state. The amount of wounds around his body was enough to show how strong the sky fish was. In truth, Xiao Lin did not know much about that foreign lifeform. From the looks of it, him being able to escape from the hypnosis back then had been a stroke of extreme luck.

Poseidon did not go anywhere else despite not being able to find Xiao Lin, but the water around him seemed to have decreased by a lot compared to earlier. It seemed that he could no longer use the sea to sink the entire forest, but very quickly, the sky was filled with ice arrows that constantly fell. Not even an inch of ground or the water was spared. Poseidon was very familiar with that low-level spell, and since it did not take much energy, Poseidon did not care about the amount.

That man was going to attack indiscriminately.

Xiao Lin immediately understood Poseidon's intentions. Not far away from Xiao Lin, the student he had coincidentally met earlier immediately paled. The waves from earlier had already rendered most of them exhausted, and now the ice arrows were so densely packed together. If they really entered the range of the attack, with their abilities, not many of them would be able to avoid it.

The sky slowly darkened. Even through the dark clouds that already filled the sky, the position of the sun could be told through the cracks, and it was at most an hour away from the end of the examination.

Turn around and leave?

No, Xiao Lin discarded that notion almost immediately. The last moments of the examination would invite the final problems of the examination. It was possible that the student union had designed the examination to test his skills, or was it his luck?

That was not important. Xiao Lin understood what he needed to do for the rest of Class Seven, and for the sake of increasing Gu Xiaoyue's hopes of surviving.

Facing the men who were looking at him, Xiao Lin said one word, "Leave!"

"Mo...Monitor!" The man who was older than Xiao Lin had been hesitant, and was quickly dumbfounded because he saw Xiao Lin moving toward Poseidon's direction on his own volition.

At the final moments, Xiao Lin decided to stall for time himself!

The sky fish and Poseidon's fight had lasted two hours, and Xiao Lin's strength had returned quite a bit. He did not dare to say how much of Poseidon's power the sky fish managed to waste, nor did not dare to say that he would be able to delay Poseidon too much.

Some things needed to be done, even if the result was death.

With the intention of preserving his strength, Xiao Lin only activated Miracle, and put all his attributes into agility, not planning on fighting Poseidon straight up in power.

Poseidon quickly noticed Xiao Lin who had no intention of hiding himself. Looking at that ancient sea god, Xiao Lin laughed before shouting in Ancient Normese, "Mongrel!"

Chapter 593 - Putting His Life On The Line

Chapter 593: Putting His Life On The Line

"Mongrel!"

Xiao Lin calmly and clearly repeated it a few times. He was using Ancient Normese. If Planet Norma and Earth's ancient civilizations really did interact with each other, the sea god would not be too unfamiliar with those words.

Sure enough, the sea god was angered once again.

Without the use of any magic, and without controlling any water, Poseidon sent his fist straight at Xiao Lin's torso. After regaining his strength, Xiao Lin could have used his power on dodging with Phantom Steps, and he would at least have been able to avoid most of the damage, but he did not do so.

Dodging pointlessly might be able to make the battle last a little longer, but it was pointless. He needed to delay it for an hour, not just a few minutes.

So compared to defending, counterattacking was more effective.

Xiao Lin clearly knew the difference between Poseidon and himself. Even after being drained by the sky fish, even though Poseidon had yet to acclimatize to Planet Norma's laws, it still did not change that gap.

There was no meaning to fighting normally, because it would be hard for Xiao Lin's attacks to hit Poseidon. Even if it were with his spells and sword aura, even if it was enhanced by his Ruin state, it was useless if it did not hit.

So Xiao Lin decided to change his way of fighting.

When Poseidon's fist fell, Xiao Lin coughed out mouthfuls of blood, yet his face had a sly smile as he tightly pinned down Poseidon's arm before he swung his right fist down.

Bang!

The sound of heavy steel being hit could be heard, and Xiao Lin's fist was in pain. That man's skin was as hard as steel, but his punch still had an effect because the moment his punch landed, he entered Ruin state, and when he pulled his arm back, he instantly deactivated Ruin.

Under Ruin, the peak of Xiao Lin's power could rival those at Silver rank, and Poseidon's body was not in a good condition at that moment. It was evident how intense his fight against the sky fish was from the wounds on his body.

Xiao Lin's punch had deliberately targeted those wounded areas, which had decreased the large advantage a Gold rank had against a Silver rank.

After the momentary exchange, the two figures separated again. Xiao Lin felt Poseidon's punch and fell on the floor, but since there was a lot of water, the impact was greatly lessened, and it had at least reduced the amount of pain Xiao Lin felt.

Poseidon's face looked even angrier. He touched the depression that the fist made on his stomach, and it was obvious he had felt the pain as well, even if it was just an itch. However, he understood that the inconsequential human in front of him had actually caused himself material harm.

"Hahaha!" Xiao Lin happily laughed, even though he had suffered a greater injury than his opponent.

The Momentary Ruin was something that Xiao Lin had slowly mastered after using Ruin for so many times. He had used it when he was in the New World, and after training with it when he got back to the academy, he now had a higher mastery of it.

Momentary Ruin's advantage was that he could just unleash the peak state of his body the instant he needed it, and he could rapidly remove it after he finished his attack. Doing so might not be able to increase the power of his attacks, but it drastically reduced the consumption of strength, and reduced the burden it put on his body.

Ruin was Xiao Lin's greatest advantage, but it always carried a very big problem, which was its massive consumption of Xiao Lin's energy and strength, leading to him not being able to maintain it for too long. However, in truth, even in intense combat, he did not need his Ruin state at every moment.

It was just that the battles that Xiao Lin had experienced thus far had allowed him to easily undo his Ruin state after activating it quickly most of the time, which was why he did not need

Momentary Ruin. This was actually the first time Xiao Lin used that technique so comprehensively in actual battle, and the effect was even better than he anticipated.

Poseidon rushed forward once again, even faster and more explosively than the last time. Those red fists were enveloped in a deep blue glow. The enraged Poseidon had increased his own strength, and Xiao Lin could even feel the attack from the air before the fist landed.

Momentary Ruin!

This time Xiao Lin used it in defense. In order to preserve his strength, he only used it at the moment the fist came in contact with him, and the power was at its highest. He did not dodge as usual, and used his temporarily strengthened body to block that blow.

How painful!

Xiao Lin could not resist clenching his teeth, but the pain was actually lighter than earlier. It was naturally impossible to be completely uninjured, but the remaining pain would be endured by him!

As a response, Xiao Lin activated Momentary Ruin again, and this time his fist had a moderate amount of sword aura, aiming right at Poseidon's lower parts.

Fine, he had to admit his targeting was a bit despicable, but Xiao Lin did not care at that moment.

Poseidon once again pushed away in pain because he had carelessly got too close to Xiao Lin, causing him to not have enough time to avoid Xiao Lin's attack under Ruin despite clearly seeing Xiao Lin's plan.

The battle continued, and Xiao Lin's fighting style that put his life on the line had proven useful. Even though it seemed like Poseidon had the advantage, Xiao Lin had still managed to cause him quite a bit of damage. Xiao Lin had started to employ all sorts of underhanded methods in his attacks.

Almost an hour had passed, and the panting Xiao Lin could no longer tell how much time was left in the examination. He only registered Poseidon as his opponent in his consciousness. Even though the battle did not look that intense, in truth, Xiao Lin needed all his focus, because he needed to control every second Ruin was activated and deactivated. He might be finished if he was just a second late, and wasting just a second meant he would have even less time left.

