

Global CM 441

Chapter 441: Is It Really That Perverted? (2.5/5)_2

"Our seniors have already told us: the person we need to kill this time is the mysterious zeroth-transition expert who has supposedly just awakened and appeared in the Battlegrounds event. We must be especially wary of his Teleport ability. Although we brought cursed Tools with us, just to be cautious, it would be more direct to use the Rule Power to seal his Teleport ability."

"But then, won't we lose track of where they are? This instance seems quite vast; it'll probably be hard to find them."

"That's not a big issue. Typically, as the mission progresses in these instances, the freely accessible area will gradually shrink. He'll have to meet us eventually, even if he doesn't want to! Coordinate sharing isn't actually that useful. Our curse demonization effect will remain active as long as the instance isn't over, no matter how much time passes within it. The instance's internal time doesn't affect our curse demonization effect—the Lord mentioned this before. So, we can afford to drag this out."

"The captain is right; we should indeed opt to restrict Teleportation."

Once everyone agreed to restrict the Teleport ability, the discussion immediately shifted to whether they should lie in wait or take the initiative.

However, while they were discussing, they suddenly received The Heavenly Path's Hint.

The appearance of this message from the Heavenly Dao made all one hundred of them feel astounded.

They were astounded because they received news that the people from the Solar System side had chosen the coordinate-sharing rule.

This utterly shocked them.

After all, from any normal person's perspective, choosing this rule seemed to favor their hundred-man team, no matter how you looked at it.

For the other party to choose this rule... it felt a lot like they were courting death!

Of course, that would apply to ordinary people.

But their enemy this time was no ordinary person.

Before entering the instance, their seniors had repeatedly warned them not to underestimate the enemy and to use their full strength to kill when confronted.

And now, they fully understood what their seniors meant.

If the opponent dared to choose such a seemingly suicidal rule, then apart from truly courting death, there was only one other possibility: they possessed absolute confidence.

They were confident enough to take the initiative and attack, which is why they chose coordinate sharing—to charge directly at us.

"Is this person from the Solar System really that monstrous? So arrogant that they dare to choose this rule?"

"Since they chose this, it proves our seniors' speculations were entirely correct. This fellow must be the zeroth-transition individual who appeared in the Battlegrounds event. To dare enter an event filled with second-transition, full-level-full-star experts from the Milky Way... That just shows they have absolute confidence in their own strength!"

"But we're quite formidable ourselves! As intruders, they should be able to see our attributes clearly. Yet, even after seeing our attributes, they still dared to choose coordinate sharing. What are they relying on? This is truly unbelievable."

"Hmph, never mind what they're thinking or what strength they possess. The only thing we need to do is go all out against them! Since they chose such a rule, it's actually a good thing for us. It saves us the trouble of deciding. We can just wait for them to come to us. They can see our attributes, but they can't

see the cursed Tools hidden in our inventory. Those are our real trump cards. Their misjudgment is definitely a great thing for us!"

Once Alina finished making her choice, a hundred coordinate points representing the Yongming Star System immediately appeared on the map.

Chen Mo estimated their distance on the map. "They're in the Imperial City Center, quite far from us. We probably won't encounter them for a while. I guess we should just proceed with the mission normally for now."

Alina nodded. "That's good too. Since we're playing with our cards open now due to coordinate sharing, we can prepare in advance if they head our way."

As they spoke, the instance's main storyline began to progress.

A cute little boy ran into the tent, saying, "Commanders, the Chief Commander sent me to invite you."

The boy wore a tattered, gray cotton robe that looked rather dirty. His trousers were also made of ragged cotton, their cuffs frayed and worn. A hole in one of his shoes revealed two small toes.

His hair was messy, a long portion of it falling across his face, almost veiling one eye.

The child's face was somewhat haggard, yet he maintained an innocent, bright smile that radiated a unique Tenacity.

As Chen Mo and Alina looked at the boy, they immediately received information about him from the Heavenly Dao.

This little boy's family had also been victims of the Empire's persecution.

His older sister was abducted by the Imperial Prime Minister. After being returned home, tortured and covered in wounds, she took her own life not long after.

His father went to demand an explanation but never returned, presumably murdered by that brutal Prime Minister.

The little boy had only survived thanks to members of the Rebel Army, who rescued him after learning of his family's tragedy.

Although he appeared young, a deep-seated hatred had already taken root in his heart.

"Are they showing us a child like this right at the start to stoke our hatred?" Chen Mo said, glancing at the little boy as he walked out of the tent.

Chapter 442: Can It Really Be This Twisted? (2.5/5)_3

"Perhaps this young boy could play a key role in some mission," Alina said with a faint smile.

She had little emotional investment in the fates of the characters within the instance. In her view, observing the fates of characters in the instance was like a player watching an NPC's life; she remained completely unperturbed.

The two of them left the instance and arrived at a large encampment on the hillside.

Eight others had already gathered here.

Including Chen Mo and Alina, all ten leaders of the Rebel Army were now present.

Upon arriving, Chen Mo and Alina immediately scanned the other eight leaders.

Closest to them was a man in his forties, dressed in a black Robe. His face was somber, his gaze sharp, giving off an impression of ruthless coldness. This man was The Assassin Leader of the Rebel Army, specializing in assassinating enemies. His name was Adrian.

Next was a woman in grey leather armor. She had refined features and cold eyes that made her seem unapproachable. She was The Archer Leader of the Rebel Army, named Elizabeth.

The third was a tall man clad in red armor. His face was determined, and he emanated a strong aura of battle. He was The Warrior Leader of the Rebel Army, named Reck.

The next was a petite and delicate woman in a light green dress. Her face was lovely, with large eyes and a sweet smile. She was The Therapist Leader of the Rebel Army, named Lucy.

The fifth was a petite young woman in a purple dress. She had a pretty face and a gentle aura. She was The Mage Leader of the Rebel Army, named Eve.

Next was a woman clad in green leather armor, with a determined face and a strong physique. She was The Knight Leader of the Rebel Army, named Olivia.

The seventh leader was a man in a white Robe, with long black hair and a calm face, exuding a mysterious aura. He was The Priest Leader of the Rebel Army, named Ryan.

