

Elite Mages' Academy Novel

Chapter 651 - Chen Dao Against Thomas

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If Smith had been more decisive earlier in using his terrifying strength after his transformation, if he could just drag it on for another minute, Smith would have won easily. Cheng Ming's golden sword aura actually had a lot of restrictions that Xiao Lin had noticed.

To Cheng Ming, even with his talent, it was still a skill that he had jumped ranks to use. Xiao Lin knew very well the cost and limits of using power that exceeded one's own strength, so even though Cheng Ming had learned golden sword aura, with his current skill and rank, it could not be easy using it.

Smith's torrential assault earlier never gave Cheng Ming the chance to use it, yet his opponent had given Cheng Ming the chance at the final moments.

An instant turning of the tables!

"Not bad! Golden sword aura!" Raymond was still smiling, but the smile felt a bit heavier. After that, he shook his head, saying regretfully, "Oh, Smith. Even though I've repeatedly told him not to underestimate you, that man still did it. We've lost this round."

After that, Raymond decisively left Dawn Academy's spectator stands, leaving Xiao Lin a little stunned because the match had yet to actually end. Smith might be at a disadvantage, but the injuries he had received could all be recovered from.

Based on the current situation, Cheng Ming had a sixty percent chance of winning at most.

Yet, only a few minutes had passed, and the situation rapidly turned south. Smith seemed incredibly dispirited after losing his King Lycanthropy, and even though he seemed to have solid foundations, and his fist techniques and footwork were all really good, he could not stand up to the golden sword aura at all.

After another minute, Smith sighed and raised his hand in surrender. To the Americans, surrendering when there was no hope for victory was nothing to be ashamed of.

"Dawn Academy has won the first match. The score is one to zero!" As someone from the tournament committee, he expressionlessly announced the results.

The match only lasted for five to six minutes, which was definitely quick for an individual duel, but the results were definitely out of Judge Academy's expectations. Smith had an S-rank talent, while Cheng Ming's Swordheart was only A-ranked.

On the side of Dawn Academy, Cheng Ming was helped out of the arena, being incredibly wounded. He did not even speak, and merely shot a happy look at everyone before he was brought away on a stretcher to be treated.

Based on the rules, those who participated in the individual matches could not enter the subsequent fights, so Cheng Ming had plenty of time to recover.

Xiao Lin did not have the time to worry about Cheng Ming's condition. He pulled Chen Dao to the side and said, "Truthfully I think we still underestimated their strength. The King Lycanthropy talent, based on what I saw, if the guy really used the talent to the fullest, Cheng Ming would not have had a chance!"

"I know what you're saying! I shouldn't underestimate my opponent. Don't worry!" The young Chen Dao acknowledged Xiao Lin quite a bit, but Chen Dao never listened to advice like that.

Chen Dao's opponent was Thomas, and apparently Thomas was Smith's brother. A pair of siblings being selected into an academy was incredibly rare, but it meant that the two of them definitely had very strong talents.

"Thomas is Smith's brother, and apparently he is stronger than Smith. If that's the case, it's almost certain that he has an S-rank talent, so you need to be careful," Xiao Lin said.

Chen Dao walked into the arena with a carefree expression. He had chosen to use the robes and staff for the tournament. Thomas might have been Smith's brother, but he was a skinny man, and he picked the exact same equipment as Chen Dao: a two-handed staff.

"It seems like he's another mage who focuses on the power of their spells." Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows. Two-handed staffs were different from one-handed wands in that two-handed weapons were even more powerful, but comparatively, due to the heaviness of the weapon, it would greatly affect mobility. Because of that, single-handed wands were more suited for those who casted their spells rapidly.

Xiao Lin advised Chen Dao to learn some supportive spells, since that would increase the diversity of his strategies, but that immature boy had thrown himself even more fervently into the purest form of attack magics, and all he knew were large-scale fire spells.

"There's not much to say about Chen Dao. He's attacking style is suited for rapid offense. He uses his power to oppress his foes quickly. Thankfully, his talent allows him to do so."

As Xiao Lin mumbled away to no one in particular, the second match started.

Chen Dao said nothing as he walked to the arena, and his surroundings started to rapidly heat up. Xiao Lin and the others were shocked. The guy was planning on using his talent right from the get go.

"Fire God talent! S-rank!"

In Judge Academy, there were naturally a few who knew of it, and in the cries of surprise, Raymond looked over again. After exchanging looks with Xiao Lin for a few seconds, he let out a strange smile, saying, "What a coincidence. Fire God! Haha."

Everyone quickly understood the reason for Raymond's smile. Facing the flaming Fire God, Thomas was not surprised at all. After raising his staff and chanting a spell, a blue glow rapidly rose and enveloped him, and in the flow, countless water pillars shot up into the sky. Thomas's body was quickly covered by water. No, more accurately, the guy's body had turned into the element of water.

"S-rank talent! Water God! This is too big of a coincidence!" Xiao Lin did not know how to react. Looking at Raymond, the man shrugged, indicating that he did not know either.

Water God and Fire God were similar talents; they both allowed the user to have the power of gods for a short time, and greatly increased the power of spells of the same element. They were both S-rank talents, and were both magically inclined, so they should be equals. However, from the perspective of attributes, fire was countered by water, so Chen Dao's disadvantage was very clear. Xiao Lin almost suspected that their opponents had purposely arranged for Thomas to fight Chen Dao.

However, Judge Academy had arranged for two S-rank talent holders to fight from the start, so it seemed like they did not plan on allowing Dawn Academy to even gain a point on their territory. The number of S-rank talent holders in Judge Academy that year was incredibly shocking. After all, it was just the individual matches. The following team battle would definitely have S-rank talent holders as well.

Chapter 652 - Water God Against Fire God

Chapter 652: Water God Against Fire God

Chen Dao had completely turned into a human firing platform after transforming, frantically throwing out fire spells as if they were nothing from his two-handed staff. It was like a violent volcano erupting, and the entire arena was turned into a sea of flames.

The fire spells that Chen Dao wielded were all high-ranked. It was both because of his high intelligence attribute and the advantages that the Fire God talent brought. No one was surprised when they were sparring against him. Flame spells focused on attacking, and were incredibly strong offensively, so it suited Chen Dao's personality.

After Thomas turned into a blue body of energy, he started to float in the air as countless whirlpools of water formed around him. It had blocked numerous fire spells. In contrast to the violent fire element, the water element was gentler, and represented recovery.

It was obvious that Thomas's offensive powers could not compare to Chen Dao, but the water shields that he created had incredibly restorative powers. Even if it were Xiao Lin, he would not dare to compete against Chen Dao's Pyroblast without activating Ruin, but in just a short minute, Thomas had at least faced three of four of Chen Dao's Pyroblasts head on, and each time the water shields were dissipated, Thomas would immediately pour more magic into it. The shields were unending, and vast like the sea.

If the Fire God talent was the strongest offensive transformation, then the Water God talent was the strongest defensive shield. In the battle of the spear and the shield, no one could anticipate the final victor.

“Chen Dao can’t sustain his explosiveness for too long, right?”

“We’ve seen it in training. He still isn’t too familiar with his talent, so it will be troublesome if they were to stall for time.”

“Thomas is quite strong. He doesn’t seem to be using his full might.”

“Thomas is probably trying to stall. They are both S-rank talent holders, so the duration they can maintain it for should be the same. If the talent ends, then Thomas will definitely win if he has been exerting less energy.”

The spectators could not help but worry for Chen Dao as his opponent was clearly stalling. Based on their training, Chen Dao could only maintain his Fire God talent for around 90 seconds, so it seemed to be approaching the end.

Sensing Chen Dao’s diminishing strength, Thomas had started to attack while he was defending. The water vortexes around him suddenly formed two pillars of water, shaping into a sharp arrow of water before shooting straight at Chen Dao. Chen Dao’s perception immediately caught that sneak attack. Even though it was just a low-ranked water arrow, under the Water God talent, the power could not be underestimated.

Chen Dao could not help but use a portion of his magic to shoot out a flame ball at the water arrow, but his offensive power had also diminished by quite a bit. Even though it happened in just a few seconds, Thomas still grasped it, and the easing up of the pressure had allowed Thomas to unleash an even more intense attack. This time, he used Waterspout, a Silver-ranked spell.

The Waterspout surged forward and the sea of flames was forcibly parted. Thomas casted his spells very quickly, causing Chen Dao to be forced to throw the flaming dragon he had been aiming at Thomas to block the Waterspout.

“Chen Dao’s lost his tempo!” Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows. Thomas might not have used any shocking spells so far, but the fact that Thomas was able to hold back Chen Dao’s furious onslaught and even seize the chance to attack was very shocking. It was not a good omen, and the spectators could only give Chen Dao a silent prayer in their hearts, praying that the guy was able to adapt to his talent with all his training, so he would not end his Fire God too quickly.

Boom!

Constant explosions erupted in the sea of flames, and the fires had obstructed everyone’s views. After over ten seconds, the explosions suddenly stopped, and the entire arena was quiet. When the flames parted, Chen Dao was kneeling on the ground, gasping for air. He seemed to be in a state of exhaustion — a clear sign of overtaxing his mental strength.

His Fire God talent had already ended, and Dawn Academy’s participants could not help but sigh in their hearts as their expressions fell. Even though Thomas had also undone his Water God talent,

even though Thomas was also panting, his breathing was not as erratic, which meant that the man still had enough left in the tank to end that match.

“Chen Dao has already done his best. His talent isn’t actually suited for individual fights. He needs a team to support him after his talent is used to perform better. The one who arranged the line-up should be taking responsibility!” Han Manman’s cold, mocking voice could be heard. The woman had been holding back for a few days, but she finally let out her words. After all, she had no horse in the race, and her words had a hidden meaning to them that anyone could hear: ‘If I was competing, I would definitely win!’

The others could not help but roll their eyes. The two opposing competitors had both been S-rank talent holders. Everyone knew Han Manman’s strength, no matter who she faced, her chances of winning would just be lower. Since Cheng Ming was not around at the moment, the others did not say anything.

“The match still hasn’t ended!” Xiao Lin remained emotionless. He looked at Chen Dao who was struggling to move. He muttered in his heart, ‘Chen Dao, surely you have more up your sleeve.’

The match was definitely not at an end yet. According to the rules, there are only three ways to determine a victor: surrendering, losing the ability to fight, or death.

Usually, death was very rare, and in unwinnable situations, the weaker side would forfeit. If the opponents refused to surrender, the match would usually end with making the other party faint.

However, Chen Dao might have been exhausted, he still did not surrender, and did not seem like he had completely lost the ability to fight, so the committee member did not announce the victor.

Thomas furrowed his eyebrows. He muttered something before he threw away his heaving staff, chanting quickly before condensing a long water arrow and slowly walking toward Chen Dao.

He planned on ending the match.

Chapter 653 - Gu Xiaoyue Comes On

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Judge Academy’s side could not help but let out smiles. Even though the process was harder than they expected, the result was still what they anticipated.

Dawn Academy’s spectators could not help but shut their eyes; they could not blame Chen Dao for anything since Chen Dao had already done his best. It was just that the opponent was better than him. They were even mulling over how they would console Chen Dao later.

Everything happened in a flash. A short explosion could be heard in the quiet arena again, and the exhausted Chen Dao once again summoned intense flames around him, which was the signs of the Fire God talent activating.

The others did not even have the time to exclaim in surprise or wonder if the guy still had any energy left when they saw Chen Dao throw out a Pyroblast from his hand. The massive fireball shot out; the spell was way too fast. It had been practically instant, while Thomas's reactions had noticeably slowed. Even if his overall skill seemed better than Chen Dao's after the Water God talent ended, he did not have much mental strength left.

Even though Thomas wanted to, his body could not react in time as he looked at the Pyroblast that was fired almost right in front of him and pierced through his torso. The massive explosion sent him flying into the air, and when he fell again, his torso was already a complete mess, leaking out massive amounts of blood.

"Hahaha!" Chen Dao laughed loudly as his Fire God Talent ended, this time forced. Chen Dao had finally exhausted his last remaining energy, but he still stubbornly stood there, his body swaying like a flickering candle in the wind.

"Thomas has lost the ability to fight! The winner is Chen Dao of Dawn Academy!"

As the person in charge announced the result to the arena, Chen Dao let out a satisfied smile and collapsed.

Those outside ran right in, bringing the heavily injured Thomas and Chen Dao out and quickly bringing them in for treatment.

"How is this possible?!" The dramatic end had left many people in disbelief.

"What a smart strategy! That Chinese boy must have held the last bits of his remaining strength back to activate his talent. I don't think he had more than two seconds left. No, he might only have had less than a second left." On Judge Academy's side, Raymond sighed bitterly.

"Chen Dao had probably already prepared that Pyroblast spell, so he could immediately use it after activating the talent. He probably understood that he would only have one chance to act after activating his talent again." Xiao Lin slowly started to understand that Chen Dao's strategy was a little similar to his Momentary Ruin, leaving a bit back after deactivating his talent so he would have a chance to activate it again.

It seemed like Chen Dao had noticeable improvements after all the practice and training.

The individual matches had ended, and Dawn Academy took a temporary two to zero lead over Judge Academy!

The score was outside of most expectations, but Xiao Lin noticed that the Americans quickly lost all of their anxiety. After Thomas was sent off, they were calm again, and they told the committee member that the next match could start.

Were they so confident in the following matches that they did not care that they lost two points?

Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows before looking at Gu Xiaoyue, saying, "Your opponent is White. Based on the rules, the secondary profession matches won't be too complicated. Only medicinal studies, smithing, runes, and other limited subjects are included. White studies runes, so I don't think you'll lose to anyone else in that department, right?"

Gu Xiaoyue glared at him. “You better worry about yourself!” She entered the arena after that.

Xiao Lin smiled wryly as he rubbed his nose. Gu Xiaoyue still did not seem too confident in him. However, it was fine. As long as Gu Xiaoyue won, then their hopes were very great.

In truth, Gu Xiaoyue had a big advantage in this match. Runic studies, in the most basic sense, were the foundation of magical arrays and formations. Normally, mages would take it as their secondary profession. After all, in magical studies, it was necessary to at least have a basic understanding of magical arrays.

With Gu Xiaoyue’s skill and talent in magic, she was a natural at runes. Xiao Lin did not study the subject, but he still firmly believed that.

“There is not much information on White. I asked Yu Mei before, and this person seems to be more average in Judge Academy. Of course, even an average person here is much stronger than someone from the other academies,” Xiao Lin said.

“So this should be the match that we have the best chance of winning.” Sheng Guo came over to talk to Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin glanced at him. Xiao Lin did not interact with Sheng Guo that much usually, but Xiao Lin knew that the man was someone who was very good at reading the situation. Knowing that Xiao Lin was about to become the year leader, Sheng Guo noticeably increased his interactions with Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin did not reject these sort of interactions, so he nodded and said, “That’s right. Gu Xiaoyue’s talent in this department exceeds even Chen Dao. That little brat doesn’t care about anything other than fighting.”

Based on the rules, Dawn Academy could pick the topics for the secondary professions as the hosts. Normally, runes were the most common topic, so it was not that surprising.

White was a bespectacled young man, and did not seem like someone who stood out. The rules of the tournament were simple. After all, they were only first-year students with minimal interaction with their secondary professions, so the match could not be too complicated. First, the judge would choose a magical array, and both parties would try to draw it. The final product would then be judged.

The tournament was quickly about to begin, and the judge picked a defensive formation out of a dozen arrays. It was a picture formed out of over a hundred runes, and the difficulty was moderate, but it was still quite difficult to achieve the highest degree of success.

Even though Xiao Lin believed in Gu Xiaoyue, he was still a bit nervous because, according to his plans, if they lost any one of the first four matches, they would not have to compete in the remainder of the day anymore. As a first time leader, even if Yu Mei and the president would not hold him responsible, Xiao Lin would still feel some guilt.

Chapter 654 - Xiao Lin’s Match

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Gu Xiaoyue understood the importance of this match as well. Unlike Xiao Lin, the woman probably did not care about Dawn City's reputation, as she cared more about her sister, and would definitely do her best.

Gu Xiaoyue's concentration was hard to imagine. She focused fully, and those complicated magical formations suddenly became as simple as a few numbers. She only thought for three minutes before picking up the specially prepared magical pen and started drawing on the special magical paper.

White was still deep in thought next to her. What was required was not just copying it; one first needed to see through everything the formation contained. Once one had started, there was no way to correct anything, so he was very careful, but he quickly saw Gu Xiaoyue start. White was definitely very surprised, but he seemed to realize something and he bitterly smiled as he shook his head. He was forcing himself to start, since speed was also a criteria for judging.

The match ended after five minutes, which was much shorter than expected. The two of them finished their formations before presenting it to the judge. The judge was a middle-aged man with a sparse beard and he had a very formal expression. After looking through both of their completed drawings, he had a look of slight surprise. When he raised his head again, he looked at Gu Xiaoyue with astonishment, asking, "Did you finish this?"

"That's right."

"Have you seen this array before?"

"No. Everything I've learned in class is just basic knowledge."

"Unbelievable, how old are you this year?"

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Looking at how the judge conversed with Gu Xiaoyue with a warm tone, everyone else was dumbfounded and basically guessed the result. After a few minutes, Judge Academy's president finally reminded the judge to continue in a low voice, causing the judge to cough dryly before announcing the results. It was no surprise that Gu Xiaoyue won.

White looked very miserable, but Judge Academy did not seem too surprised. It was obvious that their information was quite good, and they knew that Gu Xiaoyue was good at this, so losing that point was within their calculations.

Following Gu Xiaoyue's victory, the current results were three to zero. Based on the seven point metric, Dawn Academy only needed one more point to be declared the victor. The team match did not even need to be held.

"I really can't stand looking at them. They're clearly in a dangerous spot, but none of them look worried at all. Are they really so confident?" Sheng Guo suddenly said, pointing at the Judge Academy students, who were not far away.

“Are they so confident about Martin?”

“He is the youngest genius in the medical realm.”

The others had naturally read Martin’s information before, and it was obvious that they were not so confident about the results for the next match. Of course, they would not blame Xiao Lin like Han Manman did. After all, Dawn Academy did have the advantage in terms of points at that moment.

The fourth match was about to start.

Looking at Gu Xiaoyue who had just walked out of the tournament room, Xiao Lin revealed a faint smile, saying softly, “Don’t worry! Leave it to me!”

Gu Xiaoyue paused for a moment. When she looked back again, Xiao Lin had already stepped into the venue.

Contrary to the image in Xiao Lin’s head, Martin was someone who was very skinny, and seemed obviously very average in skill. Of course, Xiao Lin would not underestimate the guy because of that. Xiao Lin knew that there were many types of people in the New World. They might not be good at combat, but they might have crazy advantages in other areas, and the guy in front of him was obviously one of them.

It was a pity that he was facing Xiao Lin.

The second match was obviously medical studies, which his opponent had the most confidence in. It was similar to the earlier match; the judge would pick out various potions, and the participants needed to prepare them. The tournament area already had many herbs provided, but not all of those herbs would be used, so the participants needed to pick out the relevant ones. The final victor would be determined by the effectiveness of their potions.

The judge quickly provided the potions for the match; it was a basic recovery potion – a commonly seen potion. However, recovery potions were one of the more complicated types. A basic recovery potion could cure light wounds and recover a portion of mental strength, so it was a fusion between a medical potion and a mental strength recovery potion.

To beginners, this type of potion was definitely quite difficult, but Xiao Lin knew that Martin’s skills were definitely not fake. The potion was probably child’s play to Martin. If everything went as expected, the guy would definitely produce it perfectly.

Xiao Lin was not afraid of his opponent. There was a large amount of knowledge stored in his head, and the problem was not as hard as he thought, so he was also confident in making the perfect potion.

That would present a difficult problem; if both of their potions were to be practically perfect, then it would be very hard to determine a victor. A draw could very possibly appear in that situation, which was something Judge Academy could definitely accept, but Xiao Lin could not because they had no hope of winning the team match.

A draw would mean Dawn Academy’s loss.

Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows, and did not start collecting the herbs immediately. He looked through the relevant information in his head, thinking about how to beat his opponent.

Xiao Lin strangely noticed that his pale-faced opponent, Martin, seemed to be doing the same thing as him. Martin was deep in thought, as if he had some dilemma.

Xiao Lin found it strange. Martin would definitely not encounter any difficulties with that potion, so what was he hesitating for?

Suddenly, Xiao Lin seemed to notice something, and his eyes brightened as he mumbled. “I see! You gave me an idea!”

After that, Xiao Lin started to collect the herbs that he needed. Martin went back into thought upon seeing Xiao Lin’s actions, but there was not much time, so Martin started to move after a little over ten seconds, and the pace he took for looking for the herbs was much faster than Xiao Lin, since he did not need to retrieve the information from his memories like Xiao Lin.

Among the spectators, even though they were not as good at medical studies as Martin, they still had some basic knowledge. After looking at their herbs in detail, everyone had a strange expression before they started to sweat.

That was because both Xiao Lin and Martin seemed to be using herbs that were drastically different from what a basic recovery potion needed!

Chapter 655 - Martin’s Potion

Chapter 655: Martin’s Potion

“I don’t think these are the ingredients for a basic recovery potion!”

“Yes, it’s a little different. For instance, I remember that the professor said that silver-ear grass was a necessary component, but neither of them are using it. What a joke. Are they really competing?”

“Not only that, there are so many herbs that I don’t recognize at all.”

“There are so many types, they’re both adding their own herbs to the original prescription. As for the effects... Ah, I wouldn’t know it.”

“They’re changing the ingredients themselves!”

“I think I know what the two of them are thinking about. They are trying to change the ingredients to raise the effectiveness of the potion.”

“Is that something first-year students like us can do? Don’t forget, our books were all written by people at the level of a professor or above!”

“That’s why those two are crazy!”

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The spectators talked among themselves. They were not dumb, and could quickly see what the two of them were intending to do. Since it would be hard for a perfect potion to determine the winner, then they decided to just change the instructions, making an even better potion to determine the winner. Since the judging criteria lay in the effectiveness of the potions, there were no rules against changing the production method, which was why they were well within their rights to do so. To a certain degree, the tournament committee encouraged that.

To Martin, the youngest genius, it was not such a shocking thing to do. In truth, anyone at that level would be able to do it easily, but the fact that Xiao Lin was doing it as well was surprising.

“Interesting.” Raymond stared at the screen before suddenly laughing, but his laugh was no longer as relaxed as before. He sighed after a moment. “We might have underestimated him.”

“If we lose this match, then won’t we...”

“Yes, we’ll lose.”

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Raymond’s words hit the hearts of everyone in Judge Academy, causing them to slowly think of the possibility that they could lose, but they did not really believe that Xiao Lin would actually be able to beat Martin.

Time slowly ticked away, and fifteen minutes passed without anyone noticing. From the four matches today, this was already the longest match, but the time limit was half an hour, so they would not have to wait for much longer.

To Xiao Lin, it was his first time refining a potion, so his technique was not very good. However, each step was strangely accurate and devoid of mistakes. Martin would occasionally look up, and would be unable to resist furrowing his eyebrows. The incredibly talented guy also felt like something was off; the way Xiao Lin was performing was completely different from their information about him not actually knowing anything about medicinal studies.

Xiao Lin and Martin practically finished their potions at the same time, and both of them had basically finished it at the last moment. The judge could not help but reveal a strange expression when he announced that the time had ended. Basic recovery potions usually only needed around ten minutes to make, and both of them had greatly extended the time. Xiao Lin’s extended duration could be understood, but even the genius Martin did so.

The next segment was the time to judge. In order to ensure the fairness of the match, the tournament committee had invited a grand medical studies expert. In truth, these tournaments usually only required those with higher level certificates, but considering Martin’s participation, they had been forced to invite a grandmaster.

A grandmaster in a secondary profession was a rare sight, even on Planet Norma. They would enjoy the best treatment no matter where they went. No matter if it were to their country or to the colonist territories, their importance was comparable to Legend-ranked experts.

She was a serious looking middle-aged woman, but she seemed to have a friendly expression toward Martin. Martin even greeted her politely, but it was no surprise. Martin had gone to the New World to undergo his certification exams, so the two of them had definitely met before.

“Martin made a strengthened version of the basic recovery potion.” The woman cleared her throat before slowly speaking. Her voice was a bit hoarse, but it was very loud. She raised the potion high, allowing everyone present to take a good look. The bottle was a faint blue color; it was a very clear potion.

“Martin, if I’m not mistaken, the topic of the essay you did at our medicinal studies guild was this.” The woman’s expression was friendly.

“That’s right.” Martin smiled lightly as he continued, “However, the last time, I merely stopped at the theoretical stage. During this time, I’ve done a great deal of experimenting, so I decided to do an experiment during this match. I hope you don’t mind my behavior.”

“How would I! In truth, after your paper was made public, it received a lot of attention, and many academies have sent people over to ask about it. Recovery potions are the potions we usually need the most, so if your new potion is successful, then it would save a lot of lives.

“Very well then, let me look at your creation!”

The woman retracted her smile, and placed a bit of Martin’s potion on a dish. Her hands rapidly waved as she casted a blue-colored spell. Under the glow of the spell, the composition of the potion was revealed. Xiao Lin recognized it as the True Sight spell. For potion masters, it was a good spell.

The woman examined it for over ten minutes, and even the judges were beginning to get impatient. Finally, under everyone’s anticipation, the woman ended the spell and averted her tired gaze. After looking at everyone, her gaze shifted back to Martin. Her expression was no longer just a friendly one; it was also a congratulatory one.

“Martin, congratulations! You’ve succeeded!”

The woman looked to another spot where the president of Judge Academy’s student union stood, as well as the other members. The woman walked over, saying with some emotion, “Do you know what Martin has just completed? Let me just put it this way... The strengthened recovery potion has increased the effectiveness for injury and mental strength recovery by fifty percent! Not only that, the new potion can even recover energies like sword aura and stamina!”

Boom!

A clamor surged through the brief silence. Recovery potions were something that allowed people to stay alive after they had lost the ability to fight, but could not allow them to continue fighting. That was because, even if it could treat injuries and recover mental strength, the fighters would still not have enough energy. Energy recovery was something that potion masters found hard to tackle

because it related to each person's physique. So, it was hard to make a potion that could be used for everyone.

Chapter 656 - Xiao Lin's Potion

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Yet, Martin managed to do it. The price of that recovery potion would immediately spike by several factors. The woman was correct; if the potion became commonplace, it would greatly increase survivability.

"This is an amazing feat! I need to report it to the guild as soon as possible. If there are no surprises, Martin, you'll win the best new potion award this year!" the woman said, full of emotion before she carefully stored the bottle. She would need to personally deliver those samples so others could experiment on them.

"Ahem! If you're going back, you should at least wait until the tournament is over." Looking at the woman about to leave, the person in charge immediately stopped her. The one in charge was a middle-aged man, but his status was obviously lower than hers, so he remained polite and humble.

"Oh, I almost forgot that this was a tournament." The woman slapped her forehead before saying, "But the results are quite obvious. Martin has improved on the potion, which has already exceeded the standards of the criteria, no matter what the person from Dawn Academy did..."

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"I think you should at least finish looking at my potion before you make that conclusion." Xiao Lin finally interrupted the woman's words.

Everyone else looked at Xiao Lin in surprise, including those from Dawn Academy. In truth, when the woman said all that, everyone felt like Xiao Lin would definitely lose, and the loss would be a complete one. After all, in terms of medical studies, they were all still novices, but Martin had already started to learn how to improve a potion.

"Sure, but even so, the results won't change." The woman did not feel offended, because based on the rules of the tournament, she still needed to look at both complete potions before making her judgement.

Compared to Martin's potion, Xiao Lin's potion was a transparent red color, and it was abnormally sticky, as if it were blood. Just from the outward appearance, a lot of people revealed puzzled expressions, including that woman. All of them were a bit annoyed because they could not understand Xiao Lin's potion.

"True Sight!"

The woman immediately casted her spell and started to analyze the composition of the potion, using that to infer the final results of the potion.

Martin's gaze also shifted as he looked at Xiao Lin and the potion. He seemed to be confused as well, but he quickly regained his confidence.

"Your hard work will go to waste. The results won't change." Martin shook his head and told Xiao Lin.

"How will we know if I don't try?" Xiao Lin did not deny it.

The woman needed an even longer time to analyze it, and after over ten minutes, she stopped her spell. Her face pale from using too much mental strength. When she looked up again, her expression was a bit strange, as if she was deep in thought. After a moment, under countless gazes, she slowly opened her mouth. "Your potion looks very similar to basic recovery potions, but... it's strange."

The woman's words were ambiguous as she frowned, as if she had encountered a difficult problem, but did not have any way to provide a reasonable explanation. The committee members, including Judge Academy's president, were all confused. They knew the woman's position in medical studies. If even she could not see through the potion, then it was quite unbelievable.

Xiao Lin smiled before clearing his throat, slowly saying, "Let me explain it myself. It is as you said, most of the composition and effects of the potion are similar to a basic recovery potion. No, to be more precise, there is no difference."

Those words were met with laughter. Everyone felt like Xiao Lin was admitting defeat.

Xiao Lin did not mind it as he continued, "I only added one additional effect to my recovery potion, which is that it will not produce any drug resistance effects after using it."

Silence!

Dead silence!

Everyone's eyes widened, as if they had heard something earth-shattering. If Martin had deeply impressed them earlier, then what Xiao Lin had done was like a grade ten earthquake!

All potions had their own drug resistance. To put it simply, it meant that the same potion could not be continuously consumed for a given amount of time. If it were consumed in large volumes, then the effects of the potion would constantly drop, and it might even lose its effects. One needed to wait for a period of time for the drug resistance to slowly clear up before the potion would continue to be effective.

That was why there was nothing on Planet Norma that could continuously replenish its strength. In the long term, all potion masters worked hard at reducing the effects of drug resistance in order to allow people to benefit from stronger potion effects in a short amount of time.

Yet, now Xiao Lin was casually saying that his potion would not cause any drug resistance. If it did not disrupt the tournament, many of them had the urge to stand up and scream at him because they felt like Xiao Lin had gone crazy!

Every potion would definitely produce some drug resistance. There had never been an exception!

Xiao Lin was calm, and after everyone digested that shocking news, he spoke again, “It’s just like you thought; it’s impossible for there to be zero drug resistance, but it’s possible to produce an opposing drug resistance, and it can only affect something like basic recovery potions. I used a fusion method to suppress the production of drug resistance, causing a state of equilibrium. Regretfully, the equilibrium is extremely close to a hundred percent, but it can never reach a hundred percent, which is why equilibrium can only be achieved if the effect of the potion itself is low enough, which will completely eliminate drug resistance.”

Most of them did not understand Xiao Lin’s words at all. Only that woman and Martin looked to be deep in thought. The woman was the first to nod as she smiled wryly, “Your theory seems sound, but it’s a very hard question to understand. It seems like we’ve been too obsessed with researching an absolute way to counter drug resistance, but your final conclusion will need a lot of research to prove.”

“Then won’t we only be able to get the result a very long time later?”

“Ah, there’s no way around it. A completely new potion would need a very long time to prove before it can be manufactured. Martin’s new potion has been talked about before, which is why I’m familiar with it...” The woman was not deliberately making things hard for Xiao Lin; it was just that it was hard for her to make a judgement.

Xiao Lin smiled. “Then it’s easy. If we want to judge if there’s any drug resistance, can’t we just let those who are present use it? With some reference to the candidates, I think the last few matches have provided us with some.”

Chapter 657 - Test Subject

Chapter 657: Test Subject

The others looked at Xiao Lin with increasingly stranger expressions. Even those from Dawn Academy wanted to advise Xiao Lin against it. From their perspective, the times that Xiao Lin had attended the medical studies classes could be counted with one hand, so they had no confidence at all.

When the judge said that it would have to be brought back for experimentation before it could be verified, they had actually sighed in relief, because it meant that the victor could not be determined on that day. The best result would have been a delay in the tournament. No matter what, they had won themselves some time, which could have been Xiao Lin’s intentions.

Judge Academy would definitely not be happy with that; it was originally an assured victory, so they did not want it to drag it on. No one knew if Dawn Academy would play some sort of trick in the meantime, and even the president's expression turned cold. If the woman really wanted to delay the announcement of a winner, he would definitely have immediately voiced his objections, and might even ask the Supreme Council to mediate.

As the situation turned awkward, Xiao Lin once again voiced a surprising idea, wanting to test it right there. Then, even Martin started to have a strange look on his face.

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In regular procedures, new potions would never immediately be tested on live people, especially new potions that even someone who held such a high standing could not discern, but Xiao Lin had boldly vocalized the request. If it failed, then Xiao Lin would not just have lost the match, he would face even harsher tournaments.

"Then who will undergo the test?" someone lightly muttered, and everyone looked at each other.

Judge Academy's students all retreated a few steps. If it were Martin's potion, they would be able to trust in it, but who was this Xiao Lin? They had clearly seen from the information they had that he was only a novice that had only started with medicinal studies not even three months ago!

Those from Dawn Academy were hesitant. Xiao Lin pursed his lips and was just about to volunteer himself as the candidate when a calm voice spoke out, "Let me be the test subject!"

Xiao Lin turned back in confusion and saw Cheng Ming slowly limping over with the support of others, his entire body wrapped in bandages. The wounds he had suffered from the first match had recovered quite a bit, but due to the special nature of King Lycanthropy, a lot of his wounds were not able to recover immediately.

Cheng Ming's expression was haggard, but his voice was firm. "If it's Xiao Lin's potion, I will trust it!"

Xiao Lin smiled at him warmly before looking at the others with a questioning gaze. Since there was someone who volunteered, then the others should not have an issue.

"Even if he dies, it will just be twenty years of his lifespan. Since he doesn't care about himself, we have no objections," Judge Academy immediately voiced, obviously worried that Xiao Lin would lay the responsibility of the test subject on them.

The committee members discussed it for a bit, and finally agreed with a difficult look on their faces. They did not agree with experimenting with a new potion like this, but just like the others were worried about, the results of the tournament could not be delayed.

"We've already given him an extremely strong Holy Potion earlier. Based on the principle of drug resistance on similar potions, the basic restoration potion should not have any effect on him, since the basic recovery potion is still a treatment potion, no matter how much you improve it."