Xiao Lin's heavy panting was very scary. It was like he could collapse and never get up at any moment. His state was not better than Poseidon. No, it was definitely worse. Putting his life on the line like that meant he had to endure even more injuries. Without any protection or armor to help him other than his own body.

The clothes on his body had all been ripped apart by Poseidon's attacks, and there was not a piece of untouched skin on his body. His whole naked body was filled with blood, and it was no longer possible to tell his blood and Poseidon's apart.

However, he still endured.

Relying on Momentary Ruin, even facing an exhausted Poseidon was no easy task.

Poseidon's rage had disappeared at some point. He looked at Xiao Lin, and suddenly asked in Ancient Normese, "Who are you?" Because Xiao Lin had used Ancient Normese earlier, he naturally thought that it was Xiao Lin's native language.

Elite Mages' Academy

Chapter 594: Bloodline Holder

"Who are you?"

"I'm your grandpa!" Xiao Lin replied in Ancient Normese.

Poseidon was at a loss. He furrowed his eyebrows as he said in a strangled tone, "Are you trying to say that we're from the same bloodline? I can feel that the sudden explosion of power you had earlier is similar to mine, or maybe I should call you an Incomplete Bloodline holder. So, I'm curious. Who are you?"

"Huh?" Xiao Lin merely cursed out a few words, but that man replied with such a long sentence, and it had seemed serious, without any trace of mockery.

Of course, the exhausted Xiao Lin did not mind using that to stall for more time, as his strength was really at its end. Even though Momentary Ruin allowed him to greatly reduce the consumption of his strength, he was already getting close to his limits. The difference in their power still could not be overcome, and even though Poseidon had been hit a few times and seemed very injured, the fact that the man could idly converse with Xiao Lin meant that Poseidon definitely still had strength left.

'Incomplete Bloodline holder.'

It was not the first time Xiao Lin had heard that phrase. He remembered Absolute Defense. His Absolute Defense was the incomplete version because he was an Incomplete Bloodline holder.

It seemed like Poseidon knew what he was talking about. Even though Xiao Lin did not like the guy, he did not mind talking, so Xiao Lin deliberately nodded his head slowly in thought. "That's right, I'm an Incomplete Bloodline holder. Due to some accidents, I can't use all my power. It seems like we're from the same bloodline, so it was all just a misunderstanding."

Poseidon's expression did not change, and he sighed with some emotion. "Oh, you think that I will let you off just like that? The origin of the bloodline has long since been lost, and for billions of years the bloodline has continuously been diluted after being inherited for countless generations. Incomplete Bloodline holders are no different from those petty commoners. No, those who have tainted the bloodline are even more despicable than the commoners!

"Look at you, it's such a pity. You have the power to rival me, but you can only use that perfect power in just a short range of time. It's probably because your body can't withstand it for too long.

"Even so, it was enough to surprise me. I was sealed by you tens of thousands of years ago. I was furious, but if it's someone from the bloodline, then you do have that power."

“Hold on, what does a bloodline holder mean? To have the same bloodline as God? No, I don’t mean this world, I mean the legends from Earth.” Xiao Lin was confused listening to it, so he hurriedly asked.

Poseidon arrogantly said, “God? Don’t insult our bloodline with those native legends. As someone from the same bloodline, even incomplete, it’s so pitiful that you actually asked that question. I’ll tell you before you die; our bloodline comes from the universe. It could have come from the Big Bang, or when life was born, but there’s no way to verify it. However, one thing is certain: the bloodline holders transcend the existence of this universe, including any planet or any life!

“If our bloodline had not been depleted so much, how could we have fallen to that lowly blue planet! However, I should really thank you, even though I don’t know how you controlled and activated the wormhole, but I can feel a familiar taste on this planet. I can slowly recover my power here!”

Xiao Lin laughed coldly in his heart. There was no trace of Poseidon’s existence in Planet Norma’s future history. That meant that, no matter what plans he had, it would not succeed. However, he still played along, “That’s right. Then, we should take over the world together!”

Poseidon narrowed his eyes. “You are nothing. Just giving you the chance to talk to me is already the greatest gift I can give you thanks to your Incomplete Bloodline. I know you’re stalling for time in order to let the others run away, but they won’t make it. For instance, that woman close to you, it seems like you care about her more. I can feel that you did not use your full power to fight me, which is an insult to me. So, I won’t kill you that quickly, but I might just kill off that woman first and force you to want to fight more. That woman does fit into my views of beauty. Hahaha…”

That woman?

Xiao Lin suddenly turned around. He had not allowed himself to be distracted at all during the fight earlier, so he did not notice that, not far away, a familiar shadow had returned. It could be no one other than Gu Xiaoyue.

That stupid woman really did not leave. Did she turn around because she was worried about Xiao Lin?

However, Xiao Lin was not touched at all at that moment. He widened his eyes and shouted with all his might, “Quickly, run!”

Poseidon had long noticed Gu Xiaoyue’s existence, but he chose to mention it now. No, it was possible that he had already planned it beforehand. After all, Gu Xiaoyue had participated in his sealing as well. It was impossible for Poseidon to leave her alone. Even if Gu Xiaoyue did not return, Poseidon would have captured her just the same. With the gap in their power, that was not a problem at all. He wanted to capture her in front of Xiao Lin and torture her in some manner. They had already seen Poseidon’s cruelty in the corridors of time, so Xiao Lin did not doubt it at all.

At that moment, Xiao Lin could only feel powerless. What of his Momentary Ruin? So what if he managed to endure Poseidon for half an hour? No matter how much strength Poseidon used, he was still at Gold rank. Looking at the sea god rush toward Gu Xiaoyue at a lightning fast speed, he shouted in anger and activated Ruin.

It was no longer Momentary Ruin, but the full state. He did not have much strength left. Xiao Lin did not know if Ruin could even be maintained for a few minutes, or even a few seconds.

Under Ruin, Xiao Lin still could not catch up to Poseidon. It led him to clearly understand that Poseidon had definitely held some strength back during their earlier battle. Xiao Lin crazily raised his speed to the maximum.

“Careful!” came Gu Xiaoyue’s panicked and weak voice.

Poseidon suddenly stopped halfway, turning around and waiting for Xiao Lin who was rushing over. A curtain of water was raised behind him, causing the spells that Gu Xiaoyue hurled over to be stopped.

Xiao Lin knew he had fallen for a trick. He could not control his body as well as Poseidon while pushing his speed to the limits. He clenched his teeth and tightened his fist, not bothering to retreat or slow down, and he instead rushed forward.

Poseidon was a little surprised before he smiled slyly. An attack of that level meant nothing to him. He raised his palm and condensed lightning and water. At that moment, Poseidon was indeed not unharmed like he was at the start, but he believed that, no matter how much his power had suffered, he would absolutely not lose.

Chapter 595 - Myth

Chapter 595: Myth

Poseidon’s palm glowed with a blue light and a long icicle suddenly formed. After that, he aimed the icicle at Xiao Lin who could do nothing due to the distance and his momentum.

Absolute Defense!

At that critical moment, Xiao Lin already had his Absolute Defense prepared. He had always maintained his strength at above 10% so that he could use his Absolute Defense once during a critical stage. As the Heaven’s Eye on his head opened, a faint white shield formed around his body.

Poseidon was noticeably astonished, and the next moment, his icicle clashed against Xiao Lin’s shield.

A huge roar shook the sky, and two figures, one white and one blue, clashed briefly before separating. That cold, arrogant and disdainful smile was still on Poseidon’s face. The icicle in his hand had shattered, but there was still a lot of blood that could be seen on it.