The last one was a woman dressed in black leather armor, with a graceful figure and a pretty face. She was The Thief Leader of the Rebel Army, named Lilith.

She was also the Chief Commander of the entire Rebel Army.

When Lilith saw Chen Mo and Alina enter the tent, she smiled and said, "We've been waiting for you two. We need to assign the attack routes now. There are three in total. Considering your strength, you should be able to handle one route on your own. Which one would you like to take?"

[The Heavenly Dao's Hint: The first-tier main mission has been issued.

Please choose one of the three attack routes and complete the first subsection's objective for the first-tier mission!

During this first-tier mission, ensure all ten The Leaders survive, or the rewards for this instance will be reduced.

Special Note: Chief Commander Lilith is a key figure in the Rebel Army. Her death would critically demoralize the Rebel Army, leading to severe negative consequences. You must ensure her survival.

If she dies, the rewards for this instance will be significantly reduced!

If more than four of the ten The Leaders die, this instance mission will be considered a failure. At that point, you will only be able to leave the instance after eliminating all intruders. Please pay special attention.]

After receiving The Heavenly Dao's Hint, Chen Mo and Alina exchanged a glance and then looked at the three routes.

Essentially, there wasn't much difference between the three routes, only that the enemies and battlefield terrain varied slightly.

Since their combat capabilities allowed them to adapt to various terrains, Chen Mo chose the middle route.

After all, according to The Heavenly Dao's Hint, complications might arise on the routes to their left and right, potentially requiring their support. By choosing the middle route, they could provide assistance to either the left or right flank as quickly as possible should any problems arise!

Chen Mo pointed to the middlemost route. "We'll take this one."

Lilith saw him point and immediately smiled. "The danger level on this route is the highest," she said. "I heard there are two Imperial Generals guarding this path, while the other two paths only have one Imperial General each. Are you sure you want this route?"

Hearing it was the most dangerous, Chen Mo and Alina became even more resolute in their choice.

"Alright, the middle route is yours then. The rest of us will divide into two groups and eliminate the threats on the left and right routes," Lilith declared.

Chen Mo recalled The Heavenly Dao's Hint and remembered hearing at the outset that the Empire had ten Imperial Generals. He suspected that the middle route, guarded by two Imperial Generals, might not actually be the most dangerous. It was possible that more Imperial Generals were lying in ambush on the routes to the left and right, which only appeared to have one Imperial General each. However, the routes were now assigned, and they would have to deal with whatever came their way. Although they couldn't use Teleportation, their Flying speed wasn't slow. If the others truly encountered trouble, he could fly over quickly enough to assist. After all, these were the Rebel Army's ten great experts; they wouldn't be defeated so easily. The Heavenly Dao shouldn't set them up for such a devastating trap.

With the routes assigned, Lilith entrusted an army of 20,000 soldiers to Chen Mo and Alina. She then personally led half of the remaining forces down a flanking route.

Before they departed, Chen Mo immediately cast Berserker Shield, enveloping everyone in a thick protective shield. This way, unless The Heavenly Dao had arranged some special means to harm them, they wouldn't be injured.

After applying the shields and with the routes decided, Chen Mo and Alina glanced at the army assigned to them.

Although the ten The Leaders were nominally commanders of their respective professions, it didn't mean that all soldiers in their units consisted solely of those professions. Only about a tenth of each unit comprised individuals from their The Leader's specific profession. The other ninety percent were ordinary Imperial citizens. They had taken up arms to resist tyranny, their actual strength relatively weak. They fought fueled purely by passion!

After a quick scan of their attributes, Chen Mo paid them no further mind. These 20,000 soldiers wouldn't even be a mouthful for his three million Skeleton Monsters; their presence or absence made little difference. Conversely, he realized these 20,000 people needed careful protection, lest The Heavenly Dao had attached some hidden mission to their survival!

Chapter 443: A Different City Wall! (5/5)_1

"We're about to approach the enemy's fortress. Maintain a distance of at least one kilometer from us. Do not come closer until I give the command. Understood?"

Chen Mo issued a preemptive order to the group. This was to prevent them from acting rashly on their own accord. He had previously experienced the pitfalls of disobedient teammates in the Divine Training Tower.

"Yes! We will obey The Leader!"

A few junior leaders responded first, and then the entire twenty-thousand-strong unit roared in unison, "We will obey The Leader!"

Seeing everyone's compliance, Chen Mo finally nodded in satisfaction.

However, a junior leader quickly stepped forward and said, "The Leader, since we're going to attack the enemy's fortress, shouldn't we send out a few scouts first to investigate? How can we let you two risk yourselves at the front? If we encounter an ambush or something similar, you two would be in grave danger."

Chen Mo and Alina's decision to proceed at the front also concerned two other junior leaders, who hurried forward to voice their dissent. "The Leader, we also feel it's best to send out scouts for reconnaissance before making a decision. We are very worried for your safety."

"Yes, The Leader, we can't let you two take such risks at the front," another junior leader chimed in.

Chen Mo smiled faintly and raised his hand to silence them. "You are right; ordinarily, we should send out scouts first. But our route is the shortest, and time is of the essence. We must act quickly to achieve victory and thereby find time to support the other two teams and alleviate their pressure. We've carefully studied the enemy's intelligence and have countermeasures in place. We won't put ourselves in a perilous situation. Besides, it's our duty as leaders to charge at the forefront and bring victory to everyone. You don't need to worry about our safety. We can protect ourselves. Please rest assured."

Hearing Chen Mo's words and seeing his determined gaze and composed demeanor, the junior leaders couldn't help but feel a sense of admiration. They hadn't expected The Leader to possess such courage, willing to face danger himself rather than expose his troops to it. This exemplary behavior instantly earned the deep respect of the junior leaders.

Chen Mo and Alina soon received a notification from the Heavenly Dao.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Your actions have raised the morale of the entire team. The current morale is at 100 points, granting a special effect—All-army Morale Boost! This buff affects the entire army. As long as morale remains above 80, it will stay active, increasing the attack power and attack speed of all units by 100%.]

"Wow, Chen, you're amazing! With just a few words, you've snagged us a powerful buff for free."

Upon seeing The Heavenly Path's Hint, Alina turned to Chen Mo with a bright smile.