Next to Cheng Ming was a treatment expert. He had heard of the argument, and immediately voiced his opinions. Holy Potions were a special, pure recovery potion. Due to the dark nature of

King Lycanthropy, Holy Potions would have a better effect, but the drug resistance it produced was very high as well. It was a basic principle in medicinal studies; the stronger the effects, the more drug resistance it would produce.

Since everyone was agreeable, the decision was quickly made. In order to prove his words, Xiao Lin made many bottles of the potion on the spot. This time, everyone paid attention to his manufacturing process. Yet, no matter what their views were, everyone was disappointed.

Xiao Lin did not use any special techniques in the process, and he did not look as familiar with the techniques as Martin did. Other than some strange ingredients, almost everything else were things that everyone was familiar with. Yet, the man dared to say that something like that could ignore drug resistance.

Xiao Lin did not need to look at everyone else's expressions to know what was being thought about him, and he was too lazy to explain since he had no way of explaining it himself. The new and improved recovery potion was not something he had thought up; it was actually made by the Normese about a thousand years ago, yet for some reason, the potion was quickly lost to history before it could be circulated.

The books that Bell made Xiao Lin absorbed had some notes from back then inside. No one knew how many of those notes were still left in the world, and in Dawn Academy's countless books, there were incredibly few people who found the notes, and among those who did, the ones that were interested in medical studies and believed in them were practically non-existent.

No, to be more precise, there was only one person, which was Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin was quite lucky to stumble upon that information in his mind, and after his repeated deliberation, he believed that the potion could work.

Xiao Lin's capabilities might not be able to compare to Martin's, but when it came to medicinal studies, his brain was practically an encyclopedia. In terms of theoretical knowledge, even ten Martins might not be able to beat him.

Xiao Lin would obviously not harm a nice guy like Cheng Ming. Even though Cheng Ming more or less felt like a lab rat, lab rats might not always encounter bad endings. Thinking about it, Xiao Lin basically played the same role for Song Junlang.

After about an hour, Xiao Lin prepared over a dozen bottles of the basic recovery potion, which was definitely enough for the experiment.

Next up would be Cheng Ming. The others looked at him with some sympathy, but Cheng Ming walked forward openly and honestly. He grabbed a bottle and gulped it down. After he finished drinking it, he rubbed his chin to the anticipation and anxiety of everyone, muttering, "I swallowed it too fast. I didn't get to taste it."

Potion bottles were about the size of a middle finger, so it really was not enough for even a mouthful, but the man was actually treating it like water!

Xiao Lin rolled his eyes and continued to pass the other bottles. When it came to the final bottle, the judge could not resist snatching it for herself. She needed to bring a bottle back for experimentation purposes.

Chapter 658 - Victory

Chapter 658: Victory

Xiao Lin had hurriedly made over ten bottles of basic recovery potions, and Cheng Ming had gulped all of it down in a flash. He even licked his lips and smacked his mouth. However, the others did not think that he was there to test out the taste. Basic recovery potions would have very limited effects on his injuries and, on top of drug resistance restricting it, the effects would be greatly weakened.

However, if Xiao Lin's words were true, and those potions did not produce any drug resistance, then even a miniscule effect would be equal to a strong potion after repeated usage.

Cheng Ming was feeling the effects. He suddenly widened his eyes, ignoring the protests of the therapists around him, he ripped apart the bandages on his body. On his bare body, there were still many scars of different sizes that remained from the first match. Even after an hour or two of treatment from the physicians, there was no way for it to completely recover in a short time.

Yet, those physicians cried out in shock, "Impossible!"

Due to the special nature of King Lycanthropy, Cheng Ming's injuries had yet to fully recover, but those wounds had already become very shallow, and even started to scab over. Cheng Ming started to wave his arms and legs around, and excitedly noticed that there were no longer any problems.. It served to prove that even his bones had recovered. Even though basic recovery potions only targeted light wounds, the effect of over ten bottles was still noticeable.

The Americans had ugly looks on their faces. Their president even walked over to repeatedly verify matters with the physician, but the results were the same. The potions they had given Cheng Ming had produced a great deal of drug resistance. Normally speaking, within at least 24 hours, other potions would not be effective on Cheng Ming at all.

However, the truth in front of them was obvious; Xiao Lin's potion had worked, and it was quite obvious!

Facts trumped debate; even if it was from a purely scientific perspective, potions that had yet to go through the proper analysis could not be completely judged.

However, the match needed a clear victor, and the final power fell on that woman's hands, so everyone's gazes fell on her again.

The woman had an incredibly difficult expression on her face. She looked at the crowd, looked at Xiao Lin, and then glanced at Martin. In terms of her feelings, she liked Martin quite a bit. He was

young and capable, and his talent was immense. She really wanted Martin to win, but Xiao Lin's potion shook her as well. She could not wipe aside Xiao Lin's accomplishments just like that.

The situation was at a standstill again, and the crowd could not help but smile bitterly. The tournaments had always featured the fiercest competitions, and there were many who lost their lives in the tournaments. However, no matter what they had thought, no one would have anticipated that the most intense match of the day would be a secondary profession match.

The secondary profession matches were something that had only been introduced in this iteration of the tournament. It was a form of encouragement toward the secondary professions from the academies. Too many people were not willing to step into those professions after they graduated, so the academies were forced to increase their performance. Even so, secondary professions were still secondary professions; they would never be as entertaining as fights.

However, their views had been overturned that day. No matter if it was Martin or Xiao Lin, the potions they made would not disappear after that day. It would cause even bigger waves in all the academies, if not the entirety of Planet Norma!

"I've lost."

A heavy voice could suddenly be heard, and everyone looked over in astonishment. They saw Martin with his head lowered, and could not see his expression. However, his tone was filled with reluctance and sadness as he sighed, repeating, "I admit defeat."

"Martin, the results still aren't..." Raymond tried to stop him.

"It's pointless, Raymond." Martin smiled bitterly. "You all might not have noticed, but as a potioneer, after I looked at the list of ingredients, I knew that Xiao Lin's potion is definitely the real deal. All he lacks is theoretical support."

"So, I admit defeat. That's it." Martin shook his head and left the venue. Others wanted to stop him, but were stopped by Raymond. Anyone could see that Martin was in a complicated mood.

"Ahem!"

The one in charge finally cleared his throat after looking at the situation, pulling everyone's attention back. "Since Martin has surrendered, then Xiao Lin is the victor of this match. The current score is four to zero. Based on the tournament rules, the first academy to reach four points will win, so the winner of this round goes to Dawn Academy!"

Dead silence!

Everyone from Judge Academy widened their eyes, unable to accept it. They were filled with anger, but were unable to express it, especially those who were preparing for the team match. Based on past experiences, the ones who took part in the team matches were usually the elites, so it could be said that Judge Academy lost the round before their elites could even make an appearance.

However, the rules of the tournament were so, and they could only watch on as Dawn Academy celebrated.

“A very intelligent strategy! Congratulations!” Raymond quickly put his heavy expression away, revealing a calm look before he walked over and congratulated Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin did not know how sincere the congratulations were, and mulled over whether he should politely reply, but he felt like it would come off as too fake.

Raymond could see Xiao Lin’s awkwardness. Raymond smiled before saying proudly, “However, I regret to say that we won’t be so careless next time. I’m looking forward to the next time we face each other.”

Xiao Lin could not hold back a smile as well. That was right; based on the rotation of the group stages, each academy would host the other party once.

The loss might have been outside of Judge Academy’s expectations, but it was not something they could not accept at all. Being recognized as the strongest academy, the Americans had absolute confidence in themselves.

“Then I wish you good luck!” Xiao Lin said in the end.

“You too. That’s right, I should give you a heads up. Don’t underestimate your next opponents,” Raymond smiled as he said, not giving Xiao Lin the chance to ask any questions as he left with his team.

After the surprising win, Dawn Academy’s team did not stay for too long. After all, Judge Academy were the hosts, and it would not be nice if they celebrated for too long. So, they hastily left Judge Academy that evening, and did not stay on Earth for that long. They headed straight back to Dawn Academy.

In the following week, they would be hosting the Turkish academy.

Chapter 659 - The Second Round

Chapter 659: The Second Round

After returning to Dawn Academy, the team immediately dispersed. They either went to rest or to find a diversion. All of the participants had special rights during the tournament; they could temporarily refrain from attending any classes, and could arrange their own schedule. There was only a week away from the next round.

Xiao Lin had a bit more to do as the team leader. He used a few hours to write up a report on the match against Judge Academy for the president and Yu Mei. Of course, the two of them had already heard of the result, but they were happy to hear about it again from Xiao Lin.

“You really gave us quite a surprise.” The baby-faced president praised Xiao Lin before pulling out a document from his desk.

“What’s this?” Xiao Lin asked.

“A reward from the dean..” The president smiled.

“The dean has recovered?” Xiao Lin’s face was full of happiness.

The president had a helpless look.

Xiao Lin understood and did not even take the document, pouting as he said, “Oh, the new dean. Then it’s fine, I’ll just leave it here.”

Yu Mei came over and slapped Xiao Lin’s head, saying, “You really know how to hold a grudge, brat. All he did was restrict you from going to the New World. No matter what, he’s still the dean.” After that, she helped Xiao Lin receive the document, but she did not even look at it. She threw it straight into the trash bin.

Yu Mei was also someone who was with the old dean, and the new dean had basically cleared up Dawn City after being appointed. Many important personnel had been changed, but Yu Mei managed to avoid it thanks to being responsible for the tournament, yet it did not mean that she liked the new dean at all.

The president looked at them helplessly, shaking his head and not saying anything. Of course, he was also someone aligned to the old dean, but the president knew how to read the situation. On top of that, the new dean was not able to interfere with the inner workings of the academy too much, so he was not worried about his position.

“The result of the other match was also very shocking. The Turkish academy actually beat the Japanese academy. From our reports, other than losing the two secondary profession matches, they won everything else.” The president quickly changed the topic.

Yu Mei’s expression was heavy as she said, “I might not like the Japanese academy, but I have to admit that those people have followed closely in Judge Academy’s footsteps for the past few decades, and have developed rapidly. Their power at the moment is nothing to underestimate. The Turkish academy has very shallow foundations, and has always been a tiny fish in the past tournament. The fact that Turkey could beat Japan is unbelievable.”

Xiao Lin suddenly thought of the reminder Raymond gave him after the match against Judge Academy ended. He nodded as he said, “Raymond told me that the Turkish academy was very strong after the match. It seems like we’ll need to be careful.”

“Are you going to continue using the same strategy like what you used against Judge Academy?” Yu Mei asked. They had obviously found out how Xiao Lin defeated Judge Academy from the report.

Xiao Lin hesitated, shaking his head as he said, “It’s definitely possible if the first match was against the Turkish academy, but they’ve definitely found out how we beat Judge Academy. They will be prepared for it. The individual matches and the secondary profession matches... If someone were to have targeted arrangements for that against us, it would be hard to guarantee victory.”

The president nodded in agreement and said, “It’s true. I’ve looked at Judge Academy’s line-up and, putting aside you and Gu Xiaoyue in the secondary profession matches, it was actually very lucky

that we won. Smith and Thomas are the least skilled members of Judge Academy, and I don't think Raymond would have expected that they would lose all four points. If Raymond had taken part in the individual matches, neither Cheng Ming nor Chen Dao would have had any chances of winning."

When Xiao Lin heard that as he was thinking about the strategy against the Turkish academy, he could not help but raise his head and look at the president strangely. Thomas and Smith were both S-rank talent holders. If they were the weakest, then it was unbelievable how strong the others would be.

No matter what, the next task for Xiao Lin and the others was to prepare for the Turkish academy. Due to the fact that the academy had always been overlooked, there was very little information on them. Even though there were recordings of their past tournaments, just as the president said, they had always been minnow-like existences, and were completely trashed.

It was obvious that the Turkish academy were only seeing a surge in their strength for this tournament, which also proved the explosion of talent holders. Since the Japanese academy definitely had at least one S-rank talent holder, the Turkish academy would not have less than that.

Since they were the hosts, Xiao Lin had wanted to discuss the plans with the president and Yu Mei, but curiously, they both rejected him, even indicating that they would not be participating in any capacity outside of providing information.

Xiao Lin understood their intentions. They wanted to train Xiao Lin's leadership and commanding abilities. Xiao Lin was still a rookie in that department, and the results could very well end up in failure, so Xiao Lin was touched at their trust. So, he put even more effort into his preparations. In order to not disrupt his daily training, Xiao Lin would only start planning during the night, and would only sleep very late.

A week passed by quickly, and the Turkish academy arrived on Friday. As the team leader, Xiao Lin and the president received them in the station. Even though there were translators present, the two parties did not interact much. They quickly asked for a training hall, and did not even rest before they ran straight there.

With such a serious attitude, it was obvious that the Turkish academy did not plan on being bottomfeeders in this competition.

The day before the rounds were supposed to start, both sides handed in their line-ups at the same time.

This time, Xiao Lin's name list had very large changes. Other than Chen Dao continuing to be in the individual matches, the other matches were all changed. The team line-up was: Cheng Ming, Xiao Lin, Gu Xiaoyue, An Luo, and Sheng Guo.

Everyone could clearly see Xiao Lin's intentions with that list of names. It was similar to giving up on the team battle during the last round. In this round, Xiao Lin planned on giving up three of the first four matches!

Chapter 660 - The Turkish Academy

Chapter 66o: The Turkish Academy

The Turkish academy only joined the colonization armies a little over a century ago. It was not that late, but because the Turkish used to be colonized by England on Earth, they had been helped into the New World by the British Royal Academy. They had been under the Royal Academy initially, and only gained their independence later on.

After gaining their independence, they also lost the help of the English, and were faced with various problems in their development. In an entire century, they only had three medium-sized cities in their colonized territories, which was considered very small.

Such a trifling academy, forget the major forces of Dawn Academy and Judge Academy, even compared to the Japanese Academy, they were far behind in comparison.

However, Xiao Lin believed that Raymond from Judge Academy would not have given him the warning for no reason, and he trusted the judgement of the president and Yu Mei as well. This year, the Turkish academy definitely had outstanding new students.

“I heard that the Turkish put a lot of heart into the secondary professions, so they are quite strong on that front. Unless we continue fielding Gu Xiaoyue and myself in that department, it will be hard for us to win. However, if Gu Xiaoyue and I participate in that, I’m a little worried about the individual matches..”

Two days before the match, Xiao Lin gathered the various monitors for a short meeting. Yu Mei should have been in attendance as well, but she and the president had made the decision to not appear in order to train up Xiao Lin, and Xiao Lin naturally took it to heart.

“Are you worried about Cheng Ming and Chen Dao?” someone asked. They were not accusing him, since Xiao Lin had become much more convincing as a leader after their massive victory over Judge Academy. At the very least, no one dared to directly contradict him.

“Chen Dao’s combat style is quite aggressive, and isn’t really suited for team battles. It’s better if he participates in the individual matches. Cheng Ming is different from Chen Dao. Even though your golden sword aura is very strong, truthfully, you are really weak against magical attacks,” Xiao Lin pointed out bluntly.

Cheng Ming was not angry. He rubbed his head as he admitted, “It’s true, I’m not someone who specializes in agility, so magic gives me a big headache.”

Xiao Lin nodded as he continued, “We don’t have much information on the Turkish, but from what information we have, their trump card is probably a mage, so Cheng Ming might not be able to win in the individual portions.”

“What about the team battles? Are we sure we can win with this line-up you put together?”

Xiao Lin smiled and said, “I can’t guarantee anything if it were against Judge Academy, but if it’s just the Turkish academy, then as long as I’m around, there won’t be a problem!”

After that, he glanced over at Gu Xiaoyue. The latter hastily looked away after feeling his gaze. Xiao Lin smiled softly, not saying anything else before summarizing the training for the next two days and allowing everyone to go back.

That weekend, the day of the tournament...

It was more or less the same as the first round. Dawn Academy had also prepared a large hall to allow the other students to watch the tournament. Xiao Lin and the others went to the tournament venue bright and early. This time, they were already familiar with the venue as the hosts, so they placed their attention on the Turkish instead.

Xiao Lin had wanted to shout out a greeting, but the translator was not there yet. Even though some of those present had very fluent English, they spoke no Turkish at all. It was more or less the same on the other side. They kept measuring Xiao Lin, but did not walk up to speak. The difference in language and culture meant they did not have much in common.

After the tournament officials arrived, the tournament officially started.

Xiao Lin and the Turkish leader shook hands. The other leader was named Said. Of course, it was an abbreviated name, since their full names were very, very long...

The first individual match featured Chen Dao. His opponent was a very young woman. She was not that confident of herself, and actually seemed very nervous, which was a hallmark of a rookie. Of course, Xiao Lin and the others did not underestimate her, but the match ended in just three minutes. Chen Dao did not even get the chance to use his talent, and only used his familiar spells to completely dismantle the woman's defenses.

Chen Dao left the arena looking quite unsatisfied, and even disappointed. To that youngster, fighting strong opponents was his greatest interest.

Xiao Lin's expression was weird as he encouraged Chen Dao.

The next match was Class Six's monitor Li Jiayi. The ponytailed woman was good at ice-type magic, and her skills were moderate. Considering the advantages of mages, Xiao Lin arranged for her to fight.

She did not make an appearance in the last battle, so she was a bit nervous. She could not help but tell Xiao Lin and the others to not blame her if she lost, but of course no one gave her too much pressure.

Xiao Lin did not have much hope for that match, since he was not sure of their opponent's skill. However, the results were unexpected, Li Jiayi only needed over two minutes to end the fight. The time was even shorter than Chen Dao's. Her opponent had chosen to surrender. The difference in the skill of both parties was obvious, so the Turkish did not want to waste their time.

Gaining a two to zero lead from the individual matches perked everyone up, but Dawn Academy lost both of the secondary profession matches that followed. Without Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, it was hard for the others to win in those matches. Most of them have not even studied the basic materials. Of course, the Turkish academy's performance was not that amazing either. They did not

have anyone with Martin's level of talent, but just being mediocre was enough to win the two matches.

The addition of the secondary profession matches had been in consideration of the weaker academies, and that point had shown itself that day.

However, Xiao Lin did not mind, since they had already planned on giving up on those two matches. The only thing that surprised him was that the Turkish academy chose to give up on the two individual matches.

"This is interesting. Did they anticipate that we wouldn't use the same strategy as what we used against Judge Academy?" Xiao Lin said thoughtfully.

"Yes, it's definitely so. In the end, you messed up your strategy. If you used the same strategy as the last round, we would already have won!" Han Manman could not help but mock him. She did not get the chance to participate twice in a row, so the woman was naturally unhappy.

The others looked at her with a strange expression because she was the one who said that the strategy was bad during the last round, but now she was praising that same strategy.

"It's fine. Let's treat it as some team work practice." Xiao Lin smiled in a carefree manner.

The team battle that served as the main event was about to start.

Chapter 661 - Kill

Chapter 661: Kill

Xiao Lin already had the Turkish lineup as well. They were Muhammad, Ahmed, Said, Sharif, and Aria. Of them, Said was the leader, and even though they did not have any detailed information, Said was very possibly an S-rank talent-holder.

The team battle was held in a simulated space. It was very similar to the monthly examinations. Of course, the area was much smaller than the monthly examinations. Using the special transference equipment, the two sides that totaled to ten people were all sent inside. As the host, Xiao Lin had prior knowledge of the field.

It was a simulated space filled with snow. Everywhere they looked had white snow. It was obvious that the Turkish were not used to that weather, which was the advantage afforded to them as the hosts.

"Cheng Ming and Sheng Guo are close-ranged fighters, so Gu Xiaoyue and An Luo will focus on helping from a distance.. The basic formation will follow what we usually practice." Xiao Lin issued the orders as the leader.

The other's did not have any opinions, but Sheng Guo could not help but ask, "What about you?"

“As for my role, it will depend on the situation.” Xiao Lin smiled.

They were using the most common formation. Of course, against an academy like Turkey, it was naturally the best choice. Xiao Lin was the key part of it. Xiao Lin had already considered his place in the formation a long time ago. As someone who could do anything, Xiao Lin was good at a lot of things. Close-ranged fights, long-ranged support, or even scouting were all things that he could do, so he did not rush to determine his position, and would change based on what his opponents did.

The five of them started to advance carefully. The area was not big, but it was not very visible thanks to all the snow around them. However, Gu Xiaoyue and Xiao Lin’s perception allowed them to cover a large area. After a few minutes, Gu Xiaoyue stopped. The quiet woman pointed toward a direction, and the others immediately understood what she meant.

Even though their vision was still full of white, it was obvious that there was an ambush in front of them. Cheng Ming smiled, moving forward as he slashed his sword out. He sent a shocking amount of sword aura flying out. In the massive explosion, snow flew everywhere. Under the massive amounts of energy from the sword aura, the snow turned into rain and started to fall. With the cold mingling with the warmth, a fog quickly formed.

Xiao Lin heard some sporadic movement. He narrowed his eyes and immediately pulled out his sword, shooting right into the mist while the others carefully maintained their formation.

“An Luo!” Cheng Ming immediately shouted. He was the one in charge whenever Xiao Lin was not around.

An Luo was the only one who specialized in archery among the monitors, so he knew his job without Cheng Ming even saying anything. He immediately pulled his bow, and aimed his arrow right at the mist. Even without any vision, he shot out a few arrows in a short amount of time. He then raised his head, proudly smiling at the others. “My arrows don’t require my eyes to aim!”

The others knew that it was probably An Luo’s talent, so they did not ask further. A cry of agony could be heard after the arrows were shot, but An Luo’s arrows were not enough to kill anyone.

However, that was already enough. Using that sound, Xiao Lin immediately rushed over. A vague figure appeared in front of him, but he could not see the general shape. It was probably a concealment spell. Without An Luo’s arrows, Xiao Lin would have had a difficult time seeing the figure.

Waterfall swordsmanship!

Xiao Lin’s swordsmanship did not need a clear view of the opponent as well. It was the elemental swordsmanship that he had recently learned, and it was the first time he was using it in actual combat. Cheng Ming’s sword aura had turned the snow into rain water, which gave his Waterfall technique the best conditions for usage. The swordsmanship technique was not hard, and was different from the flame sword skill he used before. Waterfall’s execution was quite simple, and did not give his opponent much time to think or react.

In the noise, the opponent had yet to recover from An Luo’s arrow when he suddenly noticed the rain in the sky starting to gather, forming into a massive wave that shot right at him. Waterfall’s speed was not fast, but An Luo and Cheng Ming’s earlier attacks had restricted the opponent’s

movements. The opponent was suddenly assaulted by water, and he started to flip around like a boat in the middle of the ocean.

Waterfall's power was not limited to water elemental damage. As an elemental sword skill, the water was as sharp as a sword, and each impact would cause the person to feel an uncountable number of blades cutting their body. That pain caused his opponent to shout out even louder in agony.

Xiao Lin did not have any sympathy at all. The way the tournament was held meant that death was something very common. He activated Miracle, and shifted all his attributes into agility. His blinding speed made sure that his heavily injured opponent did not even have the chance to run.

Xiao Lin did not continue attacking because he only saw one opponent at that moment. The other four were nowhere to be seen. He needed information from his opponent, but the opponent's next move caused Xiao Lin to stop in his tracks.

As the mist dispersed slowly, the Turkish man had a lot of wounds on his body, and the snow on the ground had been stained blood red. The guy probably knew he could not escape, and when he saw Xiao Lin approaching, he raised the sword in his hand and slashed his own throat before he collapsed in a puddle of blood.

Xiao Lin paused for a moment before running over to check, but that man had already stopped breathing.

"How decisive!" Xiao Lin told the others of the situation when he went back.

The others were also a little shocked. While death in the tournament was nothing special, it was rare to meet someone who would rather kill himself than be captured.

"The Turkish are very brave. No wonder they managed to beat Japan," Cheng Ming said respectfully.

Xiao Lin shook his head. He felt like something was strange, but could not point it out at that moment. However, it was not the time to be respectful to their opponents. There were still four opponents left, and the match had yet to end.

"Continue searching. Don't drop your guard!"

Xiao Lin and the others maintained the formation as they continued forward. Now they were already certain that their opponents had high level concealment techniques that might even be able to escape their perception. Considering the fact that it might be their opponents' killing techniques, they did not dare to be careless.

Chapter 662 - Opening Advantage

Chapter 662: Opening Advantage

Xiao Lin continued to maintain Miracle. Their opponents might have some concealment techniques, but the level could not be too high. That was not strange. No matter how high their talents were, they were still first-year students in the end. It was hard to completely conceal their own auras, and they would, at most, be able to reduce the detection radius.

For mages that were at a more ordinary level like Li Jiayi, they would basically lose their perception abilities in that situation. However, to Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue, whose intelligence attributes were incredible, they were not very affected.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue quickly found a new clue; it was toward their southeastern direction. They once again caught onto the aura of a Turkish person.

Just like earlier, Cheng Ming first used his immense sword aura to open the way, An Luo and Li Jiayi (1) then used their long-ranged magic and arrows to launch an attack. The goal was not to kill, but rather to seal off any escape routes. Xiao Lin would then activate Phantom Steps and close the distance.

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That was one of the more common moves they had practiced. They were already very proficient with it after practicing it so many times. This time, their opponent was more skilled than the one earlier. He avoided Cheng Ming, An Luo, and Li Jiayi's attacks, and even managed to find room to counterattack.

A few wind blades came flying over. The opponent was also a mage, but that kind of spell was nothing to Cheng Ming and the others who were already prepared for it. No one else even needed to make a move as Cheng Ming sliced it away with his sword aura.

"Their casting speed is fast!" Xiao Lin exclaimed silently. Wind Blade was only a Black Iron-rank spell, and the usual casting speed was around one to two seconds. Those who were incredibly familiar with it could lower that time down to under a second, but their opponent did not even need a breath's time.

They could not give the opponent any more chances to cast spells!

Xiao Lin did not dare to be careless since their opponent was obviously not a weakling. Gu Xiaoyue's presence meant he could not take any risks. Because Gu Xiaoyue's attributes were incredibly unbalanced, her weak body meant that her defensive ability was incredibly bad, and even the low-ranked Wind Blade would be able to kill that woman if it hit her.

With that in mind, Xiao Lin did not hesitate to activate Ruin. The sword aura in his hand expanded to the greatest level in a flash, and the opponent did not even have time to reach them when he saw a dark figure rushing forward.

Flame Swordsmanship!

He slashed out a bout of elemental sword aura; it something that was similar to his flame sword aura, since Flame Swordsmanship only used sword aura converted into fire to cause both physical and magical damage. The power was slightly weaker, but it was easier to control.

In his Ruin state, the Flame Sword Aura sent the Turkish man flying. When Xiao Lin chased after him, he realized that the unlucky man had already been burned to death.

Without high enough physical attributes or the correct type of armor, it was actually quite hard to withstand Xiao Lin's full powered strike under Ruin.

It had only been ten minutes, and the Turkish academy had already lost two people. Both the spectators outside and Xiao Lin's team breathed out a sigh of relief at that moment.

It was five to three. As long as Dawn Academy did not make any huge mistakes, the match was already in their hands.

"The Turkish academy probably wanted to use the snowy weather and their concealment abilities to separate and disrupt us."

"It's quite a good strategy in unfamiliar territory. If we encountered a map with low visibility in our away matches, we should probably use this tactic as well."

"However, the Turkish academy really is way too weak. I thought that they had sent all their experts to the team match after their individual fights ended so quickly."

"Compared to Judge Academy, they really are several levels below."

The large advantage had caused the atmosphere to lighten up, and they started to engage in idle chatter. They only quieted down after Xiao Lin stopped them, but even Xiao Lin had a look that said victory was assured.

After fifteen minutes, that advantage expanded again.

Xiao Lin and the others maintained the formation, not taking any risks or splitting up despite their advantage. It was to prevent the Turkish from having any chance of turning the tables. After fifteen minutes, they killed two more people.

The other two also had very average skills, but their performance was quite stubborn. After being surrounded by five people, they both chose to kill themselves, despite having the option to surrender and save some of their life span.

Only one person remained from the Turkish academy, which was their leader Said. In a seemingly hopeless situation, Said did not choose to surrender. Based on the tournament rules, as long as the team battle was not forfeited, they would have to fight until the last person was killed, or wait until the match timer ended.

Said still did not appear, and the match timer was approaching an end. Cheng Ming and the others could not help but reveal a shameless expression because the four other Turkish opponents' tenacity and boldness contrasted too much with Said stalling for time to preserve his life.

It was also Cheng Ming's words that caused Xiao Lin to feel like something was off. In truth, from the moment the first Turkish opponent killed himself, Xiao Lin started to feel like he was neglecting something. However, due to his nerves in the competition, he forced himself to not be distracted. With their expanding advantage, he did not think too deeply into it.

At that moment, Xiao Lin had a moment of realization, finally realizing what he had missed.

“Corpses!”

“What corpses?”

After crying out in shock, Xiao Lin did not have time to explain as he flew right to the battlefield from earlier. The blood on the snow had yet to disappear, and not far away, the corpse was still there. A thin layer of snow had fallen on it.

“That’s not right. This is wrong!” Xiao Lin’s expression turned dark.

The match was held in a space completely similar to monthly examinations. Any death within would be affected by the Law of Resurrection, and would have them resurrect immediately, losing ten years of their life span.

Xiao Lin had seen many resurrections before, and he knew clearly that corpses would immediately disappear after dying, dispersing into spirit fragments before recombining, thus completing the resurrection.

Yet, the corpses of the four opponents they had killed during this match did not disappear, and were still quietly lying in the field!

The other’s finally reacted to Xiao Lin’s words, and their expressions changed quickly. The strange situation confused them.

We realize that the original lineup had Sheng Guo instead of Li Jiayi, but the author seems to have mixed it up. We will be following the original text on this matter.

Chapter 663 - Corpse Explosion

Chapter 663: Corpse Explosion

As Xiao Lin and the others were filled with confusion and shock, the closest corpse to them, the one that they had just killed, started to emit a black mist from its body which slowly covered itself up. The mist was like a formless hand. It was constantly shifting as it forcibly dragged the corpse back to a standing position, like it had come back to life.

However, the corpse had lifeless eyes, and did not seem to be capable of any self-thought. It seemed like a puppet that was being controlled by the black mist.

“Necromancy!” Gu Xiaoyue calmly shouted out.

Xiao Lin was the second one to react. He had learned necromantic meditation before, so he was not completely foreign to the concept; it was just that he had not used it recently, so it had slipped his

mind. Hearing Gu Xiaoyue's words, he looked at that cold woman with some surprise. It seemed like Gu Xiaoyue had looked into necromancy as well.

The thought quickly passed, and he did not dwell on it, because the Turkish corpse quickly shot forward at an incredibly high speed and started its attack.

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The corpse was a close-ranged fighter, and Xiao Lin had estimated the man's strength during the earlier confrontation. The fighter was not that strong. Of course, he was still a level above a regular student.

However, after being controlled by the mist, the man seemed to have leveled up both in speed and power. If the man had been Black Iron-ranked before he died, then he was now at least at Bronze rank.

Xiao Lin felt a chill in his heart. He had read quite a few books on necromancy from the library; in the vast amounts of books he read, he never heard of that spell.

Necromancers were good at controlling the dead, but no matter if it was spirits of corpses, they would never have their strength increased by so much. It was not something a regular spell could do.

"Is it a talent?" Xiao Lin was more or less certain. Deep in the vast snow, the last member of the Turkish academy, Said, was obviously the final trump card of the Turkish academy.

The sudden attack threw their formation into some chaos. The opponent's goal was clear. They wanted to use the sudden attack to take out one or two of their fighters. Even though Cheng Ming immediately shot out his sword aura, the corpse was not a person, and could not feel any pain. Cheng Ming's sword aura easily sliced away its left arm, but the Turkish corpse did not slow down at all.

Xiao Lin immediately activated his Ruin state, but as he made his move, his intuition caused him to suddenly retreat by a few dozen meters. The next second, an intense light shot out from not far away, and the snow in the air was turned to water.

It was already too late when Xiao Lin oriented himself again. The Turkish corpse that had rushed over had used that moment of freedom to punch its right arm right through An Luo's heart. An Luo widened his eyes in disbelief, spitting out mouthfuls of blood before falling down to the ground. He disappeared into the air as the resurrection process took place.

Said's judgement was very decisive. In order to disrupt Dawn Academy's formation, he first needed to eliminate the long-ranged attackers. An Luo's archery had left a deep impression, so he made An Luo his first target. An Luo had always been weak in close combat engagements, and once he was closed in on, he did not even have the time to draw his bow.

Even though Xiao Lin angrily used his flame sword aura to turn that corpse to ash a few seconds later, Dawn Academy had still lost one member.

“Don’t panic! Circle formation!” Xiao Lin shouted, and the squad regained their calm after a brief moment of panic.

They were not amateurs. Said’s sneak attack might have been successful, but the situation was still unchanged. Dawn Academy still held the absolute advantage. It was just that their faces were a little unnatural.

Other than Xiao Lin, the others had never interacted with necromancy before, and Said’s ways definitely made them feel some disgust.

Yes, that was right. They felt disgusted by necromancy.

Even though death was something common in the tournament, the man had just casually used his companions’ corpses as puppets for battle, which was hard to accept. It was obvious that the strategy was something the Turkish academy had already decided on beforehand. The core of the strategy was only Said. The others were just cannon fodder meant to be turned into corpses.

Only Xiao Lin was confused despite his anger. Even if Said’s talent was controlling corpses, the fact that he could circumvent the Law of Resurrection to reanimate them was shocking.

What they did not know was that the spectators outside were already in an uproar.

It was not just Xiao Lin who had those suspicions; others had thought of it as well. The student union had already sent someone to investigate, but the Turkish academy had only sent a Department Head who had not much authority. On top of the communication problem, it was hard to get a clear explanation.

The chaos outside did not affect the match.

Xiao Lin had already eliminated one, and there were still two long-ranged fighters in the corpses that remained. One of them was already at Bronze rank beforehand. From the ray of light earlier, Xiao Lin knew that the opponent had already reached Silver rank after being resurrected, which was enough to alarm them.

Xiao Lin did not know to what extent Said could control the corpses, but the opponent’s long range barrage never ceased. When Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue tried to use their perception to determine the opponent’s location, a dense black mist appeared on the field, even covering the snow.

It was a spell Said had used; the black mist could temporarily restrict the perception of everyone within it.