“You actually know Absolute Defense. I’m shocked, but it’s a pity that you’re from an incomplete bloodline. It’s useless against me!”

Behind him, Xiao Lin’s body felt like a kite that had its string cut. The white shield had been shattered by the earlier clash. He did not manage to attack Poseidon, and Incomplete Absolute

Defense was useless against attacks that were greater than his own ability. Even though Xiao Lin anticipated that, but actually seeing the difference for himself caused him to nearly lose all hope from the disappointment.

Poseidon's icicle had completely pierced through his body. Even though he managed to react in time to avoid it piercing his heart, the massive loss of blood was not something his dragon's blood could recover. Most importantly, he had lost the last of his strength. His Ruin state had been deactivated, and Absolute Defense could not be used again. Even the eye on his forehead had been forced shut.

In front of Xiao Lin's eyes, Poseidon's large body had started to move away from himself. It was true, Poseidon could obviously see that Xiao Lin was at the end of his strength and had lost all ability to counterattack, but Poseidon would not let Xiao Lin off that easily. Poseidon wanted to kill Gu Xiaoyue and kill all the other students who were running away in front of Xiao Lin.

The sky was already getting darker and darker; it was already nearing the end of the examination. The rest of them could possibly make it out alive if they hid well enough, but Gu Xiaoyue was the one that Poseidon would definitely not let off.

Gu Xiaoyue only had a few years of her life left. She was the only one who could not afford to die.

The hopeless Xiao Lin was furious and unwilling. He tried to struggle as he fell from the sky, trying to squeeze out just a bit more power from his injury-ridden body.

He frantically thought about what skills he still had.

Dragon's breath sword aura?

Ruin?

Heaven's Eye?

Replicate?!

Xiao Lin had actually almost forgotten about his own SS-rank talent. He had not used it during the entire fight because he understood that trying to replicate something from Poseidon might be completely ineffective. After all, the opponent was two ranks above him, so it was very likely he would be unable to replicate anything.

Yet, at that final hopeless moment, it was the only thing he could try after losing all his strength. It was at least better than him staring at Gu Xiaoyue as she died.

Replicate, activate!

Replication target, Poseidon!

After a few seconds of quiet, no information appeared in Xiao Lin's mind. His entire body started to tremble. He knew that meant that there was no way for him to replicate any skills from his opponent. Even if that had been expected, it still sent him into another wave of helplessness. Xiao Lin understood that he had run out of options.

No, he might still have a chance.

Xiao Lin remembered that blackhole-like existence within the deepest parts of his meditative universe and that strange man that Xiao Lin could barely understand.

Xiao Lin did not know who he was, but from the way the person spoke, he was probably an ancient existence, and Poseidon had unwittingly exposed the fact that the power he showed during his Ruin state was equal to an incomplete bloodline holder.

What was a bloodline holder?

That was not important. Xiao Lin would treat it as some ancient bloodline that was inherited from ancient times. There was coincidentally a mysterious ancient entity in his body.

Xiao Lin refused to believe that the two were not related.

That person said that his goal was to protect Xiao Lin. No, more accurately, his goal was to protect Xiao Lin's power. As for Xiao Lin himself, he was just a vessel for that power. However, that did not matter; the person would probably not like it if he died.

Of course, Xiao Lin's lifespan was enough for him to survive the examination, but what about next time?

Xiao Lin refused to imagine the idea that the lonely and somewhat cold woman would no longer appear in his sights. How was he supposed to pass those days? He and Gu Xiaoyue had gone through half a semester, but they had not actually interacted with each other that much. Xiao Lin felt like he had fallen in love at first sight, and no matter what, he would not allow that woman to die, even if he had to give everything that he had!

Xiao Lin seemed to suddenly build up his determination, but he did not know how to communicate with that existence that hid deep in his soul.

At the moment that thought crossed his head, there seemed to be an imperceptible sigh in his mind that sounded like it came from afar.

'Would you pay any price?

'Is that what you wish for?'

'You won't regret it?'

Xiao Lin was stunned for less than a moment before he felt excited. He remembered the voice of that existence, that vain and emotionless tone, and he immediately shouted, "Yes! That's what I wish for! I'll never regret it! Never!"

Xiao Lin did not get a response after he shouted, and Xiao Lin had already fallen into the water at that point, causing ripples to form around him. Poseidon was not in a hurry to kill him, so Poseidon had controlled his strength earlier, preserving Xiao Lin's life. Xiao Lin sank into the water until he hit the bottom.

“I feel your determination. I’ll make the next judgement. If you fail here, it will affect your mental state in the future. Then, following the ancient agreement, I will help you. As a result, the next time I awaken will be even further away.

“This power is far too dangerous for you at the moment. Even if this is your will, I hope this will be your first and last time. Your existence should not result in you wasting your life here...

“It requires too much of a price. You can only use it with your gift activated...”

He could once again hear a sound in his heart; that strange person seemed to be mumbling to himself, saying some strange words, something about ancient agreements and dangerous powers. Xiao Lin had understood every word, but to link them together caused him to sweat.

After another sigh, Xiao Lin got his answer.

Power — inexhaustible power — seemed to be welling up quickly inside his body. Xiao Lin no longer had the time to think about what that voice meant as he was filled with shock. His last hope actually succeeded. However, he had clearly already lost all his power and strength, so where did so much power come from?

Xiao Lin quickly felt a familiar feeling. The power seemed similar to what he felt during his Ruin state, but how was that possible? He should not have any power to activate Ruin.

No, it was not Ruin!

Xiao Lin was once again shocked. His power had seemingly risen to the peak of Ruin in just a few seconds, but it did not stop. The power erupted like a volcano, and the accumulated power suddenly burst out; it was constantly rising, long since surpassing Ruin’s limits.

Ruin was an explosive skill that Xiao Lin had learnt with Miracle as the foundation. It allowed his strength to drastically increase in a short time, so it was quite a terrifying ability. Xiao Lin had thought that it was already at the limits of increasing. After all, increasing power was fundamentally something very difficult to do. Now, he started to realize that there was an even higher state after Ruin.

If Ruin increased his power by several times, his current power was at least over ten times!

A gift from God? A talent!

Xiao Lin thought of the last words of that existence, that it could only be used when his talent was active. Which meant that if he used both Ruin and his SS-rank talent, he could level Ruin up.

That was the most possible thing. Power would not come from nowhere, and only something like an SS-rank super talent that no one had any detailed knowledge on to this day could possibly bring out an even stronger power. Only, Xiao Lin had never realized his talent had other uses.

That was right, as an SS-rank talent, how could it just be limited to replication and increasing efficiency.

Xiao Lin leaped up from the bottom of the water, lunging out of the surface. He needed to seize the time; if his power was obtained from his SS-rank talent, then it might only last the few minutes that his talent did. On top of the dozen over seconds he had spent underwater, he did not have much time left.

His exhaustion had been wiped clean, as for the wounds on his body, he started to see it rapidly recovering with his naked eye. It was as if his dragon's blood's recovery ability had been enhanced by several multiplications.

"Poseidon, I won't let you harm her!"

When his body reached the apex of his jump, Xiao Lin frantically unleashed all the energy in his body, raising his right fist in a straight direction as an immense flame sword aura shot out.

Sword Aura was not something that could only be used with a blade, but without a weapon, it would drastically decrease in power. Even so, the elemental sword aura was filled with power, and the flames were close to being dark red. Xiao Lin remembered his elemental sword aura classes. Only when an element reaches an almost perfect level would the flames be abnormally dark.