Chen Mo just smiled without saying much. He'd used this tactic before in the Rift Dungeon. That experience had taught him that his words and actions could indeed affect the characters within it. This time, however, he had merely intended to convince these men to stay back and hadn't expected to receive such a potent buff. It was an unintentional gain.

After persuading the junior leaders to fall back, Chen Mo turned to Alina and said, "You should stay back as well. I alone am enough at the front."

Although he had cast a shield on everyone, Chen Mo still didn't want others at the front, in case some special insta-kill ability might appear within the dungeon.

Alina laughed. "No problem. As long as that group doesn't come over, even an SSS-level dungeon BOSS won't find it easy to kill me. And if I'm with you, I can help by creating a large number of mirror images."

Hearing this, Chen Mo glanced at the map, noting the position of the hundred members from the Yongming Star System. They seemed too far away to join them. Seeing this, Chen Mo no longer objected to Alina accompanying him.

As the two of them led the way, the other two teams proceeded with more conventional caution. They weren't as daringly skilled as Chen Mo. Both other groups first dispatched scouts to survey the path ahead, only continuing their advance after confirming it was clear.

「Over an hour later.」

Chen Mo and Alina stood before a massive fortress.

The fortress appeared incredibly solid. Through his senses, Chen Mo discerned that it was constructed from a material called Spirit Iron, which could negate any bonus siege damage. Furthermore, a vast Flying-Restricted Domain enveloped the entire fortress. Its core was hidden deep within the structure, meaning the domain couldn't be dispelled until the fortress itself was breached.

The fortress was enormous, assembled from massive, square blocks of iron. Each block was incredibly thick, seemingly capable of withstanding any attack. The main entrance was situated directly in the center: an exceedingly heavy iron door, its surface intricately inlaid with numerous runes that pulsed with strong magic waves—clearly a high-level defensive measure.

In addition to the central entrance, several apertures, likely for ranged attacks, were set into the fortress walls.

A massive army guarded the fortress, estimated by Chen Mo's perception to be about ten thousand strong. They were stationed throughout the fortress, some patrolling the walls, others maintaining vigilance within.

Chapter 444: A Different City Wall! (5/5)_2

These soldiers were dressed in black armor, wielding Longswords, long spears, or bows and arrows, their faces stern and alert—clearly a well-trained elite force.

The fortress's defenses were meticulously arranged, with numerous traps such as blade traps, poisonous arrow traps, and ground spike traps placed in the surrounding terrain, enough to make any careless intruder pay a heavy price.

In addition, there were numerous high towers and watchtowers within the fortress. These structures were designed with multiple offensive mechanisms, including flamethrowers, arrow barrages, and ice traps, capable of monitoring and attacking the exterior. They formed an extremely important defensive line for the fortress.

Beyond these impressive defensive capabilities, there were two formidable Generals within the fortress.

According to the initial information Chen Mo had received from the Heavenly Dao, he knew both of them.

These two Generals were a man and a woman. The woman was named Serreya, a tall and imposing female warrior. She wore heavy Steel Armor and wielded a Longsword, its hilt inlaid with various jewels and gemstones that emitted a golden light. Her aura was haughty and her expression stern, making her a force to be reckoned with.

Serreya possessed outstanding close-combat and long-range skills, along with high-intensity melee capabilities. Notably, she possessed an extremely strong stagger resistance, making her very difficult to control and allowing her to rampage freely across the battlefield. Her strength far surpassed that of a Level 40 first-transition Golden BOSS.

Her skillset was far more complete than that of a typical Level 40 first-transition Golden BOSS, making her an incredibly tough opponent for any ordinary Level 40 first-transition challenger.

The other General, named Baroque, was a slender male Mage. He wore a black Robe and held a Magic Wand crafted from magic crystals, the gemstones on which constantly flickered with lights of various colors.

Baroque was a masterful Mage, possessing powerful Magic Attack capabilities and unique control Skills, enabling him to manipulate the course of battle through Magic.

His aura was profound, his expression cold, giving off an unapproachable air of detachment.

Baroque's strength was similarly not to be underestimated; he could easily inflict terrifying, large-scale destruction with his Magic. His overall power was even greater than Serreya's. Indeed, when it came to suppressive ability and sheer destructive force, Serreya was no match for him.

In summary, Serreya and Baroque were both Generals of formidable strength and proud bearing. They represented the pinnacle of power in close combat and the Magic Domain, respectively, and would be the most difficult obstacles in conquering the fortress.

The terrifying difficulty of an SSS-level instance was evident even from this first task in the initial stage!

Chen Mo and Alina silently observed the fortress's appearance and the strength of its defenders. A single glance was enough to tell them how absurdly strong the fortress's defenses were.

Under normal circumstances, breaching this Solid fortress with a mere 20,000 soldiers would be impossible; even with ten times that number, the task would be daunting.

The difficulty of conquering this route truly lived up to Lilith's claim of it being the most challenging one!

Although the fortress's defensive capabilities were already quite absurd, they were ultimately useless because the enemy they faced was even more so.

Chen Mo commanded a three million-strong Skeleton Army. Paired with Alina's replication, this became a force of six million.

An army of 20,000 or even 200,000 might be powerless against this impregnable fortress.

But with six million troops, an army comparable to the fourth-transition level, even the most impregnable fortress would crumble like paper!

At Chen Mo's mental command, Undying Worship and Berserker Shield were applied to the three million Skeleton Monsters, and he immediately ordered them to attack.

The three million Skeleton Monsters uniformly drew their bows or raised their Magic Wands, unleashing a torrential assault upon the fortress walls.

Knowing the fortress walls were constructed from Spirit Iron and that converting their attacks to siege damage wouldn't increase the damage dealt, Chen Mo didn't bother using the Almighty Converter.

Seeing Chen Mo order the attack, Alina immediately activated her Illusion Creation Skill, replicating another three million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters, which then launched their assault on the fortress.

However, because the Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters could not receive buffs, they were unable to gain the army-wide buff: All-Army Morale Boost. They did, however, effectively benefit from All-Army Morale Boost, Chen Mo's Undying Worship, and the collected Skeleton Monster trait buffs. This wasn't because they had actually received the buffs themselves, but because they had replicated Skeleton Monsters that were already buffed. According to the Illusion Creation Skill's description, it duplicates the target unit's attack-related attributes at the moment of casting. This was how they effectively received the buffs. However, any subsequent buffs Chen Mo cast on them would be useless, as they were inherently immune to any buff effects. Still, even without further buffs, their current attack attributes were already outrageously powerful.