However, facing the non-stop onslaught of spells, Xiao Lin and the others were not afraid. Cheng Ming and Xiao Lin were in charge of two directions. Their sword auras both already had Silver-ranked powers, and the black mist might have covered their perception, but it also restricted Said as well. Their opponent was relying on his eyes to cast spells, so the accuracy was quite low.

The situation lasted for four to five minutes when a vague shadow suddenly rushed through the mist. Even though it was quick, Xiao Lin still caught it. He suddenly thought of something, and clenched his teeth as he shouted, “Get away! Everyone disperse! It’s the Corpse Explosion spell!”

The moment he spoke, the sound of an explosion followed.

Corpse Explosion... It was a common but very taboo necromancy spell. It used the energy a corpse produced to explode in a flash, and the power it produced was more or less equal to the ability of the corpse before it died.

Desecrating the dead was something that both the Normese and people from Earth looked down upon. So, even the necromancers that hid in the dark within Planet Norma rarely dared to attempt using that spell, lest they invite disaster upon themselves.

Yet, today, they saw a Turkish person use the corpse of his own companion to cast that spell.

Chapter 664 - Black Mist

Chapter 664: Black Mist

The tournament did not have any restrictions on the spells that could be used. The main point of the tournament was to encourage the greatest show of skill. With the Law of Resurrection, no one was afraid of dying. The Turkish leader Said using Corpse Explosion was not against the rules, but his actions still angered many people.

No matter what, Xiao Lin had to admit that Said's strategy was once again successful. Sheng Guo could not defend in time and lost his life to the explosion. The opponent's corpses had already been strengthened, and had extremely high damage through Corpse Explosion. Cheng Ming and Sheng Guo, who were on the outer perimeter, were the first to be hit.

Cheng Ming was also affected, but his reaction was quick. He summoned his golden sword aura to block a large amount of the damage. Even so, he was in a bad state. Sheng Guo's overall strength was a little lower than Cheng Ming's and he was also the closest, so his death was no surprise.

Looking at Sheng Guo's disappearing body, Xiao Lin's expression sank.. He looked over at Gu Xiaoyue, asking her, "Are you okay?"

Gu Xiaoyue's face reddened a little as she gently shook her head.

The moment the corpse exploded, Xiao Lin had activated Ruin and blocked Gu Xiaoyue, so the woman was not affected at all.

Only three of them were left — Gu Xiaoyue, Cheng Ming and Xiao Lin. The Turkish academy might only have Said left, but he still had two corpses that could be used, so it was still three against three. The victor was hard to determine at that stage.

"Xiao Lin, I think we should retreat for now. It's too open here. The enemy knows everything while we're still stuck in the dark," Cheng Ming said with some concern.

"Stall for time?" Xiao Lin guessed Cheng Ming's intentions.

“That’s right. Even though that guy still has two corpses, corpses are not people in the end. As long as we manage to stall until the time ends, we’ll win with a record of three to one,” Cheng Ming said.

“The idea is sound, but if Said’s team dares to use this tactic, then they’ve definitely thought of this. I think the Japanese would have thought of doing the same thing when they fought.” Xiao Lin decisively rejected the idea.

“Necromancy is used through controlling death energy, and this black mist is not a regular spell. If I’m not mistaken, before the tournament ends, the black mist will cover the whole arena. At that point, we’ll have nowhere to run. Even though I still don’t know much about necromancy, I still understand some of it. As people who are alive, the mist won’t be good news for us.” Gu Xiaoyue pushed her spectacles and calmly analyzed the situation.

Xiao Lin looked at the woman with a mildly surprised expression. That knowledge was not something someone who did not understand much of necromancy could say.

“Gu Xiaoyue is right. Avoiding battle will only make us fall into that guy’s trap. We need to eliminate them before the battle ends!” Xiao Lin made the final decision as the leader.

The three of them started to hurry up, quickly leaving the black mist. Just as Gu Xiaoyue said, they noticed the strange mist slowly expanding when they left the area. The speed was not that fast, but it being a tournament arena, the space itself was not that large.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue had already recovered their perception, but they still could not find Said. It was obvious that Said was hiding in the black mist, which was like a formless shield that disrupted both sides.

“Putting aside anything else, if we just look at the effects, this strategy is pretty good. It’s no wonder they managed to beat the rising Japanese academy. It wasn’t down to luck.” Xiao Lin praised the Turkish academy, but his cold expression did not seem like he was praising them at all.

Xiao Lin suddenly smiled lightly, mumbling to himself, “Said... Even though I don’t know what your power is, if this is all there is to your strategy, then you’re just unlucky you met me.”

“Huh? What did you say?” Cheng Ming did not hear it clearly.

“There’s not much time. I’ll just summarize it,” Xiao Lin said.

Cheng Ming earnestly prepared to listen. He trusted Xiao Lin a lot.

“Cheng Ming, your duty is to take care of Gu Xiaoyue. I’ll eliminate Said.”

A moment of silence followed.

After a moment, Cheng Ming asked strangely, “Is that it? What else is there? I’ll take good care of Gu Xiaoyue. What else do I need to do?”

“There’s nothing else. You can just stay outside the black mist with Gu Xiaoyue.” Xiao Lin looked at the inky black mist as he calmly said, “Leave Said to me. In this black mist, I’ll still be able to fight.”

Xiao Lin was planning on fighting alone. It was not the best choice, but it was the only one they had. Xiao Lin was definitely no less familiar with death aura than Said, but Cheng Ming was different. Cheng Ming could not help in a fight like this.

Cheng Ming quickly understood what Xiao Lin meant, and could only nod his head reluctantly. Xiao Lin was absolutely confident in Cheng Ming outside of the black mist that was filled with death energy. He believed that Cheng Ming would protect Gu Xiaoyue well. Gu Xiaoyue did not say anything, and merely looked at Xiao Lin with a complicated expression.

Xiao Lin once again returned to the black mist without any hesitation. After activating Miracle, he entered necromantic meditation. Xiao Lin was already incredibly familiar with necromantic meditation, but his mastery was not that high. Since he had been busy learning elemental sword aura recently, Xiao Lin did not spend that much time on other matters.

In the space of necromantic meditation, the black mist was no longer completely dark to Xiao Lin. In his perception, in that limitless darkness, there were a few weak but white flames. Even though they were very small in the black sea of darkness, they were still very obvious.

“You can’t avoid me!”

Xiao Lin suddenly activated Ruin and rushed over without holding back. His opponent seemed to sense it, but Xiao Lin was fast enough in his Ruin state that his opponent was not able to react, even if his opponent did notice it.

Boom!

Xiao Lin’s flame sword aura shot out, but the flames only maintained themselves for a few seconds in the black mist before being extinguished. Death aura was quite cold, and had an effect of countering elemental energy, but the counter went both ways. To Said, the last two mage corpses under his control were suddenly faced with a charging Xiao Lin, and Said was noticeably caught off guard.

A necromancer that lost his puppets would only be able to rely on himself in the end.

Chapter 665 - Starburst

Chapter 665: Starburst

Xiao Lin was incredibly fast with Ruin activated, and the radius of the black mist was still not that great. After locking onto this opponent with necromantic meditation, Xiao Lin seemed to reach the area in a flash. Said’s reaction time was not slow as well. Knowing that he could not run, he stood there not moving as he sent his two corpses over.

Flame Swordsmanship!

Xiao Lin once again waved his sword. Even though the black mist suppressed elemental energy, his goal had been to use his elemental swordsmanship to deal with those two corpses. Otherwise, if they got close and used Corpse Explosion, even if Xiao Lin was confident he could block it, he could not guarantee that Said would not be able to take the opportunity to run.

Waterfall!

The quickly extinguished flame also turned the falling snow into water vapor, so Waterfall's power received a boost as well. The two elemental sword techniques caused the two corpses to retreat, and Xiao Lin managed to close in on Said.

Flowing Wind Swordsmanship!

Xiao Lin's sword technique was smooth.. The Flowing Wind Swordsmanship could use the power of the wind element to produce a wind field as he waved his sword, enhancing the flow of wind around his body, which was enough to blow away the mist. Even though it was only for a brief moment, it was already enough for Xiao Lin.

The two remaining corpses were finally completely exposed in front of Xiao Lin, and his last technique, the Grand Earth Swordsmanship, was used.

Grand Earth Swordsmanship used earth elemental energy to create a miniature earthquake around the user. The two corpses were restricted by Xiao Lin's elemental sword aura, and could not move with the shaking earth. When the earth stopped moving, their bodies were already submerged into the solid ground.

Grand Earth Swordsmanship was nothing special in terms of power, but its uses and limitations were obvious. The elemental sword techniques he learned all had their own uses, which was the main reason Xiao Lin had chosen them.

Without the two corpses in the way, Xiao Lin no longer had any obstacles in front of him. When he used his Flowing Wind Swordsmanship earlier, he had already grasped Said's position, and Said had already started his own onslaught of attacks as well.

As a necromancer, he was not only good at controlling corpses. Necromantic offensive spells were also very powerful, but for Xiao Lin, who had witnessed many necromantic spells in the Rosa Kingdom which were even more powerful than Said's, there was no reason to panic.

After avoiding a Disintegration Ray, Xiao Lin used the blade in his hand to slice the rotting ball that shot at him. However, he frowned as he noticed that the sword in his hand had started to decay. Said's necromancy spells were not normal either.

He could not afford to delay anything!

Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes, raising his sword in the air as he started to quickly spin and move around in the air. One reason was to make it harder for Said's spells to land, and the second reason was to get a good angle for his final strike.

Flame Swordsmanship!

Waterfall Swordsmanship!

Flowing Wind Swordsmanship!

Grand Earth Swordsmanship!

The four sword techniques were quickly used at once. With Xiao Lin's high perception under his Ruin state, he could feel large amounts of energy around him; the four basic elements were quickly gathering and frantically moving.

Death energy could suppress elemental energy, but it went both ways. Just like how water could extinguish fire, but a large enough amount of fire could cause water to evaporate

Xiao Lin might be able to use necromantic meditation, but if Said himself had a necromantic talent, then Xiao Lin would naturally not use his opponent's talents against him.

Starburst was the final stage of those sword techniques, and it was the first time Xiao Lin was using it after he learned it. When the crazed elements started to condense, even Xiao Lin jumped in fright at how strong the power was. Xiao Lin's sword aura had never been so intense, even when he was learning Starburst.

The dense black mist was split open again, but this time it was not due to the wind element of Flowing Wind Swordsmanship, but instead because it was enveloped by a warm silver light. Xiao Lin looked up, and he seemed to be able to make out a crescent moon in the sky.

That was enough to shock Xiao Lin again. Even though the simulated space also had night and day, there was no sun or moon. According to the president, creating a simulated space was something that required a lot of time and resources. Since it was just for a tournament that would last for a few dozen minutes, then the field itself did not have to be so detailed. Ignoring things like a sun or a moon would save a lot of time.

The crescent moon quickly emitted an intense light. The silver light seemed to fill up the entire sky. Xiao Lin focused his attention, and his sword started to move again. It was different from the flashy moves earlier. Starburst moved very slowly. Even Said, who had focused on the Intelligence attribute, could see all of Xiao Lin's moves clearly.

Xiao Lin slowly raised the training sword, and a silver light descended from the sky into his sword, continuing to fall onto his body. The feeling was very strange. At that moment, he felt an energy that was completely different from elemental, death, or life energies. It might even be a combination of the three, but it was definitely something Xiao Lin had never felt before.

Raise the sword!

Swing the sword!

The sword falls!

There were no complicated movements, or any impressive build-ups of sword energy or any shocking effects. Xiao Lin's Starburst fell easily.

After that came light. An unlimited amount of light was emitted, and the black mist seemed to have been completely covered by a sea of silver light, and finally disappeared without a trace.

The light was very intense but was extremely quick.

Before Gu Xiaoyue and Cheng Ming outside the black mist could react, the scene in front of them had already reverted to peace and calm. There was no black mist, no light, and no crescent moon. All that remained was that dark sky and the snow that fell on their bodies. Everything went back to normal, but a terrifying crater that was almost a hundred meters wide in front of them showed that what happened was no illusion.

Cheng Ming wanted to rush over to look for Xiao Lin, but before he could move, the snowlands in front of them started to quickly disappear. Their bodies started to slowly disappear as well, and when they opened their eyes again, they were already outside the arena.

The match had ended.

Said seemed to have been completely destroyed by that light earlier, and Dawn Academy's team had won, allowing them to achieve the final victory.

Chapter 666 - After The Match

Chapter 666: After The Match

There was a brief silence. Most of the people at the scene still did not know what had happened. The match had ended just like that. That match could be divided into three parts. Dawn Academy had the absolute advantage in the early stage. After that, the Turkish academy showed shocking abilities, including their mysterious mastery of the art of necromancy. The strange performance of the Turkish leader, Said, was a point of contention.

The final result was unexpected. Dawn Academy might have won, but even Cheng Ming, who was a participant, did not know how they won. No, even Xiao Lin himself was probably in a state of confusion.

Xiao Lin was quite puzzled. He had practiced Starburst before, but it never had such shocking power. Said did not even have any chance to retaliate, and had been killed off in a flash.

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With those questions in mind, Xiao Lin asked Cheng Ming some questions, but Cheng Ming shot back at Xiao Lin with some of his own.

“Xiao Lin, what kind of swordsmanship was that? I never felt any large surges of energy, but you managed to explode with such power in the blink of an eye!” Cheng Ming was not surprised that Xiao Lin had that kind of power, but he found that the sword aura that Xiao Lin used at the last moment felt very strange.

Cheng Ming was someone who had studied swordsmanship for a long time, so he was confident that he already understood most of the basics of swordsmanship. All sword auras, no matter the difference in technique, all had similar characteristics. On Planet Norma, they were all just different ways of transforming energy. However, Xiao Lin’s final attack was different. Cheng Ming did not feel any fluctuation of energy at all. It was just like a dead lake. Plainly speaking, there was no indication that a sword technique had been used.

Xiao Lin had even more questions on his mind. It seemed like Starburst was not an ordinary elemental swordsmanship style. However, it was not the time to think about that. As Dawn Academy was announced as the final victors, the tournament committee’s people sternly walked over to the Turkish academy. They looked for the leader, Said, and brought him away after some hushed words.

The others might have been curious, but they did not have any right to follow. Xiao Lin tried to, but was quickly stopped by the president’s gaze.

No matter what, Dawn Academy had won the second round. A little later, they heard of the results of the other match. Judge Academy had unsurprisingly completely defeated the Japanese academy. Currently, Dawn Academy had two wins and was in first place. Judge Academy and the Turkish academy both had a win and a loss, which gave them joint second place while the Japanese academy sat at the bottom with two losses.

“It’s quite a good start. We’ve already seized the initiative of making it out of the group stages. However, we can’t be careless. After all, the group stages are just the start of our goals.” After Yu Mei gave some words of encouragement, everyone dispersed. Even Yu Mei, who was usually very harsh, had a lot more confidence in talking to the Dawn Academy students after the two matches.

The third match would see them going to the Japanese academy. Due to some historical reasons, many of them did not need any encouragement to throw themselves into intense training.

Xiao Lin had privately looked for Yu Mei, asking her about Starburst, but he did not get any answers. However, Yu Mei found an even better person to answer him.

So, after two days, Xiao Lin appeared at Song Junlang’s logistics department. Due to him having been busy training for the tournament, Xiao Lin had not been there for quite some time. Of course, there were also some personal reasons for that, and Xiao Lin was not too willing to visit without a good reason. No one knew what strange and rare creatures would be there.

Everything seemed normal on that day, and Song Junlang made for a rare sight, lying down on the sofa and reading a newspaper with a serious and quiet look on his face. He was not continuing with his experiments.

Xiao Lin felt like he had seen a ghost when he was greeted with such a strange scene. After pausing for a moment and making sure there was nothing dangerous in the room, he walked in and poured himself some water before sitting down. Even after a moment, Song Junlang ignored him,

continuing to focus on the paper. Xiao Lin could not help but joke, “Department Head Song, there’s something wrong with you today. You’re actually reading the paper at this time. I almost couldn’t recognize you.”

Song Junlang speechlessly looked up before turning his gaze back to the paper, saying. “You’re going to leave for Japan in two days. Did you come visit me because you’re too excited to sleep?”

“What? Why would I be excited?” Xiao Lin did not know how to react.

“The Japanese academy is very enthusiastic. If you go over, they will probably invite you to play around in Tokyo for a day. Oh, I heard that they provide all sorts of services.” Song Junlang emphasized the word ‘services’.

Fine, Xiao Lin finally understood what he meant, but Xiao Lin chose to ignore it. After being silent for a few minutes, he chose to approach the topic directly, “I heard that Said was interrogated for half a day and sent back?”

“That’s right, or did you want him to continue vacationing here?” Song Junlang’s tone was still apathetic.

“Don’t you understand? Said’s necromancy in the match was definitely not normal!” Xiao Lin seemed a little anxious.

“You’re the one who doesn’t understand!” Song Junlang sighed, finally putting down the paper as he said, “Many academies are researching necromancy, and even place their priorities on it. You should be able to guess the reason. The resurrection towers and the Law of Resurrection. After Ivan, no one understands it. Even though we know the general reasoning lies in necromancy, it’s very simple; all the academies want to hold the law in their hands, even if it would end up in mutual suspicions and infighting!”

“Then did Said succeed? No, more precisely, the Turkish academy.” Xiao Lin remembered that Said successfully bypassed the Law of Resurrection and directly reanimated his companions. It obviously went against the law, and was something he was very concerned about. What caused him to be surprised was how casually this seemed to be treated. It shook everyone, but everyone quickly stopped pursuing the matter.

Song Junlang knew what he was thinking, and a helpless and wry smile appeared. That expression was rare on Song Junlang’s face. “You should stop bothering yourself with this matter. It involves some very deep things. All I can tell you is that the Turkish academy might be working with the Normese internally, but we have no proof. Since it involves the academies, it’s not something we can interfere with. It involves too many people, so you should stop asking about it.”

Chapter 667 - The Origin Of Starburst

Chapter 667: The Origin Of Starburst

If even Song Junlang, who had a backer, was kept in the dark, then it was definitely something big. Xiao Lin did not want to cause any trouble, especially since it was about another academy. He had no reason to care, so Xiao Lin stopped harping on that topic and went on to ask about the elemental sword aura.

Song Junlang used to be an extremely powerful elemental swordsman before he lost his powers. He had been at the Gold rank, even if not many people knew about that anymore with how many ears having passed. However, Xiao Lin once read the records in the library before. It was an easy matter for him to check some unimportant records in the library after the president raised his reading rights.

That was why Xiao Lin knew that Song Junlang would definitely be able to answer him.

“What? Starburst? You’re learning that technique?!” Song Junlang’s calm face turned strange after hearing Xiao Lin’s questions.

Xiao Lin immediately guessed that the man definitely knew a lot about it. Xiao Lin had found the right person, and he immediately straightened up in earnest, waiting for Song Junlang to continue.

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After a few minutes of silence, Song Junlang reverted to his calm expression as he brushed past the topic. “Whatever. I’d advise you to give up on it, the sooner the better. That swordsmanship technique has no future.”

Of course, that was not the answer Xiao Lin wanted. It was a swordsmanship style that he combed through the entire library to look for. After the battle with the Turkish academy, it would be hard for him to give up on Starburst’s shocking power.

“You found it in the library, right? Ah, if you found it, then that boring president definitely increased your reading clearance to the highest,” Song Junlang cursed. Only he would dare call the president a boring person.

“That’s right. I took a very long time to choose, and the practical usage of this style suits me quite a bit,” Xiao Lin said.

“To some degree, you’re very much like me back then. It’s reasonable that you think the swordsmanship style I used before is good.”

Xiao Lin’s eyes lit up. “You used this before?”

Song Junlang sighed as he said, “Strictly speaking, I’m the one who stored this swordsmanship style in the library. I thought that I would never see anyone using it ever again.”

“Don’t tell me you created it?!” Xiao Lin’s face had a strange expression. If that was the case, then Song Junlang had definitely been terrifyingly talented.

Song Junlang quickly shook his head in denial. “How could I have created such a refined style? However, the swordsmanship style was definitely created by someone else. Back then, no, even now, it’s existence is a unique one.” Song Junlang closed his eyes and revealed a strange

expression. It seemed to be in reminiscence and sadness. When Xiao Lin wanted to get a clearer look, his expression was calm again.

“I more or less know why you’re here. Starburst is definitely a unique swordsmanship style. Everyone is similarly confused the first time they use it. I won’t bother explaining elemental swordsmanship to you, but put it this way, Starburst’s power originates from the stars. The four basic styles before it are just to use the power of the four elements to move the stars and form Starburst.”

Xiao Lin listened closely and suddenly felt like something was off. He curiously said, “Hold on. You mentioned the power of the stars? I’ve gone through the basic classes of Norma. There are three energies on Planet Norma: the elements, life energy, and death energy. What is the power of the stars? Furthermore, if you’re talking about the stars, I remember what appeared in the sky was the moon when I used Starburst, and it was a crescent moon.”

Song Junlang had a disgusted face as he replied, “You should revise your astronomy. Let me ask you, is the moon a star? Can the moon emit light by itself? Do you think this is some fairytale from Earth? Everything in this universe, including power and energy, must still adhere to science. The moon itself doesn’t emit any light, and only glows from reflecting stars. As for the moon you saw, that involves Planet Norma’s astronomy, and I’m too lazy to explain that to you.”

Xiao Lin did not mind the cursing, and humbly nodded, saying, “So you mean that Starburst harnesses the power of the stars, but the appearance of star energy can take many forms? The moon that I saw then was just one of them?”

Song Junlang nodded. “More or less, but with your half-baked skill, if it can even be called that, it’s very hard to borrow the power of the stars. Star energy is something that is hard for us to fathom, and it is very mysterious. Planet Norma’s astrology is also the research of star energy. That High Priest from the ancient Thunder Kingdom probably researched it as well. However, no matter who it is, they’ve only understood a tiny bit. No one would dare say they have mastered the energy.”

Pausing, Song Junlang sighed. “So, I’d advise you to give up on this swordsmanship style. I think you’ve noticed as well. It isn’t complete, so there’s no reason to learn an incomplete style.”

Xiao Lin reluctantly said, “Who created it? Why don’t they continue with it?”

“There won’t be a complete style. There never will be.”

“Why? Has the creator died? Or do they not want to continue with it?”

“There isn’t more if I say there isn’t more! Why are you speaking so much nonsense?!” Song Junlang suddenly raised his voice, and his face turned a little dark and scary.

There was a brief silence.

Xiao Lin could tell that Song Junlang did not want to speak about it. He seemed to understand something, but he was filled with questions as well. Still, he apologized, “I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have asked so much.”

Song Junlang waved it away. “It’s fine. I haven’t been in a good mood in the past two days. Basically, there’s no reason to keep on practicing this. Oh, I forgot to mention, you felt like the power was immense because your opponent used necromantic spells. Starburst is extremely strong against death aura, and can even double in strength. Against a regular opponent, the power is limited.”

...

Xiao Lin quickly left Song Junlang’s place. Just as he said, Department Head Song did not seem to be in a good mood that day. It might have been because Xiao Lin brought up an unwelcome topic, but Xiao Lin did not push the matter. He respected the privacy and secrets of others.

No matter what, he managed to get some answers, and now knew why Starburst was so powerful against Said. As for whether or not he would continue, Xiao Lin would naturally choose to do so. It might have been his curiosity, but Xiao Lin would not give up on such an excellent swordsmanship style before it was proven to be useless.

Chapter 668 - Xiao Lin’s Invitation

Chapter 668: Xiao Lin’s Invitation

After five days, Dawn Academy’s team left for Tokyo in Japan, and started to get ready for the battle at the Japanese academy. Just as Song Junlang said, the Japanese were very warm and welcoming. The one who greeted them on Earth was a plump woman. Her looks were comparatively average, but her makeup was very eye-catching.

She implicitly stated to everyone that, as long as they were in Japan, they would be provided with everything possible. With the principle that every one of the colonists were family, they would not be treated badly.

A few of the monitors were moved by the hidden implications. It was just like the last time, and the one who followed them was just the vice president who held no power. The real decision maker was Xiao Lin, and Xiao Lin obviously was not interested in caring about those matters.

However, thanks to Song Junlang’s earlier reminder, he felt that the Japanese enthusiasm did not come from kind intentions, so Xiao Lin still reminded the rest of them with a business-like tone to mind themselves. They were only staying in Tokyo for less than a day, so they should just stay in their rooms.

The invitations won the favor of the female monitors, but the rest of them did not go against Xiao Lin’s words either.. At some point, possibly thanks to the president and Yu Mei’s deliberate actions, Xiao Lin’s authority as the leader had slowly begun to set in. Even though some of them might curse at some things, they would not dare to disobey Xiao Lin’s orders.

After that small incident, Dawn Academy’s team arrived at the Japanese academy.

The Japanese academy was built quite early on. Based on Earth's time, it was built around the period of the Qing Dynasty. The Japanese academy had rapidly expanded at the start, and had even leapfrogged over some of the older European academies. However, after the World War on Earth, the Japanese academy was slowly restricted.

Officially, Planet Norma's matters would not have anything to do with Earth's politics, so even at the worst points of the war on Earth, the colonist academies were still in a state of peace, but their mutual relationships would obviously be affected.

Earth's politics still managed to affect Planet Norma in the end. From the perspective of Planet Norma, the Japanese academy was only about a hundred kilometers away from Dawn City. The fastest carriages could have them arrive there within a day.

The two academies had intensely fought each other in colonist history. Even though they did not use military might, there were various things that happened in the dark, so Dawn Academy was never in a good relationship with the Japanese academy.

Xiao Lin viewed this match very earnestly. In terms of the line-up, he had some slight adjustments, and had himself participated in the individual matches. Even though he was very strong, being too strong also affected the overall team chemistry. They would likely be able to win that way, but it also easily caused the others to develop lazy habits.

With Chen Dao and Xiao Lin helming the individual matches, they easily won the two individual matches. In the secondary profession matches, thanks to Gu Xiaoyue being swapped in, they easily won. However, they lost the fourth match, and ended up winning the team battle by the slimmest of margins.

The team battle was a hard fought victory. They were forced to fight until the last person was standing, but thankfully, Cheng Ming used his golden sword aura at a key timing, allowing him to cut down two opponents and gain the victory.

Xiao Lin had been observing the matches on the outside. He finally let out a sigh of relief after the results were out. He had been nervous throughout the whole time, and it had proven his earlier worry. It was definitely not a good thing that a squad would suddenly not know what to do after losing just one member.

Xiao Lin needed a squad that was capable in multiple ways, not one that only relied on that, because he still needed to consider the future matches. The Russian Voyna Akademiya and Judge Academy were not academies that could be defeated with just the might of one person. Judge Academy's loss in the first round to Dawn Academy was only because of carelessness and them underestimating Dawn Academy. It was impossible to reproduce that result with a squad like that.

"No matter what, we won in the end, and that's enough," Gu Xiaoyue lightly said after being silent for the whole time. Gu Xiaoyue had been angry that Xiao Lin did not assign her to the team battle. It caused her to remain mute throughout the whole time. No matter what Xiao Lin tried to say, she would purse her lips. She looked like someone who wanted to be angry but could not.

Xiao Lin did not know if those words were to console herself or him, but he did finally get a chance, so he smiled and said, "Three wins in a row in the group stages. Our chances of making it out of the group are increasing by the day, so you don't have to give yourself too much pressure."

“The next match is against Judge Academy again, so how do you plan on dealing with that? The strategy from last time will definitely not work.” Gu Xiaoyue pouted, but did not continue remaining silent. However, her thoughts were already on the next round.

They found out earlier on that Judge Academy had defeated the Turkish academy, solidifying their second place spot in the group. Based on the home and away rotation, their next match would be the start of the second rotation, and Dawn Academy would be hosting Judge Academy. Considering the standing of the two academies, the match might determine the first two spots in the groups.

After the match against the Japanese academy, since Japan was closer, the vice president told them that the student union had specially arranged for them to have a few days of holiday in consideration of the continued fights. So, they would be allowed to spend two days on holiday on Earth. They were allowed to do whatever they wanted, but they needed to report back to the academy on time two days later.

For the first-year students, they only got one vacation each semester to return home. Even though they could usually write letters, the letters all needed to be checked in case they revealed information about the academy. So, that special holiday definitely won the cheers of all of them. It was an even better reward than the rewards they got after winning each match.

“Gu Xiaoyue, we should use these two days to sightsee in Japan!” Xiao Lin immediately invited Gu Xiaoyue.

Gu Xiaoyue was so surprised that she hesitated for a few minutes before saying, “I want to go back and see my sister. Chengyun’s next semester is starting, so I need to prepare her school fees, and her living expenses as well. Other than that, the home...”

“Yes yes, all these things can be done via long distance, and the people from the Earth department can help you do it as well. It’s not like you don’t know this. The Earth branch was formed to help with these matters.” Xiao Lin waved it off, smiling. “Two days is a very tight timeframe anyway. Even if you take a flight back, with all the transfers you’d have to take, you’d only be home for half a day at most. You’d practically use up the full two days just going there and returning. We’ll have a long holiday after this semester anyway, so we should just use today to properly relax.”

Chapter 669 - Chance Encounter On The Plane

Chapter 669: Chance Encounter On The Plane

Xiao Lin’s invitation caused Gu Xiaoyue to panic, not even knowing where to place her fair hands. Cheng Ming and the others acted like they saw nothing and dispersed. She lowered her head, as if she was making an incredibly hard decision.

Xiao Lin was a bit nervous. It was too hard to guess Gu Xiaoyue’s thoughts. Normally, they had way too little personal time in the academy. The intense studies and frantic training meant that they

did not really have that much free time, so Xiao Lin would naturally not easily give up on such a rare chance to ask her out.

“Fine.” After a long time, Gu Xiaoyue muttered at an almost imperceptible volume, causing Xiao Lin a great deal of excitement.

After greeting the vice president, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue used the spatial carriage of the Japanese academy to return to Tokyo, not going back to their country immediately. The others went straight back to the country in the plane arranged by the Earth branch. Originally, the vice presidents had some doubts. Based on the rules, what Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were doing was not allowed, since it involved the Japanese branch as well.. However, it was quickly allowed after he gave the student union a call.

The student union would definitely not stop Xiao Lin when it came to that, and had even helped him contact the Japanese branch, who quickly arranged a tour guide for them, helping them arrange the best vacation route, recommending certain sights and what not. However, Xiao Lin had rejected it, as he was actually not interested in sightseeing itself. Xiao Lin only wanted a chance to spend some time alone with Gu Xiaoyue, so the location was not important.

“I want to go to the beach.” However, Gu Xiaoyue had voiced her own suggestion.

Xiao Lin paused for a moment before agreeing immediately, so they went to Hokkaido.

Hokkaido was one of the 47 prefectures in Japan, and was the largest island in Japan outside of Honshu. The scenery was very attractive, and it was a hotspot for vacationing. It happened to be spring at that moment, so Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue walked together as they admired the remains of the snow melting in the wilderness. There were cherry and plum blossoms blooming in the grass too. They rented a house on the beach to stay in. After all, their finances were completely handled by the Earth branch.

To Xiao Lin, those two days were the happiest days he had recently, or maybe even the whole year. He went to look at the scenery with Gu Xiaoyue during the day, standing on the beach as they admired the sea. They even got on a boat and started fishing. Even though they were terrible at fishing, they found joy in it. They forgot about the academy, forgot about the tournament, and forgot about many troublesome matters. Gu Xiaoyue had even revealed a rare smile. It was a smile that was only seen when one relaxed after a lot of exhaustion. That alone made Xiao Lin feel that the vacation was the right choice.

It was a pity that the holiday only lasted for two days. On the second evening, the staff from the Japanese branch awkwardly came to look for them because Xiao Lin had chased them away two days ago, not wanting to be disturbed. Their attitudes were much more humble the second time they appeared. Of course, it was probably due to the strength Xiao Lin had shown during the tournament. The Japanese respected strength to a large degree.

Dawn Academy’s Earth branch had already asked the Japanese to get Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue to hurry back. Even though it was regretful, Xiao Lin obediently listened. That evening, they got on a plane back to the country under the arrangements of the Japanese side. It was a small private jet, and there were all sorts of facilities on the plane. The staff from the Japanese academy that accompanied them told them proudly that it had been built by their branch.

However, Xiao Lin was just slightly confused before expressing some praise. Fine, the praise was mostly out of boredom. Other than being in charge of recruiting new students and observing the returning students, the Earth branch usually had nothing to do for most of the time, so most of them would find some other profession to pass the time. For instance, the ones back in China had chosen astronomy and observing the stars.

The plane was not big, so when Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue entered, they immediately saw a young man smiling at them and waving. It was obvious that they were not the only two people on the trip.

Gu Xiaoyue felt a little awkward, and immediately pulled her little hand out of Xiao Lin's palm. Of course, that had not been her intention, and Xiao Lin had been the one who grabbed her hand on the way. The woman was usually cold and aloof, but she seemed to shed her outer shell in front of Xiao Lin, and revealed her exhaustion and loneliness.

"You must be Xiao Lin. I finally have the chance to meet you. I'm Li Cheng." The Chinese name meant that Xiao Lin had to shed his look of disappointment. After all, he was probably also from Dawn Academy as well.

"I'm called Xiao Lin. She is Gu Xiaoyue," Xiao Lin fastened the seatbelt as he politely replied.

"I know, I know. I've wanted to meet you for a long time." Li Cheng did not seem to just be acting out of politeness. From the moment Xiao Lin sat down, he was constantly evaluating Xiao Lin, from head to toe. Li Cheng's eyes had a curious glint, and Li Cheng did not seem to bother with Gu Xiaoyue, who was next to Xiao Lin, at all.

Xiao Lin shivered and tried to stand up to switch his seat. Li Cheng immediately grabbed his arm, and the strength behind it left Xiao Lin unable to retaliate. However, when he sat down again, Li Cheng's gaze was already averted. Li Cheng rubbed his chin, smiling as he said, "I've been curious about you for a long time, but I really can't tell what I want to know from your appearance."

"You know me?" Xiao Lin asked.

"That's right, but you don't know me. I've been paying attention to you since New Washington's red moon. The old dean's unusual bias toward you makes me curious as well... The way you handled matters in the New World made me take you seriously... I've paid attention to your results in the academy as well, and you gave me a bigger surprise..." Li Cheng said incessantly.