The sword aura burned for over ten minutes long, and the intense heat even distorted the air around him. Even though the distance was far, Poseidon had deftly felt the imminent threat behind him. Poseidon did not see his attacker immediately, but he coldly smiled and said, "Do you not know that I'm the strongest controller of water? You actually used fire in front of me. How incompetent!"

Poseidon's arrogance led to him not dodging. He raised his hand to summon a wave to shield himself. He then turned around to look at Gu Xiaoyue, who was right in front of him with nowhere else to run. The woman had no trace of fear on her face, but she suddenly had a dazed expression as she covered her mouth in disbelief.

"Are you afraid? What a pitiful life!" Poseidon materialized an icicle and aimed it at Gu Xiaoyue.

The next second, the gigantic wave behind him dispersed into steam. The flame sword aura had actually evaporated Poseidon's wave in a flash!

"Impossible! That was too quick!"

Poseidon finally felt like something was wrong, but he no longer had the time to react when he turned around. The speed of the sword aura had exceeded his expectations, and it immediately submerged Poseidon's large body into a sea of flames.

After the explosion, Xiao Lin arrived, standing between Gu Xiaoyue and Poseidon.

"You... Didn't you..." Gu Xiaoyue's eyes widened in surprise.

"Are you stupid! Why did you come back here!" Xiao Lin wanted to scold her some more, but turning around to look at Gu Xiaoyue's reddened eyes that had tears in them, his heart softened, and his words turned abnormally tender.

"Leave quickly, now! He's not someone you can face."

Gu Xiaoyue seemed to have a lot to say, but she was not a woman who hesitated. She nodded and said, “I know, I’ll leave. I won’t burden you. I’ll believe you this time!” After that, Gu Xiaoyue casted a few strengthening spells on Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin did not know how to react, by ‘believe in you this time’, Gu Xiaoyue clearly meant that she never believed he could defeat Poseidon before, which was why she did not care for her life and rushed over. Even if it made Xiao Lin a little angry, he could not help but be touched as well.

Xiao Lin trusted Gu Xiaoyue’s judgement a lot, and now, Gu Xiaoyue believed that Xiao Lin could defeat Poseidon!

“Does that mean this state gives me the power to rival a Gold rank? This ability is incredible, but didn’t that person say I would pay a very large price? Whatever, I can’t care about that now.” Xiao Lin waited for Gu Xiaoyue’s buffs as he mumbled to himself.

Gu Xiaoyue finished casting her spells and asked, “What did you say just now? Also, the way you are now...”

Xiao Lin was stunned for a moment before he looked at his reflection on the water. He could not stop himself from being shocked. At that moment, other than his muscles dramatically expanding, his entire body was covered in a light blue glow that was reminiscent of a sword aura. Not only that, even his hair had turned into a washed blue.

An existence that exceeded Ruin had granted him a miraculous power.

“Let’s call it Myth.” Xiao Lin suddenly raised his head and looked at Gu Xiaoyue before looking at Poseidon who was rising up. Then, he said, “This state, I’m calling it Myth!”

Chapter 596 - Poseidon’s Full Power

Chapter 596: Poseidon’s Full Power

The skill that exceeded the limits of Ruin, he called it Myth.

Gu Xiaoyue had left immediately after giving Xiao Lin various buffs. That woman was very logical, as she knew that Xiao Lin was already completely different from earlier, and she would not be able to help at all by staying back.

Gu Xiaoyue’s support spells had increased Xiao Lin’s strength by even more. Xiao Lin moved his limbs, and under that faint blue energy, he felt like his body was abnormally light, as if it was made of feathers. Just punching his fist out unleashed shocking power, and just jumping casually would launch him far into the air.

The flame sword aura earlier had stopped, and Poseidon’s body had already come out of the flames in mid-air. Even though it was an expected result, Xiao Lin could not resist cursing at how strong that man was. Even without a weapon, that was already a full-on attack with all his might under the Myth state, but it only caused Poseidon to be caught off guard a little.

“Who are you?!” Poseidon asked in Ancient Normese, his expression turning even colder, not carrying any emotion. After that, he repeated the question he had already asked, but the meaning was obviously different. Xiao Lin was still Xiao Lin, but under that situation, he knew clearly that Xiao Lin definitely could not have that kind of power.

“I’m your grandpa.” Xiao Lin smiled as he gave the same answer.

Poseidon was furious, not because of Xiao Lin’s answer, but because he had misjudged the situation. The flame sword aura earlier did not deal any real damage to Poseidon, but it was the first time he felt shocked. To Poseidon, that was already a tremendous insult.

Massive waves formed again as they crashed down on Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin did not stop it, because with Poseidon’s attack, the water that had covered the entire forest started to fall, which would at least allow the others to escape easier.

Xiao Lin stood on the ground without any fear, raising his left hand as he sent out another intensely hot flame sword aura, resulting in an intense battle between fire and water.

Normally, water was fire’s natural enemy, but Xiao Lin understood something after entering the academy: the interaction between the elements was not as absolute as countering each other.

Elemental sword aura’s core lay within communicating and interacting with the elements, and under the effects of Myth, Xiao Lin could easily use that perfect state of elemental sword aura that the old professor spent his life pursuing. At that moment Xiao Lin felt a never before felt connection with the elements around him, and it felt like the feeling he had during medication.

That was right, on Planet Norma, perceiving the elements was not something that unbelievable. As long as someone could under the meditative state, feeling the elements in their own meditative world was something very easy.

However, when not in a meditative state, feeling the elements was something even the natives could rarely do. It was just like using a microscope to see microorganisms on Earth; it was something even a three-year-old kid could do, but if one could use their naked eyes to see microorganisms, then it would be a superpower.

Under Myth, Xiao Lin could do that. It was not a skill to be underestimated, as any elemental sword aura and even casting any spells was built on the foundation of communicating with the elements to start the process. However, Xiao Lin seemed to be able to skip past that process.

His sword aura was an even deeper shade of red than earlier. The core was the flame’s center. It was already at the level where it was almost black. Even though it did not seem too different from regular flames, when the flame sword aura clashed against the immense waves, the other layers of the flames were swallowed up, but the deep red core suddenly exploded like a star.

Water could extinguish fire, but if it was the fire of a star, then no amount of water could extinguish it!

The several dozen meter tall waves were vaporized in just a few seconds, turning into thin droplets of rain. The flames were not completely gone, and Xiao Lin suddenly rushed through the flames clad in his blue aura.

How fast!

Poseidon's pupils constricted. Xiao Lin was already in front of him the moment he raised his fist. A heavy punch landed on his stomach, and the thunderous roar of the blow could be heard throughout the forest. Even if his body was hard as steel, being constantly attacked by such power was still something he could not shake off. More importantly, his speed could no longer keep up with Xiao Lin. Originally, his large body did not affect his agility, but facing the ghost-like Xiao Lin, Poseidon might know how Xiao Lin wanted to attack, but he realized his body could no longer keep up.

When he realized that, Poseidon was suddenly extremely angered. Even if it was just an idea, he still felt humiliated. Poseidon's red glow on his skin flashed, and Xiao Lin's next blow fell on thin air. There was no one in front of him as Poseidon had disappeared into the light.

Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes, and his eyes fell on the air a hundred meters away. After two seconds, Poseidon reappeared there in a ring of water. A light blue eye on his forehead was glowing.

Xiao Lin was stunned for a moment as he remembered his foe had a Heaven's Eye as well. Even though Poseidon's Heaven's Eye looked different from those of the Atlanteans, it seemed like Poseidon's Heaven's Eye also had a different power.

However, Xiao Lin quickly let out a smile as he mocked, "You even used your Heaven's Eye. I'm just an insignificant incomplete bloodline holder. What an honor. Right, why aren't you using your trident?"