Since these Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters could not benefit from an invisible mode, they spread out chaotically, jostling each other, immediately after Alina replicated them.

This massive tide of Skeleton Monsters, appearing out of thin air like a gushing fountain, left the 20,000 soldiers observing from behind completely stunned.

Fortunately, Alina had Experience from her previous replication and quickly had this army of three million Skeleton Monsters reassemble their formation.

The three million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters formed neat arrays around the fortress. Drawing their bows and brandishing their Magic Wands, they emitted sharp shrieks. Accompanied by the glow of Magic and a furious volley of arrows, they launched a frenzied assault on the fortress.

Chapter 445: A Different City Wall! (5/5)_3

WHIZZ! WHIZZ!

Arrows flew like a swarm of locusts, their sharp points drawing arcs as they pierced the dust-filled air, rushing towards the fortress walls with relentless speed.

The fortress walls, already significantly damaged by a round of bombardment from Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters, were now shaking even more violently under the assault of three million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters. The sounds of their collapse echoed constantly.

Simultaneously, a barrage of Energy Bullets, each unleashed by a Skeleton Monster's Magic Wand, flew towards the fortress walls. As soon as these Energy Bullets touched the fortress walls, they instantly exploded. The aftershocks of the explosions reduced the fortress walls to fragments.

"Enemy attack! Enemy attack! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!"

In the face of this sudden, overwhelming assault, the fortress plunged into chaos. Archers fired relentlessly, and Mages continuously cast Spells, attempting to halt the attack.

Struck repeatedly, pieces of iron from the walls were blasted into shrapnel that flew everywhere, while the battlements were shattered by the relentless shower of arrows.

Under the terrifying assault of the Skeleton Monsters, the fortress had begun to teeter, yet it held steady, stalwartly resisting the relentless onslaught.

This resilience was entirely due to Spirit Iron, a special mineral that allowed the Mages within the fortress to use their Mana to reinforce the structure; otherwise, the fortress would have collapsed long ago.

But this was merely a futile delay.

Amidst the storm-like bombardment, the arrows and Energy Bullets of the Skeleton Monsters fell densely upon the fortress walls like a torrential downpour.

Although the walls were incredibly sturdy, they now looked as if they had been battered a thousand times over. Countless breaches were blasted open, sending iron fragments and brick shards flying everywhere.

However, it had to be said that these soldiers of the Empire were incredibly loyal.

No one really knew what was so great about this Empire that made it worth defending.

Even under the heavy barrage of arrows and Energy Bullets, the guards on the fortress walls were still resisting desperately.

Fiery walls erupted one after another on the battlements, nullifying a large number of the attacking arrows and Energy Bullets.

As they countered the Skeleton Monsters' assault with their own, the sound of explosions thundered to the heavens, and clouds of dust and smoke rose everywhere.

Flame and smoke cloaked the sky above the fortress walls, momentarily obscuring the situation on the battlements. Chen Mo, at this moment, couldn't be bothered with those soldiers; he now had only one objective: destroy the fortress!

No matter how the enemy resisted, this was the only order he gave the Skeleton Monsters.

With the frenzied assault carried out by the Skeleton Monsters, the fortress walls were already on the verge of collapse.

Despite the dire situation, the guards on the fortress walls had not retreated. They continued to resist with all their might, retaliating with arrows and Spells, effectively eliminating one Mirror Image Skeleton Monster with each hit.

But there were three million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters!

Against such a massive Skeleton Legion, they were still far too weak.

With the commotion growing to such an extent, the two Generals within the fortress had, of course, already received news. They rushed directly to the top of the fortress walls to behold the sea of over a million Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters materializing outside.

Watching countless Skeleton Monsters furiously pounding the fortress, both their faces turned grave.

"Dammit! Where did all these Skeleton Monsters come from? And why are they so powerful? Aren't Skeleton Monsters supposed to be the weakest of the Undead Creatures?" Serreya watched the million-strong army of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters in disbelief.

Baroque, his face equally stern, replied, "This isn't the time to question that. If we don't act now, the fortress will fall!"

As a Mage, Baroque possessed formidable area-of-effect attack abilities.

With a swing of his Magic Wand, a ripple of Magic Power appeared before him, and a water-blue magic array instantly materialized in front of him. The next moment, a massive number of giant Ice Cones burst forth from within this array.

"Go!"

With a point of Baroque's Magic Wand at the array, the giant Ice Cones instantly flew towards the army of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters, letting out a piercing shriek as they tore through the air.

Simultaneously, Baroque activated another magic array. With a point of his Magic Wand, a large number of Fireballs, each as big as a human head, burst forth and struck towards the army of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As his giant Fireballs and Ice Cones landed, they instantly exploded into spheres of Flame and frost Energy, annihilating a huge number of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters in their vicinity.

The area his Spells covered was extremely wide, destroying thousands of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters with a single cast.

Watching Baroque's relentless assaults, Serreya wasn't about to be outdone. Holding a great sword, she stood on the fortress walls, confronting the horde of Skeleton Monsters.

With a sudden twist of her body, she swung her great sword heavily through the air. A powerful energy ripple burst from her great sword, cutting through the air like a gigantic blade as it headed straight towards the Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters.

In an instant, a large swathe of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters were cleaved apart as if a path was being carved through them. Split in two, they dissipated into thin air.

Not satisfied with just one blow, Serreya continuously waved her great sword, frantically sending out a succession of powerful energy waves towards the army of Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters, obliterating even more of them.

They're pretty tough, really asking for it. I was planning to bring down the fortress walls first and deal with them later, but since they've voluntarily moved to such conspicuous positions on the battlements, I'll start with them!

The Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters died easily, but Chen Mo's own Skeleton Monsters were not so easy to kill.

Not only were they not easy to kill, Serreya and Baroque couldn't even see Chen Mo's Skeleton Monsters, let alone inflict damage on them.