Xiao Lin's face grew stranger and stranger. The guy obviously knew a lot about him, and the guy seemed to talk about everything he had done, including those things that were not public. He finally interrupted Li Cheng, asking again, "Who are you?"

Li Cheng paused before slapping his head, laughing as he said, "I'm sorry, I forgot to introduce myself. This is my name card. Don't worry, we're all on the same side. There's no need to look so scared, my good friend."

The name card he handed over was very normal, and the words printed on it were very simple as well.

Dawn Academy Intelligence Department Head, Li Cheng

Xiao Lin suddenly widened his eyes, immediately understanding what that represented.

In Dawn Academy, the one who held the most power was the dean. Below the dean, there were various departments, and the Intelligence Department was under the military. However, the Intelligence Department was a special department that reported directly to the dean. The other departments could not interfere with them, and the Intelligence Department's job scope was very wide, as it included the academy's internal affairs, the Earth branch, and the entirety of the colonist territory!

Chapter 670 - Incident On The Plane

Chapter 670: Incident On The Plane

Xiao Lin exchanged a look with Gu Xiaoyue, both of them were a little surprised, especially Xiao Lin. He was different from the other monitors, who had never really left the protection of the academy. After experiencing so many things in the New World, he knew quite a bit about the governance structures in the colonist territories. He was also very clear on the importance the position of the head of the Intelligence Department was.

The fact that Li Cheng could so casually talk about everything he had done was no longer that surprising since that was his job in the first place.

After collecting his thoughts, Xiao Lin quickly relaxed. It seemed that Li Cheng was only coincidentally on the same flight, and did not come specifically for him.

Xiao Lin could not help but feel a bit guilty. He had hid a lot of the things he had done from the academy. The most recent one was his transactions with Dawn Academy's artificial intelligence, Bell. It was definitely something that could not be leaked.

However, since Li Cheng had not come looking for him because of that matter, then there was nothing to worry about.. Xiao Lin and Li Cheng were not familiar with each other, so there was not much to say after exchanging a few pleasantries. However, that did not stop the man from chatting with him.

It was obvious that Li Cheng liked Xiao Lin a lot, but Xiao Lin still found it strange because he could not shake the feeling that the man had an ulterior motive and was stringing him along.

The plane quickly took off, and Xiao Lin was naturally happy to have someone to talk with to pass the time. It was a pity that he could not continue talking to Gu Xiaoyue, but Xiao Lin could do nothing about it. The woman would only be closer to Xiao Lin when there was no one else around. When there were more people, she still maintained her usual cold and proud exterior.

The journey from Japan back to China did not take too long, and they would be landing in around three hours. As for things like passports and visas, Xiao Lin trusted that their Earth branch would not be troubled by small matters like that.

After chatting with Li Cheng for a while, Xiao Lin felt a little tired. His travels in Hokkaido had probably tired him even more. After yawning for a few times, Li Cheng could also tell he was tired, and stopped talking as he smiled. Gu Xiaoyue was someone who did not enjoy talking, as usual.

After Li Cheng stopped talking, the plane quickly fell into silence. Xiao Lin felt it strange that there did not seem to be any staff members at all ever since they took off, but that suspicion only lasted for a little while before Xiao Lin dozed off.

After an unknown amount of time, Xiao Lin was shocked when he woke up. It was pitch-black inside the plane, and the tables and chairs were scattered all over the place. There were dark clouds out the window, and the low rumbling of thunder could be heard. There would occasionally be flashes of lightning, but there was no rain at all.

“What happened? Gu Xiaoyue? Gu Xiaoyue!” Xiao Lin immediately felt like something was off, especially when he realized that he was the only one left on the plane. A sense of horror seized his whole body when he did not get any replies at all.

Xiao Lin immediately prepared to get up when a surge of intense pain gripped him. He immediately collapsed on the floor in pain. When he looked back, Xiao Lin was shocked to find that his limbs had all been tied up with ropes. Those ropes had a faint silver glow to them. Xiao Lin recognized them; they were a special fusion metal that could only be found in the New World. They were extremely hard, and Dawn Academy regularly used those metals to make restraining tools. Other than its innate hardness, they also had a suppressive ability. They could restrict the user from using any magical power or sword aura.

It was no easy feat to be able to obtain it and even bring it to Earth. Everyone who came out of the colonist territories would undergo strict checks. Putting aside these restricted objects, even regular materials were not easily taken out, but it was not completely impossible.

“Li Cheng!” Xiao Lin thought of that guy who had mysteriously appeared, and his temper roared. If it was the Head of the Intelligence Department, then he could easily avoid any checks.

There was still no response; it was as if he was the only one left on the plane. Xiao Lin clenched his teeth, and constantly increased the strength in his body. The restraints restricted him greatly, and after a few failed tries, all he could do was struggle as he headed toward the cockpit.

Xiao Lin broke out in a cold sweat when he realized that the cockpit was empty as well. The plane was in automatic flight mode, and not far away from the plane was a group of even darker clouds. In those clouds were countless mysterious objects. Xiao Lin did not know what they were, but he knew they were definitely nothing good.

Ruin!

Xiao Lin did not hesitate anymore, and unleashed his full power. Based on the rules of the academy, they were not allowed to use too much power on Earth because that would damage Earth’s already weakened laws. However, with Gu Xiaoyue’s situation unclear, Xiao Lin could not afford to dwell on it. The laws could just go ahead and die!

Those metallic restraints were naturally not unbeatable, and their suppressing abilities only worked to a certain level. After using Ruin, Xiao Lin’s power had already entered the Gold rank, so

the restraints were broken in a flash. Xiao Lin ran around the whole plane, but still did not see a trace of anyone.

The plane was already getting closer and closer to those clouds, and Xiao Lin had a feeling of uneasiness in his heart. He did not know how to fly a plane, and he could not find Gu Xiaoyue. He was faced with problems from every direction. He finally clenched his teeth and chose to leave the plane before deciding on his next step. As the dark clouds got closer, the uneasy feeling intensified.

He used a flame ball to blow a hole in the side of the plane. Below the plane was the vast sea. Even though he was not sure where he was, he estimated that he was probably still on the route back to the country.

Xiao Lin stepped forward, and the strong winds forced his eyes shut. He now regretted not learning any flying spells, but that was fine; he still had more ways to do it. Even though he did not have a weapon, under Ruin, he could easily summon an intense sword auras.

Waves of sword aura fervently danced toward the surface of the sea. Xiao Lin did not hold back from venting his frustrations. The waves that it caused seemed to envelop the nearby sea, but the blowback from the sword aura was enough to slow Xiao Lin's descent. When the speed of his descent reached a satisfactory level, Xiao Lin completely stopped and plunged into the sea.

Chapter 671 - Mysterious Li Cheng

Chapter 671: Mysterious Li Cheng

The plane finally entered the mysterious black cloud. There was no explosion or any fireworks. The plane seemed to disappear without a trace. Some changes quickly happened to the black cloud. The liquid-like substances on the black cloud started to move crazily, as if something was opening it.

An incredibly strong suction could be felt from the black cloud, and the sea started to become turbulent. Countless waterspouts started to form and spin toward the cloud. The suction managed to even suck in the sea water, which greatly shocked Xiao Lin. What shocked him even more was the fact that he could vaguely feel what the power behind the suction was.

It was the power of the wall of time!

That meant that there was a wormhole behind the black cloud. So what could possibly be on the other end? The answer was simple: Planet Norma!

Xiao Lin's mind was a mess, as he did not know why the head of the Intelligence Department, Li Cheng, would do such a thing. No matter what, a wormhole to Planet Norma was absolutely not a good thing for Earth..

However, that strange phenomenon did not last for that long. Opening a passage like that needed a lot of energy. Even though Xiao Lin did not know how Li Cheng did it, it seemed like the man had

no way of maintaining it. That was because maintaining a wormhole required tremendous amounts of power, even more than opening one.

After a few dozen seconds, the black clouds in the sky dissipated. Even though the sky was still dark, nothing strange could be seen anymore. Other than Xiao Lin, who was right at the scene, would anyone from Earth even notice it?

Xiao Lin did not have the ability to fly, and he was far out on the sea, so even with his superhuman body, there was no way for him to swim back to the country. However, he believed that the Earth branch would definitely send someone over to investigate after finding out that the plane was missing. It was just that he was worried about the whereabouts of Gu Xiaoyue.

Xiao Lin did not need to wait for too long. After half an hour, he could hear the low hum of a motor in the distance. When he looked over, a fast speed boat was heading right his way. However, Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes, and could not help but be alarmed.

That was because it had been too quick. It had only been half an hour. Even if they were from the Earth branch, there was no way they could have gotten to his location so quickly. Even if he had already deactivated his Ruin state, it did not stop his perception. He felt two auras on the boat, and seemed to have guessed something.

Sure enough, when the boat stopped, the one on the boat was Li Cheng, who had mysteriously disappeared. Li Cheng put on a slight smile when he saw Xiao Lin before throwing down a rope, pulling Xiao Lin up. He acted very friendly, but Xiao Lin did not dare to trust that man at all.

Even when he was on the boat, Xiao Lin did not let his guard down. If it were not for the fact that the man was much stronger than him, Xiao Lin would probably have already attacked. The only thing that relieved him was the fact that he saw Gu Xiaoyue on the boat as well. The woman's complexion was not the best, and she seemed a bit weary, but her expression was also an obvious concern for Xiao Lin.

Xiao Lin immediately inspected her, and angrily turned around to ask, "What did you do?!"

Li Cheng waved it off, saying, "She'll be fine. I only casted some weakening spells on her. She'll recover in a day. It's for her sake, so she doesn't get hurt."

Weakening spells could lower the attributes of an individual, and in the worst case, could cause them to fall into a state of unconsciousness. Gu Xiaoyue seemed to be in that state at that moment, as she did not even have the strength to speak. She seemed to have only held on to ascertain Xiao Lin's safety. When she saw Xiao Lin get onto the boat safely, she fainted.

Xiao Lin propped up Gu Xiaoyue's body, his heart aching, so she had a better posture to rest with. Only then did he get up, taking off his drenched jacket as he looked at Li Cheng. "If nothing else happens, the rescue team will be here quickly. I think you owe me an explanation."

In terms of skills, the fact that the man could become the head of the Intelligence Department naturally meant that his skills were not at a level that Xiao Lin could match. Through his perception just now, Xiao Lin could not completely see through the man's skills. Normally, in those situations, his foes were either too unskilled, or they were far too powerful. Xiao Lin believed that Li Cheng was the latter.

However, unless Li Cheng was betraying Dawn Academy, he would definitely have had a good reason for what happened that day. Otherwise, he would be severely punished when he got back.

Li Cheng looked very calm, and had no killing intent at all, nor did he seem to want to explain himself. He plainly smiled and said, “I know what you’re thinking, but I can’t really explain too much. I had you help me with a small matter today, so I will owe you a favor. All I can say is that I’m not a traitor. Everything I do is for the sake of the academy.”

“Help?” Xiao Lin was confused. He had almost been killed by the guy, so why would he help the guy?

After a moment, Xiao Lin’s face immediately changed. He looked up at where the black cloud was, and widened his eyes in disbelief.

“You used my power! You used my power to open the wormhole!

“That’s right. If you were the Intelligence Department Head, then you’ll naturally know a lot about me, including what happened during the blood moon in New Washington. Since I can get into The Final Lands, then I can definitely open up a gateway to Planet Norma from Earth.

“However, my powers are limited, and I wouldn’t be able to hold it for too long; it’s probably less than a minute. However, in that minute, what did you bring over here?!”

Xiao Lin shot out a string of questions. He was not dumb. Thinking about what happened in the sky and who that man was, Xiao Lin easily guessed everything.

Li Cheng was taken aback, praising, “Not bad. It appears that you’re quite smart. As for the answer, unfortunately, I can’t tell you.”

Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes and his tone turned colder as he said, “You seem to have a fearless expression. Aren’t you afraid that your memory will be wiped when you get back? You’ve already basically violated every rule of the academy today... No, if you’re still standing here waiting for the rescue team, then it means that you won’t be punished. It’s impossible for you to achieve that with your status, which means there’s someone even higher supporting you, guaranteeing that you won’t be punished. In the entire academy, only...”

“Enough!” The smile finally disappeared from Li Cheng’s face. He rubbed his temples in exasperation. “Sometimes being too smart isn’t a good thing. Xiao Lin, let me give you some advice; you shouldn’t ask questions that shouldn’t be asked. Otherwise, I can’t guarantee what I’ll do next. You might be very important to Dawn Academy, but compared to our plans, you pale in comparison!”

Chapter 672 - Li Cheng’s Scheme

Chapter 672: Li Cheng’s Scheme

Li Cheng seemed a little exasperated when he gave his warning. He seemed to be speaking to Xiao Lin honestly, but Xiao Lin absolutely believed that, if he continued to dwell on the issue, the man in front of him would definitely attack. That was not something he could defend against. Just like the man said, ever since the old dean's illness, Xiao Lin had been placed in an awkward position.

After Xiao Lin stopped talking, Li Cheng was finally satisfied, letting out a sigh of relief. If he were not forced to, he would not want to attack Xiao Lin, so he smiled and said, "The two of you are tired. You both should head straight back to the academy later. You're both still young, and Dawn Academy will be yours in the future, so take the time to properly study and be good students."

Xiao Lin did not bother with him anymore. The man was someone who was powerful enough that Xiao Lin could not touch. He checked on Gu Xiaoyue briefly, and was relieved to see that she was not harmed in any way outside of the weakening spell.

Li Cheng was quite exasperated when he saw Xiao Lin's actions. He knew that Xiao Lin probably did not trust him at all at that point, so he wisely maintained his silence..

The weakening effect was still active, and Gu Xiaoyue did not seem to be waking up anytime soon. Xiao Lin and Li Cheng stayed on that boat alone. There was enough food and water on the boat, proving that the man had prepared everything.

After a few hours, the figure of another boat appeared. Xiao Lin was immediately on alert, and it was only when he saw a familiar figure on the boat did he relax a little. The person on the boat was Mao Tianying of the Earth Division. When Xiao Lin's group disappeared, it shocked quite a bit of people.

"Are you going back with us?" Xiao Lin suddenly asked.

"No need." Li Cheng still had a faint smile on his face, as if nothing had happened. He said, "My men will be here soon, so you should head up first. Act as if nothing happened today. Trust me. No one will give you any trouble if you do."

"I know what to speak about and what not to." Xiao Lin paused before saying coldly, "Even though I can't do anything in my position right now, let me warn you, you're playing with fire; all of you are!"

Li Cheng stared at him for a moment, as if he was making sure he understood what it was that Xiao Lin knew, and how much Xiao Lin knew. However, Li Cheng shook his head, repeating, "Everything is for the good of the academy. This has never changed."

Xiao Lin could only sigh in the end.

Quite a few people were on the ship from the Earth branch. There were members of the student union and even the public relations department, and because this involved Japan, there were also a few Japanese employees. Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were safely sent to the boat, and Li Cheng had been asked to return as well, but just as Xiao Lin guessed, when the man revealed his identity, no one dared to do anything to him.

The status of the Intelligence Department Head might not be able to do anything to Xiao Lin, who was still a student at that moment, but since students who had yet to graduate were all under the

jurisdiction of the student union, to those who had already graduated, Li Cheng's status was incredibly powerful.

Power was something that could be used both on Earth and on Planet Norma.

Gu Xiaoyue finally recovered during their second day on the boat. After the doctors checked up on her for any residual effects, they still arranged for her to rest in a private room.

Xiao Lin found a chance to visit her and sent everyone else away. Of course, he did not have the right to do that himself, but Mao Tianying seemed to have an understanding of how special he was, and thanks to Mao Tianying's relationship with Song Junlang, the man happily helped him with that.

Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were both filled with suspicion. Those suspicions were naturally best kept away from others. However, even when everyone else left, they had no way of clearing up their confusion.

Based on what Gu Xiaoyue said, their drinks had definitely been laced with a strong sleeping potion on the plane. Furthermore, they were definitely specially made to avoid a mage's perception. Gu Xiaoyue did not know much either. After being placed under the weakening spell, it had been hard for her to stay awake. In her state of half-consciousness, Gu Xiaoyue could only remember Li Cheng's sporadic conversations with others.

"I think I remember he said something to this effect. That you had made a move just like they expected. That way, the conditions of opening a wormhole were all set. They also talked about Earth and Planet Norma... I'm sorry, that's all I remember," Gu Xiaoyue said apologetically.

Xiao Lin was now even more sure of his thoughts, even though he did not express it. He consoled Gu Xiaoyue a little, and after that, he did not mention the issue again.

When they returned, with the arrangements of the branch, Xiao Lin and Gu Xiaoyue were very quickly sent to the spatial carriage. Even though Mao Tianying did not say so, his bitter smile caused Xiao Lin to feel that there were some people who did not want him to remain on Earth. During the whole process, no one had questions or checked on them.

At that stage, for someone as smart as Gu Xiaoyue, even if she could not uncover the truth, she could still vaguely guess who was behind everything.

No matter what the situation was on the outside, the academy was always the safest place. When they returned to the academy, their worries seemed to evaporate. There, no outsiders could disturb them, nor would there be any hidden schemes, but that still did not settle Xiao Lin's heart.

Li Cheng's actions were too strange, causing Xiao Lin to have a lot of thoughts. He hoped that it was just his imagination, but if it really were true, then it would be terrifying.

Because it was speculation, Xiao Lin did not dare to approach the student union president, and he looked for Song Junlang, the Department Head he trusted the most, instead.

Song Junlang was idly performing his experiments as usual. When he saw Xiao Lin's arrival, he rubbed his temples, not even raising his head as he said, "Do you know? Nowadays, the person I'm most afraid of seeing is you. That's because my intuition tells me that you are equal to trouble."

"I'm afraid that it isn't my trouble this time, and might not even be yours or someone else's." Xiao Lin did not have the mood to joke around with Song Junlang, and went straight to the point.

However, Song Junlang was even more straightforward as he put down the bottles in his hands and calmly looked at Xiao Lin, saying, "Are you trying to say it's Earth's problem? Did you come to tell me that someone wants to speed up Earth's demise?"

Chapter 673 - Earth

Chapter 673: Earth

Song Junlang's words were very casual. That earth-shattering news seemed to be as simple as drinking a glass of water in his eyes. However, the calmer he was, the more Xiao Lin's heart raced.

After a long period of silence, Song Junlang sighed, saying, "Do you think that you understand the academy and the colonists very well?"

Xiao Lin shook his head. He had thought that he understood a lot from what he had seen in the past few months, but he realized today that he might not know anything at all.

"All along, plans regarding our future have come from a lot of differing opinions, such as how to treat the natives. Some people suggested making them submit through martial might, while others have suggested working together," Song Junlang slowly said.

Xiao Lin nodded, as that was something he knew.

Song Junlang smiled bitterly as he continued, "There might have been a lot of opinions on how to treat the natives, but in the end, it's still an external matter. It will not affect much, no matter how much everyone argues. However, there's an even more sensitive question, which is how we treat Earth.. That was definitely a ticking time bomb. For many years, everyone did everything they could to avoid the topic. If someone actually wanted to put the topic on the table, it would involve countless things!"

Xiao Lin remembered what the dean had said to him, and asked with a strange look, "I know that Earth's spatial laws have been on the brink of collapse, so the academies established a rule not allowing usage of any power that would tax the laws on Earth. So where does everyone differ in their views on Earth?"

Song Junlang sighed heavily as he looked at Xiao Lin. "This question isn't that hard to think about. You're someone who has been to the New World a few times, and you've interacted with Li Cheng. I trust that you've definitely thought about that issue, only you wouldn't dare to."

Xiao Lin fell silent again, and only bitterly spoke after a moment, “Surely it can’t be?”

“When it comes to the colonists, our greatest problem is actually our population. It’s also an extension of the problem with the natives. Even with the Law of Resurrection, there are far, far too few of us. After our rapid expansion in the initial few decades, the current scope of the colonist territories is actually at the limit of our abilities to control. Even though the academies are constantly expanding their numbers, it’s still hard to fulfill our needs. Because of that, someone finally brought up something that no one had suggested, but everyone had been considering: immigration!

“It would no longer be only selecting the elites like what the academies are doing, but large-scale immigration. We would use potions to overcome Planet Norma’s environment to live there. Those people plan on giving the immigrants a higher status than natives, but still a lower status than the elites from the academies, since we are all from Earth. Those people would be forced to rely on us after going to Planet Norma, so they would be more trustworthy.”

Xiao Lin could not help but interrupt, “However, immigration like that isn’t something that would go well. Not many people would be willing to abandon their homes to run over to Planet Norma. And it’s not just them. Even internally within the academies, there aren’t that many people who would be willing to abandon our ties with Earth either.”

Song Junlang said, “You’re right, which is why there are so many people in the Earth Division. Many of them deliberately stopped at Gold-rank to be able to return to Earth. However, that’s actually disadvantageous to the advancement of the colonial territories. In truth, the development of the colonies have stalled for many years, and many of the expansionists are not happy, but there is nothing they can do. Before they solve the problem with our population, expanding will only bring us instability. There are still many countries in Planet Norma who bear animosity toward us. In the eyes of the expansionists, Earth has slowly become our burden...”

“So they want to destroy Earth?” Xiao Lin finally said what he had thought about for a long time. Only, it shocked him that he was no longer as afraid of the notion when he brought it up.

It was true. After Song Junlang’s explanations, Xiao Lin could not help but admit that Earth did hinder their development on Planet Norma, and it was something that was unacceptable.

“They’re playing with fire!” Xiao Lin said.

“That’s right, they really are playing with fire. Before, the old dean suppressed them, and they did not dare to do anything, but now...” Song Junlang fell silent again. He was increasingly quiet that day. It meant that, even though Department Head Song knew what was going on, he was helpless to do anything.

Xiao Lin’s mind was in a mess, but after the incident with Li Cheng, he actually thought about the matter a lot. Even though Song Junlang did not say anything directly, he still continued to speculate, “It should be very easy to destroy Earth with our strength, but they can’t do that. At least, they can’t do it openly. It would not only be rejected by the academy, it would also incur the hatred of those who migrate over. It would be hard to get them to listen, and they might even work with the natives to rebel... So, their plan is to use someone else’s strength instead. They want to borrow the power of the natives to destroy Earth. That way, everyone will have a common enemy, and with that, the expansionists won’t even have to motivate anyone to fight...”

“Opening a wormhole to Planet Norma on Earth is only to achieve one thing, which is to get the Normese to destroy Earth. No, maybe they only want to push Earth to the brink of destruction, and then they would head to Earth like saviors, saving humanity and, thus, achieving their wishes!”

“They’re crazy! Don’t they know that, even in the colonies, many of us still have friends and family on Earth!”

Xiao Lin got even more emotional as he spoke because he thought about his parents. If Earth was really invaded in the future, who would be able to guarantee which people would be able to survive?

“We absolutely can’t allow them to do this! If we make everything known...”

“Don’t even think about it!” Song Junlang violently interrupted him. “If they have already dared to make their move, it means they’ve already had sufficient preparations. Furthermore, do you really think it’s something just a few people or even just one academy can do?”

“What do you mean? There are other academies in the mix?”

“Power and wealth is something that can captivate anyone. You would need to face the entire group of them that will benefit from this. Do you really think you can fight them?”

Xiao Lin once again fell silent. After a long time, he asked miserably, “What can I do?”

“Move your parents over here as soon as possible. If it’s that, I might be able to help you.” Song Junlang was quiet as usual. It was obvious that he had already anticipated all of this.

Chapter 674 - Life Has To Go On

Chapter 674: Life Has To Go On

The chat with Song Junlang did not relieve Xiao Lin of his worries, and had instead increased what he had on his mind. Song Junlang had suggested he bring his parents or even his relatives and friends to Planet Norma.

With what Xiao Lin knew of the colonist rules, that was actually impossible. It was not that there had never been examples of the family of a colonist moving to Planet Norma, but it would have to go through countless checks and investigations. Only very few of them would actually meet the requirements, and Xiao Lin knew it was impossible for his parents.

However, that was not what Xiao Lin was worried about. Since Song Junlang said that it would not be a problem, then he believed that the Logistics Department Head definitely had a way to handle the matter. What really caused Xiao Lin to worry was everything that was happening in the background. It might mean that the academies on Planet Norma had already started to give up on Earth. The blue planet might be everyone’s home, but they all knew that the planet’s laws were

already in a very fragile state. Destruction was an eventuality, and now they planned on bringing it forward!

Xiao Lin did not know if the old dean knew about the matter, but after the new dean had restricted him, there was no way for him to freely enter the New World like he used to. He had tried to gain some information from the student union president, but that baby-faced president's lips were sealed very tightly. His only source of information was Song Junlang..

The desperate situation had caused Xiao Lin's mood to sink greatly. He could rely on Song Junlang to bring his parents to the New World, and could also let them stay on Planet Norma, but what about the others?

Xiao Lin was not some saint, but that did not stop him from thinking about the billions of people on Earth. He knew that, among those people, there would only be an extremely small number that could be brought to the New World. As for the fate of those who remained, anyone could figure out that they would be abandoned!

Xiao Lin's life in the academy still had to continue. No matter how willing he was to get involved, something that the academy had decided on was definitely not going to change because of him. With those complicated feelings, he continued with the Inter-academy Tournament.

However, they had lost their following match against Judge Academy, and the reason had been because of Xiao Lin. Even though they were the hosts this time, Judge Academy had made their preparations after the lesson from last time. Other than Chen Dao winning in the individual portion, Judge Academy won three out of the first four matches.

In the deciding team match, Dawn Academy completely lost again. Because Xiao Lin's heart had not been in it, they lost very decisively. Judge Academy had finally revealed their terrifying capabilities. The ones who competed in the team match did not even have the chance to appear during the last round, so they had vented out all the frustrations that had built up over the course of a month.

On Dawn Academy's side, the only person that could really put up a fight was Xiao Lin, but with his heart not being in it, the loss was natural. However, Xiao Lin had already expected the result, so he had forced Gu Xiaoyue into the harmless secondary professional matches, even though Gu Xiaoyue had lost this time.

The unexpected loss definitely caused some disappointment, but it was also to a special opponent. After all, Judge Academy's title as the strongest was not easily shaken, and their strategic win from last time could not be replicated.

Only now did everyone care more about Xiao Lin's abnormal performance, or lack thereof. In the team battle, he had been eliminated very quickly, and even the opponents had realized he was off-form. No one had dared to mock him on Dawn Academy's side, since Xiao Lin had already solidified his power as the leader. Chen Dao, Cheng Ming, and the others had consoled him after the match, but Xiao Lin could not say much to his two friends.

The words Song Junlang told him could absolutely not be brought up to a third person. If he did, regardless of whether or not the other person believed him, he would be harming the person.

The upper management of the academy would not do anything to Xiao Lin due to his special status, but others did not have that luxury. If they knew something that they should not, there were many ways to deal with them.

Judge Academy did not leave immediately after the round, and Judge Academy's leader, Raymond, had invited Xiao Lin to have dinner that night. The location was the academy's cafeteria...

Alright, being invited to dinner by someone they were hosting looked a little weird, but Xiao Lin still agreed to it. Since he did not need to pay, he had ordered a massive amount of dishes. It was only when the American man seemed to be ready to foam at the mouth did Xiao Lin stop.

There might have been countless dishes in the academy, from eastern to western to fusion food, but in terms of the ingredients, there were only two types; one was ingredients from Earth, and the other was from Planet Norma.

It was obvious that the ingredients from Planet Norma were more expensive. The buffet they usually ate from always used ingredients from Earth, so no matter how luxurious the food looked, they were actually just cheap foods... The total cost might not even compare to the dishes they had ordered that night.

Yes, even though the dish in front of Xiao Lin might look like a regular grilled fish, in terms of New Dollars, it was worth almost five thousand New Dollars, even though it was just one fish. That fish was called a Dragon Fish. It was said that the fish descended from dragons millions of years ago. However, after so long, the draconic genes in the fish only consisted of one percent, but even so, the fish was extremely expensive.

It was Raymond's fault for trying to act like a rich guy on Xiao Lin's turf. On top of that, Xiao Lin had already been in a bad mood. With how they lost today, he would naturally not give up the chance to inflict pain on his opponent.

"Your performance today was very out of the ordinary. It made the match very boring." Even though the price of the meal was enough to hurt anyone, Raymond still made sure to act like he did not care, and immediately went straight for the main topic.

"Due to some issues, I haven't been in a good mood the past few days. It's fine though; both our academies can get out of the group stages. As long as we keep on winning, we will still meet in the finals," Xiao Lin answered vaguely, stuffing his mouth with food.

Raymond's eye twitched as he hurriedly started to eat as well. He was not about to let Xiao Lin swallow all those expensive dishes alone. However, after a few tries, he silently chose to give up. There was no way around it. He was not good at using chopsticks at all.

"Is it because of what happened at sea last week?" Raymond deliberately asked.

Xiao Lin put down his chopsticks. He looked at the American leader seriously for the first time. He did not speak. Since Raymond had brought it up, it would either be because Raymond had some request, or was trying to prove something. However, Xiao Lin was still apprehensive about Raymond. Even though he hated Li Cheng, it was still an internal matter in the end.

Xiao Lin's reaction disappointed Raymond a little. He used the napkin to wipe his mouth, seemingly wanting to end that boring dinner. He lowered his voice, even though he knew that it was useless. There were many ways for someone to eavesdrop on them.

"Xiao, you're clearly the year leader for your grade. Actually, elites like us will naturally know more than others. However, because our position is still too low, we're usually the last to find out about these things. Even though we come from different countries, we only have one status on Planet Norma: humans. So, if there's anything in the future, we should communicate more!"

After that, Raymond left a piece of paper on the table before standing up to leave. Xiao Lin glanced at it, and on it was a string of numbers. It was obvious that it was Raymond's private contact. He hesitated for a moment before putting the paper into his pocket.

Xiao Lin still did not know if the American had good intentions or otherwise, but Raymond was right about one thing: they really did need to exchange more information.

Since the new dean had restricted Xiao Lin from entering the New World, then he should just communicate more with those from other academies. No matter how powerful the new dean was, there was no way for the new dean to control the other academies.

Chapter 675 - Advancing To The Semi Finals

Chapter 675: Advancing To The Semi Finals

After losing that important match to the Judge Academy, Dawn Academy was even with the Americans on the standings. In the Japanese match after, they won again. Xiao Lin's performance was still very ordinary, but thanks to them being the hosts and the Japanese academy not being exceptionally skilled, they won a hard fought victory.

After that, the final away match saw them go against the Turkish academy. Dawn Academy once again fumbled the bag, and they lost to the Turkish academy.

The match caused a lot of the spectators to voice their dissatisfaction, and they suspected the skill of the so-called elite first-years. That was because the Turkish academy had actually been very weak during that match, especially because the necromancer leader, Said, did not make an appearance. On top of that, the Turkish academy had already been relegated, so the whole team actually adopted a vacationing attitude.

Even so, the Turkish still won.

Xiao Lin's performance affected the whole team again. On top of that, their teamwork was not as good as their opponents, so they lost in the team battles.

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The group stages of the tournament finally ended. Based on their position in the group rounds, Dawn Academy still advanced to the semi finals after losing two rounds. In truth, the student union and Dawn Academy's upper management had not been that confident in the tournament. After all, their best results in recent years had all been making the top four, and sometimes they did not even advance past the group stages.

So, the result might not have been great, but it still was not too disappointing. It was only that, after the group stages concluded, the academy's forums were filled with a large amount of mocking.

"It's fine if we lose to Judge Academy; after all, they are regarded as the best academy. However, losing to the Turkish was too embarrassing!"

"I watched the match against the Turkish. The Turkish were very weak. Their leader didn't even make an appearance. They were obviously throwing the match. How could we have lost that!"

"I'm beginning to wonder how the elites were chosen."

"It was probably all nepotism! Especially that one called Xiao Lin. Do you all know how many classes he's missed? Can you imagine how someone like that was chosen, and even named the leader?"

"Xiao Lin? He seemed pretty decent during the first round against Judge Academy. I heard that he was very good at medicinal studies."

"He was just lucky!"

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Discussions like that popped up in every corner. Comparatively, Dawn Academy's first win against Judge Academy had turned into them just being lucky that the Americans were throwing the match. That was because, to a lot of them, they could accept losing to Judge Academy, but they could not handle losing to the Turkish.

To those who knew about the past results of Dawn Academy, they felt that Dawn Academy would only be able to get to the top four.

Among the top four, other than Dawn Academy and Judge Academy, the other two teams that advanced were the Royal British Academy and the Russian Voyna Akademiya. Dawn Academy's opponents would be the Royal British Academy.

As one of the original academies, the British also had their glorious points in history. Even though they had been slowly overtaken by Judge Academy later on, the British still had a stronger foundation than Dawn Academy. Their skills were also better, and their overall strength had always exceeded Dawn Academy's.

"Basically, you shouldn't burden yourself too much. No matter what the final result is, we're all prepared for it." The student union president had called Xiao Lin over for some words of encouragement. He knew why Xiao Lin had been so depressed, but there were some things that he

could not say. As the president, his responsibilities were limited to the academy; outside of it, he was nothing

“Other than that, each round from now on will be a must-win. There won’t be anymore home and away matches, and all the matches will be held in the New World. In the New World, Yu Mei will be in charge of all of you, so you can look for her if you have any issues.

“Also, please fill in these forms. Department Head Song asked me to hand them to you, but he’s been away for the last two days.”

The well-mannered president had said so much in one go, but Xiao Lin did not react that much. However, he was slightly stunned when he saw the forms. They were application forms, and the forms were called student parent registration forms. The contents asked for his parents’ overall situation, such as education, occupation, age, and health.

It was a very ordinary form, but it caused Xiao Lin to think of something. After mulling over it, he sighed and asked, “Is this all necessary?”

“This isn’t something we can change. It’s something that has been in the works for a long time, and has been fermenting in recent years. We can all only accept the reality that is coming.” The president’s words were very vague, but he knew that Xiao Lin could understand.

Xiao Lin did understand. What was happening on Earth, or what would be happening, was something incredibly shocking for him, but it was not to some other people. Those of them who had been in the colonies for years, or maybe even decades or centuries, had either already started to forget about Earth, or were already mentally prepared. They might have some dissatisfaction toward the notion, but it was not completely unacceptable.