Poseidon had an ugly expression on his face, but did nothing.

"It seems like your power was drastically restricted. Can you not use your trident?" Xiao Lin's guess was more or less right, but it was not a restriction from the examination itself. Poseidon's descent into this world had not been his complete body from the start. In truth, his trident was still in that chaotic space.

"You're provoking me! You really are seeking death!" Poseidon quickly calmed down before he let out a cold and arrogant smile. "I admit, I might not know what you did, but you seem closer to a true bloodline holder now. However, this is more interesting. It's not fun killing ants."

"Ants? Ah, then let's see how this ant kills an elephant. I really want to experience that sort of thrill!"

"I know you're stalling for time, but this is already your last chance. After this, I'll let you understand why the bloodline of the sea god isn't something a commoner can touch!"

Poseidon seemed to have made a decision, and his expression turned oddly serious. Xiao Lin knew that the man had not been using his full power; even while he was using his Momentary Ruin, it might seem like they were fighting evenly, but he could clearly feel that Poseidon had a lot held back when facing his attacks. No matter how much he did not want to admit it, Poseidon had never taken him seriously, and had never used his full power.

Xiao Lin's Myth state was shorter than his Ruin state. It was only as long as the few minute long Replicate ability. He had more or less used up half of the time, but if Poseidon had been preserving

his strength, then there was no way for Xiao Lin to completely defeat Poseidon because fighting an opponent that was holding back was just wasting time.

That was why he would rather waste his valuable time trying to provoke Poseidon with his words. His goal was so that Poseidon would think that he was deliberately stalling for time, causing his foe to suspect that he could be holding something back. On top of the pressure his current power applied, Poseidon finally used his full power.

Only that way could he completely defeat Poseidon, and it seemed like the sea god had fallen for it.

Xiao Lin let out a sigh, counting the time he had left. It could be two minutes, or it could be over a minute. He was the one who could not afford to stall.

Poseidon's power started to frantically rise; Xiao Lin could even feel it despite the distance. The man was finally using his full power, causing Xiao Lin to be shocked. Poseidon had been greatly weakened, and had even fought the sky fish and Xiao Lin's Momentary Ruin, but Poseidon was still holding back such shocking amounts of power.

However, Xiao Lin was not afraid. He had started off with powerful attacks due to the time constraints. Flame sword aura remained his most direct attack method. As Poseidon's power rose, his skin glowed more and more intensely, but his body was slowly shrinking.

Losing that large body, Poseidon's strength did not decrease at all. Poseidon waved his fist in the air, and thunder erupted as the howling winds were freezing and had turned the flame sword aura into ice. As the sea god, Poseidon was not limited to only controlling the sea, he also controlled the winds, thunder and ice.

If it was just purely the communication and mastery of the elements, Xiao Lin was better under the effects of Myth, but in terms of the amount of elemental power, Xiao Lin was still far behind Poseidon.

That was a battle between equals that both had their own advantages.

Xiao Lin did not hesitate to jump up after his attack failed. The blue aura had caused his jumping ability to be shocking. After noticing the difference between the elements they controlled, Xiao Lin immediately turned it into a close combat fight. He chose to close the distance, and Poseidon did not dodge, his arrogance not allowing him to run.

Xiao Lin had never learned any hand-to-hand combat, so his punches were erratic, but they carried with them an intense flame. It was different from a flame sword aura. It was a product of his natural communication with the elements, combined with the blue aura that his body emitted.

Chapter 597 - The Final Moments

Chapter 597: The Final Moments

The two of them closed the gap. Xiao Lin no longer used his flame sword aura and Poseidon no longer used his huge waves. They engaged in a purely physical fight. Xiao Lin was at a

disadvantage in terms of technique, but he used brute force to overcome it, though that fighting style took a lot of energy.

Xiao Lin admitted that his rank was still very low. Even with Myth increasing his various attributes drastically, there was still a big gap in terms of skills, so he chose the simplest way to fight.

If one punch was not enough, then he would throw two, and if he could not hit any vital spots, then he would use his monstrous strength to compensate.

To Xiao Lin, he no longer needed to carefully control how he used his strength like when he was using Momentary Ruin. After all, no matter what, the Myth would end when Replicate reached its limits. At that time, if Poseidon did not die, then he would!

Since that was the case, then he would use all his power within his limited time!

In truth, Xiao Lin's attacks had taken effect. Poseidon was only truly at Gold rank in skill at his full strength, so before that, Poseidon's strength had just been in between Silver to Gold rank, but even so, he could not completely block all of Xiao Lin's attacks.

Xiao Lin's speed allowed him to unleash a few dozen punches in the space of a second and, of those, Poseidon would block eighty percent of them. The difference in terms of skill and experience was greater than expected, but it was no matter; Xiao Lin only needed to ensure that the remaining twenty percent of his punches had enough power to harm Poseidon.

His punches all contained that faint blue flame. It was actually closer to sword aura than fire, but it was not true sword aura, because Xiao Lin could clearly feel the elemental composition within. It was possible that it was the true form of elemental sword energy, and Xiao Lin was using it extremely comfortably.

The might of the blue flames was quite shocking. Poseidon's body had been strengthened in a special manner. Normal weapons would not be able to pierce him, and normal attacks would just be like an itch to him. Yet, the punches that carried the blue energy left very clear marks on Poseidon's skin. After a few consecutive attacks, his skin started to break. That was something that he did not see even after one hour's worth of attacks under Momentary Ruin.

Xiao Lin utilized his advantage to the maximum, and Poseidon really did despise him. Of course, Poseidon's skills had been greatly affected by the sealing. The two of them exchanged hundreds of punches in just mere moments.

Xiao Lin, who had abandoned all forms of defense, was not in a great state either. He did not have any energy to think about defending himself. Even under his Myth state, he was already at his limits, and only under those limits could he force himself to maintain the attacks on Poseidon. Yet, after over ten seconds, Xiao Lin's entire body was covered in blood.

Thankfully, the recovery ability of dragon's blood proved useful at that time. Even though the effects of the small amounts of dragon blood in his body were limited, thanks to being strengthened by Myth, it was strong enough that he could still remain standing.

The two of them fought for a dozen seconds before descending back into the water. It was a fist fight, but the impact of each of their punches was equivalent to a Silver-ranked spell.

The sky constantly roared, and the waves crashed around them.

The entire forest had heard the sounds of that fight. Everyone, including the fleeing beasts, could not help but look back with an expression of confusion and shock.

It was a pity that only an extremely small number of them had seen it. No, in the entire class, it was possible that only Gu Xiaoyue would be able to follow such a rapid fight. The others would not be able to know what was happening with their weak levels of perception.

However, everyone understood that Xiao Lin was definitely holding that fierce-looking man back. They might not know that the battle was at Gold rank, but everyone could feel the tremors coming from the center of the storm. A Gold rank was something most of them had read about in books or listened to their teachers about at most.

Gold rank was already something far out of their reach for them. After all, the Epic and Legend ranks above that stood at the peak of Planet Norma.

The forest was moving toward extinction, and the storm was heading toward the outer areas. Of course a lot of those that did not manage to escape in time lost their lives to it, but no one complained at that time. Under such absolute power, everyone could only feel how miniscule they were.

It was just a short minute, but to Xiao Lin who was fully concentrated, it was possibly the longest minute that he had ever experienced; it felt like it was longer than anything.

The pressure he felt fighting Poseidon was unbelievably massive. His Myth state had given him the ability to stand against his foe, but the battle had caused him to slowly understand that being able to stand against his foe did not mean being able to defeat him.