As Chen Mo locked onto Serreya and Baroque, the attack target of his three million Skeleton Monsters instantly shifted from the fortress walls to the two Generals.

Concentrated volleys, one of one million five hundred thousand arrows and another of one million five hundred thousand Energy Bullets, flew silently towards Serreya and Baroque, each General targeted individually.

At this point, the two of them were still obviously showcasing their powers, clearing out the Mirror Image Skeleton Monsters summoned by Alina.

In the blink of an eye, the expressions of both Generals turned to utter shock.

The next moment, they both exploded into pieces, killed instantly by the overwhelming wave of attacks!

This scene was so shocking that the Imperial Army, still desperately resisting on the fortress, were all left stupefied where they stood!

Their most revered Generals had suddenly and inexplicably exploded and died. This spectacle was far more shocking than the fortress being breached!

Chapter 446: Real Benefits! (Three-in-one) _1

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Due to your killing of the two generals guarding the fortress, the morale of the fortress troops has decreased by 50 points and is currently in a state of low morale. In this state, their attack power and defensive power will decrease by 50%.]

Chen Mo glanced at The Heavenly Path's Hint and ignored it, continuing to command his Skeleton Monster Army to bombard the fortress wall.

A massive volley of arrows and projectiles frantically slammed into the already crumbling fortress wall, which was now on the verge of complete disintegration.

After another half-minute of bombardment, a tremendous rumbling shook the ground.

This enormous fortress finally collapsed under the onslaught of the Skeleton Monsters.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: Due to the fortress collapse, the morale of the fortress troops has decreased by 50 points. The current morale is zero points. In this state, they will fall into chaos and fear, greatly reducing their combat effectiveness!]

After the fortress collapsed, Chen Mo had initially intended to directly eliminate these fortress troops. However, considering that he might trigger a better reward evaluation if he could recruit them, he temporarily ordered the Skeleton Monsters to cease their attack.

After all, he had already experienced many hidden special reward conditions. The Heavenly Dao was utterly insidious. He needed to be more prescient about these matters. Besides, these Imperial Soldiers weren't a threat to him now, so there was no harm in trying to recruit them.

With this in mind, Chen Mo immediately soared into the sky. Using Energy to amplify his voice, he addressed the entire area.

"All Imperial Soldiers, listen well," he declared. "We are not the 'Rebel Army' as spoken of by the treacherous officials and the Demonic Queen—we are the Rebel Army!

"We have no direct conflict with you; in fact, we are on the same side!

"We too were originally citizens of the Empire. We established the Rebel Army because the Demonic Queen and treacherous officials are tyrannical and despotic. They have coerced the Emperor, making life unbearable for everyone in our empire.

"Are you going to aid such treacherous officials and their ilk in their tyranny? Today, it is we who are oppressed; tomorrow, it could be you.

"In their eyes, you are just insignificant soldiers. Within our Rebel Army, even high-level soldiers have suffered their persecution. By now, the entire nation is aware of the despicable acts of these treacherous officials and the Demonic Queen. Surely, you too have heard of their shameful conduct.

"If we were not truly suffering under their tyranny, how could such a large-scale Rebel Army have been organized?

"Our current battle here is nothing but fratricide, utterly meaningless. We of the Rebel Army are not tyrants or bloodthirsty killers like the treacherous officials and the Demonic Queen. We are now giving you a chance to surrender. We will not harm anyone who surrenders.

"After you surrender, if you are willing to join the Rebel Army, we will treat you as our own people.

"Those of you unwilling to join the Rebel Army, who wish to remain neutral for the time being, we are willing to let you depart. You can avoid this current turmoil and re-emerge when peace returns to the land.

"As long as you do not stand against us, we will let you go!"

When Chen Mo finished speaking, the tens of thousands of soldiers in the fortress, already succumbing to despair, found their minds in a whirl.

They too had long heard of the deeds of the treacherous officials and the Demonic Queen in the Imperial City.

At first, they had been somewhat skeptical.

This was especially true when their General had told them these were rumors spread by rebels, that the talk of 'treacherous officials' and the 'Demonic Queen' was merely deceptive propaganda concocted by these insurgents to legitimize their revolt.

This had made them lean towards believing what the General said.

But now, the General was dead, and the fortress had been breached.

They were now at the mercy of this Rebel Army, who could annihilate them with a mere gesture.

Yet, this Rebel Army had not chosen to slaughter them. Instead, they offered them a way out—to leave or to join.

This made them reconsider the rumors they had heard before. If the Rebel Army were truly the vile rumor-mongers intent on treason, as claimed, would they be so gracious in persuasion after achieving such an absolute advantage? Even if they chose not to join, the Rebel Army was willing to spare all their lives. This act alone spoke volumes of their character. After all, such mercy could easily be akin to releasing a tiger back into the mountains.

Having heard Chen Mo's words, the soldiers inside the fortress began to earnestly consider their options.

In their current situation, fighting to the death was utterly pointless. Their adversaries didn't even need to deploy their own people; that massive horde of Skeleton Monsters alone was enough to crush them. Clearly, their opponents weren't trying to persuade them to surrender out of fear of incurring casualties. Therefore, their words held a high degree of credibility.

"My time is limited," Chen Mo announced. "I will give you ten seconds to consider. Those willing to join our Rebel Army, stand to the left. Those who do not wish to join our Rebel Army, nor wish to continue to trouble us, stand to the right. We will allow you to leave.

"As for those who remain foolishly loyal, ignore counsel, and wish to continue fighting us to the death, you may stand in the middle."

"10, 9, 8..."

As Chen Mo began the countdown, the soldiers, who had been hesitating, finally started to move.

When they saw several soldiers decisively move to the left, many others quickly followed their lead, also moving to the left.

A smaller number chose to stand to the right.

Chapter 447: Real Benefits! (Three-in-one) _2

In the end, of the tens of thousands present, not a single one stood in the middle.

They didn't recognize the corrupt minister or the Demonic Queen; they had all joined the army just to get enough to eat. Who would be willing to sacrifice their lives for those criminals?

Chen Mo sensed that there were over 8,000 on the left and only just over 2,000 on the right.

This recruitment meant his forces had gained an extra 8,000 soldiers; quite a good result.