Xiao Lin did not continue speaking, and quietly filled in the form. He knew that this was Song Junlang’s promise to him, bringing his parents to the New World. Of course, he knew as well that he would not be the only person who filled up that form. However, to those of them who were not prepared, what was coming was going to be a disaster.

However, Xiao Lin held back, and did not hand it the form immediately. He brought back a few more to the dormitory. The president knew what he was doing, and silently accepted it, but before Xiao Lin left he added, “Don’t dwell on it too much. Even though a lot of people won’t be able to stop it, at least we can save something. I can’t speak of anything else, but I can at least guarantee that the core academies will be able to have some assurances.”

A few days after Xiao Lin received the forms, a lot of the monitors received them as well. They did not know what it meant, and no one provided them with any explanations, so they only obediently filled the forms in.

If Earth was really going to be faced with destruction, then those forms were the final ticket to Norma. Only, before that day came, other than a very small number, most of the students did not know the value of those tickets.

Xiao Lin naturally did not go around talking too much, but he still looked for Gu Xiaoyue, Cheng Ming, and the others, and repeatedly told them that they had to earnestly fill in those forms.

It might be due to his poor performance in the past few matches, but Gu Xiaoyue's expression was not great. However, that intelligent girl did not blame Xiao Lin for it. After being kidnapped by Li Cheng, Gu Xiaoyue also realized something. Even though she did not tell Xiao Lin, Xiao Lin had guessed it as well.

Gu Xiaoyue filled in the form with a complicated feeling. Her only relative was Gu Chengyun, but the woman's legs were disabled. The New World required a lot of physical activity, and even Xiao Lin wondered if the girl would be able to adapt.

Gu Xiaoyue's worries were not limited to that; filling in the form might mean that she was throwing her sister into a dangerous land, but if she did not, she might just be sentencing her to death.

They were two difficult choices, but if Gu Chengyun's legs could be cured, it might allow the girl to adapt better.

Gu Xiaoyue's dilemma finally caused Xiao Lin to push his thoughts and problems to the back of his mind. No matter what, winning this tournament and obtaining the final prize was incredibly important to Gu Chengyun, so he had to win.

Chapter 676 - Incident During The Semi Finals

Chapter 676: Incident During The Semi Finals

The date for the semi finals were quickly decided. It was a weekend half a month later. For the sake of fairness, the semi finals would be arranged in a mutual location. This time, Dawn Academy's semi finals were to be held in a graveyard over a hundred kilometers away from their colonies territories.

Under the student union's efficient workings, various documents of information regarding the graveyard were quickly sent to Xiao Lin and the other participants. The graveyard was a site left behind by the war between Dawn Academy and the orcs. Back then, the orcs had used it for weapon storage, and stored large amounts of weapons and armor there. After that, Dawn Academy had sent an elite squad over for a sneak attack, but stumbled upon the main shamanic force of the orcs. The two sides spent many days in intense battle, and Dawn Academy finally won.

After the battle, due to how far away the location was to Dawn Academy, as well as how desolate the surroundings were – as they were devoid of any natural resources – it was quickly abandoned. The souls of the orcs who died there remained, and due to some special reasons, the death energy there was exceptionally thick. Normal folk had no way of entering, so after a long time, the entire place became a wasteland.

“Basically, this place is very dangerous, but to us, the danger is limited..” In the meeting room, Xiao Lin gave his analysis.

“Based on my understanding, there will be quite a few undead spirits around, but there should not be too many, and their level should not be that high. It will be an annoyance to us, but that is the limit of it. Honestly, this place is quite suited for the semi finals.” Cheng Ming voiced his thoughts.

“The undead spirits are probably NPC-like existences, but you might be able to use them against the British,” the gaming addict Chen Dao said.

“Use the spirits? Do you know necromancy?” Han Manman said with some scorn. The woman never liked Chen Dao, nor did she really like anybody.

“Hey, I’m just giving an example,” Chen Dao retorted.

Xiao Lin motioned for them to stop. As the leader, he stopped any conflicts that might escalate, and made sure they focused the discussion on the tournament. Ever since he assumed the position of leader, he was slowly understanding how to lead.

“How about information on the British?”

“Regretfully, it’s quite lacking. The British were quite good with concealing their information, and our Intelligence Department failed to get much.”

“The British are one of the core colonial territories, so they should be very strong.”

“They should have S-ranks.”

“Definitely.”

...

The preparations for the match went on in full swing. All of them knew that the Royal British Academy would not be at the level of any of their opponents in the group stages. They might even be able to rival the American Judge Academy. None of them dared to underestimate the British.

Xiao Lin and the others headed to Dawn City around two days before the match. After that, they sat in comfortable unicorn carriages, and were sent to the graveyard with special escorts.

Based on the rules, uninvolved personnel could only be stationed outside a certain area. However, both academies had arranged for some guards with very strong perception skills to be stationed nearby. If any incidents did happen, they would decide if interference was necessary. Just like Xiao Lin had said, the graveyard might be a troublesome place, but the undead spirits were not particularly strong. Dealing with them would not be too hard.

“Then, the match will officially start!”

It was different from the group stages. The two sides did not get a chance to meet each other before the match started. Both the academies were arranged to enter from two completely different entrances. After that, the participants would have to rely on themselves. Dawn Academy’s roster was Xiao Lin, Gu Xiaoyue, Chen Dao, Cheng Ming, and An Luo; it was considered their strongest formation.

The fully armored party entered from the East. Chen Dao shot out a few fire spells, lighting up everyone's torches. However, the smell of rot in the graveyard was very hard for everyone to bear, but thankfully Xiao Lin had prepared for it. He quickly passed everyone a bottle of Holy Light potion. Recently, Xiao Lin had spent some effort in creating potions as well, and his level when it came to that improved by quite a bit.

Fights quickly broke out.

Those orc spirits had rotting bodies, and empty holes for eyes. They waved weapons around that were full of rust and rushed at Xiao Lin and the others.

"Careful, their weapons are all poisoned! Attack from a distance!" Xiao Lin ordered decisively. Other than Cheng Ming, this time, the rest of them were all long-ranged attackers. It was done in consideration of the fact that long-ranged attacks would be safer in a place like a graveyard.

Under the intense firepower of the team, the spirits seemed incredibly weak.

The team continued to venture in. They all brought maps of the graveyard with them, but the maps were all from decades ago. After half an hour, other than the unending number of spirits and zombies, they did not encounter anyone from the Royal British Academy.

Xiao Lin started to get suspicious. He had seen the map before, and the graveyard was not that large. Based on their rate of advancement, unless the British did not move at all from the start, they would definitely have met.

Was it a trap by the British?

...

Seemingly at the same time, a few kilometers away from the graveyard, a few Caucasians were conversing with those from Dawn City in broken Mandarin.

"The tournament needs to stop! All of you should feel it as well. Our students' auras disappeared half an hour ago!"

"NO! NO! NO! Don't talk to me about some bullsh*t tournament rules. They can go to hell! The auras that disappeared don't belong to your students!"

"You should be able to feel it as well right now. A terrifying aura is rapidly heading this way!"

"Damn!"

"What kind of fog is this!"

"Everyone, retreat!"

...

After an intense argument and a lot of panic, Dawn Academy and Royal Academy's people started to rapidly retreat. They only stopped after reaching a few dozen kilometers away. In front of their eyes, the whole graveyard had been completely enveloped in a fog that had mysteriously appeared. The fog contained an unbelievable amount of death energy. As strong as they were, even they did not dare to casually walk inside.

All of their expressions sank because it was not the first time they had seen that kind of fog. Back then, in Wildfire Town, Xiao Lin and Lilith had also been trapped in a fog like that. They had also found out that it was Asabanor's doing, so the one behind this was quite obvious.

"The tournament is over! Everyone, save the students!"

The two academies finally reached a consensus, but the fog was expanding faster than they expected. High-level spirits started to appear from the fog, obstructing the advance of the rescue team.

Yet, Xiao Lin and the others inside did not know what was happening at all.

Chapter 677 - Blood Moon

Chapter 677: Blood Moon

Meanwhile, on Earth...

It was the middle of Winter. A big snowstorm that just stopped caused many cities to be covered in thick layers of snow. Night had just fallen, and the snowy moonlit night was exceptionally quiet.

A massive telescope stood quietly on a mountaintop. It was from Dawn Academy's Earth Division. In the spacious yet somewhat chaotic office, the lights were on and smoke could be seen.

"Mr. Mao, have you forgotten to take your pills? Why did you suddenly ask us to spend the night on overtime?"

"Exactly, it's the weekend today, and the weather is so cold. You know as well that our air-conditioning has been broken for a long time. We'll freeze to death if we spend the night here."

"It's worse for me.. I had a date scheduled with my girlfriend, and an order sheet summoned me back."

...

The complaints in the office did not stop. As Dawn Academy's Earth Division, the department was registered as an observatory in name, but the actual use was to provide benefits to the outbound students during the holidays every year, or to assist in recruitment. Basically, it was a place for menial tasks that did not require much skill.

The staff here knew as well that they were basically there to retire. Even though it was hard for them to continue with their training on Earth, they could enjoy a very high pay and a peaceful life on Earth.

No one expected that the Earth Division, which had never worked a single hour of overtime, would suddenly receive an order from the dean of Dawn Academy, assembling all the members that night to wait for further orders!

The order did not make sense. To those of them who were merely ordinary members that were only at Bronze-rank in skill, they could not grasp the meaning behind it, and so they could only complain to their superior, Mao Tianying.

As the division head, Mao Tianying was also assigned menial tasks normally, but his tasks and the people he interacted with set him apart from everyone else. However, he was extremely frustrated at the fragmented and incomplete information he had.

The ashtray in front of Mao Tianying was already full, and was emitting smoke. He narrowed his eyes, seemingly thinking about something. On his desk was a freshly printed document, and on the document were a few large words: ‘There will be a super blood moon tonight that is rarely visible, even once a century.’

The document actually did not have any secrets, and it was actually just a lunar eclipse. Blood moons happened because Earth’s atmosphere reflected and refracted the sunlight, causing the sun’s red ultraviolet rays to hit the moon more intensely, which gave the appearance for a red moon.

It was an incredibly normal astrological event; it was just that the few variables very rarely coincided, and it had not happened for around 150 years. Because of that, it caused a lot of attention all around the world, but all of that was definitely not something Dawn Academy’s Earth Division would place any importance on!

‘Curse the main division! Why are they being so tightlipped this time?!’

Mao Tianying cursed in his heart as he frowned deeply. He did not know whether it was because of the clamor in the office or the feeling of uneasiness for what was to come. He finally let out a breath, deciding to do something. He straightened his body, rapped his fingers on the table, and the office quieted down.

Mao Tianying was still the person in charge of the Earth Division. Without anyone higher up being sent in by Dawn Academy, he was in charge of everything on Earth.

“Little Li, open up the telescope,” Mao Tianying said calmly.

“What?” Little Li was a middle-aged woman, and she was confused at the order, so she asked, “Mr. Li, aren’t the orders for us to await orders tonight? How could you still be in the mood to watch the eclipse?” It was a super lunar eclipse that only happened once every 150 years, so it was no big news. Everyone already knew about it, but no one would have tied that news with the special orders they received that night together.

Mao Tianying was usually an even-tempered man. After all, he sat in an awkward position without any actual power. He knew that he had to be more humble, so he never minded being questioned by his subordinates usually, but that night, he felt incredibly frustrated.

Mao Tianying definitely knew a lot more, such as the fact that Xiao Lin had encountered a blood moon in New Washington before, and had disappeared in Judge Academy for a period of time. That news was considered a secret, but Mao Tianying naturally had his own sources of information. Even though he did not know the details, even though it happened in the New World, it was still not that long ago, and now Earth was about to have its own blood moon.

Mao Tianying might not be that capable, but he felt that the two incidents could not possibly be unrelated.

However, what was it?

The division head got more and more frustrated, and his tone was impatient. "Don't forget I'm still the division head. We are working now, so you just need to follow my orders!"

The office fell completely silent, and the woman from earlier could also feel Mao Tianying's nervousness. Everyone exchanged looks and they started to feel like something was wrong. The atmosphere seemed to become much heavier instantly. The others dropped their conversations and cigarettes, and sat back in their places.

Their work rate had increased by a lot because of that, and very quickly, the observatory regained its original purpose. The large telescope activated, and the lens shifted toward the bright and round moon in the sky. At that same moment, there were also countless telescopes on Earth aimed at that rare sight.

Mao Tianying's eyes were fixed on the moon on the screen. Under the enhancement of the telescope, he could even clearly see the craters on the moon. He looked at his watch, and in another half an hour, the eclipse would start.

"I hope nothing goes wrong," Mao Tianying mumbled.

...

In the New World, at the old war site far away from Dawn Academy, at the deserted graveyard which was the location of the tournament semi finals, Dawn Academy was facing the Royal British Academy...

"I hope nothing goes wrong!" Xiao Lin told his team behind him with some worry. It had already been a few hours since they went into the graveyard, but other than the endless tide of undead spirits, they still had yet to meet anyone from the Royal British Academy, which gave him an uneasy feeling.

Outside the graveyard, the mysterious fog had already completely enveloped the graveyard. Dawn Academy and Royal British Academy's people were forced to work together to handle various high-ranked undead spirits as they awaited reinforcements.

Xiao Lin still did not know any of that.

Chapter 678 - Trapped In The Grave

Chapter 678: Trapped In The Grave

“No, there’s still no reaction,” Gu Xiaoyue shook her head and said. Her furrowed brows revealed her exhaustion. Her mental strength was exceptional, and she was the support, so the task of scouting had naturally been assigned to her.

“Something’s wrong.” Cheng Ming was worried as well. “With Gu Xiaoyue’s perception, it’s impossible for us to not have found anything after walking around for so long.”

“Could the opponent have some special skill to avoid her perception?” An Luo said with some apprehension. Even though they were all monitors, An Luo was obviously the weakest among them. However, An Luo knew very well that he had been chosen by Xiao Lin because he was the only one specialized in archery among the monitors, so he rarely interfered in group decisions.

“Who cares what tricks they have. We will be the ones to win!” Chen Dao said, too lazy to think too much. In truth, after entering the grave, most of the undead spirits had been killed by Chen Dao. As a mage with an incredibly high talent for fire magic, his skills had not been affected at all in such a dark and sinister place filled with death energy..

“Gu Xiaoyue, do you have any ideas? Why don’t you share it with us?” Xiao Lin said encouragingly. He was the leader, but most of his focus was still on Gu Xiaoyue, so he could tell that the reserved woman seemed to have something she was refraining from talking about.

Gu Xiaoyue shrugged at Xiao Lin’s encouragement, pushing up her glasses as she said, “With my current level of perception, it’s not impossible to avoid it completely, but that would only be possible for someone at the level of a professor or at least an upper-year student. I don’t believe that anyone can do that from our year, no matter what academy they’re from.

“What about it?”

Gu Xiaoyue glared at Xiao Lin as if he was an idiot, continuing, “So, after eliminating all other possibilities, the remaining possibility, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.”

“Hey, can the two of you stop with the lovers’ quarreling and get to the point?” Chen Dao said, obviously having some trouble comprehending it. At the same time, he shot another fire spell at an undead beast, burning it to a crisp.

Xiao Lin nodded, bitterly smiling as he said, “I understand what Gu Xiaoyue is saying. However, it’s really hard to believe what you’re saying. Since the opponents can’t possibly completely avoid your perception, and we haven’t met them, there are only two possibilities. Either they’ve left the graveyard, or they’ve all already died.”

Xiao Lin hesitated before saying those last words. Other than Gu Xiaoyue, the others were taken aback by the probability of it all.

“We might not know the representatives from the Royal British Academy, but the fact that they’ve made it to the top four means their skills are exceptional. It’s too impossible for them to have been easily killed off by the spirits in the graveyard,” Cheng Ming said. His assessment was also agreed upon by Chen Dao and An Luo, and it was quite a reasonable view.

Gu Xiaoyue remained silent. She merely voiced out the possibilities. As for how they would assess it and if they would believe it, that was Xiao Lin’s responsibility. She would not interfere.

Xiao Lin frowned as he fell silent. He had obviously thought of Gu Xiaoyue’s suspicions as well. He did not think that the Royal British Academy would have been killed off by merely undead spirits. Even if they did not place much importance on the tournament, it would be too much of a joke for them to be eliminated so easily after making the top four.

“What reason would they have to resign from the competition? Could they be sick or unwell? Maybe they’ve been poisoned somehow. However, based on the rules of the tournament, once a side gives up, the other side would obviously win, so we should have received a notification of our win,” An Luo said again.

Normally there would be some professors with high levels of perception stationed outside the tournament venue who would be in charge of communication. They would usually have some sort of skill that enables long-distance communication in order to make sure they could contact the students if there were any unexpected circumstances. However, it was obvious that Xiao Lin and the others had not received any orders from the start.

Xiao Lin and the others had ugly expressions on their faces. Even the intellectually stunted Chen Dao realized that the situation might not be as simple as they thought.

“I think we should retrace our original route,” Xiao Lin finally decided, looking at Gu Xiaoyue as he said so. Seeing her not react at all, he continued, “We can’t take any risks. I think this tournament might have some circumstances outside of our levels.”

Since the leader had made a decision, the others naturally had nothing to voice against it.

The route back was much easier. The graveyard had been the location of a battle between the orcs and Dawn Academy a long time ago. When they came to it, they had already eliminated most of the spirits, so the speed of which they returned had increased by quite a lot.

However, for safety’s sake, Xiao Lin still asked for the team to move while maintaining the state of alertness they had before. Cheng Ming was in charge of staying up front in order to protect An Luo, Gu Xiaoyue, and Chen Dao. Meanwhile Xiao Lin stayed at the back. No matter what happened, they would have enough time to react.

Time passed by the way it always did.

“This isn’t right.” Cheng Ming suddenly stopped as he turned around with some suspicion. Looking at the others, he said, “Have I gotten the route wrong?”

There were no watches allowed there, but everyone could already grasp the time somewhat. They took about half an hour to enter, but their way back had already taken an hour, and yet they still had not seen the gate.

Cheng Ming felt a bit ashamed and upset, as he was the one leading the way; he naturally felt that it was his mistake. The graveyard had formerly been an orc weapon depot, so its construction was very crude, and there were not many detours. They had made plenty of marks as they passed by key roads in order to prevent themselves from being lost. Furthermore, everyone had a map.

“No, you did not.” Xiao Lin, who had been walking behind, sighed before pointing not too far away. In a corner that was filled with spiderwebs, a few white bones were still lit with fire.

“That was a mark I made before this, and I’ve already seen it three times.” Xiao Lin’s words caused everyone to reveal curious expressions.

“Do you mean we’ve encountered a ghostly wall?” Chen Dao said with a strange expression.

Xiao Lin glared at that dumb guy, but thinking about it in detail, the graveyard was indeed filled with ghosts from a foreign world. Could they really have been toyed with by ghosts?

It was only that they were not sure if it was the work of the British or something inherent to the graveyard.

Suddenly, Gu Xiaoyue’s voice was heard again. “Have all of you felt like, from earlier on, our connection with the resurrection towers has been disrupted?”

Her words shocked everyone!

All of them felt like cold water had been splashed on them!

Chapter 679 - Trapped In The Grave (2)

Chapter 679: Trapped In The Grave (2)

Xiao Lin’s perception might not have been as high as Gu Xiaoyue’s, but his overall attributes were higher. Furthermore, he was the one with the most experience in the New World out of all of them, and had interacted with resurrection towers the most. He did not feel it earlier, but immediately closed his eyes to feel it after Gu Xiaoyue said that she no longer sensed it.

After a few minutes, Xiao Lin opened his eyes again with an ugly expression on his face.

The others got the final answer from Xiao Lin’s face, and all of their faces turned dark. Even Chen Dao, who had been so optimistic, did not seem to have anything to say.

In the end, was the main reason they dared to venture into the New World without any worries because they could resurrect themselves through the resurrection towers?

“How is this possible? I’ve never heard of the resurrection towers losing their effects.”

“Could it be the British folk being up to something?”

“Don’t Lifewater components come from the British colonies?”

Cheng Ming and An Luo started to think up all sorts of possibilities in their panic. They might not have been dumb, but they rarely interacted with the New World and did not have much information.. There were many secrets that even those in the New World did not have the possibility of knowing without being at a certain rank, let alone students in the academy.

However, Xiao Lin coincidentally knew a lot, the reason being that he was one of the people who had experienced it himself, the other being the powerful demon of Judge Academy, Lilith.

Back then, Xiao Lin and Lilith had been surrounded by a mysterious fog in Wildfire Town, and they had witnessed the resurrection towers being corrupted. This was definitely Asabanor’s doing. That high priest from a fallen country refused to die. Even though there had not been news about him for a long time, Xiao Lin believed that the guy would not rest so easily.

Xiao Lin did not expect that Asabanor would make a move on him and the British opponents during the semi finals, but he still had a head full of questions.

Asabanor was an incredibly hard opponent to deal with, and he had a very deep seated grudge. However, that grudge he had was targeted at the colonists and the academies. Song Junlang had consoled Xiao Lin before, asking Xiao Lin to not worry too much because the various academies would definitely work together to deal with Asabanor.

Xiao Lin had naturally relaxed after that. After all, he was only a first-year student, so these kinds of matters were far above what he could do.

However, the problem still fell back to him despite that.

After going into this deep state of thought, Xiao Lin sighed and told everyone apologetically, “I think I’ve dragged all of you into this, so I’m sorry. I suspect the opponent is after me. I think that the British have already been dragged into this as well, I...” He could more or less guess why Asabanor was targeting him. It was not because of who he was, but probably because he had an SS-rank talent, which was already enough to cause the whole world to go crazy.

“What are you saying?! We are friends, and I’m not someone who would ignore a friend in need!” Chen Ming interrupted Xiao Lin’s words, patting his shoulder. That north easterner’s straightforward attitude dispelled a bit of the heavy atmosphere.

“That’s right! Stop saying you’ve dragged us into this. You’ve helped us quite a lot before this. I’m not someone who doesn’t repay favors!” Chen Dao recovered his usual demeanor.

“You are our year leader.” An Luo’s words were much simpler, but the meaning was clear. At that moment, he was willing to listen to Xiao Lin’s orders without any conditions.

“You are the leader of this temporary team. If you’re not confident, then we won’t ever make it out of this.” Gu Xiaoyue’s tone was still cold, but in her brilliant eyes, a rare apologetic and tender flash could be seen. She knew that Xiao Lin worked so hard in this tournament for her sake because she wanted the final reward to cure her sister’s ailment.

Xiao Lin was touched, and his eyes circled all of them. He only saw trust on their faces. Xiao Lin took a deep breath, swallowing the words he was about to say. That was right, it was not the time to wallow in misery, nor was it the time to give up.

So what if the British have all died? So what if there were no resurrection towers? So what if their opponent was the crazed and cunning Asabanor?!

Even if it was not for himself, for the sake of his companions who trusted him, Xiao Lin would get them out of the graveyard and back to Dawn Academy, no matter what!

Xiao Lin had already faced Asabanor a few times. Putting aside their skill, he understood his opponent's personality. That undying predator was currently operating without them having any information, so they were at a disadvantage.

"We can't be walking around blindly anymore. Even though I don't know what our opponent has done, if he's so confidently sealing us, then I believe that we won't be able to leave easily with our current skills. Compared to us so casually wasting our energy, why don't we face this change by not changing!" After a short time thinking about it, Xiao Lin quickly made his decision.

That decision was agreed on by everyone, and it was definitely the most appropriate one. In truth, everyone already expended quite a bit of energy so far, especially Chen Dao, who had defeated most of their opponents. His mental fatigue had accumulated quite a bit.

Xiao Lin and the others quickly turned around, finding an empty weapon storage location before starting to rest. Before this match, they had been allowed to bring in some basic restorative medicines, and they did not bother to save any. All of them started to use what they had, trying to recover to their best states.

Xiao Lin had not expended that much, so while the others were resting, he kept watch. There were three ways into that weapon depot. Even though he had already lit up each entrance with flames, temporarily chasing away the darkness and cold, under the influence of death energy, the flames were not very stable, and seemed to flicker.

They had chosen this place because of the possibility of danger. It would allow them to escape through another route at any time. They were facing an unknown opponent, so they did not think that making a move so waywardly was a good idea.

During that period, Xiao Lin had composed himself and told the others about Asabanor. Even though this was a secret that was not allowed to be told to anyone other than the higher-ups of the academy, Xiao Lin would naturally not adhere to that rule with the current situation. Furthermore, after the dean changed, Xiao Lin still had a deep-seated mistrust toward the current dean of the academy.

He did not want to place his fate in someone else's hands. Even though he was still very weak, Xiao Lin still needed to work to grasp his own fate.

Chapter 680 - Trapped In The Grave (3)

Chapter 68o: Trapped In The Grave (3)

They rested for about half an hour. That time frame had not been enough for everyone to recover to their peak, especially Chen Dao who had expended more energy. However, it was obvious that their foe hiding in the dark did not plan on giving them the chance to rest anymore.

“They’re coming!” Xiao Lin shouted in a low voice. Sword aura started to form on his blade as he sent out a strong flame. With a power Gu Xiaoyue had given him, it had immediately covered all three entrances, and the heat had only dispersed the coldness in the air.

Boom!

They heard a wail amongst the explosion which caused Xiao Lin to break out in cold sweat. He was someone who was experienced in fighting the undead, and could make out the cry of a banshee. That was considered an upper-middle ranked undead. If they had closed in, then An Luo and Cheng Ming, who had lower levels of perception, might have fallen to them.

“Damn! Why are there such high-leveled undead here?!” Chen Dao’s perception had also sensed the danger. He had been prepared to attack, but was stopped by Xiao Lin.. Wasting his mental strength at that point was not a smart choice.

More undead started to run in through the entrances. It was different from those unintelligent, zombie-like basic undead that they had faced before. In front of them were undead that were at the level of at least Bronze to Silver rank. Other than banshees, there were also black nights and high-ranked skeletal soldiers and mages.

The appearance of long-ranged magical attacks caused Xiao Lin and the others to have an even harder time defending themselves. Their current abilities could not hold back to many undead.

“There’s one passage without any undead!” Cheng Ming had a shield in front of him and was basically the tank of the team.

The others were silent for a long time. They had obviously seen it. There were three entrances to the weapon depot. Even though the undead surged in, the strange thing was that they only used two of the passages. The last one was completely empty, but it was quiet enough to cause them to shudder.

It was obviously an escape route intentionally left for them, but the question was if Asabanor would really be so kind. Even the others who did not understand Asabanor’s personality knew that there would not be something so easy.

“That’s definitely a trap!” Chen Dao said.

Gu Xiaoyue rolled her eyes behind Chen Dao. The guy was speaking the obvious; even an idiot could guess that. The final passage was definitely not as safe as it looked.

“But it seems like it’s our only choice!” Xiao Lin said bitterly.

For the moment, the weapon depot was still safe. The monitors were all already at least at Bronze rank, and all of them had shocking talents. On top of their amazing teamwork and Gu Xiaoyue as the core, Chen Dao and An Luo provided cover from long range and Xiao Lin covered for any blind spots. They had no openings.

Their formation, even when faced with so many high-ranked undead, quickly stabilized after the initial chaos. They still showed very high levels of ability, and had slowly controlled the situation. The only ones that could actually get close to them were the black knights that were incredibly strong in terms of defensive capabilities.

Cheng Ming would only have to stall the black knights for a few seconds at most, and Xiao Lin would use Miracle, shifting his attributes to strength to kill off the black knights.

However, their expressions did not improve. All of them knew that it was not a good idea to hold off such an army with just the five of them. No one knew how many undead there were, and the moment they expended all their strength, the formation would crumble.

They could only retreat.

They had to use that final passage Asabanor had left for them and plunge into the trap voluntarily!

“Asabanor really is cunning!” Gu Xiaoyue said. Being as smart as she was, she immediately saw their opponent’s goal.

“Retreat!” Xiao Lin decisively made the decision as the leader. Since Asabanor had set up a death trap, then he would break through that death trap.

Since Xiao Lin had made the decision, the others chose to follow. Even though An Luo still seemed a little uncertain, they all knew that they had to be united at that moment. Even if it was the wrong decision, they still had to commit to it.

They were fighting against time.

The team went through that empty entrance based on their earlier formation. Xiao Lin still remained at the back, but just like they had expected, after all of them entered the passage, the undead behind them seemed to have received orders, and immediately stopped chasing them. They were retreating in waves.

Of course, Xiao Lin understood that, if they went back at that moment, the undead would definitely return.

They were much more relaxed without the undead chasing after them, and could not help but slow down their speed. After all, the battle earlier might not have been long, but it had still been at quite a high level. Even Xiao Lin had been forced to use Miracle and Ruin, let alone the others.

“Don’t slow down!” Xiao Lin furrowed his eyebrows from behind them.

Behind him, he could see in the dim light that the fog was slowly creeping toward them. Even though the speed was not quick, and it was as if it was deliberately controlled, there was no doubt that they would be enveloped in the fog within half an hour if they slowed down.

“What is that fog?” Cheng Ming asked. The others noticed something was wrong as well, but no one knew what that dense fog was.

Chen Dao even tried to go closer to see, but Xiao Lin immediately stopped him.

“I don’t know, but it’s best if you don’t touch it. It will probably have a very strong decaying effect that we can’t deal with right now.” Xiao Lin shook his head, thinking about the fog that he had encountered with Lilith in Wildfire Town. He even speculated that the resurrection towers losing their effectiveness might very well be related to it. Even though he was not certain, he would not take the risk.

Everyone could guess that Asabanor was using that method to force them to keep going, unable to retreat. No one knew what awaited them at the end of that long passage.

Chapter 681 - Asabanor’s Reappearance

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The further they walked in the passage, the dimmer it became. The surrounding temperature was also constantly dropping. It was still Spring in the New World, so the temperature was not high, but it would absolutely not drop to that degree.

After Chen Dao coughed a few times, he complained again, “I remember that the New World should at least be over ten degrees right now, so why is it so cold?”

“Because of all of the death energy,” Xiao Lin said. He was more sensitive toward death energy than the others, and his eyebrows furrowed deeper and deeper because of it. Death energy was an incredibly cold and sinister energy, and the waves of undead had already caused him to realize something. Normally, being able to summon an undead army of such a scale meant that there would definitely be an incredibly dense death energy nearby.

However, the grave was a venue both the British and Dawn Academy had chosen, which meant that the high-ranking members of both sides had repeatedly made sure that it would not exceed the level of danger that the students could handle.

What had Asabanor done to the grave?

Everyone had a dark shadow looming over their hearts because they had already verified that the resurrection tower had lost its effects. No one wanted to die because of that.

Thankfully, the undead army had stopped appearing behind them, but that mysterious fog was speeding up. Xiao Lin knew that Asabanor had probably gotten impatient, and was using that to urge them forward.

Even though they were frustrated, they could only increase their speed.

Time seemed to slow down. Even though they had nothing like a watch, everyone could feel that they had already been walking around in that narrow, cold and dark corridor for too long.

“Is it an illusion?” Cheng Ming frowned.

“No.” Xiao Lin shook his head.

“It might be a feat of time or space magic, bending time or space to change the location. No, that’s not right. Space and time magic would cause very strong fluctuations in space and time, and no matter what, the place we’re in is still a graveyard. With my perception, I would definitely be able to feel it,” Gu Xiaoyue mumbled, but quickly fell deep in thought. Even if she was quite intelligent, the situation in front of them had still exceeded her scope of understanding.

“It’s astrology! It’s an astrology spell!” Xiao Lin might not understand it that much, but Gu Xiaoyue’s words caused him to think of something. He remembered something Song Junlang had told him before: that Asabanor was a famous Astrologian, and that profession was equal to an astronomer on earth.

“What does that have anything to do with our situation?” Chen Dao asked.

“No, I don’t know.” Xiao Lin continued shaking his head. He felt like he was missing something, but he had way too little information. Ever since the new dean was appointed, there were too many restrictions on him, so he did not know as much as he used to know.

“Basically, we should just continue moving forward!” Chen Dao gave his conclusion helplessly.

That was fine; there was no need for complicated thoughts at that point.

The end of the passage would probably just end up with a battle. No matter what plots the opponent had, as long as they won, everyone would be able to leave!

Xiao Lin forced the doubts in his mind aside, and once again focused himself. He could not afford to be distracted at all. Even though Xiao Lin was just Bronze-ranked, he still had his own trump cards. Furthermore, with the information he had, Asabanor was still just in a spirit state after leaving the blood moon, and his powers were limited.

If they faced off, Xiao Lin was confident that he could defeat Asabanor, but he could not afford his energy to be depleted by an undead army before that.

No matter how long the passage was, there was still an end. After an unknown amount of time, everyone’s vision started to brighten, causing them to shut their eyes before reopening them in alarm. After that, they quickly got back into formation, but the sight before them completely stunned everyone.

In front of them was an incredibly empty cemetery; there were countless coffins and gravestones. Some of them were exposed while some of them were half buried in the ground. The passage had disappeared the moment they stepped out of the entrance. Of course, they were not shocked because of that. Even though the space distortion was a high-level spell, it had been within their expectations.

The real reason they were shocked was that, above the cemetery, in the dark night sky, a blood red moon was hanging in the air, looking incredibly strange and sinister.

The moon was incredibly huge, much larger than normal. Everyone could vaguely see three spots of light, that looked like stars, on the blood red moon. One of the stars seemed to glow in a blue light, and behind the blue light was a burning orb that looked like a ball of fire. The third spot seemed to be dim, but was surrounded by the red glow.

The three spots seemed to form a straight line, and completely aligned with the blood moon, which shocked them immensely.

“Welcome. I’ve been waiting for you for a long time.” A low voice was suddenly heard, and all of them had goosebumps. The voice was way too close, as if someone was talking right next to them. Almost immediately, Cheng Ming’s sword aura flared and Chen Dao’s flame magic shot out, shooting right at the empty night sky.

With the explosions that followed, An Luo quickly attacked as well, but they were quickly stopped by Xiao Lin. Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes as he had already noticed that, in the empty space, the black figure that floated in the air still looked very vague, but it was obviously the high priest of that fallen kingdom.

It was Asabanor.

“It’s useless. He’s currently a spirit, a form of pure energy. And he seems to have protection spells, so don’t waste your strength,” Xiao Lin said lightly, completely at ease.

The fact that Asabanor dared to stand in front of everyone so openly meant that he was definitely prepared. They did not know what he did, but the earlier onslaught of attacks merely passed through his body, not causing any harm.