Myth was nearing its end, and he did not have more than a few dozen seconds left. At that time, with the rapid decline in his strength and the sudden impact of his wounds, Xiao Lin would definitely die.

Xiao Lin could not help but raise the corner of his eyes a little as he glanced at a yellow glow that pierced through the thick clouds. He did not know how long was left until the exam ended, and could not be sure if he could hold on.

His action was caught by Poseidon, and Poseidon also saw that Xiao Lin was at the end of his strength. Xiao Lin's speed and strength was lowered by a small level, but Poseidon was almost at his limit as well. Poseidon's muscles had expanded to an unbelievable degree, and after Xiao Lin's countless attacks, it had started to tremble. Even though it was very weak, Xiao Lin still noticed it.

It was not that Poseidon could not be defeated; the sea god was just a term people called him. Xiao Lin firmly believed that if he could maintain the state for twenty minutes to half an hour, even if he could not kill Poseidon, he could still completely exhaust the man's strength.

However, that was just an if. Xiao Lin started to get anxious.

“You’re done!” As if declaring his victory, Poseidon shouted before changing directions. He separated himself for the first time after the close combat fight, and the distance was over a kilometer. At almost the same time, both his hands started to glow with a deep blue light.

Chapter 598 - Poseidon’s Fall

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That was right!

Poseidon had somehow caught Xiao Lin’s well-hidden exhaustion. That man also guessed that Xiao Lin’s unusual explosiveness would not be able to last for long, and it seemed like it was nearing its end.

Normally, he could definitely prolong the fight like that, and deliver the killing blow once Xiao Lin had used up all his strength.

However, Poseidon was too arrogant. His pride would not allow him to do so because that meant that Poseidon still lost to Xiao Lin and Xiao Lin’s peak power. Even if Poseidon defeated Xiao Lin, who would not be able to retaliate after that? It would not quell the anger in Poseidon.

So, Poseidon was just as anxious; he planned on defeating Xiao Lin while Xiao Lin still had all his power. So, Poseidon gave up on maintaining the close combat fight, and prepared to gather his strongest power to defeat Xiao Lin.

As they fought, Xiao Lin had guessed at the possibility as well, but Xiao Lin did not follow. Xiao Lin did not have that special ability to fly like Poseidon had, and the earlier fight was just him relying on his immense leaping abilities. So, Poseidon had deliberately floated high in the air to prevent Xiao Lin’s interference.

However, Xiao Lin did not need it. Xiao Lin was also waiting for a chance — the chance to strike and completely defeat Poseidon. Since his skills and strength were close enough to his foe, Xiao Lin could only rely on one technique if he wanted to win in the last few dozen seconds: dragon’s breath sword aura!

Dragon’s breath sword aura needed time to gather, and the base powers were even stronger under his Myth state, which meant the gathering of the power would need a longer time. During that intense battle that did not even give him time to blink, Xiao Lin had not been able to use the skill.

However, Poseidon had actually pulled away himself, causing Xiao Lin to pause for a second or two before he unhesitatingly started to prepare his dragon’s breath sword aura.

With his body surrounded by the faint blue energy, the draconic energy that came out of his body also adopted a light blue glow, and was more powerful than it ever was. Xiao Lin himself could not even estimate how strong the dragon’s breath sword aura unleashed at Gold rank could be.

Everywhere turned quiet. Even the thunder that never stopped in the clouds, or the beasts crying out in the distance, and even the howling wind... had all turned quiet at that moment. All that was left was the intense gathering of energy that produced a low but sharp noise.

Every corner of Planet Norma was filled with the three basic energies, and the people of the world used those powers to cast various spells. The more powerful it was, the more energy was absorbed from the surroundings, which would produce an apocalyptic scene like what was happening at that moment.

It was not just Xiao Lin; the energy Poseidon was gathering was just as shocking. The two of them seemed to have gathered every bit of energy from the area.

Like the calm before the storm, the short silence lasted for over ten seconds. After feeling their opponent's intentions of attacking, Xiao Lin and Poseidon both unleashed the power in their hands.

Xiao Lin had gathered the dragon's breath sword aura in his palms; he had a deeper understanding of energy thanks to his Myth state, and even without a weapon, he had tried to use the principles of gathering elemental energy on the dragon's breath sword aura, and succeeded.

The sword aura was compressed in a short time by him, and in the end it was small enough to be held in his hand. The ball of light glowed with a warm blue hue, but in that warmth was immeasurable power.

Poseidon had gathered a wave-like flowing liquid energy, and when he unleashed it, it was like a stormy wave surging down from a river in the sky. At that moment, the pressure that burst out caused every being in the forest to feel horrified and suffocated.

That was Poseidon — the sea god that had lived for tens of millions of years.

The blue dragon's breath sword aura clashed in the air with the deep blue waves. There was no technique and no tricks being played. It was both of their killer skills; both Poseidon and Xiao Lin had the utmost confidence in their limits, and they would succeed or die trying!

At that moment, it was like the sky was falling and the earth was shaking.

Those who were frantically running and occasionally glancing back at the battle in the sky were once again submerged in a quiet world because, this time, the sharp sound of the explosion had rendered everyone temporarily deaf. The vibrant light was like the sun, and had completely illuminated the forest that had already settled into dusk. Everyone was shaken by the sight, and could not help but close their eyes, silently praying in their hearts, both for themselves and their monitor.

That was Xiao Lin's last drop of strength. After he unleashed the dragon's breath sword aura, even though he still maintained Myth, he had completely exhausted all his strength. When the aftershocks came, he was pulled into it, and his entire body was like a ship in the middle of waves. He could no longer control it.

The last second before the explosion, Xiao Lin observed Poseidon's condition. That man's complexion was noticeably worse than earlier, proving that the attack had exhausted a great deal

of his strength, but even so, Poseidon could still control his body steadily in the face of the unbelievable clash of power.

That was the proof of their difference in power. Xiao Lin, of course, understood that, even if he had his Myth state, his power only got closer to his opponent, but being closer was just that. He failed to exceed it!

He was still too weak!

Even though Xiao Lin understood that being able to fight to this degree with his current strength meant that Xiao Lin's evaluation after the examination would definitely be good, it still did not wipe away Xiao Lin's frustration.

The two energies clashed in the air — it was an intense clash. Even though it was at an equilibrium at the start, with no one energy suppressing the other, the two powers very quickly started to be suppressed to one side. That meant that Poseidon could still concentrate his power toward the ball of energy, causing the waves to suddenly be more powerful than the sword aura. Xiao Lin had already used all his trump cards, so Xiao Lin was powerless; he could not even control the sword aura that he had already unleashed at all, and could only look on as the ball of energy closed in on himself.

Even if he was facing an opponent that he hated, Xiao Lin could not help but feel shocked and angry. Poseidon's power was really inexhaustible; if it was not for the countless restrictions, Poseidon would have easily killed Xiao Lin, even with his Myth state.

Under the intense glow, Xiao Lin was forced to narrow his eyes, lying down on the water as he looked at the ball of energy closing in, anxious, but unable to do anything...

"Is this it?" Xiao Lin completely shut his eyes, powerless. Myth had completely exhausted his strength after being deactivated along with his talent.

The forest at that point was completely covered by the glow. Everyone was frantically struggling in the waves of energy that rippled out. Many trees were destroyed, and countless beasts were exterminated. That included the other students from Class Seven; they were all frantically running, but noticed that it was a wasted endeavor.

The entire forest was about to be completely destroyed, and there was only one result for the life within, which was to die with it. Everyone's hearts had a sense of hopelessness.