"Very good. The over 2,000 of you on the right can leave. But I hope you will leave in neutrality, not continuing to participate in our battle. We of the Rebel Army just want to help His Majesty the Emperor uproot the corrupt minister and the Demonic Queen, to cleanse the imperial court. We have no inherent conflict with you; please understand this."

Upon hearing Chen Mo's words, the soldiers on the right nodded. One of them took the lead to depart, and the remaining soldiers quickly followed.

As they retreated, over 1,000 of them had a change of heart and joined the group on the left.

At this time, The Heavenly Path's Hint also sounded in Chen Mo's ear.

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully captured Reik Fortress, completed the first section of the first stage of the mission. Your subordinate soldiers had a death rate of 0%, meeting the requirement for less than 20% casualty rate, achieving a perfect score for the mission. You have gained 100 dungeon points.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You have successfully persuaded 90% of the fortress troops through your speech, fulfilling the condition of a defection rate above 50%. You have achieved the hidden achievement 『A soldier who surrenders without fighting』, gaining an extra 100 dungeon points.]

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: The second sub-task of the first stage mission is released. Please continue to lead your troops to take Storm City. However, there is a dangerous area on the journey; please proceed with caution.]

"There really are extra benefits, not bad." Seeing The Heavenly Path's Hint, Chen Mo immediately smiled and nodded. Indeed, it was just as I expected; my words weren't wasted. This is a huge gain!

Considering it was an SSS-level mission, simply completing the tasks already yielded substantial rewards. Any bonus rewards, even slight increases, were very significant. Originally, this mission was expected to yield 50 points. However, with Chen Mo's perfect score and hidden achievement, the points quadrupled. This would greatly increase the final rewards of experience points and eternal coins.

Furthermore, the higher the points, the better the item rewards. An SSS-level mission normally only guaranteed one SS level reward; only if the score was high enough would an SSS-level reward be granted.

If the points were particularly high, one could even obtain a second SSS-level reward, along with other special awards. These were quite crucial.

Having successfully captured the fortress, Chen Mo immediately called up the squad leaders and team leaders from the rear units.

"These brothers are willing to join our Rebel Army," Chen Mo said to the twenty or so people beside him. "You all, assign them properly and take them under your command."

"Sir, is this appropriate? If we let these men join us so soon after they defected, what if they're feigning surrender and suddenly cause trouble?"

"Don't worry, I have a plan." Since Chen Mo had recruited these people, he had naturally already prepared for this.

He directly cast the Berserker Shield skill on all allied forces.

His Berserker Shield, having reached red skill quality, had a permanent effect when cast.

With his current strength, the shield he cast was so thick that these soldiers couldn't break it in a short time.

With such a shield for protection, even if these men were feigning surrender and intended to cause trouble within his ranks, it would be useless.

Feeling the heavy shield added atop them, the squad leaders and team leaders all looked at Chen Mo excitedly and said, "As expected of The Leader! Your strength is truly astounding! With this move of yours, we can indeed rest much more assured."

Normally, soldiers who had just surrendered wouldn't be directly integrated into one's own ranks in large groups.

In most cases, they would be dispersed, with several of one's own soldiers assigned to watch each new recruit, and then mixed into the main forces.

Chen Mo's overwhelming power naturally allowed him to disregard this.

Having successfully captured the fortress and integrated the new soldiers into his forces, Chen Mo immediately pulled out a map to take a look.

His unit had been overly efficient; the other two groups hadn't even engaged the enemy yet. He had always suspected their two routes wouldn't be simple, but since they hadn't encountered any enemies yet, he decided to follow The Heavenly Path's Hint and continue with his own mission.

The second section's task was to capture Storm City.

Storm City was located southeast of their current position at Reik Fortress, about 50 kilometers away. It would be quite a long march on foot.

Chen Mo and Alina, following the mission's instructions, began to head towards Storm City.

Behind the fortress lay a dense forest, lush with greenery. Sunlight filtered through the gaps in the leaves and branches, casting dappled shadows on the ground, creating a comfortable atmosphere.

In the woods, birds sang and flowers bloomed. A beautiful stream meandered through, its clear water gurgling pleasantly.

Upon entering the forest, some soldiers in the army felt its tranquility and couldn't help sighing. Sometimes, we truly envy these small animals, they thought, living so freely in such beautiful natural scenery, without having to worry about suddenly being persecuted by some deranged ruler.

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Hearing their heartfelt remarks, the defectors, who were already mostly convinced of the cause, could clearly sense the sincerity in the lamentations of their fellow soldiers. They were now certain that the Empire was rotten to its very core. The Rebel Army had been forced into this position; they had no other choice. This journey provided the new recruits ample time to interact with the seasoned members of the Rebel Army, deepening their understanding of the cause. This also reduced the likelihood of betrayal. After all, many of these Imperial Soldiers originally came from humble backgrounds, much like themselves. The circumstances faced by most in the Rebel Army were originally the same as their own. If these people could be persecuted, then they too could be persecuted. Such rulers were undeserving of existence and loyalty!

As they moved through the forest, Chen Mo constantly monitored the status of the other two teams. He always felt that the other two routes might not be so easy to conquer.

「Half an hour later.」

The other two teams finally reached their target locations. From the map, they could see that they had already engaged the enemy. Chen Mo had initially thought that the other two routes would not just have a single General each; he suspected there might be several ambushes prepared, and that he would need to provide support midway, so he hadn't pushed his troops to advance at full speed. He hadn't expected that by the time his army had traversed half the forest, the battles on the other two routes had already concluded. Not only had they encountered no danger, but their combat prowess was astonishing. They had dispatched the obstacles in their path with remarkable speed, completely avoiding any ambushes.

It went by this easily? Did I really miscalculate? Or was it because of the shields I provided?

Chen Mo pulled out The Heavenly Path's Hint he had received earlier and reviewed it. According to the previous Heavenly Path's Hint, it clearly warned that these individuals must not encounter any mishaps at this stage.

If these people could overcome difficulties so easily on their own, what was the point of The Heavenly Path's Hint? This first stage is bound to have some kind of twist. Since it's not in the first section, it must be in the later ones. After all, our current progress is still within the first stage.

"Chen, what are you thinking about?" Alina asked, noticing Chen Mo's pensive expression as he walked.