“You stray dog, you actually dared to come unto Dawn Academy’s territory. Are you not afraid that you’ll lose your life here?” Xiao Lin mocked as he walked forward, shielding everyone.

He had noticed Asabanor’s words. It was only ‘you’, and not ‘all of you’. The meaning behind it was obvious — the opponent’s goal was only Xiao Lin in the end, and the others were merely unluckily pulled into this. So, Xiao Lin hoped that he could shift Asabanor’s focus on himself. In the worst case, he could at least gain some time for the others to run away..

Chapter 682 - Crazy Plan

Chapter 682: Crazy Plan

At that moment, Asabanor looked more like a vague image without any material form. Of course, that was just like the information that they had. After returning from the Final Lands, Asabanor was just in a spirit state. A spirit state could evade most forms of damage, but as long as the energy was strong enough, it could still cause damage to the creature.

So, Xiao Lin was still quite confident. He shielded everyone else, and prepared to block any attacks from his opponent as he observed Asabanor, waiting for a chance to kill his foe off in one blow. He believed that it would be possible if he used Ruin.

However, Asabanor did not attack immediately; the figure in the sky seemed to have expressions of contempt in his dim pupils and he rasped, "You're right. With my current state, if I didn't have elaborate preparations, I would not have dared to step into your territories. I have to admit, in these years, you've done well. Your growth has been even more shocking than I expected. Even if I had a material body right now, I might not be able to beat the best experts that you have."

"If you're afraid, then get lost!" Chen Dao immediately shouted excitedly in his usual candid manner.

Asabanor's words did indeed have a sense of admitting defeat behind them, but Xiao Lin was still on alert. He understood Asabanor more than the rest of them. He was someone who would not give up no matter what. Asabanor's words caused the worries in his mind to become even clearer.

Asabanor's voice was still spreading. It was obvious that Asabanor did not plan on attacking them here. Other than defending, he did not seem to have any intentions of fighting, yet his words seemed to mock them even more. "If I can't beat you, then I just have to leave. So, I invited you over today just to say goodbye to all of you."

"Xiao Lin, no! That! That is!" Gu Xiaoyue suddenly shouted out in shock. Her voice was in great disbelief.

Xiao Lin immediately retreated a few steps, and after looking back, he noticed that the usually calm Gu Xiaoyue was losing all her composure. She stared at the blood moon in the sky, her eyes full of shock as her body trembled slightly. It was the first time Xiao Lin had ever seen that woman look so shocked.

Not needing the others to ask, Gu Xiaoyue's shaky hand pointed up at the moon in the sky as she continued to shout in horror, "That... That's Earth! It's our Earth!"

Following the direction Gu Xiaoyue was pointing, everyone looked up again. Everyone had noticed the three dots on the blood moon, but no one had realized what it was, and they probably had felt that it was just a ploy by Asabanor.

Yet, when they looked again, Xiao Lin noticed as well that the three points had started to rapidly expand. The blue dot did look more and more like Earth, and that small, lightless orb looked like the Earth's moon. As for that burning orb... Was that not the Sun?

While the others were still in a state of shock, the others were the first to react. He realized where the unsettling feeling on his mind had come from.

Asabanor was clearly preparing to bring the flames of war to Earth!

It was a ruthless means of revenge. That man did not just have a strong will for revenge. He also had an insane and intelligent mind. Since he could not defeat the colonists in the New World, then he would just attack right at the roots. Even though Asabanor did not know anything about the

history and background of the colonists when his kingdom had fallen, as an astrologian, after his fervent recent efforts, he had definitely learned a lot more.

For instance, Asabanor had found their homeworld, which was Earth. He knew that not everyone on Earth had the abnormal abilities that the colonists had. Most of the people on Earth had bodies that were easily destroyed, so attacking Earth became a real possibility.

It was an unbelievable and crazy plan, but Xiao Lin still found it hard to believe. Song Junlang had talked to him at length about the New World's astronomical location. Even Dawn Academy's Earth Division's observatory did not hide it, but in recent years, the observatory had tried to find the New World in the universe.

That task was something almost every academy was doing, even though most of them did not hold out much hope for it. However, after a long time, they did get some clues. Of course, it was a secret, but with Song Junlang's connections, that fact did not matter at all.

Actually, the answer was meaningless, because the planet that the New World was on was extremely far away from Earth. Song Junlang did not say how far, but he had described the distance as insane. It would need them to cross dozens of solar systems just to get there. So, unless they used some special wormholes, it was impossible to cross between the two planets.

Yet, Asabanor had managed to do it, and in Xiao Lin's shock, he was still suspicious. No matter how crazy that man was, it was not something just one person could do when the collective efforts of so many academies could not do so after so many years of research.

The three dots in the blood moon that represented Earth, the moon, and the Sun were slowly moving. When they completely turned into a straight line, a shocking amount of energy shot out, and the ground started to shake, as if it were a grade-twelve earthquake. Even though Gu Xiaoyue had quickly cast support spells to help everyone maintain their balance, it could still not completely prevent the effects.

"That's a ripple in space." Gu Xiaoyue quickly reacted. Her tired face had an expression of heartache. Spatial magics were above her abilities.

"If Asabanor wants to return to Earth, why does he need us?" Chen Dao said anxiously. The others had those questions in their minds as well. Everyone had already understood the meaning behind Asabanor's words earlier, but they still did not understand what it had to do with a few first-year students like themselves.

Asabanor did not leave them in confusion for that long. With the increase in the shaking, he was still slowly floating in space, coldly laughing to the displeasure of everyone. "You are the last part of my plan. It's just a pity that constructing a wormhole is far more difficult than I thought. I really have to thank you, as if it wasn't for all of you, the passage might never have been made! Hahaha!"

Xiao Lin's heart slowly sank alongside that crazed laughter. Those words had contained too much information, and had completely shattered the doubts that he had..

Chapter 683 - Gradually Resolved Doubts

Chapter 683: Gradually Resolved Doubts

Asabanor's words were filled with mocking. He did not thank 'you', but instead said, 'all of your'. Yet, Xiao Lin did not think that he was referring to the five of them. Among the five of them, the only one with value to Asabanor was probably only himself.

In truth, when Xiao Lin guessed that the situation was set up by Asabanor, he had already started to be filled with doubt and concern. Even though the tournament was not much of a secret between the academies, but with the secrecy between the colonists, the information could not possibly have been revealed to the natives of the New World. Even lower-ranking members of the academy would not be able to have known anything about the location of the tournament.

From the current situation, Asabanor not only managed to learn about it, he had even known about it for a long time. No matter if it was the blood moon in front of him, or those undead troops, they were not things that could be easily achieved, and would definitely need a long time and many resources to prepare.

And this was Dawn Academy's territory!

The fact that Asabanor could set up a trap like that, waiting for Xiao Lin and the others to jump in, was not something Xiao Lin believed could have been done in secret, even if he could tell the future.

Unless someone from Dawn Academy had intentionally hid the information, or, even more horrifyingly, Asabanor was working with certain people and gaining help from Dawn Academy!

Xiao Lin felt like a child. The moment he started to speculate in that direction, he found out he had no way of stopping it. It might have sounded crazy before, and possibly unbelievable, but the reality in front of him left him no room for doubt.

To be able to do something like that, while being able to hide it so well, meant there were very few in Dawn Academy who could be the suspects. After eliminating the rest, Xiao Lin could easily guess which person was the most possible culprit, but he still found it hard to believe. He definitely needed the answer.

"Who's helping you?!" Xiao Lin shouted loudly. Around him, countless rocks were slowly floating up due to the gravitational suction of the blood moon. Gu Xiaoyue was still maintaining their balance with magic, but it seemed to be helpless.

The situation in front of them left them without any means to advance or to retreat, so it was quite hopeless. They could not attack Asabanor, and did not have the ability to leave that cemetery. Around them, a wave of undead surrounded them and was preventing them from leaving.

Chen Dao and Cheng Ming were already out of ideas, and everyone's gaze fell on Xiao Lin. As the leader that had helped them escape many difficult situations, the miracles that Xiao Lin had produced so far caused them to place their final hopes on him.

Asabanor looked at everyone in amusement. Xiao Lin was not worried that the guy would deliberately conceal anything or lie, because at that moment, the truth was the thing that would impact Xiao Lin and the others the most.

Sure enough, Asabanor slowly spoke up, “Don’t you already have the answer in your heart? In your territory, without the help of your leader, how could I be standing here?”

“What do you mean by that?!” Chen Dao shouted angrily.

“Our leader... Does he mean the dean?” An Luo was uncertain.

“How is that possible?” Cheng Ming was quite shocked, and immediately denied it.

“It would be impossible if it was the old dean, but don’t forget, our dean has changed.” Gu Xiaoyue had a helpless look in her eyes.

With his guess finally being confirmed, Xiao Lin’s body trembled with anger. He had never liked the new dean, but he still chose to respect the person out of principle. After all, the man was still Dawn Academy’s dean. Even though their methods were different, they were still working for the benefit of Dawn Academy.

However, he had chosen to work in cooperation with Asabanor. Did that mean that his goal was getting rid of Xiao Lin? Putting aside everything else, what good would it do for Dawn Academy to get rid of an SS-rank talent holder?

Xiao Lin did not understand, but Asabanor quickly continued with an answer, “It seems like you still don’t understand, stupid invader. The long period of peace has caused all of you to become too naive. I can’t help but say that I quite admire your new leader.”

“Didn’t you say that you hated us to the bone, and wanted nothing more than revenge? Yet you actually chose to work in cooperation with our people? Your position is a joke.” Xiao Lin tried to slide in some insults.

Asabanor laughed, and his laughter was incredibly grating and horrible under his spirit state. “You’re wrong! My goal was never revenge, but to revive my country! My country, my citizens, will never be buried in history just like that!”

Xiao Lin finally understood. He helped that former high priest finish the rest of his words. “There are no absolute enemies, only absolute benefits. You used this world to exchange our planet Earth with our dean! You want to use Earth as the new place for your kingdom!”

“However, Xiao Lin, that makes no sense. The New World was already our colony, so how could a dead spirit like that use the New World to exchange anything with the dean. You must be overthinking it!” Chen Dao still did not understand, but he did not want to talk to Asabanor, so he turned to look at Xiao Lin.

“Not our colonies; our shared colonies with other countries.” Gu Xiaoyue took a deep breath. She was forcing herself to remain calm. She knew that her losing her composure was not due to Asabanor, but rather concern for her sister. If Xiao Lin’s guess was right, and Asabanor wanted to use Earth to revive his kingdom, then everyone on Earth would become a slave to that madman.

Xiao Lin sighed bitterly. “Gu Xiaoyue is right. The old dean worked together with the rest, and developed the New World together. However, the new dean would rather fight against the other academies over the resources in the New World. I can’t believe he’d be so ruthless. The participants from the British Royal Academy should all already be dead. They did not die in the hands of any outsiders, but our own people. What a disgrace!”

Xiao Lin took a deep breath, continuing, “If I’m not mistaken, a war is about to erupt in the New World.” No matter what Asabanor gave to the new dean, the fact that the dean had sacrificed an SS-rank talent holder like Xiao Lin meant that it was definitely something extraordinary.

“I have a final question. Why me?” Xiao Lin asked.

“Because you’re the final key to opening the wormhole. The power of the law in your body is a mysterious power that can ignore the laws of the universe. That is a power that countless people can only dream of. No matter.. After tonight, that power will belong to me!”

Chapter 684 - Hopelessness

Chapter 684: Hopelessness

The short answering session ended there. Asabanor no longer planned on answering any other questions, and Xiao Lin did not plan on asking any either. He already knew what he should do. Of course, the news would definitely cause shocking waves if it spread, but it was already fine, because the dead did not speak.

No matter if it was Xiao Lin, Cheng Ming, Chen Dao, An Luo, or Gu Xiaoyue, or even the British team, Asabanor had never planned on letting any of them leave the place alive.

“Xiao Lin, we absolutely can’t allow him to reach Earth! Absolutely not!” Gu Xiaoyue shouted loudly. All of their expressions were anxious when they saw the Earth, the moon and the Sun form a straight light.

Everyone knew what allowing Asabanor to reach Earth would mean. No matter how weak Asabanor was, to a normal person from Earth, he was an unrivaled existence. With Asabanor’s army of undead, Earth would turn into hell.

Among those people were Gu Xiaoyue’s sister, and Xiao Lin’s family and friends. It did not matter if they decided to stay in the New World or not; the relationships they had were something they could never forget or cast aside.

Without needing anyone else to say anything, Xiao Lin immediately activated his Ruin state. His eyes were determined as he unleashed his Phantom Steps. Using his incredibly quick footwork and the gravity from the blood moon, Xiao Lin seemed to easily leap into the air.

Gu Xiaoyue had quickly used the support spell ‘Wings of Flight’ after regaining her composure, and two faint green wings materialized on Xiao Lin’s back, allowing him to maintain his balance

despite the howling winds and debris in the air. It might not have been a high level spell, but it was enough for him.

“Even if you’re in a spirit state, I don’t believe you can stand up to this!” Xiao Lin did not hold anything back in his anger as he unleashed all of the elemental sword aura in his body. It was a strike that had used all of his power, and it turned into a sea of flames, illuminating the whole cemetery. The surrounding undead troops started to cry out in agony and retreat.

“You’re stronger than last time. You really are someone with the power of the laws. You have even more potential than Ivan. If you had enough time, maybe...” Asabanor’s crazed expression had a sliver of curiosity and praise to it, but he did not finish his words because if he agreed that the boy in front of him had potential, he would have to live on. However, in his eyes, Xiao Lin was already a dead man.

Boom!

The tremors on the ground grew even more intense, and massive amounts of stone and soil started to float in the air, slowly revealing a vibrant red color under the ground.

“Despicable creature, what did you do?!” Xiao Lin suddenly stopped his attack, and the flames in the air suddenly dissipated. He could feel the strength in his body start to disappear, and in a moment, he did not seem to even have the power to raise his arm.

What was even more strange was that Xiao Lin ended up in a position where he could do nothing. In the middle of the air, he could not advance, nor could he retreat. Even though there seemed to be an intense gravity coming from the blood moon, on the ground, the red patterns that slowly emerged seemed to unleash an equal amount of force. The two forces clashed and maintained a strange equilibrium.

Chen Dao and the others could finally not be concerned about being sucked into the moon. When the suction beneath their feet started, they fell back to the floor, and could finally let out a sigh of relief. However, the moment of silence was like the calm before the storm.

“This isn’t right!”

“What shocking power!”

“That pervert, what’s he trying to do to Xiao Lin?!”

“We need to think of something!”

The others finally found that something was wrong. In the equilibrium of the two forces, there was a third, massive power that was being unleashed. That power was completely different from the other two, and completely different from anything else they knew. The power did not come in explosive waves, and was more like a drizzle.

The origin of the power was Xiao Lin’s body!

“It’s a God... A God Sealing Array. Asabanor, you really think highly of me. You... You actually used this formation against me!” Xiao Lin looked back in his struggle, and seemed to make out something from the red patterns on the ground as shock appeared on his face.

Under the soil and the graves, there was an extremely big blood-colored magical formation. The scale of the magical formation was unimaginable, and once again confirmed that Asabanor was working with the new dean. No matter who it was, they would never be able to do all of that under the watch of Dawn Academy.

Xiao Lin might not know much about magical formations, but he happened to know about the one in front of him. When he and Silverlight went back to the era of Atlantis, they had used that formation. It was called the strongest sealing technique, and they had sealed Poseidon into the sands of time.

However, he never expected that the formation would appear again in the New World. Despite the tense atmosphere, Xiao Lin could not help but lament in his mind that Earth really had been related to the New World during ancient times. Otherwise, such a formation would not have appeared both in ancient Atlantis and here.

“Oh? You even know of this formation. Even a hundred years ago, only a small amount of people knew about it. It is an ancient formation that has been lost for tens of thousands of years.” Asabanor was surprised yet again, but he quickly regained his calm and smiled coldly. “Since you know, you should know that you can’t escape. You’re mistaken about something though. After I changed the formation, it’s no longer meant for sealing, but breaking seals. It unleashes sealed energy.”

Asabanor had a crazy look on his face. It was the result of his years of research in the Final Lands, and it was finally about to bear fruit. He could not help but say a few more words, “The power of laws. Since the creation of the world, it is the most mysterious form of power. No one is worthy of wielding the powers of creation. Do you understand what I mean? No matter if it’s Ivan, you, or that little girl, you can only hold it, but you can’t wield it because it’s not something that can be controlled. It is merely power that has been sealed, and all of you are only the vessels!

“The power of the laws is a source of unlimited energy! It is a power that can traverse universes. That’s right, I want to use this reverse sealing to unleash the power sealed inside you, and using that power as a source, it will send me and my troops right into your home!

“As for you, if a vessel has sealed up energy that is more than it can take, then the only result is that you will crumble apart like glass.. It might be a pity, but this is your end! The power of law is not something you invaders should have!”

Chapter 685 - Core Of The Formation

Chapter 685: Core Of The Formation

As far as they could tell, all of Asabanor's plans had been clearly revealed. Using Xiao Lin as a focus and using the reverse sealing formation to extract the power within Xiao Lin's body. It was true that the power did not belong to Xiao Lin, and was actually a part of his SS-rank talent. As for how strong that power was, even Xiao Lin did not know.

However, since Asabanor was so certain, it meant that Asabanor understood it well. The power to traverse the universe was impressive and horrifying.

Setting aside Asabanor's mentality and which side he was on, Xiao Lin could not help but be impressed. Even though he was a complete lunatic, he had done something so many people from all the academies had failed to do.

Chen Dao and the others did not understand Asabanor's words, but they still understood the final part.

"Xiao Lin will die!"

"Of course!"

"We have to think of something! We have to save him!"

"Once again, of course!"

Chen Dao and An Luo were the first to launch their attacks. Chen Dao's flame spells and An Luo's arrows all had incredibly high long-ranged killing potential, but unfortunately, within the so-called strongest sealing formation, their attacks meant nothing. Their attacks were dispersed the moment they shot it out, and no matter how hard they tried, there was nothing they could do.

In the end, they were still only Bronze-ranked students, and even Xiao Lin's power in his Ruin state could not do anything to break the formation, let alone their meager attacks.

Asabanor had definitely noticed their actions in the air, but he merely looked at them with disdainful eyes, as if he was looking at a few ants. He did not care about them at all, but after a few seconds, his eyes suddenly widened as he suddenly snorted in cold derision. "Know your place, little girl!"

Chen Dao and An Luo were busying themselves, but Cheng Ming and Gu Xiaoyue, who had no long-ranged attacks, did not stay idle. After calming down, Gu Xiaoyue once again used her intellect. Even though she knew nothing about the God Sealing Array, she had not been studying the whole year for nothing.

"Cheng Ming, listen to me, every magical formation has a core. As long as we break the core, even if we can't completely destroy the array, the effects would greatly decrease!" Gu Xiaoyue said in a low voice to Cheng Ming.

"Wait for me. I'll call the other two over." Cheng Ming had wanted to call Chen Dao and An Luo over as well.

"No, let them continue to distract Asabanor's attention. We only have one chance!" Gu Xiaoyue stopped Cheng Ming.

Cheng Ming did not mind as he scratched his head. He nodded as he said, "Alright! I know you're smarter than I am, so I'll listen to you. Only, are you sure where the core is? You said it as well, we don't have many chances, so if we make any mistakes, we'll draw the attention of that old pervert."

Gu Xiaoyue pointed to the center of the blood-red formation that was a hundred meters away. There was a grave that was vaguely visible. Because of the sand that was flying around, it would easily be missed if one was not looking for it carefully. Cheng Ming rubbed his eyes and looked toward where the girl was pointing before he finally saw it.

Gu Xiaoyue smiled softly. "Every formation has their weak points. Even though I admit that Asabanor is an extremely careful person like Xiao Lin said, he still failed to fool me. That gravestone had felt wrong to me earlier on. Even though it's not very eye-catching, hiding in a cemetery, the fact that it remains unmoving despite the forces around us is extremely unusual. So, I'm very certain that the core is there!"

Cheng Ming wiped away his sweat and did not know if he should praise Gu Xiaoyue for her eyes or her intelligence. No matter what, he was not someone who used his brains a lot, and he trusted his companion. Even though Gu Xiaoyue had deliberately left some things out, Cheng Ming knew as well that regardless of whether or not he would succeed, he would still be taking an immense risk, so he still agreed, without a hint of hesitation.

Gu Xiaoyue was taken aback. The intelligent woman had indeed deliberately concealed the risks. For instance, the fact that it was the core meant that there would definitely be an incredibly strong energy field nearby. Even if Cheng Ming managed to get near it, it would be an incredibly difficult obstacle.

However, there was nothing Gu Xiaoyue could do. She wanted to save Xiao Lin, and wanted to save Gu Chengyun, who was on Earth. Even though it had been a year in the academy, Gu Xiaoyue only completely trusted Xiao Lin. The others, such as Cheng Ming and Chen Dao, were still regarded with some care despite the trust.

She never expected that Cheng Ming would unconditionally choose to accept such a risk at such a time, so it stunned her for a moment before she mumbled to Cheng Ming's back, "Thank you."

Cheng Ming waved it off, indicating that he had heard it before raising his large shield and moving forward. He had even thrown the sword in his hand aside since the additional burden would affect his speed. Furthermore, he felt that his strength was no longer of any consequence at that time, so it was better to reduce his burden.

"Know your place!" Asabanor coldly snorted. "Do you really think the God Sealing Array is something you can easily touch at your level?"

Asabanor did not want to care about those ants, but seeing as Gu Xiaoyue had easily found where his core was had insulted his dignity. He waved his arms, and the undead army around the formation slowly started to move again.

"Chen Dao! An Luo! Stop them!" Gu Xiaoyue had given up on her image, and started to shout loudly.

With Xiao Lin captured, Gu Xiaoyue had turned into the temporary leader. Chen Dao and An Luo exchanged a look. Even though they had not gotten briefed about the situation clearly, they both still chose to trust in Gu Xiaoyue's assessment.

Even though their physical abilities and intelligence attributes were decent, it was still hard for the two of them to face the undead army alone. Thankfully, the God Sealing Array did not care for friend or foe, and the undead army had been affected as well the moment they walked into the array, their strengths immediately decreasing by over half. Some of the weaker skeletons had crumbled, not being able to stand the force.

Asabanor's eyes twitched in the air. He had wasted a lot of time on the high-level undead army, so it had pained him quite a bit. He had planned on using them as the base of his kingdom's revival on Earth, so he had not planned on using them so easily.

However, even someone as crazy as Asabanor had their dignity. He would not let just any random person find the core of his formation. If there was anyone who did, then he would just have to kill them..

Chapter 686 - Last Resort

Chapter 686: Last Resort

Chen Dao and An Luo were already fighting the undead army, and both sides were at a deadlock. Under the God Sealing Array, they could not showcase even half of their skills, and it took quite a lot out of them to use. Even though the restrictions were equal on both sides, the undead army's unending numbers were the greatest advantage.

Asabanor understood that as well. Even though he did not care about the combat ability of the few of them, he still chose the most reliable method at that moment: using his numbers!

However, compared to An Luo and Chen Dao, Cheng Ming was the one under the most pressure. The so-called strongest magical formation was no joke. Earlier, they did not feel much since they were not moving, but the further he headed toward the center, the more pressure he felt from the energy. It felt like he was continuously increasing the burden on his body.

Cheng Ming's face was already slowly reddening. As someone who was able to enter the New World and someone whose physical strength was quite exceptional, even amongst the monitors, he had been quite confident in his endurance. However, only ten meters in, he started to understand that he was mistaken.

Even if it had been changed by Asabanor, the God Sealing Array was still a formation meant to seal gods. Xiao Lin had seen it once before, so he knew of the power of that formation. However, the others did not have the same experiences as Xiao Lin, and even someone as smart as Gu Xiaoyue seemed to have underestimated the power of the formation.

Cheng Ming's footsteps had noticeably slowed down. Each step he took came with an unbelievable pressure, and everyone else could see how he was doing.

Gu Xiaoyue was anxious, and Chen Dao and An Luo were shocked. Xiao Lin sighed. They were all intelligent people, and after a brief moment, they quickly understood how much Cheng Ming was taking on.

What shocked them was that Chen Ming had only slowed down for a few dozen seconds before his footsteps slowly started to get firmer, and it even felt like he was constantly speeding up.

"Cheng Ming..." Gu Xiaoyue was speechless. After that, she rapidly turned around, no longer looking at Cheng Ming's struggling back as she focused on Chen Dao and An Luo. The wand in her hand rapidly danced around again, placing a few support spells on the two of them.

"Our task is protecting Xiao Lin and Cheng Ming!" Gu Xiaoyue regained her composure again.

An Luo and Chen Dao exchanged a glance, feeling as if Gu Xiaoyue had grown up. However, it was not the time to think about that. Xiao Lin was trapped, and Cheng Ming was suffering an immense burden. They naturally had no reason to hold back, and Chen Dao's fire spells started to get more intense, and An Luo's arrows became more accurate.

Each of them were working hard in their own way, and Xiao Lin was just as anxious as any of them. However, at that moment, he had become a burden to them, and he did not like that feeling.

It was despicable!

Xiao Lin frantically did everything he could. The feeling was very strange. He could clearly feel the energy constantly coming out of his body, but he had no way of using that power. Anytime he used any force, the power he exerted would be cleanly absorbed by the array beneath his feet.

Only if he used a tremendous amount of energy in a short amount of time, strong enough that the God Sealing Array could not completely absorb it, could Xiao Lin have the chance to retaliate, even if it was just for a second or two.

His power in his Ruin state was nothing in the God Sealing Array, and Asabanor had already seen his power under his Ruin state. With how careful that crazed man was, there was no way Asabanor was not prepared for it.

Above Ruin, there was only Myth.

If Ruin was able to increase Xiao Lin's power by more than ten times, then Myth would at least be fifty times! That power was something that could even defeat the Sea God Poseidon. Even if it was not Poseidon in his complete state, it was still a terrifying power.

Yet, the side effects of Myth were hard to imagine. Song Junlang's words still rang in his mind. Power was sacrifice. The greater the power and, the more the power exceeded the limits of one's body, the greater the damage it would deal to the self. It could even cause irreversible damage, and could even damage the soul.

Even though it was a new power that Xiao Lin had, he had only used it once before. The cost of using it had been a few dozen years of his life span. Even though Song Junlang's experimental potion had helped Xiao Lin with the side effect, it did not mean Xiao Lin could continue using it.

Song Junlang had always been a carefree person, but a carefree person like that had given Xiao Lin such a strict warning before he left: never to use Myth again, or the consequences would be dire!

Xiao Lin would definitely not doubt the truth behind that warning, and would definitely not think that Song Junlang was deliberately making it more serious than it was. With his understanding of Department Head Song, the fact that Song Junlang had said it so earnestly meant that the severity of the matter was probably worse than what he said.

Myth... To use it or to not use it?

Xiao Lin suddenly smiled lightly. The question played in his mind for a moment, but the answer was actually simple.

He would definitely die if he did not use it, and it would even affect the entire Earth. If he used it, the worst that could happen was death, but he would at least have the chance to save others before he died.

"What?" Asabanor finally frowned in the air. He noticed that Xiao Lin had stopped struggling. In truth, he enjoyed watching others struggle in vain.

Did he finally give up?

Asabanor thought about it, and felt that his plan was definitely perfect, so he shook his head. He had thought that the man he placed some regard to would have brought him even more excitement.

"It's fine. Continue being that way, and become my stepping stone. At least you have the right for me to remember you. After I revive my country, I might even have someone write a record of you. After all, you have the right as someone who holds the power of laws. You... What have you done?!"

The calm Asabanor finally had a change of expression. His raspy voice suddenly sharpened as he asked loudly, "What did you do?!"

There was only determination left on Xiao Lin's face. At that moment, be it the blood moon or the power in the God Sealing Array, they had all started to undergo minor changes.

Activating Myth required a bit of time; he first needed to condense all the power in his body before exploding it outward in a short amount of time. Yet, as he prepared to start, Xiao Lin was surprised to notice that this time seemed different than the last..

Chapter 687 - Myth Makes Another Appearance!

Chapter 687: Myth Makes Another Appearance!

Unlike last time, Myth seemed to need an exceptionally long time to prepare. Last time, Xiao Lin had condensed all the power within himself, but it was different this time. Other than the power within Xiao Lin's body, he was also condensing the power around him, which was also the power that had been released by the God Sealing Array.

In name, the power that had been unleashed was obviously Xiao Lin's as well, or at least his SS-rank talent's. It was the power of law as Asabanor called it, but Xiao Lin had only been able to use less than a thousandth of that power.

If it was at any other moment, Xiao Lin would have given up on using Myth the moment he felt himself losing control because the energy was too strong. It was like a huge wave that was crashing down on him. Even someone who could ride the waves like him would be drowned instantly. It was a power that could swallow everything.

Power was sacrifice.

However, at that moment, Xiao Lin no longer cared. His expression turned into one of determination as he threw away all reservation, not hesitating to pour in all the energy into Myth.

Gu Xiaoyue and the others could also feel that power that they had felt never before. In that state of equilibrium, the power felt like it had come out of nowhere. Even if they did not know why, they could guess that the source of the power was Xiao Lin.

They seemed to have realized something, and when they looked at Xiao Lin, other than the shock and awe in their eyes, there was also undisguised concern.

Xiao Lin looked back as well, but he only looked at Gu Xiaoyue. After that, he used all his might to gently mouth a few words. However, the tremendous power had blocked his voice, yet Gu Xiaoyue, who was also looking at him, suddenly sobbed. As intelligent as she was, she naturally understood those words.

'I love you. Goodbye.'

"Myth!"

The next second, before Gu Xiaoyue could even react, tremendous waves of energy started to fill up the whole space. Xiao Lin finally regained his movement in the air, and his eyes had a faint golden glow to it. In the middle of his forehead, a blue light appeared.

Xiao Lin first looked at the undead army around the cemetery before casually waving his hand. Then, as if he was casually using his sleeve to wipe a table, an intense white energy swept through the whole army. In less than a second, all of the undead, be it the mid- or high-leveled ones, were all turned to dust.

What a strong flame!” Chen Dao widened his eyes. As someone who used flame magic as well, no one else would understand as much as him how powerful Xiao Lin’s attack was.

“The basis of fire magic is temperature. I’ve read in the library before that the highest leveled flame spells, due to the compression of energy, will all materialize in white. It’s the temperature of the stars,” Chen Dao mumbled in shock.

“However, we seem to be fine. Could the flames be able to differentiate friend from foe?” An Luo remarked as well. The flames seemed to have swiped right past them, but An Luo did not feel burned at all, let alone injured.

“Because, the current him is no longer someone at our level,” Gu Xiaoyue said as she swallowed. Her blurry eyes were fixed on Xiao Lin in the air. It was filled with wistfulness, sadness, and determination.

With the extermination of the undead army, they were temporarily safe. Chen Dao asked, “What do we do now? Do we help Xiao Lin?” The woman’s tears also caused him to feel uneasy.

Gu Xiaoyue wiped her tears, forcing herself to calm down before she said, “There’s no need. He doesn’t need our help right now, but we have something else to do. We have to help Cheng Ming. We have to destroy his formation, so we can’t let his hard work and sacrifice be in vain. Absolutely not!”

The word ‘sacrifice’ left An Luo and Chen Dao stunned, but Gu Xiaoyue said nothing else. Just like she said, Xiao Lin had his own goal, and they had been tasked with something that they needed to do.

Xiao Lin did not hesitate at all after wiping away the undead, and immediately rushed at Asabanor in the air. Even without Gu Xiaoyue’s support magic, under Myth, his control over his power allowed him to easily fly and float.

“I see. sSo it’s a shield that is formed by distorting space.” Xiao Lin glanced at Asabanor and immediately understood his opponent’s tricks. Xiao Lin mocked, “No wonder Chen Dao’s attacks were useless earlier. You’re still a coward in the end. Do you only dare to hide behind a shield?”

However, Xiao Lin was still shocked, despite his words. Shields normally merely used energy fields to protect the caster, so shields would usually break by themselves as long as the energy field was slowly depleted or the user’s strength was drained.

However, a shield that bent space was something at a completely different level. It used space to completely protect oneself, and was even stronger than Absolute Defense. It felt impossible to overcome other than with an immense surge of power. It was no wonder Asabanor seemed to be unworried. That spell was close to a forbidden spell because there was too much risk when it came to bending space. It was one thing to be swallowed yourself, but it might even involve people or objects nearby. However, Xiao Lin was someone who had been to the restricted section of the library, and had seen the relevant information before.

Xiao Lin had not been able to see the truth earlier, but after activating Myth and absorbing an unbelievable amount of energy, his power was nowhere near his usual state. The shield did not

manage to escape his eyes, even though, at the moment, he did not know what level he was at. Silver? Gold? Or maybe even higher?

Asabanor's pale face had a look of shock, and his sharp raspy voice quickly said in anger, "So what?! So what if you've seen through it?! This is a shield that I have researched for hundreds of years. If you know how powerful this is, then you'd better give up..."

Boom!

Before the high priest could finish speaking, a white ball of energy shot out. He did not even have the time to dodge, and in a flash, the right side of his body was gone.

"Give up? Yes? You should tell yourself to give up!" Xiao Lin's expression was cold.. In his open palm, another ball of energy started to materialize as he mocked, "Don't you know what kind of energy I'm using right now?"

Chapter 688 - Asabanor's Threat

Chapter 688: Asabanor's Threat

Asabanor fell silent for a moment before clenching his teeth. He spat out a few words, "The power of law!"

Xiao Lin added for him mockingly, "That's right, and even if it's not a complete version, it's already approaching it. It's the power of creation, and all of this was given by you. I'm so grateful to you!"

Asabanor was speechless. It was right, Xiao Lin's words might have been grating, but it was the truth. This time, he had messed it up. The reverse God Sealing Array, coupled with the blood moon that only appeared once every few hundred years... Using that opportunity, he had successfully moved the power of law, which was also known as the strongest power. He had thought that he would be able to open a wormhole to Earth with that.

Asabanor thought about what would happen if Xiao Lin ended up wielding all of that power instead. After all, even though he was just a vessel, Xiao Lin was still the owner of that power. If he really managed to wield it, then even the high priest at his peak would be annihilated instantly.