When they were at the peak of their hopelessness, when everyone had given up and were awaiting their deaths, an ear-splitting noise could be heard from the white sky; it was like the sound of glass shattering.

Xiao Lin seemed to feel something, and suddenly opened his eyes. The light had weakened at some point. No, it was more accurate to say that the mass of energy in the air was shrinking. Large amounts of energy started to disappear as it was sucked away.

The direction it was being sucked away to was the web-like sky. It was created by the sea god initially. After that vengeful woman died, the wormhole that had been forcefully opened should have been forced shut, but the sea god needed the wormhole to remain open for an even longer

period of time in order for his power to completely descend. So, from the very start, Poseidon had used part of his already depleted power to maintain the opening. Even if space and time were the most restrictive domains, as a mysterious bloodline holder and as the sea god, it was not that hard for Poseidon to do it.

Xiao Lin suddenly understood something. No wonder the academy had arranged such an unbelievably strong boss for the first-years. Based on the student union's plans, which were probably reflected in actual history, after using his power to maintain the passage, Poseidon's strength should be incredibly weak. It was possible it would have just been at Silver rank or even lower.

Xiao Lin even understood the solution the student had left for them. They might not have actually needed to defeat the Silver-ranked Poseidon. As long as a portion of them forcefully delayed him, then the rest of them could destroy the energy around the wormhole. Once the passage was closed, the examination would be completed. While that would still be difficult, it was still something first-years could manage.

Unfortunately, the moment Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue appeared in that examination, all the plans the student union made were rendered useless. Of course, the student union could never expect that Xiao Lin was the one who sealed Poseidon, and because of that, Poseidon had not cared about the price of maintaining the portal, pulling out even more power to handle Xiao Lin.

And the current situation resulted in the crack that had been affected by Poseidon's power completely shattering. In the source of the shattering was a hole a few hundred meters wide. On the other side of the hole was a vibrant world filled with golden specks. Everyone was very familiar with it; it was the scene they saw when they sat in the spatial carriage.

It was different from when Poseidon had appeared. At the time, it was just a very small crack. After all, Anna had just been a dabbler. It was possible that the ancient texts she obtained were real, but she never completely mastered how to open the gateway, and had mistakenly released Poseidon who had been sealed in space and time.

And at that moment, the wormhole that had been sealed for countless years was truly reopened

Everyone, including Poseidon, was once again astonished. With the battle at the point that it was, they had already gone through quite a bit of shock, but this time, the rest of them seemed to feel something.

A gigantic mass of light started to descend from the golden passage that was surrounded by the sands of time. The light was close to transparent, and two figures could be made out within. Xiao Lin had coincidentally been at the center of the light, and the waves of energy that had been unleashed by Poseidon and him had been sucked in by the opening of the wormhole, so he could somewhat make out that the two figures were strangely dressed.

It was obvious that they were definitely not dressed in modern clothes; they were closer to ancient Ming Dynasty clothing that were regularly seen on Chinese television.

Dawn Academy's colonial history originated from the Ming Dynasty!

Xiao Lin's vague guess now had more evidence to it. He was witnessing history; the examination really was set during the time the first colonists arrived.

Poseidon was shocked at the strange change, and was even more anxious. He had not bothered holding back his power to maintain the passage, but he was not intending on allowing others to take advantage of it. If the wormhole was closed again, then he would absolutely not be able to open the wormhole himself again after the amount of energy he had spent during this battle.

Poseidon was furious, and did not hesitate to give up on the completely exhausted Xiao Lin. He turned around and charged at the two figures. He wanted to kill them off before they completely arrived.

Yet, before Poseidon could close in, an arrow whizzed out of the mass of light carrying a vibrant light. It completely pierced through that chest of Poseidon that was as hard as steel, and the arrow continued flying until it landed not even a hundred meters away from Xiao Lin and deeply embedded itself into the ground, leaving only the feathers outside.

Xiao Lin looked at the arrow and sucked in a cold breath. Despite not containing any sword aura or magical power, the power behind it could not just be described as being from someone strong. Even if Poseidon's strength had been greatly weakened, it was no normal matter to be able to pierce through his chest with an arrow.

The earliest colonists from the Ming Dynasty; it seemed like their predecessors were not merely ancient men as they thought!

Poseidon was in disbelief; the unassuming arrow had led to him completely losing his last amounts of strength on Planet Norma. The mass of light completely entered Planet Norma, and the wormhole closed behind it. That meant that Poseidon had completely lost his power that was still sealed in space and time, and now he was falling rapidly, like a kite that had lost its string.

Chapter 599 - Examination Ends

Chapter 599: Examination Ends

The fight against Poseidon ended just like that. No one would have ever expected that Poseidon would die in such an anticlimactic and useless manner.

A so-called god was just a human that was stronger than most. Of course, Poseidon's rank was even higher, but other than Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, the rest of them did not know the enemy had been the god of the sea from Earth mythology.

Xiao Lin wanted to laugh out loud, even though his entire body ached to the point where even laughing was incredibly difficult because, as he looked at the mass of light that was descending, and the fact that the two figures in the mass were very possibly the first colonists, a ridiculous notion surfaced in Xiao Lin's head.

The students did not exist in true history, and the reason that the two ancient people could cross countless galaxies to arrive in this completely new world, came from Poseidon. It was because

Poseidon had used most of his power to maintain and expand the crack in space and that they had the chance to cross. After all, Anna's little sacrifice would never have actually been able to open the wormhole to Earth; their initial speculations were wrong on that front.

However, the fact that Poseidon appeared in this world was because Xiao Lin had used Time Rewind, broken through the wall of time and sealed that man into the wormhole.

Without Poseidon being sealed, he would not have appeared on Planet Norma. If Poseidon did not appear on Planet Norma, the first colonists would not have arrived successfully. Without the first colonists, Dawn Academy would not have been born. Without Dawn Academy, Xiao Lin would not have been admitted, and everything today would not exist.

Looking at the source, the origin of everything was Xiao Lin!

That crazy notion caused Xiao Lin to want to laugh, but it was a bitter laugh, because that meant that, from the time the Poseidon was sealed during the Atlantean era, everything had basically been determined by fate. In another manner of speaking, the wheel of fate had started to churn.

Either it was him who changed history, or everything he had done had been predetermined. If it was the latter, then discovering that everything he had done, pursued, and worked hard on had been predetermined was a tough pill to swallow.

With those complicated emotions, Xiao Lin quietly lay down on the floor unmoving after losing all his strength. The two figures had seen him, and were walking toward him, but it was as if the Academy never planned on allowing the new students to interact with their predecessors. When the figures slowly turned clearer, Xiao Lin's sight turned darker.

Everything started to spin, and when he reopened his eyes, everyone was already back in the public classroom.

The examination had ended!

Escaping from death, most of the people in the classroom could not help but stand up and celebrate with their friends. The ones who lived until the end had all profited.

Judging from the number who were cheering, the ones who lived until the end only took up about 20 percent. Xiao Lin let out a sigh of relief when he noticed the calm woman sitting beside him.

Gu Xiaoyue was looking at Xiao Lin as well, and her expression was a little emotional. Xiao Lin did not know if it was due to that shocking fight or the fact that she managed to live.

The evaluation would come after, and everyone could see the results from their computers. After the examination, everyone was exhausted. Even though their physical injuries would be fully recovered after returning, they could only recover their mental fatigue through rest.

However, those who managed to survive would all walk toward Xiao Lin before they left, respectfully and sincerely thanking him. Even though no one held any suspicions towards Xiao Lin's status as a monitor anymore, Xiao Lin had still missed out on too many monthly examinations; it was inevitable that there would be those who would criticize him for not being reliable.