"Nothing much, just thinking about the other two teams."

Talking to intelligent people was rather straightforward. Chen Mo had barely started speaking when Alina laughed and said, "You're thinking about The Heavenly Path's Hint, aren't you? The Heavenly Path's Hint said they shouldn't run into problems during the first stage. Such a hint almost explicitly stated that some variable would appear in the first stage."

"Exactly, but it seems it's not in the first section."

"I initially thought the same as you, that something might happen in the first section. However, after seeing that the fortress lacked a Teleportation Array, I knew nothing would happen in the first section."

"Why?"

"You're probably overthinking because you can use Flying, Chen. You're too caught up in your own perspective. We're currently in the first-transition stage, and people at this stage can't fly. The Heavenly Dao naturally wouldn't factor in Flying ability, so it wouldn't arrange a task that we couldn't reach. Therefore, with no Teleportation Array in the fortress, the possibility of trouble in the first section vanished. After all, without a Teleportation Array, normal first-transition professions wouldn't be able to cover such a great distance."

Hearing Alina's explanation, Chen Mo laughed and said, "That's a real eye-opener. I've grown so accustomed to my own abilities that I always assume the Heavenly Dao will assign tasks based on what I can do. I was indeed overthinking."

Having completed so many missions solo before, Chen Mo had gotten into the habit of considering his own capabilities as the baseline when pondering how the Heavenly Dao might challenge him. Although this was an SSS-level instance, they were only at level 40 and in their first-transition when they entered it. How could the Heavenly Dao possibly assign tasks that required Flying to keep up?

Thinking this, Chen Mo smiled and shook his head; he had indeed been overthinking. If problems were to arise, they would likely occur in the second section. After all, important cities like Storm City would definitely have Teleportation Arrays. If the other two teams encountered any trouble at this stage, leading his own team over to assist wouldn't be a major issue.

With this in mind, Chen Mo temporarily stopped focusing his attention on the other two teams. He shifted his focus back to the tranquil forest, which soothed both mind and body, savoring the brief moment of peace.

However, he hadn't enjoyed nature for long before he sensed a small village nearby. The village was enveloped by the dense forest, resembling a secluded paradise. Chen Mo and his contingent soon neared the village. Due to their numbers, the sound of them treading on pine needles and leaves created a rustling that quickly drew the villagers' attention. Seeing so many people appear near their village, some villagers hid in fear, while the bolder ones looked on with curiosity.

They observed Chen Mo, and Chen Mo, in turn, observed the village. The houses in the village were primarily constructed from wood, their walls adorned with murals and tapestries rich in natural elements. Moss and vines crept up the exteriors of the houses, and the surrounding trees and flora further enhanced the village's fresh and natural ambiance. At the center of the village lay a spacious lawn, dotted with stones and tree roots, where a few small animals darted about.

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The village square was dotted with several wooden tables showcasing wild fruits and handicrafts, filling the atmosphere with nature and simplicity. The village environment was pleasant and tranquil, feeling as if it purified the soul.

"This is truly a wonderful place," Chen Mo couldn't help but exclaim.

"Yes, this little village has quite the charm and a serene atmosphere," Alina agreed. She was quite fond of this environment. Living in such a place for the rest of her life wouldn't be bad at all.

As they were talking, an old man approached, leaning on a cane with a kind smile on his face. He seemed delighted by their arrival.

"Welcome to Green Forest Village, young ones," said the old man warmly. "I am the village chief here. If you need anything, just let me know."

He was dressed in a green Robe, projecting an air of kindness.

Upon seeing the village chief, Chen Mo became slightly curious. They came with a major force; doesn't the chief fear they might be villains?

Just as Chen Mo was thinking this, the village chief suddenly smiled and said, "Our Green Forest Village is protected by a powerful formation that can sense malicious intent. If you were actually malicious, I would have sensed it long ago."

"So you can read even my thoughts," Chen Mo replied with a polite smile. "We're on our way to Storm City, but I've heard a dangerous stretch lies ahead. Do you have any information that might help us?"

Recalling the special hint given when the Heavenly Dao issued the second sub-task, Chen Mo immediately consulted the village chief.

Chen Mo thought that since this dangerous journey, which the Heavenly Dao gave a special hint about, wasn't the second sub-task, perhaps it could lead to a hidden mission.

"Heading to Storm City, eh..." The village chief frowned, appearing worried. "The road to Storm City requires passing through the dangerous Smoky Intoxicated Forest. It's home to many vicious beasts and unknown creatures. The forest is also filled with deadly fog and poison, and even experienced travelers often lose their way.

My advice is to travel through it at night. By then, the fog and poison will have naturally dissipated, making it considerably safer than during the day."

"I see, thank you for the warning, Mr. Village Chief."

Hearing the village chief's words, Chen Mo turned to Alina and suggested, "How about you and the others wait here until night falls? Then you can lead them through that area. With my shield for protection, passing through a forest shouldn't be a major issue. I'll go ahead alone and launch the attack on Storm City."

For the sake of a higher mission evaluation, Chen Mo was truly being considerate of his soldiers; he didn't want to risk them getting hurt at all.

After hearing Chen Mo's suggestion, Alina thought it was feasible.

With Chen Mo's mighty army of three million Skeleton Monsters, he alone was more than enough for the siege. Why would he even need these soldiers?

If they proceeded according to the normal mission process, they would face a dilemma.

If they didn't seize Storm City quickly, they might not be able to reach the other two teams in time to provide support if those teams encountered problems.

However, if they marched speedily during daylight, there was a high chance of facing dangers.

But with Chen Mo, an overwhelmingly powerful individual, in their ranks, they didn't need to adhere strictly to the normal process.

Alina nodded and agreed, "Alright, we'll proceed as you suggested."

As Chen Mo and Alina were discussing and preparing for Chen Mo to set off alone, the village chief suddenly spoke again.

"Oh, and there's one more thing," said the village chief, gently tugging on Chen Mo's Robe.

"What is it, Mr. Village Chief?" Chen Mo curiously asked.

"Recently, we've had two villagers go missing in the Smoky Intoxicated Forest. You have many pairs of eyes and ears. If you're going into that forest, could you perhaps help us look for these two villagers? Of course, we won't ask you to do it for nothing. If you manage to find them, we will reward you."