That speculation was just a passing thought, and quickly dispersed after he thought about it for less than ten seconds.

Asabanor might not be an SS-rank talent holder, but his research on laws did not lose out to anyone. Furthermore, he had interacted with Ivanovich before, who was the first person to wield the law among the academies, so Asabanor knew very well that, other than Gods, it was practically impossible to completely master that power.

However, despite his numerous plans, Asabanor still missed some key information. He did not know about Myth, and the old schemer quickly regained his composure. His stubbornness and fervor did not allow him to easily give up on reviving his kingdom.

Asabanor's destroyed body was rapidly recovering. To be precise, he did not actually have a physical body, and was merely a ghost. Of course, it was a ghost that was even more powerful than a regular or even high-ranked undead creature. So, as long as his spirit was not destroyed, he would not die from an injury like that.

Xiao Lin raised his eyebrow, not surprised at all. He looked around, and the energies that had been balanced temporarily due to the blood moon and the reverse God Sealing Array were raging again. It was a raging storm that stemmed from law, and even Xiao Lin did not know how much power there was.

However, he was surprised to notice that the vortex of energy did not cover too far of a distance. It stopped around a thousand meters away, and seemed to encounter a limit. Xiao Lin could immediately tell that it was due to some space-time spell that probably only appeared in forbidden books that could separate a certain space and time from the real world. This meant that the cemetery they were in might still be in the New World, but it was also a separate world.

Of course, Xiao Lin could also tell that the arrangement was probably not Asabanor's initial intention. The fanatic had probably hoped to use the storm of energy to destroy Dawn Academy's colonial territories as well, but the new dean would definitely not have allowed it. It might have been part of the negotiations of that deal, and even the books that contained the components for this forbidden spell were probably provided by the new dean.

He coldly snorted, "I have to say, the space-time spells you've researched are quite impressive. If you had been given to a guy I know as a sample, he would probably happily dissect you for study."

Asabanor's body had already completely recovered. He did not understand Xiao Lin's words about a certain department head dissecting him, but he could still guess that it was not anything nice. However, he had become much more careful, and he pulled his distance away from Xiao Lin. Even though he did not know if that distance was safe, he at least felt like he would have a little more time to react.

Even though he would not die, no matter how injured he was in his spirit state, spirits were still a form of energy, and even the highest levels of energy could run out. And now, he was sure that Xiao Lin had the ability to completely exhaust his energy.

"I admit, the power you have is the power of law, even if it's not complete and still too immature, a far cry from the true power of creation, it's still law. I would only be able to oppose it with a power of law of the same level. I understand that much." Asabanor's sharp voice was heard again.

Xiao Lin merely smiled coldly, knowing that Asabanor still had more to say.

Sure enough, Asabanor's voice was raised again, laughing. "But so what?! You're still a mortal in the end, and you have the filthy blood of the invaders. There's no way for you to completely use this power. I might not know how you raised your ability to this degree, but do you think I couldn't tell? You're already at your limits! I'm very curious... How long will your body be able to last? Even if I don't do anything, you'll definitely die!"

Xiao Lin fell silent.

He knew that he could not hide the fact from that cunning high priest. Even though he had tried his best to show how pleased he was, he never expected to be seen though so easily.

Myth's burden on the body was immense, far greater than anyone could imagine.

After using Myth last time, the power it provided was only enough for one slash. Just with that devastating slash, it almost killed the incomplete Poseidon, and had completely exhausted Myth.

This time, because of the large amounts of law integrated within thanks to this separated world, it had lowered the energy he consumed, which was why Xiao Lin could maintain Myth for longer. It was already a great increase from last time. Even his casual wave that destroyed all the undead troops did not use up too much power.

However, just like Asabanor said, it was only a matter of time. Myth was not a power that Xiao Lin could control at his level. With the power of law coursing through his veins, it was not something a normal human could control. Xiao Lin was putting his life on the line, and racing against time!

Looking at Xiao Lin's silence, Asabanor seemed to have found a weak point, and was even more pleased. "Then, let me guess. The power you have right now can actually kill me. Even if it's just for a short time, I admit that the power is enough! Yet, you haven't, and I'm still standing here.. That strike was just to scare me, right? What are you afraid of? What is scaring you? Yes? Let me answer it for you! You're afraid of this blood moon! It's a passage that I opened, so only I can close it!

Chapter 689 - Negotiation

Chapter 689: Negotiation

Xiao Lin's palm was still open, and the energy in his palm still glowed. After entering Myth, the lower-leveled skills he had no longer meant much to him. Those attacks of pure energy were far simpler and more effective.

"Close the wormhole!" Xiao Lin coldly shouted.

Just like Asabanor said, Xiao Lin could definitely have killed off that despicable man easily, but his final goal had not been to kill Asabanor. Or rather, after entering Myth, he realized more of the truth, causing him to not be willing to casually make his attack.

Asabanor turned a deaf ear, and slowly gained his confidence. "It seems like you have noticed it as well. That's right, the blood moon isn't just here this time. It's in your hometown as well. I heard that it is a rare sight that only happens once every few hundred years. Even with the power of your law, there's no way to go against the laws of the universe!"

“You despicable bastard!” Xiao Lin clenched his teeth. Of course, he was not just targeting Asabanor, but also his new dean. Earth’s astronomical phenomena was definitely something that the old man had revealed to Asabanor.

That was why Xiao Lin was stuck in a difficult spot. Even if he killed Asabanor, he had no way of stopping the wormhole from opening because the reverse God Sealing Array had already absorbed quite a bit of energy. The wormhole had actually already opened from the blood moon’s end. If he was not wrong, then there would probably already be supernatural phenomena happening on Earth.

So what if he killed Asabanor?

Then, the wormhole would forever be formed. Even if Asabanor and his undead army would not advance toward Earth, there were too many countries or races that hated the colonists from Earth. When the time came, they would be warding off thousands of enemies. It would not be something they could defend against.

“Close the wormhole! I can forget killing you! Otherwise, you can take that dream of reviving your kingdom to hell with you!” That was the only condition Xiao Lin could give, but he actually did not hold out much hope for it because his opponent was a complete lunatic that never played by the usual rules.

“What if I disagree? Hell? Ah, I was in the Final Lands for so long. Do you think that wasn’t hell?” Asabanor shouted. That man really was insane.

Xiao Lin narrowed his eyes. He could feel Asabanor’s lack of restraint because he really did not have much time left. Even with the absorbed law, Myth’s duration was still limited. He knew that, and Asabanor definitely knew it. That man was just trying to use Xiao Lin’s doubt and hesitation to stall for time.

Xiao Lin’s expression turned cold, and the power in his hand suddenly increased by several times, becoming incredibly bright, like a burning star. He coldly snorted, “Oh? It seems you’re quite happy with dying. If that’s the case, then there’s nothing else to say to you. You should go ahead and die.”

That sudden movement scared Asabanor, and he unconsciously retreated even more. However, Asabanor knew that there was no meaning to that distance, as he could clearly feel Xiao Lin’s unbridled killing intent, so he quickly said, “What are you doing? Don’t you want to close the wormhole anymore?”

“I naturally have my ways of closing it,” Xiao Lin slowly said. His face was unusually calm, not revealing what he was thinking.

“What is your way?” Asabanor asked.

“It has nothing to do with you!” Xiao Lin laughed coldly. After that, the power in his hand shot out, and crackled like electricity, giving Asabanor no time to react.

“Wait! Wait! We can talk about it!” Asabanor suddenly shouted out. He did not try avoiding it, and knew very well that it was not possible.

Almost at the same time, Xiao Lin's palm closed, and the energy ball suddenly exploded right in front of Asabanor. The bright light and the waves of energy dispersed. Even if Asabanor had a shield that distorted space, even if Xiao Lin managed to hold back at the last moment, that level of power still ended up colliding with Asabanor.

The waves of energy slowly dissipated, and only half of Asabanor's body was left. He clenched his teeth as he stared at Xiao Lin. "You were actually serious! Do you really not care about your home world anymore?!" If Xiao Lin had just been half a second later, Asabanor would no longer have existed. The confident Asabanor had finally experienced the threat of death, and finally lost his composure. He might not be afraid of death, but his ambition of reviving his country still caused him to be wary.

Xiao Lin's expression did not change. "Stop pretending. This level of injury won't do anything to you! It seems like you still haven't grasped the situation. Your analysis was right, but do you actually think I won't kill you?"

Xiao Lin smiled nonchalantly, continuing, "You're right, I am almost dead. The power in my body is only temporary. Once the time ends, my body won't be able to withstand this power. So, what would Earth have to do with me after that? I only need to drag you to hell with me!"

"You!"

Asabanor was furious, but he no longer dared to make any casual moves. Xiao Lin now had an attitude of not caring of what would happen if he died.

"What do you want to discuss? I'll give you ten seconds. Otherwise, you can just die. You no longer have any chances." Xiao Lin saw that Asabanor was not speaking, and let out an impatient expression.

Asabanor's face was uncertain, and he suddenly let out a sly smile. "In truth, I have no way to completely seal the wormhole. Of course, I'm not lying to you, as these are the rules of the universe in the end. I'm merely taking advantage of the situation, but can't control it. I can't do it, but you can, and you just need me to provide you with the method." After that, he paused, deliberately trying to stall.

"Speak up, faster!" Xiao Lin started to condense another ball of energy.

"To close the wormhole, you'll need to enter the wormhole yourself, and use your flesh and blood as the seal. That way, the power in your body can change the power of the universe. Only, do you dare do so? Do you know what entering the passage of time and space would mean?" Asabanor asked, pleased.

Xiao Lin thought for less than a second before coldly smiling and saying, "Why wouldn't I dare? My condition is simple. I need you to go with me, or else I would rather just kill you here! You, do you dare?"

Xiao Lin kicked the ball back into Asabanor's court..

Chapter 690 - Entering The Wormhole

Chapter 690: Entering The Wormhole

In the middle of the air, Asabanor and Xiao Lin stared at each other, both of them trying to see how sincere the other party was. Asabanor was the first to avert his gaze because he could not see anything from Xiao Lin's eyes, and he was worried that Xiao Lin would see through his lies.

"Do you not dare?" Xiao Lin smiled mockingly, pressing on.

"Fine. I have always wanted to know what the river of time and space looks like anyway!" Asabanor seemed to be finding a reason for himself, so it did not seem like it had been forced by Xiao Lin's threats. However, he was still only mocked by Xiao Lin.

"Xiao Lin! No!"

"The wormhole is like an endless sea. The moment you enter, you'll forever be lost inside!"

"Because of that, you can't enter it!"

"You absolutely cannot go in!"

Gu Xiaoyue and the others had naturally heard Xiao Lin and Asabanor's conversation, and they were incredibly anxious. They hurriedly shouted out their objections. Even if they did not understand time and space, they had been sternly told repeatedly whenever they went between Earth and the New World that space and time were ever changing, and was like an endless sea. If someone fell in, they would never be able to come back.

Even more terrifyingly, those who entered the river of time and space never really died. In fact, death would be considered an escape. They would not be able to die, and would continue to be lost in space and time, bearing an unending sentence. That was something even more terrifying than death.

Xiao Lin sighed. He obviously understood that logic because of his intelligence and his experience, but it was already something he no longer cared about. The moment Myth ended, his body would be unable to bear the power inside and he would die anyway.

He forced himself to ignore Gu Xiaoyue and the others, worried that he would falter, and also worrying that he would use up valuable time if he continued. So, Xiao Lin no longer said anything, and the tip of his feet stepped on the empty space. He suddenly moved next to Asabanor, and he then reached out and lightly slapped the space in front of Asabanor.

The sudden white light almost caused Asabanor to shout in fear, but this time, Xiao Lin's goal was not him, but the spatial shield in front of him. Suddenly, the shield completely disappeared.

Asabanor looked at Xiao Lin deeply. He obviously knew that the shield was not omnipotent, and a strong enough amount of energy would be able to break the distortion of space. He knew as well that Xiao Lin definitely had that amount of energy. What really shocked him was that Xiao Lin had actually already advanced his control of the power to an unimaginable level!

Asabanor suddenly celebrated in his heart. Thankfully, Xiao Lin was about to die very soon. Otherwise, if Xiao Lin had been given enough time to grow, that man might really have become the first person to fully control the power of law since the creator of the power. He was suddenly filled with a bit of horror. Thankfully, that would not happen!

Xiao Lin was a bit confused by the change in Asabanor's expression, but he did not pay it any mind. Before Myth disappeared, with his absolute power, he was not afraid that Asabanor would pull some tricks. He pulled Asabanor's collar. Even though Asabanor was a spirit, if he condensed energy in his palms, he could touch spiritual power.

"Yes, that's much more convenient.!" Xiao Lin was satisfied with his ability to control that energy, and then he dragged Asabanor and flew toward the blood moon.

Asabanor was immediately infuriated, and his entire body trembled from the rage. The position he was in was reminiscent of that of a dog. He was the high priest, but he was actually being dragged around like a dog; the humiliation he was suffering was even worse than death.

However, Asabanor did not dare to voice his anger, as those with absolute power could do whatever they wanted. He suppressed his anger, and coldly smiled. He tried to shift the topic by saying, "Do you need me to tell you about the corridor of space and time? Entering with your body is completely different from using the spatial carriage."

Xiao Lin let out a cold snort; that man even knew about the spatial carriage. It seemed like the new dean had revealed a lot of information. He had basically completely revealed all of Earth's secrets. Even though he was incredibly angered, he could not help but be curious. He wondered what Asabanor had given in exchange to move the new dean so much.

Asabanor was once again embarrassed and angered by being ignored. He decided to just shut up. He wanted to see Xiao Lin make a joke of himself. The river of time, even though he had never entered it before, he felt like he had researched it more than anyone else, including anyone from Earth.

Xiao Lin's focus was not on Asabanor at that moment. He was completely inexperienced with the situation. Even though Lilith and himself had entered the blood moon in New Washington, it was different this time. The last time, they had only gone into an isolated space that was within the New World's moon, where the difficulty was much lower.

This time, it was different; it was using the power of the moon to forcibly tear open space and allow him to enter the corridor of time. Even though the colonists were no strangers to that corridor, because they would always need to go through it to travel between the New World and Earth, it was like Asabanor had said — it was completely different.

The spatial carriage allowed them to travel back and forth from two fixed coordinates. The coordinates were like a track that allowed the carriage to move with a path. If they entered with

just their physical bodies, the coordinates would be impossible to find because that would be like finding a needle in the middle of the ocean.

Of course, they were not actually entering the moon. Even if Xiao Lin knew how to turn his power into a shield, he did not know if he could directly enter outer space. Even though he had some excitement at the thought, it was not the time to do so. He merely dragged Asabanor's spirit and slowly flew further into the sky.

When they were ten thousand meters above the ground, the air began to get thinner and thinner. Thanks to the shield, Xiao Lin was not affected too much, and in the sky, they were already covered in the light of the blood moon. It enveloped them like a fog, and it was as if they were dreaming. Being covered in the fog, he could vaguely see a golden light. That was the entrance of space and time. Asabanor had used an immense amount of power to rip open that opening.

"You should think about it. Once you enter, you'll never be able to return!" Asabanor smiled coldly.

Xiao Lin glanced at him, his intuition telling him that the cunning high priest would definitely not have admitted defeat so easily. Bringing him into the river of time, Asabanor definitely did not have any good intentions. However, he had no other choice, so he coldly snorted, "You should worry about yourself!" After that, he increased his speed, and with a flash, he disappeared into the golden entrance..

Chapter 691 - Time and Space

Chapter 691: Time and Space

No one knew who was the first to name the river of time and space. It might have been the first people to traverse the passage from Earth. However, it was just like its name; time and space did look like a golden river. The river flowed in many directions, and it was endless.

It was something everyone could see when they were in the spatial carriages, and Xiao Lin had already been on the spatial carriages more than once. Furthermore, he was different from everyone else. He had truly stepped into time and space before. Back then, he and Silverlight had gone through time and space to witness Atlantis being destroyed by Poseidon.

Initially, that was just something like watching a movie, and yet, the sudden developments had been unimaginable. Not knowing anything, Xiao Lin had shattered the wall of time, and had truly traveled to the past. They had even sealed the god of the sea, interfering with the flow of time.

No, Xiao Lin always believed the fact that that had been how history actually moved. Only, no one would ever know if the chicken came before the egg.

Stepping into that corridor again, Xiao Lin could not help but think about the past. He stopped for a moment, and let out a sigh. He remembered Silverlight, that woman who came from Atlantis. It was a pity that she met her end, and even passed on the last of her power to him.

As for Asabanor, after entering the river of time and space, Xiao Lin had already started to slowly let go of his collar. However, Asabanor had instantly held onto the corner of Xiao Lin's sleeve. The man might be crazy, but he was no idiot. He knew that being in a spirit state in the flow of time would be like being a grain of sand in the sea. He would be washed away at any moment.

He could only rely on Xiao Lin who had absorbed the power of law in his Myth state to temporarily maintain himself. Xiao Lin knew that as well, which was why Xiao Lin ignored the man.

Asabanor was extremely shocked; he was shocked at how majestic the river of time looked. It was something he had spent almost his whole life researching. As someone who had never been in a spatial carriage, he was like a child who had got on a train for the first time. Even being as crazy as he was, he could not disguise the shock in his eyes.

What really shocked Asabanor even more was Xiao Lin's calmness, and also the third eye that had suddenly appeared on Xiao Lin's forehead.

Asabanor stared at that silver eye, and insanity and jealousy burned in his eyes. He finally calmed down again. With the difference in power, he could not do anything at that moment.

Xiao Lin seemed to notice something from Asabanor's expression, and he touched his forehead, and he thought about Silverlight before he sighed. That eye represented the power of time and space. Before, he could not completely use the power despite inheriting it. Yet, either because of the power of law or the fact that he was in the river of time and space, he was finally able to completely open the third eye that he had inherited.

"So this is the true appearance of the river of time! Time and space, space and time... It really is an appropriate name for it!" Xiao Lin had a strange look on his face as he remarked curiously.

In truth, the river of time was not empty, as there were countless sand-like fragments that were the size of rice, constantly flowing. Thanks to the third eye, the scene in front of him had completely changed. They were no longer grains of sand, but very small orbs of energy.

The orbs of energy were not big, and could be said to be too small to even account for. Xiao Lin reached out and touched it. The surface was very soft and smooth. Asabanor followed his lead, and tried to reach out, but to his anger, his hand merely phased through the orbs of energy, not touching anything.

Asabanor was an intelligent person, as he knew that it was not only due to his spiritual form, but more so because of the third eye on Xiao Lin's forehead. Of course, he did not ask about it, since he knew that Xiao Lin would not tell him the truth, and he did not want to seek out his own embarrassment. However, Asabanor was not idle, and his eyes constantly moved, as if he was thinking about something.

Xiao Lin did not want to focus on the high priest, and his focus had been completely captured by those orbs of energy in front of him. His hand could touch those orbs physically, but in just one or two seconds, he immediately removed his hands, as if he had touched something hot.

What amazing power!

Xiao Lin knew the principles of compressing energy, but he had never seen a feat of compression that was at such a shocking level. That feeling was like someone had compressed a whole planet into the size of a football; the density was unimaginable.

However, Xiao Lin could guess what those orbs of energy were. Each orb probably contained memories or moments of history. More precisely, they were time — time that had a physical form. The power of time was unlimited, which was how the sand had such an inexhaustible amount of energy.

What he could infer from that was that changing history and time was not something unimaginable. As long as they could enter the river of time with enough power, they could forcibly interfere with those orbs of energy and change them. It was only that the power was incredibly shocking, and was at the level of destroying planets. To be able to do that, one would have to be no different from a God.

Thinking about that, Xiao Lin smiled bitterly, as there was never an end when it came to power. After he absorbed the power of law and entered his Myth state, even him, who was always careful, could not help but feel like he could control everything. He estimated that he was at least at Gold-rank or above.

However, when he witnessed the power within the sands of time, he suddenly felt incredibly miniscule. Even after absorbing the power of the law, he was still shockingly far from having true power.

However, Xiao Lin did not realize that, even if that was the case, he was still using his eye and interacting with a power of a higher level. It was something most of the colonists, even those stronger than him, never had a chance to do.

“Asabanor, I more or less understand what you meant now. Sealing the passage really is something only I can do. It has nothing to do with the amount of power needed; the power of law is actually something like a switch in the river of time. You’ve really calculated everything well!” Xiao Lin suddenly said..

Chapter 692 - Xiao Lin’s Madness

Chapter 692: Xiao Lin’s Madness

Asabanor snapped back from his thoughts, and he was incredibly curious when he heard Xiao Lin’s voice because within the corridor of time and space, other than time and space, nothing else could be transmitted, including sound. When he saw the energy around himself and Xiao Lin, he was no longer surprised.

Even though Xiao Lin could not change the sands of time and space like a god, he could still do something as simple as summoning up energy bundles to allow for sound to be transmitted. That was an ability only restricted to close distance, and even Xiao Lin could do nothing about it if the distance was too far. Of course, this power that he could manage was already very impressive.

“It’s good that you understand how to do it. Then, I won’t have to waste too much spit. Looking at you, you won’t be able to maintain this state for much longer. You should hurry up!” Asabanor looked at Xiao Lin as he urged him on.

Xiao Lin coldly snorted as he thought for a moment. Asabanor looked a lot calmer than earlier. With his understanding of the mad man, the guy definitely had a plan.

“Are you not afraid that I’ll kill you instantly? After all, I already know how to seal the passage. Even though you opened it, this passage isn’t something you can control at all. You merely know the method,” Xiao Lin suddenly said.

Asabanor slyly smiled. “My life is already in your hands. In truth, what’s the difference between being dead or alive in this river of time and space? Even if you don’t kill me, once you can no longer maintain this state, I will lose the protection of your energy, and never be able to escape the vast expanse of time and space. It’s a punishment worse than death. I would rather you kill me right now and give me some respite!”

Xiao Lin frowned and did not answer. He merely looked at Asabanor. Even though he was not afraid of that high priest with his current power at all, in terms of experience and knowledge, he could not compare with that old man that was hundreds of years old.

Xiao Lin started to get a headache. He had planned on killing Asabanor before Myth ended; that was something he naturally came up with. Asabanor was worth more to him as a dead man, but the guy seemed to not care about being dead or alive at all, and it did not seem to be something that was faked.

That caused Xiao Lin to hesitate. He could not help but think that Asabanor’s plan was for Xiao Lin to kill him. It was possible that the guy had some way to absorb Xiao Lin’s power right before the attack hit Asabanor.

Even though it did not seem very realistic, and nothing Xiao Lin knew could ever do something like that, he could not help but be cautious since he was facing Asabanor.

“You have a few minutes left at most,” Asabanor said calmly.

Xiao Lin could not help but remark to himself that Asabanor really was intelligent. In such a short amount of time, Asabanor was already able to analyze his power, and make such an accurate assessment. It was correct as well; he could only maintain Myth for five or six more minutes at most.

However, Xiao Lin did not express it, and said calmly, “I’m not in a rush.”

“I’m in no rush too.” Asabanor shrugged.

The two of them stared at each other again, but they could not make out anything from the eyes of their counterparts’.

Xiao Lin knew that he could not allow the matter to continue to be delayed, and that he needed to make a decision. Yet, Asabanor’s confidence felt as if he knew what decision Xiao Lin would make.

He could not wait any longer.

Xiao Lin took a deep breath as he finally made a decision. He suddenly cut off the energy connection with Asabanor, then he threw himself into the river of time. At that moment, he sank into countless golden sands, and the sands were uncountable pockets of time and space.

Asabanor's reasoning was simple. If the passage was an unending river, and the main connection was the Timesand, then what Xiao Lin needed to do was cut off the river. Of course, cutting off the river was something impossible; it was like someone trying to cut off the whole ocean.

However, Xiao Lin could at least cut off that small river that flowed toward Earth, completely cutting it off! In order to do that, he would need to find out which passage was the one that headed to Earth, and the key to that was the sands of time. Each sand was a pocket of time and space.

Some of those pockets belonged to the New World, and some of them belonged to Earth. There were also countless ones that belonged to unknown spaces. He needed to accurately find the ones that belonged to Earth. Only then could he cut off those that flowed toward Earth and he could use that to shut off the passage.

That was something only Xiao Lin could do.

The moment he started, there was no way for Xiao Lin to escape anymore. Then, he would have no way of controlling Asabanor. Normally, Asabanor would disappear into the river of time and space without his protection.

However, Xiao Lin suddenly thought of an even better choice. At the final moments, he suddenly took out a portion of power from his body and used it to bind Asabanor, who still had not drifted that far away. With the power of Myth, it was quite simple for Xiao Lin to do something like that.

"What are you doing? Are you trying to kill me now?" Asabanor's calm face changed a little; the difference in their power meant there was no way for him to fight back.

Xiao Lin smiled coldly. "Kill you? No no no, that would make it too easy for you. The moment I seal off the passage, I will forever be sealed here. It's quite lonely, so why don't you accompany me?"

"What! What?! You! You mad man! You're crazy!" Asabanor's expression was shaken, and after losing his composure, he realized what Xiao Lin wanted to do.

"Hahaha! I can't believe that even you are willing to admit I'm crazy at the final moments. It's my honor!" Since Xiao Lin had already made the decision, he no longer cared, and enjoyed Asabanor's words like a prize.

"You want to absorb me? Xiao Lin! You actually want to absorb me! Do you know what kind of punishment it is for two souls to fight for eternity?!" Asabanor's body was shaking; it was shaking in fear. It was the first time he had ever revealed an expression like that. Even when Xiao Lin had just used Myth, he never had that expression.

"That's right! I want to absorb you. I won't kill you, nor will I let you go. I want to be bound to you forever. I'll watch over you forever. Only then will I be able to relax!" Xiao Lin's words were filled with determination..

Chapter 693 - Absorption

Chapter 693: Absorption

Everything in the world had energy, and energy was split into three main types, elemental, life and death. Spirits were part of death energy. Everyone had a soul, and even due to the New World's necromancy, death was not as permanent as on Earth.

However, that did not mean that the soul was as capable as it was before death. Based on the New World's laws, a soul would slowly be converted into life energy, which preserved the balance of the world.

That law existed within the New World, but a river containing that law did not exist on Earth or in the New World. After death, no one knew what happened to the soul. Song Junlang did not know, and Xiao Lin did not know, but after absorbing a portion of the power of law, Xiao Lin had a feeling that, even if he died at that moment, his soul would not lose consciousness as it normally would, nor would it turn into life energy.

Everyone's soul was different, but from the base qualities, it was all death energy. As long as there was a powerful enough outside force, absorbing a soul was not an impossible feat. In necromancy, there was even a spell for that purpose, but it was a very evil and dangerous spell.

After absorbing another soul, either the attacker's power would be completely converted into the other's own, or the two souls would fight each other like a two-headed animal. Furthermore, these two heads would also be enemies that would never be able to part. Just like Asabanor said, it was the greatest punishment.

Asabanor panicked, no matter how cruel Xiao Lin was to Asabanor, he never expected that Xiao Lin would be willing to be just as cruel to himself.

Asabanor started to resist with all his might. After being captured by Xiao Lin, it was the first time he struggled so hard, even if the efforts were in vain. However, that also meant that he was at his wit's end.

Xiao Lin was not moved by it, and he knew that tying the mad man to him forever was definitely the best choice. That way, even after he died, he did not need to worry if Asabanor had other other schemes. At least his relatives on Earth, as well as Gu Xiaoyue and the others, would be safe.

Being in the river of time and space, Xiao Lin continued to work hard looking for the fragments that belonged to Earth as he used a portion of his energy to pull Asabanor toward himself. It took a bit of effort, but Xiao Lin hung on.

He quickly found Earth's space and time pockets. It was actually not that hard because Earth and the New World had already formed a passage earlier on, so a lot of the fragments that were already formed tens of thousands of years ago. Even though it was very sparse when compared to

the whole river of time, the amount was not little. With Xiao Lin's current power, all he needed to do was find the first one, and the rest became easy.

"Alright, let's start!" Xiao Lin turned around for one last look, as if he wanted to look past the unending river of time, to find the New World, and find Gu Xiaoyue from that world. However, it was only just a pipe dream.

Xiao Lin renewed his focus, and he started to absorb those fragments within himself. It was so he could turn himself into a spigot — a spigot that could open and close the passage. Of course, it was not something his soul or body could do, and it required the power of law to pull off.

On the other end, he was still constantly pulling at Asabanor's soul. He had thought that it would be much easier than closing the passage, but Xiao Lin quickly realized something was wrong. He had thought that it would only take a few dozen seconds at most, and his power would be able to pull Asabanor in close. After that, once his Myth state ended, their souls would be completely merged before they were sealed behind the spigot.

However, Myth was already almost at its end, yet Asabanor was still struggling. The struggle even seemed to get stronger. However, Xiao Lin knew that Asabanor definitely did not have the power to do that. Not only that, as the pulling got stronger, he started to feel an incredibly familiar feeling from within Asabanor.

"That feeling. Asabanor, you really are a cunning guy!" Xiao Lin frowned in thought, and suddenly realized.

The Shard of Creation!

That familiar feeling was actually a Shard of Creation! That was the earliest clue Ivanovich had left Xiao Lin. The Shards of Creation were scattered throughout the New World. As for how many there were and where they were, no one knew. Xiao Lin merely adopted an attitude of getting them only if he stumbled upon them, and had never deliberately searched to collect them.

However, he never expected that Asabanor would have a shard as well. No, from that feeling, it was definitely not just one shard!

As for how Asabanor did it, that was no longer important. Xiao Lin was starting to be scared as he suddenly understood Asabanor's plan.

Those shards were the guy's final trump card, and the way he could ensure he would continue advancing to Earth. However, Asabanor himself would not be able to use those shards because they could only be used by SS-rank talent holders. If Asabanor could use it, it would probably only be for a second or two.

Xiao Lin suddenly realized it. The key might just be himself.

Just now, it did not matter if he chose to kill Asabanor or to let Asabanor off; he would definitely have to use the power of law. At that moment, Asabanor would be able to use the Shards of Creation.

Even if Xiao Lin closed the passage then, he would have died in vain. Asabanor would use the power of the shard to head to Earth at the moment the passage closed. Even though he did not know how the bastard did it, the shards definitely had that ability.

However, Asabanor never expected that Xiao Lin would choose to absorb him. More importantly, Xiao Lin also had shards within his body, causing Asabanor to be unable to control his own shards anymore.

“No matter! Even though it’s a bit of a surprise, the results aren’t bad. As for the shards, let’s leave them here too!” Xiao Lin quickly activated the shards in his own body. He had the power of law, and even if he did not have absolute control, he was still much stronger than Asabanor.

The shards had a power to mutually absorb themselves. Once the shards started to pull together as well, Asabanor’s soul could no longer put up a struggle. All that could be seen was countless golden glowing lights within that sinister gray cloud of his. The glow constantly attacked his soul, causing his soul to form various strange shapes..

Chapter 694 - Soul Split

Chapter 694: Soul Split

“Xiao Lin! You’re ruthless! I’ve lost this time! However, remember, this is still not the end. I’ll be back! I’ll absolutely come back!”

Asabanor’s shouts could be heard. Even though his voice could not be transmitted after losing Xiao Lin’s energy shield, due to the mutual pull of their souls, the two of them were connected by energy, and because of that, Xiao Lin could immediately feel what the guy was doing.

Asabanor really was a crazy man. At the final moments, Asabanor had withstood a pain that a normal person would never be able to stand and split his soul into two!

As the purest form of death energy, souls could naturally be split up. However, it was something practically impossible for someone to do themselves. Just like how a live person would never be able to slowly cut their own limbs apart. There was not just physical pain, it was a mental torture that practically no one could withstand.

However, Asabanor had done it, and with how familiar he seemed with it, it was obvious that it was not the first time he thought of it. It was probably something he had planned for a long time.

“He really is a crazy man!” Xiao Lin could not help but curse as that happened. That was definitely Asabanor’s final escape plan. Xiao Lin had to admit that he underestimated that man’s ruthlessness.

Being ruthless to the self was true ruthlessness.

Xiao Lin dared to seal himself, but Asabanor was obviously not a good person either.

Asabanor used the last of his energies to split most of his soul apart. The portion that remained was the one that carried the Shards of Creation, and it seemed to have used up most of his power. That was the final, most desperate choice, but only with that could he survive. The parts that remained, due to the suction of the shard, would never be able to be brought away.

What he had left might still have all of Asabanor's will and memories, but he was incredibly weak. He could not even maintain a human form, and only had a vague shadow that was the size of a fist. It was pitch-black, and constantly flickered like ghostfire. The shadow slightly shook, because it had left behind most of his power. Without the shards of creation, even if Xiao Lin reacted and tried to use his power to catch the shadow, it would already be too late.

The shadow sped away from Xiao Lin's vicinity. Even in the endless river of time, even if Xiao Lin had managed to control the power of law, Xiao Lin could not spread his power too far. Furthermore, with the flow of the sands of time, the shadow seemed to shrink in a flash, and completely disappeared from sight, dispersing into the countless gold sands.

Xiao Lin could not completely get rid of Asabanor despite having made the most ruthless decision. As for where Asabanor would flow to, he could no longer find out. Based on normal logic, that soul's power would only be able to drift around forever; it was no different from being exiled.

However, after having encountered Asabanor numerous times, there was no way for Xiao Lin to be sure. He did not know for sure if that crazy high priest had some final card to play, allowing him to escape the river of time.

However, even if he really had the ability to escape, that black shadow was way too weak. Even if was to start gathering death energy again to grow, to return to the state he was would need at least a hundred years.

As for what would happen hundreds of years later, it was no longer what Xiao Lin could care about.

However, after absorbing the portion of the soul that Asabanor had given up on, Xiao Lin did not have time to feel it when Myth reached its limits.

After the surge of power rapidly started to recede, all the fatigue and exhaustion seemed to hit Xiao Lin at the same time. The third eye on his forehead rapidly closed without the power to keep it open, and even disappeared. His black hair turned completely grey and white, and his eyes, ears, nose and mouth all started to spurt out immense amounts of blood. The blood bled into the river of time, and immediately disappeared.

It had finally ended!

Xiao Lin lightly took a last sigh. He could feel his eyes getting very tired, and his sight became very blurred. His ten fingers started to lose all feeling as well. He understood that it meant that all his senses were going away. His body was already completely destroyed.