Most of them had seen Xiao Lin's skills during the last semester, but no one expected that Xiao Lin's skills would improve to such a horrifying degree after just half a semester. Knowing and experiencing it for themselves were two completely different matters, and after such an astonishing battle, even those who did not do anything felt their blood pumping.

They all knew that it was because of Xiao Lin that they managed to survive the examination.

As for those who died earlier and did not know anything, they were at a loss, but their friends would quickly explain the matter with a proud and honoring tone.

That was right, being able to witness a battle of that level and survive caused them to feel honored. More importantly, the one who defeated an enemy of that level was Xiao Lin, their own monitor.

"Let me tell you, Xiao Lin was incredibly strong. I think that battle was at least Silver-ranked..."

"I really have to bow down to him. It's a pity you died early. That last battle was so intense, I was so anxious as I was looking on."

"You know? The monitor looked so good when he fought. I've decided that Xiao Lin is my idol from today onward!"

...

Listening to the conversations around him, Xiao Lin did not know how to react. He was actually a little ashamed; the difficulty of the examination had been increased because of him; if the sea god was just at Silver rank, it would not have been so difficult.

When most of the people in the classroom had left, Xiao Lin stood up and said to the woman next to him, "Shall we go back together?"

Gu Xiaoyue hesitated for a moment before nodding.

Xiao Lin was surprised. The woman rarely agreed. He was immediately elated, and could not help but wonder if he should just invite her to eat together.

Gu Xiaoyue was actually very shy. Even though she was quite good friends with Xiao Lin, it was only when they were alone. She was still not used to being out in public, so she mostly rejected such invitations.

Xiao Lin more or less understood how the woman felt, which was why he had waited until most of them had left and the space was emptier. It was more natural that way.

They walked along the green trails. Even though China on Earth was having summer, the constant temperature in the academy's space ensured that the weather was always just right. Putting aside anything else, the environment around the school was very good. Slowly walking among the extraordinarily lush and colorful flowers and trees that had been bolstered by magic was a great experience.

Chapter 600 - Coma

Chapter 600: Coma

Since it had been some time since the end of the examination, most of the students had returned to their rooms to rest. The occasional passers-by would not notice those young people walking around. It was one of Xiao Lin's rare chances to interact with Gu Xiaoyue, and as he was wondering what to say, Gu Xiaoyue opened her mouth first.

"Are you alright?" Gu Xiaoyue's eyes carried a faint hint of concern.

Xiao Lin's heart was warmed as he smiled. "Relax, don't forget that, as long as we don't die, any physical injuries will automatically recover after leaving the simulated examination space. Speaking of which, it's quite amazing. I've actually asked Song Junlang about the simulated examination space before. Did you know?"

Gu Xiaoyue looked at Xiao Lin, who was deliberately playing the fool, helplessly. She opened her mouth, but did not manage to say what she wanted to. There was a trace of worry in her eyes, but in the end she nodded slightly. Even though she was a stubborn woman, thanks to Xiao Lin, it was no longer the first time she changed her decision because of someone else's words.

"Speaking about the simulated examination space, it's actually a bit similar to the games on Earth. In truth, in a lot of the examinations, I couldn't help but wonder if such lifelike NPCs were actually alive, even though they had already died in history. Well, you know this as well. We've encountered some weird things when it comes to time theory, so you can't really say.

"That's right, Poseidon actually recognized us at that time, and I hope you didn't tell anyone. I was really scared, since sealing Poseidon felt very recent, but it was actually tens of millions of years ago..."

Gu Xiaoyue was not good with conversation, so in order for it to not fall into silence, Xiao Lin was always looking for topics of conversation, such as discussions about examinations and various guesses about Poseidon.

Gu Xiaoyue quietly listened, and would occasionally nod in response, but most of the time she did not seem to be listening earnestly. The worry on her face actually got thicker and thicker. She had wanted to interrupt Xiao Lin a few times, but she kept hesitating.

Xiao Lin might not have realized it himself, but his complexion was not great. Under the sunlight that shot through the trees, his face was pale and ashen, but Xiao Lin did not feel anything, and he was just walking along as he talked. After a long time, he finally realized something was off about Gu Xiaoyue's expression.

"Hey, did I say something wrong?" Xiao Lin smiled with uncertainty, tilting his head. He thought that he had said something awkward to Gu Xiaoyue, and waved. "I don't know what I said, but don't take it to heart, I'm just..."

His words stopped there. After that, Xiao Lin felt like his heart had been grabbed by someone. He opened his mouth, and his nostrils flared as if he was trying to breathe. However, the suffocation felt like it covered his whole body, as if he had been plunged into an endless blackhole. He frantically struggled, but in the end he could only see the sunlight rapidly distancing itself from him.

The pain was hard to describe. Xiao Lin believed that it could be the most painful thing he would experience in his entire life.

Had the exam not ended? What was happening?

Those thoughts floated in Xiao Lin's head before he fell unconscious. After that, his body fell limp, and the last thing he heard was Gu Xiaoyue's calls for help.

Xiao Lin felt incredibly tired; the fatigue was not just from his body — it came from his soul. He wanted to sleep, and slumber forever. His muddled consciousness meant he did not know what was happening, nor did he know how much time had passed.

One night, he woke up in a blur, and he heard a soft sigh from his heart. The sigh was like a thunderous awakening that completely shattered his muddled consciousness. The chaos and the vagueness started to part as his memory started to become clear.

...

The next time Xiao Lin opened his eyes, he felt incredibly refreshed. It was like someone who had not slept for three days suddenly being thrown on a soft and comfortable bed. He definitely would not care about anything other than sleeping for a whole day.

Xiao Lin stretched comfortably before realizing he was not on his bed in the dormitory. It was a white room, with a white bed and sheets. It was clearly a hospital.

However, that in itself was strange, as Xiao Lin never heard about Dawn Academy having a hospital. After all, with the automatic recovery system, they would never need to go to a hospital, which was why Xiao Lin felt that it was very strange.

He pushed aside the blanket, and when he wanted to walk off his bed, he realized his feet were incredibly numb, as if he had not moved at all for a long time. He was caught unprepared; he slipped and fell immediately, but thankfully, his hand quickly grabbed the bed for support.

The door quickly opened as a few men clad in white clothes rushed in, curiously looking at Xiao Lin like they were looking at an alien.

"Who are you?" Xiao Lin was somewhat on alert.

The few men talked to each other in a low voice before quickly walking over; the man in the lead asked, "How do you feel right now?"

"Where is this?" Xiao Lin asked.

"Do you feel any weakness?" the man continued to ask.

“Who are you?”

“Did you have any dreams during this period?”

“What are you doing?”

“Do you still remember what happened before this?”

...

The two of them widened their eyes, talking in completely different circles. Quickly realizing he would not get the result he wanted, the man’s expression loosened, but he still maintained an apprehension against Xiao Lin. “Do you know how long you’ve been unconscious for?”

Xiao Lin paused, his recovering memory quickly returning. He suddenly remembered that he had been walking alone with Gu Xiaoyue when he suddenly fell unconscious. Then, he should be at Dawn Academy. He let out a sigh as he became more polite. “I’m sorry, I’ve troubled you. It’s possible that I overslept because the examination ended.”

“You overslept for an entire week?” The man narrowed his eyes as he emphasized the ‘week’.

“Huh?” Xiao Lin was stunned.

“You’ve been unconscious for a week. When you were sent here, you were in a fatal condition. If we didn’t inject the newest potions into you on time, you might already be dead,” the man said emotionlessly.