[The Heavenly Path's Hint: You've triggered the hidden mission "Missing Villagers of Green Forest Village". Accepting this mission requires finding the missing villagers within 12 hours or it will be considered a failure.]

"Of course, I'll do my best to help find the two villagers," Chen Mo said with a smile, unhesitatingly accepting as soon as he saw the hidden mission prompt. After all, it was a hidden mission from an SSS-level instance; the rewards were bound to be amazing. An opportunity like this wasn't to be missed. Besides, the mission prompt didn't mention any penalty for failure, so there was no harm in accepting it.

"Thank you so much!" The village chief nodded gratefully. "I hope you can arrive safely at Storm City and help us find our villagers. In the meantime, please rest in our village until nightfall. We have some very fine fruit wine to offer you."

Chapter 450: Incompatible Strength! (Four-in-one)_1

"Thank you very much, Mayor." After speaking, Chen Mo turned to look at Alina with a smile. "I'll take care of this hidden mission too. Wait here for the good news."

"It seems I've found a great companion. With you here, I feel like all I need to do is sit back and collect the rewards," Alina said with a gentle smile.

Chen Mo chuckled and said, "Then remember to pay my wages afterward. One eternal gold coin isn't too little, and ten eternal gold coins aren't too many."

"In that case, let me just hire you permanently," Alina said, smiling as she reached out to playfully hook Chen Mo's chin.

"I'm afraid you can't afford me; I'm very expensive."

After some playful banter, Chen Mo left Alina and his subordinates in the village. He then headed alone towards the Mysterious Miasma Forest the mayor had mentioned.

He himself could fly, so he could actually bypass it. However, the army couldn't. For their safety, Chen Mo decided to venture in first and scout the area.

After leaving the village and trekking about five kilometers through the lush green forest, Chen Mo finally spotted a forest shrouded in dense mist.

This miasma covers a vast area, Chen Mo thought, observing the mist before him that seemed to envelop the entire sky and land. He realized that if they had come during the daytime, they wouldn't have been able to advance even a single step.

He tried using his perception ability.

Fortunately, his perception ability as a Forerunner hadn't failed; the miasma's obscuring effect was virtually non-existent for him.

Relying on his perception ability, he slowly stepped into the miasma-filled fog.

Venturing deeper into the Miasma Forest felt like entering a mysterious world entirely separate from the human realm.

Amidst the boundless, gloomy greenery, Miasma Poison Gas continuously swirled and billowed. The suffocating, hellish heat seemed to emanate from the depths.

This heat carried a nauseating stench of decay, a grim warning to any creature daring to enter that this was a realm of death.

Shortly after inhaling this scent, Chen Mo received The Heavenly Dao's Hint: he was now in a poisonous fog, and his health had begun to drain continuously.

And this poisonous fog was quite potent; the shield Chen Mo had active was completely ineffective against it.

Chen Mo tried holding his breath.

He mainly wanted to see if holding his breath could prevent the poison's effects.

However, it was clearly useless. The poison could seep through the skin, making it impossible to avoid entirely.

Realizing this, Chen Mo stopped worrying about the poisonous fog.

After all, he had ways to restore his health and was even Immortal. The health loss didn't bother him much; in fact, he could even use this poison to increase his poison resistance.

What truly intrigued him at this moment were the two missing villagers. In an environment with such dense poisonous gas, even my health is dropping this quickly. Can those two villagers possibly withstand it?

「Meanwhile, back in Green Forest Village」

Alina and the others were already drinking the fruit wine prepared by the mayor.

The moment Alina drank the sweet fruit wine, she received The Heavenly Dao's Hint that she had gained a BUFF.

It was a BUFF that reduced the harm from the poisonous fog.

The villagers of Green Forest Village, having consumed this fruit wine for years, had long developed a strong resistance to the poisonous fog. Consequently, their health wouldn't deplete as rapidly as Chen Mo's.

However, even if it depleted slowly, they were still losing health.

If they weren't rescued soon, they would eventually succumb to the poison.

Upon first entering the Miasma Forest, Chen Mo encountered enormous, ancient trees. Their gnarled forms were tightly bound by dark vines, as if silently wailing and narrating the forest's eerie and terrifying nature.

As he ventured deeper, the verdant surroundings gradually diminished, replaced by increasingly dull, yellowish hues.

Further into the Miasma Forest, Chen Mo observed trees with withered, yellow, and twisted leaves. Various bizarre fungi clung to them, emitting a suffocating stench.

Droplets of dew on the leaves, mixed with toxins, dripped to the ground with faint, unsettling PITTER-PATTER sounds.

Each drop seemed to possess a corrosive power, instilling a sense of dread.

The forest floor was carpeted with a thick layer of fallen leaves. Walking on it felt like treading on a thick rug, producing soft RUSTLING sounds.

As these leaves decomposed, they released a sour, putrid odor that mingled with the Miasma Poison Gas, creating a uniquely dreadful atmosphere.

The sight of decaying leaves mixed with unidentifiable viscous fluids on the ground made Chen Mo feel slightly nauseated. He chose to levitate and fly deeper into the Miasma Forest.

Deeper still, unsettling sounds began to emanate from the Miasma Forest: the cries of various strange creatures and the hiss of Miasma Poison Gas moving through the air.

Although the forest reeked of death and terror, the force of Life stubbornly persisted.

Some bizarrely-shaped plants tenaciously survived amidst the Miasma Poison Gas. Their twisted yet resilient leaves were coated with a thick layer of mucus, their natural defense against the toxic fumes.

The flowers these plants produced were even more peculiar. Some resembled burning flames, others intricately carved ice crystals. They blossomed in this deathly forest, defiantly radiating vitality.

And in the deepest part of the Miasma Forest lay a gloomy swamp.

Miasma Poison Gas seeped from the black mud. The water here was pitch-black and exuded a strong, putrid odor. Chen Mo speculated that the Miasma Poison Gas pervading the Smoky Intoxicated Forest originated from this very swamp.

The swamp was home to peculiar, twisted creatures that intermittently appeared and disappeared beneath the dark water's surface, creating an eerie spectacle.

Through his perception ability, Chen Mo discovered that this Miasma Forest housed quite a variety of monsters.