He did not even have the power to raise his hand. Xiao Lin knew that his body was probably like a piece of glass that was full of cracks. With just one touch, the glass would completely shatter, and his soul would forever remain here, serving as the seal to block the New World from going to Earth.

That was a result he had expected. When it actually came, Xiao Lin actually felt much more at peace. His consciousness slowly blurred, and he suddenly thought of a lot. Ever since he entered the academy, he had gotten to know so many people. Song Junlang, Cheng Ming, and Gu Xiaoyue... He thought about everything that had happened.

From being a normal person, he had been given responsibilities and burdens that were hard for anyone else to imagine. Xiao Lin had sometimes felt like he had no room to breathe with the increasing pressure that was being put on him, but he did not complain, nor could he, because he had those he cared about, and someone he loved.

Yet, now all of the burdens and pressures no longer existed. At the final moment, Xiao Lin felt a relief that he had never felt before. All his experiences in Dawn Academy started to replay in front of him like a projector, up till that admission letter that he had received at the start.

If he were to do it again, would he regret it?

Did he regret receiving that admittance letter?

If that admittance letter had really been sent to him by his future self through some unknown method, then would the current him do it again?

Was the future going to hold everything he had just experienced?

With that final question, Xiao Lin's vision thoroughly darkened, and right before his consciousness fell into complete chaos, he seemed to hear a voice from deep inside his heart.

'It's still not the end!

'Your future will not stop here!'

...

"It's still not the end!" In the cemetery, Gu Xiaoyue crazily rushed toward the center of the formation. Even though the wormhole seemed to already be closed, going toward the power that remained in the Reverse God Sealing Array was still incredibly dangerous for them.

Chen Dao and An Luo were standing by Gu Xiaoyue's sides and protecting her. Even though they did not have much strength left, they could still block those intense winds for Gu Xiaoyue, but it was still for just a moment..

Chapter 695 - Gu Xiaoyue's Efforts

Chapter 695: Gu Xiaoyue's Efforts

As for Cheng Ming, he had already arrived at the center of the formation before them. He had carved up a path for Gu Xiaoyue and the others. The core of the formation was an ordinary looking

gravestone. It looked very old, and Cheng Ming's methods were simple — he sent a punch right at it.

With that punch, Cheng Ming's fist was immediately split open. The gravestone only had a mild crack on it. However, he was elated, as the extreme hardness of that stone meant that there was definitely something strange about that. It meant that Gu Xiaoyue's guess had been correct; that was the core of the God Sealing Array.

So, Cheng Ming took out the shield on his back, and started hitting the gravestone with it over and over. His shield had just been changed just for the sake of the tournament, so the quality was very good. After a few dozen hits, there was somewhat of an effect. The scar on the gravestone got larger and larger, but Cheng Ming's shield was rapidly getting destroyed.

Finally, the shield could no longer endure it, and the whole shield did not seem to have any spot that was undamaged. Cheng Ming did not mind, and threw the shield away before he continued to use his fists. This time, his fists had a faint golden glow to it. The energy he used was the best he had, but he could not hold onto it for too long.

However, Cheng Ming no longer cared about all that. Each punch he made was with his full force. Even though the golden glow protected his fist, it used a lot of his energy.

The gravestone continued to crack.

Gu Xiaoyue and the others finally arrived through the energy storm. The price they paid were heavy injuries on An Luo and Chen Dao. The two of them had basically used their bodies to protect Gu Xiaoyue, who did not have any ability to advance by herself.

However, their powers were limited, and when they arrived at the core of the cemetery, Chen Dao could no longer hold back and he spat out mouthfuls of blood. His face was an abnormal red hue, and he forced out a smile. "Gu Xiaoyue, the next part is all on you. You can't leave Xiao Lin stranded!"

An Luo opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but his physique was even worse than Chen Dao's. Before he could even speak, he collapsed to the ground. Chen Dao was not much better off either, but Chen Dao's talent was stronger, so it allowed him to hold on for a fraction longer.

Cheng Ming's condition was not much better; he did not even have the energy to look at the two other injured students. His entire body was filled with serious wounds, and his outer coat had already turned into a cloak of blood thanks to the energy storm. The golden glow on his arms was gradually weakening. He looked up with a tired face and told Gu Xiaoyue, "There's only a little left. Stand back for now!"

Gu Xiaoyue nodded and followed his words.

Cheng Ming took a deep breath, stood up abruptly, and raised his right fist; the dim golden light once again became radiant again. With a shout, he slammed into the gravestone that was already full of cracks. After a few seconds, the gravestone finally fell.

After the light faded again, Cheng Ming collapsed to the floor, but his physique was quite good, so he was not in as bad of a state as Chen Dao and An Luo. He still had some strength, and he was

incredibly curious as well, so before Gu Xiaoyue came up, he looked around, trying to see what the core of the formation was.

“Damn!” Cheng Ming was dumbfounded.

Gu Xiaoyue moved forward. Even though she did not know much about the God Sealing Array, with her intelligence, her understanding of the formation was better than anyone else. Hearing Cheng Ming’s exclamation, she got more worried. After all, she could not guarantee that she could actually do something.

Yet, when she walked to the broken gravestone and looked into it, Gu Xiaoyue was stunned for a moment as well. Through the gap was a sealed room that could only fit in one person. In the room was a counter, and on the counter was a computer?

Computer?

That was right, it was a computer, a notebook laptop to be precise. There was also an obvious Lenovo brand logo on the computer.

“Hey, what’s that? Are we in the wrong place?!” Chen Dao had forced himself to take a few steps forward, and could not help but curse at the strange sight.

They had spent all that thought and effort looking for the core of the formation, wanting to use that formation to reopen the passage. Even if it were just for a moment, they still hoped that they could allow Xiao Lin to come back.

“No! There’s no mistaking it! This is it!” Gu Xiaoyue regained her calm. “I saw books related to this in the library before. High-leveled magical arrays require very high levels of knowledge, and controlling them is immensely hard. So, a senior thought of a way to use calculators to handle the various important points in magical formations. It’s basically like coding, using codes to control the whole magical array...”

“Hold on!” Chen Dao stopped her, awkwardly saying, “We don’t understand what you’re saying at all. Just tell us, will you be able to handle the formation?”

Cheng Ming merely nodded, not understanding anything as well. High level knowledge like that was something they had never heard of before, and only Gu Xiaoyue had interacted with it before thanks to her frequenting the library and her intelligence.

“Yes! I can do it!” Gu Xiaoyue answered very quickly and resolutely, “If it is a magical formation, I might need to rely on my luck, but if it’s coding...”

Before she even finished speaking, she ran inside the room in the gap. She did not have the time to explain in detail, but Gu Xiaoyue’s confidence on her face already gave Cheng Ming and Chen Dao the answer. They exchanged a glance, and both dragged their wounded bodies over, lying down next to the fainted An Luo and the gap.

They still did not know what had happened to Asabanor, or if there would be any other undeads turning up to disrupt them. However, even if there were, unless they died there, no one would be

able to disturb Gu Xiaoyue. Even though it had just been a year, at some point, they had already treated Gu Xiaoyue as a friend that they would fight to the death with.

In the dark room, there was only the glow of the laptop. On it were various numbers and symbols rapidly flashing. Even though it was a traditional Lenovo computer, there had already been complete changes. For instance, the keyboard was completely different, and the alphabets on it had all been swapped to basic magical symbols.

“I can do this! I can do this!” Gu Xiaoyue mumbled, her eyes flashing in determination as her nimble hands started to rapidly type away on the keyboard, the clear sound of tapping reverberating around the narrow room..

Chapter 696 - Lunar Eclipse That Is About To End

Chapter 696: Lunar Eclipse That Is About To End

On Earth...

On the mountain peak, the Earth Division of Dawn Academy’s peace was heavily disrupted after the appearance of the blood moon. The employees might have already known about that astrological phenomenon, but it was still something that only happened once every few hundred years, so they could not help but start to chatter among themselves in low voices.

The telescope outside the building was already completely facing the surface of the moon, and was being broadcasted on a monitor on the screen so that everyone could see it. For the Earth Division that was never in need of money, the telescope had come at a very high price. The accuracy and quality came without saying, but there was nothing much to see on the Earth’s surface, and they had all already gotten tired of the mountainous regions on the moon.

Only Mao Tianying was getting more and more nervous; his eyes were fixed on the central monitor, and he constantly looked at his watch, mumbling to himself, “Hurry up! Hurry up and end!”

As long as the blood moon ended, it would mean that the night would continue to be peaceful and uneventful, and he could continue living his carefree lifestyle. Of course, that was the future he hoped the most for.

Time passed second by second, minute by minute.

As the blood moon slowly disappeared, Mao Tianying’s face slowly relaxed, and he would occasionally talk to the few other employees. The cheerful division head was back, and the atmosphere in the office became much more relaxed. There were a lot more conversations going on.

“Didn’t the news say that this is a miracle that only happens once every two hundred something years? It’s such a rare occasion, so why isn’t the division head treating us all to a meal?”

“That’s right, we were ordered here for emergency overtime. Now, I only have instant noodles to eat.”

“Tomorrow, you can all go into the city, and you can eat whatever you want. Everything will be compensated!” Mao Tianying was incredibly happy.

“Do we only get to choose food? I canceled a date with a girl to be here.”

“Today’s overtime pay will be compensated in triple, no, thirty times!” Mao Tianying waved his hands in an exaggerated manner. He eyed the blood moon that was about to end. There was only a little crescent moon left on the blood moon, so his mood was good. He might not have a lot of powers as a division head, but in terms of overtime pay, he had the right to make the decisions.

“I love you, Division Head!”

“You’re the best!”

The office broke out in cheers. Everyone’s focus also slowly shifted away from the monitor. Even though the blood moon was rare, money was even more attractive. To those of them who were willing to stay on Earth instead of going to the New World, they naturally wanted more money to live a more comfortable life.

The strict office had finally returned to the usual atmosphere, and they no longer needed to sit at their desks in somber moods, so it became much noisier.

However, since the overtime order had been issued, there was no way for them to leave that night, so everyone’s gazes shifted back to the screen in boredom. The telescope had managed to capture the final moments of the blood moon, and the astrological miracle was quickly going to end.

“Hey, what’s that?” A woman of about twenty years of age suddenly exclaimed curiously, but her voice did not attract much attention.

“Zhang, what did you notice?” Mao Tianying had heard it. Even though his mood was not bad, he was still observing the monitor for any little changes. He would only completely relax when the blood moon completely ended.

“Ah, there must be something wrong with my eyes. I seemed to have seen a mosquito flying out of the moon.” That woman was quite honest, and repeated what she had seen.

The others shifted their gazes over, but when they kept on enlarging the image of the moon; they did not see anything, and the moon remained to be a desolate mountainous region.

“You must have been mistaken!”

“Haha. Could there be mosquitoes on the moon?”

“It’s winter now. There aren’t even mosquitoes on Earth.”

The whole office laughed.

The woman could not help but blush, and she felt like she had made a big deal out of nothing. She hurriedly waved it off. “It’s probably because it’s too late, and my eyes were playing tricks on me. Ah, it’s been so long since we worked overtime.”

“Let’s discuss what we’re going to eat tomorrow. It’s so rare for the division head to be treating us.” Someone who was not interested in the eclipse at all turned the topic around.

However, Mao Tianying’s eyebrows immediately furrowed. He motioned for everyone to keep quiet. “I have to issue a task first. Everyone, pull out all the recordings and pictures, and find that mosquito Zhang mentioned! No, not just that time period earlier. Check out the whole blood moon’s duration!”

“What?” They felt quite strange, not understanding why Mao Tianying was making such a big deal out of that so-called ‘mosquito’. In truth, all of them still did not understand the reason behind the sudden overtime order.

Mao Tianying looked at their lack of a reaction, and could not help but feel a headache coming on. He felt like he really lacked authority as a division head. He could not help but emphasize, “If we can’t find it tonight, don’t even think about the thirty times overtime pay!”

The group suddenly got much more serious. No matter if they were chatting away or making coffee, all of them tossed aside what they were doing and sat in front of their computers.

Mao Tianying shook his head ruefully; it seemed like money had more power than he did. However, that was fine. As long as they could get rid of that final worry, everything would be fine, and nothing else was more important. He looked up at the monitor. The blood moon had completely ended at that point, and now he just had one final remaining worry, which was that ‘mosquito’ from earlier. Then, he would be able to talk to his superiors.

The office was busy again, but because of the allure of overtime pay, everyone’s enthusiasm was high, and the work was naturally much more efficient.

The recording of the whole blood moon had been stored in the computer. Everyone divided the work among themselves, and searched through it thoroughly. Not long after, there was a result.

“Division Head! Zhang was right, there actually was a mosquito. No, it’s a suspicious black dot to be more precise. It just looks like a mosquito.” Someone had immediately shouted out after noticing it.

Mao Tianying did not wait for the picture to be printed out. He immediately rushed over, narrowing his eyes and looking at it for a moment. After constantly enlarging it, the black dot in the recording turned into a blurry black shadow, but it was hard to determine what it was. However, from a few photos, they could confirm that the thing had definitely suddenly come out of the blood moon, and it was not just something that happened to land on the lens..

Chapter 697 - Broken Passage

Chapter 697: Broken Passage

“Division Head, it’s on these pictures as well, and it looks a bit strange.” Another person had noticed it as well, and when Mao Tianying went over, the man pointed at a few pictures, saying, “Look, that black shadow is very obviously moving. It doesn’t seem to be blown by the wind, and I’ve checked the direction of the winds. It doesn’t make sense. From its movement, it seems to be alive...”

After that final conclusion, the office suddenly fell silent because those words had caused some of them to have goosebumps. They all looked at each other, and did not know what to do. Even though they were all part of Dawn Academy, and were all ambitionless folk, the situation was too far out of their scope of understanding.

Mao Tianying frowned as he was at a loss as well. That strange figure was also not within his expectations. After thinking for a moment, he helplessly shook his head, “Whatever, this is not something we can handle. Compile these pictures into a report and hand it over to the academy to handle. Everyone’s work is not bad. The overtime pay continues!”

The confirmation of continued overtime pay caused them to cheer, and they started to shift their focus over. Yes, no matter what the dark shadow was, it would naturally be analyzed and solved by those that were better than them. Even though they were not that capable, after so long, everyone had faith in Dawn Academy’s capabilities.

“This can’t be delayed, so everyone, put in some more effort and compile the report right away. Then, we can have it sent over to Dawn Academy!” Mao Tianying immediately let out a sigh of relief. What he expected did not happen, such as some unimaginable catastrophe, but that black shadow still caused him to be nervous.

With the help of overtime pay, their work was incredibly efficient. They managed to compile the report in just half an hour and place it on Mao Tianying’s desk. The division head looked through it, edited a few parts, then signed his name after making sure there were no issues. He said, “Send it right to the school through trans-spatial communication.”

The others were stunned. Based on normal procedures, documents were supposed to be sent through the trans-spatial communication lines right to Dawn Academy. That was because that method of communication that transcended space and time needed a lot of energy stones, so it would not be used so easily unless it was an emergency. Most of the time, they would send someone to go to the academy through the spatial carriage, or even hand it to anyone that was here on an errand for the academy.

To those in the office, trans-spatial communication was something they had not encountered in several years. However, everyone had undergone training before, and even though it was a bit foreign, they still quickly managed to restart the device. They took out the stored energy stones,

and after the set up was complete, the report was converted into magical runes before being sent over.

Mao Tianying did not operate it himself and merely sat at his desk, deep in thought. Lately, a lot of things have been happening both at the academy and in the New World. That caused him to feel uneasy. Of course, what happened there had nothing to do with him, but he was worried that it would disturb his peaceful life if it started to involve Earth.

Just as Mao Tianying was thinking about his worries, a very unsettling voice shouted out, "Division... Division head! This isn't good! It's not good!"

A few people started to barge inside. It was the ones he had ordered to send the report. Mao Tianying's heart suddenly pounded, and he said angrily, "What are you shouting for?! Don't you know it's the middle of the night? What happened? Speak up properly!"

"Division Head, the trans-spatial communication device isn't working. We can't establish a connection!"

"Not only that, the spatial carriage's wormhole won't open!"

Those last words caused Mao Tianying's tense mental state to fall apart. He staggered and almost fell down. Ignoring his stature, he rushed over, grabbing the man's collar as he shouted angrily, "What did you say? What do you mean the wormhole isn't opening? Who asked you to do that?!"

"Division Head, the trans-spatial communication device wasn't working earlier, and we thought that there must have been a problem with the power from the wormhole. You know we're a small place, and both devices use the same power source. In the end, we noticed that the wormhole can't open at all!" The man who spoke had an incredibly strange look on his face.

Mao Tianying no longer bothered listening to him. He pushed him aside as he ran over to where the spatial carriage was.

The wormhole was actually a huge circular arc. Next to the door was the spatial carriage. Normally, as long as they activate the passage, the door would immediately summon a void in thin air, which was the wormhole.

However, no matter what Mao Tianying did, including a few final kicks out of frustration, the door would not move at all. There was none of the familiar golden sand, nor was there the river-like passage.

Mao Tianying's face paled incredibly. He suddenly issued an order, "Contact the US, England, Russia, and all the other Earth Divisions. See what the situation is like. I hope it's just on our side. Otherwise..."

Otherwise, it would be a major problem.

Their group might not want to wage war in the New World. Even if they planned on retiring on Earth, they still needed the academy's strength behind them. Otherwise, with their miniscule powers, would they be able to face the rapidly changing situation?

They quickly got the answers from the various other academies. The calls all went through next to Mao Tianying. In truth, they did not even need to make the calls later on, and they had started to be contacted by the other divisions. As Earth Divisions, they all naturally communicated between one another.

After each call was hung up on, Mao Tianying's face would pale even more. It was not a malfunction, nor was it a coincidence. Currently, every single Earth Division had lost access to their wormhole, and it had all seemed to happen at the same time, which was when the blood moon ended!

What happened?

No one knew, and all of the academies were anxiously gathering information. Those of them who were part of the academy that were on errands on Earth were quickly contacted, but even they did not know what was happening with that unprecedented situation.

Without trans-spatial communication and without the spatial carriage, it meant that Earth and the New World, and the academies, could no longer be in contact.. Everyone believed that it was only the beginning of something strange...

Chapter 698 - The Night Everything Changed

Chapter 698: The Night Everything Changed

That night would prove to be impossible to forget, both for those on Earth or on the New World.

The blood moon on Earth had already disappeared, and the moon had recovered to its silvery white splendor. The phenomenon that only happened once every two hundred odd years finally ended, and to normal folk, the night passed by calmly and normally. Only many years later would everyone start to understand that the night had been a turning point in history.

In another manner of speaking, the wheel of history finally started to move forward that night.

Only very few newspapers reported strange happenings, such as there being ghosts in a cemetery or some strange monsters appearing deep in the mountains, but all that news was quickly buried due to the lack of evidence.

The Earth Division had been filled with anxiety and confusion, but they quickly decided that they had to figure out a way to deal with the sudden situation. Mao Tianying had hurried to board a plane to America early in the morning. The result of interacting with the various other divisions was that they needed to hold a meeting between all the branches. The various people in charge would be in attendance. Due to Judge Academy's position, it was decided that the meeting would be in America.

When they first heard that all forms of communication had been closed off, Mao Tianying and the others had been in a state of panic. After all, they were merely ambitionless folk who had gotten used to listening to orders from the main branch. When they suddenly lost the people behind them, it was unavoidable that they would be caught off guard. Yet, after the constant calls with the other divisions, Mao Tianying's mind thought of a saying.

When the tigers leave the mountain, the monkeys become the king.

The division heads, who never had much authority, had suddenly been handed the power to determine their own lives, and possibly even the fate of the world. That anticipation even caused the ambitionless Mao Tianying to admit that he was getting a little excited.

Even though those people were considered average in skill within the various academies, or even among the weaker ones, they were only on Earth because they felt that they did not have much room to grow in the New World, and decided to live a peaceful life on Earth. However, without the constraints of the academies, their powers were still quite impressive on Earth.

Mao Tianying had a lot of thoughts on the matter while he was on the way to America. In the end, everything needed to be agreed upon by all of the academies collectively. After all, they had to first make sure that they were still stable internally.

Compared to the peacefulness on Earth, the New World was already in an uproar.

Almost at the same time as the disappearance of the blood moon, Dawn Academy's new dean used a high-level communication method to issue a war announcement to the various academies: 'In view of the long-term scheming from the Weier Union in robbing the merchant caravans of Dawn Academy, Dawn Academy has decided to launch a war against them. We hope the other academies will understand.'

The moment that announcement came out, almost every academy was stunned.

The Weier Union was a country of humans that were situated at the south of Dawn Academy. Even though the country did not have much land, it was a very commercial kingdom. No matter if it was in terms of lifestyle or spending, the locals had slowly been influenced by Earth. The locals were very intelligent when it came to business, and their early assimilation had allowed them to benefit greatly from many businesses between the academies and the New World. The royalty of the kingdom had very full coffers.

Most importantly, everyone understood, even the youngest children among the natives, that the Weier Union's ability to so boldly expand their businesses was because the kingdom's royalty had the support and protection of both the American Judge Academy and the Royal British Academy. As a price for that protection, both the academies would gain large amounts of money from Weier's royalty every year.

If the history of the colonists on the New World could be split into two parts, then the first part saw the colonists using military might to suppress and attack enemy kingdoms to obtain territories, wealth, and people. After accumulating the basic resources, and after all the academies had sizable territories, the limited population of colonists meant that wars like that no longer happened.

Furthermore, with the naturalization of citizens, and the allure of the profits that could be gained, many natives had both passively and actively sought collaboration. So, in the recent hundred years, there were fewer and fewer military actions from the colonists, and economic control had taken its place. A portion of them had termed it bloodless colonization.

The Weier Union represented just that, but the most insulting thing was, as a border country to Dawn Academy, they should have been under Dawn Academy. However, the academy was still in the process of recovering from the war against the orcs back then, and could not do anything but watch as the Americans and the British took the opportunity to make the first move and annex the whole union. Furthermore, thanks to the collective alliance that the academies had signed, Dawn Academy could do nothing about it.

Yet now, Dawn Academy seemed to be ignoring the treaty and declaring war on the Weier Union. Everyone knew that the true target of the declaration of war was actually Judge Academy and the Royal British Academy. After all, as a country that submitted to the academies, the Weier Union had completely abandoned their military in order to appease the academies. They only had the most basic peacekeeping troops, and there was definitely no way to stop the advancement of Dawn Academy with just that alone.

If the Americans and the British did not interfere, then the Weier Union would fall eventually. The money the two academies would lose was not too important, but if such a thing happened and they ignored it, it would definitely cause a very long chain of consequences.

However, if they did not ignore it, unless Dawn Academy decided to retreat, then the three academies would be fighting each other. That would be a disastrous result, especially since the wormholes had been sealed, and the Royal British Academy's first-year students were still lost within Dawn Academy's territories thanks to the tournament. No one would believe that the two incidents were not linked.

The future of humanity, the future of the whole world, had been plunged into a state of disarray that night.

As everyone's hearts filled up with anxiety, very few of them remembered that, in that graveyard, a young girl and a few injured students were working hard trying to save their companion.

On a hospital bed, a white-haired dean looked out into the sky. He looked extremely skinny in his white patient's robe, and his pale face had no trace of blood flowing in it. At that moment, he did not look like the once majestic dean, but an old man at the end of his life. He stared at the stars for a very long time before letting out a sigh. "Whatever. I'll bet my life on this, and help you one last time. I'll consider it as returning Ivan a favor."

That night, not one person slept..

Chapter 699 - Xiao Lin's Dream (1)

Chapter 699: Xiao Lin's Dream (1)

Xiao Lin felt like he was dreaming. It was a very, very long dream. In the dream, he entered an academy by the name of Dawn Academy. That academy was very magical, and was like a novel or a movie. It taught magic, swordsmanship, and various other amazing powers. After learning those abilities, they were sent to colonize a foreign world. It was a completely new world, and the humans of Earth had a position of absolute power there.

That dream was very long, and very realistic. He could even clearly remember the various people he got to know in the dream. The mysterious old dean, the carefree Song Junlang, the honest Cheng Ming, the jovial Chen Dao, and even that indifferent and unforgettable Gu Xiaoyue. They learned together, grew together, fought together and faced difficulties together, establishing rich friendships and feelings.

The dream was too realistic. It was so realistic that Xiao Lin did not feel like waking up. He wanted to stay in the dream forever, and stay with his friends in the dream. However, all dreams have to be woken up from, and even Xiao Lin himself had forgotten how far the dream had gone when he suddenly opened his eyes.

He was awake.

In a rented house that was not too large, the eye-piercing light caused Xiao Lin to narrow his eyes, which were unaccustomed to it. He tiredly rubbed his eyes, stretching as he looked around his surroundings.

It was the room he had rented. After graduating, he worked at a real estate company. However, he was fired after two months. After that, he rented a cheap room and started the long process of finding a job.

For some reason, the room seemed incredibly foreign to him, as if he had not seen it for a long time. On the computer screen that was placed on the desk, was the image of a lost game. He seemed to remember continuously losing a few games right before he slept, which was why he stopped playing out of anger. He had planned to take a short nap, but why did he feel like that was already a very long time ago?

Xiao Lin stood there for a moment before shaking his head ruefully, thinking that he was just too tired. He glanced at his phone, and it was ten minutes past eleven. He suddenly felt incredulous; he had finished his games at eleven, which meant he had only been asleep for ten minutes.

Such a long dream had only been ten minutes?

Xiao Lin suddenly remembered something, and immediately had a thought. He remembered that, in his dream, that mysterious academy called Dawn Academy had given him a letter of admission at this time. He was filled with anticipation, excitement, and happiness. He forgot to even put on his shoes, and jumped off the bed as he ran to the front door with his bare feet.

Bang!

Abruptly opening the door, there was no one in the dark corridor. There was only the sound of a mild breeze. He felt dissatisfied, and used his phone's flashlight to sweep the corridor a few times, checking basically every nook and corner. He did not even see a single piece of paper, let alone an admittance letter.

He returned to his room in disappointment. Xiao Lin smiled at himself in self-mocking, silently cursing himself for his absurd notions. It had clearly just been a dream, and now he had to face reality after waking up. And the reality was, this was a world dictated by science. There was no Dawn Academy, no admission letter, no New World, and definitely not magic and swordsmanship.

It was time to sleep; he still needed to continue looking for a job the next day.

Xiao Lin consoled himself before switching off the computer and the lights. He lay back down on the bed. In his groggy head, he suddenly had a moment of doubt. Could such a realistic dream just be a dream?

After waking up the next day, Xiao Lin had already thrown the confusion from the last night to the back of his head. He did not want to dwell in daydreams the whole day. After all, he was being pressured to look for a job. Xiao Lin's family was very average, and he had spent too much of his family's money in his life. He definitely did not want to continue being a freeloader after graduating.

After a few days of hard work, Xiao Lin finally found a passable job. Of course, the job was only passable because his expectations were very low. Xiao Lin knew very well that his resume was not the best. He went to a low-tier school and had a low-tier specialization, and he did not know how to talk or flatter others. So, even though it was a job that only paid him over two thousand a month, he only needed to sit in the office every day, so it was quite comfortable.

After that, Xiao Lin's life went back to normal. He had always been an ordinary and average person. There was joy to that life, working nine to five every day. Even though the salary was not high and there was very little room for advancement, the steady life gave him more free time to read, game, and move about during the weekends.

Xiao Lin's days went by quite comfortably, and that dream those nights ago had been completely tossed aside by him. Of course, there were the occasional spices added into the peaceful life. For instance, in the Spring, there were suddenly a few days straight of torrential rains, causing everyone on Earth to discuss it. Many meteorologists commented on the abnormality of the situation.

Xiao Lin even saw many rumors on some forums on the Internet. There were talks about monsters appearing in the Pacific Ocean, and even people who claimed that the rain was a sign of Poseidon's return, or even Atlantis resurfacing. There were even talks about it being the end of the world. All sorts of news spread to every corner of the Internet.

At that moment, Xiao Lin once again thought about that realistic dream. Even though it was a long time ago, he could still remember that Atlantis and Poseidon seemed to have appeared in the dream. His ordinary life finally had something different to it, and Xiao Lin could feel some form of anticipation, even though he did not know what he was anticipating.

Xiao Lin started to pay attention to the news and reports related to the matter, but the rain had continued for a week or so before it stopped, and the government seemed to have suppressed news regarding the matter. After that, all of the forums were wiped clean. Anything to do with mythology or the end of the world seemed to all disappear.

There were no legends, and no apocalypse. Xiao Lin's days returned to normalcy, and he felt disappointed again. However, after the disappointment, he still continued with his life. After the incident, his luck seemed quite good. Due to some changes in his company, he, who had always maintained a low profile, was promoted, and his salary increased by quite a bit.

If no surprises happened, then Xiao Lin would continue with his life like that. After a few years, when he had more money, he would find another ordinary woman who was like him. That woman did not need to be that pretty, and he did not even need to like her that much. As long as she was a good person and nice to get along with, then the two of them would spend their lives together..

Chapter 700 - Xiao Lin's Dream (2)

Chapter 700: Xiao Lin's Dream (2)

Somehow, three years passed. Ever since that mysterious dream, three years passed by in a flash. In those three years, Xiao Lin no longer had any similar dreams, and he slowly started to stop talking about it. After all, he was not someone who tended to daydream.

His job was not bad, and his position and salary was constantly increasing. Even though he was still far away from being a true white collar elite, Xiao Lin was someone who knew how to be content with what he had. According to his plans, after two years, when he had a bit more money, and with the help of his family, he planned on buying a house in the suburbs and making the down payment. Then, he would be like most of the homeowners in the country, paying for the mortgage every month.

Even though it was not what Xiao Lin truly wanted, it was still the regular life of a regular person. In recent years, his family had set up a lot of blind dates for him, but it never lasted that long. It was not that Xiao Lin wanted better, or that the women did not like him. His excuse to his family was that he was still young, and he still wanted to focus on his career.

However, Xiao Lin never told anyone the real reason. In his consciousness, he always felt like there was a shadow in his heart. There was a very, very vague figure, and he did not know who it was or how he knew them, and he even already forgot the general shape.

However, Xiao Lin could never forget that blurred image. He felt that he would regret it his entire life if he did not wait for that person. Yet, the relatives in his family were pressuring him, and he knew he was getting older and would need to find a woman to spend the rest of his life with eventually.

Xiao Lin started to feel like he was at a loss. His life continued, and he went to work every day, gaming at night and drinking with friends during the weekends. His life was as uneventful as usual, but for some reason, he was starting to feel frustrated.

Xiao Lin started to hesitate. He told himself that he just had to completely forget that figure in his mind, and his life would be back to normal. However, he could never muster up the determination

to do that. It was like he was cutting up his own flesh, and he could not bear to do it, even though he did not know the reason why.

‘What am I hesitating for?’

‘What am I so frustrated about?’

‘Why do I feel like something is missing from my life?’

Xiao Lin’s temper started to get a little bad. He knew that it was not good for him, and he even thought about looking for a therapist for the issue. His friends consoled him as well, and encouraged him to take a long vacation. They felt that Xiao Lin was just letting his work stress get to him.

Xiao Lin felt like that might be the case. In truth, he regularly had some strange feelings when he was younger, getting a sense of déjà vu that he could never figure out the source of. When he grew up, the feeling started to lessen.

He felt like his frustrations could have originated from there, so Xiao Lin accepted his friends’ kind suggestions, asking for a long vacation from his company before going on holiday and visiting various tourist hotspots to try to improve his mood.

However, it did not achieve the desired effect. Unlike usual, without the burdens of work, his calm heart instead started to think about it even more. Thinking about even more blurred figures, blurred people, and blurred events.

Both the people and the events all had a thick sense of familiarity, but it felt extremely foreign and distant, as if it was a completely different life that had nothing to do with him. But yet, why was he so fixated on it?

Xiao Lin felt like he was going mad. He felt like he might have developed some form of schizophrenia, so he went to various hospitals and went through countless tests, all to no avail.

Half a year passed just like that, and there were still no improvements. Xiao Lin sat in a hotel alone, exhausted. He looked at the sun outside. He spent his days like that lately. He was working hard to remember, but he could not recall it. He felt like something was missing in his life, but he could not say what it was.

Then, a piece of news got his attention. A blood moon was about to happen. It was a phenomenon that only happened once every two hundred odd years. The papers and the media had already been talking about it for a few days, but Xiao Lin only suddenly noticed it then. The television in the hotel was always on, but he did not have a habit of watching it. He was just afraid of staying in a quiet environment, worried that it would cause his thoughts to wander, so he just kept it on to have more noise in the room.

Xiao Lin’s heart suddenly had a strange feeling, as if he had seen a blood moon at some point. However, he quickly shook his head and denied it because the news made it very clear that it only happened once every two hundred odd years. He had not even been born the last time it happened, so it was definitely a mistake on his part.

However, Xiao Lin still decided to look at the lunar eclipse. It might have just been to relieve some boredom, or maybe to verify his strange feeling. His luck was not bad, and the city he was in had been having very clear weather over the past few days. There was even a mountain nearby, so on the day of the lunar eclipse, he carried his bag and brought enough food and water up the mountain.

The mountain was not a famous tourist destination, and the surrounding area was not that developed, so there were not that many people there. He had heard before that there was an observatory on the top of the mountain, but it was never opened to the public.

Xiao Lin tried to head over to the observatory, but he was rejected. However, that was fine, as the lunar eclipse did not need to be seen through a telescope, and he was not that interested in astrology anyway, only doing it to relieve some boredom.

Xiao Lin found an empty space on the mountain top alone. As night fell, the large round moon hung in the sky. It was bigger than usual, and bathing in the silver light of the moon, the feeling in his heart intensified.

He had definitely seen the same moon before at some point, but he could not remember when. Xiao Lin tried very hard to remember his past, but there were no empty patches to be filled. He would have been more comfortable if it was just memory loss, but now it seemed like someone was forcibly changing his life.

The lunar eclipse finally started, and Xiao Lin's thoughts were thrown into greater disarray. He had just been looking at the moon out of boredom, but he never expected it to make himself even more frustrated. The head splitting feeling caused him to be unable to endure it anymore, and he curled up on the floor, constantly trembling.. More and more fragmented memories started to float in his mind, but they were all bits and pieces, missing anything to tie them together, and causing him to be unable to process them.